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## Passports

Do not wait until the eve of your holiday before applying for your Swiss passport to be renewed ... it may not be possible to return it to you in time.

## Profile of the Valais

### Maurice Chappaz

#### Biographical and bibliographical notes

Born at Martigny on 21st December 1916  
Family of landowners and lawyers

Uncle on his mother's side: Councillor of State Maurice Troillet. Studies: matriculation at the «Gymnase l'Abbaye» at St. Maurice, 2 years of law studies at the University of Lausanne

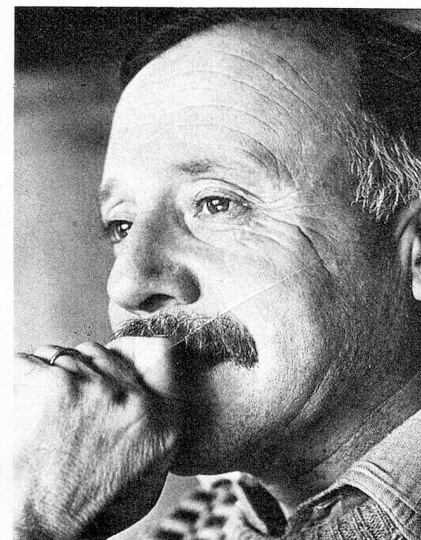
From 1939 to 1945 lieutenant at smaller frontier posts

The inclination to write came after two spells of working: A stay at the Grande Dixence (1955–1957) as assistant surveyor and caring for a vineyard estate, including the whole gamut of growing vines (1950–1955). This was followed by looking after some small vines of Pinot and Fendant at Veyras above Sierre, where he had a house built.

In the meantime he met Corinna Bille in 1942, married and had three children – engineer, psychologist and student (girl) of literature.

Apart from 15 books we mention translations from Vergil (**Les Géorgiques**) and from Theocritus (**Idylles**), poems «**Verdures de la Nuit**», «**Testament du Haut-Rhône**» (poem in prose), «**Valais au gosier de grive**», «**Chant de la Grande Dixence**», «**Portrait des Valaisans**», «**Match Valais-Judée**».

The last two works are tales of tender or wild anecdotes in the form of lampoons



or fables, in which the **Vieux Pays** and the modern world are united.

Two absences from the Valais should be mentioned, one near the wilderness of Lapland and the other towards the Himalayas, both to approach his homeland anew.

And the last book: «**La Haute Route**», a kind of poetry in prose, which describes the long journey on skis across the glaciers of Saas to Verbier in spring. M.C.

*The Swiss and his changing Homeland  
An old and yet a young country:  
the Valais*

The Swiss who have left their country, citizens of «Fifth Switzerland» – for abroad one does not speak of German-Swiss, French-Swiss, Ticinesi or folks from the Grisons, but simply of *Swiss*; in doing so all our different characteristics flow into one single similarity, nothing to do with passports, but with our common heritage of mountains and rivers, blue lakes unique in Europe and rural-technical aspect of our individuality and all it implies in tradition and restrained adventure – our Swiss then who left their homeland and look back on their childhood from afar.

But once they come into contact once again with their country of

origin after having been away for a long time, possibly full of memories and their parents' dreams, it is by no means certain that they recognize it.

To talk of the Valais: Someone who was born here, say, in 1920 and has been bound to the soil ever since, has undertaken a journey on the spot, one which, in its length, compares to emigration to the States. Everything has undergone changes: manners, customs, landscape. The resident Valaisan could rise within his limits to a notable conqueror (according to the picture which we may have, perhaps somewhat naively, of you, the Swiss abroad): he has become the owner of a hotel, chief engineer of a barrage construction, head of a new hospital. Conqueror or vanquished within an inner exile. I am also thinking of the