

News from Switzerland

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Apart from the culinary feast of trout and venison a la Swiss, the hall was expertly decorated and a lot of time must have been spent to fetch the greenery and other things to create that sportsmen's atmosphere.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the prizegiving, where the two Presentation Hostesses (Ehrendamen), Misses Vreny and Elisabeth Bachmann, in their magnificent dresses, performed the official duties very capably and enhanced to the dignity of the occasion. One couldn't help but to admire the glowing smiles of the recipients, from the President of the Auckland Club up to the visitors from Hamilton, when they came back with their trophies and that shy little kiss on their cheeks.

Alf Meier, Max Bachmann and Charly von Rickenbach's traditional Swiss music and Hubschers entertainment all helped to round off an expertly organized most successful evening.

Many thanks and congratulations from a

Hamilton Visitor



~~~~~ Forthcoming Events ~~~~~

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Hamilton Swiss Club's Christmas evening will be held on Sunday, 18th December in Pine Lodge. Bring your children to see Father Christmas. Ladies a plate, please. (Note change from Saturday to Sunday.)

Wellington Swiss Club

The Wellington Swiss Club's Christmas party will be held on Sunday, 4th December at 2.30 p.m. in the Brooklyn Community Hall.



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WORLDWIDE SUCCESS OF NUCLEX 66 IN BASLE

Nuclex 66, the First International Fair of Nuclear Industries, which has just closed in Basle (Switzerland), was attended by 12,000 visitors from 51 countries in Europe and overseas. It has become the most important trade event in this field. The general atmosphere was highly favourable to business contacts. The Technical Information Days, organized by Nuclex 66, proved fully justified, being attended by 1450 participants. The next Nuclex Fair will be held in 1969, from October 6th to 11th, in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle. (OSEC)

SWISS EXPERTS IN TUNISIA ON BEHALF OF WORLD BANK

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) commissioned the electrical company Motor Columbus at Baden (Switzerland) to help it in its role of mediator to settle the amount and method of payment of the compensation that Tunisia should pay France for nationalizing seven private railway and electricity, gas and water distribution companies, whose capital was mainly French. A team of experts from Motor Columbus is at present on the spot collecting the technical and economic data needed for this purpose. (OSEC)

THE 44th CONGRESS OF SWISS RESIDENT ABROAD

The 44th congress of Swiss resident abroad will take place from August 29 to September 2, 1966, in the federal capital of Berne. This year's meeting will be especially festive, since the New Helvetian Society has declared 1966 to be "The Year of the Fifth Switzerland". The idea is to bind the "Fifth Switzerland", as the community of Swiss resident abroad is often called, closer to the homeland. Even back before World War I, a call was issued to treat the "Fifth Switzerland" as if it were the 26th canton of the Confederation—but at that time there was little enthusiasm for making such an effort, even in Switzerland itself.

A FINE OLD SWISS ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK RETURNS HOME

The Swiss National Museum recently purchased a fine astronomical clock of Swiss origin, which had for a long time formed part of British collections. It is a rare collector's piece, a little over 19 inches high, octagonal in shape, and with a wooden dial set with tortoiseshell and pewter. In the centre, a painted copper plate has a number of dials and windows in silver and brass indicating the hours and half-hours, the days of the week, the date, the phases and age of the moon, the planets, the signs of the zodiac, the length of the day and night. This extremely elegant clock with a richly worked brass movement was made about 1670 by Beat Jakob Brandenburg of Zug (Switzerland). (OSEC)

THREEQUARTERS OF A CENTURY IN ADVERTISING

The big Swiss advertising firm of Publicitas Co. Ltd, which has its main office in Lausanne (Switzerland), was founded three-quarters of a century ago. The chief activity of this firm, which has branches and agencies in many countries all over the world, is the insertion of advertisements in the press; it handles the advertisements for a very large number of Swiss daily papers and periodicals. The 75th anniversary of this firm was recently celebrated in Lausanne in the presence of a large number of leading figures from business circles. (OSEC)

THE WORLD'S TOP INDUSTRIAL FIRMS

According to the American magazine "Fortune", which each year publishes a list of the biggest industrial firms in the United States and the rest of the world, the Swiss company Nestle, with a turnover of 1563 million dollars, came eleventh in the list of the biggest industrial firms in the world outside the United States. This list of the two hundred top firms includes the names of another eight Swiss firms: Brown, Boveri (61st), Hoffman-La Roche (80th), Ciba (111th), Geigy (118th), Sandoz (159th), Alusuisse (165th), and Sulzer Bros (176th). By way of comparison it is interesting to note that the biggest industrial firm in the world in 1965 was the American group General Motors with a turnover of 20,734 million dollars and a payroll of 734,594 workers, and that outside the United States the biggest firm was Royal Dutch/Shell with a turnover of 781 million dollars. (OSEC)

INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

To commemorate its 60 years devoted entirely to the manufacture of welding products, Castolin Co. Ltd, at St Sulpice near Lausanne (Switzerland) recently donated S.Fr. 100,000 (\$23,200) to Lausanne University. This sum is intended to finance research in the fields of welding and metallurgy. It is a practical way for a private concern to serve the interests of higher education and at the same time contribute to the maintenance of the excellent reputation that Switzerland has won for herself in the sphere of welding and metallurgy. (OSEC)

SWISS ENGINEERS AWARDED A PRIZE IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

Two Zurich engineers, Mr Henry Perrin and Mr Lothar Schneider, were recently awarded a diploma of honour in the American Bridge Design Contest. This international competition, aimed at promoting the use of steel in civil engineering, was organized by the United States Steel Corporation, the biggest steel producer in the western world. (OSEC)

ANGLO-SWISS TECHNICAL COOPERATION

In accordance with the present trend towards international cooperation, the English Electric Company Ltd and the Swiss firm of Sulzer Bros Co. Ltd have signed an agreement in the field of diesel traction, according to which the two firms agree to cooperate in the development of the high-power Sulzer LVA 24 diesel railway engine, at present developing 4000 hp. In addition the English Electric Company has been granted the exclusive right to manufacture and sell this type of engine in the United Kingdom for both home requirements and export. (OSEC)

A NEW MESOSCAPHE SHORTLY TO BE BUILT IN SWITZERLAND?

At a recent meeting of the Swiss Institute of Naval Architects, Mr Jacques Piccard, the Swiss oceanographer, and inventor of the mesoscaphe, the world's first tourist submarine which operated a regular service during the Swiss National Exhibition in 1964, announced his intention of exploring the Gulf Stream in a new mesoscaphe. This vessel will measure just under 48 feet long, weigh 120 tons and be equipped with 4 engines and a 20-ton battery; it will follow the current at a speed of 1.5 knots at a depth of almost 1000 feet, for a distance of some 1000 to 1500 nautical miles, between Cape Hatteras and Nova Scotia. Like its predecessor, the new mesoscaphe will be built at Monthey (Switzerland) by Giovanola Bros. (OSEC)

A "CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ALCOOLOGIE" IN LAUSANNE

Since the end of last year, Lausanne (Switzerland) has been the headquarters of a new international institution, the "Centre international d'alcoologie", engaged in scientific studies and research into alcohol and alcoholism, which publishes a twice-yearly periodical "Etudes et informations d'alcoologie". An interesting point to note is that this centre runs a scientific documentation service possessing an analytical card-index of some 12,500 cards, which has been in operation since the end of August 1966. This index, known as CAAAL (Classified Abstract Archive of Alcohol Literature) is the work of some thirty doctors and scientists attached to the Alcoholic Study Centre of Rutgers University in the United States. These research workers regularly analyse 2800 periodicals from all over the world, this placing the whole of present knowledge in this field at the disposal of those who need it. The archive grows by about 500 cards a year. (OSEC)

TREMENDOUS TRAFFIC LOAD ON ST GOTTHARD PASS

A tremendous traffic load was carried during peak summer days this year by the St Gotthard Pass Highway—and on several days with untimely snowfalls, the Gotthard Railway's car ferrying service as well, since many motorists preferred going by rail through the Gotthard Tunnel than brave the snowy highway. Traffic moved far more smoothly and steadily on other, less frequented alpine passes, many of which are of particular natural beauty; prominent among these were the modern highways over the Lukmanier Pass and the San Bernardino, the two main links between the Grisons and Canton Ticino. From Montreux, one of the northern gateways to the historic Great St Bernard, "steady-flowing traffic with no backups" was reported through the capacious new highway-tunnel which makes possible all-year traversal of this famous north-south route.