

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 58 (1992)
Heft: [9]

Artikel: Dancing with bears
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945197>

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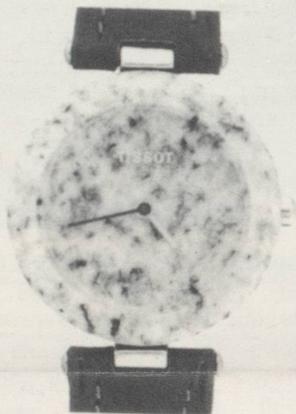
WATCHES GO BACK TO NATURE

Here are the latest innovations from the Swiss watch industry: Tissot's nature watches.

Pix 2 times WoodWatch



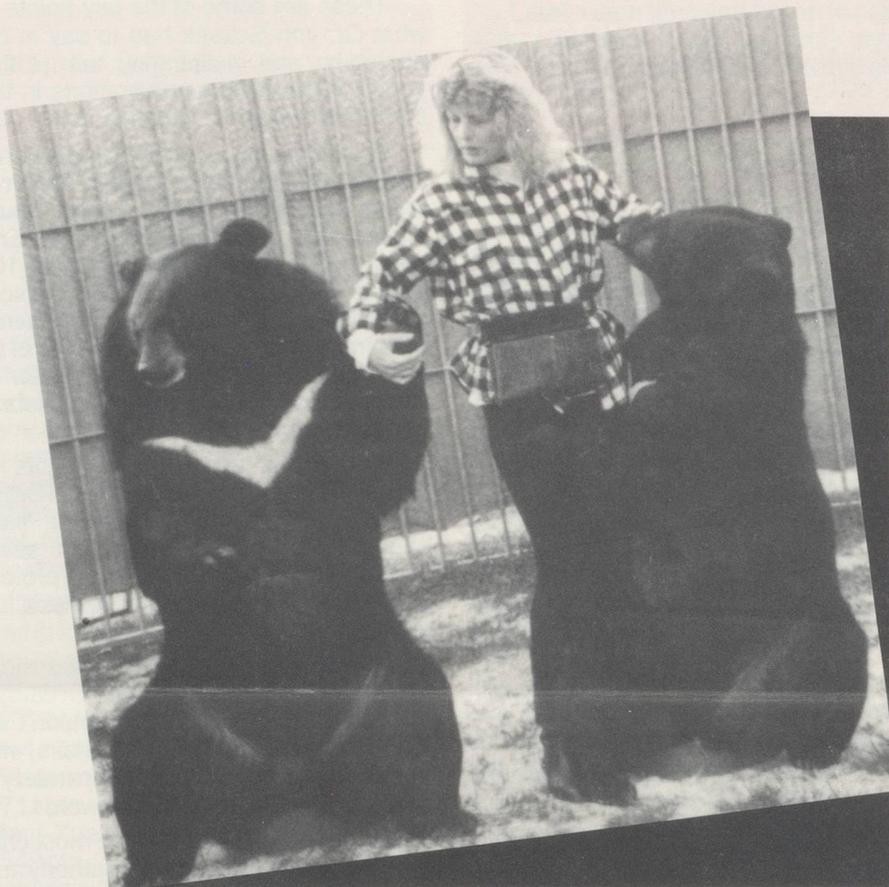
The WoodWatch with "Scherenschnitt" faces.



The RockWatch made out of several million year old stone (give or take a million years.)



The PearlWatch made out of mother of pearl. A real pearl amongst watches??



WILD ANIMALS REAPPEARING TO SWITZERLAND

Although they are rarely seen by the average citizen, the number of wild pigs has increased enormously in Switzerland, to a point where more energetic hunting measures will have to be applied to control them. Foxes are on the increase too after having been almost exterminated by the rabies virus.

Wolves are expected to reach Switzerland within the next few years. Moving in from the East, wolves have been reported as far as northern Italy with some having already crossed over to France. No doubt, the wolf has regained its place in the European fauna.

Since Governments pay for damages done by wolves to farm animals, farmers are not that worried anymore to exterminate these predators. In fact, in many places wolves have created new jobs. Without the wolves there would be no need for shepherds, whose new job is now again to protect their sheep against these predatory animals.

The Authorities of Basel-Stadt and Baselland want to put into operation a car pooling scheme to reduce road congestions and air pollution. The project started with a questionnaire to over 7000 workers to find out whether and in which form they would be prepared to take part in such a scheme. (We wish them luck. This scheme was tried out in NZ years ago and it did not get much support).

DANCING WITH BEARS

Tina Beauverd, who has chosen to share her life with bears, plays with her 140 kg. pets who can kill with one single blow of their paws.

She believes to have a very good knowledge of her two bears aged 5 years who come from the Himalayas, but a second of inattention, a wrong movement or a sudden noise could have dramatic consequences.

Tina Beauverd from Lausanne and her husband Marcel are the last bear trainers in Switzerland and perhaps the last in Europe. Tina got her inspiration from the Circus Knie and at the age of 15 decided that she wanted to become a tamer of wild animals.



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