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Telegrams

■ Switzerland will take part in the 1988 World Exposition in *Brisbane*.

■ The government will set up a new federal office for the advancement of *equal rights* for men and women.

■ AHV/IV (old age/dependents and invalidity) pensions will be increased by up to 4.6 per cent from 1988.

■ Low population growth and a massive increase in the *ratio of old people* to the total population: this is the trend in Switzerland for the next 40 years, according to the Federal Statistics Office.

■ A Berne cantonal plebiscite resulted in approval of a 15-million Swiss franc credit for extensions to the *French School* in the capital, Berne.

■ One year after *Chernobyl*, a new federal information and operational concept has been presented.

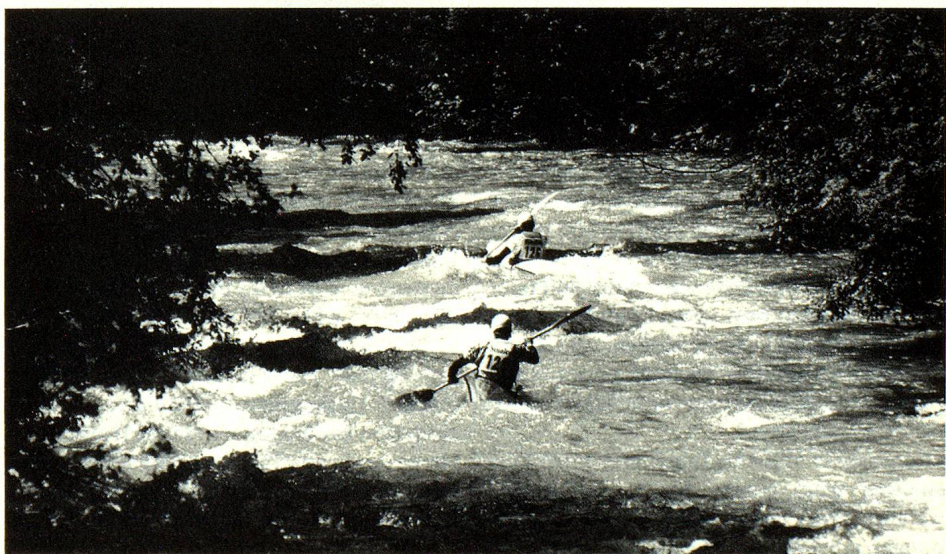
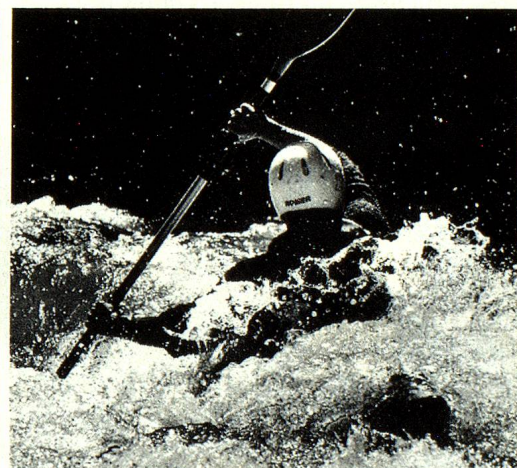
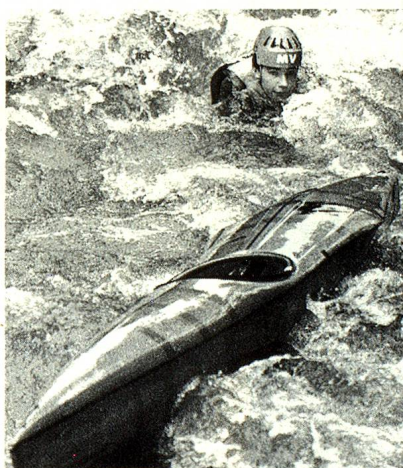
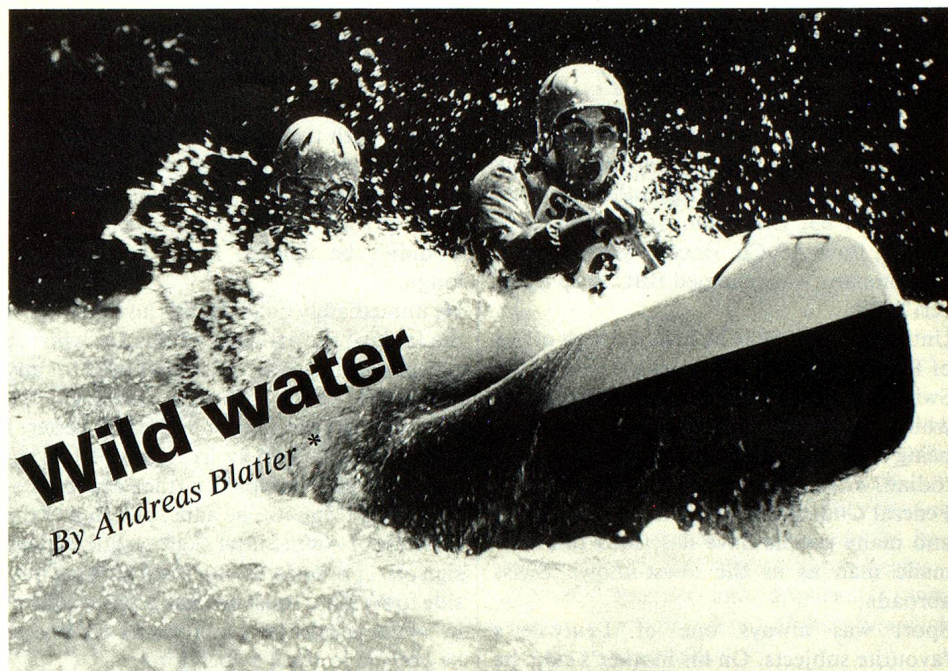
«swissBusiness»

A new economic and business magazine in English: with a launching circulation of 50,000, it is intended for business people abroad who are interested in information direct from Switzerland. The Schweizerische Handels-Zeitung, in close co-operation with the Swiss Office for Development of Trade, is behind this new venture.

More Swiss Abroad

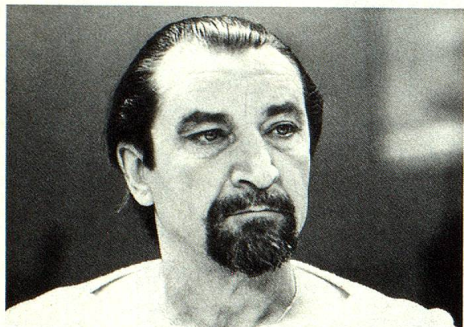
402,785 Swiss, of whom 251,506 are dual nationals, were living abroad at the end of 1986; this emerges from the latest statistics on expatriate Swiss, that are compiled every three years. Compared with the 1983 returns this is an 11 per cent increase, due substantially to naturalizations granted in accordance with the new citizenship provisions (children of Swiss women married to foreigners – 1985: 9,741; 1986: 22,555 persons).

Emigration figures have remained stable, however. Just under 10,000 Swiss liable for military service left their homeland in 1986 for more than six months. By far the favourite destination was the USA, followed by West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Australia. South Africa became ever less attractive; here the largest surplus of returning emigrants was recorded but, France and Saudi Arabia showed re-emigration surpluses too.



* National Wildwater Course, Saanen (Bernese Oberland), 27th June 1987.

Telegrams



■ The world-renowned French choreographer, *Maurice Béjart*, intends to move, with his «Ballet of the 20th Century», to Lausanne (photo: TSR).

■ A new *Appenzell Folklore Museum* has been opened in Stein (AR).

■ Calderon's *El gran teatro del mundo* is to be performed as an open-air play this summer in front of the monastery church of Einsiedeln, the place of pilgrimage.

■ *José Ribeaud*, the journalist and television personality from western Switzerland, has won the 1987 Oertli Prize for his efforts made for the better mutual understanding of the different parts of our country.

■ *Max Frisch* is awarded the 1987 Neustadt International Prize of the University of Oklahoma. Since 1970, when this high distinction – one of the most important awards given by the USA to literature – was first presented, writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Czeslaw Milosz and Octavio Paz have belonged among the prizewinners. Frisch has placed the amount of the award (\$ 25,000) at the disposal of a school project in Nicaragua.

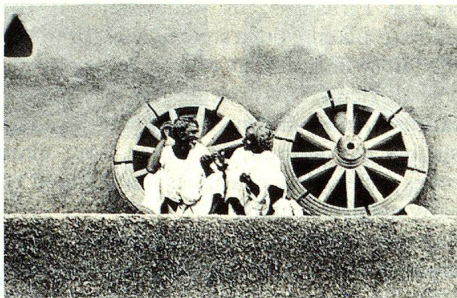
■ *Exhibitions* (until 18th October): Fondation de l'Hermitage, Lausanne: *René Magritte* «*Furkart*», culture happening on the Furka Pass

Aspects of Swiss art: 1880–1980

The Swiss Institute for Art Studies has created an instructive exhibition (German and French) on Swiss art. It consists of reproductions mounted on movable panels which can be set up without incurring heavy expenditure on lighting and safety installations. The exhibition can be sent abroad – against payment of costs – but is fully booked up until the beginning of 1989.

India in Switzerland

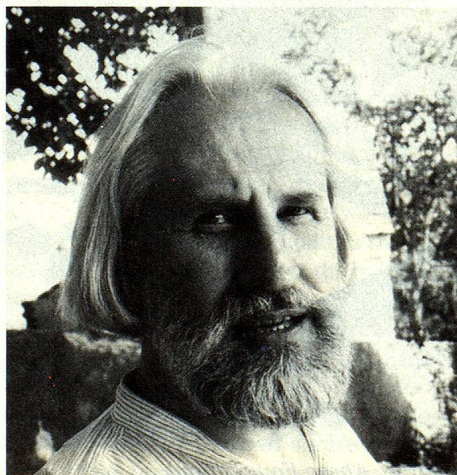
With the ambitious aim of bringing India, in all its cultural diversity, closer to the people of Switzerland, seven towns have organized a host of events until the end of the year. The shows will illustrate Indian culture in all its variety: music, dance, theatre, architecture, painting, photography, arts and crafts, textiles, folk culture and religion. The events are being held under the patronage of Pro Helvetia and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



K. Parekh, Nagda, India (Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne).

Extasis

This was the name of the Swiss premiere of a festival for contemporary music held in Geneva at the end of June. Besides the Frenchman Pierre Boulez, the Italian Luciano Berio, the Briton Maxwell Davies, and the Greek Iannis Xenakis, a Swiss, Klaus Huber (see picture, by M. Nyffeler), who lives and teaches in Germany, was the centre of attention. He performed the *Cantiones de Circulo Gyrate*, a co-production with Heinrich Böll, in Geneva cathedral. This is a spatial composition for speaker, soloists, mixed chorus and instrumental ensembles; in the text, Böll contends with the question of the fate of the ruined cultural monuments of Cologne.



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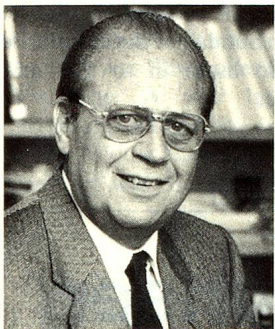
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Forum

SRI soon silent?



Everybody knows that the success of an international radio station rests on the quality of its message and on the listening conditions of its broadcasts. The quality of the message depends on the informative value of the programmes, the credibility of the station and of the contributors associated with it, as well as on the image of the country in whose name it gives voice.

The audibility of the station is another story. Short waves still constitute the

preferred carrier of external broadcasting transmissions. Their gradual replacement by other means of broadcasting (satellites, satellites and cable, audio-visual recordings) is going ahead but, for a whole host of technical, political and economic reasons, only very slowly. But short waves, although they offer the enormous advantage of being able to reach any point of the globe instantly, are often of uncertain effectiveness. They are susceptible to natural phenomena (sunspots, for example) beyond control; they also – and above all – depend on the power of the transmitter. All countries operating international are nowadays consolidating their transmitting potential.

How is it in Switzerland? Thanks to the PTT, Swiss Radio International uses the installations at Sarnen and Lenk, which provide for a transmitting zone extending to some 1,250 miles beyond our country's borders. For intercontinental broadcasts the main transmitting station is at Schwarzenburg.

To ensure transmissions at full power, the decrepit Schwarzenburg antennas would anyway have had to be changed, but objections to such were raised on the grounds of nature and environment protection. Ever since, it has not been possible for the PTT to make progress with the absolutely necessary modernization of the installations. The consequences – of transmitting power thus remaining limited – soon became audible: the quality of reception deteriorated in many points around the world.

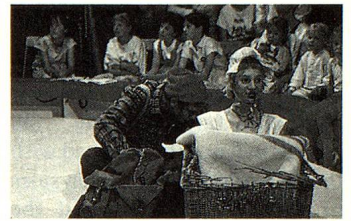
As a result of the 1985 Government Order on short-wave radio, the construction of a new broadcasting centre, to take the place of Schwarzenburg, is in principle assured. The PTT have made every effort to find a suitable site – so far, alas, without success; those envisaged had all to be turned down for various different reasons. The small size of our country as well as the shortage of building land are obviously a big handicap when it comes to such a large project. Nevertheless, in order to guarantee the continuity of a Swiss radio broadcasting presence throughout the world, the PTT and the SSR (Swiss Broadcasting Company) have adopted a temporary solution: the use against payment or on a basis of an exchange of antenna-time of transmitters abroad.

However, in both the medium and long term, the only fully satisfactory answer to the audibility problem of Swiss Radio International lies in the construction of a new broadcasting centre in Switzerland itself. In its wisdom, the Federal Council – the government – has laid stress on the urgency of the project. Let us hope that our PTT will soon be able to find an appropriate site, be this only to impart a real sense of urgency to this pressing need. This is the wish of Swiss Radio International and our listeners.

Joël Curchod, Director of Swiss Radio International.

Circus world: Lausanne

All kinds of entertainment, performances, exhibitions, conferences and films turn Lausanne into a circus centre until mid-October. Some 400 artistes have a rendez-vous here throughout the summer, among them the clown and juggler Carrello, Fantasio and Mr Steve with their wondrous illusions, the clown Marco Morelli, Rocky Rendal the snake man, the flying dogs and the Teatro Ingenuo, Crouton, Karl's Kuene Gassenschau, the panther-tamer Hans Bleiker, the Chinese magician Chun Chin



Basilisk children's circus (photo: Jean-Philippe Daulte).

Fu, Basilisk children's circus, Gardi Hutter as the only woman among the clowns and the tightrope dancer Eddy Carelo Junior.

Illiteracy in Switzerland?

Knowledge of reading, writing and numeracy among young Swiss people has declined and is probably lower than in 1914. But their ability to think logically as well as their knowledge of languages, above all English,

have increased. This emerges from the recently-published results of the 1984 educational exams for army recruits, on the level of knowledge of the young Swiss citizen.

Telegrams



■ Andrew Hampsten (USA) has again won the *Tour de Suisse* – as he did a year ago (photo: V. Wälty).

■ More Swiss than ever before now possess a *bicycle* (1986: 2,386,648). In the last few years far more new bicycles than cars have been registered for use on the road. If the trend continues, bicycles should once more head the traffic statistics.

■ *Esperanto*, the artificial world language, celebrates its 100th birthday this year. The centre in our country for the adherents of this international language is the «Kultura centro esperantista» in La Chaux-de-Fonds. Incidentally, Swiss Radio International broadcasts in Esperanto too.

■ Surprise winner – without any support from the large sponsors – of the *Tour de Sol*, the solarmobile championship, is 27-year-old physicist, handyman and inspired dabbler Axel Krause (photo: Keystone) from Rotkreuz (ZG).





Taler for Môtiers

The 1987 *Heimatschutztaler* (commemorative «dollar») will roll for Môtiers, the picturesque village in the Val de Travers, Neuchâtel-Jura. Some 30 houses will now be restored with the help of the profits from sales of the *taler*. Môtiers is still the picture-book village that it was at the time of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the philosopher who lived here for more than three years – from 1762 to 1765.



Hôtel des Six Communes, Môtiers (photo: J. P. Maeder).

Book Reviews

History of Switzerland

By J. Murray Luck. Publishers: Society for the Promotion of Science and Scholarship SPOSS Inc., Palo Alto, California; 885 pages, with many illustrations and tables; \$ 38.00.

The author of this comprehensive historical work, in English, about our country, its institutions and its inhabitants, has been a connoisseur and friend of Switzerland for very many years. An emeritus Stanford professor, he was, among other things, Scientific Attaché of the Embassy of the USA in Berne for several years, and has already written many books and essays on Swiss subjects.

«History of Switzerland» is an all-encompassing work of exemplary clarity and, for all the author's fondness for our land, of commendable objectivity.

We can thoroughly recommend this work to those of our readers who want a dependable book, in English, on Switzerland. *M.N.*

now going to be reorganised, with a part of it serving the specific needs of the Swiss Abroad.

In co-operation with the Service for the Swiss Abroad in the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs and with the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, SRI will

once a month be providing information which should be of particular interest to those Swiss living outside Switzerland.

Swiss Radio International broadcasts «Kontakt» on the fourth Sunday of the month. Be sure to listen in to this new service.

Fifty years ago: Walter Mittelholzer

Pilot and pioneer

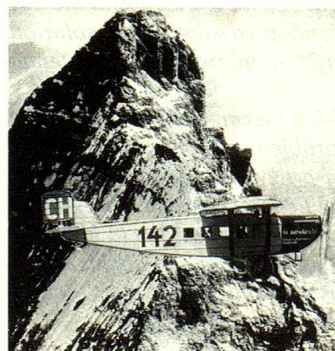
The wireless announcement of 9th May 1937 that Walter Mittelholzer had been killed in an accident on a climbing tour in the Austrian Alps caused consternation and grief throughout Switzerland. The life of an airman and early entrepreneur, of a photographer and journalist, had come to an untimely close.

For Walter Mittelholzer, born on 2nd April 1894 in St. Gallen, the son of a master-baker, mountains and photography had become a passion – already in his youth. In 1915 he enlisted, as photographer, in the still-young flying corps; and soon after, he joined the pilots' school.



Walter Mittelholzer as army airforce pilot...

and with his Dornier-Merkur over the Matterhorn (Photos: Swiss Transport Museum).



Flying was then no longer to relinquish its hold on Walter Mittelholzer. After the end of World War I he founded the first Swiss airline company, Comte-Mittelholzer & Co., a precursor of the Swissair, with his friend and flight-instructor, Alfred Comte.

Mittelholzer was alive to the great future of the aeroplane and demonstrated the advantages of the novel means of transportation on various town-to-town flights.

Mittelholzer's skills and talents as flyer and aerial photographer

Swiss chef leaves the White House

On October 1st, Henry Haller retires as head chef of the White House. Haller was born in Altdorf (Uri), completed his apprenticeship as chef in Davos and afterwards worked in the Berne «Bellevue». In 1948 he emigrated to Canada and in 1951 went from there to New York. In the White House he first came under President

Johnson and since then has cooked for the Nixons, Fords, Carters and the Reagans. As to the reasons for his retirement, he says he will soon be 65 and, besides, he is thinking of having a cookery-book published; the title: «The White House Family Cookbook». But whoever expects spicy «inside» stories will be disappointed. This would not be Haller's style; rather did he always maintain a certain reserve towards the Press. He was active in his local Swiss association and certainly would not have been shy to shine, grilling sausages and making potato salad, at the August 1st celebrations.



Henry Haller and Nancy Reagan (photo: Keystone).

SRI for the Swiss Abroad

«Kontakt», a programme produced by the German language service of Swiss Radio International, has for years been answering questions and playing musical requests for its listeners. This programme is



soon became known abroad. In 1923 he took part, as aerial observer and photographer, in the rescue expedition organized by the Junkers Works for the missing polar explorer, Roald Amundsen, during which Arctic territory was flown over for the first time. A year later he carried out a flight for Junkers to the Middle East and Persia where he was the first pilot to

fly over the 18,376-ft Mount Demavend. In the winter of 1926-27 he was likewise the first air navigator to cross the African continent from north to south in his Dornier-Merkur aircraft «Switzerland». Some three years later he was the first airman to overfly Kili-mandjaro, at over 19,340 feet the highest mountain in the Dark Continent; his photo-

graphs of the great crater immediately aroused world-wide interest.

In addition to his achievements as pilot and navigator – he was appointed chief navigator by the Federal Office of Aviation – as well as an enterprising businessman and aerial photographer, Walter Mittelholzer very greatly contributed towards a fuller understanding of the then

young field of aviation – not least with his reports, lectures and books. His descriptions of flights in the Alps and in other continents, of his encounters with foreign peoples and unknown regions, but also of the difficulties of flying in areas where technical facilities still scarcely existed, are of lasting documentary value.

Alfred Waldis



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