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SOLAR HEATING FOR A SWISS HOTEL

The Hotel du Rhône, in Geneva (Switzerland), has just installed a solar heating system for the production of hot water, which is at present the largest in Switzerland (203 m²). Big investments have been made at the same time to improve the thermal insulation of the building, especially with regard to the windows. The accumulation of these two factors is expected to result in a saving of 25% of the hotel's annual consumption of oil (700,000 lt).

A SWISS FIRM LEADS THE WAY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF WINDOWS

EgoKiefer Co. Ltd. (Altstätten-Switzerland) recently set up an independent branch known as EgoKiefer GmbH in Berlin; Switzerland's biggest producer of doors and windows thus continues its policy of expansion and diversification. The production range planned comprises mainly windows complying with the latest German legislation on fuel saving and thermal insulation standards, as well as special EgoKiefer frame windows, designed specifically for the modernization of old buildings and renovation work, which have already met with considerable success in Switzerland.

THE SWISS ARE WELL INSURED

The Swiss spend over 21 million francs per day on protecting themselves against risks of all kinds (accident,

sickness, death, fire, theft, etc.). About half of this sum – some 10 million francs – is accounted for by life insurance and nearly 11 million by insurance against accidents and damage. These sums represent about three francs per day per head of the population, which is high in comparison with other industrialized countries. Although an American spends Fr. 3.50 per day on insurance, a German spends only Fr. 2W, a Frenchman and an Englishman Fr. 1.50 and an Italian a mere 50 centimes.

NEW HUMIDIFY SYSTEM FOR THE PROCESSING OF CARDBOARD

Among the equipment displayed at the last Interpack Fair by a firm at Bülach specialising in the manufacture of sophisticated machinery and plant for the conversion and processing of paper, was a particularly striking new airfoil conditioner. This system, based on the Airfoil principle developed by the Swiss firm, guarantees even and highly efficient humidifying of sheets; in fact, the use of slightly superheated steam produced by a heating system mounted in the airfoil nozzles provides a more intense and uniform humidifying effect than that obtained by spraying water onto the web. In addition, the steam supply control to the individual nozzles makes possible precise dosing of the humidifying capacity.

(Bachofen + Meier, CH-8180 Bülach, telex 53 127 bmb ch)

THE SWISS CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY IN 1977

Total sales of Swiss chocolate reached a volume of 66,117 tonnes in 1977, an increase of 8.4% compared with the previous year, and the biggest growth since 1972. In the domestic market, consumption per inhabitant rose from 8.9 to 9.6 kg per annum; the share of imported chocolates progressed, also contributing to this growth in domestic consumption. About one fifth of the products of the Swiss chocolate industry were exported to about a hundred countries, Austria (19% of exports), USA (12%) and West Germany (10%) representing the biggest markets. The rise in turnover achieved by this industry as a whole amounted to 13%.

VERY POPULAR WATCHMAKING AND JEWELLERY COURSES

In 1977, as in previous years, attendance at the courses organised by the Watch and Jewellery Industry International Centre of Permanent Education in Marketing (CFH) in Lausanne increased considerably: in all, some 3,600 participants from Switzerland and abroad.

The number of "participant/days" showed an increase of 30% over the figure for 1976. The CFH courses deal mainly with commercial techniques and business management and are aimed at manufacturers and wholesalers, as well as retailers in the watchmaking and jewellery sector.



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HIKERS WELCOME

Hoch-Ybrig, a popular destination for hikers in Central Switzerland, calls attention to its various summer and autumn activities. From Oberiberg there is a bus to Weglosen and from there an aerial cable car to Hoch-Ybrig. A tip for those on foot is the "Pass of Seven views" which leads over Fuederegg, Windegg, Sterneneegg, Ibergeregg, Müsliegg, and Stäglereneegg to Holzegg. For hikers tickets are sold daily at half-price at all railways and lifts. Attention: the 15th and 25th of the months August, September and October are "five franc days", that is, for five Swiss francs unlimited use can be made of all means of transportation, and the mountain restaurants offer special five-franc menus.

MUSEUM OF VALAISAN COSTUME

In Sierre/Uvrier the "Museum of Valaisan Costumes" has been opened. It gives the visitor a chance to survey the different costumes and their tradition in the Valais. The museum is open to the public from Tuesday through Sunday from 1.30 to 6.30 p.m.

GATWICK-BERNE— REDUCED AIR FARE

Dan-Air has introduced a lower excursion fare on its Gatwick-Berne scheduled services.

The return fare is now £78.00 with the proviso that a Saturday night stay in Switzerland must be included.

SWISS MUSEUM FOR RURAL ARCHITECTURE

At the end of May, a new Swiss Museum for Rural Architecture opened its doors between Hofstetten and Brienzwiler above Brienz in the Bernese Oberland.

The museum consists of a large open air ground with typical Swiss houses.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN GENEVA AND LUGANO

A daily air service will be in operation this summer until 1st October between Geneva and Lugano by the Swiss Company SATA.

It is essential to make reservations 24 hours in advance.

SWITZERLAND— HOBBY HOLIDAYS 1978

The Swiss National Tourist Office has again published a series of six different booklets listing the many hobby activities that can be enjoyed in Switzerland from spring to autumn this year, with detailed information on dates of hobby courses, venues and prices. Already a great number of Swiss holiday resorts specialise in hobby activities for visitors. In Eastern Switzerland, for instance, courses for alphorn blowing are held at Appenzell and for hand-weaving at Wildhaus. Brienz offers possibilities for wood-carving, whereas painting and draw-

ing, as well as photography, can be enjoyed at Lugano and Muerren. For the more adventurous, there is an eight-day tour in horse-drawn carriages through the Jura, and a Mule Safari through the valleys of the Valais. Numerous resorts organise "Hobby Weeks" in tennis, golf, summer ski-ing, riding, sailing and touring. Throughout Switzerland, many Language Courses are organised for visitors from abroad; and holiday camps, with instruction in sports and languages, are arranged. Detailed information is listed in the booklet "Holidays and Language Courses".

SWISS NATIONAL PARK— CONDUCTED WALKS

Through the co-operation of several tourist offices in the Lower Engadine, conducted walks are again organised through the Swiss National Park between June and October. The price for a half-day guided walk is S.Fr. 5.00, for a full-day walk S.Fr. 10.00. Juveniles up to 12 years obtain a 50% reduction. From Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera, a two-day walking tour is also available.

ZURICH RAILWAY STATION— NEW SUBWAY

A new subway, located beneath the platforms at the far end of Zurich's main railway station, opened early this year allowing easy access to all platforms. Television sets give information on train departures.

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