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HOLIDAY OBSERVER



THE 25th Chess Olympiad – the international team tournament for men and women – is to be staged in Lucerne from October 30 to November 17.

The event was first held in 1927. It is now staged every two years, with the Lucerne Olympiad marking the 25th team tournament for men and the 10th for women.

About 140 teams are expected to participate, one third of them comprising women, and many grand masters will be competing.

The Olympiad is being sponsored by the Credit Suisse Bank, which has issued gold, silver and bronze medals to commemorate the Lucerne tournament. The medals have been designed by internationally-renowned Swiss artist Hans Erni.

★ ★ ★

A RECORD number of tourists visited Zurich last year. The city's Tourist Office reports that there were 2.3 per cent more arrivals, bringing the total up to 1,094,562 and they spent 2,344,391 nights there, a rise of 3.6 per cent.

In its annual report the tourist office says the main reason was the big increase in visitors from Asia and North and South America.

★ ★ ★

THE eastern Swiss city of St Gallen is again this October (7 to 17) staging the annual and increasingly popular OLMA – Switzerland's largest agricultural and dairying exhibition.

Its comprehensive and representative display attracts visitors from all over the world. Products are shown from agriculture and dairying, agricultural machinery, agricultural aids and products, besides goods and utility articles for business and the household.

Particularly important is the OLMA livestock show, dominated of course by the celebrated Swiss cattle. Swiss cows and especially bulls have been exported all over the world for decades. In addition, however, there are horses, sheep and pigs to be seen.



THE EYES HAVE IT . . .

Hundreds of attentive eyes watch every move. For this is the Brünigsonwinget. Staged on a site near the Brünig Pass, it is one of Switzerland's three big mountain wrestling festivals – the others being those of Schwarzsee and the Rigi. Exponents of "Schwingen" from all over Switzerland meet every year to pit their strength and skill against each other.

Model railway fans will flock to Basle

ZURICH-based Swiss Nova Park hotel group has just acquired its eighth property – the Sheraton Montparnasse in Paris. The 1,000-room property will be renamed the Montparnasse Park Hotel.

The Nova-Park group also hopes to open a New York property this autumn and another in Cairo in 1985.

★ ★ ★

EMILE Dailenbach – “Monsieur Emile” to thousands of guests – has retired as Maître d’Hotel of the five-star Hotel des Bergues in Geneva, after 40 years service there.

Now aged 70 he joined the des Bergues in 1941 after experience at several Swiss hotels and at Quaglino’s restaurant, London. He was promoted Maître d’Hotel in 1962.

★ ★ ★

SWISSAIR has been voted the top airline in two international polls. In the first survey businessmen placed Swissair first with West Germany’s Lufthansa airline.

After sifting the views of senior executives from 20,000 leading export companies, the UK magazine *Annual Investment File* found that British Airways had trebled its vote and climbed six places since last year to become the third most popular carrier.

British Airways pushed American Airlines down into fourth place by 42 votes, with Trans World Airlines making strides from 11th place last year to fifth this year.

★ ★ ★

BERNE’S bears are a big attraction, but the Swiss capital’s tourist office wants visitors to know that the city has much more to offer.

So it has opened an information kiosk next to the famed bearpit – where hundreds of tourists gather daily – to tell visitors about the other sights they can see in the capital.

The tourist office has issued a set of leaflets, drawing attention to features such as the 16th century astronomical clock and the medieval fountains, for distribution by the city hostesses manning the kiosk.

★ ★ ★

AFTER the metallurgical and



FOUR years after the successful exhibition and trade fair “Railways – Original and Model”, a similar event is being organised for railway fans. It will be held in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair at the same time as the Basle Autumn Fair, from October 23 to November 7.

“Railways 82” will bring together experts, amateurs, importers, exporters, representatives of trade associations and a broad public of railway and model railway enthusiasts.

The combination of exhibition, trade fair, technical meetings, excursions and associated attractions will make the event a Swiss and international meeting place not only of professional

circles but also of all the friends of rail-bound traffic – original or model.

The railway enthusiasts will be sharing the city with the traditional Basle Autumn Fair as well as the Basle Autumn Market/9th Basle Wine Fair and SNOW 82, the show for sports, winter and recreation.

A newcomer to Basle this year is Swisstech 82, a trade fair for technical industrial supplies and sub-contracting, which will be taking place for the first time from November 16-20 in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle.

Technical and commercial buyers, technicians, engineers, designers and draughtsmen from the whole area of technical in-

dustry as well as from trades are expected as visitors.

The exhibition groups cover metal and sheet metal working (from bending, pressing, punching stamping, boring, milling, welding, etc. to instrumentation and the production of prototypes), surface treatment (from galvanising to apparatus, installations and surface treatment products), materials and party, drive parts, machine parts and constructive elements as well as factory and works installations.

The 11th Swiss Furniture Fair from November 25-29, admission to which is restricted to the trade, brings the 1982 exhibition programme to a close, but plans for 1983 are taking shape.

machinery industries, tourism is the biggest “employer” in Switzerland. The various branches of the tourist industry employ either directly or indirectly nearly a quarter of a million people.

Over 60 per cent of the overnight reservations of holiday visitors are recorded in the economically under-privileged alpine and pre-alpine regions. In this way, tourism contributes to a large extent to improving the economic balance between the heavily and poorly developed regions of Switzerland.

★ ★ ★

POLICE stations at important

points in Lausanne are being equipped to answer tourist enquiries.

A Lausanne tourist office spokesman said: “In addition to our three offices in town, 17 panels have been placed at the entrance to these police stations.

“Officers with special training hand out tourist literature and if they cannot answer questions themselves they will get in touch with the main tourist office.”

★ ★ ★

AMERICAN millionaire Richard Minns, 53-year-old owner of a chain of health clubs, has become the first

person to waterski nonstop around Lake Geneva.

Towed on a monoski behind a speedboat, Minns covered the 105.6 miles in three hours and 40 minutes at an average speed of 29.2 mph.

“If anyone matches me, then I’ll do it twice nonstop,” he said afterwards. “And if someone does it twice, then I’ll do three circuits nonstop.”

Minns made his first attempt the previous day but abandoned just short of completing the run because of high waves.