

23 February 1978

The meeting of the Executive Board of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh was held in the home of Althea Nevinial on the 23rd February 1978 with Dr. H. J. H.mann, Fred Josci, Walter Kies, Florence Cappé, Oswald Wyler, Hans Leumann, Gloria Sutter, Ennis Gubser, and Althea Nevinial in attendance.

Minutes for the Christmas Party were read and approved.

Gloria reported a balance of \$2,841.00 in the Savings Account, and a balance of \$414.92 in the checking account. A good financial report from the Christmas Party was also read.

It was decided to shelve the Winton, Ohio trip until next year.

The announcement was made that the New Glarus trip is scheduled for Labor Day Week-end. The only cost available at this time is the bus fare, which is to be \$35.00 the round trip.

There was a discussion concerning the Mummerschau program to be held at Heinz Hall on April 1978. The decision was made to send flyers to all members apprising

them of the program.

Next on the agenda was business concerning the picnic. The following are to be responsible for certain phases:

Florence - to contact the Caterer

Erica - responsible for the beer and soft drinks

Fred Jasse & Pauli Kuengi - to handle the games

Dick Smithhammar - to be responsible for raffle items.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,
Athene Nevesenil Seig.

March 14,

Dear Member of the Swiss American Society:

From time to time I like to take the opportunity to write to you personally to establish more direct contact. In this instance I wish to clarify my position in recent events involving the Swiss-American Society.

As you know, my wife and I sponsored a reception for the Consul General of Switzerland in New York, and this occasion led to some unfounded hard feelings on the part of members of the Swiss-American Society. This I consider unfortunate indeed. These feelings resulted from a misconception regarding my role as Swiss Consul and the role of Swiss-American Society. At a recent meeting of the Society board I was criticized for not inviting "everybody" to the reception and dinner. In this connection I wish to tell you that I invited 170 people including all of the members of the Swiss-American Society who were listed on the membership roster available to me. This list, as I was later informed, is incomplete.

In the course of sending out the many invitations we committed some errors and oversights for which I wish to apologize. After the invitations were sent out Florence Cappe telephoned my secretary and added a list of 21 names of people who were not on my list. Since I felt that sending invitations at this late date would be interpreted as an afterthought, I did not initiate any action.

As you are well aware there are many Swiss in Pittsburgh who do not belong to the Swiss-American Society. As Swiss consul it is my prime duty to protect and assist all the Swiss in my consular district, i.e., both members and non-members of the Swiss-American Society. When Swiss dignitaries, such as the Consul General from New York visit cities within their consular district, the visit is not merely a social event but rather it is official government business and hence must be approved by Bern. The primary reason for Consul Suter's visit was not social but was to establish personal contact with and to inspect the Pittsburgh Consulate.

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March 14, 1978

Understandably, at social functions held in connection with official visits Swiss officials wish to meet the Swiss who are in their consular district. I generously invited the total membership as it was known to me although your ranks contain people who are neither Swiss nor have Swiss ancestry.

This then brings me to a clarification of the word "everybody." The bylaws of the Swiss-American Society state in Article I, section 1 "Any person interested in the aims of the Society is eligible to be a member." For the Swiss society "everybody" is every member of the society. For the Swiss consulate however, "everybody" is every Swiss or person of Swiss background in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.

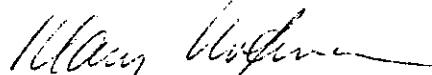
Personally I am very happy to be an honorary member of your society and I recognize the important contributions that are made by members who are not themselves Swiss but who are interested in and contribute to Swiss culture. However, it is my prerogative to invite to consulate sponsored affairs only those people who conform to the official interpretation of "everybody" irrespective of whether or not they are members of the Society.

I do not consider my position as Swiss Consul in Pittsburgh merely a titular one. Since taking over the Consulate I have attempted to encourage events aimed at fostering greater contact among the Swiss in this area and I shall continue to do so. As you may know I have endeavored to introduce members of the Swiss-American Society board to Swiss who are not presently members of the Society in an effort to continue to strengthen the membership.

The operation of the society is in the hands of the elected board and not in mine. There must, however, be mutual cooperation and not friction between the Swiss Consulate and the Society if we are to further the cause of Switzerland in Pittsburgh. Furthermore there must be a clear understanding that the two are separate entities.

I sincerely hope that you accept this letter in the spirit in which it is written namely for clarification of a controversial issue and not as criticism of the conduct of the Swiss-American Society.

Sincerely,



Klaus Hofmann
Consul

P.S. This letter has been sent to all persons listed on the latest (1975) membership list that is available to me.

25 May 1978

The meeting of the Executive Board of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh was held in the home of Ernie Gubser on the 25th May 1978 with Florence Cappi, Oswald Wyler, Fred Jacci, Hans Leumann, Gloria Lutter, Althea Mosimak and Ernie Gubser in attendance. Chuck Ebb later joined us.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. A balance of \$2,841.00 in the savings account and \$485.73 in the checking account was reported by Gloria.

A discussion concerning the picnic to be held July 30th then followed. It was agreed to let the price remain at \$4.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children 12 or under.

Also, anyone wishing to may bring a basket supper with a cost of \$1.00 per adult, and \$.50 per child 12 or under to cover the cost of beverages.

Gloria reported the menu for the day had been arranged.

Chuck Ebb was again appointed to have tickets made up which will be

given each member as they arrive.

Florence announced the price of the round-trip to New Glasgow would be \$35.00. Everyone to be responsible for their own meals. Ration motel accommodations to be announced later. This information to be sent out on the picnic flyer.

A letter from Dr. Hofmann was read concerning the "Poland Folk Singers" who are contemplating a concert tour of the United States in either the fall of '78-'79 or '79-'80. Oswald Wyler was designated to reply that the Society would not be able to underwrite the group, but would be glad to assist another group if such could be found.

The meeting was adjourned.
After nibbling on cheeses, nuts, pretzels, potato chips and dip all evening, we capped it off with a luscious strawberry short-cake.

Respectfully submitted,
Althea Newsmah Ley,

52 Richmond Street
Latrobe, Pa. 15650
July 3, 1978

Mrs. Florence Cappe, Secretary
Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh
4456 Highridge Street
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214

Dear Mrs. Cappe:

Within the next few weeks my husband, David, and I are going to be divorced. This circumstance will in no way affect my desire to retain membership in the Swiss-American Society. I definitely wish to do so, and I will try to attend as many of the society's functions as possible. Please continue to send me all the news and notices.

I will be moving from New Alexandria to Latrobe, and my new address is noted above. Mail is being received there as of now.

The 1978 dues have been paid for both of us as a couple. If you wish to have me pay separate dues, please don't hesitate to send me a bill.

Thank you for attending to this.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Baker
Evelyn Baker

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

Dear Member:

This is the season for picnics and we hope to see you at the Annual Swiss Independence Day Picnic, Sunday, July 30th, starting at 2:00 P.M. Fred Jossi, President of our Society will give the address for SWISS INDEPENDENCE DAY. Hans will then present Counsul, DR. KLAUS HOFMANN.

The dinner will be a Chicken Dinner, catered by Bressler's. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. Plenty of ice-cold beer and soft drinks will be on hand. Please bring your own pitcher, glasses and lawn chair for your personal convenience.

There will be a check list made and checked off by Chuck Erb as you arrive on the 30th. See him as soon as you reach the ACTIVITIES BUILDING. You will be given a ticket which will be presented to Bressler's when picking up your dinner.

COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO:

ACTIVITIES BUILDING, RIVERVIEW PARK
SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1978

MUSIC, GAMES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

We have a husband and wife yodeling team from Switzerland who will be in our area during the week of our picnic and plan on being with us to entertain with their music.

PRICE: \$4.50 PER ADULT
\$3.50 FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

Anyone wishing to, may bring a basket supper with a cost of \$1.00 per adult and \$.50 per child 12 or under to cover the cost of beverages. Submit with your reservation.

Let's make this a successful picnic with your attendance.

Please fill out the attached reservation form and return with check by July 15, 1978 to:

Mrs. Florence Cappe
600 Perrysville Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15229
Phone: 931-0143

.....
Please reserve:

Adults @ \$4.50 each

Children @ \$3.50 each

Name _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed



CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND
PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, Pa. 15213
3515 Fifth Avenue
Suite 640
Telephone (412) 681-3462

Ref.:

July 14, 1978

Mrs. Althea Nevsimal
Secretary of the Swiss-American
Society of Pittsburgh
4456 Highridge Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15214

Dear Althea:

My condition has unfortunately not improved sufficiently for me to attend the picnic on July 30. I wish you all a nice day and would appreciate it if Fred would be so kind as to read the enclosed messages from me and from the Swiss Ambassador in Washington in connection with your celebration. I hope that I shall be able to come to the Christmas party. Please give my very best to all our friends. With my kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,


Klaus Hofmann
Consul

KH/jsp
Enc:

Dear Compatriots and Friends of Switzerland, young and old.

It is nice to get together on a sunny summer day to have a picnic and indeed enjoyment should be the order of the day in these lovely surroundings. But this is not an ordinary picnic but one that should remind us of a historic event that took place on the first of August 687 years ago. This is the day when Switzerland was born. We of the older generation are aware of the events that took place on the first of August in the year 1291, but the younger generation may not be acquainted with these historic happenings and the following remarks are addressed to them.

On the first of August 1291, representatives of three tiny countries located in the center of Europe named Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden assembled in secrecy on a little meadow known as the Rütli and situated on the shores of Lake Luzern. These men were thoroughly fed-up with the treatment they received from their rulers and they decided to do something about it. During their historic gathering at the Rütli they pledged their mutual assistance and decided to fight for their freedom and independence. Recognizing the importance of the concept that there is strength in unity, other neighboring countries joined the original three and the Swiss Confederation as we know it today evolved. Many a bloody battle was fought against the rulers of Europe in order to establish the strength, viability and independence of Switzerland.

At this point it is my pleasure to bring to your attention a special message of the Swiss Ambassador in Washington D.C., the honorable Raymond R. Probst.

"Today you are celebrating the 687th Anniversary of the Founding of the Swiss Confederation. I would like to take this opportunity to convey to all the Swiss people in the United States as well as to the many friends of Switzerland in this country my sincere wishes and greetings.

As you know, Switzerland in the past was a country of emigration. In the old days poverty caused many Swiss to seek their fortune in distant lands. With the advent of industrial development and prosperity, the spirit of adventure and the desire for international professional experience continued to draw many Swiss abroad. Through their work, and sometimes their genius, they have contributed to the greatness of the countries that welcomed them.

During the past 2 1/2 years in the United States as Ambassador of Switzerland, I have had the opportunity and good fortune to visit many Swiss groups throughout this country - the turn of the others will come as soon as possible - and to see for myself how successful the emigrated Swiss and their descendants are. I am impressed and very proud of your achievements. There is no doubt that each and every one of you has directly contributed in the good reputation Switzerland enjoys in the United States. For this I send you my heartfelt thanks.

But also in your old country the majority of the people are aware of how much they owe their compatriots abroad. They wish to strengthen the ties between them and the home country. Indeed, it is for this reason that the proceeds of this year's sale of the National Day Badges here and in Switzerland - where thousands of school children and young people all over the country take an active part - will go to the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad. By this gesture, Switzerland would like to express appreciation for the flourishing activities of the Swiss Abroad and to thank them.

May the bonds between Switzerland and her Swiss Abroad continue to grow: they are vital to both sides. In this spirit I extend to all of you my heartfelt best wishes for your well-being and personal happiness in a climate of freedom."

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

AUGUST FIRST PICNIC

JULY 30, 1978

INCOME:

Reservations	\$ 656.00
Picnic Deposit Refund	25.00
Raffle Proceeds	153.00
Badges	50.00
4 cases pop sold @\$2.50 ea.	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$894.00

EXPENSES:

Caterer (Ray Bressler Food Products)	\$ 544.58
August First Badges	50.00
Raffle Prizes (Reimbursed Smithhammer)	62.53
Picnic Deposit	25.00
Beer & Pop & Ice	109.00
(2-1/2 barrels @\$43.00 - 1/4 barrel @ \$14.50 - 15 cases pop, \$37.50 Ice, \$14.00)	
Yodelers	100.00
Game Expenses (Reimbursed to T. Kuenzi)	36.32
Wine (Reimbursed to F. Jossi)	<u>17.22</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$944.65

RECAP: Expenses....\$944.65
Income..... 894.00
\$ 50.65 Cost to Club

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION TO SWISS
CITIZENS ABROAD ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL DAY, 1978

Dear compatriots abroad,

We celebrate today the birth of our nation, and I am delighted on this occasion to send you the best wishes of the members of the Federal Council and of the Swiss people. Today we are thinking especially of our compatriots abroad - and I know that to many of you this day means even more than it does to some Swiss here at home.

For you abroad, this is the day when you remember your homeland. In the light of this remembrance, some things may appear more beautiful, more exalted even, than they really were. One's homeland is always associated with memories and nostalgia. Everyone has his own personal home, which he yearns to see again. And in this sense, home must not always be associated with political frontiers. Some may yearn after a certain landscape, others after their native village or town. One yearns after people - people you like and who still live where once you used to have your home. One longs perhaps for a favourite dish "that no one made like mother" - or even for a certain drink that only the landlord of your old local tavern knew how to serve.

There's always something sentimental about one's home. Above all, it has to do with feelings. But that is nothing to be ashamed of. The hectic world in which we live today lacks too much in true sentiment and feeling, and has become the poorer for it. We would have less neuroses today if, instead of laughing, we could be allowed to cry a little from time to time - as was usual, say, in the days of Goethe. But today we are ashamed if we have to convey sorrows, troubles and worries. Nowadays, our society recognizes only success.

One can, of course, get carried away by such feelings and nostalgia to the extent that one can no longer see, or is no longer even capable of seeing, reality. That is why many visualize their old homeland as something of a picture-book paradise.

I myself have often noticed visible disappointment among Swiss people who, upon returning home after years of residence abroad, discover that their homeland is not such a paradise after all. But this does not apply only to Switzerland. Most of the problems we face today are problems with which all the world's industrialised nations are confronted. We're told that the world is getting smaller all the time. The age of air travel no doubt has brought people closer together physically. But has it brought us closer together in a spiritual, in a human sense? Reality shows us that this isn't so. Yet the differences which separate us are perhaps not quite as marked anymore as they used to be. The national clichés which developed during the 19th century are no longer quite as valid as before. The image of the Swiss is no longer of a fellow whose hands are stuck in his pockets - this would be impossible anyway with the tight blue jeans so many people wear today.

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We Swiss are no longer a country of cowherds and farmers. We have become an industrial nation. Twenty five years ago one in five Swiss worked in agriculture - today the figure is one in 20. In 1955 Switzerland had around one million apartments - today the figure is two and a half million. Many new factories have been built. The construction of our national motorway network started years ago. We ourselves in Switzerland hardly notice these changes - gradual changes often escape our attention - which is why we sometimes have difficulty in preventing the damage resulting from these developments. Our area under cultivation is shrinking steadily. Many of us here in Switzerland would like to think that our world hasn't changed. But a Swiss returning home after years abroad finds those changes more noticeable - and often, all the more painful.

Now and then we, too, experience shock in the wake of these occurrences. Because every desired-for change brings with it unwanted change as well. We have problems with our younger generation - a younger generation which is not quite the same as we were. We often make the mistake of blaming younger people for these very changes that we of the older generation either desired or initiated, or did nothing to prevent. This younger generation are beginning to realise that their inheritance from us could cost them more than it is worth.

It seems to me that the world which we have made ourselves, is causing us a lot of trouble. We have problems with our environment, with our regional planning, with our infrastructure and with our traffic system. We have problems of recession - just like other countries. There are political groups who try to stop development or even to turn back the wheels of time. They are motivated by understandable nostalgia - but also by a lot of wishful thinking. In their time the so-called "good old days" were sometimes the "bad new days". That is something we forget all too quickly. And some of the older people among you will perhaps recall that they were forced to leave our country because they were unable to earn a proper living here.

The world - and also the small world of Switzerland - has not become an easier place to live in. Nevertheless it has become for us in Switzerland a better world. A world with higher salaries, with social insurances and - if we think of the national old age pension - with a more secure future in general. I know that sounds optimistic. But looking to the future is what politics is all about. And to think of the future is in itself an expression of optimism.

Switzerland is now a rich nation. It has become so through hard work. But the reputation of Swiss industriousness was born not only here in Switzerland. A great share of the credit must go to those Swiss who left their homeland. Perhaps it is too often forgotten how much our compatriots abroad do for their country throughout the world.

As I have already said, we are living today in what I believe is a better world. If it doesn't often seem that way, it is because the

world's problems have become more evident to us. No longer can we close our eyes to the social distress suffered by others, to the harmful side effects of industrial progress, to the human problems in general resulting from the growing mechanisation of our life. Our world has become more problem-conscious and this, to me, is a positive development. But it also means that our country carries a greater obligation, a greater responsibility. Switzerland enjoys a reputation in the humanitarian field - a reputation established by Henri Dunant and the Red Cross movement, by Pestalozzi, and by many other Swiss who entered into the service of the poor and needy. Yet I sometimes have the impression that our country relies too heavily upon this reputation. We tend to draw attention to the fact that we are a small nation when we should be giving - and to our economic strength when there is something to be gained.

We have committed ourselves to placing our neutrality in the service of the cause of peace. But real peace can come about only when there is social justice. Peace is not simply a matter of putting one's army rifle away into a cupboard. Peace is a permanent human mission, and I hope that every Swiss will be constantly mindful of this task. Yet it is not for us to act like schoolmasters or assume the role of the know-all, but simply to contribute our share to what has to be done. The problems of the world are no longer national problems. But it is the nations who will have to solve them.

What we Swiss people need is international open-mindedness - something to which Swiss citizens throughout the world have much to contribute. And that is why we need you, why you are in our thoughts on this day. We thank you for all you are doing for Switzerland as well as for your host country.

Willi Ritschard
President of the Swiss Confederation

19 October 1978

The meeting of the Executive Board of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh was held in the home of Florence Cappé on the 19th October with Fred Jacci, Walter Heer, Chuck Eob, Oswald Wyler, Hans Lümann, Gloria Sitter, Florence Cappé and Athela Neusimai in attendance.

The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved.

Gloria reported a balance of \$2,841.00 in the Savings account and a balance of \$325.12 in the checking account. An itemized account of the Income and Expenses for the August 1 Picnic was distributed to all.

A motion was made and carried that Florence be given \$25.00 for her generosity in keeping overnight the guests from Switzerland who had entertained at the picnic.

A motion was made and carried that we replace the Swiss Flag which was furnished by Marie Hauer and was destroyed at the picnic.

It was recommended that the caterer next year be cautioned about serving underdone chicken. In lieu of the jello salad - a little more potato salad or bean salad to be served.

Suggested date in order of preference for the Independence Day Picnic for 1979 over Aug 5th or July 29th.

It was announced that the Christmas Party would be held Dec 2nd at Cranberry Hall. The price to remain at \$10.00 per person. Gloria to be responsible for the raffle prizes - Florence to purchase the turkey - Walter Keer the dinner wine and Frank Fischer that to prepare the cocktails.

Walter Keer and Diane Weber were appointed to serve on the nominating Committee.

All officers had agreed to serve another term with Walter Keer and Chuck Esb agreeing to serve another two years on the Board of Directors.

It was suggested that we take a day's trip to Wilmot Ohio on the 19th of May to the Alpine Alpha Restaurant and cheese factory. This to be brought before the Society at the Christmas Party. Also, to mention a trip to New Glarus.

Florence flicked us with wine, cheese, meat, potato chips and dip, assorted nuts, apple strudel and cake.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Althea Newman, Secy

2 December 1978

The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh held its annual Christmas Dinner at Cranberry Hall on 2 Dec. 1978. A cocktail hour preceded a most delicious prime rib of beef dinner.

A short message greeting was brought to me by Council, Dr. Klaus Hofmann, after which came a short business meeting.

Althea Neesimal read a short summary of business transacted during 1978.

Gloria Lutter, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$2,948.88 in the savings account, and a balance of \$353.72 in the checking account.

Florence Cappi introduced new members and announced tentative trips to Wilmot, Ohio and New Glarus, Wisconsin.

The election results were read and are as follows.

President - Fred Jossi

V. President - Oswald Wyler

Secretary (1 yr.) - Althea Neesimal

Treasurer (1 yr.) - Gloria Lutter

Membership Sec. - Florence Cappi

Auditors (1 yr.) - Trudi Kunze

Henry Her

Board of Directors (2yo). Charles E. of
Walter Heer

The raffle, which consisted of many, many useful and delicious items was held at this time. Since there was no program planned for the evening, time was spent talking with and getting old friends. Another great evening with ideal weather.

Respectfully submitted
Althea Kersinal, Secy.

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

DEAR MEMBER:

Here we are again in the season of "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" and we wish to invite you to:

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER "PARTY"

at Cranberry Hall
Route 19
Warrendale, PA.

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2, 1978

Cocktails 6:30 P. M.

Dinner 7:00 P. M.

MENU: Prime Rib of Beef with all the trimmings
and wine served with meal

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers: Door Prizes

PRICE: \$10.00 per Person

Send Reservations to: Mrs. Florence Capper
600 Perrysville Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15229 Phone No. 931-0143
BEFORE: Wednesday, November 22, 1978

Make checks payable to the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

ERÖHLICHE WEINACHTEN ***** JOYEUX NOËL

The Committee

PLEASE RESERVE:

Dinner Reservations

§ Enclosed Herewith

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NO. _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NO. _____

SWISS-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

November 1978

B A L L O T
1979 Officers

The following Ballot was submitted by the Nominating Committee. If, for any reason, this Ballot does not meet with your approval, please write in your choice and VOTE. Send the ballot along with your dinner reservation.

PRESIDENT

Fred Jossi

SECRETARY (1year)

Althea Nevsimal

TREASURER (1year)

Gloria Sutter

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
(1year)

Florence Cappe

AUDITORS (1year)
(vote for two)

Trudy Kuenzi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(2 years) (vote for two)

Charles Erb

Walter Heer

Board Members Hans Leumann and Ernest Gubser have one more year of a two year term to serve. If there are any members whom you would like to have serve in any capacity, please write in the names. We wish to thank all those who served on the Board.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Walter Heer
Hans Weber