

News from Switzerland

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **31 (1968)**

Heft [7]

PDF erstellt am: **28.05.2024**

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Forthcoming Events

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Social Evening: Saturday, 14th September, in the Pine Lodge. Laendler-Kappelle and Yodel items. The Dutch Orchestra will play.

TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB

National Day Celebration to be held in the Kapuni Memorial Hall on Thursday, 1st August, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Swiss National Day Celebration Ball to be held on 2nd August, at 9 p.m. in the N.Z. Display Centre, Sturdee Street, Wellington. Tickets obtainable from the Secretary, Box 1128, Wellington.

Jassen: First Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Matterhorn. —L.N.

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SWISS YODELLING BY CORRESPONDENCE

The young Korean Kim Hong Chul, number eight in a family of ten, had an irrepressible urge to learn to yodel. He hunted high and low throughout Korea but failed to unearth either a teacher or a manual of instruction. Kim Hong Chul was not daunted. He immediately sent off to the birthplace of yodelling, Switzerland, and asked for a taped performance. Very soon afterwards, the talented young Korean despatched a yodel tape of his own to Switzerland where even the experts were agreeably surprised at his prowess.

The Swiss National Tourist Office, together with the Zurich newspaper "Tages-Anzeiger", decided to invite Hong Chul over to Switzerland. Here, he was interviewed by the local press and gave a performance in a well-known Zurich restaurant. By all accounts, Kim Hong Chul is still yodelling away merrily in his native Korea, clad in the traditional dress and singing the praises of Appenzell and Schwyz.

SWISS MACHINE IN AUSTRALIAN STEEL-WORKS

The only steel-works in Australia, which is at the same time the biggest industrial concern in the country, recently put into operation a machine for drawing out cast steel with an annual capacity of 150,000 tons, which makes it possible to cut out three steps from the traditional process of steel manufacture. This machine was supplied by the Swiss firm of Concast Co. Ltd., in Zurich. (osec)

PROTECTION AGAINST ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS

In order to protect shop-window displays against the effects of ultra-violet rays, which take away the freshness of the articles on display and tend to make colours fade, a Swiss manufacturer offers absolutely transparent plastic sheeting, for sticking invisibly on windows and window panes by means of a special glue.

"Antisun-UV-Tint" sheeting is able to filter ultra-violet rays and protect the objects displayed in shop windows from their harmful effects. Thanks to this invention, it is no longer necessary to lower shop blinds at the first sign of sun. This new system offers various advantages over ordinary protective varnishes. In addition, Antisun sheeting is easy to apply perfectly; it remains completely invisible and in no way affects the transparency of the glass. (osec)

SPACE AND SWITZERLAND

An interesting exhibition entitled "Space and Switzerland" is being held at the Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne from May to September this year. Placed under the patronage of a number of Swiss scientists and displaying exhibits from institutions interested in this subject as well as from a score or so Swiss firms specialising in the production of scientific equipment, this exhibition has been enriched still further by loans of equipment from various scientific institutes in the United States and the USSR.

It provides additional proof that Switzerland, although remaining aloof from the space rivalry of the great nations, nevertheless contributes with her technical and scientific equipment to the advancement of space science. (osec)

NEW MERGER IN SWISS WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY

Aware of the advantages offered by closer co-operation in the commercial and technical fields, the watch factories of Ernest Borel & Sons Co. Ltd. at Neuchatel and Cyma Watch Co. Ltd. at La Chaux-de-Fonds and Tavannes, decided in favour of concentrating their work and efforts. The merger will be effected by exchanging shares within the framework of Chronos Holding Co. Ltd., the actual running of the two firms continuing to remain independent within the holding company. (osec)

TRADE EXHIBITION OF A NEW KIND

"Kopantiqua", the international fair for copies of antiques, was held for the first time from June 8th to 16th in the halls of OLMA agricultural fair at St. Gall. The object of this exhibition, which will probably be held every other year from now on, is to group the work of all manufacturers of copies of antiques, in the fields of furniture, sculpture, printed matter, weapons, glassware, porcelain, pewter, textiles, etc., for the benefit of dealers, restaurant owners and hotel keepers, and even private individuals, who wish to furnish and decorate their premises or homes with guaranteed true copies of antiques, because they can no longer find the genuine items they want on the market or for whom the cost would be too high. (osec)

AUTOMATION OF TYPE-SETTING

In co-operation with a big printing machinery manufacturer, a Swiss electronic equipment manufacturer has succeeded in producing ordinating equipment specially designed for the automation of type-setting and destined to render invaluable service to printing works with a sufficiently large volume of work.

This equipment consists of a type-setting unit producing a perforated ribbon whose coded messages will be dealt with by the following units: a correction unit for inserting changes in the original text, which replaces, adds or cancels single words or whole lines; a syllabic division unit, for dividing words up at the end of lines; a justification unit watching over the exact length of lines, which also comprises the directions for changes of type and layout; finally, an electronically controlled typewriter, for transcribing the corrected text in clear. The finished perforated ribbon is inserted in a type-setting machine producing the lines.

This system known as GSA, with an output of 300,000 signs an hour, opens up interesting new possibilities. Whether it is a question of complete chain or a smaller plant with a limited number of units, the financial investment remains reasonable and acceptable, even for medium-size printing works. (osec)

SWISS CURRENCY ROLLING MILL FOR INDIA

The Indian Government recently ordered a rolling mill from the Swiss metallurgical works of Von Roll Co. Ltd. for rolling the metal used in the manufacture of currency. This machine, weighing 37 tons with rollers 450 mm in diameter, exerts a rolling pressure of 200 tons and requires a power of 200 HP. (osec)

POLITICAL APPOINTMENT

The Swiss Ambassador in Peking, Dr. Oscar Rossetti, has been appointed representative of the Federal Political Department in the Ministry of the Interior of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi.

TWO SETTINGS FOR WILLIAM TELL

Summer vacationers from Switzerland and abroad will be treated to Schiller's "William Tell" in two settings, each with its own traditions. The Tell Theatre in Altdorf is not only famous for its excellent acoustics but is also set in the region where the Swiss struggle for independence was waged by Tell and his compatriots. Performances will be given from July 6th through to September 8th.

The Rugenpark near Interlaken in the Bernese Oberland also offers a version of "William Tell". This is unique in its skilful use of the natural surroundings. The massive company acts in a magnificent wooded landscape setting and the performance is full of colourful processions. The audience in the covered stands is supplied with translations of the text for those unable to follow the play in its original German. The Open-Air Tell Theatre is open every Thursday and Saturday from July 6 to August 25.

SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO "CONCORDE"

The Swiss firm of Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd., at Winterthur, will take part in the building of "Concorde". This Swiss firm has in fact received an order from the British Royal Aircraft Establishment to supply the equipment for examining the outside surface of the European supersonic airliner for signs of fatigue. (osec)

JAMES BOND IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND

Ten thousand feet up in the Swiss Alps is the setting for secret agent James Bond, 007, licensed-to-kill, in his most hair-raising exploit to date. Ian Fleming's "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" has all the trimmings: gripping man-hunt down the gleaming-white pistes of the Schilthorn, helicopter battles over the Alpine pastures and, to cap it all, ten stunning young ladies who are freed from the clutches of a crooked mastermind who cloaks his gruesome activities by running a so-called sanatorium.

All of this and more will be on show this autumn in Muerren in the Bernese Oberland where the latest Bond spectacular is to be filmed. This will be by far the most ambitious colour film made in the Alps. Filming proper will start on October 1st but preparations are already under way. A helicopter pad is under construction in the shadow of the Schilthorn and a special bob-run and a large skating rink are also being built.

The film is to be directed by the Englishman Peter Hunt, a relative of the famous climber who scaled the Himalayas along with the legendary Sherpa Tensing. The shooting company of 200 to 300 will spend some six weeks in Muerren. Ursula Andress, Berne's home-grown actress, has been approached to play a leading part. And the Swiss Military Department has also come up with a surprise contribution: one of the Swiss Air Force's supersonic "Mirage" jet fighters will be used in the film version.

SWISS CHEESE CHANGES SHAPE

With the growing success of cheese in pre-packaged portions, it was realised that the preparation of portions from rounds of cheese involved losses of 20 to 25%, owing to wastage. The Americans were the first to think of manufacturing their cheese in squares instead of the traditional rounds. In order to follow this trend, the Swiss Association of the Cheese Trade asked a number of Swiss manufacturers to make square blocks of Gruyere cheese by way of a test.

The manufacturing process remaining the same, the quality of Switzerland's excellent cheeses will not be affected in any way by this change in shape which provides a tasty solution to the problem of squaring the circle! (osec)

CONSORTIUM BUILDS POWER STATION FOR TURKEY

A consortium consisting of 4 Swiss engineering firms has been commissioned by Etibank in Ankara to produce the plant for a thermal power station consisting of two 150,000 kw units, to be built on the outskirts of Ankara for supplying the town with electricity. It will be the first big thermal power station in the country. The Swiss engineers are working according to the plans of Brown, Boveri, which will supply the electrical part of the equipment in co-operation with the Oerlikon Engineering Works, while Sulzer will supply the boilers and Escher Wyss the steam turbines. (osec)

MAKING TRACKS IN CHUR

The Tourist Office in Chur, the principal town of the Grisons, has hit on a rather unusual way of helping visitors find their way about. The town has been divided into two sectors, and red and green routes to the main sightseeing attractions have been plotted on a handy map. At the same time, these routes are indicated on the roads themselves in the form of footprints. Now, the visitor to Chur need no longer get lost in the winding streets of the old town — he simply follows the footprints.

Letters of congratulation and thanks from visitors all over the world have already shown that the tourist office is indeed on the right track.



SWITZERLAND CALLING to New Zealand

Programmes of the Swiss Broadcasting Corp. from 5th May to 2nd November, 1968:

- (a) Transmissions in English daily, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- (b) Transmissions in Schweizerdeutsch, 8 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. every Tuesday, Friday, Sunday.

Frequencies: 31.28m and 25.48m.