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Odds and Ends

Anyone who wants to help celebrate this year's grape harvest will have a difficult choice. Lugano, Neuchâtel and Morges are all holding their traditional fêtes over the same weekend — 30th September to 1st October. As usual, the highlight of the festivities will be the Sunday afternoon flower *corso*. In Lugano there will also be typical Swiss entertainment, provided by groups from far and near on Saturday evening. In honour of the exquisite Valais wines, Sierre is holding a "Quinzaine Valaisanne" from 16th September to 1st October. The wine-growing districts along the Lake of Biel are holding five harvest Sundays, from 24th September to 22nd October, when the local population will be joining in popular fêtes with dancing, processions, and, of course, wine "sampling".

* * *

"I hope that's a nice book you are reading, darling", said the conscientious mother to her daughter.

"Oh, yes, Mummy", replied the youngster. "It's a lovely book, but I don't think you would like it. It's so sad at the end."

"In what way dear?" Mother wanted to know.

"Well," the youngster sighed, "She leaves him and he has to go back to his wife."

* * *

Speaking in Stockholm, American film-star William Holden replied to criticism that he went to live in Switzerland only because of the favourable taxation rates. Said Holden: "I'd still live in Switzerland even if taxes were higher there than in the U.S.A." He added that the reasons why he decided to settle down in Switzerland in 1956 were "the healthy, normal living conditions, the economic and political freedom, and the negligible amount of juvenile delinquency there. "Besides," commented Holden, "Switzerland is one of the most beautiful countries in the world." Holden and his family now reside at St. Prex, on the Lake of Geneva.

* * *

When Brian Evans was deputy banqueting manager of the Savoy Hotel he was known to all as Mr. Evans.

But recently he was promoted to banqueting manager and he changed his name to Evangelo Brioni — although he has not adopted an Italian accent.

"We thought it was better that way", a hotel spokesman said.

"For years, banqueting managers have been Italian. I haven't changed my name legally. Privately, I'm still Evans", Mr. Brioni said.

* * *

A new sports and residential development is to be constructed on the Col de Crozet, only six and a half miles from Geneva's Cointrin airport, in the French Jura.

Baron Girod de l'Ain, president of the development committee for the new resort, announced at a champagne reception given last week that a group of Franco-Swiss

financiers were planning to add to the existing installations of Crozet-Cret de la Neige by putting in a new double chair-lift capable of transporting 720 persons per hour to an altitude of 1,630 metres, and adding to the existing ski-trails.

Also included in their plans is a new residential district which, when finished, will be centred around a swimming pool, parks and tennis courts. The building of a new hotel, chalets and a restaurant is being looked into at the same time.

The Cret de la Neige is a region that has a vast snowfall because of its ideal position in the Jura mountain chain. But it is also hoped that the resort will become a popular summer retreat. There is already one cable car which travels 1,928 metres from the plain of Geneva to the summit of the Col de Crozet and two other ski-towns. At the moment there is only one Chalet-Hotel, which can accommodate eighteen people.

* * *

A dairy farmer was questioning a prospective hired man.

"Do you have any bad habits — smoke, drink, eat margarine?"

* * *

The Geils-Laveygrat ski-lift will be completed in December. This new ski-lift covers a distance of 1,425 year, rises some 1,500 feet and can convey up to 600 skiers per hour as far as the Laveygrat (7,500 feet), the starting point for the longest and finest downhill runs in the whole valley. The newly-opened area of Hinter-Sillern has snow up to the end of April. Adelboden will thus have one cable railway, two chair-lifts, four ski-lifts and four practice lifts, capable of carrying a total of 3,500 passengers per hour. Season tickets at very reasonable rates are available. A new mountain restaurant will also be opened in December on the Tschenentalp, the terminus station of the Adelboden - Schwandfeldspitze chair-lift. The restaurant and sun terraces provide seating accommodation for some 300 guests, who will enjoy the magnificent panoramic view.

* * *

Following the wedding ceremony, the couple were photographed as they left the church, and they were promised proofs in a few days. The large envelope duly arrived and was opened with great excitement. Inside were several studies of a baby lying on a rug and on the back of the pictures they read: "Please state clearly which size you want and how many."

* * *

The "Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs" will hold its second World Congress of Gastronomy at Geneva from 20th to 22nd October. The first congress was held last year in Paris.

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