

# OTTO PFÄNDER

2. July 1909 – 19. May 1994



Otto Pfänder was born in Dettingen in Württemberg and spent his youth in Weiblingen, where he completed an apprenticeship as a painter. Starting in 1930, after studies at the art school in Stuttgart, he spent his journeyman years travelling, finally settling in Brig.

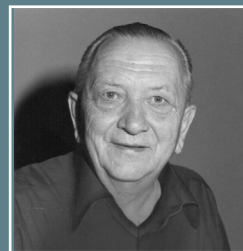
He married Lina Junker, the daughter of an innkeeper who herself later ran the Stockalperkeller. Together they had three sons and one daughter. Otto Pfänder became a citizen of the canton of Valais when he became naturalised in Bister. He founded a painting business in Brig and was later the manager of a company in Siders for 25 years. From 1945, he did occasional freelance work painting signs and decorative details for the Roten AG. Training young people was always important to him: for 38 years he was an instructor at the Upper Valais vocational school for a professional painting course that he co-founded.

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Otto Pfänder's artistic drive was enormous: he created large-scale paintings on the sides of buildings; painted murals and decorative details; did set design for indoor and outdoor theatre; drew caricatures and other subjects; created carnival decorations and signage; designed flags and posters. His great passion was painting in oil; he created unique landscapes, still life paintings and portraits.

Music and singing were also more than just a hobby for him; he acted in theatre, sang solos in his strong baritone and bass voice, and played the lead in musicals. Upper Valais tradition was important to him as a member of the regional costume association and the folk choir.

Otto Pfänder was a friend of the Roten family. With his works he created lasting values and his actions brought great joy to friends and family from near and far, for which we will always be grateful.



OTTO PFÄNDER

- ▶ Founded painting business in Siders
- ▶ From 1945 freelance for the family owned painting business Roten Brig
- ▶ Establishing vocational school for painters
- ▶ 38 years instructor at the school for professional painting course
- ▶ Otto's passion: Painting in oil