

News from Switzerland

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Auckland Swiss Club

SHOOTING SECTION

The following smallbore competitions will be held at F. Reichmuth's farm at Henderson.—

Meisterschaft and Handicap: 16th & 17th October.

Jagdschiessen and Handicap: 6th & 7th November.

The Jagdschiessen and Handicap competitions for guests out of Auckland will be held on 20th November.

The prizegiving and Ball will also be held on the same evening.
—P.H.W.

Wellington Swiss Club

Committee members of the Wellington Swiss Club are busy organising a groovy **1971 Car Rally**, which will take place on Sunday, 10th October, 1971.

Got a car? Got a driving licence? You're in business!!!

Further details will appear in due course on individual invitations.
—W.S.C. Committee

Christchurch Swiss Club

Owing to Labour Weekend falling on the day we hoped to hold our Masquerade Ball, some changes have been made to the programme. Please mark these on your programme sheet.

Sunday, 24th October: All day outing.

Friday, 12th November: Masquerade Ball. —J.F.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

CONSIDERATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

Hertz, the car rental firm, have started an interesting experiment in Western Europe. Cars hired by foreign visitors are provided with a black T (for Tourist) on a white/yellow background. It is expected that the drivers of such cars are shown the same consideration as is enjoyed by drivers of cars with foreign registration plates.

ABBATIS CELLA — APPENZELL — 900 YEARS OLD

In Eastern Switzerland's pre-Alpine region, at the foot of the Alpstein Mountains, the large locality of Appenzell is celebrating its nine-hundredth anniversary. We are thus reminded of the year 1071 when the old and venerable monastery of St. Gall ordered a small church to be built here (Abbatis cella or the Abbott's Cell). Before long it was surrounded by numerous houses. Later on the village became the capital of the Appenzell country. In 1597 it was divided into the two half-cantons of Ausserrhoden and Innerrhoden. The contrast between the Catholic (inner) and Protestant (outer) part of the country can still be felt. However, all of Appenzell's farmers have been known since the Middle Ages for their valour and courage. In 1513 the Swiss Confederation had accepted the country of Appenzell as its thirteenth canton.

The village of Appenzell surprises the visitors by its magnificent homes adjacent to the church and council hall. The church celebration featuring a cantata will take place on September 22. It will be followed by a big cattle and general merchandise market with dancing and jubilation (September 26 and 27) and the 900th anniversary celebration from October 1 - 3.

WORLD'S LARGEST MOTORWAY RESTAURANT

A bridge type restaurant seating 600 persons and with parking space for 400 cars is now under construction at Würenlos on the six-lane Motorway Section Neuenhof (near Baden)-Zurich to be opened at the end of 1971. The restaurant will be partially ready by the spring and fully operational by the autumn 1972. The restaurant is claimed to be the largest of its type in the world and will be run by the famous catering organisation of Moevenpick.

FASTEST FUNICULAR IN THE WORLD

At Val Thorens in the French Alps, at an altitude of 7200 feet, work recently began on the construction of a big sports centre where it will be possible to ski all the year round, even in summer, thanks to the Val Thorens Ski Rail, the fastest high-capacity funicular in the world, which take skiers up to the glaciers and snow trails. The Von Roll Works Co. Ltd. of Berne made the plans for this funicular and have been commissioned to supply all mechanical and electrical equipment.

This new scheme offers a number of remarkable features: the Ski Rail is the longest funicular in the world, measuring some 4000 yards. The track passes over a viaduct whose prestressed concrete supports are supplied and erected by Losinger & Co. Ltd. of Berne. Each of the two trains comprises six carriages with a seating capacity of 140 each: thus, six thousand people an hour can be carried in either direction. The trip lasts $8\frac{1}{2}$ minutes at $22\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h.

AUTOMATIC SAFETY BELT

At the 20th International Exhibition of Inventions and New Products recently held in Brussels, an inventor from Aigle (Switzerland) presented an original fastening device for safety belts used in automobiles. The jury awarded him a silver medal. Thanks to this device, in an accident, the injured or panic-stricken motorist no longer has to think about opening his belt himself. In fact, unlike the traditional fastenings, which have to be opened by hand, this new fastening is opened automatically by an electro-magnetic release system. Connected to the motor, separate from the battery circuit, it opens automatically as soon as the current is switched off and the belt is no longer under traction. The belt can also be undone manually with or without exciting current.

The system can be adapted too for use in various forms of public transport—buses, airplanes, etc. In this case, the model comprises a system of remote release for all fastenings; a light signal makes it possible to check whether the belt is properly worn and whether the fastening is open or closed. In airplanes, the fastening device is connected to a general control panel within reach of the hostess, who can then temporarily release any individual passenger or, in an emergency, undo the belts of all passengers by means of a central switch. (osec)

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