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A SWISS INVENTION: THE ASPARAGUS PEELER

Having seen how tiresome asparagus peeling can be, the Swiss scientist who invented the famous Velcro fastener designed and developed a new peeling knife designed especially for peeling asparagus and salsify. Noticing that the blades of conventional peelers are too close together, so that the housewife has to keep removing the peel that has collected between them, the inventor calculated the angle between the knife and the opposite blade so as to avoid any risk of clogging.

The blades moreover are made of special, very hard and highly sharpened steel. This new knife makes it possible to peel a bundle of asparagus in five minutes compared with the 15 minutes taken using the tools at present available on the market.

SWISS TIMING FOR GHANA'S ATHLETES

The Republic of Ghana's National Committee for Sport has just signed a big contract with the Longines Watch Company, at St. Imier which has specialized for many years in sports timing and the construction of big electronic display panels.

This contract covers the equipping and supply of two giant-size panels, for installation in the biggest stadiums in the country, at Accra and Kumasi. Designed in the laboratories of the Swiss watch firm's Industrial Electronics Division, these panels are equipped with the most highly sophisticated electronic components. In addition, they are controlled by a Longines Data 8000 type computer, making it possible to give spectators rapid and precise information about the football matches and athletics events taking place in front of their eyes. The Ghanaian government has also purchased a large consignment of Longines timing equipment for measuring times at future sports meetings.

These panels will be inaugurated next year on the occasion of the African Football Cup Final, one of the most popular sports events on the African continent.

TUNISIAN ORDER FOR A SWISS FIRM

Durisol, of Dietikon has just received a big order from the Tunisian government for the turnkey construction of a technical university at Monastir. The Swiss firm won this contract, valued at some 30 million francs, in the face of keen international competition.

GAUER GROWS

Gauer Hotels of Switzerland are expanding their operations from the cities and the sea resorts into the Alps.

The Berne-based family concern, which has interests in Switzerland and the Greek Islands of Corfu and Rhodes, has this month taken over management of the Chesery Inn in the exclusive Bernese Oberland resort of Gstaad.

The Chesery Inn was built in 1962 by Prinz Sadruddin Aga Khan. It comprises three restaurants, two bars, one nightclub — and a suite of rooms currently rented by millionaire playboy Gunther Sachs, former husband of Brigitte Bardot.

Other regular guests at this Swiss resort include Audrey Hepburn, Liz Taylor, David Niven, Julie Andrews and Curt Jurgens.

The Chesery Inn is being managed by 24-year-old Miss Michele Gauer, the Gauer Group's sales manager.

GENEVA MOTOR SHOW

The Geneva Motor Show last March was a particularly important event because the other major motor shows, those of London, Paris and Turin are not taking place this year following the decision to hold them every two years.

There were few major innovations, but the show enabled British Leyland to present its new Rover 3500 for the first time on the Continent. The car has been judged as the best car of the year by European motoring correspondents.

Among other interesting models were an imitation, on a smaller scale, of

SWISS EVENTS

the "Range Rover" by Chrysler France and a new and improved version of the Fiat 132.

Switzerland was represented by Monteverdi, a specialist in superluxury cars, and by Pilcar, who make electric vehicles. Monteverdi's "Sierra", which can be equipped with a 5.2 or a 5.8 litre engine, sells at about Sw.Fr. 70,000. As a comparison, the Jaguar XJ 3.4 sells at Sw.Fr. 35,000

PRIVATE BANKS MANAGE 30 BILLION FRANCS

During a Press Conference, in Zürich, the Association of Swiss Private Banks said that their 25 members handled private deposits and investments of about 30 billion francs. About half that money was held by Swiss nationals and the remainder by foreigners.



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