

News from Switzerland

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Mr Risi has just retired as president of the New Zealand Pig Breeders' Association and was for eight years a member of the council of the association. Mr Risi is president of the Waikato branch.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Swiss Club

No Evening will be held in September. The next Evening will be held on October 11th in the Pine Lodge, Melville. A welcome will be given to our members who have returned from Switzerland. The Quintones Band will play for you — bring your partners.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The Committee of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club wish to take this opportunity to notify all members of the most unusual occurrence happening in Taranaki early in September. A Swiss Ski Team is to spend a few days in our area and it is considered by the Committee that we must take this chance to meet these young Swiss men. To give our members a chance to contact these people and to give them the opportunity of meeting the Swiss in Taranaki, a Social Evening will be held in the Kapuni Hall on Monday, September 7th, 1964, at 8 p.m.

The usual good Swiss music will be supplied, refreshments, of course, cards for non-dancers and a Swiss supper. All at the usual 15/- per double ticket. Ladies a plate please.

Come one, come all, to welcome these boys from the Homeland and show them our Taranaki friendship.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

SKIING AT THERMAL SPAS

There was a time when the French Riviera proudly advertised a spring skiing tour combined with swimming under palm trees on the same day. A version of this original recreation is offered today by several Swiss mountain resorts with thermal springs. After a strenuous excursion, the tourist can experience the pleasure of a hot bath, invigorating to body and mind, in Leukerbad (Valais) or St. Moritz and Bad Ragaz, only to mention a few such resorts.

Due to the recently inaugurated aerial cableway of the Corvatsch, which makes skiing possible all the year round, the thermal springs of St. Moritz have gained in importance as an enjoyable counterpart to skiing. The Corvatsch cableway leads to the snow-fields of the Piz Corvatsch, 11,339 ft., one of the most famous peaks in the Engadin region.

PICTURES OF HISTORIC INTEREST ON SHOW

Very few will know off-hand that Emperor Charlemagne, who was favourably disposed towards Switzerland, died 1150 years ago (on January 28, 814). It is the privilege of the Abbey Library in St. Gall to be able to produce from among its treasures some priceless heirlooms from the intellectual and spiritual life of the past to illustrate the theme "Charlemagne and the Carolingian Renaissance." In Basle an exhibition was opened in July to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the building of the Town Hall in the market-place.

Although it was less extensive in its original form, the building ranks as the most important secular edifice of historical interest in the town. At La Chaux-de-Fonds the Horological Museum is illustrating "Four Centuries of European Watches" with original time-pieces. The Graphic Collection of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich invites the public to enjoy a "Voyage Pittoresque" through Switzerland in the time of the Swiss Lesser Masters. Martigny in the Valais features a historical and folkloric exhibition in honour of the new Alpine tunnel of the Great St. Bernhard from June 13 to October 4.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS' CONGRESS

The first Congress of European Professional Photographers will be held from September 27 to October 2, 1964, on the Buergstock. The Congress will be organised by the EUROPHOT to which adhere the national associations of 13 European states. Subjects on the agenda include portrait, fashion, advertising, and industrial photography, as well as artistic, technical and commercial problems.

Photographers of world-wide renown will make speeches with simultaneous translation into English, German and French. After the congress a two-day tour is planned through the Bernese Oberland to the Expo 64, the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne.

"RETURN TO NATURE" IN THE SMALLEST CANTON OF SWITZERLAND

The charming Aegeri Valley by the lake of the same name in Central Switzerland has, during recent years, been able to offer an increasing number of innovations to tourists.

Guided by the idea that nowadays the hurried city dweller seeks peace and relaxation far from the beaten track as well as a variety of sports facilities, the authorities of this valley have decided to meet the demands of the visitors. Thus, two new hotels were built while existing ones were remodelled. In Lower Aegeri a pretty Lido awaits the tourists. Upper as well as Lower Aegeri now feature tennis courts as well as riding stables offering exciting cross-country horseback riding to both beginners and experienced horsemen. During the summer season three public dances take place every week.

EXPO 64 AND SPORT

The Sport Pavillion at the Expo 64, the Swiss National Exhibition, in Lausanne, includes a permanent, well organised presentation of Swiss gymnastics and sport activities. It was designed by renowned graphic artists. Every day classes give demonstrations of their physical training and for sports fans the pretty swimming pool and gymnasium are well worth a visit. Until the end of September the Stadium Vidy, which is located right within the Expo grounds, will often be the scene of Swiss Championship competitions.

MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL SUPPLY TRADE FAIR

The fifth International Trade Fair for Medical and Hospital Supply (IFAS) will take place from March 18-22, 1965, at Zurich's Congress House. Trade quarters greatly appreciate this Exhibition and again expect a representative cross section through the most important branches of Medical and Hospital supply. Modern equipment and instruments will be on show as well as long tested devices created for the well-being of the sick.

"DON'T MISS THE SWISS"

The spontaneous hospitality of Zurich's population towards foreign tourists made the Zurich Tourist Office's promotional plan "Don't Miss the Swiss" become a great success, when it was launched for the first time in Switzerland last summer. And it is promising to be an even greater success this year. Not only have 230 hosts from the city of Zurich offered their hospitality, but further 64 families and single persons from 18 Swiss cantons have sent in their applications to entertain foreign tourists.

The Zurich Tourist Office has again asked Mrs Maud Brink of Sweden to take over the rewarding task which she carried out during five summers in Stockholm and last summer in Zurich. In the historical Guild House "Zur Meisen," the city branch office of the Zurich Tourist Office, Maud Brink works under her self-styled slogan "Don't Miss the Swiss." It must be emphasised that the invitation into Swiss homes is by no means compulsory for contacts with foreigners. During a sight-seeing tour of the city or during a meal in a restaurant—Dutch treat—lasting friendships can be formed just as well. Last summer 227 tourists from many countries—U.S.A., Europe, Mexico and the Philippine Islands—were able to obtain a glimpse of everyday life in Switzerland through 163 hosts including artists, workers, intellectuals and civil servants.

This promotional plan met with a broad echo in the Press, on the radio and on TV; and a considerable number of international newspapers carried the story. Here is just one example from the many letters addressed to Mrs Brink: "You have been instrumental in giving us a chance to move out of the casual and superficial contacts of hotel life into a more real and human relationship. We are very grateful." (Schoolmaster, Great Britain).