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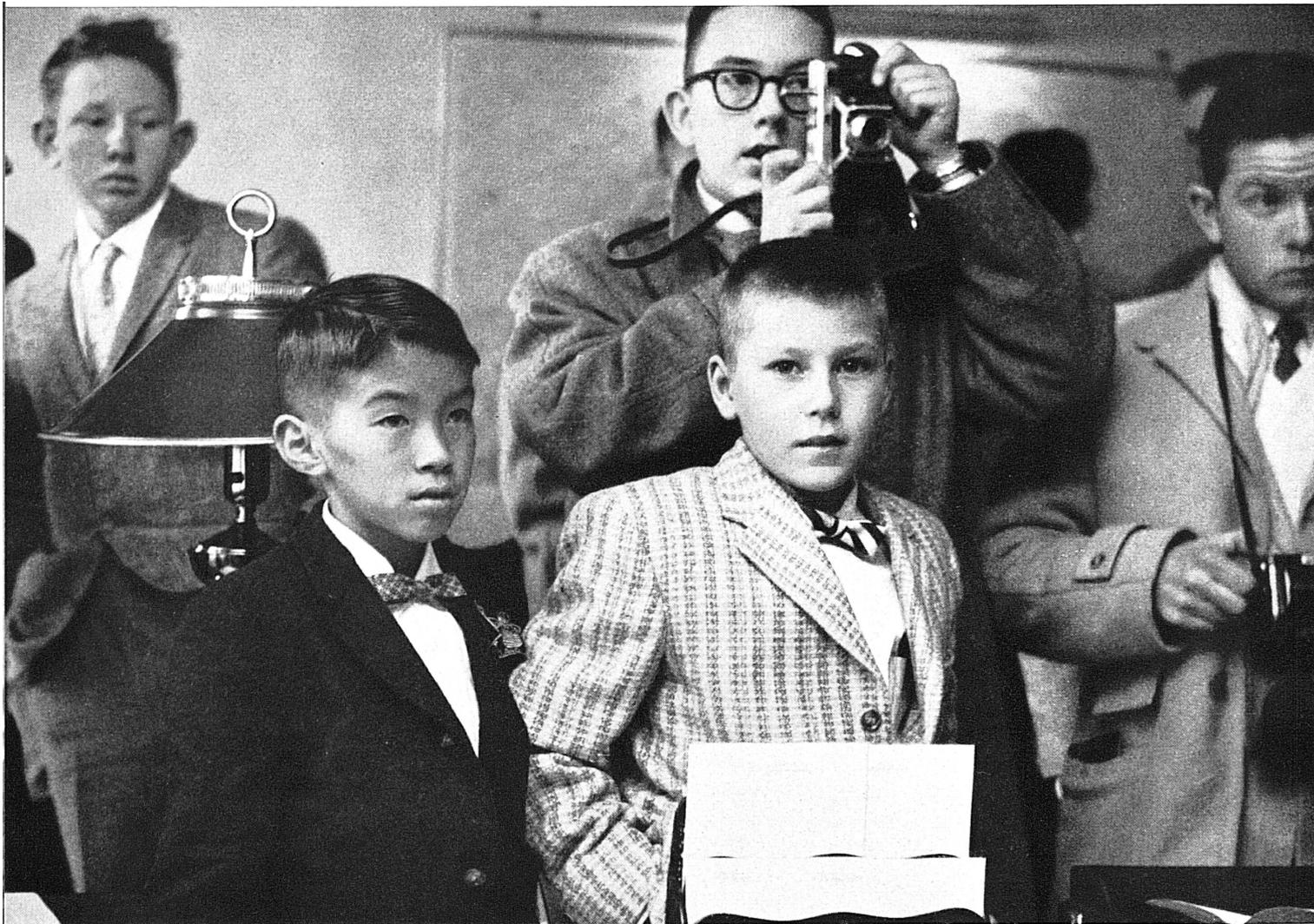
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GÄSTE UND BERGFÜHRER TOURISTS AND MOUNTAIN-GUIDES

47 *amerikanische Zeitungsjungen, die «Junior Diplomats», besuchten über die Jahreswende die Schweiz. Wir begegnen ihnen hier in der amerikanischen Botschaft in Bern.*

47 jeunes porteurs de journaux américains, les «Junior Diplomats» ont visité la Suisse pendant les fêtes de fin d'année. Les voici à l'Ambassade des Etats Unis, à Berne.

47 giovani americani, venditori di giornali, gli «Junior Diplomats», hanno visitato la Svizzera durante le feste di Capodanno. Eccoli all'Ambasciata degli Stati Uniti a Berna.

47 American newspaper boys, the «Junior Diplomats», visited Switzerland in December and January. Here they are in the American Embassy in Berne. Photo Lörtscher, Bern

ELVEZIA

Come vele spiegate le montagne sospingono in eterno la leggenda del tuo destino – Elvezia – che nel mondo racconta come la tua storia è sogno,

un sogno al sole acceso nel tuo cuore. Risonante d'amore, la tua voce è favola antichissima di pace, e quando manca la tua voce è sera.

Tu giovane per sempre come il cielo che libero in te nasce come il canto vai fortissima Elvezia al tempo avvinta, e il cuore tuo è un sogno già immortale.

Arturo Fornaro

47 *In den Schneefeldern der Rochers-de-Naye wurde von den Piloten Hermann Geiger und Fredy Wissel den «Junior Diplomats», den jungen Gästen aus den Vereinigten Staaten, eine Rettungsaktion mit dem Helikopter vor-demonstriert. Comet-Photo, Zürich*

Dans les champs de neige des Rochers-de-Naye, les pilotes Hermann Geiger et Fredy Wissel firent une démonstration de sauvetage en hélicoptère pour les «Junior Diplomats», nos jeunes hôtes américains.

Sui campi nevosi di Rochers-de-Naye i piloti Hermann Geiger e Fredy Wissel hanno dimostrato agli «Junior Diplomats», i nostri giovani ospiti degli Stati Uniti, un'azione di soccorso con l'elicottero.

In the snowfields of Rochers-de-Naye the young newsboy guests from the United States witness a demonstration. Alpine rescue operation by helicopter. Pilots: Hermann Geiger and Fredy Wissel.

EHRUNG EINES BERGFÜHRERS

Der bekannte englische Staatsmann *Amery*, †1955, ein Freund und Gast der Schweiz, hat zahlreiche Gebirgstouren mit dem Walliser Führer *Josef Knubel*, einem der hervorragendsten Schweizer Bergführer, unternommen. Da Knubel, der schon vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg große Touren mit *Geoffrey Winthrop Young* gemacht hatte, nun, trotz seiner Rüstigkeit, durch einen Unfall verhindert ist, seinen Beruf auszuüben, hat *Amery* folgenden gereimten Abschied an ihn gerichtet:

*Resign yourself, old heart; no more shall we go scaling
Our summits of desire. Farewell delights
Of ridge and face and cleft, the proud prevailing
To godlike ease aloft. Farewell dear heights.
Farewell. Yet still remain those shining ranges
Above the vale of years ensphered on high,
Where we're still free, despite all other changes,
To climb the golden peaks of memory.*

In freier Übersetzung lautet dieser Gruß:

*Ergib dich, altes Herz, du mußt sie meiden
Die Gipfel heiß ersehnt! O Götterlust
Von Grat und Wand und Schlucht! Nun heißt es
scheiden;
Lebt wohl, ihr Lieben, tönt's aus tiefster Brust.
Und doch – uns bleiben die beglänzten Höhen,
Hoch überm Tal der Zeit, dort sind wir jung,
Dort klimmen wir, was immer auch geschehen,
zu goldnen Gipfeln der Erinnerung!*

N. O. Scarpi, aus: NZZ, 2. Oktober 1955

CHRISTIAN ALMER (1826–1898)

a Swiss Mountain Guide of Winter Alpinism

Christian Almer, who was born in Grindelwald on March 18th, 1826, spent his early summers as a shepherd on the Zäsenberg Alp. He married at the age of twenty and a year later took part as a volunteer in the Sonderbund, a very civil war, between the Protestant and Catholic cantons, which only lasted for three weeks, and in which the casualties in the Federal Army did not exceed seventy-one killed.

Almer was one of the guides who helped to hoist *Dora d'Istria* up to the base of the final ridge of the *Mönch* and it is to Almer's credit that he did not sign the bogus certificate giving her credit for completing the ascent (see page 36). Almer first began to attract attention as the result of his intrusion into *Wills'* ascent of the *Wetterhorn*, described in chapter IV. In 1857

he made the first ascent of the *Mönch*, with *Dr. Porges* of Vienna, and in the following year the first ascent of the *Eiger*, which has already been described (see page 49). His reputation was now firmly established and there were few outstanding climbers of the Golden Age who did not at some time or another secure his services. "His numerous employers", wrote *Edward Whymper*, "concur in saying that there is not a truer heart or a surer foot to be found amongst the Alps." This tribute was elicited by Almer's leadership on what was perhaps the most brilliant campaign of the Golden Age, the three weeks in the course of which the following virgin expeditions were successfully completed: *Grand Cornier*, *Grandes Jorasses* (west peak), *Col Dolent*, the *Aiguille Verte*, the *Col de Talèfre*, the *Ruinette*, and in addition the third ascent of the *Dent Blanche*.

From 1868 to 1884 he climbed with *W. A. B. Coolidge*. His first ascents in addition to the already mentioned included the *Ecrins* in 1864, the *Jungfrau* from *Wengernalp*, the *Weisshorn* from the *Bies Glacier*, the *Gross Fiescherhorn*, the *Nesthorn*, the *Grande Ruine*, *Pic Coolidge*, and a record number of first crossings of famous passes, among them the *Sesiajoch*, *Mischabeljoch*, *Jungfrau-joch*, *Col du Tour Noir*, *Col de la Pilatte*, *Brèche de la Meije*, *Moming Pass*, *Schallijoch*, *Ebneflühjoch*, *Schmadrijoch*, *Agassizjoch*, and *Col de Béranger*.

Almer played a prominent role in the early phase of winter mountaineering for he was *Coolidge's* guide on the first winter ascents of the *Wetterhorn*, *Schreckhorn*, and *Jungfrau*.

On January 7th, 1885, Almer climbed the *Jungfrau* with the famous guide *Christian Jossy* and *W. W. Graham*. The party were caught in a storm as a result of which Almer was frost-bitten, and lost a number of toes, but this did not bring his climbing career to an end. At the age of seventy he climbed the *Meije* and, in the following year, the *Wetterhorn*.

From 1892 onwards I spent most of my summer holidays in Grindelwald and one of my earlier and more vivid memories is that of meeting Almer and his wife, *Margharitha*, starting from Grindelwald to celebrate their Golden Wedding on the summit of the *Wetterhorn*. *Frau Almer*, who was 72, had never climbed a big peak before. They spent the night and the whole of the following day resting at the *Gleckstein Hut* which they left shortly after midnight reaching the summit of the *Wetterhorn* six hours later, on June 20th, 1896.

He died on May 17th, 1898, in his seventy-third year, some six months after crossing the *Lauteraarsattel*, his last Alpine expedition.

The text on Christian Almer, printed above, is an excerpt from the recently published book by Sir Arnold Lunn, *A CENTURY OF MOUNTAINEERING, 1857–1957*, written under the auspices of the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Great-Britain's ALPINE CLUB. The book features a great many black and white and colour illustrations—among which several reproductions of art works—and gives an excellent cross-section account of the conquest of the mountain world. Publishers: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London.