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Forthcoming Events

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The Auckland Swiss Club will hold the 1st August celebrations on July 29th at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road, Sandringham, commencing at 8 p.m.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

A "Schwyzerdialekt" play, **De Daellebach-Kari**, presented by members of the Auckland Swiss Club, will be shown at the Eureka Hall on Saturday, August 12th, at 8 p.m. Admission, including good supper, 60c.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Basketball every Sunday at 9.30 a.m., Wellington South Intermediate School, Rintoul Street.

The August 1st Celebrations will be held on Saturday, July 29th, in the Brooklyn Hall.

News from Switzerland

SWISSAIR'S RESULTS IN 1966

The Swiss airline company Swissair's results for 1966 were very favourable. Receipts totalled about S.Fr. 700 million, compared with S.Fr. 633 million in 1965, while running expenses without amortizements totalled approximately S.Fr. 566.4 million, as opposed to 511 million the previous year. The excess of receipts, amounting to almost S.Fr. 133.6 million, makes it possible to carry out bigger ordinary and extraordinary amortizements than the previous year, amounting in all to S.Fr. 111 million. There is therefore a net profit of S.Fr. 22.65 million, exceeding the previous year's figure by 12.16%. Adding the balance carried forward from the previous year, there is a sum of S.Fr. 23.8 million at the disposal of the general meeting.

The board of directors suggest a statutory payment into the reserve funds of S.Fr. 5 million and the payment of an equal amount to the personnel insurance fund together with a dividend of 8% to shareholders. At the general meeting the board of directors will also propose increasing the company's share capital from S.Fr. 175 million to S.Fr. 218.75 million by issuing 125,000 bearer shares with a nominal value of S.Fr. 350.

BIGGEST AERIAL CABLEWAY IN THE WORLD

The Squaw Valley Development Co., owner of all the transport facilities at the Olympic Sports Centre at Squaw Valley, in the United States, has commissioned a Swiss firm to build the biggest aerial cableway in the world. For the first time, cabins are to be built capable of holding 120 passengers. The Swiss firm was awarded the order in the face of keen international competition from practically all the big aerial cableway builders in the world.

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

According to medical statistics for 1966, there were 3403 Swiss medical students in Swiss universities during the 1965/66 winter semester, i.e. 428 or 14.4% more than during the 1964/65 semester. On the other hand, the number of foreign medical students fell off slightly during the same period. According to the figures already available for four universities, the number of Swiss medical students has again increased from the 1965/66 semester to the 1966/67 semester. At the same time the number of foreign medical students has also begun to increase again.

THE SWISS AIR RESCUE CORPS IN 1966

Last year the Swiss Air Rescue Corps was called out 310 times (1965=220), involving 1745 flights (1081). Since 1960 it has answered 1510 calls involving 6451 flights. In 1966 it rescued some 500 people (1965=189). Since its reorganisation in 1960, this rescue corps has flown to the help of 1579 people injured or in difficulties. 70% of last year's rescue work was carried out by means of helicopters, 21% by ordinary planes and 6% by both types of aircraft; finally, in 3% of the cases, use was made of military helicopters.

As the total cost of these flights exceeded the charges made for its rescue work, the Swiss Air Rescue Corps was only able to balance its accounts through the generosity of firms and private individuals, cantons, communes and collective organisations.

NARCISSI FOR GERMANY

A veritable deluge of narcissus blossoms is currently descending on the people of Essen, in Germany's Ruhr region. As part of a campaign of friendship and publicity for the Geneva Lake district, 35,000 narcissi are being distributed daily to the people of Essen. The campaign calls for shipment of a total of some half million flowers. Canton Vaud is also featured in the 40 display windows of two major Essen department stores, with more than 200 large photographs. As part of the overall campaign, a contest is also being held which offers as prizes — of course — free vacations in the Lake of Geneva area.

CONTINUED POPULARITY OF TELEVISION

Last April the number of Swiss television licenses increased by over 9000 to total 807,036, of which 574,432 were accounted for by German-speaking Switzerland, 194,381 by French-speaking Switzerland and 38,213 by the Italian-speaking region. For the first four months of the year, the increase totalled 55,341 licenses. At the end of April, 1967 there were 1,680,992 radio license holders in Switzerland, including 469,291 wire-diffusion subscribers.

SWISS PLANES FOR AUSTRALIAN ARMY

The Australian Army has ordered 12 planes of the Pilatus Porteur type from Switzerland, representing a total value of 2.25 million Australian dollars (about S.Fr. 11 million). According to a statement by the Australian War Minister, these planes, designed in Switzerland to satisfy difficult take-off and landing conditions in the Alps, are the ones best answering the requirements of the Australian Army.

IN BRIEF . . .

A new ship to ply the waters of Lake Constance was christened on May 11 with the name M/S St. Gallen. It is the third ship to bear this name. Designed for cruises on the huge lake, it has a capacity of 650 passengers and a crew of four.

A kindergarten for vacationers' children has been set up by the Tourist office of Zweisimmen (Bernese Oberland). Holiday-makers who have the urge to get off without the kiddies for a change, can now leave them for an entire day in the capable hands of a licensed kindergarten teacher, for a very modest fee.

Sports for everyone is the unique boast of Engelberg. In co-operation with the Federal Gymnastics and Sports School at Magglingen, a gymnastics programme has been established which gives older guests too an opportunity to participate in a variety of exercises.

Europe's largest carillon now hangs in a tower in the town of Libingen, in the Toggenburg region of Canton St. Gallen. Its former contingent of 40 bells has been augmented to 60, the additional twenty having been flown out by helicopter. The income derived from the carillon, which is dedicated to Albert Schweitzer, will be sent to his jungle hospital at Lambarene.

USEFUL ACCESSORY FOR INFANT FEEDING

While manufacturers everywhere continue to create and sell appliances for rationalising and simplifying the housewife's task, nobody—according to the enquiries of a Geneva manufacturer—had ever thought of devising a practical means of cleaning babies' bottles easily. After studying this particular problem from every angle, this manufacturer created and launched, under the name of "Biberonet," a brush fitted with a cylindrical sponge, designed to fit the standard sizes of babies' bottles and offering the ingenious feature of revolving on its axis as it is pushed into the bottle.

This results in a thorough cleaning of the bottle, in accordance with the needs of present-day hygiene. When worn out, the sponge is easy to replace because it is fitted on a plastic core provided with a screw thread, which is simplicity itself to dismantle and reassemble. This possibility of replacement and the sturdy construction of this handy appliance are a guarantee of long life.

SWISS REFUSE DISPOSAL PLANT IN ALGERIA

In order to solve the problem of refuse disposal, the Algerian government examined various solutions very thoroughly and finally selected the composting process, compost being of considerable use to Algerian forestry and agriculture. A contract was therefore signed with Buehler Bros. Co. Ltd., of Uzwil, for the building of a town refuse composting works with a capacity of 200 tons in 8 hours, with the possibility of doubling this output at a later date. After the erection of plant for composting town refuse at Rabat, Marrakech, Tatuán and Meknes in Morocco, the Algerian plant will be the fifth of its kind to be built by Buehler Bros. in Africa. (OSEC)

RECREATION CENTRE OPENED

A recreation centre for foreign labourers has been opened in Engelberg. The project, which is later to be expanded by the addition of a library, was realised on the initiative of some students at the monastery school and the social worker assigned to Italian labourers in the Engelberg region.

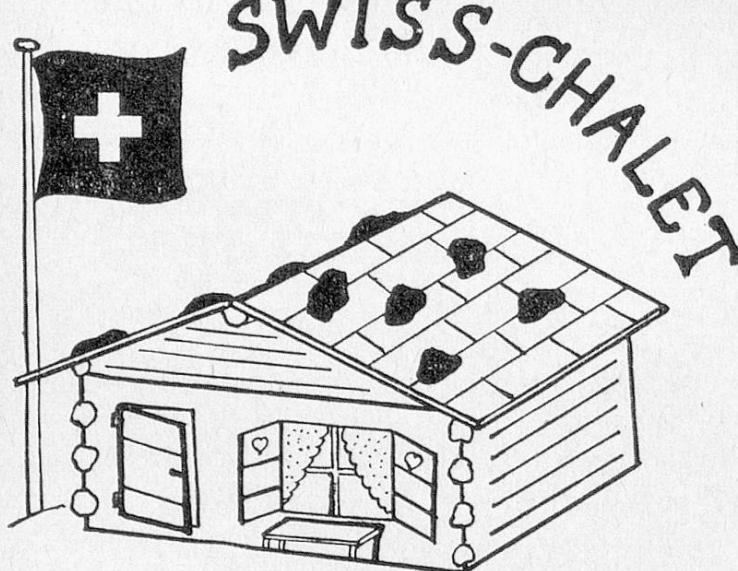
SUCCESS OF 51st SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

The 51st Swiss Industries Fair, which took place in Basle last April, recorded 1,040,000 visitors from 132 different countries on all continents. Two thousand, six hundred and sixty-five exhibitors displayed their products in 25 halls. The 52nd Swiss Industries Fair will be held from April 20th to 30th, 1968. (OSEC)

SWISS TRAVEL HOSTESSES AT YOUR SERVICE

An organisation has been created in Zurich which calls itself "International Escort Service." It offers the services of educated, widely-travelled and linguistically talented young women as companions and travel hostesses for business groups, families or individuals. Thirteen different services are offered at hourly, half-day or all-day rates. They include an airport service, at which the hostess takes care of all necessary travel arrangements; another service in which the hostess accompanies the traveller from the airport to the city by limousine, and remains at his disposal for two hours for information, city sightseeing, shopping, etc; a travel-companion service in which the hostess drives a rented car for long journeys in Switzerland or in Europe; a secretarial and interpreting service (all of the hostesses are fluent in at least three to four languages), and finally a kind of companion service whereby the eloquent and knowledgable hostesses accompany foreign visitors on shopping trips, to the theatre, lectures, exhibitions and athletic events.

The name "International Escort Service" is already legally registered in 31 countries and it is expected that this new kind of traveller service, while originating in Switzerland, will achieve considerable success abroad.



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