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Summaries and Notices

Summaries

p. 424...432

Corrosion of Lead Cables (16)

The reaction of cable sheaths of various types of lead and aluminium to ac and dc voltages

K. Vögtli, Berne

Corrosion tests have shown that ac and dc voltages affect mainly aluminium-sheathed cable, while antimony lead reacts more strongly than other types of lead.

p. 433...444

The New Model 70 Telephone Set

P. Guyer, Berne

This article introduces the new Swiss PTT model 70 telephone set. Improvements in design and transmission characteristics are described, and special mention is made of the magnetic microphone with integrated amplifier. Having explained the circuit diagrams, the author presents the proposed range of apparatus and attachments, at the same time commenting on their installation and connection.

p. 445...450

The ATECO System in Operation

A. Schmidhauser, Berne

The progressive take-on of the ATECO message switching system, which handles Switzerland's entire telegram traffic, began on 10 May 1971 and ended on 10 April 1972, after a period of eleven months. No major difficulties were encountered in changing from conventional operation to what is probably the world's most advanced telegram processing system. Experience has proved the efficiency and reliability of this plant which simplifies work in telegraph offices, reduces transmission time and enables staff economies to be made.

An English translation of this article will appear in one of the next issues.

p. 453...462

50 Years of Broadcasting in Switzerland

Christian Kobelt, Berne

The placing in operation, at the end of October 1922, of an airfield transmitter in Lausanne marked the beginning of the broadcasting service in this country. This article gives a brief review of the historical development (with special emphasis on the technical aspects), which began on a regional level and led to a national broadcasting system in 1931, the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation being responsible for programming and the PTT in charge of the technical side of the operation. Broadcasting has since been extended methodically, first consideration being always given to national rather than local interests. Today, 94 in every 100 households have a radio licence. Although television is now very much to the fore, a solution must still be found to numerous sound broadcasting problems, which the article shortly touches upon in conclusion.

News Items

Posts

Trials with franking machines are being conducted at the Basle 1 parcel counter. These machines deliver moistened gummed labels showing the date and a franking impression which corresponds to the weight of the parcel. The trials are to show whether the new facility helps to accelerate parcel acceptance, reduce stocks of stamps and simplify cash accounts.

Swiss PTT are introducing a special **parcel transport service for the watch-making industry.** Delivery by motor-vehicle is arranged four times daily from the La Chaux-de-Fonds collecting and distributing centre to the entire **Neuchâtel and Berne Jura, including Biel and Grenchen.**

In August letter-post carrying capacity between Switzerland and the USA was improved by the introduction of an **additional weekly container service to New York.**

The 400th subscriber to the Giro inpayment card system (special service for firms sending out bills in the form of punched inpayment cards) was recorded in August. Swiss PTT was the first postal administration to introduce this system in 1952 for billing its customers with telephone charges as well as radio and television licence fees. In 1960 the service was made available to large public and private organizations. The number of users rose to 100 in 1966 and to 200 in 1968.

Telephone

In August **Switzerland's third automatic morning and alarm call system** with an initial capacity of 4,000 orders was put into operation at **Basle**.

The **Neuchâtel inquiry office** has been equipped with **16 microfilm readers.** This facility is now available in 8 Swiss offices.

By way of experiment, a **mechanized time-table information service** will be introduced at **Zurich** on 1 October. Rail passengers will be able to obtain details of the best trains on seven main lines from Zurich.

At the end of August **direct communication links between Switzerland and 24 overseas countries existed over 57 cable, 83 satellite and 19 radio circuits.** Of these, 88 are operated to the USA, 20 to Israel, 12 to Canada, 5 to the Lebanon and 4 to Morocco.

Telegraph, Telex

On 1 August the **electronic seat reservation system of the Swiss Federal Railways** came into operation. At present **27 private travel agencies** are connected to this system over the public telex network.

Automatic telex service to Hong Kong and Laos (via Hong Kong) was introduced on 1 August.

In July **leased lines** rose to **1010,** having exceeded 1000 for the first time. This number included 187 data communication links. Switzerland now operates 681 national lines (data 135), 329 European (data 40) and 107 overseas circuits (data 11). The increase over January of this year is 43 (data 23).

Radio, Television

For their **radio and television broadcasts of the 20th Olympic Summer Games in Munich** the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation rented 12 fixed speech and control channels. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which relayed the TV world programme, supplemented their permanent networks by 2 leased video links with France and 3 sound channels with Germany, Austria and Italy. An additional leased line linked the Zurich-Albis Eurovision centre with the Munich control room.

In the **first half** of 1972, **261,000 radios and 118,000 television sets** were sold in Switzerland. The increase over the same period of the previous year is 56,000 and 25,000 respectively. After deduction of sales to new licensees, 216,000 radio and 31,000 TV replacement or second sets are arrived at.