

HOLLY- WOOD IN THE



Audrey Hepburn poses on the balcony of Swiss chalet she shares with mate Mel Ferrer.

Alps

By GEOFFREY BOCCA

SWITZERLAND is a small country in Europe bounded on all sides by tax collectors.

For generations, it has been an international refuge of the dummy holding company, the secret bank account, and the wealthy who fall in high tax brackets at home.

Currently conspicuous among the latter group are many big-name movie stars of the United States and England. In fact, so many film greats have settled in Switzerland for tax purposes that they have established a miniature Hollywood in the Alps.

For example, the Richard Burtons have a home at Celigny, near Geneva. Jack Palance rents the *Villa la Jacquiere*, at Epalinges, on Lausanne's outskirts. William Holden lives at Saint Prex in the mountains behind. Noel Coward has a pink and white chalet, called *les Avants*, near Montreux. Peter Ustinov has a house at Villars. David Niven rents the *Villa Saint Andrew* at Aigle. George Sanders and Yul Brynner have apartments at Lausanne. Others in the area include directors Norman Krasna and Robert Siodmak, producer Anatole Litvak, and sometime Hollywood writers A. J. Cronin and Georges Simenon.

All these live in the Lausanne area, in the Canton of Vaud. A few eccentrics—eccentrics, that is, of the type who would live at Palm Springs instead of Beverly Hills—have homes farther out. Mel Ferrer and Audrey Hepburn have the *Chalet Ariane* at Burgenstock, and they persuaded Carlo Ponti and Sophia Loren to buy a house near them. Deborah Kerr and her husband Peter Viertel have a home at the ski resort of Klosters, in the Canton of Grisons. Anthony Quinn lives near them. Alfred Hitchcock lives at Saint Moritz. So does Hildegard Neff.

The German movie colony has moved in, too, but to a different and more clannish part of the country, the Canton of Ticino. If one earns millions of taxable *Deutschmarks*, the Italian part of Switzerland offers the best of both worlds: spaghetti, chianti, *dolce vita*—and low Swiss taxes. You'll find Nadia Tiller at Castagnola, Hardy Kruger at Cassarate, and Paulette Goddard, who is married to writer Erich Maria Remarque, in Ascona.

Ideal for Globe-Trotters

All these, as well as hundreds of businessmen and people of inherited wealth, have found in Switzerland the ideal legal haven against heavy taxation. For movie stars it is particularly ideal, since the postwar trend of making movies away from Hollywood has made Switzerland a central jumping-off point for travel anywhere.

Switzerland's banking and taxation system is unique. The numbered bank account enables anyone to keep his fortune an absolute secret: only two persons know to whom the number belongs, the depositor himself and the manager who signs him in. The other bank personnel know the depositor only by number.

Switzerland itself is a confederation of 22 cantons, all

Movie stars have discovered that