

# MBE for a compatriot

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# MBE FOR A COMPATRIOT

Our compatriot Miss Alice Hoffman de Visme was awarded the M.B.E. in last year's Honours List for having founded a school for mentally handicapped children in North London. Miss Hoffman, 66, who received the M.B.E. from the Queen at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 15th November last, was cited as "Founder of Noah's Ark Trust, school for non communicating children and young people with severe learning disabilities".

Miss Hoffmann was no longer young when she had the opportunity to carry out her true calling. Having bought a house on Hornsey Rise in 1953, she started a school which took the form of a group for mentally handicapped children, and was received by the Mental Health Department.

As a trained teacher specialising in remedial teaching, she had realised that specialised institutions and hospitals had no facilities for children unable to communicate, and showing autistic or aphasic characteristics. Before starting the school she had already gained experience in working with small groups of such children.

The inadequacy of existing facilities inspired her to do something in her own home. Today, she can look back to having created an institution recognised as a school, and backed since 1969 by a Foundation Trust of which she is

President since her retirement last year.

At present, Noah's Ark Trust takes care of some 15 children who require a specialised teaching staff of five. Many youngsters have already left the school. Miss Hoffmann recognises that they will have to be protected during the rest of their lives, but most will find this protection outside the hospital. In fact, many have been able to go to more advanced schools and earn a living. Miss Hoffman's next ambition is to find residential homes for mentally handicapped young people which would help them to live as near to normal as possible.

The various therapies used for children with severe communicating deficiencies all rely, for their success, on gentleness and respect. Children at Noah's Ark Trust are treated in different ways suited to their individual difficulties. Musical therapy plays a great part in this treatment. Miss Hoffmann, who keeps as busy in retirement as when she was actively involved in the running of the school, says that she is still learning and still adapting her knowledge for the good of these children and their parents.

We should like to congratulate her for her achievement, an achievement of which the Swiss community in the country can be proud.

PMB

## LAUSANNE – EVENTS IN 1978

Lausanne (Lake Geneva Region) is holding the following major events during this year:

May–June: Lausanne International Festival (concerts, ballet and opera)  
June: Festival in the Old Town; Lausanne Fête; 6th Rose Show Fortnight

July–August: "Pur un Eté" (a cycle of summer concerts and theatrical performances offered free of charge to local inhabitants and visitors)

9th–24th September: 59th Comptoir Suisse (National Autumn Fair)

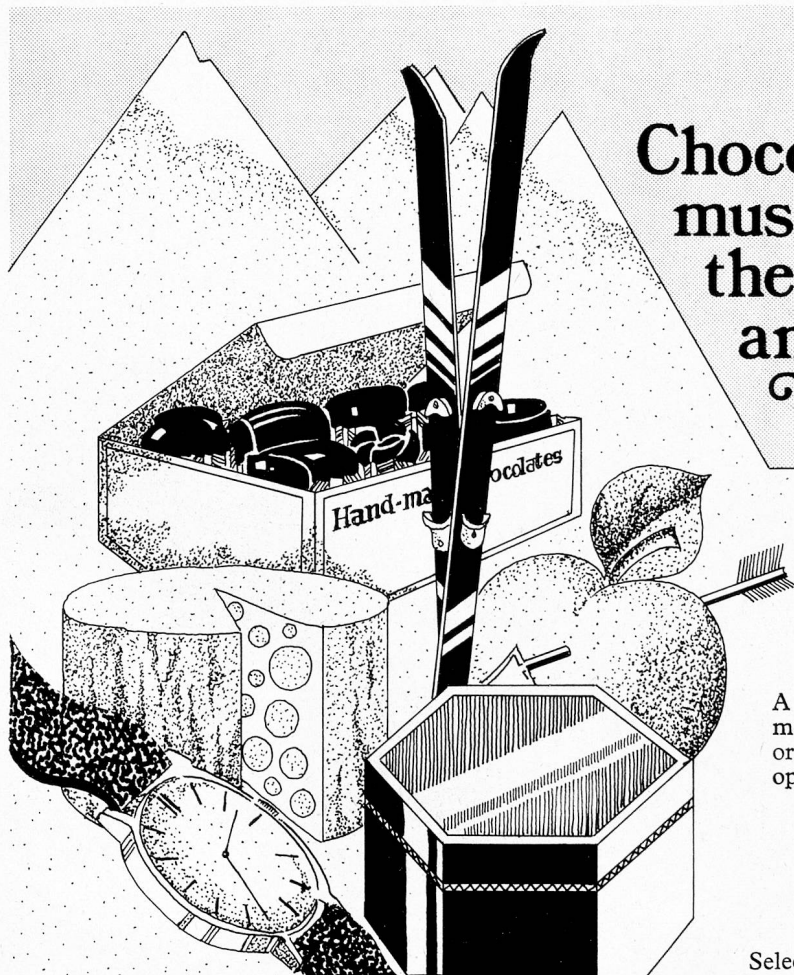
23rd–24th October: Flower Show; "The Golden Ring", Eurovision Sports Contest

9th–19th November: 9th Antique Dealers' Fair

## LAKE LUCERNE – SPECIAL BOAT TICKETS DURING WINTER

To show visitors that a trip by ship can also be a worthwhile experience in winter, the Lake Lucerne Navigation Company is issuing special tickets until 17th March, 1978.

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## CHAMPOUSSIN – LATEST ADDITION TO THE “PORTES-DU-SOLEIL”

Champoussin, the newly constructed chalet village with many holiday apartments is the latest addition to the “Portes-du-Soleil”. The Canton Valais ski complex between Lake Geneva and Mont Blanc is one of the most extensive in Europe and skiers using it can even cross the frontier into France.

The ski region takes in Champéry, Morgins, Planachaux, Torgon, Val d'Illeaz and Les Crosets on the Swiss side, and Avoriaz, Morzine, Les Gets, Abondance, St. Jean-d'Aulps and Montriond in France.

Available for visitors are 152 transport facilities, more than 310 miles of pistes, cross-country ski-ing centres, 500 miles of prepared footpaths and combined season tickets.

Lenzerheide, Valbella, Savognin, Scuol–Tarasp–Vulpera, Sent, Tschierschen and Wiesen in Graubünden, Braunwald, Ebnat–Kappel, Elm, Matt and Wildhaus in Eastern Switzerland, Engelberg, Rigi/Klösterli and Seebodenalp in Central Switzerland, Grindelwald, Gstaad, Hasliberg, Meiringen and Mürren in the Bernese Oberland, Saas Fee in Canton Valais, Tête-de-Ran and Weissenstein in the Jura and Villars in the Lake Geneva region.

Sledging races are a popular attraction for visitors in Bergün, Braunwald, Brienz/Axalp, Davos, Engelberg, Flims, Grindelwald, Klosters, Lenzerheide and Silvaplana. Davos also holds special sledging weeks which cover not only accommodation but also hire of sledge and use of transport facilities for seven days.

## DISCOVERING AMDEN WITH THE NEW RESORT TICKET

The winter resort of Amden above the Lake of Walen is introducing an attractive resort ticket for its guests. It entitles them to a weekly ski-pass, reduced admission prices for dances and cinema shows, and free use of the ice rink and ski-roaming trail.

In addition, most of the resort's hotels, guest houses and private chalets offer their guests free admission to the public indoor swimming pool. The resort ticket costs Sw.Fr. 75 for adults and Sw.Fr. 50 for children.

## “SKI WEATHER TELEPHONE” ON THE KLEINE SCHEIDEGG

A recently-introduced facility enables skiers to find out how much snow there is in the Jungfrau region by phoning 036/ 22 71 71. An automatic “ski-ing weather” telephone has been installed on the Kleine Scheidegg to provide ski-ing and sunshine enthusiasts with accurate weather, snow and piste reports.

Another innovation in the Jungfrau region this winter are the “made to measure” general season tickets, valid from one to 21 days, one month or the entire season, to fit the needs of visitors' holidays.

## MADRISA – WINTER RENDEZVOUS

The Madrisa district, where snow is guaranteed, lies above Klosters-Dorf. It has ski-lifts up to 7,875 ft. above sea level and walking facilities for non-skiers. In recent years it has become a byword among those who know a good thing when they see it. In readiness for this winter the bottom station has been rebuilt and the cabin cableway has been fitted with an acceleration device so that visitors can reach the winter sports area more quickly.

In addition, a cross-country trail has been laid on Riedboden on a trial basis for the first time.

Incidentally, during the entire season, senior citizens pay only half-price for day passes for the cabin cableway and ski-lifts and for individual tickets for the cableway.

## SLEDGING IN SWITZERLAND'S SNOW

Sledging is a sport that can be enjoyed by young and old alike in the winter holiday land of Switzerland and needs no special equipment. A mecca for sledging is Bergün in the Albula Valley of Canton Graubünden with its three-mile run down to Preda. Another is Grächen in Upper Valais, where there is a run over two miles long. In addition, there are major sledge runs in the sports resorts of Arosa, Chur/Brambrüesch, Churwalden, Davos, Flims, Ftan, Ilanz, Klosters,

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