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Hamilton Swiss Club

We will celebrate our **Christmas Party** on Saturday, 11th December at 8 p.m. in the Eureka Hall. Come and see Father Christmas and hear our children sing Christmas songs from different countries.

Admission: Members .70
 Non-Members \$1.50

Ladies please bring a plate.

Wellington Swiss Club

— CHRISTMAS PARTY —

Date: Saturday, 4th December, 1971

Place: Brooklyn Community Hall

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Individual invitations with further detail will follow.

—A.J.F.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

NEW SWISS STAMPS

Started in 1969, the series of Swiss postage stamps featuring the portraits of famous men is continued with the issue of a second set of "Portraits". The choice this year has fallen on five great doctors, three of them Swiss and, for the first time, two foreign Nobel Prize-winners for Medicine. The 10-ct stamp is dedicated to the memory of Alexandre Yersin, who discovered the microbe of the plague, while the 20-ct stamp is devoted to the psychiatrist August Forel, well known for his discoveries on the anatomy of the brain and the nervous system. The 30-ct value represents the ophthalmologist Jules Gonin, recognised today as the originator of retinal surgery. The German bacteriologist Robert Koch, Nobel prize-winner in 1905, is portrayed on the 40-ct stamps, the 80-ct value featuring the Canadian physiologist Frederick Grant Banting, Noble prize-winner in 1923.

Parallel with this series, the Swiss Post Office is issuing two special new stamps, a 30-ct "Swiss Alps" showing the Diablerets range and a 40-ct value commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Radio-Switzerland Co. Ltd., a branch of the Swiss Postal and Telegraph Service, which is responsible for air safety at airports, listens in to the meteorological information broadcast by satellite and carries on the intercontinental telex, phototelegraphic and radiomaritime services.

CHURCH OF TERRA VECCHIA BEING RENOVATED

Since 1968 the organisation "Ristauro Chiesa Terra Vecchia" has been restoring the beautiful church of Terra Vecchia in the Centovalli (Hundred Valleys) in Southern Switzerland. This building dating back to 1615, unique from the point of view of architecture as well as of historic importance, was in danger of destruction. Thus the southern slope of the Centovalli which, together with the lakes and the Pizo Leone above Ronco, is one of the favourite regions for hiking in the Sopraceneri, would have lost one of its important sights.

The work was started by young people in construction camps in 1969/70 and by building experts. This year a building camp from July to August and a roofing firm newly covered the building with granite slabs. One more building camp in 1972 and as soon as the orders are completed by different contractors — by the fall of 1972 the first phase of the restoration should be finished.

DYNAMISM OF THE SWISS PAPER INDUSTRY

In 1970, the consumption of paper and cardboard in Switzerland increased by 70,000 tons, i.e. about 8%, to total 960,000 tons. Two-thirds of this increase was able to be covered by domestic production, for the latter increased by 6% and thus rose to 730,000 tons (520,000 tons of paper and 210,000 tons of cardboard), while the growth of imports declined.

During the last few years, the Swiss paper industry has shown a marked improvement in productivity. From 1960 to 1970, the number of employees in the paper industry (with the exclusion of cardboard and cellulose) dropped from 7200 to 6400, a decrease of 11%. During the same period, output increased by about 50%, rising from 350,000 tons to 520,000 tons. In 1970 output per employee averaged therefore 81.4 tons, i.e. 67% more than in 1960, when it worked out at 48.6 tons.

REMARKABLE GROWTH IN HEALTH INSURANCE

One of the branches of insurance with the highest rate of growth in Switzerland is private health insurance, practised by a certain number of companies without any support from the government. In 1960, the volume of premiums totalled 26 million Swiss francs; 10 years later the figure was 7 times as high. In fact in 1970 this branch collected S.Fr.188 million in premiums, i.e. 18% more than the previous year. Admittedly, a considerable part of the growth in premiums corresponds to an increase in rates made necessary by the adaption of benefits to increased wages and living costs.

These S.Fr.188 million are offset by 113.3 million francs' worth of benefits paid out in the form of payments to insured persons, hospitals, doctors and medical aids, as well as a sum of S.Fr.45 million for building up reserves to cover pending claims.

SWISS MACHINE PROVIDES A SENSATION IN PARIS

At the International Textile Machinery Exhibition — ITMA 71 — held in Paris, Switzerland presented a whole range of new machines. One of them created a sensation: the WEVENIT-C 36, a fully automatic knitting machine with electronic selection, made by S. A. Ed. Dubied & Cie, of Neuchatel. It raised specialists' eyebrows with the boldness of its conception, the level of technical perfection incorporated and the quality and quantity of the work turned out on it.

It represents an enormous step towards rationalised knitting and can follow rapid fashion changes with remarkable ease. But the most revolutionary aspect of this design is the ability to create patterns and transfer them on to the machine by means of a computer. WEVENIT-C 36 is equipped with a sort of TV screen, the "Telepat", on which a pattern may be created electronically for subsequent knitting by the mechanical systems.

This constitutes a new industrial success for Switzerland. Already the country producing the biggest number of industrial machines in proportion to her population, at Paris she proved that she is also in the vanguard of progress. (osec)

SUMMER SKI-ING IN SWITZERLAND

The Jungfrau-Firn, easily accessible by the Jungfrau Railway, has for a long time been the only place in Switzerland where skiing could be practised in the summer. In recent years, new aerial cableways have "paved the way" to other regions of everlasting snow, such as the Diablerets Glacier near Gstaad, the Diavolezza near Pontresina, and the Piz Corvatsch near St. Moritz. The scenic pleasures of the Theodul Pass above Zermatt will also attract those who wish to ski all the year round.

OUTPUT OF SWISS OIL REFINERIES

In 1970, 12.45 million tons of petroleum products were sold in Switzerland; as in the previous year, the country's two refineries covered 41% of Switzerland's requirements in this field. Domestic production was able to be increased by 0.2 million tons compared with the previous year, but the total sales of petroleum products have increased to a larger extent.

The various proportions of petroleum products from domestic refineries compared with Swiss consumption as a whole are as follows: liquefied gas, 71%; light gasoline used for the production of urban gas and petrochemicals, 63%; high octane fuel, 36%; normal fuel, 35%; kerosene, 49%; diesel oil, 37%; extra-light heating oil for household use, 33%; medium and heavy heating oil for industrial purposes, 38% and 68% respectively, and tars, 36%.

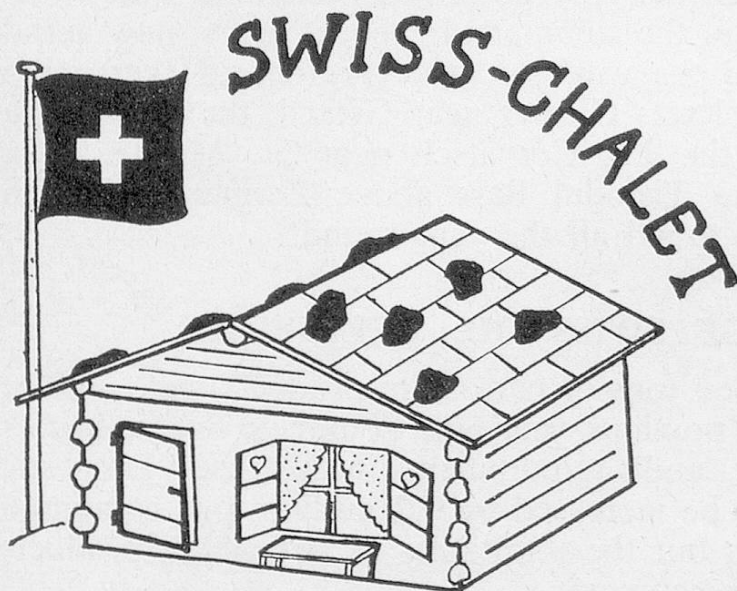
“MONTRES ET BIJOUX” EXHIBITION

“Montres et bijoux de Geneve”, the biggest watch and jewellery exhibition in the world, is at present on tour in South and North America. After being shown in Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and the United States, this exhibition will return to Geneva, where it will be able to be seen in the Rath Museum.

“Montres et bijoux” is not only the exhibition that sets the latest trends in watch fashions; one of its highlights is the presentation of “experimental creations”. Often very original, always interesting, these “revolutionary” creations frequently serve as the basis for the watch fashions of tomorrow.

DENSITOMETER FOR ROTARY PRINTING PRESSES

Gretag, a Swiss firm affiliated to the Ciba-Geigy group, has just presented a world novelty to a gathering of specialists. It is the first plant for measuring the density of colours working on a rotary printing process in operation and commanded by an electronic computer. The new Gretag D6 plant makes it possible to exert full control over the whole batch and, as soon as differences occur, to intervene immediately at the right place and in a minimum of time in order to make the necessary correction.



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