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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Hamilton Swiss Club

The Club's 1972 Picnic will be held on Sunday, 6th February, at Mr and Mrs Risi's residence, Ngaruawahia.

### Christchurch Swiss Club

**Club Fair:** To be held at Moser's farm on Sunday, 13th February, 1972.

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### SWISS CONSUMPTION OF GAME AND POULTRY

Last year, the Swiss consumed 2966 tons of game and 41,246 tons of poultry. The increase in the consumption of game amounted to 17% compared with the previous year, that of poultry 3.6%. Whereas the consumption of game per head of the population worked out at only one lb in 1970, the consumption of poultry on the other hand averaged 14.1 lb, which represents over five times the per capita consumption in the 50's. Game of domestic origin accounts for 30% of the total volume consumed in Switzerland and domestic production of poultry 39.3%.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING: CONCRETE AID TO DEVELOPMENT

The duty of industrialised countries to provide technical assistance for the developing countries has been recognised by private enterprise for a long time now. A large Swiss reinsurance company selected a particularly effective way of doing this in the services sector, by founding a training centre, in 1960, for insurance personnel from companies all over the world, in particular the developing countries.

The "Swiss Insurance Training Centre" was opened in 1961. So far it has organised 13 courses on life assurance or property insurance, lasting from four to six months each. These courses have been attended by 250 participants from nearly 50 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and, to a lesser extent, Europe; practically all of these trainees are now working in insurance in their own countries.

## THE 'RUBBER ROAD' AROUND LAKE CONSTANCE

This is something one has always wished for: every ten kilometers (about six miles) a good fairy with some questions: "How are you? Any blisters on your feet? Would you like to take a shortcut? Or a ride back to your starting point?" Up to now such good fairies existed only in the tired hikers' dreamworld, with very few exceptions, as for instance on Lake Constance. On the new road around it this good fairy really comes forward in every other village and offers all her good services to everybody on the "Rubber Road" around the Lake Constance. Who does not feel like it need not avail himself of her services — he may go on hiking. But for those whose feet hurt or who would like to have different experiences or who have to hurry home because their vacation is coming to an end — the good fairy will take those without much ado to any place they want to go to.

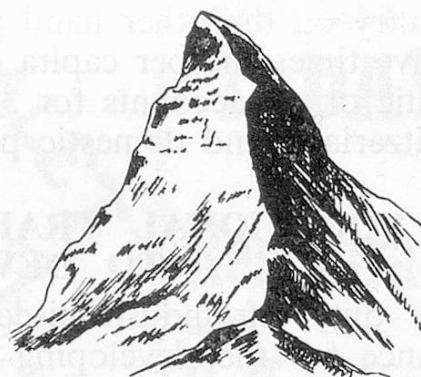
This good fairy in one place may be called "Railroad", in another "Bus", in the third one "Ship" and enables the visitor to squeeze a tour around Lake Constance into one day or stretch it into a two weeks' holiday. Anything goes here — long distance hiking or a Sunday ramble.

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## SUCCESS OF THE SWISS NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Swiss industrial firms working in the field of nuclear technology have succeeded, in spite of very keen international competition, in achieving several big successes with their exports. As the following examples show, it is not only the big firms that are meeting with success but also the small and medium-size concerns.

Brown, Boveri & Co. has received a new order in the United States for a group of turbines for the nuclear power station at Forked River, as well as orders from abroad for fifteen main circuit-breakers for alternators in atomic power stations. The orders received from Argentina, Belgium, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden by Sulzer of Winterthur, cover a wide range of products, from valves and tubes to pumps, heat exchangers, etc. George Fischer, of Schaffhausen, has supplied cast steel parts for American, British, French, Italian and Swedish atomic plants, and the Charmilles Engineering Works in Geneva, fuel-handling devices for the Belgian nuclear power station at Doel.

As for K. Rütschi Co. Ltd. of Brugg, its special pumps for atomic plants are meeting with great success in Argentina, the Netherlands, India and Canada. Metrohm, of Herisau, has received orders from Germany and the Netherlands for instruments measuring the concentration of boron in high pressure water reactors. Chemap, at Männedorf, has sold filtering plants to various European nuclear power stations. Landis & Gyr Co. Ltd., at Zug, has supplied a plant for supervising radiations at a German nuclear research centre. Emil Haefely, of Basle, has received orders for accelerators. In addition to their work of planning nuclear power stations at home, Swiss engineering consultants' firms are finding more and more scope on the international level for their ability and knowhow in the nuclear field.

Electro-Watt Engineering Consultants of Zürich, for example, have been awarded consultancy contracts for the nuclear power stations at Biblis (Germany) and Loviisa (Finland), in the latter of which the Zurich firm of Brandenberger & Ruosch is also taking part. Motor-Columbus Engineering Consultants of Baden are working on plans for nuclear power stations in Turkey and Pakistan; they have also been commissioned by the biggest German electricity company to compute the heat load on the Rhine between the mouth of the Aar and the Dutch frontier.

## RAPID SLIDE PROJECTION

The very rapid projection of test slides is used in ophthalmological clinics, research laboratories, psychological institutes, psycho-technical piloting schools, etc., to study and improve people's powers of reaction, memory and observation. A Swiss firm at Schaffhausen has produced a special shutter for converting any slide projector into an appliance perfectly suited to the above purpose. The shutter, which is fitted in front of the lens, regulates

the duration of each viewing (1/60th to 8 seconds). It also has a B position, for unlimited projection times. The lever setting the time of illumination is easily accessible; as the shutter re-arms itself automatically, the images can be projected in rapid succession, for identical or different lengths of time. The shutter is worked by means of a release cable. For normal projection, the shutter is set to the B position.

### **SWITZERLAND: A GREAT FRUIT EATER**

According to OECD statistics Switzerland is Europe's biggest fruit consumer by far. In 1970 annual consumption of apples per head of the population was 32.9 kg, against 25 kg in West Germany and 23 kg in the Netherlands. Compared with these figures Swiss banana consumption might seem poor at 9.5 kg per head, but it is none the less highest in Europe (Germany 8.7 kg, Finland 4.6 kg, Netherlands 6.2 kg).

In trade circles it is considered that Switzerland probably tops the league of all industrialised countries in the world for this particular discipline. During the first half of 1971 some 34,580 tons of bananas were imported, against 31,997 tons for the corresponding period of 1970, representing an increase of 8.1%. Last year more than 95% of these imports came from only five countries: Panama (40.4%), Ecuador (23.3%), Costa Rica (12.8%), Honduras (12.3%) and Guatemala (6.8%). (osec)

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