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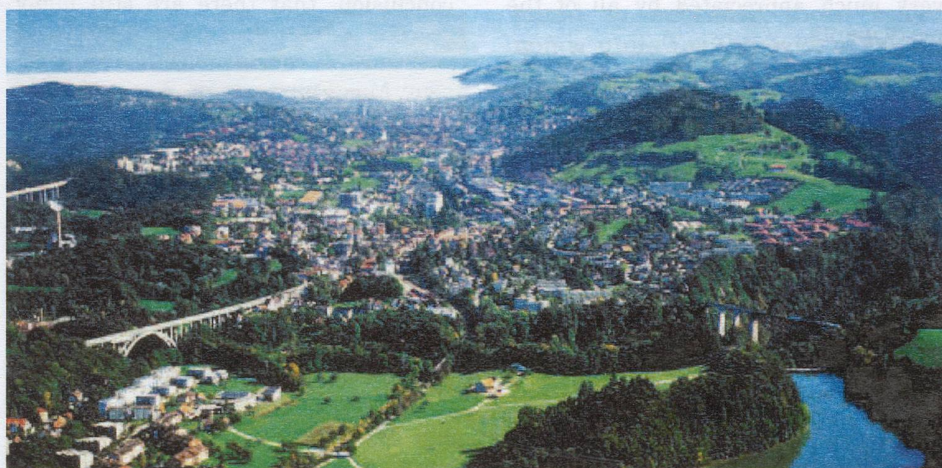
St. Gallen and the Kinderfest

Every three years, the city of St. Gallen in Eastern Switzerland celebrates its children's festival as a traditional city event in which most of the people participate. The

undergone further changes since. Up until the First World War, schoolboys took part in their cadet uniforms. Mandatory cadet instruction was given in the schools

and events on the Festplatz, or parade ground. The parade ground is situated above the old city and was purchased largely for this purpose by the local authorities. Some 8'000 children participate in the festivities. As its culinary speciality, the festival features the famous St. Galler Bratwurst, or grilled sausage, virtually a city symbol. Tens of thousands of them are consumed during the festival.

When I tried to find information on the St. Galler Kinderfest I was surprised that the first possible date for it was in May. From my childhood I seemed to remember that the Kinderfest was always just before the summer holidays started, and the weather was not always as good as we had hoped. So the authorities must have changed their approach, and by having an early start they should be able to pick a perfect day! *tb*



St. Gallen, city between Sitter and Bodensee



The present cathedral of St. Gallen was built in the 18th century

festival originated in old school customs celebrated on St. Gregory's Day, in memory of Pope Gregory I.

Known as early as the fifteenth century, it was reorganized as a children's festival in 1824 and has

as a preparation for future military service.

Today's festival has a more colorful and relaxing atmosphere: bright clothes, balloons, flowers, pennants, class flags, and leaved branches characterise the parade

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