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SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.):

## **"Around the World -- Switzerland Too"**

All financial members of the Society are invited to ask for the exact itinerary which has been prepared for a Group leaving Auckland o.o.a. the end of May 1969 and returning approximately middle of August 1969.

**Very attractive route:** Auckland - Tahiti - Hawaii - Canada - USA - Switzerland (approx. 9-12 weeks' stay) - Moscow - Japan - Hong Kong - Auckland.

**Cost:** \$930.00 to \$960.00 (incl. Hotel accom., transf., etc.).

**For quick travellers:** Auckland - Hong Kong - Zurich - and back to New Zealand via Chicago - Los Angeles for even less than \$900.00.

**All applications only to:** Mr Arnold Biland, Te Rapa R.D.8, Frankton. Tel. 88-794 Hamilton.

**Tour Organiser:** Mrs Ursula Boeckli.

Please make use of this grand opportunity and apply without delay so that a Group can be formed in the near future.

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## **Hedy's Corner**

By the time this "Helvetia" is in your hands, Christmas preparations will all be planned and under control.

When do you gather under the Christmas tree with your family, is it on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? A silly question you might say and none of the writer's business.

Let me tell you of my experience: As it is a widespread custom in Switzerland to light the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve, we continued to observe it thus as our children grew up. Now they are married. And as with your children, as likely as not the wives, husbands respectively will be New Zealanders. New Zealand Christmas is always celebrated on the 25th. How admirable this works out. Our married children need have no conscience about neglecting the family or in-law family at the Christmas get-together. They celebrate with Swiss Dad and Mam on the 24th and with the N.Z. Dad and Mam on the 25th.

Talking about customs: Are you having a New Year's Eve party? Why not revive "Bleigiessen" and "apple peel oracle?" Get some lead from your plumber. Heat it in an old spoon over a candle flame. When melted quickly pour into water. Let your imagination guess what the weird shapes of lead seem to predict for 1969. Peel an apple without breaking the skin. Throw the skin back over your shoulder. Then, if you are single, the wriggles of the peel will denote the initials of your future spouse?! Immediately before midnight see that every guest has 12 morsels of anything from strawberries to nuts. With each stroke of the clock chew one morsel and make a silent wish!

A very joyous Christmas and a happy New Year to all.