

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 33 (1970)
Heft: [2]

Artikel: Ernest Studer writes from Switzerland...
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942204>

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Ernest Studer Writes From Switzerland . . .

Dear Readers,

Schlatt, December 1969

Soon it will be 1970. Here in Switzerland the winter is holding a severe reign and the first snow which fell on November 26th is still covering mother earth with a warm blanket. In the neighbour countries, like Austria and Italy, they had the biggest fall of snow for many years, and in Italy many roads were blocked down to Naples.

On 16th this month the election in the Conseille Federal took place. For the retiring Mr Spühler, Mr Graber, an advocate from Lausanne, was elected with a big majority. The successor for Mr Schaffner is Mr Bruggmann, who was a member of the Government of the Canton of Zurich for many years.

Undoubtedly the biggest happening this month was the El Al process in Winterthur. Let me recall the background for this process. Some Arab terrorists wanted to blow up an Israeli airplane at the airport of Kloten. One of the security men on the airplane killed one of the aggressors. At the specific time the aggressor did not wear his gun. The jury had to decide if the security man acted in self-defence or if it was murder, because the killed man was not wearing a gun at the time. The process lasted nearly a week. During that time more than 100 policemen guarded the area all the time. A horde of reporters from many different countries were on the spot to report about the current progress. The verdict of the jury was 12 years imprisonment for the terrorists and a not guilty for Rachmanin the security man, who did only his job anyway. Big protest went through the whole Arab world, while on the other side Rachmanin received a hero's welcome in Israel.

We had a real white Christmas this year. Everything was covered with snow and ice, but in spite of the white cover and the frosty weather, true Christmas feeling seemed to have got lost somewhere during all the years I was away, and what is left is a big commercial affair where only money counts.

Schlatt, January 1970

Christmas and New Year have come and gone, and we are writing already 1970. The snow is still with us, but the other day we received some rain on the cold ground and you should have seen what funny situations developed from it, because the whole district turned into one big icerink — big stern matrons coming down the hill on their backside, or that dignified, elderly professor in his best clothes trying to negotiate the most difficult and slippery parts on hands and feet! Apparently it must have been the worst glazed frost situation they have had here in many years. The past weeks we had a lot of fog, and I don't think we saw the sun more than two or three times over the last three

weeks — no wonder the people are heading towards the mountain at every given opportunity to catch a little sunshine!

Skiing is very popular, and it is just about a must for every young Swiss to master this sport. Nearly every school, including primary, is organising its own ski camp somewhere on the mountain. The accident toll is, accordingly, high too. The statistics show that about every 70th person comes home in plaster from his skiing holidays. Expensive in the long run?

The other day the Conseille cantonal of the Canton of Zurich had its session and when it came to take a vote the president noticed that he didn't have a majority in the house, so he had to send the clerk to look for the rest of it; finally he found about 25 in the nearby pubs. As punishment they lost their pay for this day.

Everywhere big preparations are being made for the coming Carnival time, which starts on February 5th. I will write about this in the next issue.

Cheerio in the meantime,

E. STUDER.

HEDY'S CORNER . . .

Toward the end of the long summer holidays youngsters tend to get bored and many a Mum heaves a sigh of relief when school starts. But the question, "What can I do?" will soon be heard again from the children as, with imminent autumn blending gradually into winter, sparetime activities will of necessity be confined to indoors.

Here are two successfully tried suggestions. Both have the advantage to be adaptable from the very elementary to the creative and artistic version. Furthermore, the ingredients are readily found in any home: scissors, thin cardboard, crayons and thin paper.

☆ CRAYON RUBBING

Look around the house and feel with your finger for raised surfaces and textures with a pattern. Such might be woodgrain, coins, treebark, metal grills, screens, combs, tennis racquet, raised glass surfaces, leaves, etc. To make a crayon rubbing of your chosen texture place a piece of thin paper over it and hold it firmly in place. Holding the crayon sideways in the other hand, rub it across the paper and the pattern will appear. By rubbing it over coins, then cutting out the rubbed coin, you have instant "play money".

Leaves are particularly effective. Turn leaf upside down, so that the veins project. Older children can make a very attractive leaf arrangement by moving the leaf under the paper and using different colours for the rubbings, creating an autumn scene