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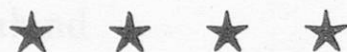
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Auckland Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club will be held on April 20th, 1963, at 8 p.m. in the Professional Club, Kitchener Street, Auckland C.1.

As usual, the activities of the Club during last year will be reviewed, the financial report discussed, a new committee elected, etc., so it is essential and in your own interest to attend the meeting. Coffee and cakes will be served after the meeting, a game of cards can easily be fitted in later on, as well as a few musical items by our Swiss Band. —H.B.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the first Sunday in April (7th) in the Riverlea. Please turn up in full numbers. The orchestra will play for you and prize winners of the shooting, Kegeln and Steinstossen Competition from the picnic will be announced.

Wellington Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting, together with the inauguration of the new Kegelbahn, will be held on April 20th, 1963, in the Brooklyn Hall.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND



AS OTHERS SEE US

The following article is reprinted by courtesy of "The Motor" (9.1.1963). Whilst it makes amusing reading, some of the statements are obviously to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Motoring — Swiss roads are full of Swiss, along with cows and practically everyone else in Europe at one time or another. The natives are friendly but tend violently to resent being passed. Will speed up; ZH and GE plates especially dodgy. If you get in an argument, French, Italian, Romansch, or dialects of dialect Schwyzerdutsch may be spoken. Or English. Sometimes all five.

Highways themselves generally good on flat if somewhat narrow and winding. Mountain ones ditto but can be gravel; on roads marked with posthorn, postbus has right of way. Guess who backs up? Numerous ACS telephone points, water fountains for car,

rental depots for chains, latest weather information. On normal roads, touring rather slow as Switzerland is intensively built up. Don't pass over a solid yellow line whatever you do, or the cops will getcha. 60 k.p.h. all towns. Be careful on road along north side of Lake Geneva. Real shocker.

Scenery — Do you like mountains? There is also pretty farmland all over, Italy without dirt in the Ticino, and Lake Geneva with its neighbouring vineyards. Also many folklore villages. Do you like geraniums?

Food and Wine — Food choice a bit monotonous but you get a lot. Historical specialities are melted cheese dishes fondue or raclette. Affects me like cement. Prefer steak with garlic sauce (a la Cafe de Paris, Geneva), rosti (re-fried potatoes mit onion), filets de perche. Local wines very good, can be ordered by multiples of "deci" or tenths of litre. Don't let them sell you a bottle. Whites: Fendant, Aigle, Dezaley; reds: Dole de Valais. Try Willemine, clear pear moonshine (Morand is best). Whoopee!

Hotels — Mostly very, very good and clean, but can be expensive; ask prices first. Heating is extra, occasionally along with day of month.

Price of Petrol — 4s. 1d. per gallon of super.

Miscellaneous — Switzerland is not inexpensive. Overcharging prevalent. Best-looking girls are in Lausanne. Country ones very country. Do you like cows? Fags cheap. Booze cheaper than home. Why not stay? —H.M.

TEMPORARY "WHITE HOUSE" NEAR GENEVA

"Summit Fever" has broken out in the quiet village of Prangins near Nylon on the banks of Lake Geneva, and the inhabitants eagerly await the next conference. The castle of Prangins has been bestowed on the Government of the United States by its American owner, Mrs Stanley McCormick, and is to become a temporary "White House" in Switzerland. Like Voltaire, who stayed at Prangins, the President of the United States is to reside in the Louis XIV style castle during his visits and conferences in Geneva, the meeting-place of the world.

FACTORIES IN SWITZERLAND

According to the provisional figures of the factory census taken by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, the number of firms subject to the factory law in Switzerland amounted in September 1962 to 13,728, employing a total of 753,148 men and women. Since the previous census, in 1961, the number of firms has increased by 3.2% and that of workers employed by 5.1%.

SWISS TOURISM, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

At a Press Conference the Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office, Dr. Werner Kampfen, announced that, according to provisional statistics for 1962 compiled from the figures of Swiss hotels and similar establishments, the total of overnight stays registered was around 31.5 millions. This exceeds last year's figures by about 1.1 million, or 3.6 per cent. Taking into account the occupants of camping sites, holiday apartments, private rooms and similar accommodation not covered by the official tourist statistics—an approximate of 15 million nights—the grand total for last year comes to over 45 million nights spent by tourists in Switzerland. The net revenue from tourism is estimated at 1000 million Swiss Francs per year. The slight upward trend is expected to continue in 1963. Since the increase in the number of tourists will chiefly benefit new—and newly “discovered”—holiday places, the stability of the present extremely high figure is most gratifying. The exceptionally heavy snowfalls and cold spells in January, which caused some hold-ups in the extremely weatherproof system of Swiss communications, produced a phenomenon which it was believed had been eliminated in the winter sports region, viz. a sizeable “January gap,” many visitors having postponed or even cancelled their holiday plans. Two tourist slogans campaigning for quiet, relaxing travel and holidays in Switzerland are now going the rounds. They are “Travel in Europe—Rest in Switzerland”; and, in token of the Centenary of the Red Cross which originated in Geneva: “Peaceful Switzerland—Open to the World.”

ROUND THE TOWN ON SKATES

On February 1, 1963, only the second time in this century, and for the 26th time since 1233, the Lake of Zurich has become a 25-mile long natural ice-rink. Though the glaciers of the Swiss Alps are also attractive for skiing tourists even in mid-summer, yet the inhabitants of, and the visitors to, Switzerland's largest city find it strange to look out, from the heart of the town, upon an icefield that stretches away towards the horizon. For the Lake, which extends south-eastwards from the city to the mediaeval townlet of Rapperswil, is solidly frozen over. Within half an hour of the ice being declared safe for all comers, it was teeming with eager skaters and pedestrians. Very soon the Lake had become the scene of a “Zurich Festival” in the good old sense of the term. The weekends bring hundreds of thousands of ice-happy visitors.

All Change of Addresses and Contributions for HELVETIA (by the 10th of each month please) . . . to—

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