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Forthcoming Events

Auckland Swiss Club

REMINDER: Please keep the date, 5th February, 1966, open for our big "WIESENFEST."

Wellington Swiss Club

During the summer months—please note these dates now in your calendar:

Picnic at Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki, Sunday, January 30th. We meet at 9.30 a.m. at the Cenotaph.

Car Rally, Sunday, 27th February.

Shooting Competition of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, Sunday, 13th March (approximately).

Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 26th March.

Special invitations will follow.

News from Switzerland

THE NOBLE ART OF STEEL ENGRAVING

The philatelic department of the general management of the Swiss General Post Office (PTT) in Berne (Parkstrasse 10) has just placed on sale a booklet edited by Mr Hans E. Gaudard, head of the Postage Stamps and Printing Division of the General management of the Swiss General Post Office, and entitled "The noble art of engraving;" its 44 pages contain 398 reproductions of a selection of studies, projects and designs chosen for four current issues of Swiss postage stamps. This booklet will be of great interest not only to philatelists but to all those concerned in one way or another with the art of engraving on steel. (OSEC).

PRODUCTION OF PROCESSED CHEESE IN CARTONS

In 1964, Swiss Firms manufacturing processed cheese in cartons produced a total of 22,893,957 lb of processed cheese, 36.6% of which was consumed on the home market and 63.4% dispatched abroad. Home consumption as well as exports have therefore increased. Exports covered 93 markets, the biggest buyer being Italy with 3.9 million lb. followed closely by the United States of America with 3.7 million lb.

Unfortunately the agricultural integration of the Common Market for milk and dairy products which came into force on November 1st, 1964, has more than trebled the customs duty levied by Italy and France on Swiss processed cheese, thus raising it to over 40% of the value of the product, which represents a really prohibitive increase, although the two countries mentioned as well as other countries belonging to the European Economic Community are big suppliers of agricultural produce to the Swiss market. (OSEC).

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN ENGELBERG

For the first time in the more than 850-year history of the Engelberg Monastery, a press conference was recently held within its walls, the subject of which was a far-reaching "secular" project. The Benedictine monastery, located at an altitude of about 3300 ft., is in financial difficulties. Until recently, its sources of income were agriculture, forestry and dairying on its own lands; but these are no longer sufficient to finance the major tasks which face the religious institution. In addition to various restoration projects, the monastery urgently needs to build a college.

To raise the needed funds, it has been decided to sell some land to be used for "economically practical" purposes. The area of 100,000 square meters, on which private construction will be undertaken, is on the valley floor, on both sides of the new highway which sweeps around the perimeter of the village of Engelberg.

Several building projects are planned, not all of them definitely set as yet. To carry out these extensive plans, a working group has been formed which consists of the monastery itself, a group of architects from Lucerne and a real estate company in Baden. Construction has already begun, on the part of the land known as the "Sunnmatt," of two terraced buildings, each containing 75 owner-apartments. These include some 26 different types, ranging from the space-saving "Garconniere" to spacious 5-room units for families with children. Additional buildings, including at least one hotel, are being planned.

SWITZERLAND QUENCHES HER THIRST

From the figures below we can see that the Swiss are quite a thirsty race; even though between 1960 and 1964/65 the sale of milk for private consumption dropped slightly in Switzerland from 13.6 million to 13.5 million cwt., there was on the other hand a fairly big increase in the consumption of cider from 2,426,000 to 3,251,000 gallons, that of distilled beverages jumping from 1,192,000 to 1,997,000 gallons, not to mention beer, whose annual consumption increased from 76 million gallons five years ago to 99 million gallons today. (OSEC).

ALUSUISSE IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian government has granted an Australian-Swiss consortium, under the management of Alusuisse, the concession for the bauxite mines in the peninsula of Gove in the Gulf of Carpentaria on the northern coast of Australia. This is one of the biggest aluminium ore mines in the world.

The Swiss Aluminium Co. is responsible for prospecting and running the bauxite mines, as well as the preliminary studies, the projects and the construction of an alumina factory with an annual output of 500,000 tons. The plant is to start production at the end of 1971. In this way Alusuisse has ensured the independence of its supplies of ore for many decades. (OSEC).

ZURICH-KLOTEN AIRPORT IN 1964

In 1964 the number of passengers passing through Zurich-Kloten airport amounted to 2.102 million so that, for passenger traffic, Kloten last year came 7th of all European aerodromes, ahead of Amsterdam and preceded in ascending order of importance by Berlin Tempelhof, Copenhagen, Rome, Frankfurt, Paris-Orly and London (10.5 million passengers).

The daily average of departures and arrivals at Zurich-Kloten amounted to 322 planes, but the maximum was as high as 663. In 1964 Zurich airport accounted for 56.3% of the total number of passengers passing through Swiss airports, compared with 35.1% at Geneva-Cointrin, and 8.6% at Basle. With regard to freight, Kloten's contribution amounted to as much as 59.8%. (OSEC).

"SWITZERLAND—THE TRAVELLER'S ILLUSTRATED GUIDE"

A revised edition of "Switzerland — the Traveller's Illustrated Guide," has been published (Verbandsdruckerei AG, Bern and Faber Ltd., London). Designed for English-speaking tourists, it contains 192 scenic pictures, 16 fold-out panoramic views, many area maps, full-colour city maps, practical tips for motorists, hikers and passengers on the Swiss trains and extensive information on the country's places of interest.

LAST SWISS RAILWAY TO BE ELECTRIFIED

Weinfelden:—After decades of service with steam and diesel locomotives, the 25-mile Central Thurgau Line (Mittelthurgau-Bahn) has become the last private Swiss railroad to be fully electrified.

Founded in 1910, the line makes direct connections with the German Federal Railways system at Constance, and as an "international" branch line it experienced considerable difficulty during the confusion of two world wars.

Today, the railway's management looks confidently toward the future, encouraged by the growing freight traffic between Eastern Switzerland and Southern Germany.

BIG MERGER IN SWISS WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY

Langendorf Watch Co., with a share capital of S.Fr. 2,400,000 recently joined the Swiss Society for the Watchmaking Industry Co. Ltd., in Geneva, which already groups the watch factories of Omega in Bienne, Tissot at Le Locle, Lemania at L'Orient, Marc Favre at Bienne and Rayville at Villeret.

The Langendorf Watch Co., more commonly known under the name of Lanco, produces its own ebauches or rough movements; it employs a staff of a thousand. In addition, it also comprises an industrial screw-cutting department as well as a machinery factory.

Thanks to the incorporation of this new production unit, the Swiss Society for the Watchmaking Industry Co. Ltd., will now number some 6000 workers and employees, thus further strengthening its position as Switzerland's biggest industrial group in the field of the manufacture of finished watches. (OSEC).

SWITZERLAND CALLING

(We had some excellent reports of wonderful receptions recently).

Australia / New Zealand

Frequencies: 13,94 m (21 520 kc/s), 16,84 m (17 820 kc/s), 19,60 m (15 305 kc/s), 25,28 m (11 865 kc/s).

GMT 08.45 = Local Standard Time: 20.45 New Zealand, 18.45 Sydney, 18.15 Adelaide.

Monday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, The Arts in Switzerland; GMT 09.00, They Came to Stay, Leading Swiss Orchestras; GMT 09.45, Reflets suisses (in French).

Tuesday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, Political Commentary; GMT 09.00, "Echoes from Switzerland," Swiss Gazette; GMT 09.45, Schwizerspiegel (in Swiss German).

Wednesday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, Political Commentary; 09.00, "Echoes from Switzerland," Melody Train; GMT 09.45, Prisma svizzero (in Italian).

Thursday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, Political Commentary; GMT 09.00, "Echoes from Switzerland," Jazz Panorama; GMT 09.45, Reflets suisses (in French).

Friday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, Political Commentary; GMT 09.00, "Echoes from Switzerland," Swiss Country Music Makers; GMT 09.45, Schwizerspiegel (in Swiss-German).

Saturday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, Political Commentary; GMT 09.00, "Echoes from Switzerland," Swiss Short-wave Merry-go-round; GMT 09.45, Prisma svizzero (in Italian).

Sunday: GMT 08.45, Time Signal, News, The Week in Switzerland; 09.00, Swiss Sunday Special, Bells of Switzerland, In His Name, Weekend Round-up; GMT 09.45, Melody Train and Mailbag.