

nippets... [i.e. Snippets...]

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- Who is it? asked the grandmother, who could not see.
It is me, Heidi. I have come to see you.

- Peter's grandmother was pleased to have a friend to talk to. - They talked all afternoon. Then Heidi said, *I must go now, Grandmother. I will come and see you again soon.*

One day Aunt Dete came to see Heidi's Grandfather.

I have come to get Heidi, she said. I want to take her to Frankfurt with me. I know of a man who has a sick daughter. He is looking for a friend to live with her. I am going to take Heidi there. - Go away, said the grandfather. *Heidi is happy here.* - But she is a big girl now, said Dete. *She must go to school.* - Come on Heidi. - No, said Heidi. *I like living here with grandfather. I don't want to go away.* - Come on, Heidi, said Aunt Dete. *Grandfather will be pleased to see you go, and you will like Frankfurt.*

- Can I come back home if I want to? asked Heidi.

Yes, yes, said Aunt Dete. - Now come on, or we will miss the train.

- Heidi and her Aunt went to the house where the sick girl, Clara lived. Then Aunt Dete went off and Heidi stayed there with Clara and the servants.

Clara could not walk. She had to sit in her chair all day. She was pleased to have a friend to talk to, but the servant who looked after Clara did not like Heidi.

- I will have to teach you some manners, she said.

The servant talked on and on, but it had been a long day for Heidi. She went to sleep in her chair.

Next day Heidi looked out of the window. There were no trees or flowers. All she could see were streets and shops and houses.

- I don't like it here, said Heidi. *I must go home soon.*

Then Clara's teacher came and the two girls had to do some school work,

That afternoon Heidi talked to Clara about her home on the mountain, about Grandfather, Peter, and Grandmother. Clara liked having a friend to talk to.

- One day Clara's grandmother came to stay. She liked Heidi and was kind to her. Heidi liked Clara and her grandmother, but she was not happy in Frankfurt. She missed

her grandfather, and Peter and his grandmother. Every night she dreamt that she was at home in the mountains.

- One day the servants said that there had been noises in the night. The next night one of the servants saw a white thing. - *It must be a ghost, they all said. They wrote to Clara's father who was away. You must come home, they said. There is a ghost in the house.*

Clara's father came home and asked his friend the doctor to sit up with him at night and wait for the ghost. They talked as they waited. Then there was a noise. They looked out and saw a white thing. - It was Heidi! - *So this is our ghost!* they said. *What are you doing here? I don't know,* said Heidi.

- Come on, Heidi, said the doctor. *I will take you back to bed.*

The doctor put Heidi back into bed. - *What were you dreaming about?*, he asked kindly.

- *Every night I dream that I am at home in the mountains. I dream of Grandfather, and Peter and his grandmother,* said Heidi.

I see, said the doctor. - *And were you happy in the mountains?* - Yes said Heidi. - *You are not happy here, are you?*, said the doctor.

- *I must not say that,* said Heidi. *They are so kind to me here.* - I see, said the doctor. *Now go to sleep and I will see what I can do to help you.*

**to be continued in a future
issue of HELVETIA.**



nippets.....

Swiss do not donate enough organs

A new report says 30 people died unnecessarily in Switzerland last year because they failed to receive organ transplants in time. A total of 956 people were on waiting lists for transplant operations, but only 413 could get the organs they needed.

Probation Period for New Drivers in Switzerland ?

The States Council, the upper house of the Swiss parliament, called for new drivers in Switzerland to be placed on a three-year probation before receiving their definitive driving license. The idea is to improve safety on Swiss roads. According to this proposal, during the probation period new drivers would have to take driver education courses, and repeat offenders - a minority group who are responsible for a large proportion of traffic violations - would be subjected to progressively harsher punishment.

In principle, the Federal Council is also in favor of lowering the permissible blood-alcohol level for drivers from .8 to .5 pro mille

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New Swiss cable radio channel

A new round-the-clock radio channel has been launched in Switzerland to broadcast on cable. "24plus" which plays pop music from the seventies and eighties is the latest brainchild of the Zurich media mogul, Roger Schawinski, who also runs the Swiss television station, Tele 24. The new channel is primarily targetting people above the age of 35.

E-tags for convicts hailed as success in Switzerland

A pilot scheme using electronic tags for convicted criminals in Switzerland has been hailed as a success. Officials said only very few of the more than 100 cases had to be abandoned in the first six months. They said the system helped save prison space and reduced the cost of detention. Trials are being carried in six cantons with criminals who've been given up to 12 months' jail terms. Under the scheme, those convicted can avoid time behind bars, but must keep to their conditions of probation.

Swiss urged to vote against bilateral accords

Around 500 people have attended a rally at Zofingen, in canton Aargau, against Switzerland's bilateral accords with the European Union. Business and professional people from Austria, France, Germany and Sweden told the crowd about their negative experiences within the EU. The event was organised by a Eurosceptic group ahead of a nationwide vote on the accords on May 21.

Sharp rise in mountain accidents in Switzerland

There was a sharp rise in the number of people who died in mountain accidents last year.

The Swiss Alpine Club said more than 115 people died in 1999, an eight per cent increase on the previous year. The Club said two disasters - an avalanche in canton Valais and a canyoning tragedy near Interlaken - were primarily responsible for the rise.

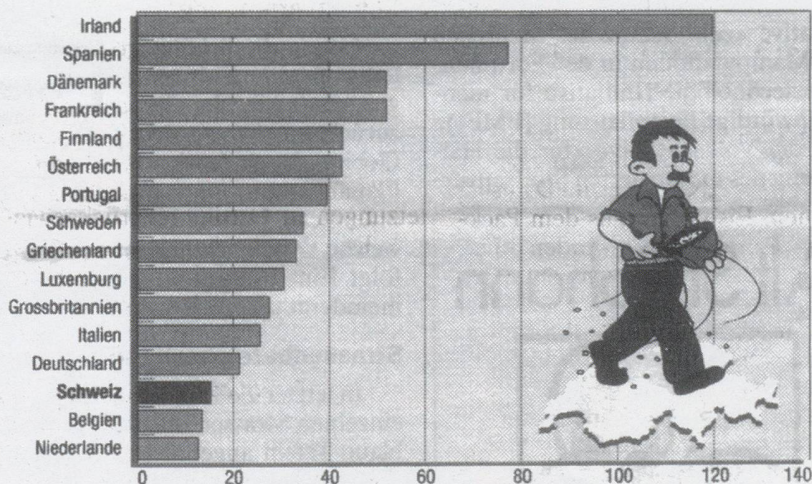
The Club also mounted 20 per cent more rescue operations than in 1998.

Zurich banishes the winter with traditional bonfire

Zürich has celebrated the end of winter with the city's traditional Sechseläuten festival. The city guilds' traditional afternoon parade was followed by fireworks and a huge bonfire with the burning of the Böög at the stroke of six. Winter is officially over with the burning of the Böögg, a three metre high snowman stuffed with fireworks that symbolises the cold, dark days behind us. Zürich closed down for the afternoon as half a million people took to the streets for the annual Sechseläuten parade which dates from the fourteenth century. The men of the city's 26 guilds rode the streets on horseback or on foot decked out in their traditional costumes, some from the fourteenth century. Marching behind their traditional guild banners, Zurich's streets were alive with the beat of drums and the sound of pipes. At six the all important burning of the snowman on Sechseläutenwiese took place near Bellevue square. The guild knights galloped around the bonfire three times as the snowman exploded and winter was burnt away. The celebrations then continued with great feasts in Zürich's beautiful guild houses along the Limmat river.

BAUERNLAND IN DER SCHWEIZ IST KNAPP

Landwirtschaftliche Nutzfläche pro Einwohner in Aren



Leserbeispiel: Pro Einwohner stehen in der Schweiz 15,3 Aren Landwirtschaftliche Nutzfläche zur Verfügung. Nur in Belgien und den Niederlanden sind es weniger.

Agricultural Land is scarce in Switzerland

Each second, one more square meter of land is built over in Switzerland; precious land to be lost for Swiss agriculture for ever. The increase in the land 'lost to roading', industry and living space has increased dramatically since the year 1980. (approx. 294 square kilometers).

The graph shows that for each Swiss inhabitant there is an agricultural area of 0.153 hectares (15.3 Aren) available. This compares with 1.2 hectares for the people of Ireland (approx. 3.5 hectares of agricultural land per person in New Zealand, according to my calculations) Ed.