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SWISS COUNTRY HOLIDAYS

Many families with children as well as other people – young and elderly alike – dream of getting back to nature by spending their holidays in a real country village. A newly-published brochure "Holidays in the country", shows where this dream can come true in French-speaking Western Switzerland and the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino. It lists about 50 holiday apartments in which visitors can prepare their own meals (buying fresh food supplies from local farmers), as well as the addresses of private rooms in farmhouses, with breakfast, full board or half board. The brochure also describes local sports facilities. It is obtainable from the Service romand de vulgarisation agricole, Pavement 81, CH-1018 Lausanne.

GENEVA'S MUSEE RATH 150 YEARS OLD

Opened in 1826 in the Place Neuve, Geneva's Musée Rath is the oldest art museum in Switzerland. Its rich and varied list of events began 150 years ago with an exhibition in which mainly Geneva artists took part. Various donations led to the Museum forming its own collection which was later transferred to the Musée d'art et d'histoire. The Musée Rath itself is now used for a full programme of temporary exhibitions.

SWISS HOTELS WITH SWIMMING POOLS

The Swiss National Tourist Office has published a new edition of its brochure listing hotels which have their own swimming pools. It shows that 83 Swiss resorts and towns have no fewer than 380 hotel swimming pools between them. The list gives details of the type of pool (indoor or open-air), size, water temperature, opening times, saunas, massage and keep-fit facilities and whether use is restricted to hotel guests.

ELM: A GLARUS VILLAGE TURNS TO TOURISM

Elm, the highest village in Canton Glarus and situated right at the end of the Sernf Valley, is now known for other reasons besides its famous mineral water spring. Since the sports transportation facilities began operating in 1972, Elm has become increasingly popular as a tourist resort. A chairlift goes up to the Empächli (4,855 feet) from where a lift takes skiers up to the Schabel (6,680 feet). This winter a new ski lift was opened on the Bischofsalp. Other attractions are nearly 19 miles of mechanically prepared ski runs, over six miles of cross-country skiing trails, a sledge run and cleared footpaths. Ringed by mountains, Elm lies in an ideal summer walking region. There are seven pass walking routes and the romantic Suvorov path from Schwanden to Alp Wichlen via Elm has recently been improved. The number of beds available will be increased with the completion of

the apartment hotel "Sardona" for this year's summer season. It has 150 rooms, indoor swimming pool, sauna and conference rooms.

SWITZERLAND – HOLIDAYS AND LANGUAGE COURSES

The Swiss National Tourist Office has published its new booklet "Switzerland – Holidays and Language Courses" valid for 1977. It contains a wealth of information about holiday courses with intensive language tuition at the Universities of Geneva and Neuchâtel and at State schools at La Neuveville, Neuchâtel, Chur and Winterthur. It also covers introductory courses in Romansch, Switzerland's fourth national language, at Samedan, intensive French studies at Chexbres, university preparatory courses in Fribourg and holiday courses at higher commercial schools. The booklet also lists all private schools in Switzerland which offer holiday language courses and contains a Holiday Camps section.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR MELCHSEE-FRUTT

With the building of new transportation facilities, the 1,300 bed resort of Melchsee-Frutt, situated at an altitude of 6,233 feet, has all that's needed to start a new lease of life. The old aerial cableway linking the Stöckalp with traffic-free Melchsee-Frutt was no longer able to cope with the tourist traffic.

The new gondola cableway, comprising 78 four-passenger cabins now

TOURIST NEWS

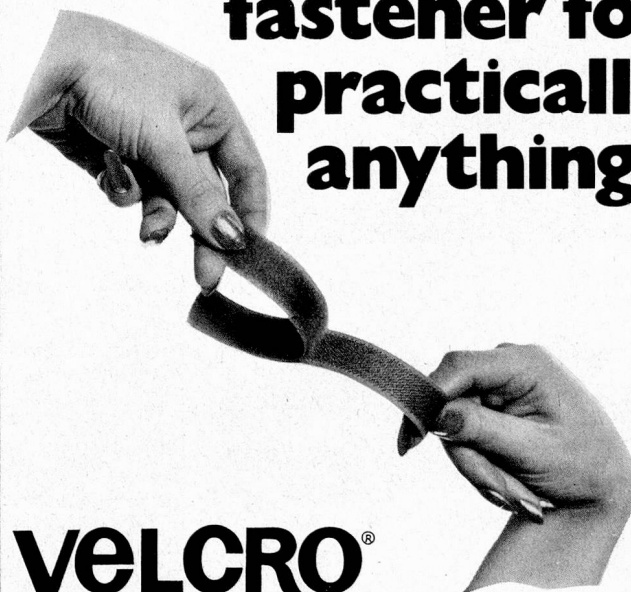
takes 500 people an hour a distance of more than two miles up to the Plateau. The second new transportation facility, an aerial cableway from Melchsee-Frutt to the Bonistock takes 60 passengers. It acts as a feeder service for the newly-constructed Bettenalp-Bonistock skilift and opens up new ski runs.

Also proving a success is the Glogghuis group sports hotel which has 80 beds and can additionally sleep 130 people in this tourist hostel. The hotel has an indoor swimming pool heated by solar energy, keep-fit facilities, a sauna, a film projection room and a games room.

SWITZERLAND SEEN THROUGH HER STAMPS

The Swiss Philatelic Office has recently published an illustrated brochure "P.T.T. presents: Switzerland seen through her stamps" which contains sample reproductions of Swiss stamps devoted to the many aspects of the country. The booklet is available free of charge from the Swiss National Tourist Office.

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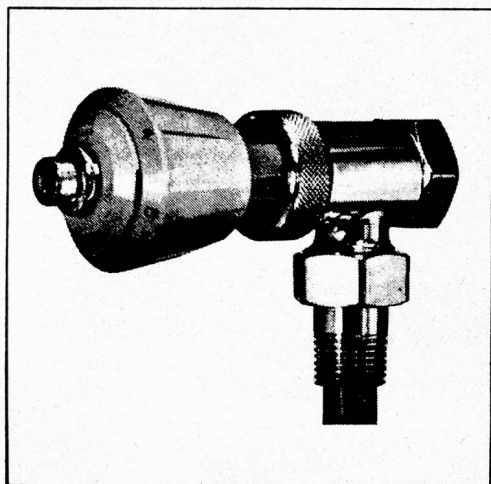
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Sulzer's international experience solves heating problems in Britain

Sulzer's services range from industrial heating and ventilating contracts to a unique thermostatic radiator valve for use in domestic central heating systems. This valve, which is helping British families to get more economy and comfort from their central heating, is called Temset. Set it to the temperature you want — and from then on it keeps the room at that level of heat. Temset even makes adjustments to compensate for the number of people in the room and changes in the weather.

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BERNE – SECOND INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Berne's second International Jazz Festival will be held from 4th to 9th May, 1977.

The varied programme features a Gospel Night (with Mary Lou Williams), a Blues Night (Helen Humes, Jay McShann, Jimmy Witherspoon, Jimmy Wood), A Swing Night (with Oscar Peterson and Earl Hines), a Dixieland Jubilee, a Jazz Matinee, and a Gala Night (with Count Basie).

Two special packages are offered by Romantic Tours including air travel by Danair scheduled service between Gatwick and Berne, transfers between Berne Airport and the Town Terminal, bed and breakfast, taxes and service charges, as well as admission to the Jazz Festival.

Details:

6-night arrangement
3rd-9th May, from £82.00

3-night arrangement
6th-9th May, from £64.00

Bookings:

Romantic Tours,
36/38 New Broad Street,
London, EC2M 1NH.
Telephone: 01 628 7875

JUNGFRAU REGION – SWISS ALPINE ADVENTURE TOUR

The Railways of the Jungfrau Region are organising two-day "Swiss Alpine Adventure Tours" with 36 departure dates between May and October from Zürich to the Jungfrauoch.

The cost is Sw.Fr. 260 per person for accommodation in a twin-bedded room including breakfast and coach travel from and to Zürich. Also included is the excursion by rack-and-pinion railway to the Jungfrauoch (11,333 feet), Europe's highest railway station.

There is also an opportunity to join a "Little Swiss Tour" lasting three days; price from Sw.Fr. 340.

Further information: Bahnen der Jungfrau-Region, Hoeheweg 37, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland.

ACROBATICS IN THE SWISS SNOW

Ski acrobatics, a sport that has become popular in the USA, continues to win new followers in Switzerland. But the art of dancing and daring jumps in the snow has to be learned and a basic requirement is being able to do the parallel turn. Several resorts have included instruction in acrobatic turns and jumps in their programme. Special acrobatic weeks are being organised at Riederalp and Davos in March. Enthusiasts of this kind of ski fun can join the newly-formed Ski Acrobatics Club in Wengen, covering ballet, acrobatic jumping and hot dogging.

VALS IN WINTER

In the health resort of Vals, which lies in a relatively broad mountain valley at an altitude of 4,100 ft, a calcium sulphate spring bubbles out of the ground at a temperature of nearly 86° Fahrenheit. When the Hotel Thermal – today belonging to the upper medium-class category – was built, the spring was taken in and turned into a "health facility". As well as the indoor and outdoor wave baths, both of which are fed by the spring waters, the installation offers an extensive programme of treatment based on physical fitness, recuperation and sport. This season winter sports have been added for the first time. The Vals-Dachberg chairlift and two ski lifts take sports enthusiasts up to the downhill runs across open countryside. Two cross-country trails and a ski-roaming route, ski-bob, ice skating and nearly seven miles of traffic-free cleared footpaths are additional winter attractions. Under the title "From the ski-slopes into the thermal baths", the resort offers all-inclusive weeks which cover seven overnight stays, two admittances daily to the indoor thermal baths, five lunch vouchers and a ski pass. Rates are from Sw.Fr. 300 on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

FACELIFTS WITH ANNIVERSARY

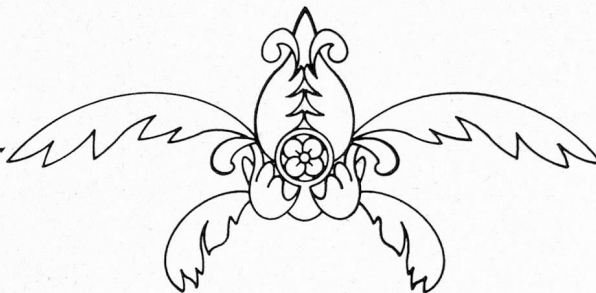
Switzerland's leading hotels have spent nearly Sw.Fr. 300 million on hotel improvements over the past ten years – and are planning to spend millions more.

The most recent work carried out among the 37-member Leading Hotels of Switzerland group, has included a Sw.Fr. 1 million facelift for the reception hall of the Kulm Hotel in St. Moritz – where the very first electric light in Switzerland was installed 99 years ago!

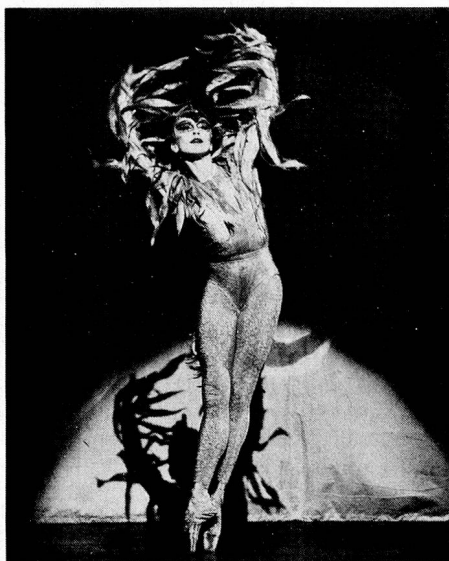
On the Bürgenstock, overlooking Lake Lucerne, work has already begun on one of the most luxury leisure and fitness centres in Europe. The centre, to be completed by the summer of 1978, will include a heated swimming pool and sauna, massage and keep-fit rooms for the exclusive use of guests at the Bürgenstock Hotels.

In Geneva, the Hotel du Rhône – which recently spent Sw.Fr. 5 million on room redecoration – is to spend at least a further Sw.Fr. 3 million during 1977. Plans include an elegant new bar (to be opened on 15th May), new bedrooms and improved soundproofing.

Geneva's Hotel de la Paix is also planning a major improvement programme this year.



MANOLA ASENSIO



Manola Asensio dancing the Golden Cockerel. She will be appearing with the London Festival Ballet at the London Coliseum during April and May. See list of cultural events on page 11. Picture by Shuhei Iwamoto.

Manola Asensio, whose profile was published in the August 1976 issue of the *Swiss Observer*, was born in Lausanne and began her ballet studies at La Scala di Milano at the age of eleven. After graduation, when she was the best in her class, La Scala became her first professional home. From La Scala she went to the Grand Théâtre de Genève, where she was quickly singled out for solo roles. She then became a principal performer with the National Ballet of Holland and made television and film appearances in Paris and Copenhagen.

Two years after joining the New York City Ballet, Manola Asensio was invited to dance as guest artist with the Harkness Ballet, where she became principal ballerina until its demise. Immediately after, she danced in the Deutsche Oper Berlin Ballet's Gala Week and joined the London Festival Ballet for their Australian tour of Rudolf Nureyev's production "Sleeping Beauty". Since then, she has appeared regularly with the London Festival Ballet as principal ballerina in, among other productions, "Le Coq d'Or", "L'Eventail", "Noir et Blanc", "Giselle", "Les Sylphides", "Swan Lake" and in Ronald Hynd's recent new version of "The Nutcracker". She will be performing leading roles in the Festival Ballet's season at the Coliseum starting on 25th April.