

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 40 (1975)  
**Heft:** [4]

**Artikel:** A chemical process to prevent the formation of black ice  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945684>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 22.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## Obituary

MR JEAN OETTLI

Mr Jean Oettli, father of Henry and the late Hans Oettli died on Good Friday last. Jean Oettli arrived in New Zealand in 1956 to be with his two sons in the country of their choice. He was a quiet spoken man, a devoted father and husband. In his youth, Mr Oettli was a foreman in the Swiss ammunition factory of Erstfeld and retired to farming in the latter part of his life. He attained the age of 86 years.

To Mrs Oettli, Henry and family, and the family of Hans, we extend our deepest sympathy.

—W.R.

## A Chemical Process to Prevent the Formation of Black Ice

Some 620 feet high and situated at an altitude of 2800 feet, "Europe Bridge", on the Brenner motorway in Austria, is the first big roadwork to be given a surface preventing the formation of black ice. This is, in fact, the first large-scale application of the invention of a chemist at La Croix-sur-Lutry (Vaud, Switzerland) who has spent over ten years on experiments to discover the best composition for a road surface to prevent black ice from forming. He conceived the idea of adding to the top layer of tar various chemical mixtures of impregnated crystals with a thawing power. A chemico-dynamical process is started up as soon as a vehicle passes over a road provided with such a surface; under the effect of the friction and the pressure due to the weight of the vehicle, the thawing products come to the surface, thus preventing any formation of ice; small falls of snow are also melted as a result of the same reaction. (SODT)

## Building Site Theodolite

The TO5 theodolite developed by a specialised firm at Heerbrugg (St. Gall, Switzerland) is designed above all for use on building sites. Its luminous red colour makes it extremely visible, thus cutting down risks of damage. Thanks to its built-in horizon levelling device, this theodolite is an ideal instrument for all surface levelling and altitude checks on building sites as well as for plane-table traverses for the construction of roads or paths. A new electronic system for lighting the circles ensures constant light intensity, which is very useful when working under poor lighting conditions. The theodolite is supplied with a light tripod. It can however be mounted on any other tripod from this Swiss firm's range as well as on tripods of other makes, provided they are fitted with a 5/8 inch mounting screw. The light weight of this theodolite makes it an ideal instrument for taking on voyages of exploration, geological expeditions or topographical surveys on difficult terrain. (SODT)