

News at Random

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1965)**

Heft 1476

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

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Junkes, founder and director of the Vatican Laboratory for Astro-Physics.

At **Auvernier** there was an exhibition of Old-Persian Art, and at **Colombier**, a bronze bust of Corps Commander Jules Borel was unveiled. Early in March, a serious fire badly damaged the workshops of a decorator, and valuable furniture and machinery were destroyed. A new periodical is being published at Colombier, "Le sous-officier Neuchâtelois".

The wines of the "Hôpital Pourtalès" at Cressier were auctioned in February, a total of 67,500 l. white at an average price of Fr.2.84 per litre and 3,560 l. red at between Fr.5.35 and 6 francs.

From **Fleurier** comes the news that, owing to shortage of staff, the "Courrier du Val-de-Travers" would have no more issues on Saturdays.

The energetic protest by the Commune of **Geneveys-sur-Coffrane** has resulted in the rifle shooting command of Colombier prohibiting shooting on Saturdays to enable people to go for walks on the neighbouring heights.

The only Institute for Psycho-Dynamics in Europe is at **Lignièrès**. At its third annual meeting it was stated that valuable findings had been made which would increase safety on the road.

At **Prises sur Pesieux** the school had to be closed as the number of children was too small.

Three hundred farmers took part at the traditional rally of **La Sagne** on the first Saturday in February, and **St. Blaise** celebrated its patron saint whose name the Commune has had since the beginning of the thirteenth century. The young men and women just come of age were welcomed into the adult world of citizenship.

The new production centre of the united tobacco manufacturers at **Serrières** was opened in the autumn, the most modern cigarette factories in Europe. On the road to **Valangin** large quantities of earth and rocks fell on to the road in the Gorges du Séyon on 23rd March.

(News by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

NEW LIFE ON THE RIGI

On 9th February 1961, the Grand Hotel Rigi Kaltbad was gutted by fire. Eleven people (staff and visitors) lost their lives. Now a new chapter in the history of Rigi hotel life is being written: a brand new kind of hostelry will arise, a hotel centre allowing for living quarters for holiday makers, with studios, family rooms, various refreshment rooms and snack bars, a shopping centre as well as sports grounds for curling, skating and a heated swimming pool fed by water from the well-known Kaltbad Spring. A block of flats is included in the set-up with small and large flats which can be bought. A new funicular is planned within this unusual tourist centre which is expected to be finished in the summer of 1966.

Information regarding the flats may be obtained from Stadt/Land Immobilien A.G. St. Petersstrasse 17, Zurich.

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MEMORIAL OF AIR DISASTER

The final investigation into the air disaster at Duerenaesch on 4th September 1963 took place in February. There were no new discoveries, and the final report will be published in due course.

On 21st March, a monument commemorating the disaster in which 74 passengers and the crew of six lost their lives, was unveiled. The tragic event is symbolised by a falling angel and a farmer who drops his spade in horror. The simple stone is the work of the Aargau sculptor Eduard Spoerri. Authorities from the Cantons of Aargau and Zurich, relatives and friends of the victims, pilots and stewardesses of Swissair and large numbers of visitors were present at the ceremony.

[A.T.S.]

NEWS AT RANDOM

The Salvation Army in Switzerland employs over 600 members. 120 meeting halls are at the S.A.'s disposal. Their night homes (6) offer places to 2,000 guests. They also run 4 work centres, 4 second hand shops, 3 country camps, 2 educational homes for girls, 5 children's homes, 7 womens' homes, 1 hotel, 7 assistance stations for the sick and the poor, and 3 youth centres for holiday camps.

The foundation "Für das Alter" has just announced a record collection of Fr.1,599,216.— (net) for 1964, Fr.97,000.— more than in 1963.

There are nine centres for Tibetan refugees in Switzerland (Samedan and Buchen in the Grisons, Unterwasser and Ebnat in St. Gall, Waldstatt in Appenzell A.R., Münchwilen in Thurgau, Oetwil and Rikon in Zurich, Reitnau in Aargau), the number of refugees is over 230.

The Swiss boy scout and girl guide movement shows an increase in membership for 1964. At the end of the year there were 14,707 guides and nearly 50,000 scouts. The figures include 357 handicapped guides, 5,584 rovers and 397 clergymen.

The Tate Gallery in London recently paid £3,800 for a sketch by Henry Fuseli of Mrs. Siddons as Lady Macbeth seizing the daggers.

(Mainly by A.T.S.)

ZURICH — A THEATRICAL CENTRE

Besides the opera house and playhouse (Schauspielhaus), and the stages at the Kongresshaus and Volkhaus used mainly for guest performances, the current theatre season has brought the opening of five small stages. The "Theater am Neumarkt", recently taken over by the city, and the "Theater an der Winkelwiese" which is housed in the cellar of an old villa specialize in experimental and avantgarde productions. The same mansion-like villa which belongs to the city is further host to a delightful one-room theatre. Shows, musicals and light entertainment are the main features on the programmes of the "Theater am Hechtplatz" and the "Rudolf Bernhard-Theater", located also in the city-owned premises.

[S.N.T.O.]

A NAUTICAL EXHIBITION IN LUCERNE

The 2nd IBA "International Nautical Salon" will be held in Lucerne from 8th to 16th May, 1965. The first salon took place in 1964, with some sixty-five exhibitors displaying over 130 boats of all categories, as well as accessories and equipment of all kinds for nautical sports.

[O.S.E.C.]