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TOURIST NEWS

LUCERNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 1972

The General Programme for the Lucerne International Festival of Music has now been published and advance bookings can be accepted in writing for all performances from 16th August to 7th September, 1972. Only the printed order form may be used for making bookings.

The 11 symphony concerts are to be given by the Swiss Festival Orchestra, the NHK-Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam. The serenades in front of the Lion Monument are again reserved for the Collegium Musicum Zurich, while the "Young Artists" concert (4th symphony concert) will feature the Orchestra della Radio Svizzera Italiana. The series of "Musica nova" items (K. H. Stockhausen: "Mantra") and "Perspectives" (Gruppo di Improvvisazione Nuova Consonanza with Franco Evangelisti) is to be continued.

Other companies to be heard include the Lucerne Festival Choir, the Lucerne Vocal Soloists, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Festival Singers of Canada, the Lucerne Festival Strings and the Janáček Quartet (Prague). The programme will also be supplemented by evenings devoted to instrumental soloists and vocalists. Two piano matinees with promising young artists are to be given in memory of the pianist Clara Haskil who died in 1960.

The play "So eine Liebe" by Paul Kohout is to be performed (in German language) on eight occasions at the Lucerne Municipal Theatre. Under the direction of Michael Hampe, the leading roles will be played by Loni von Friedl, Willy Birgel and Peter Fricke. Also to be seen at the Municipal Theatre is the Hosho No Play Group from Tokyo with a performance of No and Kyogen plays.

The Lucerne Museum of Art is to provide a review of the widely diversified work of Hans Erni at its summer exhibition presented under the title "Contemporaries look at Hans Erni". The Lucerne Conservatoire will again hold Master Courses for piano (Mieczyslaw Horszowski), violin (Wolfgang Schneiderhan), cello and chamber music (Enrico Mainardi), singing (Elisabeth Grümmer) and harpsichord (Ralph Kirkpatrick).

The 10th symphony concert on 5th September, 1972 is to be transmitted by Swiss Television while it is also arranged to make numerous radio broadcasts.

Mountain Climbing and Mountain Rambling

"Those who never saw the mountains, don't know what they've been missing" is a sentence of Sir Arnold Lunn in one of his mountaineering books. Sir Arnold Lunn must have encouraged quite a few young Englishmen to take up mountain climbing not only by his books but also because he was an active Alpinist himself. But one fact must be kept in mind: mountain climbing has to be learnt. One can either follow an experienced mountaineer as pupil or then follow a course in a mountaineering school.

Already more than thirty years ago Arnold Glatthard began holding climbing courses at his mountaineering institute, Rosenlauri, at Meiringen. Thousands of budding alpinists from Switzerland and abroad learnt the art of mountaineering in the "climbing garden" and in the ice at the foot of the Wetterhorn mountain.

Today the thirteen mountaineering schools (Alpenstein, Arolla, Davos, Fiesch, Grindelward, Kandersteg, Klosters, La Fouly, Les Martinets, Meiringen, Pontresina, St. Moritz and Villars) all belong to the "Schweizerischer Verband der Bergsteigerschulen" (Swiss Union of Mountaineering Schools). The training programme was assimilated—if you followed the beginner's course in one school, you could continue in one elsewhere the following year. But daily excursions and mountaineering weeks are also organized in other mountain resorts by fully qualified mountain guides.

These schools and weeks are indicated in the publication of events for the summer of 1972 brought out by the Swiss National Tourist Office. Mountains certainly look superb from

an aeroplane. But one could no doubt add that "everything would be for the better if people went more often to the mountains".

A Benefactor for those seeking Rest

The community of Unterenstringen has just recently elected the bailiff of the convent of Fahr, Father Hilarius Estermann, as leading honorary freeman of the community before the city gates of Zurich. The convent, an enclave of the canton of Aargau within the community boundary of Unterenstringen—belongs to the abbey of Einsiedeln. It is there that forty nuns run a school for women farmers and occupy themselves with embroidery and with the production of all sorts of sweets and mysterious medical potions.

What is of special interest here to the holiday- and recuperation-land is the reason for conferring the freedom of the city on this bailiff, who, by the way, lives in Einsiedeln. Unterenstringen bestowed this honour because the entire cloister territory, making up a third of the community together with the "Franzosenzhanzen" and the ruins of Glanzenberg Castle, will be preserved as a recuperation region. As more and more land becomes divided up, benefactors who have put land at the disposal of the public for recreational purposes also obtained the freedom of the city of the entire country.

Romantic Travel and Folklore of Former Times

Several innovations catering for tourists craving for folklore will be figuring in the summer programme for

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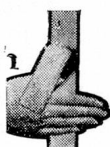
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Zurich which can offer several thousand new hotel beds this year. Apart from the "Showboat"—the floating night club on the Lake of Zurich with its rather mundane clientele—there is now a truly Swiss "amphibian" attraction, the "Au-Fäscht" ship crossing over to the half-island of Au twice weekly, every Wednesday and Friday evening. These evenings are entirely in the "Original Swiss Folklore" style. All the fun begins on board ship and culminates in the highlight of the evening on the dance floor at the country inn of Au to the accompaniment of the famous Swiss entertainer, Edi Baer and his company of yodelers and musicians. Numbers such as alphorn-blowing, jodling and the whirling of the "taler" (or silver coin) all figure on the programme. Everybody can participate. People dance "Ländler" and polkas rather than the jerk and shake.

A travel agency on the Limmatquai came up with a far more romantic idea of daily expeditions by horse-drawn coach to the small fortress town of Regensberg at 15 km from Zurich. Regensberg, lying on a hill to the north-west of Zurich, is a typical example of the magnificent robber-knight era in the Middle Ages. Its chief point of interest is the "Haus zur Roten Rose" (or House of the Red Rose) dating from the 13th century with its precious furnishings and original water colours by the world famous painter of flowers, Lotte Günthard. (The coach however, only runs when there are sufficient participants.)

Nature protection in the Binn and Eifisch Valleys

The Eifisch Valley in the Canton of Valais (in French it is called Val d'Anniviers), although opened up to tourism, is among the most untouched and original scenic spots of Switzerland. Even though the population of the villages of St. Luc, Vissoie, St. Jean, Grimontz, Ayer, Chandolin and Niouc partly works in the valley's industries, it has remained true to itself and still, for instance, cultivates the community's vineyards on a communal basis. The valley's communities jointly with Alp Zinal, which has also been opened up to tourism, have organized a small tourist office.

Already some decades ago talk had started about the community of Grimontz because of the exemplary way in which it had preserved the village's nucleus. All mayors of the valley had met to tackle the problems on their own which are dealt with in an urgent federal resolution. This is true to the spirit of the valley's population. Nearly 80 years ago, during an acute water shortage the same people refused a federal collection in favour of those who had suffered damages

and declared that they would first try to help themselves.

The recreation zones, as a result of the debate, are to be called in French "Zones d'attrait" (zone of attraction). According to a voluntary resolution of the village of Binn, the Binn Valley has put the entire widespread community area under nature and scenery protection.

Petrol prices in Switzerland

The petrol prices in Switzerland vary according to regions. A recent survey showed that the following prices (per litre) were charged: Swiss Lowland 68-72 centimes for standard grade and 72-74 centimes for super grade. Diesel 73-77. The Migrol brand available at approximately 250 distribution points, (mainly in the Swiss lowland) is sold at: Super 69 centimes, Super low in lead content 71 centimes, Diesel 69 centimes. At some cut price pumps standard grade is sold for 65 centimes.

Geneva—Principle Events 1972

23rd-30th July International Sailing Week, 11th-13th August "Fetes de Geneve" (Geneva Festival) 16th-30th September International Competition for Musical Performers, 10th-30th October Exhibition Musee Rath "Montres et Bijoux" (watches and Jewellery), 18th-26th November International Inventors' and Novelties Fair.

Steam Trains in Switzerland

The heavy puffing of a steam locomotive is still giving pleasure to railway enthusiasts. In fact the interest shown in this method of transport seems to have gained in recent years. As a result a number of retired steam locomotives have been renovated and put back into service for special events. Special trips for groups are sometimes arranged. The Swiss National Tourist Office have compiled a list of Railways operating such trips. The publication: "Steam Trains in Switzerland" is supplied free of charge.

Holiday Courses and Holiday Camps in Switzerland

Universities, secondary state schools, quite a number of private institutions and individual people are organising summer holiday courses for further education and above all, for languages during the summer holidays in entire Switzerland. Subjects are manifold in approximately 150 courses for children above 6 years and adults. In the morning, there are two to three hours of lessons (French, German and English are especially in demand);

games, sports and excursions are reserved for the afternoon. There are also cooking and sewing courses for girls; one can also take literature, drawing and art courses or simply go over subjects where one is weak at school. The pamphlet "Holiday Camps in Switzerland—1972" can be obtained free of charge at the Swiss National Tourist Office, Talacker 42, Postfach, 8023 Zurich.

NEW AIR LINK BETWEEN LONDON AND BERNE

DAN-AIR, the second largest commercial airline in Britain, will take the Berne-London (Gatwick) route into its flight network from 5th June, 1972—and give the federal capital a regular air connection with the British capital once more. Four flights a week are envisaged: every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Later this is to become a daily flight (Schedule: see below).

London Gatwick dep. 1.00 p.m.
Berne arr. 3.20 p.m.

Berne dep. 4.15 p.m.

London Gatwick arr. 6.45 p.m.

A regular bus service links the Belpmoos airport with the city centre of Berne. The Air Terminal is in the new business complex of City West, where the traveller will find easy access to the public bus service and the federal railways. The air fares conform to IATA scales, and thanks to the Interline agreement between SWISSAIR and DAN-AIR, tickets for one airline can be transferred to the other. A modern two-engine turbo-prop aircraft, a Hawker-Siddeley 748, holding 48 passengers, will be used for the Berne-London route. The resumption of regular air traffic between the two capitals gives Berne a further important link with the international air routes, supplementing the coachline to Zurich-Kloten, which runs several times each day.

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