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NEWS IN BRIEF

Zurich's most modern parking garage recently opened on Färberstrasse. Its name "Parkhaus Utoquai", indicates its proximity to the Utoquai which runs along the shore of Zurich Lake. The complex includes a large service station and an automatic car-wash installation. The 200 parking places, created by private initiative, will help alleviate the city's shortage of parking place.

"Holiday Courses and Camps in Switzerland 1966" is the latest edition of a brochure published annually by the Swiss National Tourist Office. It contains full details on holiday courses and camps run by Swiss universities and schools, both public and private. It may be obtained free of charge from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 8023 Zurich, Switzerland.

A Gold Medal was recently awarded to A. P. Bolli, owner of the Hotel La Palma au Lac in Locarno, for "excellence in hotel and restaurant management", by the American magazine "Travel Report". It was the first such award to be granted by the publication. The medal was presented to the often-decorated Swiss hotelier by Dr. Eric Mann, editor of the annual world travel yearbooks published by "Travel Report" and prominent "Master of Travel", whose evening lectures have enjoyed widespread popularity in the U.S.A. for many years.

The "Alpine March" composed by the Bernese music teacher Hans Honegger and commissioned by the Swiss National Tourist Office on the occasion of the "Year of the Alps 1965" had already been recorded. Now it has also been published as a band score by Hans Roschi, Lenzburg.

A "Map of the World's Religions and Missions" recently went into its fourth edition at Kümmerly & Frey Geographic Publishers, Berne. The useful work, printed to a scale of 1 : 23 million, uses the latest religious statistics (1961-64) and also gives information on the work of various Christian missions.

The first ski lift in Valbella, Grisons, built in 1951, marked the beginning of the opening up of the Stätzerhorn (8,500 ft.). Just ten years later a second lift went into operation between the Stätz Alp and a lesser peak of the Stätzerhorn. This system has now been supplemented by two additional facilities, one running from Sartons to the Stätz Alp and the other going on to the Stätzertäli. This brings the total of downhill runs on the Stätzerhorn to six, with the skiers having the choice from the Stätz Alp of going back up to the summit or continuing down to Valbella, Parpan or Churwalden.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Romain Rolland, the Musée d'Histoire in La Chaux-de-Fonds organised a memorial exhibition from 29th January to 5th March, featuring hitherto unpublished letters and documents pertaining to this important French writer. A professor of music history at the Sorbonne in Paris, as well as an influential essayist, Rolland wrote one of his most important political essays in Geneva and Villeneuve on Lac Léman: "Au dessus de la mêlée" ("Above the Battle"), dealing with Franco-German relations at the time of World War I. — In addition to the special exhibition, the newly-arranged rooms on the ground floor of the La Chaux-de-Fonds Historical Museum contain weapons

and memorabilia pertaining in the history of Canton Neuchâtel.

The bypass road in Chur, which constitutes part of National Highway 3, was recently opened to traffic. Thus the final gap has been closed in the highway segment Reichenau-Maienfeld-Canton Grisons-St. Gallen. The Coire bypass is the first bypass road circumventing a Swiss cantonal capital within the framework of the National Highway network.

Dada, *The Navel of the World*, was recently commemorated with the affixing of a memorial tablet by Jean Arp to a restaurant in Zurich's picturesque Old Quarter. It was there that "Dada-ism" was born fifty years ago, a movement founded by artists living in Switzerland in exile from their warring homelands and designed to emphasize the senselessness of war and of existence in general. From the former "Cabaret Voltaire" and Zurich's literary cafés "Odeon" and "Terrasse", Dada went on to conquer the world, and has recently enjoyed something of a revival in the form of Pop Art and "happenings".

The world's most precise balloon pilot is the title awarded recently to Colonel Ernst Krauer of Rapperswil (St. Gall.) He received a prize donated by the Schilthorn Railway (Bernese Oberland) on the occasion of a world championship precision contest for balloon pilots held in conjunction with the International High-Alpine Ballooning Week 1965, at Mürren. This event has already become something of a tradition, and last year attracted thirty free-flight balloons from eight countries. This year the fifth version of the competition will take place from 14th to 27th August at the feet of the Schilthorn, deep in the Swiss Alps. [S.N.T.O.]

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