

# News from Switzerland

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## **WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB**

**Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand:** Sunday, 4th June, at 2.30 p.m. at the Matterhorn Coffee Lounge, Cuba Street. Business: President's Report and Financial Statement; Election of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**10th Jubilee Ball Celebrations:** At the Display Centre (Cuba Street), Wellington, on 3rd June, 1967, at 7.30 p.m. Includes cocktails, 6-course dinner, Jodelchoerli from Hamilton, Munato the Magician, Dance and great Tombola. Do not miss this event!

**Coming Events—Preview** (can be altered later): 29th July, National Day Celebration. 9th September, Fondue-Housie. 4th November, Chilbi. 3rd December, Christmas Party. Special invitations will be sent out.

**Basketball** every Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m. at Wellington South Intermediate School, Rintoul Street.

## **News from Switzerland**

### **THE TELEX NETWORK, SWITZERLAND AND THE WORLD**

The Swiss telex service is gradually extending to include the whole world. In 1966, correspondence was opened with nine new countries, including Turkey, Muscat, Nicaragua, San Salvador, Sierra Leone and the Ryoukyou Islands. From Switzerland, it is now possible to communicate by telex with 122 countries.

Switzerland is in fact the country with the most highly developed telex network for the size of the population; the number of subscribers amounted to 7575 at the end of 1966, i.e. 12 per cent more than the previous year. Yugoslavia has now joined the 19 countries which can be reached automatically. Swiss subscribers can make 98.5 per cent of their communications with European countries entirely automatically. Last year, the Swiss telex network transmitted nearly 19 million messages, 5.4 million of them within the country, nearly 10 million in Europe and over 3 million in transit.

(OSEC)

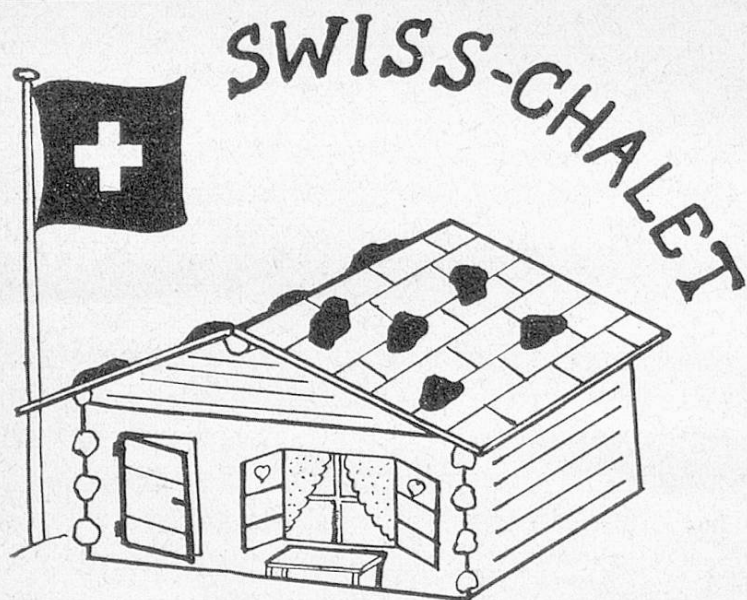
### AN INVALUABLE LITTLE APPLIANCE

The stripping of electrical wires is a difficult and tiresome job when it has to be repeated hundreds and hundreds of times as in certain industries. An electrotechnical firm in Zurich has invented an appliance for the rapid and neat removal of insulation from all standard insulated round and stranded wires up to a diameter of 9 mm. The Isomap, equipped with five cutting heads and a potentiometer, strips all kinds of wire automatically, at adjustable speeds, over a preset length or otherwise, at the same time automatically retwisting the end of the stripped wire, thus saving considerable time.

This instrument, completely satisfying all technical requirements, can be supplied with various accessories rationalising its use, such as in particular a stand, combined with a foot pedal control giving the operator great manual freedom, which is so important when work has to be carried out in large batches.

### SUCCESS OF POSTAL CODE NUMBERS

The system of postal code numbers, or zip codes, intended to speed up and mechanise the sorting of mail, has become well established in Switzerland. At present 82.9 to 97.9 per cent of all inland mail at the 37 biggest post offices is marked with postal code numbers. For Switzerland as a whole, the proportion of letters marked with the zip code rose from 83.6 per cent in August 1966 to 87.1 per cent in February 1967. (OSEC)



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## **SUCCESS OF SWISS ENGINEERING FIRM ABROAD**

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in Turkey has just placed an order for four hydraulic turbines of 250,000 HP each with the French partners of the Vevey Engineering Works Ltd., the Loire Engineering Works and Ironworks Company. These Francis turbines, working under a head of 425 feet, are to be installed in the Keban power station on the Euphrates. They are, it appears, the most powerful hydraulic turbines ever made according to a Swiss process.

This order has been made possible by the agreement to co-operate in the field of hydraulic turbines which the Vevey works signed, less than a year ago, with the Loire Engineering Works and Ironworks, placing the Swiss firm's technical knowhow, experience and complete test plant at the disposal of their French partners. (OSEC)

## **SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY JUBILEE**

At its 72nd ordinary general meeting this year, Sandoz Co. Ltd., the big Basle chemical and pharmaceutical products factory, recalled that its pharmaceutical products department had been founded 50 years ago, in 1917, by Professor Arthur Stoll, at present Chairman of the Board of Directors. Even today, the alkaloids of rye ergot and their by-products, which were the pharmaceutical department's first subject of research, still form the basis of some of the firm's main specialities.

It should be remembered that ergotamine had been isolated and presented in the pure state for the first time by Professor Stoll himself; after half a century of work on these substances, the Basle firm is able to meet the bulk of its needs with synthetic products. This result is the culmination of the work of numerous scientists who, once the pure substance had been isolated, succeeded in determining its structure in order subsequently to effect its complete synthesis. (OSEC)

## **THE NUTRITIVE VALUE OF CHEESE**

Thanks to its balanced composition and its easy assimilation by the human organism, cheese constitutes one of the main sources of protein in our food. This is one of the conclusions reached during the discussion of the special commission for nutritive questions of the Swiss Dairy Commission, which took place at the Institute for the Study of Nutrition at Ruschlikon-Zurich, under the chairmanship of Mr Somogyi, university lecturer.

A daily ration of 130 grams of Emmental, Gruyere or similar cheese is sufficient to provide the organism with most of the amino-acids and mineral matters it needs, including calcium and phosphorus, which are present in large quantities in cheese. It should be noted that Emmental and Gruyere cheese form the bulk of Swiss dairy product exports. (OSEC)

## CREATION OF SWISS POLICE SCHOOL

The first Swiss Police School has just been formed in Neuchatel. This new institution, which has been planned for a long time, hopes to be ready for its first batch of students at the beginning of 1969. It will be open to boys of 16 or 17 years wishing to become police officers. At present cantonal and communal police forces take on nearly 500 new recruits every year. Among them are many who would willingly have started suitable vocational training earlier but, for lack of proper opportunity, had meanwhile to learn some other trade which they did not continue. Instead of this, boys will now be able, early on in their careers, to acquire the notions of a legal, technical or administrative nature which they will need later on and which it is not possible to teach completely at a normal police training school.

The new institution naturally does not compete in any way with the courses organised by the cantons and towns for training their recruits but is rather a complement to these courses, which could consequently be eased of part of their burden.

In order to provide against the unforeseen circumstances inevitable in any entirely new concern, the Swiss Police School has been included within the framework of the Neuchatel School of Higher Commercial Studies, which has for some time now had its own administrative section. It is interesting to note in this connection that Neuchatel is already the home of the Swiss Police Institute. (OSEC)

## ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS MERGER

The shareholders of Brown, Boveri & Co. Ltd., at Baden, Switzerland's biggest engineering firm, unanimously approved the bid to take over the shares of the Oerlikon Engineering Co. in Zurich. This merger is intended, in the long run, to enable the Swiss electrical equipment industry to gain a firmer footing on foreign markets. It is important to make the most rational use of the financial and human resources available to the two firms, in order to compete successfully on the world market.

Another reason in favour of the merger is Brown, Boveri's decision to found a research centre, requiring very large investments. Furthermore, the operation is an illustration of Switzerland's determination to remain in the forefront of the electrical equipment industry. (OSEC)

## PX-15, THE SECOND MESOSCAPHE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

At the Giovanola Works at Monthey (Switzerland) work has started on the construction of a second mesoscaphe, ordered by an American aviation company. This new submarine's first mission, in the summer of 1968, will be a six weeks' dive during which it will drift almost 1600 miles in the water of the Gulf Stream. The mesoscaphe will take a year to build.