

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1937)
Heft: 809

Artikel: Summer snow
Autor: Dossenbach, Fred
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693458>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 10.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

SUMMER SNOW.

By FRED DOSSENBRACH, Jr.

From Grindelwald, at night, you can see a pin point of light in the huge north wall of the Eiger. It twinkles steadily, a yellow star lost on the perpendicular side of the mountain. No hut could possibly cling to the sheer slope, no winding path could find its way up the precipitous wall of rock and snow. Yet the tiny light flickers impudently, like a street lamp truant in the mountain vastness. And this, as a matter of fact, is just about what the light is.

But instead of a miraculous street to the sky, a ribboning tunnel leads to and above the light, which gleams from Eigerwand, one of the stations of the Jungfrau Railroad. The station has windows chiseled through the massive rock, and from here tourists can gaze wide-eyed into the valley almost directly below.

A trip to Jungfraujoch is a treat for superlative enthusiasts. The Jungfrau Railroad is the world's highest, the Hotel Berghaus Europe's loftiest, the Aletsch glacier the Continent's largest.

Then there is an Ice Palace which is "underground" at an altitude of over 11,000 ft. You can take a ride on a sled drawn by thick furred huskies, or if you wish, even ski. Every July there is an important Ski Meet held at the Joch, with slalom, downhill and jumping competitions. And only 3½ hours away green hills surround lakes whose various beaches are crowded with tanned swimmers.

Interlaken, the famed resort lying between the lakes of Thun and Brienz, will probably be the starting point of your excursion to the Joch. From both Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald, which are in valleys on opposite sides of the Scheidegg ridge, the Wengernalp Railroad takes you to Little Scheidegg. Naturally you will return via the opposite route you took in ascending.

The trains of the Jungfrau Railroad nose their way slowly from Little Scheidegg to Eiger-gletscher, where you are in the shadow of the snow and glacier world. After Eiger-gletscher the brown cars enter the tunnel, and as they start boring up through the Eiger and Monch to Jungfraujoch, your eardrums feel the lessening pressure of increasing altitude.

At station Eigerwand everyone gets out for a look through the great windows. It was here that Swiss guides started their attempt to rescue the four young German climbers who in the summer of 1936 tried to be the first group to scale the Eiger north wall. But the implacable mountain claimed four more lives, and the guides themselves had narrow escapes from the stones that constantly tumble down the vertical wall. It is almost unbelievable that the guides could start their rescue attempt from here; even more so that the German youths were three-quarters of the way to the summit before the mist, and rain and cold made their fatal appearance. Undoubtedly this summer will see the challenge of the Eiger accepted again. A party of clear-eyed, confident climbers will match their skill and endurance against the relentless gods of the mountains. And the battle will go on till the peak is conquered. Rash and foolhardy? Perhaps. But magnificent, too.

Where at Eigerwand everything is dominated by the colossal wall of rock, at Eismeer the windows open to a world of snow and ice, snow and ice so dazzling that you probably have to put on your sun-goggles. The eternal wind brushes over the snow, whispering sibilantly as it raises tiny whirlpools of white powder that twist and vanish into thin air. Above you huge blocks of snow pile over each other, and a glacier crevasse is a great green wound knifed deep into the sharp slanting slope.

About an hour after you have left Little Scheidegg, you arrive at Jungfraujoch. The train stops right at the entrance to the Hotel Berghaus, which has every modern convenience, including telephone service to all parts of the world.

The balcony on the main floor looks out over the Aletsch glacier, a huge motionless river of snow covered ice, banked on either side by the mountains, which finally hide it as it curves away in the distance. Crowning the far horizon, snow peaks scrape a blue sky flaked here and there with a wisp of cloud. You look through the telescope at the jagged summit of the Jungfrau, which from here looks completely different than from Interlaken.

A little to the left of the Berghaus is the Tourist House, which offers more modest accommodations, principally for the mountaineering parties. There is, during the summer, an ascent almost every day to the 13,500 ft. summits of the Jungfrau and Monch. In the opposite direction of the Joch plateau, the 800 ft. Sphinx Tunnel leads to the vast glittering snowfields of the Jungfraufrin.

Everyone is discovering some point of interest that apparently no one else has seen, and the balcony is noisy with remarks made in French, German and English. Some of the visitors feed

BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL

GOLDERS GREEN ROAD, N.W.4.

Telephone: HENDON 8171.

LUNCHEON 2/6 : TEAS on the lawn 1/6 : DINNER 4/-**SATURDAYS - - - - DINNER & DANCE 6/-**

Evening Dress not essential during July and August.

DANCING ONLY 3/-

The lovely Ballroom can be reserved at reasonable charges for all sorts of Public and Private Functions, Dances, Wedding Receptions. For terms and vacant dates please apply Manager.

Brent Bridge Brasserie**POPULAR A LA CARTE RESTAURANT**

Munich and Pilsner Lager Beer on draught.

Bass Ale in bottles.

Large Selection of carefully chosen Wines and Spirits. Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, Ices, Minerals.

Table d'hôte Luncheon at 2/- served from 12 to 3 p.m. in the Brasserie.**Music and Dancing every evening, 8 to 11-30.****An Orchestral Concert is held every Sunday in the Brasserie from 7 to 11 p.m.****APPENRODT'S****Continental Delicatessen Stores****5, GOLDERS GREEN ROAD (Opposite Golders Green Station).**

Telephone: Speedwell 1746.

AND

The Brent Bridge Wine Stores

Telephone: Hendon 8473.

(adjoining the Brent Bridge Brasserie)

are two shops that must appeal to every connoisseur of what is good in the way of eatables and drinkables. There are lots of tasty table delicacies that make a welcome change from the every day Menu.

SAUSAGES of every conceivable variety — of the most exceptional quality.

Cold Meats, Salads, Pickled and Smoked Fish, &c.

The Branch at 5, Golders Green Road, is open after the Theatre, and all day Sunday, for light Refreshments, Tea, Coffee, Ices, &c.

**LEU & Co's, BANK LTD
ZURICH**

FOUNDED 1755

Don't forget to invest
in your
home-country

For full particulars address you to the oldest Bank in Switzerland

crumbs of bread to the jet black alpine jack-daws who, eyeing every movement, sway in the gusty wind with motionless wings. Then swooping and swirling, and cawing greedily, they pursue a morsel thrown toward the glacier, never failing to finally snatch the treasure in a sharp yellow bill.

After lunch in the cheery restaurant you go to the Joch plateau, which is a short walk from the hotel. An elevator takes you to the fourth floor, and after going through a short corridor, you suddenly emerge into warm and brilliant sunlight. The hard packed snow path leads to the top of the plateau, and you walk to the small hut that is perched so close to the edge of the ridge that part of its shadow is lost in the yawning space below. A fresh wind whips by, dry cool and clean. You are, for this moment, at the edge of the world.

Ahead of you, as far as you can see, there are snow mountains which even from here, sometimes hide the horizon. There are green hills melting to the flat floors of the valleys and the valleys wind away and lose themselves again behind the high peaks. The hotels at Little Scheidegg are toy houses, and Interlaken is a scrambled, varicoloured patch in the emerald valley carpet. Behind you, on the summit of the Jungfrau, a wind swept plume of snow fades into the sun. This scene, in all its vastness and beauty, will be everlasting in the picture book of your memory.

On the way back to the Berghaus you visit the Ice Palace. A stocky mountaineer, his seamed face saddle brown, stands a little before the entrance to help you safely down the narrow path, which is nothing more than a haphazard flight of snow steps.

The first sensation underground is that it is much warmer than you expected. This is due to the dry air of the high altitude. You walk down a carpeted flight of ice steps, and the ceiling of the passage is flaked with countless, multi-designed little snow and ice forms. The ice walls are a pastel green with a hint of blue.

Suddenly you are in the Bar. Everything except the electric lights is cut out of ice. There are two booths, whose tables have vases filled with ice flowers, and in the corner is a piano which defies the efforts of the most determined jazzmen. The bar itself is minus only the brass rail and the high stools, on which it would be too difficult and cold to sit, anyhow.

Through another corridor and you enter the main room, with huge pillars gracefully supporting the domed ceiling. Here, in this royal room of blue-green ice, so reminiscent of a Maxfield Parrish painting, you can hire a pair of ice-skates, and after whirling over the smooth floor, you can justly claim that no one has ever skated higher underground than you have.

Before the train leaves you send a postcard or two. Perhaps you cannot resist the urge to tweek the noses of sweltering friends back home, and you mention snow and ice and cool breezes.

There is a final rush to buy souvenirs before returning to the every-day world. The last passenger takes his seat, and the conductor's whistle pipes shrilly. The train starts creeping slowly downward. And in a little while it's summer again.

HELVETIA CLUB

1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.

Telephone - - - GERrard 4674.

Central situation in West End

Newly decorated Ball-room

Capacity 250 persons.

Excellent Cuisine, Liberal Menus,

Table d'Hôte Luncheons.

Numerous Dances, Social Functions, Dinners and

Entertainments organised throughout the year.

Membership Invited.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, 10s.6d.

Telephone : MUSEum 2982

Telegrams : Foysuisse London

FOYER SUISSE

12 UPPER BEDFORD PLACE

RUSSELL SQUARE,

LONDON, W.C.1

Quiet position in centre of London.

Central heating and hot & cold water

throughout.

Continental cooking.

Management :

SCHWEIZER VERBAND VOLKSDIENST.

TelephoneNumbers : MUSEUM 4302 (Visitors)

MUSEUM 7055 (Office)

Telegrams : SOUFFLE WESDO, LONDON

Established

over

50 Years.

"Ben faranno i Pagani

Purgatorio C. xio. Dante

"Venir se ne dee giu

tra' mie' Meschini."

Dante. Inferno. C. xzeii.

PAGANI'S

RESTAURANT

GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

LINDA MESCHINI

ARTHUR MESCHINI

Sole Proprietors.

Dibiani Restaurant

(A. Eusebio)

122/3 NEWGATE STREET

LONDON

E.C.1.

Best

Continental Cuisine

The Rendez-vous of Swiss Citymen.

W. WETTER

Wine Importer.

67, GRAFTON STREET, FITZROY SQ., W.1

BOTTLED IN SWITZERLAND.

Per Doz. 24/2

Per Doz

Clos du Mont Valais ... 50.- 56/-

Fendant ... 46/- 52/-

White Neuchâtel ... 54/-

Red Neuchâtel ... 54/-

Dôle Red ... 54/-

Sion ... 56/-

As supplied to the Swiss Clubs, Swiss Hotels and

Restaurants and the Catering Dept. of the London

Zoological Society, Regents Park & Whipsnade

Nett Cash. Carriage paid for London.

COUNTRY ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID.

ALL ORDERS EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

THE SWISS ORCHESTRA has vacancies for string and wind instrumentalists. Apply any Thursday evening, 35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

BOARDER REQUIRED for Bed and Breakfast, comfortable Room. Apply Mrs. S., 97, Abercain Road, near Clapham Common Station, S.W.16.

YOUNG SWISS girl wanted as Mother's Help. Three small children — pleasant country home near sea — knowledge of English not required. Mrs. Hagenbach, Hayle, Cornwall.

SUISSESSE française, protestante cherche place de nurse pour un ou deux enfants dans famille Anglaise ou Suisse. S'adresser Box No. 1, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

LADY accustomed Foreign Travel, would chaperone young people to Lucerne, or other parts of Switzerland, or escort party privately in return for expenses. Write E.B., c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

OIL PAINTINGS of two well-known Swiss painters for sale, for particulars please apply to O.H., 18, Spencer Road, Wandsworth, S.W.18.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, May 21st — at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle

Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — to

be followed by a causerie in French and lan-

tern slides by Dr. Charles Ferrière, on

"With a Swiss Planter in Ceylon" at Swiss

House, 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

April 22nd — June 20th — The Swiss Exhibition

— at Union House, Lower Regent Street,

S.W.1. Open 10.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday

to Friday inclusive, except on Coronation

Day, May 12th and Whit Monday. Saturday

10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission free.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up £6,400,000

Reserves - - £1,560,000

Deposits - - £39,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and

Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

:: Correspondents in all ::

:: parts of the World. ::

FRASER & CO. (P. BRUN, Proprietor.)

(HIGH CLASS TOBACCONISTS.)

MOST UP TO DATE GENTLEMEN'S HAIRDRESSING

SALOON.

50, Southampton Row, W.C.1.

SHAVE & BRUSH UP 6d. — HAIRCUTTING 9d.

IF YOU HAVE A FUNCTION TO ATTEND,

WHY GO HOME ?

3 DRESSING ROOMS ARE PLACED AT YOUR

DISPOSAL, CHARGE 1/-.

Telephone for appointment, Holborn 2709.

Business Hours 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).

(Langue française).

78, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Pasteur : Mons. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Dimanche 16 Mai 11h. — Pentecôte — Prédica-

tion et Service Ste. Cène.

7h. — Culte et communion.

8h. — Répétition du Choeur.

Lundi, 17 Mai 10h. — Rendez-vous Waterloo

devant Quai 3, pour la promenade.

Mardi, 18 Mai 3h. — au Foyer, Réunion de

Couture des Dames.

BAPTEME.

John Walter Anthony Lichtensteiger, fils de

Frederick W. et de Marta Nelly née Senft —

de Bâle, né le 1 Juin 1936 — le 8 Mai.

CONFIRMATION.

Yvonne Delévaux, fille de feu Edmond et de Maria

née Niederhäuser de Veret (Jura Bernois).

Yvonne Hoffmann, fille de René et feu Suzanne

née de Visme, de Genève.

Hélène Iller, fille de Gottlieb et d'Emma née

Gnux, de Speicher (Appenzel).

Ruth Jacot, fille de Paul et de Frieda née Haas,

du Locle (Neuchâtel).

Odetta Jobin, fille de Léon et de Marie née

Bessire, de Saignelégier (Jura Bernois).

Yvette Joseph, fille d'Emile et d'Ida née Dreux,

de Cormainville (Eure et Loir).

Gerald Meyer et Roger Meyer fils d'Emile et de

Lucie née Tissot, de Genève.

Suzanne Zurbuchen, fille d'Emile et de Blanche

née Cordelier, de Habbkern (Berne).

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 16. Mai 1937.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst.

7 Uhr abends Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confrimanden-

stunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten

an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde : C. Th. Hahn,

43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Tele-

phon : Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden :

Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO.,

LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.