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COLIN FARMER WRITES FROM BERNE . . .

Hotel's Face Lift

One of Switzerland's leading luxury hotels — the Bellevue Palace in Berne — is undergoing a Sw.Fr. 5.5 million modernisation scheme.

A major phase of the modernisation will be completed with the opening of a new 120-seat "city restaurant" to be inaugurated during the Air Canada-sponsored World Curling Championship, which is to be staged in the Swiss capital from 26th to 31st March.

The 220-bed hotel — the largest in Berne — has been chosen as the headquarters for the world championship, and will accommodate players, officials and journalists from the ten participating nations, which include Scotland.



The new "city restaurant" under construction as part of the Sw.Fr. 5.5 million modernisation scheme at Berne's Bellevue Palace Hotel.

WEIBEL IS NEW TOURISMART BOARD PRESIDENT



Mr. Niklaus Weibel.

Tourismart of Switzerland — the Berne-based affiliate of Worldwide Tourismart of London — has announced the appointment of Mr. Niklaus Weibel as board President.

Mr. Weibel (58) is owner-director of the Continental and Park Hotels in Lucerne, owner of the Helmhaus Hotel in Zürich, and Vice-President of Inter Hotels Switzerland.

He recently celebrated 40 years' service in the Swiss hotel industry, including 12 years on the central committee of the Swiss Hotel Association, five years as S.H.A. Vice-President, and seven years as a committee member of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

The Tourismart organisation specialises in tourism marketing, sales and representation.

A VERSATILE DESK

Here is a Swiss novelty made to measure for the professional journalist: a fully self-contained tele-editing device for writing, storing and transmitting texts. The idea appears to be totally original both from the point of view of design and of function.

A micro-computer with magnetic cassettes, videoscreen and mini-printer, the "Scrib" weighs only 8.5 kg and comes in the form of a simple portable typewriter. Powered by battery or the mains, it can be used anywhere, while at the same time offering an unusual number of possibilities.

The journalist can carry out any corrections he wishes, make any number of alterations on half a newspaper page of closely written text, compare different versions, automatically detect any repetitions and, finally, keep a permanent check on the number of characters typed. The copy always remains clean and neat. The videoscreen can be split into two parts to allow the drafting of a second version with the original text still on the screen. Once the final

version has been made, it is stored on a mini-cassette and can be transmitted via the normal telephone system. Speed of transmission: 1,800 characters/second.

Recycling Idea

Waste is a problem of great concern to a large number of industrialised countries today. In this connection, it is interesting to note that, at the 7th International Inventions Exhibition in Geneva, a Swiss researcher presented a particularly original novelty: recycled objects made from old fire hoses. These objects consist mainly of bags, belts and various semi-finished products.

According to the inventor's estimates, several thousand miles of old fire hoses are thrown out in Switzerland each year and added to the volume of ordinary waste. The basic material, jute, is however easily recycled. The inventor is trying to export part of his products, either in the finished state or in the form of manufacturing licences.

SWISS EXHIBITION IN CHINA

A specialised exhibition put on by the Swiss machine tools industry will be held for the first time in the People's Republic of China in March. This important branch of the Swiss economy (totalling over 20% of Switzerland's exports to China) made itself widely known at the Swiss Industrial and Technological Exhibition in Peking (1974).

The contacts established on this occasion encouraged the Swiss Association of Machinery Manufacturers (Machine Tool Group) to put on another exhibition in China, this time exclusively reserved to machine tools. Thus some 50 Swiss exhibitors will be displaying their latest novelties in Shanghai.

The emphasis is on machine tools, accessories, automation units and highly technical measuring instruments. This exhibition, organised by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, will cover an area of some 37,000 sq.ft. It will be preceded by a technical symposium.