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## Swiss Holiday Scene



*Four-in-line . . . the impressive spectacle of the quadriga race*

# When the horse reigns . .

ON the high plains of the Franches-Montagnes, in the new Swiss canton of the Jura, the horse has long been honoured. Among the high pines which separate the pastures situated at some thousand metres above sea-level, breeding horses is one of the great activities of the region. The breed called Franches-Montagnes produces a robust, light draught-horse of about 15 hands which adapts easily to all climates.

Every year on the second weekend of August, Saignelégier, the major town of this district full of traditions, is the centre of a great popular event — the “Marché-Concours national de chevaux”.

The programme begins on the Saturday with the presentation of 400 horses to be judged and classified by a highly competent jury. In the afternoon there is a parade of the highest rated horses as well as a number of

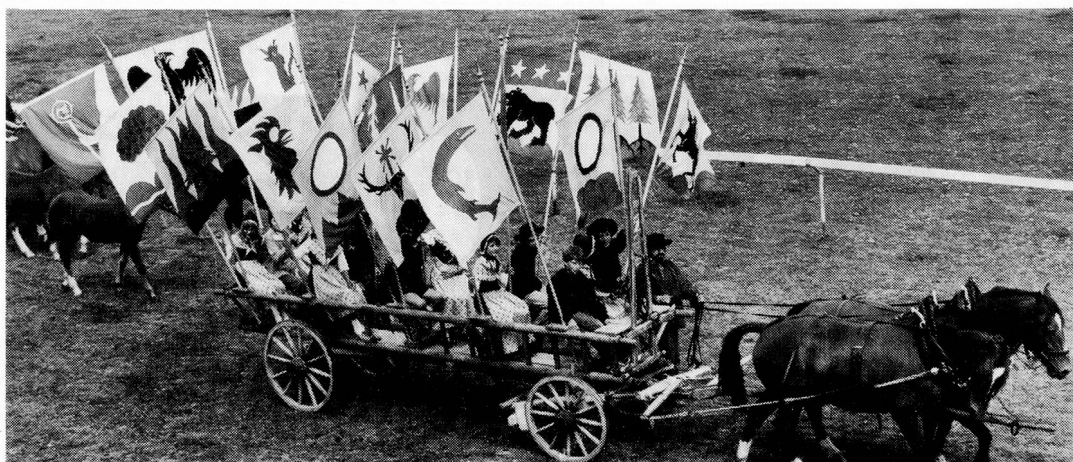
other attractions, such as a rural quadrille presented by four master drivers and eight girls riding native horses without saddle and stirrups, and several trotting and hurdle races.

On the Sunday, after another showing of the rural quadrille which is always greatly

applauded, there are diverse presentations of the breeders' syndicates. In the afternoon a traditional pageant, racing with native horses and carriage-races, notably those of the quadrigas, brings the day to a colourful and fascinating end.

From all over Switzerland as

well as neighbouring countries, Saignelégier welcomes on these days a crowd of between 25,000 and 30,000 people. In this region of the Jura with its rough climate, the panorama opens into France, but hospitality makes no distinction between visitors from all horizons.



*The communal flags are proudly displayed*

# Air-rail link is augmented

THE 1981 "Fête des Vendanges" of Neuchâtel will take place on September 26 and 27.

The weekend's events include a children's procession in costumes, a parade of orchestras and bands at the Maladière stadium by the lake, and dancing in the streets and in front of the town hall. Orchestras and bands will play in the streets and restaurants stay open all night.

Further information from: Official Tourist Office, 1 Place Numa-Droz, 2001 Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

## Congress Centre gets face-lift

ZURICH'S Congress Centre is to be extensively modernised. An upper storey is to be built on the Garden Hall for use as a congress foyer able to accommodate 650 people, and the main congress hall, the congress and concert foyer, chamber music room etc. will be thoroughly renovated.

The Congress Centre will continue to operate almost as normal during the three and a half year period needed to carry out the renovation work.

## Special package at Silvaplana

SPECIAL packages are on offer that include six days at Silvaplana in the Upper Engadine and one day at the Hilton International Hotel in Zurich, with prices starting from Sfr. 310.-- including breakfast.

Silvaplana is known for its wind-surfing and sailing on Lake Silvaplana. Summer ski-ing is

IN order to meet peak demand around midday, Swissair has introduced a train between Basle main station and Zurich airport to supplement the existing midday flights. This TEE train unit, chartered from Swiss Federal Railways, provides 168 first class seats. Up to September 26 the train runs once daily in each direction Monday to Friday, and every day from September 27 until the end of March 1982. Journey time is a little over one hour.

The train operates under Swissair flight numbers, and normal airline reservations and ticketing procedures apply. Only air tickets are accepted for travel on the train, either for local trans-

port between Basle and Zurich airport or for air travel via Zurich.

A Swissair hostess is on board each train to collect flight coupons and provide information. Passengers continuing beyond Zurich by air check in for their connecting flights at Zurich airport.

Customs and immigration formalities take place at Zurich. Therefore, passengers with Basle as final destination can register baggage only as far as Zurich.

For Basle passengers transiting Zurich the normal and special through air fares from and to Basle apply. Local travel on these trains between Basle and Zurich airport costs Sfr40. single, Sfr80. return.

also possible on the nearby Corvatsch Glacier.

Further information from: Official Tourist Office, 7513 Silvaplana, Switzerland.

## Film comedy festival

THE first International Festival of Film Comedies will be held in Vevey from August 17 to 22. The programme includes some of the best brand of short silent features of Charlie Chaplin, who moved to the Vevey area and lived there until his death.

Further information from:

Official Tourist Office, Place de la Gare 5, 1800 Vevey, Switzerland.

## Horse riding in the Haslital

PACKAGES for both horse riding and trekking weeks are available in the Meiringen-Hasliberg area.

Riding packages include hire of horse, instruction, and demipension in the Hotel Sherpa, Meiringen, and are available for either one or half a week, starting from Sfr. 280.--.

Horseback Trekking weeks cost Sfr. 650.-- and are held until

October 4.

Further information from: Reitzentrum Haslital, Reisebuero CIS, 3860 Meiringen, Switzerland.

## Motoring in Switzerland

THE wearing of seat belts for motorists and the wearing of crash helmets for motorcyclists are compulsory in Switzerland.

Further details on Swiss traffic regulations are available from the Swiss National Tourist Office in London.

## Music festival at Ascona

FROM August 26 to October 15 the 36th International Music Festival will be held in the Church du Collegio Papiro, Ascona, and the Church de San Francesco, Locarno.

Details are available from: Official Tourist Office, 6612 Ascona, Switzerland.

## City stopover packages

SWISSAIR is offering special "A Date with Switzerland" stopover packages in Zurich, Geneva and Basle from as little as Sfr. 32.--, including overnight stay, 24 hours public transportation, free admission to various establishments and a lot more.

Arrangements can also be made in conjunction with a rental car or Swiss Holiday Card, and bookings can be made through Swissair or travel agents.

## Events of the month

|                |  |  |           |                 |   |
|----------------|--|--|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Aug 1          | Brunnen                                    | Floodlighting of Axenstrasse             | Aug 16    | Grindelwald     | Männlichen: Costume festival  |
| Aug 1          | Einsiedeln                                 | Willerzell: 12th lake night festival     | Aug 16    | Lauterbrunnen   | Grütsch fête  |
| Aug 1          | Leukerbad                                  | Floodlighting of Gemmi wall              | Aug 16    | Lötschental     | Wiler: Procession and parade of «God's Grenadiers»                                |
| Aug 1          | Neuhausen                                  | Floodlighting of Rhine Falls             | Aug 16    | Rigi            | Kaltbad: Lorenz festival, ascent of cattle to the high pastures, herdsman's games |
| Aug 1          | Walenstadt                                 | Firework display on the Zustoll peak     | Aug 16    | Zermatt         | Costume rally and parade  |
| Aug 1/2        | Gryon-<br>Barboleusaz                      | Taveyannaz: «Mi-été», midsummer festival | Aug 22    | Arosa           | 10th Arosa country music rally  |
| Aug 2          | Kandersteg                                 | Gastern religious service                | Aug 23    | Samedan         | «Charreda de Samedan», horsedrawn vehicle trip                                    |
| Aug 5          | Bettmeralp,<br>Meglisalp, Rigi,<br>Zermatt | «Maria zum Schnee», chapel festivals     | Aug 24    | Val d'Anniviers | Blessing on the Alm   |
| Aug 7          | Vercorin                                   | Alphorn blowers' concert                 | Aug 28    | Solothurn       | 500th Anniversary of Canton Solothurn: Solothurn Day                              |
| Aug 7-10       | Geneva                                     | «Fêtes de Genève»                        | Aug 28/29 | St. Gall        | «Sanggaller Fäscht» (festival)  |
| Aug 8          | Champex-Lac                                | Rose festival                            | Aug 28-30 | Basel           | «Fähri-Fescht» (festival)   |
| Aug 8/9        | St. Moritz                                 | «Dumengia bella», woodland festival      | Aug 28-30 | Moutier         | 6th «Braderie», popular festival  |
| Aug 8/9, 14-16 | Schaffhausen                               | Rhine Festivals and pontoneers' contests | Aug 28-30 | Schwyz          | «Schwyzer Gmeindsfäscht», festival for homesick Schwyzer                          |
| Aug 9          | Kandersteg/<br>Leukerbad                   | Gemmi: Shepherds' festival               | Aug 29/30 | Montreux        | «Bénichon», ancient custom  |
| Aug 14         | Vercorin                                   | Accordion concert                        | Aug 30    | Lötschental     | Blatten: Procession and parade of «God's Grenadiers»                              |
| Aug 14/15      | Evolène                                    | Midsummer festival                       |           |                 |   |