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SWISSAIR FLIES TIME

Aboard Swissair's flight SR 102 on 23rd February from Geneva, arrived two "atomic clocks" in the care of Mr. Lee Bodily of the Hewlett-Packard Company, makers of the clocks, who have their headquarters at Palo Alto, California.

In all a 13,000 mile round trip to get the right time, an exercise in which Swissair has teamed up with Hewlett-Packard to check U.S. time at the Naval Observatory, Washington, DC., and the Swiss Observatory, Neu-châtel, and now a further time check is to be carried out at the Greenwich Observatory.

Strapped carefully into its own seat each atomic clock was kept in operation by means of special power units. The result of the experiment has been to establish time agreement between the U.S. and Swiss observatories to an accuracy of a few millionths of a second, a significant improvement over the precision of previous measurements.

It is a fitting compliment to Swissair to be chosen as the carrier, from U.S.A. to Switzerland to U.K., of these high precision instruments for Switzerland has long been synonymous with high precision time keeping.

LUCERNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 1965

The advance programme of the Lucerne International Festival of Music has now appeared and is obtainable from the Secretariat, Schweizerhofquai 4, 6002 Lucerne/Switzerland. This year's Festival lasts from 14th August to 9th September. Nine symphony concerts and two choral concerts are to be given by the Swiss Festival Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Lucerne Festival Choir and the Bavarian Radio Choir. The concerts will be conducted by: Joseph Keilberth, Igor Markevitch, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Ernest Ansermet, Kurt Redel, Rafael Kubelik, Herbert von Karajan, Wolfgang Sawallisch and Karl Böhm. Wolfgang Schneiderhan, Nell Gotovsky, Géza Anda, Arthur Grumiaux, Nikita Magaloff, and the prizewinner in the Clara Haskil competition, will appear as soloists. The Bavarian Radio Choir will also give a concert with organ conducted by Wolfgang Schubert. The traditional Mozart serenade in front of the Lion Monument will be played by the Collegium Musicum conducted by Paul Sacher with Edith Mathis as soloist. Rudolf Serkin will be heard with the Marlboro Festival Orchestra under Alexander Schneider. The Lucerne Festival Strings under Rudolf Baumgartner will be giving two concerts of chamber music, one of which will be devoted to contemporary works, including first performances of compositions by Huber, Penderecki and Sutermeister. Pianoforte evenings are to be given by Sviatoslav Richter and Arthur Rubinstein, chamber music evenings by the Suk Trio and by Irmgard Seefried/Wolfgang Schneiderhan, while Christa Ludwig/Walter Berry will be singing, Karl Richter will give an organ concert, and Enrico Mainardi a cello evening. The series "The Festival Introduces Young Artists" will present the young English cellist Jacqueline du Pré. The Municipal Theatre will be staging Lessing's "Nathan the Wise" (German version) with Ernst Deutsch in the title role. The Art Gallery will be showing an exhibition of works by the Chilean painter Matta.

A VERY ORIGINAL SWISS CREATION: THE SKI-BOAT

Winter sports enthusiasts were surprised to see a new sport in Switzerland last winter, practised by means of a device shaped like a scallop-shell and fitted with a shock-absorbent seat and a pair of handles.

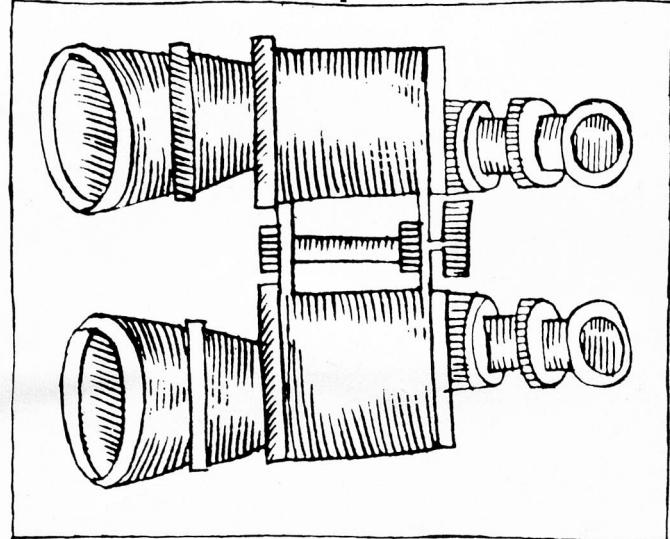
This novelty, the Ski-Boat, has been produced by a Swiss inventor and patented in Switzerland and many other countries. It is a sort of compromise between a ski and a toboggan, and is easy to manoeuvre, brake and stop by a simple movement of the body without the feet ever coming in contact with the snow. Thanks to its streamlined shape and efficient stabilisers, both children and adults find it easy to control on any kind of track whether the snow is powdery, beaten hard or even icy.

The Ski-Boat is remarkably light and uncumbrous. Made of layered polyester, it weighs just under 9 lb. and can be carried in the boot of any car, even the smallest, as well as in cabin-lifts and aerial cableways. The seat is protected against shocks by means of rubber shock-absorbers. The stabilisers and handles are in aluminium.

Ski-Boat enthusiasts are already quite numerous. This new sport is well within the reach of the general public for it requires no special equipment and is popular with those slightly afraid of the accidents or dangers involved in ski-ing. But like ski-ing it requires a certain skill and training. Consequently one never grows tired of it. Certain skilled amateurs can even manage to negotiate a slalom course very well with it. Finally, a last advantage — and one to which nobody will object — the Ski-Boat can be purchased for a very modest price. [S.N.T.O.]

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The Year of the Alps

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