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News from Switzerland

CONVENTION CENTRE IN HORGEN

The Seehotel Meierhof, in Horgen, is located 8½ miles down the lake from downtown Zurich and may be reached by auto, rail, ship and ferry from all directions. Directly connected to the "Schinzenhof", Horgen's ultra-modern new commercial centre, the hotel offers a remarkable range of facilities: conference rooms for about 1500 people; 134 rooms with a total of 250 beds; indoor swimming pool with sun terrace; golf course, and shops in the hotel building.

WORLD PREMIERE ON ICE IN BERNE

It is traditionally said that a performer who can appeal to the critical Bernese can feel safe in performing anywhere in the world. This may have been the thought behind the decision taken many years ago by the management of the famous American ice review, "Holiday on Ice", to hold its world premiere in Berne each year. This year again, "Holiday on Ice" will make its first appearance in its new form before Bernese audiences, playing at Berne's Festival Hall on October 9-16. As always, the show will feature many top stars as well as cast of 100 skaters.

ALPINE FESTIVAL AT INTERLAKEN

The Unspunnen Stone, a 83½ kg granite rock kept in Interlaken as an historic object, will again be the focal point of interest from August 29th to September 8th of this year, when the traditional Unspunnen Festival will be held here for the third time since 1946. The organisers of this event were not content to merely repeat their past efforts, and as they sought new ways of stimulating and emphasizing the traditions and way of life of the Swiss Mountain Farmers, to form a link between the past and present.

In addition to the costume parade with more than 2,500 participants from all parts of the country, Alpine Wrestling, folk dancing and the festivities on the Unspunnen Meadow, the festival will include a specially prepared pageant. The pageant will be performed on eight evenings in the new, 16,000-seat Wilhelm Tell open-air theatre. The Unspunnen Pageant will feature 500 players, including choral groups and the Berne Municipal Band. A specially minted souvenir coin, the Unspunnen Taler, will again serve as a treasured souvenir of this traditional event which, as in former times, will take place in a scene framed by the Jungfrau, the wooded ridges of the Lutschine, and the ruins of a medieval castle.

THE "COMPTOIR SUISSE" IN LAUSANNE

The Swiss Autumn Fair (Comptoir Suisse) was held this year on September 7th-22nd in Lausanne. Two guest countries, the Netherlands and Rumania, offered glimpses of their economies, industries, folklore and tourism. Performances by first-rate dance groups, singers and musical ensembles highlighted their presentations, which also featured the works of designers and architects from the guest countries. A further innovation was the display by Canton Thurgau, another official guest of the Fair. This marked the first time that a German-speaking canton was represented at the "Comptoir Suisse".

An exhibition on professional training created by young people and for young people, offered insights into the work being done in the fields of construction, the graphic arts, hotelkeeping and catering. The Salon of Interior Decoration this year chose as its theme "The Entrance Hall".

EUROPABUS SERVICE: LUCERNE — MONTREUX

One of the best ways to sample the impressive scenery of the Swiss Alps is by "Europabus". Daily services cover the route: Lucerne-Furku-Grimsel-Interlaken-col du Pillon-Montreux. Stops are made not only for meals but also at special points of interest. Passengers are picked up at and conveyed to their hotels at Lucerne and Montreux. Multilingual hostesses accompany the tours, which can be incorporated in a Swiss Holiday Ticket.

THE "VIA RAETICA": A EUROPEAN HIGHWAY

Chur:— New life has come to the San Bernardino since the first alpine tunnel of the Swiss National Highway network was opened to traffic at the end of last year. The beat of the 20th century now marks the pulse of this ancient pass region. Distances have grown shorter, connections speedier. Modern postal coaches now provide a year-round rapid link between Chur, capital of the Grisons, and Bellinzona, capital of Canton Ticino. Separated by some 70 miles, these two vastly different parts of Switzerland now seem much closer to one another, and the new winter-safe Alpine crossing has become a major route to sunny Ticino, the Italian-speaking southern portion of the country.

FAMOUS ART TREASURES

The unique art collection of the Abegg Foundation in Riggisberg (Canton Berne) will be open daily throughout the summer, from 2-5 p.m. The collection features treasures collected in the course of centuries.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BERNE

This city's central situation has given it access to virtually all major European rail, road and air connections. There are direct trains from the Swiss federal capital to major cities in Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux nations, and travellers from England can catch direct trains from Ostende and Calais; direct lines to Scandinavia (Copenhagen-Brig and Puttgarden-Brig) also pass through Berne.

As a starting point for the Loetschberg Railway, Berne is also at the northern end of a major trans-Alpine route which, thanks to smoothly functioning auto-carrying trains, is of equal interest to motorists. As to the highway network, Berne constitutes the western end of the longest stretch thus far completed in the projected Swiss superhighway network (the Berne-Lenzburg stretch of Highway N 1).

The approaches to a number of alpine passes — Grimsel, Susten, Bruenig and Col du Pillon — and to the Great St. Bernard Auto Tunnel, lead motorists on the N 1 through Berne. And since this major road will in the near future become the Swiss portion of Europa-Highway E 3, Berne is assured of its connection to the Europe-wide network of superhighways.

In the air, too, the Swiss capital enjoys good service. There are direct flights to Paris, and Balair (operating in conjunction with Swissair) offers regular service from Berne-Belpmoos to Zurich-Kloten and Geneva-Cointrin airports, thus providing direct links with international and transcontinental flights.

SWISS FARE INCREASE 1st NOVEMBER, 1968

It has been announced that the Swiss passenger tariffs will be increased as from the 1st November, 1968 by an average of 11.2%. The new fare tables will be issued as soon as possible.

WINE HARVEST FESTIVAL IN NEUCHATEL

As in other years, Switzerland's outstanding wine harvest festivals all fell on the same weekend this year — October 5 and 6. The traditional festival in Neuchatel attracts more than 80,000 visitors each year and constitutes the highlight of the touristic season around the Lake of Neuchatel.

The organisers of the event make every effort to fill the two festival days with French-Swiss charm and temperament, culminating in the colourful Sunday afternoon parade. This year the theme of the parade, "Balade autour du monde" (Roaming Around the World) was a promising subject well calculated to attract and fascinate visitors.