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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

GIGANTIC NUMERICAL CLOCK

The Swiss watchmaking industry has specialised among other things in high precision timing systems for sports events. The latest achievement in this field is a gigantic numerical clock, made by a big watchmaking firm in Bienne. This clock, specially designed for the international ski races at Grindelwald and the Lauberhorn, is equipped with a very large score board, making it possible at distance of up to 800 feet, to read the exact times of competitors. It works in synchronisation with the other timing appliances and indicates the minutes, seconds, tenths and hundredths of a second.

Thanks to its system of luminous figures formed of light bulbs, this numerical clock enables a large crowd of spectators to follow the race better. But its real originality lies in the fact that it immediately and automatically indicates each racer's time thanks to a fully transistorised electronic remote control system. The times of arrival remain posted for a few seconds, until the apparatus passes on to the timing of the next competitor. (ASEC).

TV AND RADIO IN SWITZERLAND

The number of TV licences issued in Switzerland, which amounted to 491,843 at the end of 1964, reached the figure of 500,000 on January 13th this year. At the end of December 1964, 1,619,395 radio licences had been issued, including 442,600 for the reception of radio programmes via the telephone system. (OSEC).

THE 35th INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW IN GENEVA

The 35th International Motor Show will be held in Geneva from March 11th to 21st, 1965. It will comprise the following sections: Private cars, special coachwork, boats, caravans and camping, cycles and motorcycles, mechanical handling devices, accessories, technical literature and motoring associations (OSEC).

AUTOMOBILE SALON IN GENEVA

The International Automobile Salon in Geneva takes its title very seriously — in 1964, for example, there were exhibitors from 21 countries. This year's Salon (March 11-21) will contain more than 600 stands, which will feature the latest in automobiles, auto bodies, boats, trailers (Caravans), motorcycles, bicycles, camping equipment, even helicopters. Nearly all European railway systems are offering special reduced-price tickets to visitors of the Salon.

The Swiss Federal Railways are offering a round-trip ticket for the price of a one-way fare, provided the user has the ticket stamped at the Geneva Salon. Early hotel reservations are strongly recommended. This year, in addition to the very useful souvenir catalogue, there will be a short pamphlet giving important Salon information in four languages.