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A Look at Us

As part of the "Nations of the World Series", Ernest Benn and Charles Knight, of Tonbridge, Kent, have recently published a new book "Switzerland" by Christopher Hughes, Professor of Politics at Leicester University.

Good News!

Fares on Swiss railways, postal coach and lake services will remain unaltered this summer with the exception of some party rates.

Fly me

Dan-Air has introduced a daily return service between Gatwick and Berne. Currently, three flights a week by Hawker Siddeley 748 turboprops are operated.

Dig In

An unusual church was inaugurated recently at Raron (Valais). The church, seating 460 people, is 20 metres inside the mountain rock reached by a tunnel. The construction costs of 1½ million francs are considerably less than a conventional church of the same size.

Ecology Studies

The Bureau for Vacation studies in ecology, 10 Croham Mount, South Croydon, CR2 0BR, is organising a package holiday lasting one week between 17th and 24th July, 1975, to Lutzelfluh, Emmental. The Emmental lends itself to a variety of studies on: distribution of land, farming practice, local crafts, sources and use of energy. The price of £91 per person includes day flights by Dan-Air between Gatwick and Berne, airport taxes, transfer between Berne Airport and Lutzelfluh, seven nights with full-board and rail ticket from home to Gatwick and return.

The Swiss are Skating More

The recent growth of mechanically frozen ice rinks in Switzerland is stressed by Howard Bass in his latest book, "Let's Go Skating", published by Stanley Paul Ltd., at £2.95.

In the book the lure of the ice is captured with infectious enthusiasm as Bass draws the reader into the fascinating rink atmosphere. He provides a first-hand insight concerning the sport's technique, history and current activities. There is instruction for participants at all levels!

Auto Delight

At the end of 1974 the new motorway section Winterthur-Zürich was opened. Motorists can now travel from St. Gall to the outskirts of Zürich entirely on motorways.

Swiss Hosts

On Tuesday, 1st July, 1975, Engelberg, Central Switzerland, will be the host to TV's "It's a Knock-Out". Look out for it on BBC 1.

Luxury Redesigned

The five-star Hotel Carlton at St. Moritz has been renovated. Built in 1913 as the second residence for the Russian Tsar, it was bought some years ago from the Greek shipbuilder, Niarchos, by its present owner, Norbert Cymbalista. Each room now has its own bathroom; there

are conference rooms and lounges, a sauna, massage and keep-fit rooms, solarium, children's playroom and new restaurants.

Will Willy Tell be there?

Coinciding with the World Archery Championships being held from 25th to 28th June, five- or eight-day all-inclusive holidays to Interlaken are being organised by Swiss Travel Service, Ware, Herts., in conjunction with Swissair. Departure dates: 22nd and 25th June, 1975, respectively. Prices from London are £83 per person.

TOURIST NEWS

RIDING THE SWISS CYCLE WAVE

A slow but really relaxing way of discovering Switzerland is to do it by bicycle, a way of getting about that is steadily winning new devotees. To help as many people as possible to enjoy this healthy leisure-time pleasure, the Touring Club of Switzerland (TCS) opened its first cycle centre in 1973 at Yens in the wine-growing region high above the Lake of Geneva. Later, others were opened at *Kallnach*, half-an-hour away from Berne by car, where cyclists will encounter no very steep gradients anywhere along the 340-mile network of marked cycle routes; at *Saignelégier*, with 16 round trips through the Jura region; at *Rebstein*, in the Rhine Valley district of St. Gallen, which offers 12 round trips through vineyards and little villages and, lastly, at *Oberägeri*, set in a charming lakeside landscape amid the lower alps of Central Switzerland. The cycle centres hire out bicycles and provide brochures which give details of all the cycle excursions that can be made in the surrounding countryside. Visitors who fancy a longer cycle tour can join the five-day trip around the Lake of Geneva organised by Welcome Swiss Tours of Lausanne. The party is led by a guide, with a mechanic bringing up the rear. Total cost, including hire of cycle, is Frs.478.

1975: CENTENARIES FOR THREE SWISS RAILWAYS

No fewer than three railways celebrate their centenaries in Switzerland this summer. Kicking off the celebrations on 4th June will be the Arth-Rigi Railway which in a mere 35 minutes takes tourists from Arth-Goldau (on the Gotthard Line) up to the Rigi-Kulm, famous for its magnificent views. Plans include an official celebration at Arth and on Rigi-Kulm and a "Rigi evening" of popular entertainment (27th June), a Rigi wrestling contest (6th July) and a folklore Rigi Day featuring the colourful custom of taking the cattle up to the high

pastures (15th July). Next, on 27th June, come the Appenzell Railway celebrations with folklore evenings at Herisau and Appenzell and a festival tent at Urnäsch. The last centenary celebrations, those of the Rorschach-Heiden Mountain Railway, will be held at the Kursaal in Heiden on 6th September.

WHAT'S NEW FOR SUMMER VISITORS IN THE SWISS RESORTS

Once again, a number of innovations will greet summer visitors to Switzerland this year. For instance, a completely automatic cable-car service, Geils-Hahnenmoos, has been opened at Adelsboden. Also new are a large-cabin cableway from Mörel up to the Riederalp and chairlifts from Feldis to Motta and from Leontica in the Blenio Valley up to the Passo di Nara (2nd section). The new aerial cableway up the Stanserhorn (replacing the second and third sections of the Stanserhorn Railway) is also due to start operating at Whitsun. There are new hotels at Flims, Frutigen (sport and recreation centre), Geneva, Heiden (Spa hotel), Lugano, Meiringen, Pontresina, Promontogno, Saas Fee, Schaan (Lichtenstein) and Zurich. Elm is getting a new tourist camp on Alp Empächli, Fiesch and a family and youth hostel on Kühboden. The new congress centre in Lugano has already opened, while the opening of the new casino (with swimming pool) in Montreux is planned for the end of April.

Walking is steadily gaining in popularity and a large number of resorts, such as Caslano, Chexbres, Elm, Frutigen, Laax, Locarno, Mendrisio, Saas Fee, Sembrancher, Sils and Tenero have extended existing footpaths or provided new ones. Tennis players have been thought of too; new tennis courts are available at Agno, the Bettmeralp, Chexbres, Grindelwald, Laax, Origgio and Saas Fee. Lenk has enlarged its tennis coaching facilities, while at Bad Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera the gymnastics hall

can also be used for tennis and in Vevey the game can now be played in the inflatable hall. Biel recently became the latest place to have a sailing school. "Keep fit – stay healthy" is a motto that has lost none of its importance, as several innovations show. Thus, Ascona reports that it has a new sports centre with indoor swimming pool, sauna and keep-fit room, and Chur offers two new facilities for those who want to get rid of unwanted pounds: the new Fitness Club with swimming pool in the Hotel Duc de Rohan and the "Obere Au" sports centre with indoor and open-air pools, sauna, keep fit room and riding hall. Public indoor swimming baths have also been opened at Bourg-St-Pierre and Bad Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera and heated open-air pools at Gommiswald, Lenk and Mendrisio, while Savognin has now filled its indoor pool with sea water.

For its small visitors, Adelboden provides a new children's play area and for adults a spa fountain for the mineral and medicinal spring waters; a novelty at Ardez is the practice course for rock climbers. Among new hobby holidays are farm holidays at Payerne, batik and book design at Wildhaus, film and television courses for children and adults at Lenk, sketching at Ascona, flag swinging at Brunnen and courses in Swiss cooking at Engelberg.

SKI TOURING – OFFPISTE SKI-ING

In addition to ordinary piste ski-ing

and other winter sports, the Ski Club of Great Britain in conjunction with the Combined Services Winter Sports Association run a highly popular scheme in St. Mortiz and Pontresina whereby Members are organised into parties in charge of a qualified mountain guide and tour leader for offpiste ski-ing and ski-touring. The four week season has now ended and although we were hampered occasionally by bad light, snow conditions were truly excellent and our parties explored many new offpiste runs. On one memorable occasion in the Corvatsch woods some members had the interesting experience of being chased by an enraged Capercaillie (Auerhahn) when they invaded what was obviously the bird's private territory.

Because conditions were not absolutely safe our touring was somewhat limited but we climbed Munt Buffalora and Piz Forcellina and enjoyed excellent powder snow ski-ing on the north facing slopes down to the Bever valley from Fuorcla Saluver and Fuorcla Palüd Marscha.

The Engadiner provides a fabulous area for langlaufing, day-touring and offpiste ski-ing which opens up a whole new world for the skier, not only for the young but also for the middle-aged and even for the elderly.

Although the pistes are being extended every year, even this cannot cope sometimes with the increasing number of skiers who want to enjoy the mountain air and sunshine. Because of the crowds, more and more people are

taking to langlauf, offpiste ski-ing and ski-touring. The peace and solitude of the vast and beautiful untracked slopes of the Engadine once experienced is quite unforgettable. You should try it sometime!

EMMENTAL – NEW ALL-INCLUSIVE ECOLOGY HOLIDAYS

The Bureau for Vacation studies in ecology, 10 Croham Mount, South Croydon, CR2 0BR, will be organising a package holiday lasting one week between 17th and 24th July, 1975, to Lutzelfluh, Emmental. The Emmental lends itself to a variety of studies on: distribution of land, farming practice, local crafts, sources and use of energy. The prices of £91 per person includes day flights by Dan-Air between Gatwick and Berne, airport taxes, transfer between Berne Airport and Lutzelfluh, seven nights with full-board and rail ticket from home to Gatwick and return.

NEW WEEKLY TICKET ON POSTAL COACHES IN THE UPPER VALAIS

As from December 1st, 1974, a new all-inclusive travel ticket will be available at postal bus station counters in the Upper Valais. This personal ticket allows unlimited travel on all postal coach routes from Brigue, Visp, Stalden, St. Niklaus and the Saas Valley and is valid for seven successive days. An adult's ticket costs 30 francs and children, owners of half tax or holiday tickets pay 15 francs.

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BERNESE OBERLAND – SWISS-STYLE CUISINE HOLIDAYS

Dan-Air Services Ltd. in conjunction with Victory Tours and Travel of Shaftesbury, Dorset, announce a unique programme of 4-day breaks in Switzerland. These breaks are to introduce Swiss-style cuisine and are centred on Lauterbrunnen in the heart of the Jungfrau region of Switzerland.

Departures are Friday returning Monday same weekend from 10th January to 13th June, 1975, and are centred on either the Hotel Kreuz or Jungfrau. The object of these tours is to combine a holiday break together with valuable tuition on Swiss-style cuisine. The instruction course of three lessons is held each evening, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and forms the main evening meal which is served with wine. This gives excellent opportunities for sightseeing throughout the Bernese Oberland during the daytime. During the course some 12 Swiss dishes will be prepared under the guidance of Heinz Zwahlen, the proprietor. The course is designed to give participants an insight into Swiss-style cuisine for use in their own home. All the ingredients are available in the United Kingdom.

The Bernese Oberland offers a wide spectrum of activities with its cable cars, mountain railways, lakes, ski-ing, walking etc., and Lauterbrunnen is the ideal centre to appreciate the beautiful Swiss scenery and mountain peaks.

Air Travel is by Dan-Air scheduled service from London (Gatwick) to Berne and the inclusive costs is £49.50 with a supplement of £3.25 for departures after 21st March, 1975.

A brochure giving full details is available from Victory Tours and Travel, 54 High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

LUCERNE DURING HOLY YEAR 1975

Lucerne is preparing to welcome pilgrims en route to or returning from Rome: the 70 or so hotels of all categories in the city can offer sufficient accommodation with some 5,500 beds, which will be fully available from mid-April to the end of October and in more limited numbers, though still adequate, before and after these times. The Lucerne Hoteliers Association (office: Pilatusstrasse 14, 6002 Lucerne) and the Lucerne Official Tourist Department (office: Pilatusstr. 14, 6002 Lucerne) will gladly prepare quotations for any arrangement desired. Religious observances can be fulfilled at the numerous Catholic churches in the city. Excursions can be made using the efficient regional transport facilities, while all shopping needs can be satisfied in Lucerne and the traditional hospitality offered at Lucerne hotels is proverbial throughout the world. Pilgrims will be welcomed at the city theatres (opera, operetta, drama, ballet, musical), concerts, cinemas, Kursaal and museums (Swiss Transport Museum with Longines

Planetarium and Cosmorama). And the most important feature: hotel charges in Lucerne have hardly been increased since 1971.

NEWS FROM THE GÜTSCH FUNICULAR RAILWAY IN LUCERNE

Operation of the Gütsch funicular was interrupted for a time in 1973 as a result of a landslide following a storm. During the reconstruction work on the hillside the technical installations were made to conform to the latest regulations of the Federal Transport Department. The two carriages of the Gütsch railway are now being fitted with new, robust superstructures, while the underframes are being given a thorough overhaul. All interruptions in operation – a single carriage will be temporarily used – will be overcome with a bus service. The attractive and popular funicular will again be fully operational not later than Whitsun 1975 in time to commemorate its 90th anniversary.

WORLD ACCORDION FESTIVAL IN LUCERNE

The Fourth World Accordion Festival will be held in Lucerne from 20th to 22nd June, 1975. It will be the largest event of its kind ever staged anywhere in the world. Yet Lucerne will not only be the meeting place for performers, lovers of accordion music and guests from most countries of Europe will also make Lucerne their rendezvous. This highly-diversified music festival is becoming a concert nations, the language and sound of which is understood the world over.

INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE MEETING IN LUCERNE

A preliminary announcement may already be made about the first international folklore festival to be held next year in Lucerne. It will take place from 10th to 13th September, 1976, in conjunction with celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Swiss National Costume Association.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS TRANSPORT MUSEUM, LUCERNE

The Swiss Transport Museum looks back on a year of successful activity. No less than 557,860 persons visited the Museum in 1974, a 10 per cent increase over the preceding year. Special exhibits – effectively supplementing the permanent collections – served to make visitors familiar with topical subjects. Among the most successful displays ranked "Railcars of the Swiss Railways",

"60 Years Swiss Air Force", "Soviet Spacecraft" and "The Swiss Transport Museum in Flowers". The completely re-styled museum sections "Navigation" and "Postal Services" proved great attractions.

In 1975, too, the Swiss Transport Museum offers its visitors a full programme of activities. A new "Tourism" section is to be opened in May. In addition, the Museum will display the following special exhibits:

June–September: Energy. July: Centenary of the Arth-Rigi Railway. 15th July–31st August: Switzerland from the Air. 1st–17th August: Towards the Future by Train. August–September: Famous Rolls-Royce Automobiles. 6th October–3rd November: Leonardo da Vinci.

BERNE'S GEWERBEMUSEUM: WORKERS ON THE MOVE

The Gewerbemuseum at the Kornhaus, Berne, is staging an exhibition from 19th April to 17th May called "175 Years of Swiss and Bernese Workers on the Move". The exhibition includes numerous documents, posters, pictures and graphs and gives the visitor an objective picture of the movement of workers from 1800 to the present day. It shows that this development has become a significant part of the historical picture of our modern constitutional state and has also resulted in an exceptional wealth of literature. To help the visitor understand the full significance of the exhibition a printed guide is also available. Entrance is free and the exhibition is open Monday to Friday 10.00–12.00 and 14.00–18.00, Saturday 10.00–12.00 and 14.00–17.00, and Sundays 10.00–12.00. On Thursday evenings the exhibition is also open 19.30–21.00. Upon request guided tours of the exhibition can be arranged (contact the Gewerbemuseum, Berne, telephone 031/22 31 61).

BERNA 75 – BERNE'S FOURTH INTERNATIONAL COIN FAIR

Berne's fourth International Coin Fair, BERNA 75, will be staged at the Casino, on 27th April. Organised by the Berne Numismatic Club, the event has attracted some 100 dealers from Switzerland and throughout Europe. In addition to coins and medals, old and new, from many different countries, publications and accessories such as albums and magnifying glasses will also be on sale. Collectors and other visitors to BERNA 75 will have the opportunity not only to buy, but also to sell and exchange as well. Entrance costs S.Frs.5, which includes a catalogue packed with interesting news for numismatists. BERNA 75 will be open from 9.00 to 18.00.