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Swiss Fashion Designers in Paris



A sensation at the "Prêt-à-porter" fashion show in Paris in spring: Switzerland was present for the first time. Invited by the IWS (International Wool Secretariat) the Swiss firm Pink Flamingo showed its collection for the autumn and winter 1989/90 in the big Louvre tent, just like a Saint-Laurent, a Valentino or a Montana. Behind the brand name Pink Flamingo stands an interesting designer team. Ruth Grüninger (photo), 34 and mother of two children designs the range of garments for the la-



dies (her husband René, who handles the marketing, founded the SAFT fashion show in 1977). Her brother, Rolf Aschwanden is responsible for the range of men's clothing. Ruth Grüninger herself demonstrated the "layer" look very effectively in Paris – comprising coat, small cape and under these jacket, waistcoat and blouse – and played cleverly in the current hem-line game, as well as showing subtlety in her choice of colours: red nuances, English greens and "pebblestone".

Fifty years ago: the "Landi" of 1939



An official ceremony with more than 1,000 invited guests took place in Zurich in May to commemorate the opening in 1939 of the National Exhibition (known in common parlance as

the "Landi"). In this photograph, this year's Federal President, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz can be seen delivering his speech of welcome. (Photo: Beat Marti)

Summer Smog

No miracle cures!

Short term measures such as restrictions on road traffic seem unlikely to be of help in combating the higher concentrations of ozone prevailing in summer – commonly known as "summer smog". Recommendations to the public as to what to do on days with high ozone content bear little fruit, as individuals react very differently to the gas and its irritant character. That is the conclusion reached by the authors of the report "Ozone in Switzerland" published by the Federal Commission for Atmospheric Hygiene. On more than 270 pages, the report describes the entire complex of problems in connection with ozone very comprehensively. It comes to the conclusion that there is no hope of reducing the undoubtedly harmful stress on human beings, animals and plants, by immediate emergency measures. When the concentration of ozone is excessive, there is no benefit to be gained from a reduction of the precursive harmful substances and pollutants such as nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbons, which form ozone under the influence of solar radiation. Annual increases of one to two percent in the concentration of ozone in Switzerland have given rise to our having a more serious problem than exists in any other country north of the Alps. And the burden imposed by the problem is largely "home-made", not imported to any great extent.

According to the report there is only a medium term solution. By 1995 the objectives of the Federal concept for atmospheric hygiene must have been attained. In practical terms, this means that the quantities of nitrogen oxide (mainly coming from traffic) and hydrocarbons (vapours from organic solvents and petrol) must be radically and substantially reduced. But the

report also admits that this goal cannot be reached by means of the technical measures that are available to us today. Further measures will thus be indispensable. "And these will have to be of such a drastic nature that for mainly political reasons serious discussion of them has either not taken place, or has been quickly shelved". That is what the report says – and what its authors have in mind is doubtless for instance the introduction of extremely severe traffic restrictions.

Telegrams

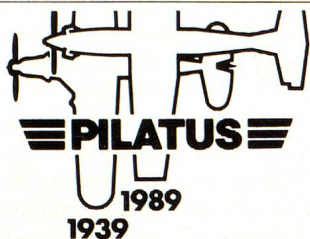
■ No slackening of the *bicycle boom*: in 1988 an increase of more than 100,000 in licence numbers (4%).

■ Conrad Bertogg, a school-teacher and composer from the uplands of the Grisons and the folk-singers from Scuol calling themselves "Gruppa da Trubadurs" (who sing in Ladino, one of the languages in the *Rhaeto-Romanic* group) have been awarded this year's prize by the "Cuminanza Rumantscha Radio e Televisiun".

■ Approximately every fifth inhabitant of Switzerland is nowadays in receipt of benefits from the *AHV/AVS* social insurance scheme. Since 1983, the number of old age pensioners increased by 7.9% to 1.4 million persons.

The Gotthard is to be backbone of the "NEAT"

The Federal Council has at last put its cards quite openly on the table: in the light of strong pressure from the EC in relation to transit freight traffic, the Council decided early in May, to build a railway basis tunnel to be the principal axis of the "NEAT" (New Alpine Transversal). In addition to this how-



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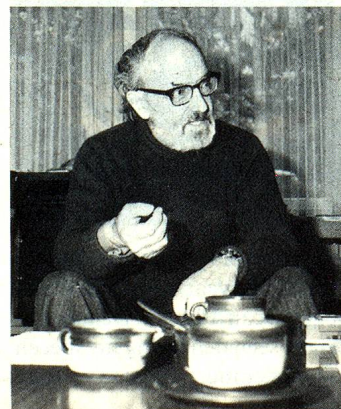
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Heinz Kronenberg, Personnel Manager, CH-6370 Stans, Switzerland, Tel. 041-636252, Quoting: PE/PS

ever, the Lötschberg, which connects Berne with the Upper Valais would also get a basis tunnel, and the Simplon railway line would be further developed and expanded. This solution would make it possible to consolidate the function of Western Switzerland to serve as a traffic "turntable". Moreover, the Federal Council aims at improving the access routes to Eastern Switzerland. These plans for the NEAT represent the Swiss answer to the demands of the EC that we should agree to raise the Swiss weight limits for lorries up to the higher level applicable in the EC countries. The total "package" offered by the Gotthard/Lötschberg plans is seen by many as "a good old Swiss compromise", a view which may enable the proposal to survive a possible referendum.

Swiss scientist died

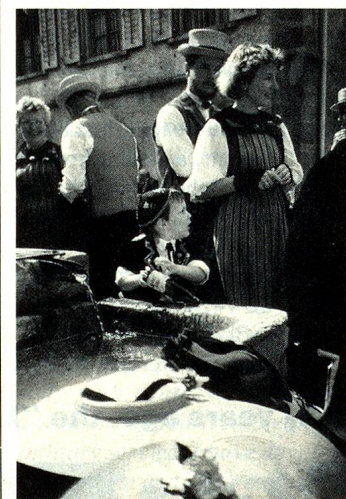
In mid-May the Professor of Economics, Karl Brunner (see photograph) died in Rochester (USA) at the age of 73, after a lengthy illness. Karl Brunner has left behind him a vast collection of scientific work. He became widely known when, together with Milton Friedman and Allan Meltzer, he laid the foundations for a renaissance in the field of monetary theory. His views and studies on the process of money supply and the effects of measures taken in connection with monetary policy were taken seriously into



account all over the world. He coined the concept of "monetarism", which soon became regarded everywhere as the antithesis to Keynesian economics, which were then much in vogue.

Brunner had studied in Switzerland and went on to work at various universities in the USA, lastly at Rochester (New York). Until 1986, he used to lecture regularly as full professor at Berne University during the summer term. His work with his students in Berne, and the return to his native land, brought him much joy every year.

A novel Relay Race



At the Kornhaus in Burgdorf preparations are under way for the opening of the "Swiss Centre for Folk Music, National Costumes and Traditional Customs". The inauguration is to take place in August 1991, within the programme of celebrations of the 700th anniversary of the foundation of the Confederation. On order to draw attention in advance to the future Centre, all major associations in Switzerland that are active in the field of popular culture are, together with the Kornhaus Foundation in Burgdorf organising a 38-stage People's Relay Race through Switzerland.

On April 8 this year the start (see photograph) took place in



Burgdorf, with many contributions to the festivities from participants from all over the country. Two weeks later, musicians, yodellers, singers and persons in national costume travelled to Spiez from Burgdorf. There they took part, both as collaborators and as guests, in a festival that the Spiez public had organised and had enriched with their own performances.

Two weeks later, a group of Spiez inhabitants of both sexes set off on their journey to Murten (Morat). And so it will go on, until the relay event reaches Burgdorf again, in August 1991 after passing through all the cantons of our country. That return will coincide with the inauguration of the Burg-

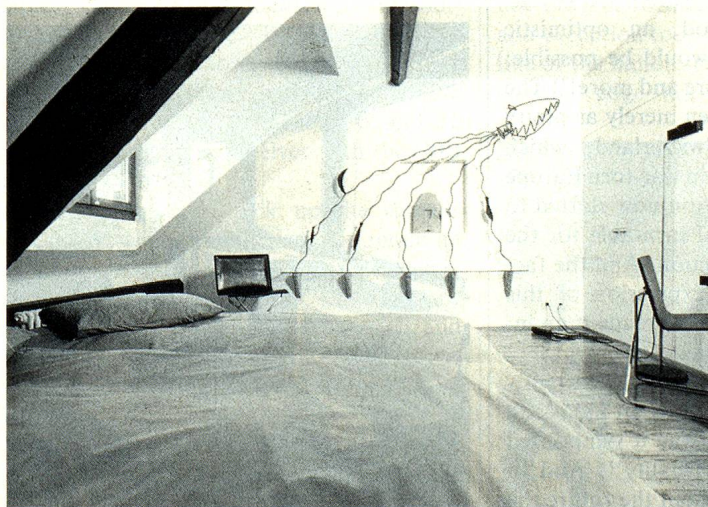
dorf Kornhaus Centre, as a big cavalcade combined with a festival for all, as part of the 700-year anniversary celebrations of the Confederation as a whole.

For each "leg" of the relay race, a local association will have assumed responsibility for the arrangements. Thus the individual festivities will be of varied character from place to place. If in one stage there is a popular "fiesta" with a jolly march past and "Bratwurst" and beer, it could well be that in the next town in the circuit, the celebration will take the form of a concert, perhaps indoors. Swiss Radio International will of course be giving reports about the events.

The "Teufelhof Art Hotel"

In the Old Town section of Basle, an unusual establishment has been opened recently. It is called the "Kunsthof Teufelhof" and describes itself as an "Inn for Guests and Culture". It incorporates two small theatres. Its restaurants offer culinary delights for both customers who want a snack and those of more epicurean and expensive tastes, alongside of a bar, a café and a "Weinstube" or wine tavern. The varied nature of these gastronomic offerings is expected

to provide financial support for the two theatres. The leaders of the team behind the venture previously operated the little theatre-cum-café called "Zum Teufel"! which provided an important scene (and springboard) for many cabaret artists, songwriters and other performers. The "Teufelhof" has also a feature that is new for Switzerland: on the upper floors of the building there are eight hotel rooms which have been decorated by a group of artists as "Environments"! (Photo: Claude Giger)



The Fight against "Laundering of Dirty Money"

If the Federal Council has its way, the "laundering" of money from dubious sources will in future be a punishable offence. According to the Council's draft proposal, it will not only be the person who knows about the criminal origin of the cash, who will be guilty of the offence, but also any party who must have good reason to assume that the funds are "dirty". Apart from the basic facts of the case, a separate re-

gulation would apply to lack of due care being exercised in currency trading, thereby making the negligent party liable to criminal prosecution. In view of the affair concerning the "Lebanon Connection" the Federal Council decided to present this proposal separately from, and with priority over, the impending revision of the legislation regarding the whole area of crimes against property.

An unusual New Book on Switzerland

Ticking Along with the Swiss

What is it like for English-speaking people to live and work in Switzerland? Is it living inside a watch? Dianne Dicks gave 27 budding and professional writers a literary carte blanche to explore this intriguing question.

They come from all walks of life and countries ranging from the USA, Canada, England to Costa Rica, China and Sri Lanka. Some looked for work, others married, and some returned to what was their unknown home. *Ticking Along with the Swiss* records the impressions, wonder, perplexity and assimilation of persons getting to know a new country from the inside. This can take the form of a hilarious A to Z on customs and foibles: D - for "Draught... es zieht" - an irate cry heard in trains when a window is opened, which mysteriously disappears upon crossing the Röstli border to French-speaking Switzerland. Or what's it like to be in the Swiss army without knowing the language? How do you get along with housewives? What happens when words turn "wicked"? What embarrassing and funny situations does a newcomer get into? Or have you ever thought of "Schreibergärten" (allotments) as being shanties? The tone also switches to serious when a psychiatrist

discusses culture shock, or lyrical when a world-famous crime authoress describes her Ticino village. The contributions are written as essays, stories, poems, anecdotes, letters, and even a hymn, all richly illustrated with drawings and photographs. There are suggestions too in an appendix for teachers, on how to use the book in classrooms, and an invitation for the reader to send in his or her story for another collection.

Providing a voice

In assembling her patchwork of stories, Dianne Dicks has done the foreign community and the Swiss a great service. The English-speaking population now has a voice to share common experiences, and the Swiss can see themselves as others do. Such cultural interaction is very stimulating, leading as it does to better understanding of both those "foreigners" and the "natives".

Roger Boner

Ticking Along with the Swiss, collected and edited by Dianne Dicks, Sfr. 24.80, is available through the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad.