

News from Switzerland

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===== **Forthcoming Events** =====

Auckland Swiss Club

AUGUST 1st CELEBRATIONS

A social evening will be held in the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham, on July 30th 1966 to celebrate our National Day.

—V.B.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Hamilton Swiss Club's August 1st Celebrations will be held in Pine Lodge on SATURDAY July 30th at 8 p.m. Special entertainment by our artists' group. Supper: Bernerplatte; the music by the Dutch band. Admission charge 10s for financial members, 15s for others.

Wellington Swiss Club

The August 1st Celebrations will be held on Saturday July 30th in the Brooklyn Hall.

SWITZERLAND CALLING

The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation now has three transmissions for reception in New Zealand and next to the BBC has the most programmes specially for us. The new Berne transmission includes the evening one from

7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on 9595 and 11775 kc., 31- and 25-metre bands.
The session

1.15 to 2.45 p.m. on 11775 kc., 25-metre band
and from

4.15 to 5.45 p.m. on 9595 and 11775 kc., 31- and 25-metre band.
(The New Zealand Listener)

===== **News from Switzerland** =====

THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW OIL REFINERY IN SWITZERLAND

A new oil refinery built by Shell-Switzerland in the short space of two years was recently inaugurated at Cressier, near Neuchatel (Switzerland). Designed according to the most modern conceptions, this huge industrial complex with an annual capacity of 2.5 million tons of crude oil, involved an investment of nearly S.Fr. 180 million (\$41.75 million); to this amount must be added some S.Fr. 30 million (\$6.96 million) for the Neuchatelois-Jura oil pipeline which, linked to the South-European pipeline, will supply the refinery with oil from Marseille-Lavera. The refinery will have a storage capacity of 450,000 cubic metres and its own internal marshalling yards are capable of handling up to 300 tank-wagon loads a day. The strictest precautions against the pollution of the

air and water have been taken, but not until the results of the refining trials have been proved conclusive will the final permit be issued by the Swiss Government.

AN INSTITUTE IN GENEVA FOR THE TEACHING OF LANGUAGES BY AUDIO-VISUAL METHODS

During the last few years, everyone has heard of the new audio-visual methods for the learning of languages. It is interesting to know that a laboratory, where these methods are put into practice, has been working successfully in Geneva for nearly a year. In the first eight months of its existence, "Tutor"—the first audio-visual language centre in Switzerland—already trained 400 persons belonging to thirty different nationalities. A growing clientele of international organizations and business companies comes to "Tutor". For example, a certain number of foreign diplomats were able to learn French in three months of intensive study. Other special courses have been organized or are being prepared (such as: technical language for chemistry, for education, etc.) for various Swiss and foreign institutions. After the presentation in class of a text spoken in the foreign language, accompanied by the projection of fixed or animated pictures, the students go to the laboratory. Here, they each sit in a soundproofed cabin where, by means of earphones, they can hear again the lesson new recorded on magnetic tapes. The students repeat this lesson until the moment is reached when their repetition is perfect. The teacher, from his control desk, is in constant communication with the students, to answer their questions, to make all necessary corrections or to give additional information concerning the lesson.

MODERN HUNTER ON SKIS IN THE VALAIS

Old Finnish and Lapland legends tell of the remarkable feats of endurance accomplished by ski-borne hunters whose duty it was to protect the reindeer herds against wolves, bear and other blood-thirsty beasts of prey. On their very primitive snowshoes, these olden day herdsmen would pursue the murderous animals over incredible distances until they had caught them.

A very different task has been assigned to game warden Konrad Hirschier in the region of Goms, the wild, often snow-bound basin at the uppermost end of the Rhone Valley. The Cantonal Forestry Office has charged him with the guarding and care of the frequently starving game in the area. Laden with sacks of dry fodder often weighing 100 pounds or more, he follows the tracks of the hungry animals until he finds them and feeds them.

In the course of his remarkably strenuous work, the tough Goms man developed into Switzerland's finest long-distance skier and during the past two winters has walked off with no less than five championships. His recent success at the Nordic World Ski Championships held at Oslo last February was fit recompense for his long, hard efforts.