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Odds and Ends

A long-time resident of Lausanne, ex-Queen Victoria of Spain, was host to Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco recently. Her son, the Count of Barcelona, was also present. It is reported that Queen Fabiola, who attended school in Lausanne, was introduced to King Baudouin by the ex-Queen in Lausanne!

Other personalities and royalties seen in Lausanne recently include: Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Jordany and her suite; the King and Queen of Denmark visiting their daughter, who attends school in Lausanne; King Phumipol and the Queen of Siam, who have just returned home following a six-month visit in French Switzerland; Mrs. Jacques Fath and the Duke of Cadoval, guests of the Yul Brynner; Maurice Chevalier vacationing; David Niven and family having dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Loel Guinness, another resident of Lausanne; and finally Quincy Jones and his orchestra winding up a much applauded concert tour of Switzerland.

* * *

In a few months, a new Trans-Europe-Express train will link Paris and Milan in about eight hours, becoming the fastest train service between the Atlantic Ocean and Italy. Two trains, leaving Milan and Paris, will meet at Lausanne main station at approximately 6 p.m. Time spent at borders will be reduced to nothing as customs officers will ride the train, thus cutting down customs examination to a few minutes only.

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The first glacier airport in the world has almost been completed at the Diablerets mountains, enabling ski fans to hop over from the Lake Geneva region in less than an hour and practise their favourite sport all year round. Constructed at an altitude of 10,000 feet, its natural runways will be longer than those of the international airports of Geneva and Zurich. The airport will be connected with lower levels by a new aerial cableway rising almost 5,000 feet in three sections.

* * *

Dans un curieux livre récemment publié à Paris et intitulé "Histoire naturelle des sottises", Bergen Evans nous apprend que Diogène n'a jamais vécu dans un tonneau, que Néron ne joua pas de la lyre pendant l'incendie de Rome, mais essaya au contraire d'enrayer le sinistre, et que l'histoire de Guillaume Tell, tirant en 1307 une flèche dans une pomme posée sur la tête de son fils, apparaît . . . en Norvège dès le XI^e siècle!

* * *

The traditional Flower Festival of Locarno is to take place this year on 20th and 21st May. After several years of indecision this colourful event will again be held more emphatically in the spirit of the former Camellia Festivals. In the evening hours of Saturday, festive crowds will throng the Piazza Grande to enjoy the popular music, folk dances and costumes of the valleys in the southern foothills of the Alps. On Sunday afternoon a big flower parade with richly decorated floats and folklore groups will be in progress alongside the lake front. The entire festival will bear evidence of the serene artistry and art of living of the Ticinese or Italian-Swiss people.

From 15th to 25th April 1961 Switzerland takes her turn in the grand series of European Spring Fairs with her own Industries Fair at Basle. Here Swiss industry puts its products on view. Since it is an industry with a heavy emphasis on the export trade, many of its concerns are represented at foreign exhibitions. Only the Basle Fair, however, affords a really comprehensive insight into Switzerland's contributions to individual specialist fields.

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La cage aux singes du zoo de Zurich a un rejeton de plus. Le chimpanzé Mary a mis bas un bébé chimpanzé du sexe masculin, qui a été baptisé du nom de "Dieter".

* * *

A new nightclub, THE BRUMMEL, will soon open in the Lausanne-Palace Hotel building. In addition to their creation of the Tabaris, the Bagatelle and the Scotch Bar, entertainment specialists Césy and Armand Pasche will reportedly decorate the interior in a way that will be nothing short of sensational.

* * *

Jack's wife seemed less affectionate than when they were first married.

"You only kiss me when you want money," he complained.

"Isn't that often enough?" she asked.

* * *

QUOTE — from J. B. Priestley: "I found there was no respect for youth when I was young. And now I am old, there is no respect for age. I missed it coming and going".

* * *

Congratulations to the four conquerors of our most treacherous mountain.

The *Daily Telegraph* had this to say:

"Heroic endeavour carries its own justification, and the endurance of the four men who yesterday reached the summit of the Eiger, after spending six nights on the north face, will be acclaimed by the whole world. The route has never before been successfully attempted in winter — indeed, only 13 ascents of the north face have been made since 1938. Even in summer, the mountain looks forbidding and impassable. It is almost incredible that these men should have passed six winter nights — cold, cramped, and in constant danger — on what looks like a sheer precipice, and retained enough energy to press on to the top. Their names must now be inscribed with those of Whymper, Mallory, Hunt, Hillary, and so many others who have conquered the unconquerable and attained the unattainable. Here they are: Hiebeler, Almberger, Mannhardt, and Kinshofer.

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The Swiss Restaurant Car Company has introduced a new "Pic-Nic" breakfast which is served in the ordinary train compartment. It consists of coffee or tea, two rolls, butter and jam, served on an attractive cardboard tray. "Pic-Nic" breakfasts are supplied to parties only and upon special request.

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You too can have legs like Marlène Dietrich . . . Notice in a local do-it-yourself centre window: "Contemporary legs — wide range in wood and metal".