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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Statistics recently published indicate that there are now some thirteen thousand factories in the whole of Switzerland. The industries with the most factories are: machine-tools (2,146), wood (1,938), garment (1,536), metallurgy (1,492), watchmaking (1,270).

* * *

Switzerland recently became the stage for no less than four film companies. Two of them focused lenses on Zermatt and the Matterhorn, while the other film teams also roved through the German-speaking part of the country. Columbia Pictures International is shooting "Wonderful Switzerland", one of a series of 40-minute colour travelogues on European countries. For one sequence, the camera crew was landed on an Alpine glacier by Swiss mountain-rescue pilot Hermann Geiger.

* * *

Mr. Wahlen, the President of the Confederation, has received a message of thanks from the American Ambassador in Berne for the rescue operations carried out very efficiently after the dreadful accident, near Hergiswil, of an autocar carrying American tourists.

* * *

Cantonal

An American producer, Richard Reich, is thinking of making a film of the Swiss novel "Stadt ohne Maenner" (The City Without Men), written in 1954 by Gertrud Isolani, of Basle. Anne-Marie Blanc, Helmut Foernbacher and Konrad George are being considered for the main parts of this American-Swiss production.

* * *

A thief who broke into a Zurich house, gaining entry via the first floor, stole a fur coat, 70 furs, cuff-links and cash, to a total value of about 30,000 francs. The householder, his wife and a maid were all at home at the time — but none of them heard the intruder.

* * *

Mrs. Bertha Ris-Hotz, who in her youth served as a model to the painter Albert Anker, died recently in Bienne, at the age of 85.

* * *

One driver and five passengers were killed outright, and two other drivers were injured, in the latest of a chain of road tragedies in Switzerland last July. The fatal crashes occurred as Rene Zuber, of Chalais, Valais, was driving his sister to Sion. Zuber's other passenger was the girl who was to become his bride the following month. Witnesses stated that Zuber's car swung out of the column

to overtake a lorry, went into a skid on the wet road and crashed at full speed. All three occupants were killed instantaneously. French holidaymakers in another small car behind the lorry saw the death crash, which appeared to unnerve the French driver, who did not react; his car rammed into the rear of the lorry — and was rammed from behind by a French tourist bus. Three passengers were killed outright and the driver of the French car was severely injured.

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Paul Bodmer, the famous Zurich painter, creator of numerous frescoes and mosaics, has celebrated his 75th anniversary.

* * *

Greece, a guest of honour, has brought the world's all-time beauty to Switzerland for the Comptoir Suisse of Lausanne. The other week local workmen carefully unveiled the beautiful VIP — the statue of the Venus de Milo, loaned from the Musée du Louvre in Paris.

* * *

The first night of a new Swiss film, "The Hazy Osterwald Story", was a big success in Zurich. A musical in colour, the film tells the story of the orchestra founded by the Bernese musician, Hazy Osterwald, in 1949.

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Canton of Zurich has a total of 2,378 factories. Between them they employ 126,025 people, of whom 30 per cent are foreigners.

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The tenth anniversary of the foundation of Basle's open-air theatre has been marked by the showing of "Jedermann", by Hofmanstahl.

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The Ticinese graphic artist, Franco Barberis, who lives in Zurich, has received the 1961 international prix of humour.

* * *

Heidi and Peter, two Zurich swans presented to the city of Dallas, Texas, by a Swiss businessman, were given a big welcome when they arrived at their new home. After spending three weeks in quarantine, the swans were flown to Dallas, where they were met by city authorities. The swans, originating from the colony near Zurich's Grossmunster, were featured on television and in Texas' five largest newspapers. At present housed in the local zoo, they are soon to be moved to the city park, where they are expected to produce a family of "Auslandschweizer".



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Canon Carl Kuendig, who for half a century taught Latin and Old Greek at Mariahilf College in Schwyz, and who is ninety years of age, has celebrated his 65th year of priesthood at the chapel of Schwyz hospital.

* * *

The Turnus film company of Zurich have started the production of a new film called "Chikita". It is the story of a small Swiss city's inhabitants who try to escape from the monotonous routine of their daily life.

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In Muhlberg, Miss Elizabeth Herren has celebrated her 102nd birthday. She is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Berne.

* * *

Karl Meli, of Winterthur, won the title of King Wrestler of 1961 during the federal fête of wrestling in Zoug. The championship was watched by no less than 25,000 spectators.

(Most of the above items were received from the A.T.S. News Service.)

JEDER ZWÖLFTE SCHWEIZER WOHNT IN DER STADT ZÜRICH

Auf dem heutigen Gebiet der Stadt Zürich leben gegenwärtig etwa zehnmal so viele Menschen wie vor einem Jahrhundert. Seit 1910, also im Zeitraum von 50 Jahren, hat sich die Einwohnerzahl gut verdoppelt. Die Eidg. Volkszählung vom 1. Dezember 1960 ergab für die Stadt Zürich als definitives Resultat 440'170 Einwohner.

Wie ein Vergleich mit den Volkszählungsergebnissen seit 1850 zeigt, hat sich die Stadtbevölkerung im verflochtenen Jahrzehnt besonders stark vergrössert. Seit 1950 erhöht sie sich um 50'150 Personen oder rund 13%. Der Zuwachs entspricht annähernd der gegenwärtigen Einwohnerzahl des ganzen Kantons Zug.

In der gleichen Zeit hat sich die Einwohnerzahl des 11. Stadtkreises weitaus am stärksten vergrössert, nämlich um rund 36'000 Personen oder um annähernd 70%. Die vier früheren Vororte Affoltern, Oerlikon, Schwammendingen u. Seebach, die seit der Eingemeindung von 1934 den Kreis 11 bilden, zählen nun 87'000 Einwohner, also mehr als die Stadt Winterthur.

Andererseits sind infolge der Citybildung die Einwohnerzahlen von nicht weniger als 18 Quartieren gegenüber 1950 zurückgegangen. Die Verminderung der Einwohnerzahlen tritt naturgemäss im Stadtzentrum am deutlichsten hervor: Die Abnahme gegenüber 1950 beträgt rund ein Viertel im Hochschulquartier, ein Fünftel in dem zwischen Bahnhofstrasse u. Schanzengraben-Sihl gelegenen Cityquartier und je ein Sechstel in den Altstadtquartieren Rathaus und Lindenhof.

Gemessen an der gesamtschweizerischen Bevölkerung von 5'429'061 Personen am 1. Dezember 1960, macht der Anteil der Stadt Zürich 8,1% aus: vor 10 Jahren waren es noch 8,3%. Jeder zwölfte Bewohner der Schweiz lebt somit in der Stadt Zürich. Wesentlich stärker als im ganzen Land hat sich das bevölkerungsmässige Gewicht der Stadt Zürich im Kanton ermässigt. Von den 952'304 Einwohnern des Kantons Zürich am 1. Dezember 1960 entfielen nämlich 46,2% auf die Kantonshauptstadt, während die entsprechende Quote im Jahre 1950 noch 50,2% betragen hatte. Das vor zehn Jahren sich abzeichnende Übergewicht der Stadtbevölkerung ist Dank dem raschen Wachstum der selbständigen Vorortsgemeinden nicht Wirklichkeit geworden.

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