

tion. Mr. Alfred Knup accepted the office for the ensuing year, and he and Mr. P. H. Reichling were to alternate for seven years thereafter.

In September 1944, J. C. Schoop, director, and president of the Joint Committee, outlined a contemplated program for the 1945 Red Cross War Fund as contribution from the Swiss nationality group, and the directors voted to subscribe to the effort. Mr. Schoop now represented the Swiss nationality group in all civilian war efforts organized by such groups, as well as before the War Manpower Commission (in our case, discrimination against Swiss in war plants here was non-existent!). The other agencies were: Red Cross; War Chest; United Nations Council (Treasurer, Intercultural Committee); International Institute (Advisory Board); I Am An American Day.

The outstanding event of the year in the Swiss Colony was a Testimonial Dinner to Mr. J. H. Reichling on November 30, at the Philadelphia Rifle Club, on which occasion he was duly honored for his long, dedicated services for the benefit of all Swiss. On the other hand, the Society deplored the loss through death of another director, Carl Vosseler, who had served on the board since 1926. As replacements, Adolph Kotsch and Otto Kessler were elected new directors.

In the President's Report for 1946, Mr. Reichling commented, among other things, on the changed conditions since the origin of the Society 86 years ago, and for half of which time he had been a member. 'About 50 years ago we had as many as 14 Swiss Societies in Philadelphia, and a Swiss Colony of nearly 2000 members. On account of changed business conditions, mostly caused by two terrible wars, the immigration of young Swiss has melted down to a very small number and the societies to just a few. . . .'

Theodor Ammann had joined the Society in 1906. He was a director-at-large 1913/15; 1926; Financial Secretary 1915/25. Although he moved away, he remained faithful until his passing in October 1947. The AGA 1948 was 'celebrated' with a Bratwurst Supper at the Turnverein, only 17 attending, in contrast to the Annual Dinner in April, at Weber's Hofbrau, with 129 present, again with the collaboration of the NHS.

The AGA 1949, again with only 19 members in attendance, adopted an amendment to the Dissolution Clause of the SBS, to the effect that, if this should occur, archives, funds and other possessions should go to the competent Consulate of

Switzerland in trust, for disposition and use at its own discretion, preferably in favor of destitute Swiss of the Philadelphia district.

The Board of Directors remained intact, but Mr. Saalenbach resigned as Financial Secretary, which office he had attended to in exemplary manner since 1925. Mr. Adolph Kotsch was elected in his place, and is still serving. F. G. Stuern, a popular member since 1915, passed away in July.

Because of the Society's unhappy status, the Board Meeting of June 1950 declined to celebrate its 90th Anniversary in fall. This was reversed when John E. Weber came forth with an attractive offer, and assurance from the other local Swiss societies of their participation. J. C. Schoop was assigned to review the purposes and activities of the SBS, which he prefaced with comments about our great heritage in humanitarian efforts by our Mother Country.

That same year the SBS deplored the loss of three members of long standing: Mrs. Bertha Kindig (1910); Mrs. M. Fiechter (1926) and Mr. John J. Fiechter (1926). It also marked the retirement of our grand old man Mr. J. Otto Schweizer, Treasurer, in office since 1933. His outstanding contributions in service were duly memorialized. Mr. Jacob Knup, Jr., became the new Treasurer, and still holds that office.

The directors decided to hold the Annual Dinner of the SBS in conjunction with the New Helvetic Society's Annual Meeting and Dinner, April 11, 1951. The steaks were being served when smoke drifted into our room at Weber's Hofbrau. There seemed to be no cause for alarm, as we were removed from the fire toward the other end of the rambling building. But a few minutes later the premises had to be cleared, and burned down before many of our people could get their hats and coats. This disastrous fire marked the end of our many social gatherings at that place, where happy hours were spent in congenial atmosphere.

Among the deceased that year were again two old members: Carl Rahm (1909), and Jacob Fleischmann (1911/32, 1934/51), director-at-large 1916/28, 1935/37, vice president 1938/51. His devoted services were duly eulogized by the President. J. C. Schoop was to fill the vacancy 1952/55.

The AGA 1952 elected J. Otto Schweizer and H. C. Saalenbach to Honorary Directors in appreciation of their long, dedicated services. O. Kessler resigned from the Board, and four new directors received unanimous votes: John Doess, Carl