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Christmas by a little black donation book which is passed around among the tables. The money raised is used in renting St. Mary's Hall at the YMCA building in Russell St. and in buying toys, fruits and sweeties for the children. Owing to various rising expenses and the fact that the proceeds of the donation book are not always keeping pace with the rise in the cost of living, it was necessary to dispense with toys this year. Children were given oranges, sweets, crayons and similar objects in bright plastic bags distributed by a part-time Father Christmas. The organisers of the *Fête* would like to acknowledge the support they have received this year and thank all those Swiss of London who had a thought for the children of the Colony.

The programme began with the story of the "Fourth Magi" told by a

series of colour slides and a script read out by your Editor. Then came the Magician, "Uncle Lennie" who brought about the usual response. His appeal lay as much in his clowning ability as in his conjuring. After having warmly applauded Uncle Lennie, the children watched three Mickey Mouse cartoons and a short SNT0 film on a Swiss mountain village.

Without being told twice, the children promptly took to their seats for Tea. They were amply provided for with sandwiches, cakes and ice-cream. At this point your Editor left for the cloakroom and put on a Father Christmas garb that had been used on the same occasion for three generations. It took him an excruciatingly long time to secure the beard which was supplied with two metallic hooks to be placed around the

ears.

The role of Father Christmas had been assumed for the past thirty or more years by Mr. Gabriel Godet, who has recently retired to Switzerland. While impersonating Santa Claus and handing out gifts doesn't require particular abilities, it does call for a knowledge of the fact that Father Christmas is a real person and not a myth to some children. To realise this, one had only to watch the crowd of children gaping at Father Christmas as he sat to enjoy an ice-cream after having carried out his duty! One little girl was most upset to realise that Father Christmas was none other than the man who had acted as compere earlier in the afternoon. She was soothingly told that the real Father Christmas was in the mountain clouds and that he sent one of his deputies to officiate at the children's

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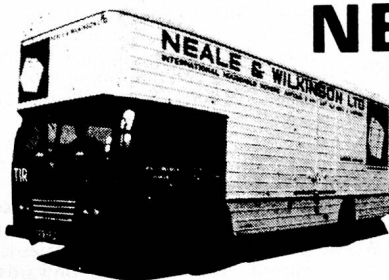
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*Members of Eurovan*

Christmas colony celebration.

As on previous occasions it was clear that a great many of the children at St. Mary's Hall were only half Swiss and nearly all English-speaking. The majority were obviously of Swiss motherhood and of British or Commonwealth parents. But they were none the less Swiss to a great extent and the Colony Fête may have fostered their Swiss identity. But one thing it *did* achieve was to give them two hours of thorough enjoyment.

P.M.B.

### PRO JUVENTUTE HOLIDAYS

Every year PRO JUVENTUTE organises a holiday for children of Swiss nationality aged 7 to 15 and living in the U.K., provided there is sufficient demand. This year these holidays will start in the second half of July and are scheduled to finish at the end of August.

Various schemes are offered:

(a) free board and lodging with Swiss families for a limited number of children (7 to 15 years of age) whose parents are unable to pay either the whole or part of the cost;

(b) board and lodging at full or reduced prices in a recognised children's home for the 7 to 11-year-olds (exceptionally, 12-year-olds also);

(c) holiday camps for children from 12 to 15 years old whose parents are in a position to pay the whole or part of the cost;

(d) children (7 to 16 years-old) who are in the happy position of being invited to stay with relations or friends in Switzerland are welcome to join the party for the journey both ways;

(e) children in need of recreation facilities, special care or medical treatment may also be accepted on certain conditions.

Application forms can be obtained from the Swiss Embassy, 16-18 Montagu Place, London W1H 2BQ. Tel. 01-723 0701 ext. 214. They should be returned to the Embassy by *15th March, 1974* at the latest.



### WELFARE OFFICE for SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

31 Conway Street, London, W.1

(Nearest Underground Station:

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Birmingham-based Swiss business aircraft operator would appreciate opportunity to uplift light freight to/from Basle. Customs clearance at Birmingham airport. Write or telephone Midland Aero Charter (Birmingham) Ltd., 75 Woodcote Avenue, Kenilworth, Warks. CV8 1BG England. Tel: 0926 55148.

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### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. A. Bleiker (in Spain during the winter), will celebrate his 77th birthday on 11th February. On 12th February, Mr. Eugen Weber (Murten) will be 78. Mrs. E. Jamieson will be 74 on 20th of the month. Ambassador Armin Daeniker, Berne, will have his 76th birthday on 24th, and Mr. O. Grob, KSG, will be 74 on 26th February.

In between 28th February and 1st March, Mr. F. Gerber will be 82. On 1st of next month, Mr. F. G. Sommer will have his 82nd birthday. On the same day, Mr. and Mrs. A. Boog will have been married for 57 years. Mr. E. Hardmeier will be 86 on 3rd and Mr. R. Marchand (Bienne) 82 on 9th March. Mrs. L. Gradmann will be 76 on the same day.

Dr. Hans W. Egli, of 17 Corringham Road, NW11, will be 75 on 17th March. Mr. R. Chappuis will be 78 on the same day. Mrs. N. Pfaendler will celebrate her 86th birthday on 29th March. Mr. J. F. J. Ammann will be 88 on 30th, and Mr. R. H. Senn will be 63 on the same day.

# Swiss Churches

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième 18h00. REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH, tous les dimanches a 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 8 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club Hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme".

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, WC2, every Sunday at 9.45 a.m. Sunday School takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, SW1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service at John Southworth Centre. Every second Sunday of the month at morning Services at Eglise Suisse. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUP S.E.21 and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 7 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the month from 12 noon onwards at the Eglise Suisse.

MOTHER'S REUNION: third Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglise Suisse.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTERS: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.