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TITLIS CLIMBED 250 YEARS AGO

In July 1774, four employees from the Benedictine Monastery of Engelberg were the first alpinists to climb to the top of the Titlis. It was apparently the first recorded mountain climb in Switzerland.

For a long time, the 3239 m high Titlis was considered as Switzerland's highest mountain (an obviously biased view on the part of the people of Obwalden). During the Middle Ages, no one could see any viable reason to climb any mountain at all. Only in the eighteenth century did people start getting interested in exploring the high mountains.

In 1774 it took 8 hours to climb the Titlis from Engelberg. Today, this climb can be achieved in around 5 hours.



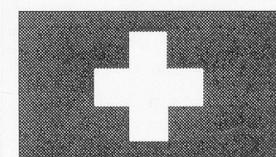
YODEL IN NEW YORK

It seems that the Bernese yodeller, Christine Lautenberg with her accompanying group of alphorn players brought the whole of New York to a standstill, because anyone who has been to New York would not dare stand there in the middle of the road unless you are suicidal. So hats off to anyone who can manage to stop the notorious New York traffic.



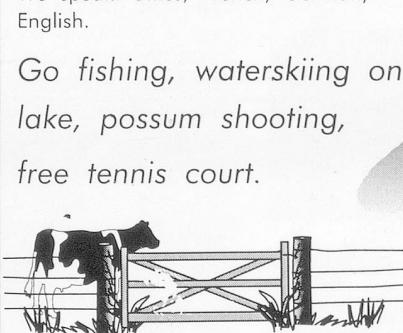
MUSEUM WITH A TWIST

In 1994 the Swiss Border Control Brigade (Grenzwacht) celebrated its 100 year of existence. To celebrate the occasion, a new museum dedicated to border control activities (Customs work on one side and smuggling activities on the other) has been inaugurated in Cantine de Gandria (TI). Situated on the lake of Lugano, right opposite Gandria, the museum can only be reached by boat. The Swiss were quick to nickname the new museum the "Schmuggler-museum". The museum does not only show all the tricks and gadgets used by smugglers, but the visitors can also see and even operate the most modern anti-smuggling equipment used by the Customs and Border Control Brigade in their constant battle against illegal imports of goods into Switzerland.

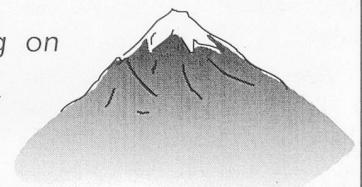


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