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It Happened in the Canton of Zurich

ZURICH TOWN

The largest Swiss town counted 1593 millionaires in 1966, and 1953 individuals declared property of over $\frac{1}{2}$ m. Over 290,000 people were in employment or self-employed. Those in municipal employment numbered 15,500, an increase of 330. The Municipality received donations and legacies of not quite $\frac{1}{2}$ m. francs, over half of this sum in favour of orphans.

The town of Zurich owns some 10,000 pictures and 3000 fountains, sculptures, murals and mosaics. Apart from showing some of them at periodic exhibitions, most of these works of art are distributed in schools, homes and hospitals and other public buildings. It has been decided that pictures of living Zurich artists can be hired at about 5% of their value, the rent being deducted from a possible subsequent purchase. As the pictures will be chosen by a team of three experts and then shown at the "Kunstkammer Strauhof", good new works will be advertised. Zurich has had a series of splendid art exhibitions this year, among them a large Chagall show, then van Gogh, Carigiet, Mucha and Kaethe Kollwitz, Lies Sandoz and Furuta and Werner Aerni. 34 painters and sculptors of the Enge district, which used to be a farming village, organised an exhibition in June. The Art Museum has put three rooms of its old building at the disposal of the Dr Mayenfisch Collection of about 200 works of some 75 Swiss artists of the twentieth century. The art prize of the town of Zurich has been awarded to Varlin (Willy Guggenheim) from Lengnau/Aargau. In July, the new Le Corbusier Centre was opened which the famous architect himself had planned. The Zurich "Schauspielhaus" took Duerrenmatt's "Der Meteor" on a successful tour to Berlin where the comedy had been awarded a prize last year.

Japanese cherryblossom trees have been sent to Zurich from the town of Nara, Takamuku, Japan, as a token of admiration for Pestalozzi; they have been planted near the Pestalozzianum.

Zurich was again a favourite for congresses and conferences in 1966; 17,000 people took part in 38 such meetings, half of them from abroad. In addition, there were other shows and festivals. In March, the Zurich gardening experts staged the "Flower Paradise" at the "Hallenstadion", followed in April by the traditional "Sechselaeuten". The "Stadtzunft" Zurich celebrated its centenary. In May, there were Dutch Days, followed by Europe Day. The June Festival Weeks opened with a big ball after the premiere of "Madame Bovary" by Sutermeister. In spite of rain, the "Knabenschiessen" in September was a great success;

the **Obmann** of the "Schuetzengesellschaft", Mr B. Truninger, welcomed prominent guests, among them members of the Cantonal Government, the Consular Corps and high Army officers. In October, there were French Gastronomical Weeks.

Hans Wolfermann was elected new President of the Commune Council when the new **Amtsjaahr** began in May. The budget for 1968 estimates revenue of 572m., and expenditure of 492m. francs, not counting amortisations and extraordinary expenditure for construction work. A credit of 1.7m. has been sought for participating in the increase in the share capital of Swissair. Over 4m. francs was brought in by entertainment tax (**Billetsteuer**). Net surplus of 22.8m. francs was realised by the town's electricity works. Much criticism has been voiced that the Commune Council granted 4.45 m. for the purchase of 396 tram ticket machines. Talking of machines, there was great consternation when a million francs was missing in the Social Welfare Office; it was due to wrong computer feeding!

There is still a shortage of hotels in Zurich, but other building projects are going ahead. The SIA building, new home of the Swiss Engineers and Architects, has been started at Selnau, as has the multi-storey building for Radio Studio Zurich at the Brunnenhof. By rationalising, the town has saved 10% on the cost of 45m. francs for 749 flats in five settlements. The old house "Zur Glocke" (1408) has been renovated by a descendant of a former owner Johann Usenbenz, and an old farm (17th century) at the Leimbachstrasse is also to be saved. A church centre will be built at Leimbach (5.5m. francs), and the "Predigerkirche" has been successfully renovated; it is 700 years old. The "Dia-konissenhaus Bethanien" has been enlarged in 8 years and can now enjoy the new buildings. The new "Globus", eleven storeys high, was opened in September, and Denners have opened two super-discount shops, revolutionary food stores.

The electorate refused a 5.6m.-franc credit for a police garage; this may be some reaction to recent complaints by motorists that the police had given them rough handling. Zurich has a new crematorium near the Waid Hospital, extending over 12,000 square metres. Also open are the new central laundries of the Zurich hospitals.

The ninth school year has been declared compulsory for the town of Zurich. The new school at Schwamendingen has been inaugurated.

Confederation, Canton and Municipality have at last agreed on how to solve the road problem in Zurich. It will cost altogether two milliard francs.

The new Stadtchemiker, Dr. ing. chem. ETH Richard Brown, succeeds Dr. H. Forster who retires. Their office has been busy,

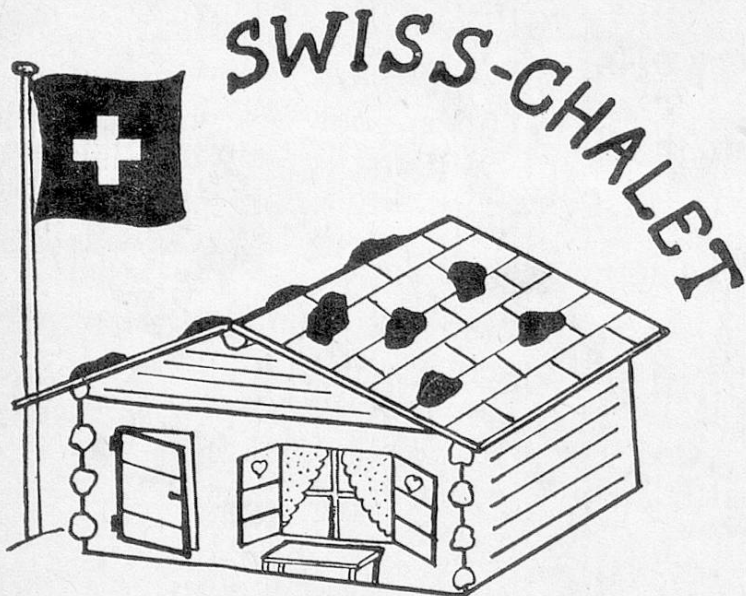
what with an alarming drinking water pollution due to a textile factory's processing chemicals; nearly 70,000 inhabitants were affected.

The "Touring Club Suisse" of Zurich, celebrated its golden jubilee in April. It has over 88,000 members, a further increase in a year of 6300.

A big town like Zurich quite naturally also has its share of crime; there was a big picture theft, value 1.5m. francs, early in the year, from the Elite Film Manager's office. In May, two international crooks were caught in Zurich, a German **Millionen-Schmuckdieb** and two South American cheque forgers. In addition, an extensive dope ring was seized — 17 people. In July, thieves got away with 280,000 francs from the Schlieren post office, and the police closed 12 private clubs. In September, there was a bank raid and thieves got away with 350,000 francs, but were caught soon enough.

COMMUNES

Hardly had the Commune of Baeretswil inaugurated its new school, when it organised a "Bahnfest" to demonstrate that the railway between Upper Glattal and Toesstal was still in demand, though the SBB are thinking of closing it; it is popularly known



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as the "Ueberbeinbahn". At Dielsdorf, the corner stone was laid mid-October for the new school and home for spastics. The electorate of Duebendorf decided against a Commune Parliament.

In spring, there was a serious fire at Elgg, in which 50 people lost their homes; four houses were gutted, and a boy lost his life. The Commune Assembly of Faellanden has just granted a credit of 1.8m. francs for a gymnasium with swimming pool and two flats. At Faegswil, a man went berserk and shot three people. The Restaurant "Alpenblick" at Gossau (1486) was gutted by fire in spring; it was caused by mice nibbling sulphur matches!

The only 600 inhabitants of Greifensee granted 4.6m. francs for a new primary school and a double kindergarten. Herrliberg inaugurated its new school centre in summer with a pageant. An Emil-Spoerri Foundation has enabled the Commune of Hittnau to have a home for old-age pensioners at the "Luppmenhof". Kloten citizens voted for the introduction of a Commune Parliament. Thanks to a legacy by Mrs A. Hitz-Gmuer ($\frac{1}{2}$ m. francs), Langnau/Albis will be able to have a home for old people. Only 100 citizens attended the Commune Assembly at Maennedorf, but they voted 2.7m. for a new school Hasenacker II. The Meilen-Herrliberg-Uetikon waste-water plant has become operational, and Richterswil citizens have voted for a water reservoir and pumping station.

Thalwil citizens voted 2.3m. francs just for road construction work, more especially for the junction alte Landstrasse/Sonnenbergstrasse. Uster's electorate granted the credit for a special school for handicapped children (1m.), and Voelketswil citizens agreed to a 3m.-credit for a swimming pool with heating; one brave man only voted against. The Waedenswil Church celebrated its bicentenary, and an extensive new riding school and jumping ground were opened early in October, suitable for shows and competitions and some 2000 spectators. When the church at Wangen was renovated, traces of six former building parts were discovered underneath it, the first dating to the 8th century. The Commune Assembly of Zumikon granted over $7\frac{1}{4}$ million francs for a new primary school.



Laugh a little . . .

Christmas-time is approaching and the little boy is growing out of the fairytale approach. He says to his dad: "The Easter bunny, that's only daddy; Santa is only daddy; the Christchild bringing the gifts is only daddy"—and he has an idea that the stork is daddy also!

—Nebelspalter