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creation of a new Canton Jura, those antiseparatist districts in the Jura who (may) want to remain united with Berne, will after 6 to 12 months have another plebiscite about the same question. If, on the other hand, a majority of "Jurassiens" decide on 23rd June against the creation of a separate canton, then the separatist districts will have the same right to vote once more as to whether they still want to form a separate, smaller canton with reduced territory. All this adds considerably to the complexity of the situation.

In Berne — meaning in the cantonal, not the federal Capital — the hope expressed is, above all, that as many "Jurassiens" as possible will vote on 23rd June and that the decision, whichever

way it goes, will be a clearcut one. Berne also promises — in case the Jura does not go its own way, and no doubt in order to influence the decision — the creation of a regional parliament in the Jura and increased representation of the Jura in the Cantonal Government in Berne, as well as one (of two) seats in the Council of States (Ständerat) in the Federal Parliament. In a "Statute for the Jura" debated in the cantonal parliament in Berne in November last year it is also stated that "German and French are the recognised official languages in the Canton Berne. The schools in the French-speaking parts of the Canton will be given wide autonomy . . ."

These are by no means all the

aspects of this complicated problem. There have, for example been long preliminary discussions about the question *who* should have the right to vote on 23rd June: only those who actually live in the Jura and pay local taxes, or also those "Jurassiens" who were born there, but live in different parts. Then there is the problem about what kind of majority is needed to alter the Cantonal Constitution of Berne and many more. But I have tried in this letter to reduce a truly complicated problem with ethnological, cultural, legal and political components to as simple as possible a description of what 23rd June is about.

Gottfried Keller

## NEWS FROM SWISS WINTER SPORTS RESORTS—WINTER 1973~74

Every winter season, new ski-lifts and aerial cableways are opened in Switzerland, hotels are modernised, and facilities such as indoor swimming-pools and saunas are added to hotels. The following information is only a selection of the most important new developments.

### ADELBODEN (4,593 ft.), Bernese Oberland

Thanks to the inauguration of the aerial cableway from Lenk (3,609 ft.) to Metsch (4,822 ft.) and the connecting two ski-lifts to Metschberg (5,806 ft.), the link-up with the Hahnenmoos area, Adelboden's main ski-ing region, has been completed. The area Adelboden/Lenk/St. Stephan can now boast a total of 40 means of transport. A very attractive combined season ticket is available to skiers for periods of 3, 7 and 14 days and 1 month, valid on 18 ski-lifts, 7 chair-lifts, 2 aerial cableways, 2 gondola cableways and two motor-coach lines. A second cross-country ski track has been opened up at Engstligenalp (6,560 ft.). The approach road from Frutigen to Adelboden has been improved, and an additional car park is available at the village entrance.

### ANDERMATT (4,868 ft.), Central Switzerland

A new trainer ski-lift has been constructed from Andermatt to Nätschen, running parallel to the main ski-lift, but over less steep slopes. The opening of the Hotel Alpina garni (30 beds) is planned for February, 1974.

### ANZERE (4,921 ft.), Valais

On 1st December the Hotel Zodiaque was opened, offering 125 rooms/studios with private bath, balcony, radio and telephone. The hotel complex also includes a shopping centre,



discothèque, sauna, snack-grill, bars and conference facilities.

### AROSA (5,905 ft.), Grisons

A new Tschuggen chair-lift has been constructed, running from the Carmenna lower station (6,052 ft.) to Tschuggen (6,717 ft.), with a transport capacity of 800 persons per hour. The cross-country ski school opened last year has been further extended, and more tracks are available this winter. Ski-runs, skibob-runs and walking paths have also been improved. The Pension Gspan (26

beds) has been completely modernised.

### BRAUNWALD (4,921 ft.), North-Eastern Switzerland

Braunwald — a sunshine terrace high above the Linth valley — is one of the Swiss resorts located off the motor roads. At Linthal, below Braunwald, there is heated indoor parking for 140 cars. Braunwald now offers skiers no less than six mountain transport systems, including the new gondola cableway Braunwald — Grotzenbüel, which has a carrying capacity of 600 persons per hour.



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## BREITEN (2,952 ft.), Valais

Breiten is situated on a sun terrace above Mörel, accessible by road, some five miles east of Brig. There is an aerial cableway Mörel – Breiten – Tunetschalp, and a ski-lift at Tunetschalp. Breiten has the only salt water indoor swimming-pool in the Swiss Alps and opened its new Fitness Centre a year ago, including a solarium, a gymnastic hall and massage rooms. Holidaymakers stay in one of the 90 chalets or at the "Apart-Hotel Salina". The cross-country ski-ing region of the Goms valley is only one hour away by car or by the Furka-Oberalp Railway. The Aletsch region (6,000 ft.) is ideal for downhill ski-ing and can be reached by four aerial cableways.

## CHAMPERY (3,461 ft.), Valais

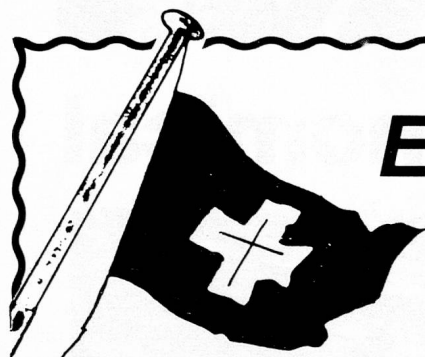
New this winter are an artificial ice-rink, a covered curling rink, an indoor swimming-pool, and a restaurant seating 160 persons. Under the name "Portes du Soleil", the Swiss resorts of Champéry/Planachaux, Val d'Illeiez/Les Crosets and Morgins, and the French resorts of Châtel and Avoriaz, have grouped themselves together to issue one single season ticket for 7 or 15 days, valid in both countries on a total of 30 means of transport. The 100-mile network of ski runs is one of Europe's most extensive ski-ing areas.

## DAVOS (5,052 ft.), Grisons

At Davos-Platz, a new hotel has been opened: the "Sunstar-Park" (250

beds). All rooms have private bath, WC, telephone, radio and balcony. The hotel has spacious lounges, a restaurant, indoor swimming-pool, sauna and fitness centre, and a hairdressing salon. The Sport-Hotel Parsenn (60 beds), at Davos-Dorf, has

been refurbished and extended. An indoor swimming-pool has been added to the Hotel Sonnenberg (80 beds) at Davos-Dorf. In the Pischaschi ski-ing region, an additional ski-lift to Mittelgrat has been constructed, with a carrying



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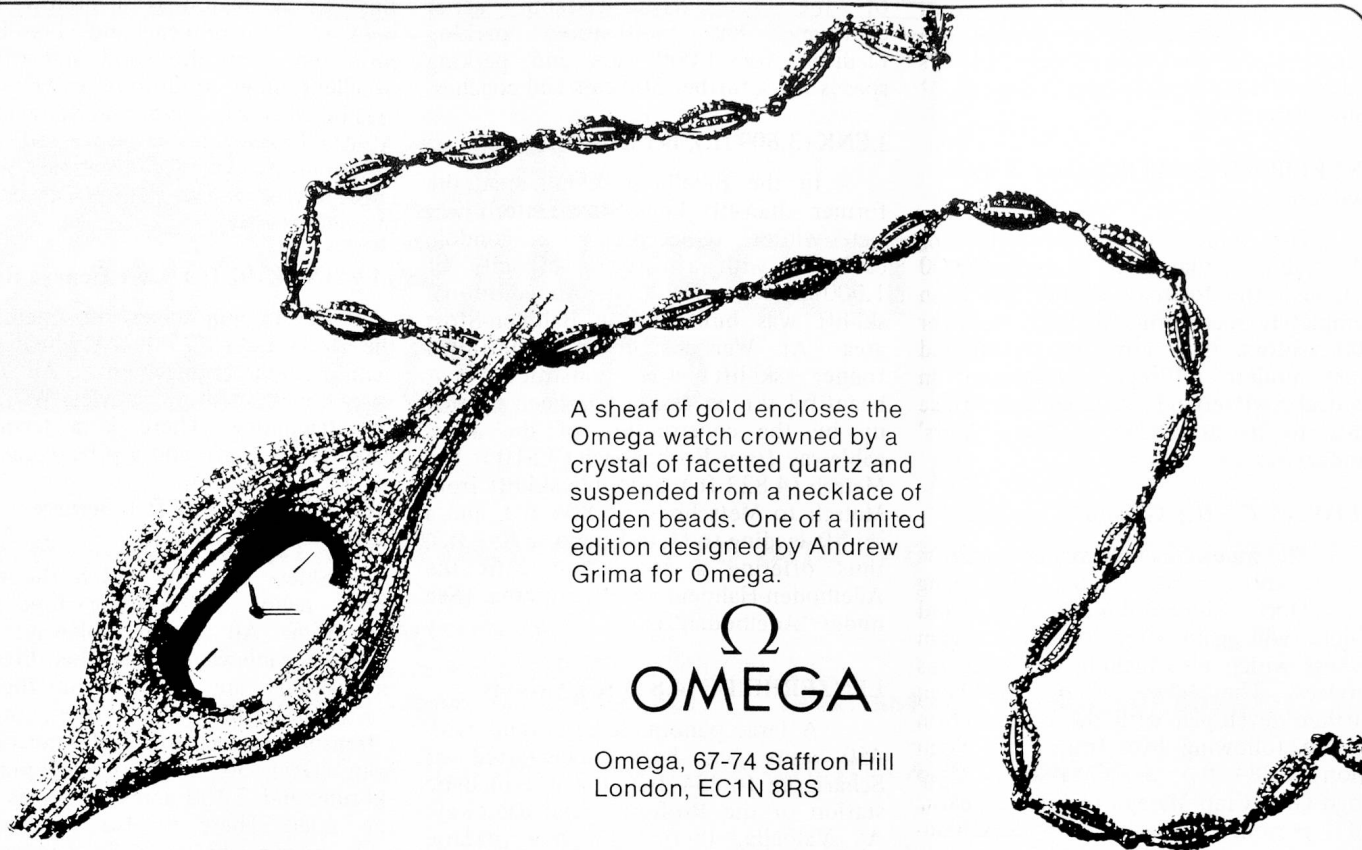
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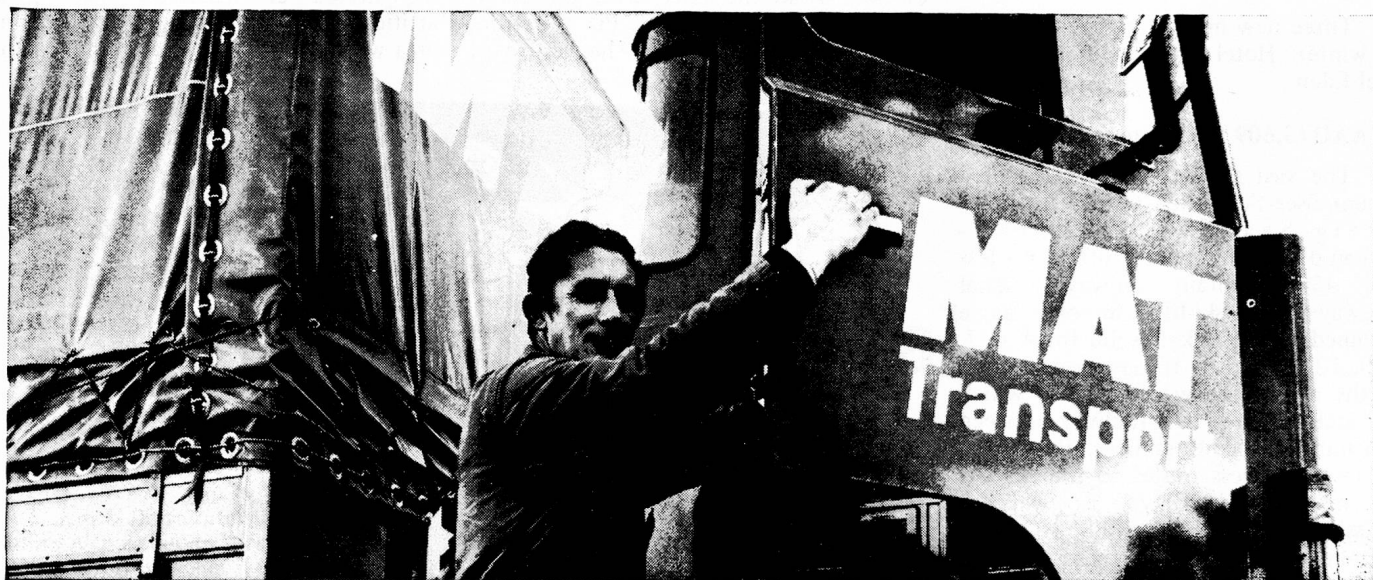




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capacity of 1,080 persons per hour. Personal combined season tickets are again available for 38 mountain railways and ski-lifts for periods from 3 days to 22 consecutive days.

#### **ENGELBERG (3,445 ft.), Central Switzerland**

The typical mountain restaurant "Alpstübli", situated at Trübsee (6,000 ft.), near the Jochpass ski-lift, has been completely reconstructed. With seats for 400 visitors, it is now the largest and most modern self-service restaurant in Central Switzerland. A large sun-terrace adds to its attraction as the "skiers' rendezvous".

#### **FLIMS (3,773 ft.), Grisons**

The mountain railways and ski-lifts of the entire *White Arena*, comprising Flims-Dorf, Flims-Waldhaus, Laax and Falera, will again offer combined season tickets which also include the local bus services. The *White Arena* has been further developed with the construction of the following lifts from Crap Sogn Gion (7,284 ft.): aerial cableway Crap Sogn Gion-Crap Masegn (cabins can carry 125 persons); chair-lift Alp Ruschein-Crap Masegn; ski-lift Alp Dado-Crest la Siala; ski-lift Treis Palas-Crest la Siala; chairlift Falera-Curnius. At the Crap Sogn Gion complex, an indoor swimming-pool, sauna, bowling alley and rotisserie have been constructed. Two new garni hotels will be open: the Hotel des Alpes (180 beds), and the Hotel Uaul Pign (18 beds).

#### **GRAECHEN (5,305 ft.), Valais**

Three new hotels "garni" will open this winter: Hotel Alpha, Hotel Desiree, Hotel Eden.

#### **GSTAAD (3,609 ft.), Bernese Oberland**

The vast ski-ing area Zweisimmen-Saanenmöser-Schönried-Gstaad-Lauenen-Gsteig-Saanen-Rougemont-Château-d'Oex this winter offers no less than 45 mountain railways, aerial cableways and ski-lifts in one single combined season ticket (valid for 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15 or 16 days, one or two months or for the whole season) which even includes the MOB Railway between Zweisimmen and Rossinière, the postal coaches on access routes to the ski-lifts and mountain railways, as well as admission to the public indoor swimming-pool. At Eggli, there is a new ski-lift "Fäng".

#### **HOCH-YBRIG (6,562 ft.), Central Switzerland**

Formerly a remote and inaccessible mountain locality, Hoch-Ybrig has been developed into an Olympic-standard ski-ing area for Alpine and Nordic disciplines, complete with holiday flats and club houses. Scheduled improvements include hotels, an indoor swimming-pool, a shopping precinct and sports grounds. Weglosen (accessible via Einsiedeln and Sihlsee), the valley station

of the 125 passenger-cabin aerial cableway, has multi-storey parking facilities for 1,000 cars and parking spaces for a further 500 cars and coaches.

#### **LENK (3,609 ft.), Bernese Oberland**

In the Betelberg ski-ing area, the former chair-lift Lenk-Stoss-Leiterli was last winter replaced by a gondola cableway with a carrying capacity of 1,000 persons per hour. An additional ski-lift was built in the Ballmen-Stoss area. At Weissenstein, an additional trainer ski-lift was constructed. A beautiful ski-ing region has been opened up by the construction of the aerial cableway from Rothenbach (3,510 ft.) to Metsch (4,822 ft.), a double ski-lift from Metsch to Metschberg (5,806 ft.), and a ski-lift leading to Metschstand (6,888 ft.), thus offering a connection with the Adelboden-Hahнемoos ski-ing area. (See under "Adelboden").

#### **LENZERHEIDE (4,823 ft.), Grisons**

A large panoramic restaurant with 450 seats has been inaugurated at Scharmoim (6,234 ft.), the intermediate station of the Rothorn aerial cableway. At Valbella, there is a new natural ice-rink. Since the new ski-ing facilities of Danis near Lenzerheide/Valbella have been opened last winter, the region of Lenzerheide/Churwalden has become the ski-ing centre of central Grisons, offering a combined carrying capacity of 5,000 persons per hour on no less than 28 means of transport. Around 1,309 acres of ski-ing territory with an average incline of 30% await the skier, with ski-lifts at Auarara, Pedra Grossa, Piz Gertrud, Lavož and Cumascheals. The centre of

this ski-ing region is a hollow valley between Stätzerhorn and Piz Danis, protected from the wind and offering excellent snow conditions, as well as the area between Alp Lavož and Stätzersattel. At Alp Lavož there is also a self-service restaurant (serving 150 people) with a large terrace where visitors can enjoy a marvellous view.

#### **LEYSIN (4,101 ft.), Lake Geneva Region**

Leysin announces the opening of the Hotel Eden (75 beds) which offers demi-pension arrangements. All rooms have private bath or shower, WC, radio and telephone. There is a terrace, a banquetting room and a private car park.

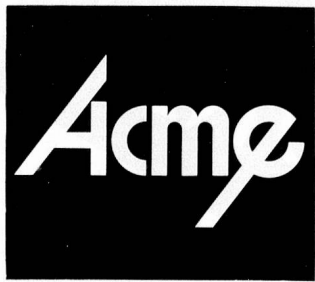
#### **MEIRINGEN (1,969 ft.), Bernese Oberland**

Skiers can now reach the winter sports region of Hasliberg direct from Meiringen. An aerial cableway, three gondola cableways, two chair-lifts and one ski-lift are available in the area Meiringen-Hasliberg-Planplatten, offering a transport capacity of 2,600 persons per hour. Over 30 miles of well-prepared ski-runs and 2,100 acres of slopes await the skier. There is also a brand-new cross-country ski-ing track, 8 miles long, from Meiringen to Brienz.

#### **OBERTOGENBURG (3,400-7,500 ft.), North-Eastern Switzerland**

This area comprises the three famous ski resorts of Wildhaus, Unterwasser and Alt St. Johann. In December 1973, a new sports centre was inaugurated at Wildhaus, offering an artificial ice-rink and a covered curling area with three rinks, a restaurant seating





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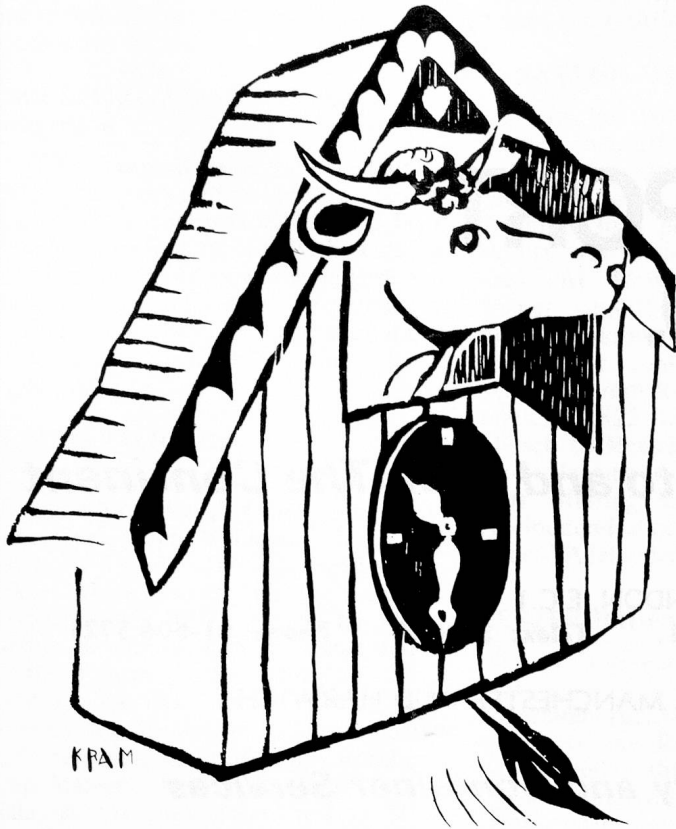
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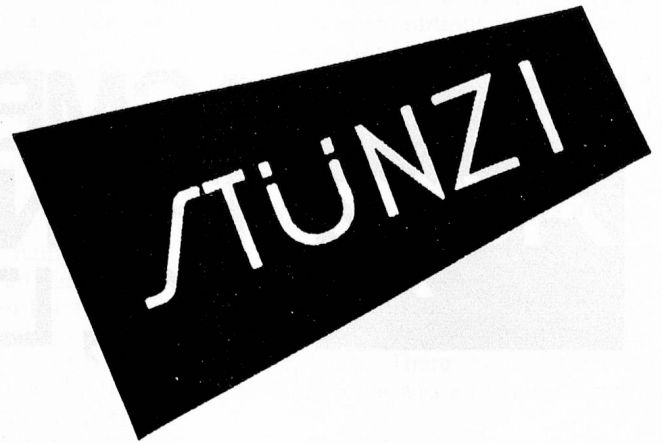
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65 persons and an indoor car park for 100 cars. The Hotel Alpenblick (50 beds) has built 25 new double rooms, all with shower and WC, a new bar-dancing, and a lounge. A new floor with 10 modern double rooms, all with shower and WC, has been added to the Hotel Hirschen (120 beds). Above Unterwasser, the longest aerial cableway in North-Eastern Switzerland has been inaugurated: from Iltios to Chäserrugg (7,419 ft.), where a mountain restaurant (200 seats) with a panorama terrace awaits skiers and non-skiers alike. The two cabins of the new aerial cableway have room for 80 passengers each, and their transport capacity is 520 persons per hour. Access from Unterwasser to Iltios is by funicular.

#### **PONTRESINA (6,069 ft.), Grisons**

Visitors to the Lagalb area near Pontresina will discover a new attraction this winter: there are two well-kept high-altitude hiking paths. One of them leads from the upper terminal of the Vallin chair-lift to the lower terminal of the Motta Bianca ski-lift (walking time: 40 minutes). The other starts from the same departure point to the lower terminal of the Piz Lagalb aerial cableway at Curtinatsch (walking time: one hour). A new ski-lift "Costas" operates in the Lagalb area. In the Paradiso Bianco ski-ing region, a new ski-lift "Li Cüni" has been constructed. A new ski run to La Rösä (Bernina Pass) has been prepared, from where a bus service to Ospizio Bernina is operating.

#### **SAAS-FEE (5,905 ft.), Valais**

A new Garni Hotel has been opened: the Hotel Walser (35 beds). Saas-Fee also has a new curling area with five rinks.

#### **SAMEDAN (5,643 ft.), Grisons**

The Hotel Quadratscha (50 beds) has been enlarged, and an indoor swimming-pool has been added. It is now known as the "Club-Hotel Quadratscha".

#### **SEDRUN (4,597 ft.), Grisons**

Sedrun is a quiet, idyllic winter sports village offering high alpine ski-touring, good ski-ing until spring,

ski-bobbing, Swiss Ski School, a chair-lift and eight ski-lifts, ice-skating and curling rinks, two tobogganing runs, 12 miles of hiking paths, and a five-mile long cross-country ski-ing track. An indoor swimming-pool is open to visitors daily from 10.00 to 21.00 hours. The resort is ideal for family holidays, since it has 400 holiday flats and a total of 2,000 beds available. New this winter is a ski-lift from Planatsch to Milez.

Sedrun is accessible all the year round by rail via Göschenen-Andermatt and via Chur-Disentis.

#### **VERBIER (4,921 ft.), Valais**

This popular winter sports centre can boast 30 ski-lifts, chair-lifts and aerial cableways with a total carrying capacity of over 15,500 persons per hour. There are two new garni hotels this winter: the Hotel Phenix (34 beds), and the Hotel Majestic (30 beds). Access by the

Martigny-Orsières railway (MO) to Le Châble; thence by postal motor coach. There is also a direct coach service Martigny-Verbier.

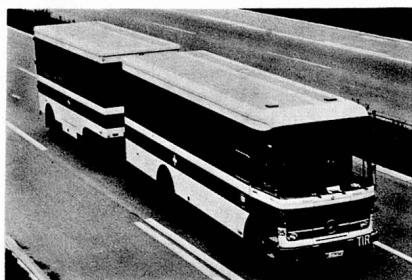
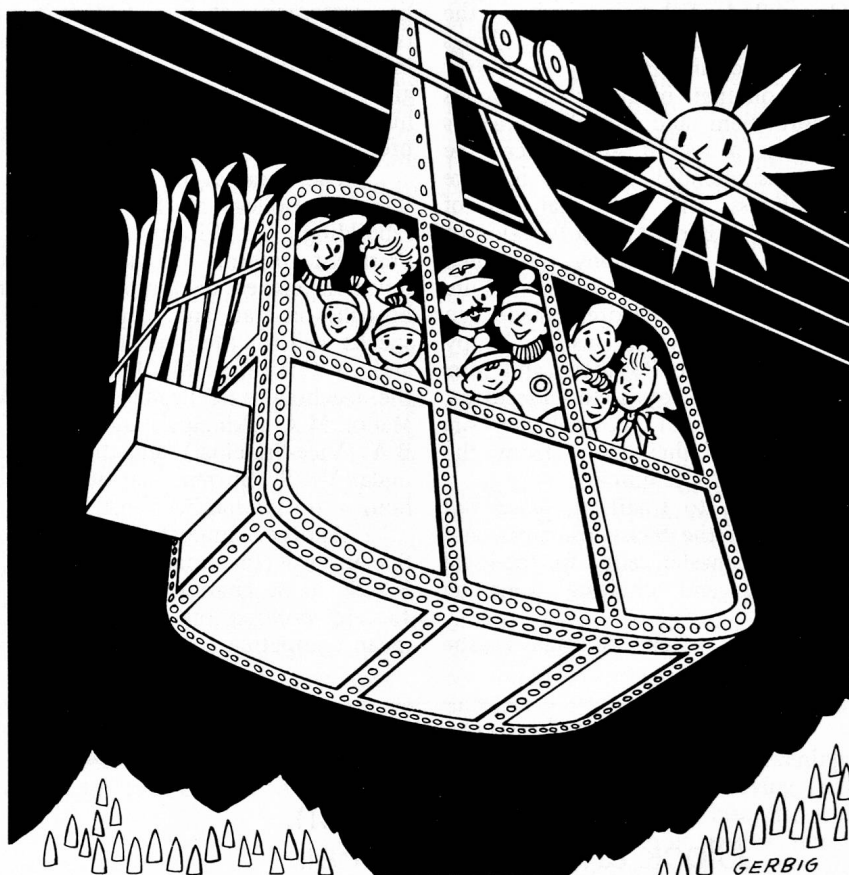
#### **VERCORIN (4,400 ft.), Valais**

This resort commands a wonderful view of the Rhone valley. There are five hotels totalling 128 beds. Vercorin has an ice-rink, two aerial cableways to Sigeroula and to Crêt-au-Midi, and two ski-lifts "Bisse" and "Les Planards". New this winter are a mountain restaurant at Crêt-au-Midi, as well as an additional ski-lift nearby.

Access by postal motor coach from Sierre on the Simplon railway line, or by aerial cableway from Chalais.

#### **ZERMATT (5,315 ft.), Valais**

The management of the Schwarzsee Mountain Railways have constructed a



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new ski run Furgg-Furri. A new garni hotel has been opened: the "Holiday Apparthotel" (60 beds). The Hotel Christiania garni (70 beds) has been extended and can now offer 150 beds and a large indoor swimming-pool with sauna, fitness centre, mini-golf and tennis facilities.

*Text and pictures  
by courtesy of SNTO*

## ALL-INCLUSIVE WINTER HOLIDAYS IN SWITZERLAND 1973/74

Some 21 British tour operators are this season organising all-inclusive winter sports holidays to 46 Swiss resorts. A special brochure is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office listing resorts, minimum prices, mode of travel, and names and addresses of the tour operators concerned.

## First Ever Self-service Tow in Switzerland

A self-service ski-tow not requiring an attendant has just been installed at the winter sports area of *Stoos* (3,900 feet a.s.l.) in Central Switzerland. This amazingly easy system is foolproof and trouble-free. The skier just has to catch hold of the bar which reaches him automatically at the correct horizontal seating position.

# NEWS from the COLONY

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

### Annual Dinner and Dance

How glad those in charge of the S.M.S. must be that they did not cancel the Annual Dinner and Dance on Saturday, 2nd February, when the national emergency made things somewhat uncertain! But they knew they could rely on their members and friends to support them, and though there was not exactly a record attendance, the turn-out was splendid. A happy mixture of friendliness and just that bit of formality which is right for a function of importance in the Colony, prevailed throughout the evening. The Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel made an excellent venue. It was also a happy innovation that the President and Mrs. Jaccard and the Society's Hon. President, the Swiss Ambassador, received members and friends on their way from the cocktail lounge to the dinner.

According to tradition, grace was said by one of the Swiss Ministers, and until the toast master called for the loyal toasts, eating and chatting went on merrily.

All too often nowadays the

after-dinner speeches at social functions are cut down to such an extent that they consist of a funny story or two and a cursory and global welcome of guests and ladies. Nobody wishes to have the monumental speeches back which used to be customary at the Colony's major functions. But the way the President managed to welcome all the guests and give a small *tour d'horizon* in a very humorous and friendly way, seemed to all present a very happy medium.

The great event in the life of the Society's College at the moment is the rebuilding in Fitzroy Square. The President referred to the tribulations repeated moves to temporary premises brought on staff and secretariat. And it speaks well for the Education Committee and its Chairman, Mr. F. Haeusermann, the teaching staff headed by Mr. A. W. Makin, M.A. (Principal) and Mr. L. Cane, B.A. (Vice-Principal), and the office staff under Mr. W. Burren, that not one single hour of tuition has been lost.

Another important event in the Society was the final acceptance of the S.M.S. as a charitable institution. Mr. Jaccard pointed out that this did not mean competing for alms with the Swiss

Benevolent Society, but exemption from paying tax on investments. The success is due to the initiative of Mr. O. Grob and the know-how and perseverance of Mr. S. Stray, a Chartered Secretary. Both were present with their wives, and in Mr. Grob's case, the family.

This is actually a feature of the S.M.S. Dinner and Dance — the presence of the second generation. This covers at least one case where the daughter of an old and valued member, herself a grandmother, attends with her English husband year after year. This all adds to the friendly and rather intimate atmosphere.

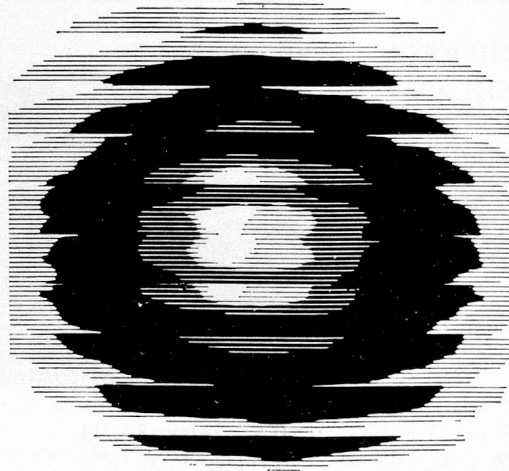
But much as the younger generation and new friends were welcome, the old faithfuls were not forgotten, such as Honorary Members and their wives, i.e. Mr. Walter Burren, Mr. Raymond Chappuis and Mr. Oscar Grob (both Trustees).

The President also touched on lighter matters, such as the annual football match against the "Times" team, and he welcomed the Vice-President of the "Times" football section, Mr. John Gard. The annual competition for the Lints-Smith Cup has been going on for

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