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STEAMING FOR A CENTURY - Paddle Steamer "Schiller", 1906 - 2006



"Schiller" at the Schiller stone

All photographs: Colin Jarman

This year the PS "Schiller" celebrates her 100th birthday and the SGV (Schiffahrtsgesellschaft des Vierwaldstättersees) is commemorating this significant landmark with a number of special events throughout the year. This programme began on the 13th May with a special Anniversary Rally.

My long-time travel companion Maurice Criddle and I were fortunate in being invited to join the Media Photo Boat to witness and photograph this Rally. The plan was for all of the five nostalgic paddle steamers to leave from various lakeside piers and meet near Weggis for what the SGV termed an 'Elegant Steamer Ballet'.

On the morning of the Rally the weather dawned cloudy but dry and it promised to be kind. In eager anticipation of the day's events a number of invited media guests met at the quayside in Luzern to board the MV "Weggis". We were all

treated to a welcoming coffee and croissant before speeches were made which included an explanation as to our intended course and the programme for the day.

The "Weggis" is an excellent vessel to serve as a 'Photo Boat'. It is fast and easy to manoeuvre, and it was sailing on the day without the Swiss ensign at the stern in order to assist the photographers getting clear shots. Leaving the quayside the "Weggis" took-up an initial position in order to allow us to photograph the departure of the "Schiller" and "Stadt Luzern", with their respective compliments of passengers. The vessels quickly headed away in order to meet with the three other paddle steamers coming from their various departure points around the lake.

The best way of describing such an event is with photographs, a selection of which are reproduced here.



Motor Boat "Weggis" provided as the photo boat

"Stadt Luzern" and "Schiller" announce their departure



Even William Tell turns out for this special rally



"Mythen" moves into position to head the procession at this part of the lake



"Mythen" arrives to greet the paddle steamers

"Gallia"





A noticeable tilt to port as all the passengers on board "Schiller" exchange greetings with the minnows



Waiting for the arrival of "Schiller"

"Gallia" leads "Uri" away from the ballet

