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SNTO NEWS

Lugano—Hotel News

The Hotel Eden, situated directly on the Lake Shore, has re-opened after a major renovation. It has been converted to a luxury hotel with 140 beds. All rooms are air conditioned and have lake view, balcony, private bath or shower and W.C., telephone, radio, television and Captain Service Bar (refrigerator with automatic billing), a heated swimming pool, garage, hair-dresser, physiotherapy, motor boats for water sports, conference rooms and a large lakeside terrace and other amenities.

Gstaad—15th Yehudi Menuhin Festival August 12-September 2, 1971

The programme for the 15th Yehudi Menuhin Festival which will be held in Gstaad from August 12-September 2, 1971 has been published. Copies are obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London W1V 3HG. Tickets are now on sale at the Tourist Office, 3780 Gstaad, Switzerland (Tel: 01041 30 41055).

Colourful programme of the Jungfrau Area Railways

The Railways of the Jungfrau Region have just published their new programme. It contains regular accompanied trips, hikes and mountain ski tours in the Jungfrau area, among them high mountain ski tours to Löetschenlücke, Riederfurka and Galmilücke, the Jungfrau tour, guided half-day and full-day hikes up to Harderkulm, Allmendhubel, Faulhorn, Kleine Scheidegg and Männlichen, also a selected glacier hike, a romantic moonlight hike and a week's hike for young people. General directions, explanations and conditions of each tour or hike are clearly described. Further advice may be obtained from the ticket counters, enquiry offices and local travel agents.

Lenk/Bernese Oberland Music and Art Works

From July 8-August 21, 1971, Lenk, the Bernese Oberland resort will offer:

Lectures by prominent national and international specialists on music therapy, introduction to music for children aged 6-15, marionette performances, courses in rhythmic, etc. Information from: Kur-und Verkehrsverein, 3775 Lenk, Bernese Oberland, Switzerland.

Switzerland for Beginners by George Mikes

Mr. Mikes has been discovered by the Swiss. They were so intrigued by "How to be an Alien" and his

other books that a Swiss publisher commissioned Mr. Mikes to explore Switzerland. He set off to roam the cantons and brought to light, of course, many facts that even the Swiss did not suspect, let alone know, about themselves. Now George Mikes has re-written the book for English readers. They will enjoy it—even those few of them who have never visited the land of the alps, pensions and travellers. Mr. Mikes deals with all these subjects, and with those famous Swiss characteristics, cleanliness and honesty. His section on winter sports and his advice to would-be skiers is in the best Mikes tradition. Godi Hofmann, the illustrator, well known in Switzerland, goes into partnership with Mr. Mikes for the first time as to the manner born. Price: £1.05.

Publishers: Andrea Deutsch, 105 Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

The carillon in Libingen

The carillon in Libingen was erected at the end of 1965 in honour of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the jungle doctor of Lambarene. It is Europe's largest carillon and consists of 60 bells. The "Gloriosa" weighs 3,268 kilos (about 8,000 lbs.). It is rung on Saturdays at 3 p.m. and on holidays at 8 a.m. The smallest of the bells weighs 10 kilos (about 22 lbs.). The carillon is equipped for manual as well as automatic playing. The bells are tuned electronically for greater precision. The original playing of the carillon is done by hand on a keyboard. The keyboard is built into a wooden cabin to guard the player against wind and weather and also against the powerful sound of the bells. A keyboard table without bells is used for practice.—For artistic playing there are special rules which differ from those of the piano or the organ. One has to be completely master of the technique of playing before one is able to reach the summit of artistic achievement.—The listener has to get used to bell music to appreciate its beauty. It is best to select a quiet spot and to place oneself in a windward direction. A distance of 150 to 300 metres (about 500 to 1,000 feet) from the tower generally is the best place. The tower is open from the middle of March until the middle of November, daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Carillon concerts by Walter Meierhans take place every Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. as well as on Sunday mornings between 11 and 12. Libingen is located above Bütschwil in the canton of St. Gall. It may be reached from Zurich via Ricken-Wattwil-Bütschwil or via Hulftegg-Mosnang.

Lugano—International Air Show June 11-13, 1971

The first International Air Show in the Ticino was held from June 11-13 at the aerodrome Lugano—Agno, which has a 1,300 yard asphalt runway. This is suitable not only for light aircraft but also for 40-seater airliners. Sightseeing flights were arranged. Aircraft, including the small jet "Mystere 10" were on display, aerobatics, gliding, helicopters, parachute jumping were other attractions on the programme. An exhibition of aircraft models and air safety equipment was part of the Show.

Half-fare Season Ticket for the "Not so Young"

The Swiss Transport Undertakings issue half-fare season tickets valid for one year for the very attractive price of S.Frs. 50 (£5.20). In order to qualify, one must be aged 62 (ladies) or 65 (gents) at least. The season ticket can be purchased at any time and it entitles you to the purchase of half-fare tickets first or second class during its validity. It is valid on the principal railway lines, on postal coaches, lake boats and many mountain railways and funiculars.

This half-fare season ticket can now be purchased at the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London, W1V 3HG. A recent passport photograph is required, and the passport should be produced.

These season tickets are particularly suitable for presents to parents, grand parents, relatives and friends.

Swiss Fares

The Commercial Conference of the Swiss Transport Undertakings recently approved tariff revisions incorporating an average fare increase of 12-13%. In spite of considerable productivity improvements, the price corrections have become necessary as a result of the continuing cost inflation. The increases will become effective at the beginning of November 1971. There have been no increases since 1968.

Great St. Bernard Road Tunnel

During peak periods, traffic through the Great St. Bernard Road Tunnel is slowed down by motorists queuing for their tickets. In order to assist the motorists, the Lausanne Tourist Office at 60 Avenue d'Ouchy and 7 Avenue Benjamin Constant now sells vouchers of the Great St. Bernard Road Tunnel Co.

Alpinarium Piz Lagalp Bernina

The cableway Curtinatsch (Bernina Lagalp)—Piz Lagalp resumed the summer time-table on June 26, 1971. On the same day the Alpinarium Piz Lagalp was re-opened. The animals spent the winter in Zurich's Langenberg Park. Twenty feet high

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snow drifts had rendered the fences of the nature reserve on Lagalp ineffective.

International Encyclopaedia of Winter Sports by Howard Bass

Howard Bass is probably unique as a wide-range specialist in every ice and snow sport—and that includes Alpine and Nordic ski-ing, figure and speed skating, luge and Cresta tobogganing, bobsledding, curling and ice hockey. All and more are covered in this fact-packed product of very extensive research.

This much-travelled reporter—who has covered world and Olympic championships on five continents—now meticulously and entertainingly presents in one comprehensive volume a wealth of technical descriptions, instructive facts, informative histories and chronological records that should fully satisfy the most avid fan.

Spiced with drama-packed Winter Olympic reviews (including detailed accounts of the 1928 and 1948 Winter Olympics at St. Moritz) and always brightly narrated with contagious enthusiasm, the new International Encyclopaedia of Winter Sports is a natural for libraries. Absorbingly fascinating reading for expert, beginner and televiewer, this is a painstaking accumulation of inside knowledge acquired from a globe-trotting career without parallel. It is a book ideal to have at one's elbow when watching the Winter Olympic Games on the home screen. Price £2.00. To be published on October 18th, 1971.

Valuable collections in the region of Berne

Looking around in the region of Lake Thun we find not only the historic museum in the Castle of Thun overlooking the town but also during the six summer months we are attracted by the collections devoted to old interior decorations at the Castle of Oberhofen, at the Castle of Spiez and at the Castle of Hünegg near Hilterfingen, located in its park, where the

rooms furnished at the turn of the century also have taken on historic patina. At the Castle of Landshut near Utzenstorf, situated on a Lake in a beautiful park, there is the Swiss Museum of Hunting, Shooting and Game Preservation which contains many rare items. A very special experience is a visit to the collection displayed by the Abegg foundation in Riggisberg which may easily be reached from Berne. Although a private foundation, it is open to the public and contains unique art treasures of antiquity and the middle ages.

Evening cruises on Lakes Thun and Brienz 1971

The popular evening excursions on Lakes Thun and Brienz (restaurant, dancing) will again be operated this coming summer. Programmes are now available (free) at the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London W1V 3HG.

International grass ski-ing in Gstaad

It has already become a habit for people to bring one's skis along to Gstaad even in spring and summer, for one can ski all year round in the area of the aerial cableway of Reusch-Diablerets Glacier. For the past few years ski-ing in Gstaad has also been done on grass, or rather on grazing meadows. At Höhi Wispile, at an altitude of 2,000 metres (about 6,560 feet), so-called roller skis and shoes and sticks are available. On August 8 there will be an International Grass Ski-ing Race for the European Cup. Among other sport events the International Tennis Championships of Switzerland will be held in Gstaad's "Wimbledon of the Alps" (July 12 to 18). This will be an "open" tournament (professionals and amateurs) between the world's best players; the "National Concours Hippique" (riding championships) will be held on August 21 and 22, the "Third Oldtimer Gymkhana" (Weekend of Veterans) on August 28 and 29.

Art treasures from Dresden in Zurich

The exhibition "Art treasures from Dresden" may well be regarded as one of the most important events in Switzerland's cultural life this summer. It may be seen at the "Kunsthaus" (House of Art) in Zurich from May 29 to August 31. Thus for a period of three months visitors from near and far will be given an opportunity of admiring magnificent collections from one of Europe's most famous art cities. The destruction of Dresden toward the end of World War Two was one of the greatest disasters of that world catastrophe of a quarter of a century ago. Therefore, one appreciated even more gratefully the preservation of the unique art treasures in the former capital of the splendour-loving Electors of Saxony. Next to the collections of paintings in Paris and Florence, their gallery of paintings is among the most valuable and important ones anywhere. To house it, the great architect Gottfried Semper (who also created the Zurich Polytechnic) built the "New Museum" around the middle of the 19th century. The golden age of Italian, Dutch and Flemish painting of the 16th and 17th centuries are excellently represented here. Also the other art collections of Dresden abound in valuable works of art. One should not forget that the European art of porcelain making originated in Meissen, within immediate reach of the Electors of Saxony. It glorified the luxury in the city of Dresden during the reigns of Frederick August I and Frederick August II, both of whom were also Kings of Poland. The collections at the "Grünen Gewölbe" (Green Building) in Dresden also are world famous. That part of the castle which grew out of the old treasury building has since the early part of the 18th century housed magnificent collections of gems, works of art, jewellery, enamels and mosaics, gold and silver hollow-ware, as well as ivory carvings and bronze sculptures. For the first time outstanding pieces from the Dresden collections are being shown in Switzerland in such abundance.

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