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SWISS NATIONAL DAY 1963

Every year, the Swiss students of the Anglo-Continental School of English in Bournemouth take charge of the arrangements of our Swiss National Day. Under the patronage of the School Directors they again chartered the paddle steamer *Embassy* to celebrate the 1st August on the open sea. Willing hands festooned the boat with flags, garlands and all sorts of decorations, to which much forethought and planning had been given. The Swiss flags proudly flapped and gave the visitors the feeling of setting foot on a piece of Switzerland and of breathing Swiss air for one evening.

Towards 8 o'clock, to the accompaniment of Swiss marches and yodelling, hundreds of compatriots, together with their friends of numerous nationalities, boarded the ship. Then the *Embassy* set sail and, after a while, anchored in the calm waters of Swanage Bay.

The official ceremony began with the playing of drums, and subsequently the School Choir entertained the audience with the song "Wir sind die jungen Schweizer". Mr. Urs Wildhaber, a student, gave a short speech of welcome in English, German, French and Italian. The highlight of the proceedings came with the address by Mr. Theodor Haller, the well-known Swiss radio and television broadcaster. Mr. Haller was well able to explain to us young people that we cannot rest on our ancestors' history. Also, he exhorted us to be a credit to our native country when abroad, not by being arrogant but by behaving sincerely. In addition to an accordion recital and gay songs by the School Choir there were various other performances. The singing of the National Anthem concluded the ceremony.

This was followed by dancing on all decks to a band and three accordionists. Cervelats especially made by a Swiss butcher in London added a homely touch to the festivities. Swiss wines were also served, tempting everybody to rest in the saloons which had been transformed for the evening into Swiss Wirtschaffen such as the "Schweizerstube" and "Au vieux pêcheur". Our friends from Basle presented some sketches, heartily applauded by the listeners. If anyone present had never tried to blow an Alphorn before, now he had the opportunity of learning in the popular Alphorn Blowing Competition.

Only too early we had to sail back to Poole Harbour, which, incidentally, is the second largest natural harbour in the world after Sydney. We admired the glittering illuminations along the coast and the distant lights of Bournemouth, the town of our present stay. About midnight a happy satisfied crowd, all enriched by an unforgettable experience, left the ship. Though we were separated by many miles from our country, a picture of our dearly-loved homeland had been awakened in our minds by the events of this memorable day.

(Reported from Bournemouth.)

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SWISS CLUB BALLOCH

Friday the 16th of August was a very memorable day for the Members of the Swiss Club Balloch. Our Ambassador and Madame Daeniker were the guests of honour at a Dinner in the Lomond Castle Hotel, Balloch. His Excellency and Madame Daeniker were on a farewell tour in Scotland, as our Ambassador is retiring at the end of the year. Among our Members was quite a good representation of our Compatriots from Glasgow. Before the Dinner, Madame Daeniker was presented with a horseshoe of white heather, by which she was obviously delighted.

After everybody was fortified by a very sumptuous Dinner, our Honorary President, Mr. Hofstetter, welcomed the guests with a well chosen speech. He spoke highly of the Ambassador's work, which sometimes can be very arduous, and of the diplomacy, skill and charm with which he executed it. Mr. Hofstetter also mentioned Madame Daeniker's work which was of a charitable and social nature. It is no wonder that everyone is sorry to see this charming couple retiring from public life.

The President of the Club gave the Greetings of the Club Members, supported Mr. Hofstetter's words and wished that the retirement of the Ambassador and Madame Daeniker would be very happy, sunny, and blessed with good health. After which the Ambassador gave a very enlightening speech of his activities, the position of our home country and its people to Great Britain and indeed the whole World. To conclude, he wished the Members of the Swiss Club Balloch, and all Compatriots in the West of Scotland and their families, a happy future, prosperity and well-being.

H.B.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE EMBASSY

The Swiss Embassy have asked us to publish the following Communiqué.

Swiss nationals who owned immovable property in Hungary which was nationalized or compulsorily sold in February 1952 should report their claims for compensation to the Federal Political Department in Berne not later than 20th September 1963. Those who have already done so are asked to confirm their claims.

Negotiations between the Swiss and Hungarian authorities on the subject of possible compensation will probably take place at the end of this year.

Further details can be obtained from the Swiss Embassy in London.

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