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EXPO 1964

Excavations made on the site of the 1964 Swiss National Exhibition revealed that even the Romans were smitten by the charms of Vidy beach in Lausanne, with its panoramic view reaching from the Dents du Midi to the Rochers de Naye, and settled down to an easy-going life on the banks of Lake Geneva. So that no valuable fragments should be dumped away by bulldozers, a young woman archaeologist supervised the building work the the exhibition. Ten months before the "Expo" opens its doors on 30th April (closing day: 25th October 1964) people keep talking about it. As a highlight it is to feature a noiseless single-track railway, which will trundle merry crowds all over the entire area of the exhibition and even through the halls. The city of Lausanne is preparing accommodation in all price-ranges and expects to play host to 4 million visitors from abroad and 12 million from Switzerland, as each Swiss will take several trips to the "Expo". Near the city's main station, the Swiss Federal Railways have built a special terminus capable of handling 15,000 arrivals and departures per hour. 25,000 private cars and buses will be able to get their breath in parking lots. Beautiful Lake Léman vies with the efforts of the hospitable city to make guests feel at home: from specially constructed piers small speedboats will whisk them over the glittering surface of the lake to the "Expo", which will make Switzerland known abroad and inspire creative minds at home. [S.N.T.O.]

During the 179 days that the 1964 Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne is scheduled to last, the Palace of Beaulieu — the home of the Swiss National Autumn Fair — will have very heavy calls made upon it. Already two hundred congresses have been booked to be held there. Several of them will be attended by between 1,000 and 2,000 delegates. The most important of these conventions include the World Congress of Soroptimists, a partial session of the World Conference on Energy, the World Congress of Chronometry, and the International Congress of Medical Laboratory Assistants. [O.S.E.C.]

SWISS POLICEMEN FLY TO AMERICA

At the end of April 137 policemen from the various Swiss Police Corps, including forty officials of the Zurich Municipal Police and twenty Zurich Cantonal Police officers, flew to New York on a study tour of some ten days. This was arranged to give the Swiss Police an insight into the working methods of the U.S.A Police. [A.T.S.]

FESTIVITIES

The Emmental not only is the home of the Swiss "Emmental" cheese but also a region where rural traditions are still carefully observed. Midsummer is a festive period here with frolicsome Sunday fairs which are called "Chilbi". The series begins on 7th July with the "Napf-Chilbi". The local fairs of Zäziwil, Burgdorf and Heimiswil take place on 14th July; Kirchberg and Eggwil follow suit a week later, which also is the date for the "Lusshütten-Chilbi"; last but not least, Konolfingen and Röthenbach are the scenes of popular festivities on 28th July.

In the Jura Mountains, home of the world-famed Swiss watch, a series of festivities mark the summer season. La Chaux-de-Fonds, third largest town of French tongue in Switzerland, will have its Youth Festival on 6th July, Fleurier organizes the "Fêtes de l'Abbaye" on 6th/8th July, while the popular festival of Bienne, the traditional "Braderie", takes place about the same time. Neuchâtel also has its Youth Festival with a procession and all kinds of entertainments to be held on 12th July.

The crystal clear mountain air no doubt has an influence on the sound and perception of music. Several mountain resorts instigated music festivals on this basis, some of which have become truly traditional events, such as the Music Weeks in beautifully situated Braunwald. The theme of this year's course, to be held from 15th to 24th July, will be "Great Viennese Masters in Chamber Music and Lieder" (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Hugo Wolf) with lectures and appropriate concerts. The resorts in the Upper Engadine have been organizing their "Engadine Concert Weeks" for almost twenty-five years. They are scheduled for 10th July to 15th August with outstanding concerts in quaint village churches and other places. The Bernese Oberland, too, offers a musical festival, the setting of which is the church of Meiringen in the Hasli Valley, where there will be five concerts of greatly varied programmes between 13th and 20th July. An art exhibition will also take place there from 12th to 28th July. [S.N.T.O.]

FLOWERS

Some 20,000 flowering plants, among them 15,000 geraniums, were recently sold at bargain prices in the course of one single day in Zurich, outside the Swiss National Bank, site of the twice-weekly flower market. Buyers included banks, shops, hotels, restaurants and housewives. The purpose of this campaign was to make Zurich the most profusely flowered of European cities. [S.N.T.O.]

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