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jail sentence instead, luckily suspended for five years.

A father of three children, the man had felt the need for more money in order to move to a better house. He had paid 3,150 francs for his house but had insured it for 50,000. The idea had come from a television programme. Having sent his wife and children to his native Italy, he set a peculiar fire-raising time device in action. It consisted of a kitchen clock mechanism, linked by a cog wheel to a hair dryer placed in a heap of wood shavings, the whole contrivance being connected to the electric mains. The device was timed to be actuated in the afternoon.

Hardly had the fire broken out and the first clouds of smoke seeped through the windows of the shabby building than the neighbours were on the spot. They smashed the front door and stamped the fire out. The fire brigade finished off the job.

Thanks to a good lawyer, the man got away with a suspended sentence.

He refuses to pay military tax

A pop singer was sentenced in Fribourg to five days imprisonment for refusing to pay military tax. Gaby Marchand had been previously sentenced a first time for the same offence, but his determination had earned him a suspended sentence. The singer didn't have to absolve military duties, but has to accomplish a few days of civil service duties every year. His attitude was motivated by "solidarity with conscientious objectors". It turned out, however, that he had never heard of the Munchenstein Initiative, which aims at giving conscientious objectors the opportunity to serve in non-military units.

Alleged Italian terrorists arrested in the Tessin

Four Italian left-wing extremists were arrested in the village of Golino, Tessin, in connection with the enquiry into the murders of the millionaire and Marxist editor, Giangiacomo Feltrinelli and the subsequent assassination of the Milan Police Inspector Luigi Calabresi. One of the men detained was Enrico Castelani, believed to have been with Feltrinelli shortly before his death. Castelani had also been wanted for his alleged participation in bomb assaults against the Pirelli company last year. The four men lived in a fortified 200-year-old customs house.

SWISS CATHEDRALS

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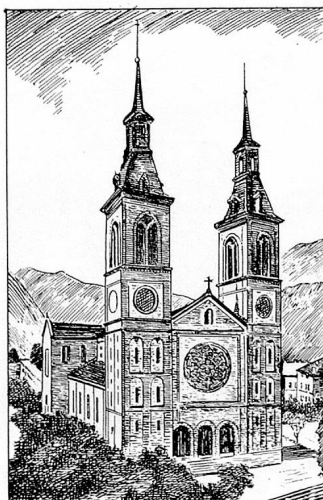
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GLARIS: THE BASILICA

Legend has it that the Irish monk and missionary Fridolin who, after labouring at home and in France at Poitiers, founded a church at Säkingen on the Rhine, and known as "the first apostle of Allemannia", did convert the Glaris region in the 6th Century.

The country of Glaris became the suzerainty of the Convent of Säkingen in the 8th or 9th Century. The patron of this convent, Saint-Fridolin, became the patron saint of Glaris where he also propagated Christianity. His frequent travels gave him the name of pilgrim.

His effigy appears in the cantonal coat-of-arms: "Gules, a St. Fridolin pilgrim habited sable, his head within a nimbus or, his dexter hand holding

a bourdon and his sinister a book".

According to tradition, Christianity was introduced to Glaris in the Roman era by the missionaries Saint-Felix and Sainte-Regula from Zurich, who made their escape from the Theban legion's massacre near Saint Maurice, Valais.

Most of Glaris' edifices were utterly destroyed by the disastrous fire of the 10th and 11th May, 1861; among others the old church, mother church of the canton, the 10th or 11th Century tower was spared from previous fires in 1265, 1337 and 1477.

Glaris is not rich in remarkable buildings, the great fire of 1861 having destroyed most historic and interesting buildings of the old Glaris. Yet, worth mentioning is the parish church (Stadtkirche) of imposing dimensions, a Romanesque style basilica with two towers, to serve at a time both Catholic and Protestant worships, the reform that Ulrich Zwingli had in view and did prepare during his priesthood in Glaris from 1506 to 1516. The total absence of painted or sculptured decoration is noticed, a concession to the spirit of Protestantism.

The church possesses a ringing of eight bells and an excellent organ. One can see in the sacristy the ancient chalice used by Zwingli during mass.

Glaris has always proved a keen and strong love of liberty gained at the battle of Näfels in 1388, and has developed a firm spirit of independence and solidarity. Its constitution rests on the principle of pure democracy, exercised by the "Landsgemeinde Parliament" which has, at all times, remained the supreme authority of the country.

Pierre Savoie