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~~~~~ Forthcoming Events ~~~~

Auckland Swiss Club

— FUER BERGFREUNDE —

Trip to Ruapehu on the 28th to 30th January, 1967.

Anyone interested contact Toni Sidler, Phone 594-778 Auckland, not later than 22nd January.



~~~~~ News from Switzerland ~~~~

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING—AN IMPORTANT FOREIGN ORDER

A big order for three six-stage heavy water condensate pumps and two three-stage heavy water boiler feed pumps for the 200 mw nuclear power station at Marviken has been placed with Sulzer Bros Ltd by the Swedish state power generating authority. This station is equipped with a heavy-water-moderated reactor cooled by boiling heavy water. The steam turbine operates in a direct cycle with the reactor, and with internal nuclear superheating it can deliver 200,000 kw.

On account of the radioactive heavy water, all five pumps are enclosed inside concrete radiation shielding. Because all access is barred during operation, the remote-controlled pumps must be capable of running at least a year without maintenance or supervision.

(OSEC)

OUTER SPACE AND JEWELLERY

Mr Gilbert Albert of Carouge-Geneva, member of the New York Diamond Academy (8 "Oscars"), twice winner of the Town of Geneva Prize, and honorary member of the Venerable Corporation of Goldsmiths of the City of London, recently exhibited in Geneva a collection of jewels already presented last year in the Goldsmiths' Hall in London. Apart from their extremely high artistic level, these pieces of jewellery—in which taste and technical skill are combined with great originality—are also striking because of the use that has been made of meteorites in some thirty of them.

For the first time, these "heavensent" stones, fallen from outer space, have been incorporated in pieces of delicate jewellery. This was a real brainwave on the part of the brilliant Swiss goldsmith, who has given each of his jewels and watch-jewels an original, modern and extremely attractive design in the best of taste. It was thanks to the backing of the well-known Swiss factory Omega that these remarkable pieces were able to be made.

(OSEC)

NEW SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO ATOMIC RESEARCH

The Swiss government recently decided to ask parliament to grant it a new loan of S.Fr. 870,000 towards Switzerland's participation in the joint programme of research with the experimental reactor at Halden (Norway), to be followed by another loan of S.Fr. 630,000 for the same purpose, but for the "Dragon" scheme in Great Britain.

Both schemes are sponsored by OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), and more especially its "European Agency for Nuclear Energy", associating several countries in the carrying out of a programme of research and experiments in the field of reactor technique. The Swiss parliament is expected to ratify these decisions at the end of the year. (OSEC)

MULTI-PURPOSE AIR-CONDITIONING AND HEATING PLANT

The economic development of the last decade had led in many countries to very marked requirements for increased comfort in the home. The most vital of these concern heating, air purification and hot water supply, and all of these are supplied, in the most practical manner, by the "Lukomat" multi-purpose installation.

Designed and built by a firm at Romanshorn it consists first of all of a boiler running either on fuel oil or solid fuels as required, and even on refuse of all kinds, a hot water supply plant heated by the same boiler and an air-conditioning plant. The last of these comprises a number of fans which suck in the fresh air from outside and the stale air from inside, filter it, mix it in proportions permitting the gradual replacement of the air, and heat or cool it depending on the season, the heat being supplied by the boiler and the cooling either by running water or, in extreme cases, by a special cold generator. The Lukomat plant, into the details of which we cannot enter here, is cleverly designed and can be provided with entirely automatic control, by means of thermostats, hygrostats, etc.

Special filters ensure the purity of the air fed into the rooms in which the pressure is slightly higher than that outside, which prevents any possibility of cold draughts in winter; the air is humidified when necessary by means of steam, supplied by the boiler. The whole plant, in its different variants and sizes, is built compactly, completely equipped with the necessary cables and a remote control device. The elimination of radiators contributes to the beauty of rooms while simplifying the problem of painting; in addition, the hot air pipes are fitted after the concrete flooring has been laid, which simplifies construction. (OSEC)

A NEW PROBLEM CALLS FOR A NEW SOLUTION

The extraordinary development of packaging technique during the last few years has resulted in a large number of inventions for simplifying the transport, handling, preservation and distribution of foodstuffs and thus rendering service to the consumer. Nevertheless, some of these packagings, although very practical, raise new problems for which new solutions have to be found. This is the case in particular of the impregnated tetrahedral cartons in which milk, cream and other liquids are now packed in many countries. It is actually sometimes quite difficult to open these containers, which are otherwise so practical, and it is also difficult to pour out the contents without spilling if the containers have not been properly opened.

In order to overcome this difficulty, a Swiss firm has invented a small device known as a "Clipak", which not only makes it possible to open these cartons at one go but also cuts the opening in a special shape designed to make it possible to pour the liquid without spilling and even to drink directly from the container, by pouring it down one's throat, without getting it all over one's clothing; it works rather like the old cigar cutters and cuts off the tip of the carton in one snip. The "Clipak" is already manufactured under licence in Great Britain and could be in other European countries too for the great convenience of housewives.

(OSEC)

A SHERLOCK HOLMES' MUSEUM IN SWITZERLAND

At Lucens Castle, some 25 miles outside Lausanne, the heirs of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle have organized a Sherlock Holmes' Museum with relics, manuscripts and other souvenirs left by this famous writer of detective stories, who was in addition a great friend of Switzerland's: he was in fact one of the first Englishmen to ski in the neighbourhood of Davos!

At Lucens Castle there is a replica of Sherlock Holmes' famous study, faithfully reproduced from Conan Doyle's stories, with furniture, clothing and all the knick-knacks of the period, as well as the table with silver tablets recalling the names of famous friends who were frequent visitors at Sir Arthur's house: Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Disraeli, Churchill, etc.

There is also an impressive display of medieval instruments of torture. This collection of relics from the past at Lucens seems all the more piquant when one realizes that it is near this very same place that an underground nuclear power station is at present being installed.

(OSEC)

EXTRAORDINARY SKIING

The grades of difficulty in mountain climbing have long been categorized by the numbers 1 to 6, with a grade of 6 plus representing the ultimate in difficulty. M. Darbellay, the well-known mountain guide from the Valais who was the first to climb the north face of the Eiger alone, has now produced a breathtaking film together with his Geneves colleagues, the Hostetter brothers, in which they demonstrate the "6-plus" level of high alpine skiing.

The techniques which they display on 60-70 degree slopes and in narrow couloirs, constitute a further development of technically superb acrobatic skiing and the wedel. Their work is the fruit of years of arduous training and is in no way meant for imitation by ordinary Sunday skiers.

A NEW SWISS HYDRO-ELECTRIC DAM

A new dam has just been inaugurated at Sanetsch in the canton of the Valais (Switzerland). This concrete dam, 138 feet high, 672 feet along the crown, and with a volume of 1.3 million cubic feet, forms a reservoir holding 95 million cubic feet of water supplying a power station capable of producing 39 million kilowatt hours per year, of which some 30 million in summer. It belongs to Sanetsch Co. Ltd, financed by the Berne Power Company and the town of Berne.

(OSEC)

THE TALLEST BUILDING IN SWITZERLAND

The highest "skyscraper" in Switzerland was recently inaugurated at Winterthur. This new building, begun in 1962, houses the administrative premises of Sulzer Bros Engineering Works Co. Ltd. Just over 300 feet high, this impressive 29-storey reinforced concrete building has been designed to house the 1300 members of the management, and administrative and technical offices of the big Zurich firm.

(OSEC)

THE SWISS IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

At present there are 94 Swiss men and women employed by international institutions in the developing countries. Of these 94 experts, 3 are in Europe, 63 in Africa, 10 in Latin America and 18 in Asia. These figures do not include agents of the Federal Department of Technical Cooperation, or those representing private institutions, whether religious or otherwise, whose activities are both invaluable and disinterested. This contribution of Swiss personnel is greatly appreciated by international institutions, including UNO. Even if Switzerland does not belong to all of them, she does not refuse to take part in their practical activities, provided they are of a non-political and non-military character.

(OSEC)

THE TOWN OF GENEVA PRIZES

The Town of Geneva recently awarded its prizes for 1966 for watchmaking, jewellery, goldsmith's work and enamel work. In the first stage of this contest this spring, the jury had already judged 980 designs submitted by 188 competitors. Fifteen designs were selected for actual execution in the watchmaking category, 12 in jewellery, 21 in goldsmith's work and 9 in enamel work. The Watchmaking Prize was won by Mr Roger Ballmer, of Vacheron and Constantin in Geneva. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Mr Eddy Schopfer of Ebel Co. Ltd at La Chaux-de-Fonds and to Mr Jean-Daniel Rubeli of Patek-Philippe and Co. in Geneva. For jewellery, the first prize went to Mr Gunter Krauss of Pforzheim, while Honorable Mentions were awarded to Mr Erard and Mr Roger Ballmer of Vacheron and Constantin, and to Mr Moeckh of Weber Co. Ltd in Geneva. In the Goldsmith's Work category, no prize was awarded but Mentions were given to Mr Louis van Hemelwyck, independent of Brussels, and Mr Jean-Daniel Rubeli of Patek-Philippe, Geneva. The Enamel Work Prize was won by Mr Luigino Vignando, of Braeuchi and Sons at Lau Chaux-de-Fonds while Mentions were awarded to Mr Hans Boeck and Mr Michel Deville, Geneva.

(OSEC)

NEWS IN BRIEF

A "Ship of Culture" may well be plying the waters of Zurich Lake before long, if Georg Mueller has his way. Mr Mueller, head of the Zurich Werkbuehne (Studio Theater), conceived the idea as a way of circumventing real estate problems and taking some of the current load off Zurich's theatres and parking lots. The floating cultural centre, for which a lake steamer would be specially renovated, could be used for various cultural events and might also be made available to other shore communities further up Zurich Lake.

The satellite city **Le Lignon**, west of Geneva in the suburb of Vernier, is currently under construction. Based on plans by the architectural team of Addor, Juillard, Payot and Weisz, a complex of 2736 apartments of all sizes and prices ranges is rising on 280,000 square metres of ground. The project will provide housing for between 10,000 and 11,000 people, and in addition to three large apartment units (the highest will be 30 stories) it will include garages, schools, churches, sports facilities, a post office and a shopping centre. Ground was broken for the project back in 1962, and total construction time was then projected at five years. The purpose of this satellite city is to create reasonably priced apartments and to alleviate Geneva's acute housing shortage.