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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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FRIDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 1972

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF SWISS RESORTS

A Survey by the Swiss National Tourist Office

### ADELBODEN (4593 ft), Bernese Oberland

The Park Hotel Bellevue (70 beds) will have an indoor swimming pool. This season's calendar of events includes a Giant Slalom for Men (World Cup) on 22nd January.

### AMDEN (2625ft), North-Eastern Switzerland

This mountain resort above the Walensee (Lake Walen) has doubled its chairlift capacity to Mattstock. Amden is well-known for its favourable climate. There are also four skilifts, a Swiss Ski School and toboggan runs.

### AROSA (5905 ft), Grisons

A new skilift "Tschuggen West" will be in operation. The lower station of the Carmenna skilift has been reconstructed. The Alexandra Palace Hotel (200 beds) will re-open in December. A "fitness centre" has been installed in the Arosa-Kulm Hotel (180 beds). The Hotel Bellavista (180 beds) will have an indoor swimming pool.

### BELLWALD (5120 ft), Valais

This small village in the Goms area, situated on a magnificent terrace overlooking the Rhone valley, has added to its two existing skilifts a new skilift to Richinen-Alp. Access by Furka-Oberalp Railway or road from Brig to Fürgangen, thence by aerial cableway.

### CELERINA (5741 ft), Grisons

The capacity of the skilift Marguns (7471 ft) to Trais Fluors (9056 ft) has been doubled. The Hotel Cresta-Palace (160 beds) now has an indoor swimming pool.

### CHANDOLIN (6567 ft), Valais

Chandolin is the highest winter sports village in Switzerland, surrounded by summits of 13000 feet. Originally a famous summer resort, Chandolin is becoming more and more popular as a winter sports centre. It has three skilifts, and it is proposed to construct a network of about 12 skilifts and aerial cableways which will combine the ski slopes of Chandolin and St. Luc. This winter already, a new chairlift will be in operation, and a new ski run has been prepared. There will also be an additional tea-room, sports shop and a supermarket. The ski-hiking trail will be kept open every day. Chandolin is situated in the Anniviers valley, accessible by postal motor Coach from Sierre.

### CHATEAU-D'OEX (3175 ft), Lake Geneva Region

A new skilift has been constructed to Monts-Chevreuils (5743 ft), with a carrying capacity of 1000 persons per hour, replacing the old installation which could transport 300 skiers per hour. At La Braye (5838 ft) there is also a new skilift.

### CRANS/MONTANA (4921 ft), Valais

This year's Swiss Ski School Instructors' Course—"the world's largest ski course"—will be held at Crans/Montana from 2nd December to 16th December. In addition to the "refresher course" for the 130 directors of Swiss Ski Schools, there will be as usual guest instruction.

### DAVOS (5052 ft), Grisons

Apart from a public indoor swimming pool, Davos can now boast 10

hotel swimming pools, the latest being in the Hotel Flüela (130 beds)—together with a "fitness centre"—and in the Hotel Europe (150 beds), combined with sauna and massage. The Berghotel Schatzalp (170 beds) will have a "fitness room," hairdressing saloon, solarium and TV room. In the Dischma, Sertig and Flüela valleys, cross-country ski-ing trails will again be available. The Representatives' Course of the Ski Club of Great Britain will again be held at Davos this year from 8th to 20th December. New skilifts have been constructed from Meierhoferäli to Weissfluhjoch (capacity: 1100 persons per hour) and from Wasserscheide to Weissfluhjoch (500 persons per hour).

### LES DIABLERETS (3937 ft), Lake Geneva Region

On the Diablerets Glacier (9840 ft), accessible by two aerial cableway systems from Reusch near Gstaad and from Col du Pillon, a new skilift has been constructed. A road link has now been made between Les Diablerets and Villars over the Col de la Croix (driving time: 20 minutes), which will be kept open during the whole winter season. The "Residence Meurice" (annexe to the Grand-Hotel) now has an indoor swimming pool.

### ENGELBERG (3445 ft), Central Switzerland

This season's calendar of events includes a cross-country ski-ing competition on 16th December, a ski-jumping competition on Titlis on 17th December, and the traditional night ski-jumping on Kleintitlis on 27th December.

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## FLIMS (3527 ft), Grisons

An artificial "sun"—the first in Switzerland—was installed last winter in the indoor swimming pool of the Park-Hotel at Flims-Waldhaus. The whole installation consists of four sun-ray lamps which, by means of computer, produce heat intensity to suit individual requirements. The Hotel des Alpes (100 beds) and the Hotel Schweizerhof (80 beds) have constructed indoor swimming pools. A new aerial cableway from Startgels (5217 ft) to Grauberg (7314 ft) will be in operation this winter. Additional ski-hiking trails will be available.

## GRINDELWALD (3445 ft), Bernese Oberland

The new Hotel Residence (70 beds) will be open. The Hotel Sunstar (250 beds) was opened earlier this year. In the Kleine Scheidegg area (6772 feet), new skibob runs will be available. Additional toboggan runs and a cross-country ski-ing course will be opened on Bussalp.

## GSTAAD (3609 ft), Bernese Oberland

New this winter will be a public indoor swimming pool with restaurant and snack bar, two hotel swimming pools and two additional skibob runs. There are cross-country ski-ing courses of 31½ miles, partly illuminated at night.

## HOCH-YBRIG (6562 ft), Central Switzerland

This new Holiday and Sports Centre near Oberiberg (3724 ft) has become very popular with Swiss skiers. A Vita Parcours is available where skiers can prepare for downhill ski-ing.

The area has already one aerial cableway, two chairlifts and four skilifts, and it is planned to construct an aerial cableway to Laucheren-Stöckli (5750 ft), an aerial cableway from Weglosen (where two multi-storey car parks for 1000 cars are available) to Chäseren, and three skilifts Wandli, Rütstein und Druesberg. For this winter season, the new skilift Chüeband will be in operation. Twenty-nine new holiday apartments have been constructed. A combined winter sports season ticket for the canton of Schwyz is available for the areas Hoch-Ybrig, Einsiedeln, Muotathal, Oberiberg, Rigi, Stoos and Unteriberg, comprising 50 cableways, funiculars and skilifts.

Access by postal motor coach from Einsiedeln to Unteriberg; thence by aerial cableway.

## JUNGFRAU REGION (3445-7112 ft), Bernese Oberland

The Jungfrau Region is a varied winter sports area which includes the famous centres of Grindelwald, Mürren and Wengen. There are over 30 popular ski runs with countless alternative routes, as well as 50 mountain ski tours from the Jungfrau area (11,333 ft). The Railways of the Jungfrau Region again issue for this winter season a list of season tickets with indication of suitability for advanced skiers, medium skiers, beginners and non-skiers. A "Holiday Season Ticket" for 14 days is available specially tailored to visitors who do not practise any winter sports.

## KLEWENALP (5248 ft), Central Switzerland

The aerial cableway Beckenfried-Klewentalp has been equipped with new cabins which can carry 80 persons in a record time of 7 minutes and 20 seconds. This new cableway is considered a foundation stone for the future tourist development of the Brisen area which will involve a network of skilifts and cablecars.

## LENZERHEIDE (4823 ft), Grisons

The new Hotel Central garni (100 beds) will be open for this winter season. All rooms have private bathrooms.

## LEUKERBAD (4650 ft), Valais

This spa resort, situated between Sierre and Brig, above the Rhone valley, offers a combination of winter sports and cures; a feature is the large heated swimming baths which afford delightful relaxation after ski-ing or skating. The Torrent area (7872 ft) has been opened up to ski-ing by the recent construction of a transport network: aerial cableway Leukerbad-Rinderhütte (7593 ft) gondola cableway Pfflaschen near Albinen-Torrentalp (6363 ft)-Rinderhütte, and skilift Rind-

erhalden (7412-8003 ft). The aerial cableways have a carrying capacity of 800 persons per hour, and the skilift Rinderhalden can transport 1000 skiers per hour. It is planned to build further cableways and skilifts to Torrenthorn, Schaffberg, Rinderhalde, Alp Chermignon and Schnide. The Gemmi Pass is another ski-ing area now easily accessible from Leukerbad by the aerial cableway Leukerbad-Gemmi (7589 ft), thus opening up the cross-country ski-ing course to the Daubensee. New this winter are an indoor artificial curling rink and an open-air skating rink.

## LEYSIN (4101 ft), Lake Geneva Region

A new aerial cableway to Tour de Mayen (7629 ft) with a carrying capacity of 1000 persons per hour was inaugurated last winter. There are two new skibob runs at Solacyre and uphill transportation by chairlift. The Grand Hotel (240 beds) now has a heated swimming pool, combined open-air and covered.

## LIECHTENSTEIN

Open throughout the year, the modern road from Vaduz in the Principality of Liechtenstein takes increasing traffic to the popular winter sports resort of *Malbun* (5600 ft). To the existing hotels with a total of 123 beds has been added the Hotel Gorfion. This new hotel has 80 beds, with bathroom and balcony in each room, as well as an indoor swimming pool for the guests. The Malbun Alpen Hotel (30 beds) and the Hotel Turna (50 beds) have also recently constructed indoor swimming pools, and the Hotel Turna now has sauna facilities.

## MORGINS (4593 ft), Valais

Morgins was established as a resort just before the First World War and has recently been making a strong comeback. It is situated in a broad valley and ringed round by magnificent evergreen forests which protect it from strong winds. It already has large rinks for skating, curling and ice-hockey, three chairlifts and nine skilifts, two of which link Morgins with Chatel (France), via Bec-du-Corbeau (6500 ft). The chairlift to La Foilleuse (5966 ft) will this winter have a carrying capacity of 650 persons per hour. Accommodation is to be found in four hotels and two pensions, totalling 318 beds, plus numerous chalets and apartments. The latest hotel, the Hotel Bellevue (140 beds), has an indoor swimming pool.

Access by coach from Aigle on the Simplon railway line.

## PONTRESINA (6069 ft), Grisons

Between Pontresina/Surovas and Morteratsch (far off the main motor road), a special track for riding and



horse-drawn sleighs has been opened. The skilift Chantatsch north of Pontresina has been converted to offer special facilities for skibobbers and toboggan fans. A new skilift has been constructed on Muottas Muragl (8055 ft) with a carrying capacity of 500 skiers per hour. In the Piz Lagalb area, a huge ski arena is being developed, called the "Paradiso bianco" (white paradise). Already in operation is the new Bügliet skilift which runs from Ospizio Bernina to Val Bügliet (8013 ft). Motorists can drive to Ospizio Bernina where a new car park for 150 cars is available.

The Hotel Rosatsch (65 beds) now has a roof-terrace and sauna facilities. The Schloss-Hotel (180 beds) will open its own ice-rink.

#### **ST. CERGUE (3435 ft), Lake Geneva Region**

New skilifts to Bois de Saint-Cergue and to Les Dappes were inaugurated last winter.

#### **ST. MORITZ (6089 ft), Grisons**

The capacity of the skilift Marguns (7471 ft) to Trais Fluors (9056 ft) has been doubled. A new aerial cableway "Signal" will be in operation between St. Moritz-Bad and Alp Giop. This season's calendar of events includes the International Ladies' Downhill Race on 7th February, and the Men's Downhill Race on 11th February (both World Cup Events), and

International Horse Racing from 4th to 11th February.

#### **SAANENMOSER (4625 ft), Bernese Oberland**

The Hotel Hornberg (52 beds) has constructed an indoor swimming pool.

#### **SAAS-FEE (5905 ft), Valais**

This winter Saas-Fee will have an additional toboggan run of 2 miles, a new skilift to Felskin (9840 ft) and a new cross-country ski-ing course. Four new hotels have been opened: Hotel Mistrel, Hotel Walser garni, Hotel Eden, and Hotel Etoile.

#### **SAMEDAN (5643 ft), Grisons**

The new Hotel Donatz garni has been opened, including a speciality restaurant and a modern self-service. There are excellent facilities for cross-country ski-ing.

#### **SEDRUN (4597 ft), Grisons**

Sedrun is a quiet, idyllic winter sports village offering high alpine ski touring, good ski-ing until spring, Swiss Ski School, chairlifts and skilifts, ice-rinks, tobogganing and swept paths for walking.

An indoor swimming pool is open to visitors daily from 10.00 to 21.00 hours. The Hotel Oberalp (50 beds) has been completely renovated.

#### **THYON-LES COLLONS (7050 ft), Valais**

This is one of the newest winter sports resorts, overlooking the Val d'Heremence and enjoying a great amount of sunshine. There are six skilifts, a skating-rink, tobogganing, ski-bobbing, bowling, three new restaurants and a new hotel: the Hotel Thyon 2000. The development of a huge winter sports centre "Thyon 2000" is planned for 1980, offering a total of 7000 beds in apartments. Already now, Thyon has ample facilities for cross-country ski-ing. Access by postal motor coach from Sion to Les Collons or Veysonnaz; thence by chairlift.

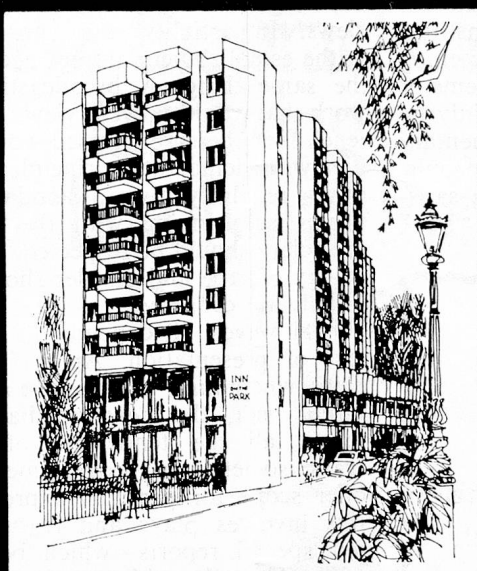
#### **VERBIER (4921 ft), Valais**

This popular winter sports centre can boast 29 skilifts, chairlifts and cableways with a total carrying capacity of over 15,200 persons per hour. The latest addition for this winter will be the chairlift Taillay in the Savoleyres area (7708 ft).

Access by the Martigny-Orsieres railway (MO) to Le Châble; thence by postal motor coach. There is also a direct coach service Martigny-Verbiere.

#### **VILLARS (3790 ft), Lake Geneva Region**

The skilift to Petit Chamossaire has been replaced by a more modern device, increasing its transport capacity. An additional skibob run has been



## **Dine at the Inn place**

The Inn on the Park, at the Piccadilly end of Park Lane, has added two important restaurants to the London scene.

The elegant Four Seasons Room, with its wide view over the Park, provides a truly international menu, impeccably presenting the finest foods of each season.

The Vintage Room specializes in superbly grilled steaks and traditional ribs of beef. A subdued and intimate decor and continuous dancing from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. creates a wonderful club atmosphere.

Lunch leisurely at the 'Inn' and enjoy a great experience; or dine after the theatre, and make your evening complete.

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opened. Between La Rasse and Les Chaux (5905 ft), a new skilift link has been established. A road link has now been made between Villars and Les Diablerets over the Col de la Croix, where cross-country ski-ing can be enjoyed.

#### **WENGEN (4265 ft), Bernese Oberland**

The famous International Laub-erhorn Ski Races—a world cup event held for the 43rd time—will take place on 13/14th January, 1973.

#### **ZUOZ (5617 ft), Grisons**

This charming Engadine village offers peace and relaxation. At the disposal of winter visitors are three skilifts, skating and curling rinks, a toboggan run, Swiss Ski School, riding stables, a new cross-country ski-ing course of some 11 miles, as well as six miles of tended paths for walking. Zuoz has 10 hotels and pensions with a total of 350 beds. This season's calendar of events includes the Zuoz Curl-weeks from 26th December to 1st January, 13th to 21st January, and 5th to 15th February, the Muntatsch Giant Slalom on 32nd December, the Albanas Giant Slalom on 28th January, and the traditional Engadine "Chalanda Marz" popular festival on 1st March.

#### **ZWEISIMMEN (3281 ft), Bernese Oberland**

The picturesque holiday and winter sports resort can boast the longest gondola cableway to Eggweid-Rinderberg (6600ft), climbing 3481 feet in a journey of 5529 yards, that is nearly  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The carrying capacity will be increased by 60% this winter. From Rinderberg, many interesting downhill runs can be made. Furthermore, Zweisimmen has four skilifts, an aerial cableway, a skating rink, indoor tennis facilities and—since July 1972—a new heated indoor swimming pool with a self-service restaurant.

# COMMENT

## TELEVISION AND THE CONSTITUTION

The two chambers of the Swiss Parliament devoted more than two full days of debate at the beginning of this month on a postulate (written question to the Government) by two members of the Swiss People's Party asking the Federal Council to pave the way for a new Article on Radio and Television in the Federal Constitution to defend the objectivity of information.

They also asked the Government to take the necessary steps to strengthen the supervision of Radio and Television programmes and to overhaul the management of the Swiss Broadcasting Company. Rarely had a postulate—dozens of which are tabled at every session—attracted such a debate. Its proposals were adopted by a sizeable majority in both Houses.

The two men—National Councillor Erwin Akeret, a journalist from Winthertur, and State Councillor Fritz Krauchthaler, hotel owner in Wynigen finding that the Swiss Broadcasting Organisation lacked in objectivity, considered that the solution to the problem lay in adding yet another article to the Federal Constitution.

The first criticism one is tempted to levy against the postulate is its tendency to make excessive use, or abuse, of the Constitution. Why should every problem that crops up be mentioned in that fundamental charter and involve the cost and complication of a referendum? This seems to be an unnecessary cheapening of the Constitution, leading to a probable cheapening of democracy as well. The problems of Radio and Television can certainly be dealt with in a normal parliamentary way, without recourse to the people, the great majority of whom are satisfied with what they see on the "box"

anyway.

The second point is that the motivations of the two parliamentarians are almost petty. Their postulate was based on a hastily written and researched report by the Press Service of the Peoples' Party in Berne. Picking 37 programmes out of an estimated 6000 programmes broadcasted during the past 18 months, the authors of the Report find material for a number of criticisms.

They said that coverage of the Jura has been one-sided. A programme on South America had expressed support for revolutionary fighters. The general trend of home coverage was aimed against the concept of global defence. Parliamentary reports had been biased and the majority of problems were covered by Television in a progressive light whenever possible. Finally, the informers in Berne were accused of having connections with the New Left, and a panel monitor was charged with having slanted to one side.

An internal 300-page enquiry carried out by the broadcasting services generally rejected the implications of these findings and established that only a quarter of the programmes quoted as examples had actually given rise to criticism by viewers.

Promoting Radio and Television services to the status of a constitutional issue would in fact enhance the influence of the State on programmes. This would certainly not be equivalent to unbiased coverage. The two parliamentarians had obviously been concerned about the conversation of the "establishment" and worried about left-wingers being allowed to air their views. Impartiality and subservience to the establishment are not necessarily the same thing. A broadcasting network that would prevent views of every tendency from being expressed would conflict with democratic principles. Obviously, regularly revised standards and norms conforming with the survival of society should be respected. Thus an eulogy of rape and murder should preferably be censored.

However, all depends on the context of presentation. Apart from the news, which *must* be objective and very rarely isn't, the news media should reflect all the tendencies of democratic societies in programmes which offer scope for personal expression,—this involves plays and features, but not special reports—which belong to news. The other side should of course be given the same chance to express its point of view. As a British playwright recently told Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, who had criticised his lack of religious decency, the "viewers are the judges". If they do not like what they see, they can switch to another programme.

With French, German and Italian stations beaming their programmes from across the border, this is not difficult in Switzerland. (PMB)

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