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Autor: [s.n.]
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DOLLS MUSEUM

Stein am Rhein is well known for its unique character as one of the best preserved medieval towns in Switzerland. But Stein am Rhein also houses another beautiful treasure: a dolls museum. Over 400 dolls are on display in a continuous 70m long show case. Some dolls are over 150 years old and most of them are quite unique in the world. A few are even automated. But all are presented in special settings so as to enhance their beauty and give them an air of reality.

SWISS MOTORWAYS IN BAD SHAPE

Two thirds of the Swiss motorway network is already over 20 years old and requires an ever increasing amount of maintenance. Many Swiss motorists complain that road works follow one another at such short distances, that they can hardly ever drive at the full allowable speed. Many also complain that the emergency shoulders on the side of the motorways often get repaired whilst the main part of the road does not. The reason is of course that in order to repair the motorway, the emergency shoulder strip must be used as a deviation. But to save money at the time when the original motorways were built, the emergency strips did not receive sufficient attention. Therefore, they now have to be strengthened first before heavy traffic can be re-routed over them.

Why has the Swiss motorway network been allowed to deteriorate so much? One explanation is that the Authorities, in their wisdom, never expected the road traffic to increase to the level it has today and another is the continuous wrangle between Federal Government and Cantons as to how much each has to contribute to the cost of maintenance. A growing thought is now that the Federal Government should take over the entire motorway network so that repairs and preventive maintenance could be done in a more efficient manner.

Stein am Rhein, whose main street has been turned into a pedestrian mall, has been beautifully restored and maintained for the enjoyment of its many visitors.



Part of the artful display of dolls in Stein am Rhein's unique dolls museum.

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