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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

A SPECIAL TRIP THROUGH SWITZERLAND

At the end of July, a couple of young adventure-loving graphic artists and a photographer from Zurich went on a trip through Switzerland which had never been made before. They wanted to cross the country from north to south down the fold of the map of Switzerland (659 coordinate). They set off by bicycle from Koblenz to Eigental (at the foot of the Pilatus mountain). Then, they continued by boat along the Lake of Sarnen until the "Kleine Melchtal". They covered the distance from Meiringen to Innertkirchen on foot. From there, they went on horseback up to the Urbachtal and then again on foot till the Lauteraarhütte. They had a rest during the National Day, August 1, and, on the next day, they climbed over the Scheuchzerjoch together with a guide. On the ninth day they reached the end of their journey via Galmi-Lücke and Blitzingen at Binn, in the upper Valais, where they were greeted by representatives of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

SWISS ART — OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Art lovers coming to Winterthur are not restricted to visiting only the "Am Römerholz" gallery and the former private collection of Oskar Reinhart — both of which once belonged to the Winterthur industrialist of the same name. The Art Gallery is also exhibiting its own collection of older art this summer. Mainly early 19th century Swiss miniature art is on show there. An original kind of exhibition, "Plastic Arts from the baroque period in Aargau", is being held at Aargau until October 15th. Works by the artists of the "Brücke" period, an avant-garde movement from the beginning of the century are being exhibited at the "Museum zur Allerheiligen" of Schaffhausen. The international exhibition of graphic arts is being held again at Lugano and the "Karikaturen" exhibition at the Zurich Kunsthaus will surely be well worth a visit.

SWISSAIR AND AUSTRIAN AIRLINES JOIN FORCES

Swissair and Austrian Airlines will share the maintenance costs and know-how on their McDonnell Douglas DC-9's. The two airlines signed a 10-year "technical co-operation" agreement last month. Swissair owns 22 DC-9's, while AUA has taken delivery of seven of the nine it has ordered. The carriers split the maintenance work: Swissair will specialise in engine maintenance while AUA will look after the air frames. It is expected that both airlines will benefit financially from the agreement.

THE "AELPLERCHILBINEN" OF CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

Autumn traditions were re-evoked this September in Central Switzerland. The most important of these are the "Aelplerchilbinen" which are partly religious and partly secular festivities. They represent the harvest festivals not only of the farmers but also of the herdsmen who come down then from their high Alpine retreat. Two strange figures called "Wildmaa" and "Wildwyb" entertain the public with jokes at Stans, Buochs and Beckenried. The "Tschämeler" were legendary demons which used to haunt the Alps and these will reappear in Gersau. The Ridli-Kilbi took place on 9-10th September at Beckenried and the "Alpfahrt", a folkloric display with shooting galleries, etc., will be going on at Stans on October 15th and at Buochs on October 14th and 22nd.

NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

The 27th Music Festival on the Lake of Geneva took place recently for a whole month at Montreux. Amongst the orchestras playing there were the Belgrade Philharmonic (three concerts), I Solisti Veneti (following a concert on the Diablerets Glacier), the NHK orchestra of Tokyo, the Vienna Philharmonic and the Hungarian Philharmonic (for two evenings). When concerts weren't taking place in Montreux, there were others in Vevey. For lovers of organ music, a concert was held in St. Martin's Church; the Chamber Orchestra of Köln and Festival Strings of Lucerne was playing in the theatre; and the "Symposium Musicum Prag" played in the castle of Chillon on historical instruments.

Five hundred Swiss hotels will be offering reduced hotel rates to holders of SFR vouchers (for elderly people which are valid for rail, postal coach and boat travel). This voucher is sold to ladies over 62 and to gentlemen over 65 for Fr.60.— (instead of Fr.300.—). Depending on the hotel category the reduced rates vary from Fr.10-35 for overnight stay, breakfast and taxes. The "Over-Sixties" season lasts from April 1st to June 30th (except for Easter and Whitsun), from September 1st to December 15th and from January 10th to 31st.

The Nova Park Hotel which is only partly open now will be the biggest in Switzerland by 1973 when it will have 1000 beds. It is to have eight different restaurants. One of these — the Taverne 1515 — is already open offering its guests a gastronomical and theatrical evening with eating and drinking habits of the late Middle Ages, troubadours, court jesters, maidens, heralds and musicians. This spectacle takes place each evening at 8.30 p.m. except for Sundays and Mondays. A world-renowned artist, Hans Falk, is responsible for another kind of entertainment, the "Nova Nova" Club.