

Comments from readers

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres -- no meetings until first Wednesday in October.

Every last Thursday of the Month — Swiss Club Manchester — Ordinary Monthly Meeting from 6 p.m. at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

JUNE :

Sunday, 27th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING at Bisley (Siberia Range).

Sunday, 27th, 7 p.m. — MEMORIAL SERVICE for the late Etienne R. Cottet — St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Monday, 28th — ASSEMBLY OF PRESIDENTS OF SWISS SOCIETIES — London.

JULY:

Friday, 2nd July — City Swiss Club — DINNER AND DANCE — Great Fosters.

Sunday, 11th — Swiss Mercantile Society — FAMILY OUTING to Ashridge Park.

Thursday, 29th — Swiss Club Manchester — ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING.

Saturday, 31st — SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION — Wimbledon Town Hall.

AUGUST :

Sunday, 1st — Swiss Club Manchester — SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION — Cottons Hotel, Knutsford.

27th — 29th — ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD — Solothurn.

Sunday, 29th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Swiss Rifle Association — SHOOTING at Bisley (Siberia Range).

SEPTEMBER :

Tuesday, 21st, 6.30 for 7 p.m. — City Swiss Club — MONTHLY MEETING — Guest: H.E. the Turkish Ambassador — Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane. W.1.

NOVEMBER :

Saturday, 13th — Swiss Club Manchester — ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

Friday, 19th — City Swiss Club — 100th BANQUET AND BALL — Dorchester Hotel, London W.1.

WELFARE OFFICE FOR SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

11 Belsize Grove, London N.W.3.

(Nearest Underground Station: Belsize Park)

RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Last summer, the Editor reported on activities and publications of many Swiss Colonies in all parts of the world. Since then she has been told of several omissions, and a dozen or so Colony Bulletins have arrived, notably some from the Swiss Ambassador at the time in Peru, Monsieur R. Faessler (now in Delhi and one of our regular readers). One such periodical is the "Boletín del Grupo Perú y Bolivia" of the new Helvetic Society, which appears monthly and is sent by the N.S.H. Group free of charge to all Swiss registered at the Embassy. Monsieur Faessler wrote that a "Revista de la Colonia Suiza en el Perú" is published at the time of the Swiss National Day, also by the N.S.H., and which contains details of all the many activities of the Colony during the previous year.

The Editor also received an article on "Die Schweizer Kolonie von San Jerónimo Norte (Santa Fe) founded about one hundred years ago by Swiss immigrants, and now a dairy centre of some standing.

When Mr. A. Stauffer, the former S.O. Editor, returned from his recent trip to Morocco, he brought greetings from another S.O. reader, the Swiss Consul Monsieur A. Spargnapani, who gave him the Bulletin des Suisses au Maroc".

The Editor apologises for any other omissions. Considering that there are some 270,000 Swiss abroad and groups and societies in all parts of the world, any report on activities and publications must of necessity be incomplete.

A short time ago, Glarus was mentioned as the cradle of Swiss ski-ing. In this connection, one of our readers, Mr. J. Oertli, kindly sent a copy of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of 26th January 1940 and one of the jubilee edition of the "Neue Glarner Zeitung" of November 1956. Both carried a picture taken on 26th January 1903 on the occasion of the Second Swiss Ski-ing Race in Glarus. Mr. Oertli himself, then 7 years of age, his brother and father are on the photo. Also recognisable are General Staff Captain (later Colonel) Christoph Iselin, then President of the Glarus Ski Club, and the former Judge Hans Schresser, who, at 99, spoke on Radio Basle last November in a programme of "Weitere Erinnerungen". Mr. Oertli says:

"I still vividly remember that day, the arrival of the competitors over the Pragelpass and Schwammhöhe, in Sack above Glarus, as well as the torch procession of the skiers in the evening, and the piling up of the torches in front of the Council Hall in Glarus — as if it had been last week."

In an issue earlier this year, the Editor mentioned that the last bear in the Grisons was shot in 1902. A letter from one of the readers, Mr. G. Friberg, has since been received giving the correct date as 1903.

"At that time I was employed as a Page Boy at St. Moritz, and I saw the bear being paraded on a cart through St. Moritz. In that summer, too, the railway was opened between Thusis and St. Moritz."

"As it happened, I had to go by Postal Coach (five horses) to start my job. We set out from Alvanen Bad over the Albula Pass to St. Moritz, and it took us nearly all day."

Finally, another subscriber reminded the Editor that the first electric locomotive of the Swiss Federal Railways was now in the Transport Museum in Lucerne. Her name — "Marianne".