

Recent deaths

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Switzerland has no film industry: no studios and no big companies. Nearly all the films which are produced on her soil are the work of loners with 16mm cameras, of amateurs with strong artistic ambitions. For these reasons most of the films presented were "shorts", with a few exceptions. The best film presented at the exhibition, "Charles mort ou vif" by the Genevese Alain Tanner was one of these exceptions. The film had obtained great success at the Cannes and Locarno film festivals but had been rejected by every cinema in Switzerland. It was actually showing very successfully in Paris.

The open discussions at the festival dwelt at length on the problems of film distribution in Switzerland. There could be no lasting Swiss cinema if home theatres were not ready to present films produced by Swiss cineasts. At the moment, cinema owners were very reluctant to show anything made at home.

Among the films shown, those most noted were "Sad-is-fiction", a "platonic portrait" of the Zurich painter Alex Sadkowsky by F. M. Murer (the film was praised by the *Basler Nachrichten* but knocked down by the *Journal de Genève*); "Krawall", a documentary on the fight between youth and police in Zurich in 1968 by Jürg Hassler; "Fano Hill" by Xavier Koller, depicting a game which degenerates into a fight and then in murder; "La Bataillière" by Frédéric Gonzeth, a film on the recalling of the past inspired by the French producer Alain Resnais; "Die Landschaftsgärtner" by Kurt Gloon, a study of the hard existence of the peasants in the higher valleys of Switzerland; "la Pomme", by Michel Sutter, the story of a wife who goes to Geneva for a few days to meet her first lover only to find that he has become another man and that it is no longer possible to re-experience her former feelings.

About two-thirds of the films came from German-speaking Switzerland. Critics were unanimous in discovering an encouraging upsurge in artistic creativity during these four days at Solothurn.

CANTONAL

Rent problems in Lausanne

The tenants living in the buildings of Lausanne erected with public aid had been notified of rent increases of 15% at the turn of the year. The cantonal office for housing has subsequently declared that the house-owners' demand was void because the law exempted flats created with public money from rent increases. Tenants of another kind of tenement (covered by special agreement between the Commune of Lausanne and the house-owners), were officially allowed to reject the increased rent demands of their landlords.

A new recuperation campaign in Zurich

The Swiss spend 10% of their income on clothing. They usually hesitate

to throw their used garments away since these could be profitably used by industry or by less prosperous people. The association of textile industries has launched a campaign to solve this problem. In a first action, teams of boy scouts and Catholic youths have managed to collect 300 tons of used clothes during two afternoons in Zurich last November. Similar actions will continue. 10 centimes will be paid for each kilogramme of old clothing collected. This money will go to the charities and welfare associations involved in the "harvest". The hundreds of tons of clothing thus collected will be sorted out and partially used by various industries, and, if they are still usable, sent off to third world countries. There will thus be a centralised depot of usable clothes for the benefit of those in need in Switzerland and abroad.

ANGLO-SWISS

The 10th Rose of Montreux contest will be held in April. This is a yearly variety-show competition in which the BBC came second last year with "Marty". This year it is entering a special edition of the "Morecambe and Wise Show" (which, needless to say, gives the Corporation pretty good chances). ITV is entering an all-comedy programme for the first time and has chosen "The Benny Hill Show" by Thames Television.

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After a number of hotel registers had been examined in the Valais, it was discovered that Winston Churchill had stayed in the Canton on more than one occasion during his youth. The illustrious statesman had even accomplished some difficult ascents, some of which were above 4,000 metres. All doubts on this score were dispelled when a proof of Churchill's alpine exploits was found in the records of a mountain guide, the late John Aufdenblatten from Zermatt, which mentions a 4,500-metre climb to the summit of Mount Rosa in 1893 and holds Churchill's signature. The future statesman was only 19 at the time.

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We learnt from the "Palette" section of the *Basler Nachrichten* that 200,000 people disappeared every year in Great Britain. Please draw the necessary personal conclusions. . . .

RECENT DEATHS

Bernard Barbey, 69, in a car accident in Paris. He was a well-known literary figure and has lived in Paris since 1923. His works include "Le coeur gros", "La maison d'illusion" and "Chevaux abandonnés sur le champ de bataille", a novel which earned him the literary prize of the City of Paris in 1951.

During the war he was stationed in the General Staff, first working under the direct orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Masson, then succeeding to the future divisionary Colonel Gonard as head of General Guisan's personal staff. He re-

lated his friendship with Guisan and his war-time experiences in a diary published under the title of "P.C. du Général".

Carl Kling-Bowald, 71, in Basle. Son of the owner of the first photography-shop of Basle, Carl King was well known for his portrait and theatre photography.

Ferdinand Scherrer, 70, former director of the primary and secondary school of Basle. A well-known local personality of Basle.

Hans Kneubühler, 76, former director of the *Kaufm. Berufsschule* in Thun. He had been the head teacher of that school uninterruptedly from 1920 to 1965 and had been a prominent member of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

René Ruchti, 73, former manager of watch factories in La Chaux de Fonds and of the balance-wheel factories of La Sagne. He was a well-known personality of the Neuchâtel Jura and was involved in the promotion of sports, being a founder-member of the "Club 44".

Edouard Lagnaz, 79, at Prilly. He had been sub-manager of the Lausanne branch of the Swiss Bank Corporation up to 1954, president of the liberal party, of the "Romanel circle", member of the communal council of Prilly and judge in the Lausanne circuit until 1960.

Prof. Frederic Kohler, 75, teacher in one of Lausanne's language institutes. He had lived in America for a long while and had presided the French Circle for Arts and Literature in Los Angeles.

Prof. William Boven, former dean of the medical faculty and rector of the University of Lausanne, at 83. His writings include such titles as "Anxiety", "Adam and Eve and the problem of the sexes", "The Science of Character" and an "Essay on the psychology of a hero: Major Davel".

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FOREIGN WORKERS

The Italian daily "La Stampa" devoted a full page to the problems of Italian workers employed in Switzerland. The article reproduced the opinions of a panel of Swiss civil servants and politicians involved with the Italian question, including James Schwarzenbach, launcher of the anti-foreigner initiative. The latter reaffirmed the essentials of his plan, which consisted in reducing the number of foreign workers in Switzerland by a third. Another official expounded on the efforts made by the Federal Council to stabilise the imported population. According to "La Stampa", the overall majority of Swiss citizens reject the Schwarzenbach thesis but his action has revived a distinctly anti-foreign attitude. The Swiss fully acknowledged the contributions made by Italians to their economy, the paper said, and it was time for them to draw a balance sheet and re-examine their consciences.