

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1963)
Heft: 1437

Artikel: News in brief
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694629>

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NEWS IN BRIEF

"Old Swiss Inn-Signs", an exhibition arranged by the Swiss National Tourist Office, may be seen until the end of August at the Musée de l'Homme (Palais de Chaillot) in Paris. These old signs that used to hang outside Swiss hostleries include such traditional names as the "Wild Man", the "Lion", and the "Bear", and have, as a reminder of a form of folk art that has not always received its due share of attention, attracted considerable interest in France.

Costume groups from all the cantons will meet in Appenzell on 24th/25th August for their traditional yearly gathering. The people of Appenzell are known for their gay nature and wit, and the play they are staging for the occasion will no doubt do full justice to their reputation.

Sion — "Son et Lumière": Nightly presentations of this great light-sound spectacle will continue until 30th September 1963 above Sion, the strikingly picturesque capital of the Canton of Valais.

In Zurich, one of the most important shows to be held during the year is the "Swiss Exhibition for Television, Radio, Gramophone and Electronics". It will take place from 29th August to 2nd September at the Congress House, and cannot fail to be a great success.

Few visitors to Basle will have seen the venerable remains of the town's fortifications near the Letztor in the St. Albantal. The Municipal Theatre of Basle has chosen this picturesque corner for its open-air performances of Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell" (mid-August to the beginning of September).

In the Bernese Oberland there will be something for lovers of nature and for devotees of the arts this summer. Interlaken will be staging its traditional performance of "Wilhelm Tell" in the magnificent natural amphitheatre of the Rugenpark. Starting on 17th August, Hofmannsthal's "Everyman" will be performed in the picturesque Schlosshof at Spiez by the Lake of Thun. Gstaad will be holding its Yehudi Menuhin Festival this summer for the seventh time, with the personal assistance of the great violinist himself. There are four evening chamber music concerts with famous soloists, between 5th and 13th August, and two concerts by the much-travelled Zurich Chamber Orchestra as the highlight of the Festival.

SUMMER FESTIVAL ON THE LAKE OF ZURICH

It is good to hear that some bold hearts in Zurich have declared war on the inconstant elements and decided to put on an open-air show and make one of the most attractive spots on the lakeside a background for a world-famous musical comedy. Friml's "Rosemarie" has been extensively adapted and made into a "musical", which can be enjoyed from 3rd August to 1st September in the refreshing atmosphere of the lakeside. The scene has been set on an artificial island left over from a previous exhibition, and a Canadian Wild West town will be decorated complete with Indian canoes bobbing round it. A cast of some 200 will help to make this a memorable and lavishly staged revival of a piece whose melodies will awake treasured memories for many listeners.

[S.N.T.O.]

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