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TOURIST NEWS

NEW FACILITIES IN MADRISA

Ski-fields

The Madrisa ski-ing region above Klosters Dorf has a further attraction for the present season. A sixth, 1,400-yard-long ski-lift opens up the Schafcalanda and brings skiers up to 8,650 ft. The longest ski run is now nearly six miles long from the foot of the Madrisa peak via Schlappin down to Klosters Dorf.

VILLARS FOR CHILD SKIERS

The resort of Villars in the Vaudois Alps has become a paradise for child skiers. The Swiss Ski School has opened a day nursery where children aged from three to ten are given morning ski-ing lessons. The smallest children can reach the starting point easily by means of two new mini-ski-lifts. The afternoon is devoted to sledging, making snowmen and playing. One day in the children's nursery costs Sw.Fr. 27. Incidentally, a large number of places offer child-minding services, often linked to ski-ing lessons. Information is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office which provides free leaflets about child-minding services and ski kindergartens in Switzerland.

WINTER STEAM IN SWITZERLAND

For the first time, steam train enthusiasts can pursue their hobby in the Sense Valley in winter-time as well. The management of the Sense Valley Railway Company and the Berne Steam Train Society have prepared locomotive E 3/3 11 and, to begin with, two coaches, for winter operations. But it won't be cold on board — both coaches are heated by stoves.

MOTOR CYCLE MUSEUM IN GOSSAU

A revelation awaits motor cycle enthusiasts at Gossau, Canton St. Gallen. A local man, Mr. Joseph Hilti has opened a motor cycle museum as the climax to 20 years' collecting. It contains 80 machines and some 50 rare engines dating from the turn of the century to the present day. Also on view are veteran machines that belonged to successful Swiss and other racing motor cyclists. The Museum is at Kirchstrasse 43, Gossau and is open from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening every week except for the first Sunday in the month.

TENNIS FACILITIES IN WINTER

Many sportsmen and women do not want to do without their tennis in winter, so many more resorts are providing their guests with tennis as well as ski-ing facilities. The "white sport" can be practised under cover in all bigger towns as well as in the following winter sport resorts: Arosa, Chur, Disentis, Flims-Waldhaus, Samedan, Savognin and Zuoz, all in Canton Graubünden; Speicher, Bad Ragaz and Filzbach-Kerenzerberg in East Switzerland; Einsiedeln and Sarnen in Central Switzerland; Interlaken, Wilderswil and Zweisimmen in the Bernese Oberland; Leysin and Montreux-Territet in the Lake of Geneva region; La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle in the Jura near Neuchâtel; Zermatt in the Canton Valais and Ascona, Cadro, Locarno and Lugano in Canton Ticino. Ski-ing and tennis arrangements are offered by Wilderswil (6th-30th March) and the Club Intersport (CIS), Ostermundigen is organising combined weeks at Flims (9th-16th March), Arosa during the entire season and at the CIS Tennis Centre, Cadro, where the game is played in the inflatable hall in winter.

The first *Permanent International Hot Air Balloon Centre in the Alps* has just been inaugurated in the Swiss tourist resort of Château-d'Oex, in the canton of Vaud. It will enable the growing number of Swiss and foreign balloonists to train for the new sport represented by hot air ballooning in the Alps.

STRADA ALTA LEVENTINA AND BEDRETTA

Just published are leaflets on the two high-altitude paths "Strada Alta Leventina" and "Strada Alta Bedretto". Starting point for both these tours is Airolo, the showpiece leading along the left-hand side of the Leventina to Biasca via Osco and Anzonico in three days. The somewhat less well-known and also less trodden tour over the Bedretto Valley can be covered in a good day. The Federal Railways offer cheap excursion tickets for both tours in addition to the 10-day return tickets from certain stations. Children pay half-fare and there are also reductions for families. The route descriptions with sketches are obtainable from the Ente Turistico di Leventina and the Ente Turistico in Faido.

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