

The marionett of melody

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This automaton once stood in Sissach railway station

The marionett of melody

THE sound of music, from antique music boxes large and small, barrel organs, and ghostly player pianos suddenly come to life... all in the romantic setting of a Swiss farming village. For this is Seewen, tucked away in the northwest corner of Switzerland in the canton of Solothurn, and home of a musical museum with a difference.

A waltz is enticed from an antique barrel organ, Haydn is performed on the secretary-organ of Count Esterhazy, and the strains of Mozart echo from a German-flute organ.

Small birds twitter in enchanted trees, while illustrated clocks move to the rhythm of bewitching tunes. For more hearty souls a fair organ with moving figures conjures up a lively party, aided by an electronic player piano whose keys seem motivated by ghostly hands. To complete the symphony in sound there is a jazz organ equipped with two saxophones, two accordians and a drum.

This treasury of musical automata is a part of the self-created kingdom of Heinrich Weiss, a

skilled machinist and able to practice. As a collector, he began to buy instruments in his collection just. Practically all of items were found in homes and soon on display in Seewen.

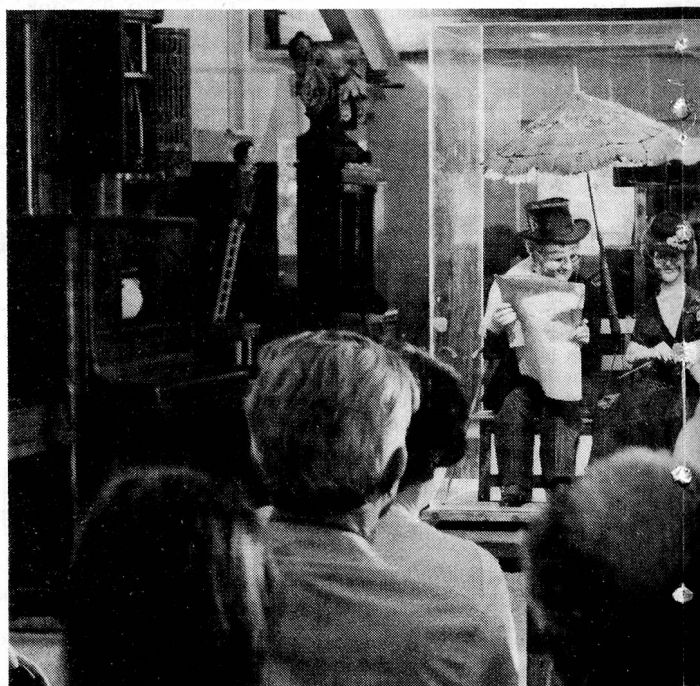
Hour upon hour breathed life back into damaged mechanical Welte concert pieces of the collection of more than 1,500 hours of restoration.

The museum was an initiative of Heinrich Weiss, financed by him, the burden of it was his workshop, in which he and a trained restorer made up the various types of mechanical instruments and out-of-town collectors provide limited financial assistance.

This melody is open to the public under the direction of Heinrich Weiss, Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm. Guided tours can be arranged.



This is Seewen, elegant setting for the museum



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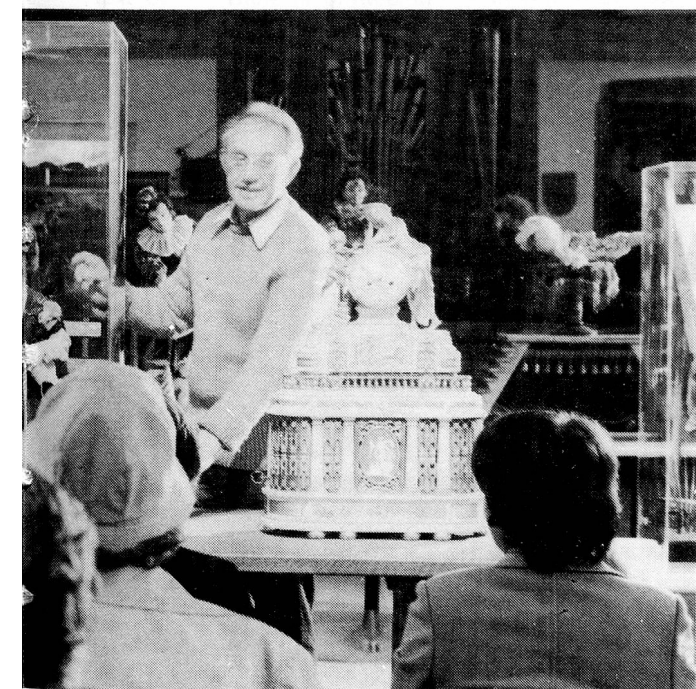
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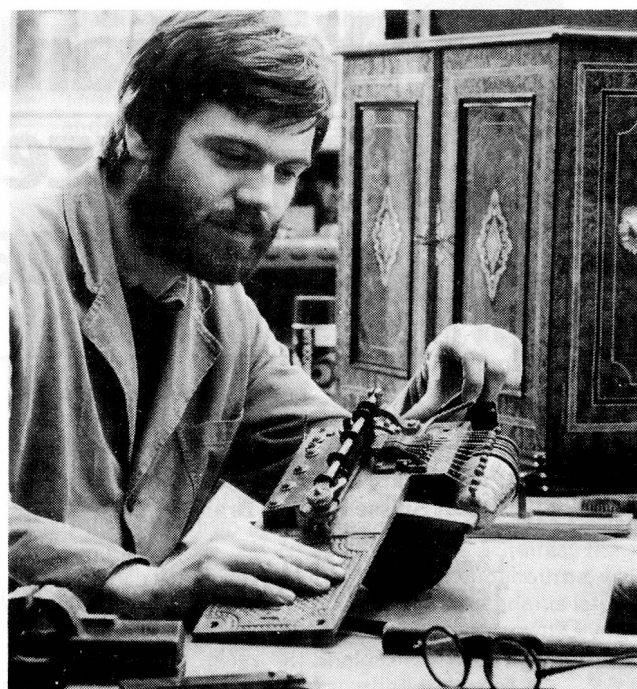
ic fairyland is open
until mid-Decem-
7 to Saturday, 2-
l tours for groups
ged.



An elegant early 20th century fair organ



Inside the museum . . . musical marvels



Restoration work begins