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# 52nd Swiss National Fair - "COMPTOIR SUISSE"

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## CLASSICAL THEATRE IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND AND THE BERNESE OBERLAND

This summer, visitors to the Bernese Oberland will be able to see an open-air "William Tell" while holiday-makers in Altdorf in Central Switzerland will have the opportunity of experiencing the powerful dialogue of Schiller's drama of independence in the Tell theatre. In both locations large theatre groups are working devotedly to provide long runs of worthy performances. In Altdorf, capital of the canton of Uri, the tradition of the William Tell play reaches back deep into the past. Originally, performances were staged in a simple wooden building on the outskirts of the town but, since the mid-1920's, Altdorf has had its own permanent drama centre which is very much like a theatre in a medium-sized city. The auditorium, with its excellent viewing facilities and first-class acoustics, has a really festival-like atmosphere. The stage can cope with major changes of scenery and this year the last two horses in Uri have been pressed into service so that Governor Gessler and his companion won't have to wander on foot through the Hohle Gasse (incidentally, the 1970 yearbook of the Federal Bureau of Statistics records for the canton of Uri, according to the 1966 census: 1 donkey, 14,006 cattle, 5,070 pigs, 8,169 sheep, 1,506 goats, 10,436 head of poultry and 988 colonies of bees). Schiller's verse drama achieves a superb effect in the enclosed auditorium and the proximity of the historic locations is a source of inspiration for the audience. In Altdorf there will be performances every Saturday and Sunday during August, and September will also see a further nine performances. Interlaken's large-scale production (in the Rügen Park, with covered grandstand for 2,000 visitors) will be giving eight performances in August and a further two in September. Here even visitors who are not German-speaking can witness an impressive stage drama, with the curtain going up in the evening twilight.

## SNTO NEWS

### SUPERB MUSIC FESTIVALS ON THE LAKE OF LUCERNE

Anyone on holiday in Lucerne between 14th August and 7th September will be able to attend a concert or theatre performance on every of these 24 days. As part of the series of major symphony concerts, the Swiss Festival Orchestra will appear on four occasions, the Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra will give two concerts, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra will perform twice under the baton of its conductor Maestro Herbert von Karajan, and in September there will be three concerts by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra under various conductors. Other ensembles include Zurich's Collegium Musicum (Paul Sacher) who will provide the well-loved Serenades at the Lion Memorial, The Lucerne Festival Strings in an evening of "Perspectives" which will include a first performance, the Swiss-Italian Orchestra in a concert featuring young artists, The Menestrels who will present Musica Antiqua and finally the chamber orchestra Pro Musica from Lodz which will give a joint concert with the Lucerne Festival Strings on the final evening of the festival.

### THE "FREIBERGE" —A WALKER'S PARADISE

The plateau of the Freiberge, with its majestic fir trees, pastures and meadows could be likened to a beautiful national park. Here and there, surrounded by Nordic flora, a silvery pool lies hidden. The walker will cer-

tainly appreciate the unique charm of the Freiberge where he can wander wherever his fancy leads him. This delightful region can be reached by the Jura railway from La Chaux-de-Fonds, Tavannes or Glovelier. The specially reduced "rover" ticket (Wanderbillett) is ideal for excursions combined with walking tours. It is valid throughout the entire Jura railway network including its coach routes and also for coach services between Tramelan, Saignelégier and Coumois. The "rover" ticket is available all through the year.

### EASTERN SWITZERLAND'S FIRST GEOLOGICAL WALKING TOUR

The unique mountain route in "Appenzellerland" running from the Hoher Kasten via the Staubern to Saxonerlücke, an easy mountain walk for everyone, is probably the most rewarding walking tour in the Alpstein region. Reached by the cable railway to the Hoher Kasten, it takes the walker through the mountain communities on the slopes of the Hoher Kasten, Staubern and Bollenwies and offers, during a walk lasting three to four hours, without any steep climbing, a veritable wealth of geological phenomena which encourages the setting-up of a course in geology with an introduction to the mysteries of that science. The mountain walker-cum-motorist who takes the cable railway in Brülisau can comfortably get back to his car after a walk of some six hours via Sämtisersee and Platte.

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