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The car free resorts join forces



Braunwald with a view towards Linthal. (Photo: Fred Barbier)

There are eight car free alpine resorts in Europe – and they are all in Switzerland: Braunwald in canton Glarus, Stoos in canton Schwyz, Mürren and Wengen in the Bernese Oberland as well as Bettmeralp, Riederalp, Saas Fee and Zermatt in Valais. This year they have joined forces to promote their common aim under the general title «Association for car free holiday resorts in Switzerland».

Tourism for the protection of the environment

The aim and purpose of the association is the development and promotion of common interests with a view towards a tourism protective of the environment, especially where traffic is concerned. Individual transport needs are to be covered for example by the use of electric cars and horse drawn carts. In addition the eight resorts want to help each other with backup where technical queries are concerned and work in close cooperation with environmental and tourism organisations. They are also working towards a close cooperation with the sector of industry specialising in environmental technology as well as with scientific research in the field of alternative energy sources. Through joint marke-

ting they are seeking in particular to attract those guests, who are wanting to spend their holidays away from their cars as a result of the general burden to the environment.

Strict conditions

To become a member of the association a resort is not permitted to have any kind of individual car transport. As a general guide combustion engines should be abandoned wherever possible. According to the Associations Secretariat the following resorts can be said to be 100 per cent car free: Saas Fee, Zermatt and Braunwald. Bettmeralp, Riederalp, Stoos, Mürren and Wengen only partially fulfil the set requirements.

JM

Facade as power station

Whilst renovating his business offices, a building contractor from Glattbrugg has become the first person in Switzerland to include solar cells in the facade. This provides enough energy to supply half of the workshops with electricity as well as to cover the power requirements of three electric cars. Experts from the federation and cantons have described this innovation as «an excellent piece of pioneer work in the use of solar technology».

UN Postal Service in Geneva

Anyone visiting the United Nations Palace in Geneva can send his loved ones a postcard «from abroad» although his feet have not left Swiss ground. The UN constitutes an exception to Swiss postal regulations as does the Principality of Liechtenstein. It has been issuing its own stamps in Swiss currency since 1969 (see our picture). The UN postal service has offices at the headquarters in New York and in Vienna besides the one in Geneva. UN stamps promote hu-

man rights, disarmament and other goals of the United Nations through their subjects and messages. They also serve to publicize certain events or to warn of dangers. (Photo: UN)



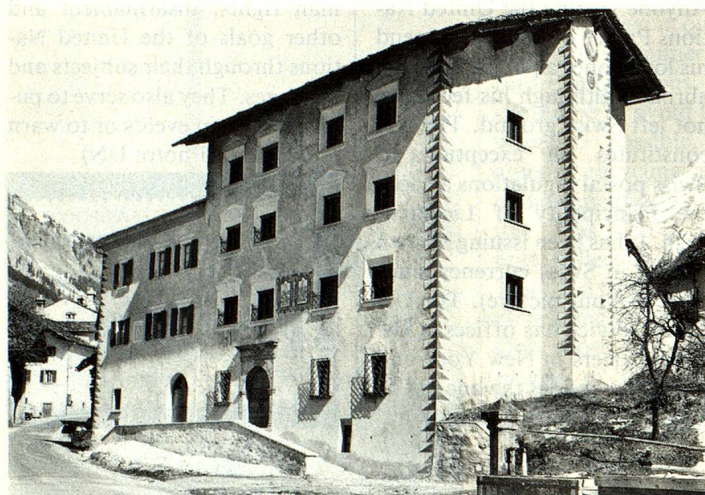
North Face Anniversary

The first ascent of the north face of the Eiger in the Bernese Oberland 50 years ago has been commemorated this summer with anniversary celebrations, a large media interest and hour long documentary films on the television. This famous and highly notorious face of the alps, thought up to that point as being unmasterable was con-

quered for the first time in 1938 by two Germans and two Austrians. The mountain still holds a great fascination for alpinists through the world today. 50 climbers to date have paid with their life whilst attempting this dangerous feat. Our picture shows the north face of the Eiger as seen from the Kleine Scheidegg. (Photo: SVZ)



Lesson in the history of Grisons emigration



The Bergell Talmuseum in Stampa («Ciäsa Granda»).

The bad economic situation spurred the confectioners from the canton of Grisons into emigrating. Emigrants from Engadine and Bergell were to be found in Venice already as early as in the 13th century. These emigrants were not only pâtissiers, they were also cobblers, glaziers, knife grinders and spirit handlers. Later, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries, confectioners from Grisons were to be found from Lissabon to Wladiwostok and from Catania to Helsinki.

A permanent exhibition on this subject was recently opened in the «Ciäsa Granda», the Bergell Talmuseum in Stampa. This exhibition may be visited daily during the summer months (from 1st June to 20th October) between 14.00 and 17.00. The reproduced bakery in the Bergell village of Stampa shows the life and work of the «Messieurs Scartassini et Cie., Confiseurs et Pâtissiers, Grand' Route de Niori à Fontenay» near the French atlantic coast. «Scartassini» was nothing other than a french modification of the surname of the «Scartazzini» family who came from the Italian speaking southern valley of Bergell in Grisons.

More can be read about Stampa in Dolf Kaisers book «Fast ein Volk von Zuckerbäckern» (A

race of confectioners) published by the «Neue Zürcher Zeitung». In this one can read of the following emigrant families: the Scartazzini, Maurizio, Prevosti, Vassali, Santi, Giovanoli, Torriani, Stampa, Salis, Giacometti, Bazzigher, Cortini, Zuan... In addition one learns that on their return to Grisons the confectioners were responsible for the appearance of the picturesque houses in Engadine as well as for the «Palazzi» in Puschlav and in Bergell.

Marika de Martinis

The Centre of Switzerland

The exact central point of Switzerland has been calculated and marked this summer to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Federal Office of Topography. This point is on the Aelggi Alp above Sachseln in the canton of Nidwalden. Experts take the so-called area centre to be the topographical centre: Were one to cut along the borders of a Swiss map which had been printed on wood, then this point would be found by balancing the wooden cut-out on a pencil point.

Many «Switzerlands»

Its rolling hills and mountainous landscape has made Switzerland a fixed concept throughout the world. Often a few hills suffice for a region somewhere in the world to be given the name «Switzerland». Thus there is a Switzerland in Saxony, Holstein, Frankonia and Argentina. There are roughly 80 regions in the world whose official geographical name is «Switzerland». The Swiss National Tourist Office (SVZ) wants to erect a monument for these regions in the form of a «world clock» to be positioned near Federal Parliament in Berne. This is to coincide with the 700th anniversary celebrations of the Confederation in 1991. The clock is to show the local times of each «Switzerland», each of them being represented by a small stone.

The SVZ is at present searching for «Switzerlands» which are possibly still unknown. Do you know of any «Switzerlands» in the country where you are living? If so please contact the SVZ at the following address:

Bellariastrasse 38, Postfach, CH-8027 Zurich

Telegramms

■ The *Swiss Gastronomy Museum* has been opened in the Castle of Schadau in Thun. A high-class restaurant provides the required practical experience.

■ Against all expectations the 26 year old Swiss cyclist, *Daniel Wyder*, has won the world champion title previously held by Urs Freuler at the track world championship in Gent (Belgium). Freuler, who was absent due to injury, won the title seven times in series from 1981 to 1987.

■ The Ticino writer *Giorgio Orelli* has received the Great Schiller Prize worth 30'000 francs.

■ The well-loved cheese speciality *Vacherin Mont d'Or* may be sold again, roughly ten months after its sale had been taken off the market following contamination with the bacteria *Listeriose*. The production of Vacherin is to be accompanied by strict controls.

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 centres all over Switzerland).

Age: from 10 years.

- Holidays in a Swiss family.

- Holidays in a Swiss children's home. Age: up to 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 1989 to your Swiss representative.

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