

Personal

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He looked after Allied war leaders, Cabinet Ministers and Ambassadors, and all came to respect his quiet efficiency and friendly manner.

When he was appointed Managing Director in 1946, it made no difference to his mode of life; he worked long hours and kept a close control of all departments. In 1962, he was appointed to the Board of the new British Transport Hotels Company, a post he held until shortly before his death. As M.D. of the Dorchester, he met many great and famous people, among them the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and several foreign royal guests. In 1965, he decided to see the world, and he made a tour visiting hotels in U.S.A. and Canada, in the Middle and the Far East.

In February 1943, Mr. Ronus joined the City Swiss Club, and ever since he has had a particularly happy relationship with this, one of the senior Swiss societies in this country. But he also had excellent relations with other Swiss organisations, and he was always ready to help, not least when any of his fellow countrymen were in real need. His friends deeply sympathised with him when he lost his wife Ghita (née Sayer) in 1957.

Now George Ronus has left his post at the early age of 62 after many years of devoted service. His successor will have a hard job living up to this outstanding *hôteleur*, and the Dorchester will never be quite the same again. We extend our warmest sympathy to Mr. Robert Ronus (son) and the family.

(MM)

MRS. AUGUSTA VIRGINIA BERTI



The Swiss community in general and the Unione Ticinese in particular mourn the death of Mrs. A. V. Berti, of 49 St. John's Villas, London, N.19. She died early on Sunday morning, 11th October, at the age of 80. Mrs.



Berti was a Ticinese, but like her mother and grandmother before her, she was born in London, where she grew up at her parents' bakery in Edgware Road. When her mother died, she

was only 14. So she was sent to Switzerland where she lived for 9 years in the Ticino. It is there that she met her husband Carlo Berti who had been in Great Britain since 1900. They got married in Switzerland and then returned to London.

The Bertis were and still are a close-knit family. They had four sons and a daughter, but tragically lost the latter in a rocket attack on London during the war, and their son Ernest died suddenly of a heart attack.

Shortly before the war, Mrs. Berti, together with the late Mrs. Lunghi-Rezzonico (mother of Mrs. J. Eusebio), founded the Sezione Femine of the Unione Ticinese. Mr. Lunghai was the first President, and when she retired, Mrs. Berti took over. She did sterling work, just like her husband did as President of the Unione Ticinese. We well remember the 75th Anniversary Banquet and Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, when Mr. Berti was in the chair, and the then Federal Councillor Dr. E. Celio attended the event.

In the mid-fifties, the Sezione Femine merged with the parent society, but Mrs. Berti went on taking an active interest, even after her husband's death in 1961. Up to a couple of years ago, Mrs. Berti was a most prolific and expert knitter; then her health forced her to "retire".

She is mourned by her sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, by a large family circle and many friends. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to them all, especially to Mr. Virgil Berti who carries on the tradition of serving the Swiss community in London.

(MM)

PETER ODERMATT



It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death on 12th October, of Mr. Peter Odermatt, of "Vitznau", 37 Reservoir Road, Whitstable, Kent. Mr. Odermatt came to this country from Central Switzerland and is one of the founder members of the Swiss Rifle Association. He was 83. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Rose and the family. We have been asked to say that donations, if desired, may be sent to: National Kidney Research Fund, 41 Portland Place, London, W.1.

FREDERIC RUDOLPHE LIER



It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of Mr. Frederic Rudolphe Lier at Brentwood. He died on 26th October at the age of 74. Mr. Lier was very active in the Swiss community in his earlier years, especially as a most regular member of the Swiss Choral Society. We express our deep sympathy to his family.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO GEORGE RONUS

A memorial service to Mr. George Ronus will be celebrated at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, on Monday, 23rd November at noon.

PERSONAL

It is with great pleasure that we announce the marriage of the Rev. Uli Stefan of the Swiss Church in London to Miss Ursula Prato. The wedding took place at the Church in Wabern, Berne, on 17th October. The young couple are spending their honeymoon in the Middle East where they will also be making a study tour. We are looking forward to seeing them back in London and wish them every happiness for the future.

Mr. John Weibel married Mrs. Lorna Jane White at Uplyme Parish Church in Devonshire on 10th October. The ceremony was intimate and friendly and Mr. L. S. R. Asch acted as Mr. Weibel's best man. The newly-weds then left on a honeymoon tour of South Wales and were blessed by the weather and the beauty of the sceneries they saw. We wish them every happiness and send them our warmest congratulations.

Philippe Bonvin, son of Mr. Edgar Bonvin, was appointed Artillery Lieutenant on 6th November. He will now have to "pay for his stripes" by serving four months in a recruit school this winter. Philippe is a law student in Geneva and well on his way to graduation.

He has—and deserves—a proud father!

Mr. J. A. Reiber, whose name was unfortunately misspelt when we announced his birthday on 11th September, has asked us to put right our indication of his age. He was 85, not 84, on October 1st. We would like to extend to him both our admiration and good wishes.

Antiques

FINE PERIOD FURNITURE
PORCELAIN — RUGS
OBJETS D'ART
ANTIQUE — MODERNE

Le Centre

(L. JACOMELLI)
20 KING STREET
THE GREEN
RICHMOND, SURREY
01-948 1505

BIRTHDAYS

The following subscribers will be celebrating their birthdays during the next few weeks: Mr. W. Pellet will be 83 on 19th and Mrs. R. Weber 81 on 21st November. Mrs. H. W. Egli (the artist Miss Selma Vas Dias) will have hers on the 23rd of the month, the same day as Mr. E. Schaerer who will be 77. Mrs. W. Renz will celebrate her birthday on 3rd December, and Mr. H. H. Baumann will be 83 on 6th. Mr. H. Suter will be 82 on 10th and Mr. M. Ehrsam on 14th of December. Last, but not least, Mrs. Emily Delaloye will be 83 on 15th December.

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

Encouraged by the result of our last year's Christmas Draw the Committee has decided to hold one again this year instead of having a bazaar. The Drawing of the prizes will take place on Thursday, 10th December, 1970. The object of the Draw is to give added financial support to our Chaplain, the Reverend Father Paul Bossard in his efforts to look after the several thousand young Swiss temporarily in this country for studies, training or domestic work.

Our Chaplain is doing his best in helping them to pass their leisure hours by running the SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB. This club holds socials every Sunday evening at the Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1, arranges sightseeing tours to places of interest in London, excursions to the English countryside,

Cambridge, Somerset and South Wales, Isle of Wight, Canterbury, Salisbury and Stonehenge and a Caravan Holiday in Ireland. These functions are arranged jointly with our friends from the Protestant Swiss Church and are regularly attended and enjoyed by a large number of our young Swiss.

May I ask you kindly to consider helping our work by sending either a donation or a gift in kind for our Christmas Draw.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

O. Grob, Chairman.

Donations to Mr. O. Grob, 60 Seafield Road, London, N.11 1AS. Gifts in kind (latest date 9th December, 1970) to: St. Ann's Presbytery, Abbey Orchard Street, London, S.W.1.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

With Christmas approaching, the SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES IN LONDON appeal to their friends in the Swiss Colony for help and support in the preparation of Gift Parcels for those of our compatriots who, even in this affluent day and age, hardly manage to live on their incomes and certainly lack the means for any extra cheer.

We shall be very grateful to receive donations or gifts of new clothing, tinned food, processed cheese, biscuits, chocolate, etc.

Gifts in kind should be sent to the Swiss Benevolent Society, if possible not later than 7th December, 1970 and cash donations or cheques and postal

orders may be sent to the following addresses:

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, 31 Conway Street, London, W1P 5HL. The Rev. A. NICOD, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. The Rev. M. DIETLER, 1 Womersley Road, London, N.8. The Rev. P. BOSSARD, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London, S.W.1.

We are looking forward to your orders for Christmas Greetings in our December issue. Please send name and address and £2.

THE SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL DINNER

The Swiss Economic Council has arranged a series of Dinners which will be held during the forthcoming months. The first of these dinners took place at the Dorchester on October 1st and was honoured by Monsieur René Keller. The evening's speaker was Mr. J. L. Gilliéron, President of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in France. His theme was the Common Market and France's attitude towards British entry. Mr. Gilliéron was fairly optimistic about the chances of a successful British application. One of his main points was that the agricultural difficulties entailed by British participation had been over-emphasised and could be resolved. Psychological problems, he believed, would be much more difficult to overcome, although he had noted a tremendous improvement on both sides of the Channel in this re-

CITY SWISS CLUB

in conjunction with the

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL

105th Annual Banquet and Ball

FRIDAY, 20th NOVEMBER 1970

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, LONDON, W.1

RECEPTION 7.30 p.m. • DINNER at 8 p.m. • DANCING until 2 a.m.

with ARTHUR SALISBURY and his Orchestra

TOMBOLA



CABARET

BLACK TIE

TICKETS at £3-15-0. are available from

Mr. L. F. Ackermann, Swiss Bank Corporation, Swiss Centre, 1, New Coventry Street, W.1
and Mr. L. F. Jobin, 10, Kelvin Drive, St. Margarets, Twickenham, Middlesex.