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HOLIDAY OBSERVER



The hills are alive with the sound of music for Julie Andrews, but more often than not it's the stomp of stout boots as the hikers take to the 30,000 miles of trails Switzerland can boast.



Supporting the big Swiss saunter

TO SUPPORT the Swiss National Tourist Office's campaign "Sauntering through Switzerland", the mountain resort of Château d'Oex is organising guided botanic visits to the natural reserve of La Pierreuse, situated at the foot of Mount Gumfluh, which rises to 2,500 meters.

To reveal the wealth of this valley, the Tourist Office called on the services of Professor Hainar, botanist at the University of Lausanne, to act as guide for these excursions, which are aimed at better acquainting the tourists with the vegetation, the flora and the geology of the region. The visits are free.

Statue inaugurated

THE bronze statue of Charlie Chaplin on the lake shore at Vevey was inaugurated on August 22. The statue, described in detail in the Swiss Observer earlier this year, is the work of English sculptor John Doubleday and shows Chaplin - whose last home was at Vevey - in one of his most characteristic attitudes.

Standing on a lawn of the Quai Perdonnet, this work of art is brought to the attention of passers-by by a bronze plate bearing this inscription in French only:

"A l'acteur génial qui procura tant de plaisir à tant de monde". (To the actor of genius who brought so much pleasure to so many people.)

The paras drop in

MORE than 50 parachutists from France, Germany, Austria, Italy, United Kingdom and Switzerland will be taking part in the European Parachuting Cup at Château d'Oex on September 4 and 5.

In addition a Mexican team will

be demonstrating its skill at combining two disciplines in the same jump: figure in free fall and accuracy of landing.

The altitude for leaving the balloon is 1,700 metres above the ground. The duration of the free fall at 200 km/hour is approximately 12 seconds and, in this time of free fall, a different figure for each jump must be executed by the four parachutists jumping together.

The peaks surrounding Château d'Oex being 2,500 metres high, the parachutists hug the mountain sides during their free fall, which requires considerable precision on their part.

The programme will be completed by a number of demonstrations of all kinds. A team of 12 parachutists will jump simultaneously from two balloons to join up in free fall. In another demonstration of contact in free flight, four parachutists deploy and place their feet on the parachute of the jumper below them, descending in this manner to the ground and forming a figure of several tiers.

The hot-air balloons permanently stationed at Château d'Oex will take the air several times to launch parachutists and figure jumpers.

Olympic city

ON June 23, 1894, in the great amphitheatre of the Sorbonne in Paris, in the presence of 49 associations and 79 delegates from 12 nations, there opened a congress where the reestablishment of the Olympic Games was to be decided.

This was on the initiative of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Thanks to his energy and his

persuasive powers, the first Games of the modern era were to take place in Athens in 1896.

The home of the International Olympic Committee has been in Lausanne for more than 65 years. For a long time it was housed in the Villa Mon-Repos, a charming 18th century residence still pregnant with the memories of Voltaire, who lived there.

It was moved in 1968 to the shores of Lake of Geneva, to the Château de Vidy, an elegant little country house where it is still to be found today. But these premises have become too exiguous in the course of the years as a result of the constant development of the Committee.

This year Lausanne, in agreement with the International Olympic Committee to which Switzerland has just granted international status, has added the description "Olympic City" to its names. An "Olympic week" was organised in February and in June a provisional museum was opened.

At the same time a decision has been reached for the International Olympic Committee to be lodged in a new property in the district of Ouchy. The future site of the Committee, set in a verdant background facing the lake, will house not only the administrative and management buildings but also the permanent museum, as well as a library and a meeting hall.

Aviation museum

A MUSEUM devoted to the birth of Swiss aviation has opened at the Château d'Avenches.

Consisting of four rooms, it recalls the activities of three great pioneer aviators, René Grand-

jean, Ernest Failloubaz and Santschi.

To complete the museum, an audi-visual display conjures up episodes of the heroic epoch when aviation was in its infancy.

Autumn fair opens

THE traditional "Comptoir Suisse", Switzerland's national autumn fair, opens in Lausanne on September 11. Exhibitors represent every branch of Swiss economic and industrial activity and display the latest modern techniques. It will open for two weeks.

Golf championships

THE World Men's Amateur Golf Championships will be held in Lausanne next month. This very important event will take place in the wonderful setting of the Lausanne Golf Club in the heights of the city.

It will fascinate, apart from the spectators who are present, all those enthusiasts for this branch of sport who will be able to follow these championships step by step, via worldwide TV.

Air fare cuts likely

AIR fares between Gatwick and Zurich could be cut by 15 per cent next spring.

Both British Caledonian and Dan-Air, who are competing for the route licence, say they will sell tickets at 15 per cent below the normal IATA economy tariff.

The route has become available following the collapse of Laker Airways who took over the licence from British Airways.