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News from Switzerland

SPACECRAFT ABLE TO LAND ON THE MOON

In all probability it will not be long before the first man will set foot on the moon. The United States and the Soviet Union have detailed moon programmes. For instance the American astronauts who will travel to the moon in the Apollo spacecraft will not land on the moon. Starting this craft on its return flight would require too much fuel. Therefore, the spacecraft will circumnavigate the moon, piloted by one astronaut, while the two others will transfer into a moon landing craft especially taken along for that purpose which will take them to the moon's surface and later back again to Apollo.

A model of this moon ferry on a 1:3 scale is on display at the Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne until September 30th as part of the special exhibition "Space Technique and Switzerland".

NEW HOTELS IN ZURICH

Recently construction was started in Zurich of a new luxury hotel scheduled to be opened in 1970. The "Atlantis", located at the foot of the wooded Mt. Uetli, will enjoy a particularly quiet location. It will have several convention and banquet rooms with a total of 170 to 280 seats.

In a very central location a first class commercial hotel was opened on September 1st. It is called Hotel Continental and with its 250 beds will be the second largest hotel in Zurich. In order to do justice to its special designation of "commercial hotel" it is planned to run a special service to and from the airport at reasonable rates.

Two more big hotels are under construction — the Hotel Zurich and the Zurich Airport Hilton.

VACATION SETTLEMENT IN THE TICINO

Between Melide and Morcote on the shore of Lake Lugano a big vacation settlement is going up. On an area of more than 100,000 sq. metres for the time being about 100 vacation cottages have been built on a steep slope rising from the lake. Below the lakeshore road the first part of an apartment hotel has been opened which can accommodate 65 people, has a large lakeside terrace, a heated swimming pool, park and beach gardens. In the future further buildings will go up on the site, including a restaurant, shops, kindergarten, etc., on the mountain side of the lakeside road.

"TICINO ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD ALL YEAR ROUND

Motorists keen to enjoy pre-summer holidays without leaving their cars behind, can reach Italian speaking Switzerland by road throughout the year. Cars are loaded at the Gotthard Tunnel, the Simplon or the Loetschberg-Simplon Tunnel. The road tunnels San Bernardino/Grisons and Great St. Bernard/Valais offer alternative routes as do the roads over the Julier and Maloja Passes which are open throughout the year.

INCREASE IN SWISS TOURIST TRAFFIC

Since 1950, when tourism reached its lowest point in post-war years, Swiss tourism has developed very satisfactorily. The number of overnight stays which in that year amounted to 15 million, increased to 30 million in 1967. In 1967 tourism brought 3 billion Swiss francs into the country, an important item in its balance of payments.

BIG FOREIGN ORDER FOR SWISS BEER VATS

Known as specialists in the manufacture of big aluminium tanks, the Swiss firm of Aluminiumschweisswerk AG at Schlieren (Aluminium Welding Works Co. Ltd.) recently received a large order from a Dutch brewery to produce a prototype of an unusually large vat for the storage of beer and to manufacture a series of them. The vats are to have a capacity of 430,000 litres of beer each and will measure approximately 13 feet in diameter and 115 feet long. Separated into two sections for transport via the river Rhine, these vats will be housed in a steel frame building 115 feet high, in which seven such tanks will be placed one on top of the other. (osec)

OLD BERNE — A UNIQUE SHOPPING CENTRE

The old section of the Swiss Federal capital, with its historical arcades, its beautiful facades, the world-famous belltower and the Gothic portals of the Minster, is one of the most ideal and attractive shopping centres in all Europe. It is understandable that the civic authorities are at pains to preserve this unique attraction and, where possible, to extend it. Great efforts are being made to preserve the town centre for the pedestrian and to clear the area of motorised traffic.

One immediate project is to exclude traffic from the two principal shopping streets (Spitalgasse and Marktgasse) and to create public awareness of this. If this provisional solution is definitely accepted, "fast lanes" will be created outside the arcades to simplify further pedestrian circulation. During the months from May to October the whole area will be attractively illuminated.

A GREAT SWISS ARTIST: HANS ERNI

The National Horse Show at Tramelan, which has become one of the most important events in the Swiss equestrian calendar, agreed to extend its patronage to an art exhibition entitled "The Horse in the Work of Hans Erni". No less than 88 paintings, 37 original lithographs as well as various ceramics, mosaics and art books, representing the work of this artist, are on view at this exhibition, held in the wonderful setting of Bellelay Abbey (Bernese Jura). This event, which opened on July 21st, had already recorded 10,000 visitors after the first ten days; it will be closing on September 30th. (osec)

"GOLDEN ELEPHANT" FOR SWISS POSTERS

At this year's international exhibition of touristic posters in the Sicilian town of Catania, in which 31 countries participated with a total of 438 posters, three Swiss posters were awarded the first prize in the form of the "Golden Elephant", ahead of Spain and France. These were the modern posters of the Swiss National Tourist Office, "Holidays in Switzerland put you on top", created by the young graphic artist Peter Kunz; the poster of the Tourist Office of the city of St. Gall, a much discussed college of the Old City of St. Gall by Robert Geisser, as well as the poster of the Tourist Office of Geneva by Michel Schuepfer.

This delightful collective success on an international level once again confirmed the quality of graphic creativity in Switzerland.

A PROMISING NEW SWISS TECHNIQUE FOR MARKETING STERILISED MILK

A firm of engineering consultants in Geneva has invented a new process for marketing sterilised, homogenised milk of good quality, which will store for quite a long time without refrigerating plant, thus doing away with the need to deliver milk every day and avoiding losses in the case of delays in delivery. The "Perstalisation" plant, as it is called, comprises an ultra-high temperature instantaneous steriliser, guaranteeing absolute sterilisation, a homogeniser and a bottle filling and sealing machine; all these appliances are perfectly sterile and the high temperature sealing of the sterilised glass bottles is carried out under vacuum, which prevents any deterioration of the milk due to the presence of oxygen.

Perstalisation, the result of very thorough bacteriological and technical research, allows good quality milk to be preserved for a long period of time in vacuum-sealed bottles, at ambient temperatures, which represents a tremendous step forward in the rationalisation of the dairy industry and the delivery of milk.

SWITZERLAND'S BIG EXPORTS OF MACHINE TOOLS

Switzerland accounts for about 8.5% of the world's total exports of machine tools, coming fourth therefore in this field, of all industrialised countries. In 1967, Swiss exports of machine tools totalled a value of S.Fr. 620.5 million (\$144 million) compared with 584.8 million (\$135.5 million) in 1966. The four main buyers were West Germany, the United States, France and Great Britain. (osec)

OLEOHYDRAULIC AND PNEUMATIC APPLIANCES FAIR

Oleohydraulic and pneumatics are two related techniques, whose importance continues to grow, parallel with progress in automation and rationalisation. The 4th International Oleohydraulic and Pneumatic Appliances Fair will be held in the Zuspa exhibition halls in Zurich from October 31st to November 5th, 1968. It will have the record figure of about 40 exhibitors, who will display the products of 350 manufacturers from Europe and overseas.

Compared with the previous fair in 1966, the exhibition area will be increased by 30%. At the same time a professional congress organised by a committee of exhibitors will be held in the lecture hall of the Zurich Museum of Fine Arts; 700 registrations have already been received for this congress. A series of lectures will be given, aimed at users of hydraulic and pneumatic appliances, and another series for engineers, manufacturers and technicians. The organising committee has succeeded in obtaining the collaboration of famous lecturers from Switzerland and abroad. (osec)

SWISS FIRM BUILDING WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL GRAIN LOADERS

Specialised since 1890 in grain handling installations, Buhler Brothers Ltd. engineering works, in Uzwil, have been awarded a contract to build two ship unloaders in Port Cartier, Canada, which will be the world's most powerful. This must be a very high capacity installation in view of the need for the very rapid transhipment of vast quantities of grain during those months when the St. Lawrence is free of ice.

The mechanical unloading installation includes two travelling unloaders, each equipped with two paired chain unloading conveyers, each with a capacity of 650 tons per hour, i.e. 1300 tons an hour per unloader. (During tests, peak capacity loads of 1540 tons an hour per unloader were reached.) The two unloaders can thus attain a total hourly unloading capacity of 2600 tons. (osec)