

Round and about

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ROUND AND ABOUT

The Highest Dam in the World

The highest dam in the world was recently opened in the Val des Dix in the canton of Valais.

The dam, to be called La Grande Dixence, is 930 feet high. To date, the highest dam in the world has been the 840-foot high Vajont Dam in Italy. Cost of the Dixence dam has been nearly 1,400,000,000 francs.

The enormous wall of concrete that has been erected, and which is nearly as high as the Eiffel Tower, hides a three-and-a-half-mile-long, half-mile-wide artificial lake which will eventually have a capacity of 400 million cubic metres. Sixty-two miles of tunnels bring water from the valleys of Zermatt and Herens for accumulation in the lake.

The hydro-electric power from the dam will be used primarily at Fionnay, in the Val de Bagnes, an area noted for its cheese production, and at Nendaz in the Rhône Valley, where it is expected that it will produce some 1,600 million kwh. of electricity per year.

The dam, located at the highest altitude of any dam in the world, is 7,500 feet above sea level.

Zurich

Archæologists and philologists from many countries have done fine work over the past hundred years in rediscovering a vanished people — the Hittites, whose kingdom was a leading power in Asia Minor in the second millenium B.C. But whereas large numbers of finds from other centres of ancient culture have found their way into

European collections and museums, the Hittite discoveries stayed in their country of origin, present-day Turkey. The cultural heritage of one of the most important and interesting peoples of the ancient Orient is on public view for the first time at an exhibition in Zurich's Kunsthaus Art Gallery from the middle of September to the middle of November this year. Thanks to the readiness of the Turkish museum authorities to part temporarily with their unique treasures, it will now be possible to see original statues which were previously known to only a few experts and which, in many cases, have never been illustrated.

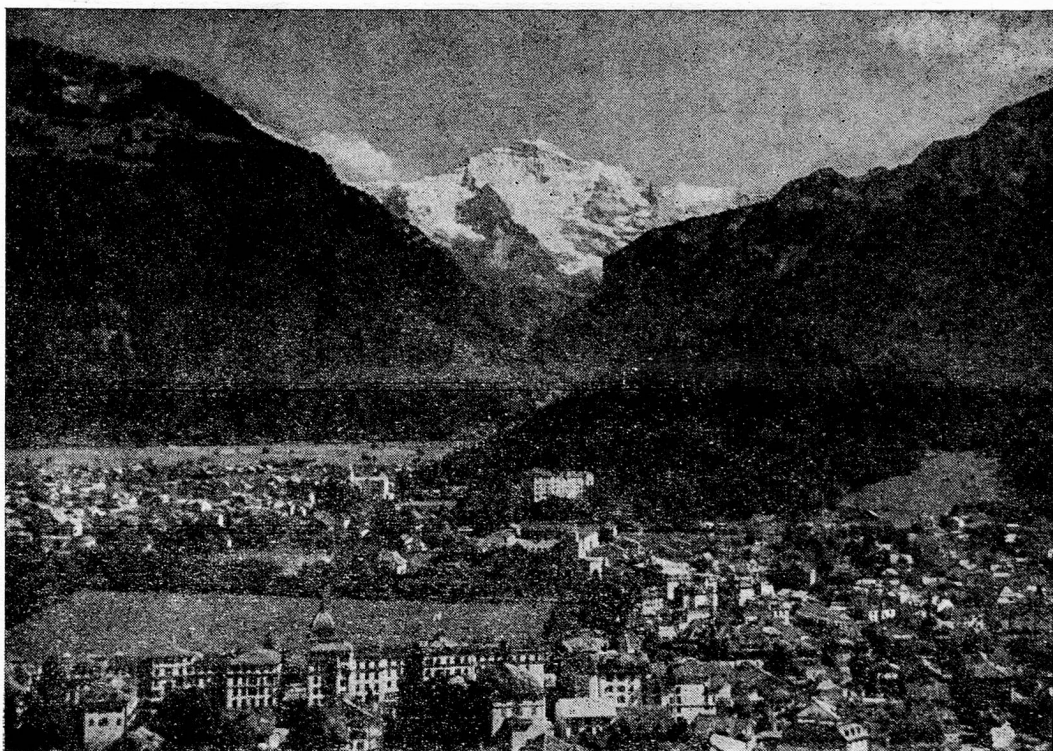
The First Ascension of the Jungfrau

The first known document in which the name "Jungfrau" was used for the third highest of the Bernese Alps with its view south-eastward into the Valais and across the great Aletsch Glacier, the largest stream of ice in the entire alpine region, is one dating from 1577 in Thomas Schöpf's introduction to his topographic map of the Canton of Berne. Completely untouched by traces of humanity, the Jungfrau — starting in the era of Albrecht von Haller, when the beauty of the Alpine world began to gain public recognition — gradually became a symbol of the very Alps themselves. In the field of art, the Minor Masters glorified the Jungfrau in their coloured engravings; the Romanticists paid tribute to the mountain; and the greatest painter of Switzerland's recent past, Ferdinand Hodler, painted it in three different lighting effects: in midsummer brilliance, surrounded by wisps of fog, and at night. For several decades, a picture of the

Jungfrau, with its cross made by shadows, stood as a symbol of the Swiss Confederation on the letterhead of the Swiss Federal Council. There is no evidence that the Jungfrau was ever climbed until the summer of 1811.

The first ascension of the Jungfrau was made by two brothers, Rudolf and Hieronymus Meyer, from Aarau, who reached the summit via the Rottalsattel in August of 1811 and later wrote a detailed account of their alpinistic exploit.

On 2nd and 3rd September, commemorative celebrations with music and recitations by the actor, Alfred Lohner, were held in Wengen and Wengeralp. The high point of this event was a ceremony on the summit of the Jungfrau itself which was climbed simultaneously from different directions,



The Jungfrau seen from Interlaken.

(Photo: Swiss National Tourist Office)