



Switzerland

NEWSLETTER OF THE SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, PA

VOL 1, NO. 2

FALL 1992

Our New Members

A very hearty welcome to our new members. The following are to be added as new members since our last newsletter:

Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Kinnunen
Mr. & Mrs. Werner Kiener
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hoffmann
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar L. Kress
Mr. & Mrs. Benoit Morel
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Claudon
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vrane

With these new members our society has reached a total membership of 218. Of these 41 have been added during the last year. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas Dinner Meeting and at the Sami Chlaus Party.

Trudy Kuenzi, Membership Secretary

A Record Breaking Attendance at our August 1st Picnic

Although the weather report was not favorable, one hundred eighty nine members and guests of the Society attended the 1st of August Picnic. This number represents a new attendance record, breaking the one of the previous year.

Switzerland attended the 1st of August picnic and discussed the many improvements made since the meeting. The picnic was held at the rustic, two-story Rose Barn in North Park on August 8, 1992. Cantonal flags decorated both floors and scenic posters of Switzerland were hung on the walls. Tables were covered in red accentuated with the white cross. Record attendees also brought with them a record number of children. They were delighted with the numerous innovative games conducted by Trudy Kuenzi. Ernie Gubser once again did an excellent job with adult games. President Henry Heer introduced the Steinstossen (stone throwing contest) and volunteered to be the first contestant. This event proved to be very popular not only with the men but also with the women. In fact more women participated than men. The men's stone weighed 12.3 kg. Winner of the President's Award and Male Steinstossen Champion of 1992 is Jim McGinley with a throw of 16 ft 11 inches and this will be the record to challenge next year. R. Gubser won the Consul's Award and is the 1992 Female champion. Ms. Gubser threw a 5.7 kg stone 16 ft 5 inches for the women's record.

A typical dinner of bratwurst, sauerkraut and potato salad was on the menu. Apfelkuchen was served to everyone attending: compliments of the Board of Directors. Henry Heer and Honorary

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	HENRY HEER, 12600 Ridge Road, North Huntingdon, PA, 15642	412 863-6950
VICE PRESIDENT:	ROLF KUEHNI, 2634, Woodmont Lane, Wexford, PA, 15090	412 935-9627
SECRETARY:	LIZANN MADAMMA, 100 Boroview Avenue, Carnegie, PA, 15106	412 279-6923
TREASURER:	FLORENCE JACOB, 5415 McCandles Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15201	412 781-1375
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:	TRUDY KUENZI, 207 Churchill Road, Turtle Creek, PA 15145	412 823-1867
DIRECTORS:	BETTY FANKHAUSER, WILLIAM WENGER, WILLIAM ENGLERT, BRUCE KUENZI	

Consul Heinz Kunz briefly addressed the assembly. The customary tombola was the next order of fun, with many taking home nice prizes. Joseph Gigandet displayed his brilliant form in Fahnenschwingen to the delight of all viewers.

Dancing to the music of the Eddie Hrabel band rounded out the day's activities. An overcast and at times threatening looking sky remained benign until well into the night before unleashing a tremendous thunderstorm.

Pat Heer

Members of the Society Contribute to the Olivia Riner Fund

We are sending a big "thank you!" to all who contributed to the Olivia Riner Fund. A sum of \$455 was collected and sent to the Swiss Benevolent Society. The following letter was received from Annemarie Gilman, Executive Director of the Swiss Benevolent Society in New York:

'On behalf of Olivia Riner and her family, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the members of your Society for their contributions to the "Olivia Riner Fund."

As you know, this young woman, through no fault of her own, was caught up in a situation which will remain with her for the rest of her life. Your generous gifts will not only help to alleviate the financial burden forced on the Riners; it is a tangible expression of your concern and caring for Olivia and her parents. I know that they will appreciate this very, very much.'

Florence Jacob

Special Events Mark 30th Anniversary of the Society

Fondue Party in Warren

On October 11 a party of 39 members and friends of the Society met in Harmarville to board a bus for a delightful trip into the countryside of northwestern Pennsylvania. Even though the weather at first was overcast with a few drops of rain now and

then, spirits in the bus were high. Destination was the Swiss Cross Restaurant in Warren, Pa. The leaves had just begun to turn color and wet with some rain and against the grey sky looked particularly colorful. The route was a scenic one through the Allegheny National Forest.

In Warren Swiss owner/chef Eric von Burg and his wife Beatrice had closed their restaurant to the public and prepared an authentic Swiss cheese fondue for the party. Those with a hearty appetite could indulge in Bündnerfleisch, and to help digest the excellent fondue a St. Saphorin white Swiss wine and even some kirsch was available. Home-made Swiss cakes and tarts rounded out the feast. Some of us got to eat a little later than others and some even helped out in the kitchen a bit as Chef von Burg was a somewhat understaffed. The restaurant, pretty and picturesque, can be recommended: just don't bring a party of 39!

By the time we left the sun was out shining. A little detour took the party to the foot of the imposing Allegheny Reservoir dam just outside Warren for some sightseeing. On the way home (as if we weren't stuffed to the hilt) Henry Heer unpacked his cooler for snacks and home brew.

By the time the parking lot in Harmarville came in sight everybody was tired but happy after a wonderful day in the country with friends.

Sami Chlaus Party

A second special event this year will be a Sami Chlaus (the Swiss Santa) Party, particularly for all the children and grandchildren of our members to be held on December 17 at Carnegie-Mellon University. For details see the separate invitation.

Don't Try to Draw this Thing Out

It was 1930 and my mother, a Swiss immigrant, was a young widow trying to raise two daughters. One of her favorite activities was knitting with the women's group at St. Stephen's Episcopal

Church in Wilkinsburg.

Our family received a decorated basket as a gift and we examined everything carefully. But to extend the joy, Mother saved to open later a soft round package tied with a red ribbon. She thought it was yarn.

A few weeks later she opened her prize, only to discover it was doughnuts, which had become quite stale and hard by that time.

Lorelei Fichter, 75, Penn Hills

Helvetia Männerchor Performs

The Helvetia Männerchor (Swiss Singers) along with Trudy Kuenzi, Hans Meier's daughter, JoAnn, and grandson, Frankie, will be participating in the performance of "United We Sing" at the Carnegie Music Hall, Sunday December 13, 1992. The Helvetia Männerchor will also perform for the Phipps Conservatory's "Christmas Flowers Show" Sunday December 27, 1992.

Betty Montgomery

The Constitution of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of the Society shall be the SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH, a corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

The society shall exist to fill the need for an organization with which all Swiss-Americans and other persons interested in the aims of the society can affiliate to achieve the following principal purposes:

- A. To achieve a closer social and cultural contact among Swiss and descendants of Swiss.
- B. To cultivate and strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between the Swiss and the American people.
- C. In general, to acquaint Swiss and Americans with the scientific and cultural life and

achievements of both nations as an aid to good relationships and understanding between their people.

D. To play host to visiting Swiss dignitaries and assist new arrivals.

In order to achieve the foregoing general aims, the society shall undertake activities such as:

A. Social gatherings; reception and entertainment of Swiss visitors, newcomers and friends of Switzerland; an August 1st celebration; lectures and discussions; musical and athletic events; meeting of professional and scientific groups, and similar activities.

B. Participation with other groups in meetings, folk festivals, and similar events which are consistent with the general purposes of the society.

ARTICLE III - ADMINISTRATION

The Administrative Body shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and additional Directors.

(effective Jan. 1, 1968)

Swiss to Vote on Joining the European Trade Area

On December 6, 1992 the Swiss people will vote on the question of joining the Europäischer Wirtschaftsraum (EWR; European Trade Area). The Swiss parliament has agreed in September to join, pending the outcome of the popular vote. While this is not equivalent to joining a united Europe it may be seen as a step in this direction. Needless to say this is an important and emotional time in Switzerland. An unprecedented three-day discussion in the parliament preceded the decision. If you are a registered Swiss citizen you can participate in the vote. For information on registration contact the Swiss Consulate in New York or our Consul in Pittsburgh, Dr. Heinz Kunz (412-621-1343).

Swiss Say Yes to New Trans-Alpine Railroads

At the end of September the Swiss people have given their first "yes" vote towards participating in Europe's future by voting overwhelmingly yes to building a new alpine railroad transit line (NEAT) through the Swiss Alps. The multi-billion franc project creates an additional railroad track through the alps to ease the growing transportation problems between north and south in Europe for the future and to reduce truck traffic through Switzerland by transporting goods and materials by rail.

Recession Hits Switzerland

The number of jobless people in Switzerland has exceeded 100,000 in September. This represents 3.3 percent of the working population. While it is still a comparatively small percentage (the U.S.A. currently have an unemployment rate of 7.5% and Canada of 11.5%) it is much higher than anything seen in decades and the source of much concern to unions and the Swiss parliament.

Aus dem Nebelspalter

Zwei Politiker fliegen in einem Helikopter über die Schweiz. Sie überlegen, wie sie das Schweizervolk erfreuen können. "Lasst uns eine Hunderternote abwerfen," meint der eine, "dann freut sich wenigstens ein Bürger." Der andere hat einen besseren Einfall: "Lass uns zehn Zehnernoten abwerfen, dann freuen sich zehn Bürger." Der Pilot hat den besten Vorschlag: "Wenn ich euch beide abwerfe, dann freuen sich sechs Millionen Bürger!"