

Forthcoming events

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- ▶ “To grow vegetables by the Swiss individually, as was done as an emergency measure during world war two (Plan Wahlen), is today quite impossible”.
- ▶ “Costs of building sections rise relentlessly, so much so that a middle-class salary holds out virtually no hope to a person of ever becoming a home or even a flat owner”.
- ▶ “Major rivers whose clean springs rise on Swiss soil flow through the land and across our borders irresponsibly polluted”.
- ▶ “On international air-hygiene maps Switzerland figures, together with other industrial countries, as lying within a belt of more than average polluted air. The oxygen deficit (i.e. over-demand of oxygen in relation to what nature is capable of replacing) amounts to an astronomical figure of cubic metres per annum”.
- ▶ “Available land is so scarce that our army lacks the vitally necessary training areas”.
- ▶ “Many municipalities face nearly insolvable problems as regards disposal of refuse”.
- ▶ “On the worldwide statistics of suicide incidence Switzerland figures in third place, topped only by Japan and the U.S.A. This means three to five suicides daily!”

Food for thought? And how! (Concluded next month.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Auckland Swiss Club

SHOOTING SECTION

Dear Shooting Friends: We invite you to the following Programme activities for .22 calibre shooting at Frank Reichmuth's farm, Chamberlain Road, Henderson.—

6th & 7th November: Jagt and Handicap for locals.

20th November: Jagt and Handicap for guests attending the Shooting Ball (details and invitations later regarding the Ball at Edendale).
—The Committee

Wellington Swiss Club

Family Walk to “Butterfly Creek” — Sunday, 14th November, 1971. Rendezvous: 10 a.m. Eastbourne Hotel. Take your lunch; barbecue facilities. Invitations with further details will follow.
—W.S.C. Committee

Christchurch Swiss Club

Masquerade Ball (Gipsy theme): Friday, 12th November, 1971, at Ouruhia. **Please make this an all-out effort.** There will be a prize for originality. Tickets on sale from 1st November. Watch out for posters.

St. Nicholas Day: Sunday, 5th December, 1971. Make this a family afternoon. —J.F.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

THE "FREIBERGE" — A WALKER'S PARADISE

The plateau of the Freiberge, with its majestic fir-trees, pastures and meadows could be likened to a beautiful national park. Here and there, surrounded by nordic flora, a silvery pool lies hidden. The walker will certainly appreciate the unique charm of the Freiberge where he can wander wherever his fancy leads him.

This delightful region can be reached by the Jura railway from La Chaux-de-Fonds, Tavannes or Glovelier. The specially reduced "rover" ticket (Wanderbillett) is ideal for excursions combined with walking tours. It is valid throughout the entire Jura railway network including its coach routes and also for coach services between Tramelan, Saignelegier and Coumois. The "rover" ticket is available all through the year.

BUOYS FOR SUPERTANKERS

As the majority of ports are not equipped at present to take supertankers, either new docks or jetties must be constructed or else the tankers must be made fast to a certain number of buoys. But these solutions entail large-scale investments and present many technical problems. Now as long ago as 1961 a Swiss firm in Fribourg conceived a revolutionary mooring system employing only a single buoy and allowing vessels of 35,000 tons to be loaded and discharged. After computer studies and model tests the company has now developed a buoy capable of mooring tankers up to 1,000,000 tons deadweight. Already such buoys have been delivered for ships up to 750,000 tons.

The chief advantage of the system is that the moored vessel is able to move freely under the action of wind and currents during the entire loading or discharging operation. When a tanker arrives, lines are secured to the mooring hawsers and the floating pipes are then connected to the ship's manifold pipe. To discharge a vessel for example, the oil is led from the ship to the buoy through the floating pipe, and thence to the shore installations