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GATHERED AT RANDOM

The Ticinese sculptor Remo Rossi has been commissioned by the Federal Council to create a bronze statue as a gift for the Pope on the occasion of his visit to Geneva for the Golden Jubilee of the International Labour Office.

* * *

The first fully automated warehouse in Europe is at Monthey, and it was put up by CIBA. It is capable of handling 20,000 lots of 4,000 different items. From an article by courtesy of "Weekly Tribune" in Geneva, we learn that the warehouse represents the culmination of nine years of research, planning and construction.

* * *

The "Schweizer Spiegel" is organising a competition for modern tales by Swiss at home and abroad, for which two prizes of 2,000 and 800 francs are offered. Stories which are not awarded prizes will be bought. Contributions have to be sent in with a motto by 15th November.

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When the Swiss Federation for the Blind met early in May, the demand for a home for some 100 people to be erected in Zurich was again tabled. Money has been collected over the years, but the authorities are still to put a suitable site at the disposal of the organisation.

* * *

The murderer Karl Angst has been condemned to life imprisonment by the jury in Winterthur.

* * *

During the past few months, Zurich has become the leading gold market. The latest estimates are that three-quarters of the free gold trade in the

Western World was done in Zurich, with a daily turnover of some 10 metric tons. And in gold coin, too, the total turnover was a record, some 20 to 30 million francs worth a month, mostly at international level.

* * *

In October, the Swiss Olympic Committee will have to decide which of the four Swiss candidatures for the Olympic Winter Games in 1976 is to be chosen: Valais, Engadine, Bernese Oberland or Zurich. The latter has caused much discussion, and the Zurich authorities themselves are by no means agreed. Zurich alone would not be able to organise the Games without close co-operation with Schwyz where the wintersports places of Einsiedeln and Hoch-Ybrig would come into their own.

* * *

There was a short strike at the Caslano ball pen factory in the Ticino — quite a rarity in Switzerland. The management agreed to improved conditions and a general agreement, and the 25 workers went back after less than a week.

* * *

It has only just been made known that a young girl of 15, who had her leg practically cut off in an accident in September 1967, was taken to Aarau Cantonal Hospital where surgeons put the leg on again. They mastered all the complications, and the girl is able to walk again. In a few months, she is expected to discard even the stick which she still uses at the moment. According to medical knowledge, this is only the second operation which has ever been successful anywhere.

* * *

The Swiss Hotel College in Lausanne is to be re-organised. Fewer, but longer courses are to be introduced and

finally also one on management, so that every aspect of a hotel keeper's training will be covered.

* * *

On 9th May, a girl from Vevey in Vaudois costume left for the Ivory Coast in Africa with a message from the Vevey authorities, some special presentation wine and 30,000 freshly gathered narcissi.

* * *

The chemical works of Sandoz in Basle have begun with the construction of a centre at Witterswil (Solothurn) where agrobiological research is to be carried out.

* * *

The Society "Amis de Versailles" met at Payerne in Vaud and decided to form a "Foundation for the History of the Swiss Abroad". Its aim is to study their activities and to create collections, libraries, archives, arrange lectures, exhibitions and travel.

(A.T.S.)

TENTH "DIDACTA"

Basle 1970

Held in conjunction with the European Educational Materials Fair, which will take place in Basle next year from 28th May to 1st June 1970, at the Swiss Industries Fair, a number of special shows will attract the visitor's attention. It is planned, for instance, to show a schoolroom from the past, viz. from the time of Heinrich Pestalozzi, alongside a schoolroom of the future. Another focus of attention will be the next book in a display of books of past decades and of most recent times. Another exhibition will feature advances in programmed teaching. School television will be the subject of another instructive display.

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