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TRADITIONAL COSTUMES OF THE 26 CANTONS OF SWITZERLAND

(see May issue) In the last issue we meant to present a first set of 16 costumes, with the remaining 10 being printed in this current issue. Our over-eager printer got carried away and, by reducing the size of the photos, managed to squeeze in 21 pictures, 5 more than anticipated. Accordingly please find herewith the remaining 5 costumes to complete the set. This will set at rest the mind of all the citizens of Schwyz and Obwalden who complained that costumes of their respective cantons had not been shown. Strangely enough, no complaints have come from the citizens of Waadt, Wallis and Neuenburg....



Vaud
Sunday costume with characteristic straw hat

Valais
Costume of St. Maurice with "falbala" hat

Neuchâtel
Sunday costume, cap and shawl of fine lace

Schwyz
Middle-class festive costume with white head-dress

Obwalden
Festive costume with "fichu de Milan"

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MORE TRENCHES IN SWITZERLAND

You all heard of the famous "Rösti-Graben" that separates the German part of Switzerland from the French part. Although the exact path of the trench has never been clearly defined, it is there for sure if you want to look for it. But now a new trench has opened up within the German part of Switzerland itself, the "Bratwurst-Graben". It separates the Golden Triangle Zurich-Basel-Bern-Zurich from the eastern part of Switzerland. The "Ostschweiz" is complaining bitterly that its area is being neglected for the benefit of the Golden Triangle, particularly with regards to the future development of Postal and Railway services. With the gigantic plans for new North-South rail liaisons through the Gotthard and the Lötschberg-Simplon, Thurgau, St Gallen and Graubünden increasingly feel being bypassed and left out on a limb (a feeling the French part of Switzerland has already had for many years). We can only guess when and where the next trench will open up and what it will be called.

NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: July 1994 for July and August. All contributions must be in by 15 June. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

EXPENSIVE HEALTH

Here are the average amounts that people in Europe spend each year on their health: Luxembourg 3455 SFR, Sweden 3436 SFR, Switzerland 2731 SFR, Germany 2720 SFR, France 2678 SFR, The Netherlands 2394 SFR, Italy 2326 SFR, Denmark 2208 SFR, Austria 1945 SFR, Great Britain 1755 SFR, Ireland 1492 SFR, Spain 1451 SFR, Greece 641 SFR, Portugal 523 SFR. These figures could mean either that people in the wealthier countries are more concerned about their wellbeing or that their way of life is so unhealthy, that they must spend more money to remain in good health whilst people in the poorer countries live a healthier life and therefore need to spend less for their wellbeing. We wonder.....

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

Over 2 million people in Switzerland take study courses. This represents 40% of the overall adult population. In total, they are attending over 3 million courses in order to improve their knowledge or to keep abreast with developments in their profession. An interesting fact is that 46% of working people attend courses against only 23% of the unemployed. It appears therefore that people who are holding a job are more interested in improving their knowledge and thus their future career than people who are unemployed and who may have given up the race or who simply cannot afford the costs of the courses.