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HELVETIC VARIETY

The foundation stone for the Swiss Pavilion at the 1970 World Exhibition in Osaka, was laid at the end of January.

Various Swiss towns and regions have considered an application to hold the next Winter Olympics: Bernese Oberland, Davos, St. Moritz, Sion and Zurich.

The next Swiss National Exhibition may be held in Basle or possibly Lucerne; there is no definite decision yet.

Switzerland will take part in the international hotel and catering exhibition in Tel Aviv in October.

The so-called "Witchcraft Trial" in Zurich has created quite a stir. Six people are accused, including a former German priest, of causing the death of a young girl, Bernadette Hasler, by beating her "to exorcise the devil" in the house belonging to a religious sect.

A Zurich Court condemned the international crook and forger Paul Hoffmann to seven years imprisonment. Another international crook, long-wanted by the police in many countries, Gerhard Coeppicus, alias Mendoza, was successfully apprehended by the Zurich police. The German spy Peter Neumann had already been tried and found guilty in the autumn (in Chur). The fight against drug peddling goes on also in Switzerland, and a ring was discovered at Montreux, resulting in the arrest of forty people.

On 29th January last year, Switzerland's first atomic supply was put out at Lucens. Almost a year later, on 21st January, a defect caused an escape of a small amount of radio-active matter. There was no escape of heavy water, however. Nobody was hurt.

In October, Professor Hans Oeschger, Head of the Physics Institute at Berne University went to the Antarctic, accompanied by two of his assistants and two American scientists. At Byrd Station, where a team of American scientists and research workers has pierced the polar cap to a depth of 6,500 feet, the probe invented and made by the Physics Laboratory at the University of Berne, will enable the age of the ice to be dated by the radio-active carbon method.

The Geneva authorities did not give permission for the travelling exhibition on Hong-Kong to be shown, because of its commercial character.

A Swiss Society for Crystallography was founded in Berne. The "Radio-Orchestra Battle" went on for several months, and finally it was decided that the Swiss Broadcasting Orchestra should be transferred from Zurich to Basle.

The good news received just before Christmas came from Algiers, viz. the release of the four Swiss political prisoners.

The Swiss film camera "Bolex 155 Macrozoom" was awarded one of the distinctions awarded by the American Industrial Research Society to the 100 best new products. The choice is made by 30 scientists including five Nobel Prize winners.

The following prizes have been awarded recently: Robert Bing (medicine) to Prof. P. Huber, Berne, Dr. J. Lapresle, Paris, and Prof. M. Yasargil, Basle. Marcel Benoist Prize (scientific research) to the working party of Professors K. Muehlethaler and H. Moor, ETH. The Basle Science Prize to Geneva chemist Prof. F. H. Duckert. Hans-Georg Naegeli Medal to Prof. W. Reich and the Zurich Art Prize to Max Bill. Gonzague de Reynold was awarded the Gold Medal of the Académie Française.

The Basle Art Gallery's newest exhibit is a 5.5-ton iron figure "Autour du Vide" by the Spaniard Chillida. The enormous cubistic form caused great difficulties to the engineers.

The well-known Ticinese tropical medicine expert Dr. G. Maggi is building a new hospital in a swampy region in North Cameroon. He has been working in that country for twenty years and has created several hospitals.

The grave of the humanist Ulrich von Hutten has been discovered on the Isle of Ufenau, Lake Zurich.

Two Vaudois yachtsmen crossed the Atlantic single-handed, one in November, the other a month later.

Sophia Loren, famous film actress, gave birth to a son in Geneva, early in January. She and her husband, producer Carlo Ponti, presented the town of Geneva with a clinic in honour of the long-awaited arrival.

The famous pearl "Peregrina" which was supposed to have been sold in U.S.A., is still in the vaults of a Lausanne bank. It is in the possession of the former Spanish Queen. It was inspected and examined by a Geneva specialist who confirmed the fact. The pearl is worth some 40,000 dollars.

A "destitute" American woman who died early in January in Delmont, Pennsylvania, left five million francs to twenty Swiss schools — a surprise not only for the schools in question, but above all for Miss Ann Kepple's neighbours and the Delmont authorities!

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of A.T.S., "Weekly Tribune and "Pro Helvetia".)

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Robert Spreng (78), Basle, master photographer and art collector.

Cornel Dober, Kuessnacht, Swiss missionary murdered near Driefontein in Rhodesia.

Dr. med.vet. Ernest Rohrbasser (57), Fribourg, Cantonal Veterinary Officer and President of the Swiss Veterinary Surgeons' Society.

Jacques de Saussure, O.B.E. (77), Morges (Castle of Vufflens), former Chief of the Section for Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department; he was awarded the O.B.E. for his services in aid of P.o.W. and civilian prisoners; he gave a valuable collection of historic documents to the Cantonal Library of Vaud.

Walter Daniel Oertli (66), Zurich, wanted by the police for fraud and forgery, who had escaped to Marseilles; his son, also involved, gave himself up to the Zurich Police.

Erwin Wallimann (64), Sarnen, former Obwalden *Staatsbuchhalter*.

Bernhard Zimmermann (75), Lucerne, former Manager of the Pilatus Railways and pioneer in Central Switzerland tourism.

Karl Nell (72), Basle, well-known *restaurateur* of the "Kronenhalle" in Basle.

Jakob Jent (89), Riehen (BS), former banker and well-known for social welfare and Church activities.

Willi Baumgartner (57), Berne, Chief of the Section *Betriebswirtschaft* and Organisation in the PTT General Management; Lt.-Col. of Air Defence.

Otto Raas (70), Aarau, Municipal Councillor and pioneer in commercial training.

[A.T.S.]