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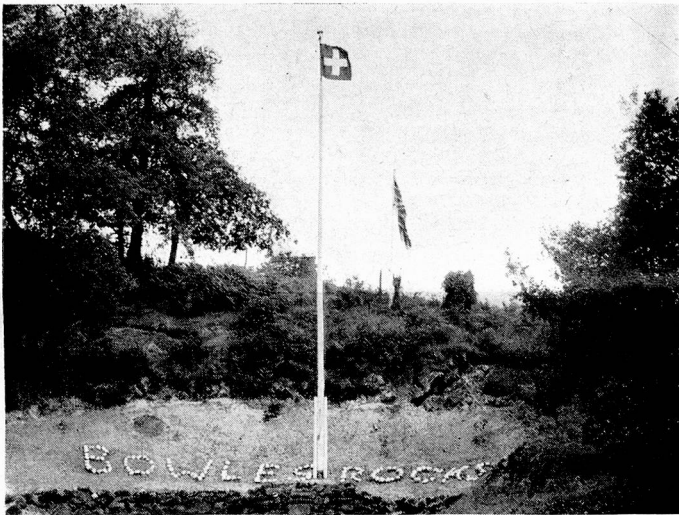
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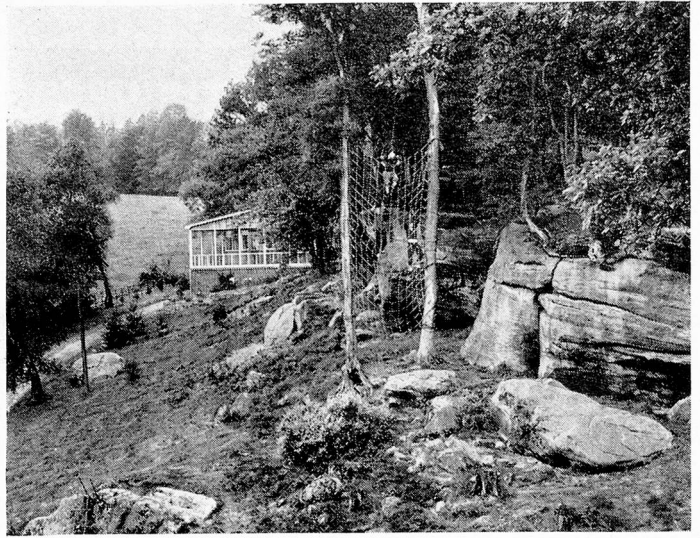
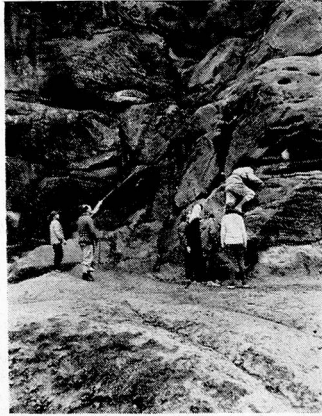
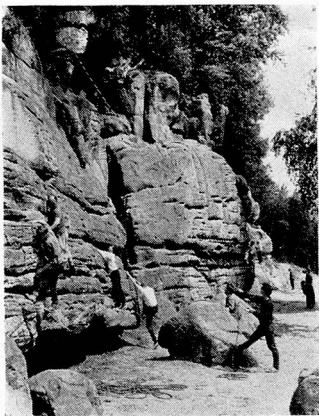
1965 The Year
of the Alps

MATTERHORN CONQUEST COMMEMORATED IN SUSSEX

One hundred years ago, Edward Whymper accomplished the first ascent of the Matterhorn. Many have longed since to climb that most famous of alpine peaks. Many have tried, and for many it has remained a dream. Amongst these, there was an Englishman who decided that he would not sit back idly. He set out to create a centre in this country where men and women could be trained as mountaineers. This 45 year-old engineer, John Walters, succeeded, and today, the mountaineering centre at Bowles in Sussex is a well-established training ground under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.



On the border of Kent and Sussex are four outcrops, one of them, Bowles Rocks near Eridge, was taken over by John Walters, and by sheer hard work and never-ending enthusiasm, the seven acres of swamp-like meadows — the site had been used as a pig farm — were cleared, and the rocky wall along the Northern border cleaned and prepared for action. Today, the grounds comprise meadows, a car park, camping grounds, a large swimming pool, a clubhouse and above all 600 feet of sandstone rocks, some rising to nearly 100 feet. Every technical



mountaineering problem can be studied, and seventy varied climbing routes have been made in every grade from beginner's climbs to expert's ascents. The buttresses are separated by gullies, and various aids have been installed to provide every possible opportunity for learning to tackle the real thing.

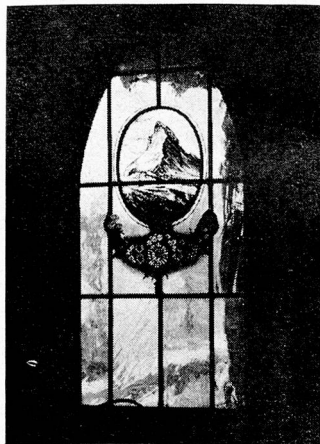
It is called the Bowles Mountaineering Gymnasium, for every kind of physical training is provided, and gymnastic and camping equipment, as well as a children's climbing nursery are available. Expert qualified instructors are supervising the training.

A special feature is the small chapel which was built to provide the spiritual uplift that goes hand-in-hand with the strenuous physical exertion of climbing. The building of the chapel was inspired by the joy derived from seeing visitors of all creeds going into the little chapels dotted amongst the Swiss Alps, in particular the one at the bottom of the Matterhorn — the Schwarzsseekapelle.

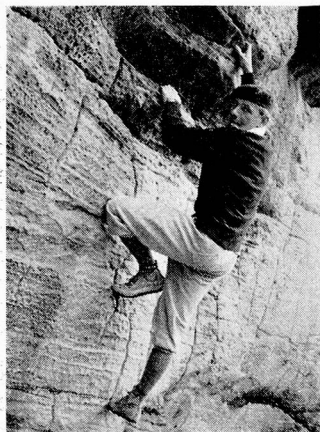


It seems almost a miracle that this idea, too, should have become a reality. With the encouragement of the Bishop of Chichester, drawings and plans were made, and two craftsmen, a stonemason and a carpenter, took over and built a Swiss chapel in the peaceful Sussex countryside. Brick and local sandstone, Sussex oak beams and rafters, Swiss cantonal crests in stained glass, a bell from Meiringen and the undaunted spirit and proud skill of John Walters

and his craftsmen brought to life this lovely little House of God. Remarkably it fits into the Bowles Rocks landscape as if it had been there for centuries, and a few yards away, the Swiss flag has pride of place.

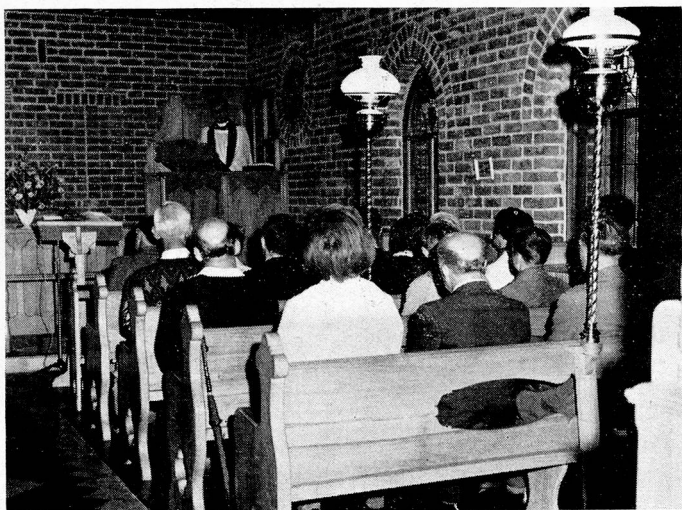


One of the windows with the Matterhorn.



The founder and director John Walters in action.

Could there have been a better or more appropriate spot in this country for holding a service on 14th July, exactly one hundred years after the first conquest of the Matterhorn? At the identical moment as at Zermatt, a Memorial Service was conducted at the Bowles Chapel by the Rev. Canon Vicary. Journalists and Southern TV were present, and the Swiss Embassy and Swiss National Tourist Office were represented. Prayers were said for mountaineers including those who lost their lives on the Matterhorn on that eventful day in 1865. But no better



monument to their courage and to their memory could be built than the Bowles Centre where men and women, young and old, can be initiated and helped along towards the final goal of climbing one of the eternal alpine peaks.

SIC ITUR IN ALTUM.

MM

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION BOURNEMOUTH

On the 1st August 1965, Swiss students at the Anglo-Continental School of English, Bournemouth were able to stage their usual national day Celebration for the first time in the School's recently opened Club Restaurant. In the previous ten years the celebration had taken place either on a pleasure steamer or in one of Bournemouth's many public recreation grounds. About 600 people were present on this occasion.

It was evident from the tasteful decoration of the Restaurant and of some of the class rooms that a good deal of ingenuity and enthusiasm had been devoted to the provision of a setting worthy of this great event. One room had been converted into an attractive bar, and among other original and happily executed transformations were a fisherman's hut, a forester's lodge and a very convincing reconstruction of the interior of William Tell's house. Throughout the building, the walls were festooned with posters recalling typical features of Swiss life.

The ceremony began soon after 8 p.m. with a rousing march on the drums, after which the School choir let itself go with well-rehearsed songs in the three national languages. A talented soloist delighted the audience with a first-class exhibition of yodelling and there was an outstanding contribution of songs by a gifted young French Swiss who accompanied himself on the guitar. Special mention must be made of what was perhaps the highlight of the evening — the impressive address given by Mr. Theodor Haller, the Swiss foreign correspondent from London. His remarks dwelt not so much on the past history of the country as on the opportunities which it offers for the future. In this context he appealed to students to note and retain the positive rather than the negative aspect of their experience abroad. After Mr. Haller's speech three students recalled briefly, in three different languages, some of the more important dates in Switzerland's history and the first part of the programme closed with the singing of the national anthem by all present.

If the first part of the programme was on the whole reflective in character, the second half was unrestrained merriment. It had hardly been announced when the floor was invaded by dancing couples turning to the strains of stately waltzes or to the staccato beat of modern jazz. Interludes were provided by sketches, Alpenhorn solos, yodelling turns and performances on the guitar. Good humour remained, throughout, the keynote of this most successful evening and all too soon the hands of the clock slipped round to one o'clock, when the celebration ended. For the great number of Swiss boys and girls who took part in it this first of August in a foreign land will long remain among their happiest memories.

(ACSE)

READER'S COMMENT

One of our English readers added the following paragraph to his letter to the Editor:

"It may amuse you that I was asked by a lady yesterday whether the Scroll inside the First of August emblem was a miniature copy of the Swiss Observer."

What do you know?