

Mosaic

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Do you know ...

... that the Organisation for Swiss children living abroad and the Organisation Pro Juventute offer your children the unique chance to spend **HOLIDAYS** in Switzerland?

Who? All children from 7 to 15 years, of Swiss nationality, or children of a Swiss mother, may participate.

How much? Cost contribution depends on financial means.

What do we offer? Various possibilities for holidays.

- Participation at one of our organised holiday camps (in various attractive center all over Switzerland).
Age: from 10 years.
- Holidays in a Swiss family.
- Holidays in a Swiss children's homes. Age: from 10 years.

Application forms and further information available from the Swiss foreign representative or direct from the Holiday Organisation for Swiss children living abroad in Zurich.

Applications should be sent by the end of March 1988 to your Swiss representative.

*Holiday Organisation for Swiss children living abroad
Post Office Box, CH-8022 Zurich*

Nobel prize for superconductor

Once again, a Nobel prize for physics goes to a Swiss: Karl Alex Müller wins the award together with the German Johannes Georg Bednorz for the discovery of a new type of superconductor for electric power. Like last year's winners, Rohrer and Binnig, the two scientists work at the IBM Research Laboratory in Rüschlikon/Zurich.

Devastating storm damage

According to estimates by the authorities, damage caused by the violent summer storms in the cantons most affected - Uri, Grisons, Valais, Ticino, Berne, Schwyz, Obwalden, Vaud and Neuchâtel - totals 1.1 billion Swiss francs, of which 200 million Swiss francs are not covered, either by ordinary subventions or insurance benefits. Here, a fund-raising campaign

launched by the Swiss radio, the revenue from a special issue of stamps by the PTT, and a compensation drive mounted by the federal government, will step into the breach.

Marriage-happy Swiss

Last year, for the first time since 1973, again more than 40,000 marriages were contracted. The Federal Statistics Office also reports a further raising of the average marriage age and a corresponding increase of the generation interval. In 1980 the average marriage age of single women was 25.2 years, whereas in 1986 it was already 26.3 years. With men, the corresponding averages rose from 27.6 to 28.7 years of age. Although births again increased for almost ten years running, this is not enough, without taking emigration into account, to maintain the population balance in the long term.

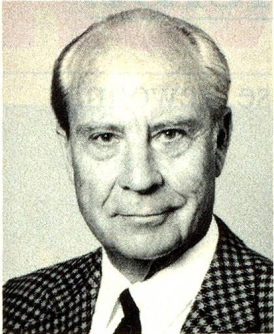


Gotthard trip

A romantic journey for the one, swanky amusement for the other. A native of Andermatt organizes regular post chaise trips from Flüelen over the Saint Gotthard pass to Lugano. The five-day divertissement costs all of 4,000 Swiss francs and includes six overnight stays in first-class hotels. A faithful replica of the original Gotthard postilion which used to run regularly over the pass (for the last time in 1882) serves as conveyance. It was built by an Appenzell carriage maker (photo: Keystone).

Forum

Heimat: the homeland – in times of uncertainty



In its leading article on the 1987 Swiss National Day, a large Swiss newspaper wrote that «spontaneous patriotic emotions are most likely to be found far from home, among the Swiss abroad». Not without reason do most Swiss tend to feel quite embarrassed by the simple question: «Heimat what's that?».

The answer comes easier to us Swiss abroad. When you have spent your whole lifetime away from home, have vividly experienced the desolate state of

our world, the dramatic problems of other peoples, unemployment, poverty and daily despair at your own front door, you know very well just what the homeland means and what it is worth. How variegated and rainbow-coloured it is, this mosaic of impressions and memories, this feeling for our native land, our Heimat, which stays with us a lifetime long. For us, home is our parents' house, the family dinner table, the village, the town where we know every street and corner by heart, the familiar and well-loved landscape pattern we see from the plane when we fly to Switzerland on holiday.

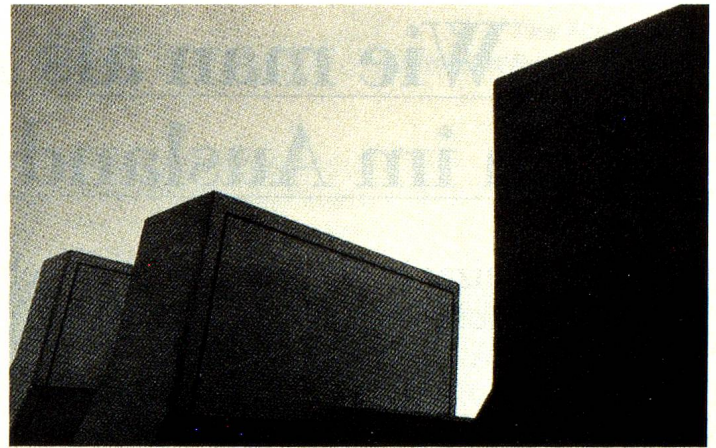
Yet way beyond the narrow national borders, home can be something more: the «Heimat» in our civilization. A French chanson, a poem of Rilke, a Mozart symphony – they, too, can be home.

Abroad, one feels more keenly, or so I believe, and with the finer sensory nerve centres, that this homeland is a piece of us, ourselves; that we belong to it; that this Heimat of ours gives us, from far away, a sense of safeness and security and the good feeling of having, if need be, a sheltering roof over our head. But abroad (because we perhaps sense more clearly the dangers that threaten) one feels that all burning problems of the times have to do with this sense of attachment to one's native land. How secure is our security, how safe our safeness? What is this plot of earth we call «Heimat» still worth, in the face of the threat to our environment? What use is the sheltering roof over our heads, in the long, fearful shadows of nuclear menace and rearmament on a gigantic scale? Of what use to us is a homeland marked by self-imposed closeness and long-term stress? What price freedom if, as is today the norm in our society, dissenters, those of different opinion, are being muzzled and socially degraded, if not liquidated?

With every piece of the environment damaged, with every piece of freedom denied, a piece of the homeland is destroyed. The stealthy advance of ecological ruin leads direct to dark homelessness. I often wish that the Swiss at home would have a little more of the «spontaneous patriotic emotions» of the Swiss abroad.

A last word: to whom does this «Heimat» belong, in fact? Does it belong, as it often seems, only to those who cultivate the time-honoured traditions, who uphold the right of present possession, and who put peace and order above everything else? Does it not also belong to those who question our society and who bring a sense of concerned restiveness into our ranks? How often in our history were the mischief makers of today the heroes of tomorrow. Every one of us, from the joiner-in to the dropout, of course has a claim on this homeland. Everyone has the right, according to his or her own ideas, to stand up for the best possible of all homelands.

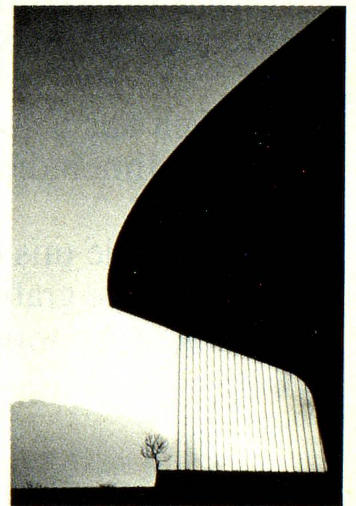
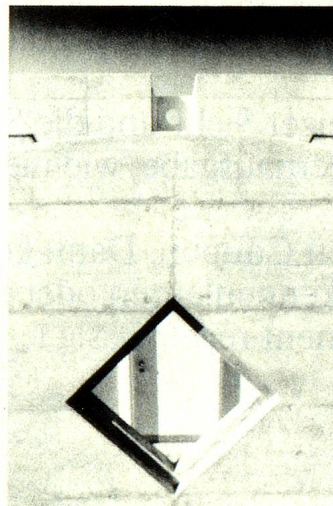
Dr Heinz Langenbacher, D.L., Former Ambassador



Architectures à aimer

In conjunction with the Bernard Nicod Group, the W. Switzerland weekly «l'hebdo» organized a photo competition on the theme of «Architecture to

love». Here, three photographs by Wollodja Jentsch of Vevey, who won the first prize in the amateur category.



Telegramms

■ Louis Agassiz laid the theoretical foundations for glacier research at Neuchâtel University 150 years ago. He rounded off his career in the USA.

■ The Swiss Federal Railways are reckoned to have carried 10% more passengers in the first six months of 1987 than in the same period last year. However, the volume of goods carried decreased.

■ After Geneva, Schaffhausen is the second (but first German-Swiss) canton to be included in the Confederation's inventory of architectural landscape images worth preserving.

■ The 1986 poll of army recruits established that, for the most part, German-Swiss recruits have great liking for the *Romands* (French-speaking Swiss) and the *Ticinese* (Italian-speaking) and would in fact prefer to belong to these groups.