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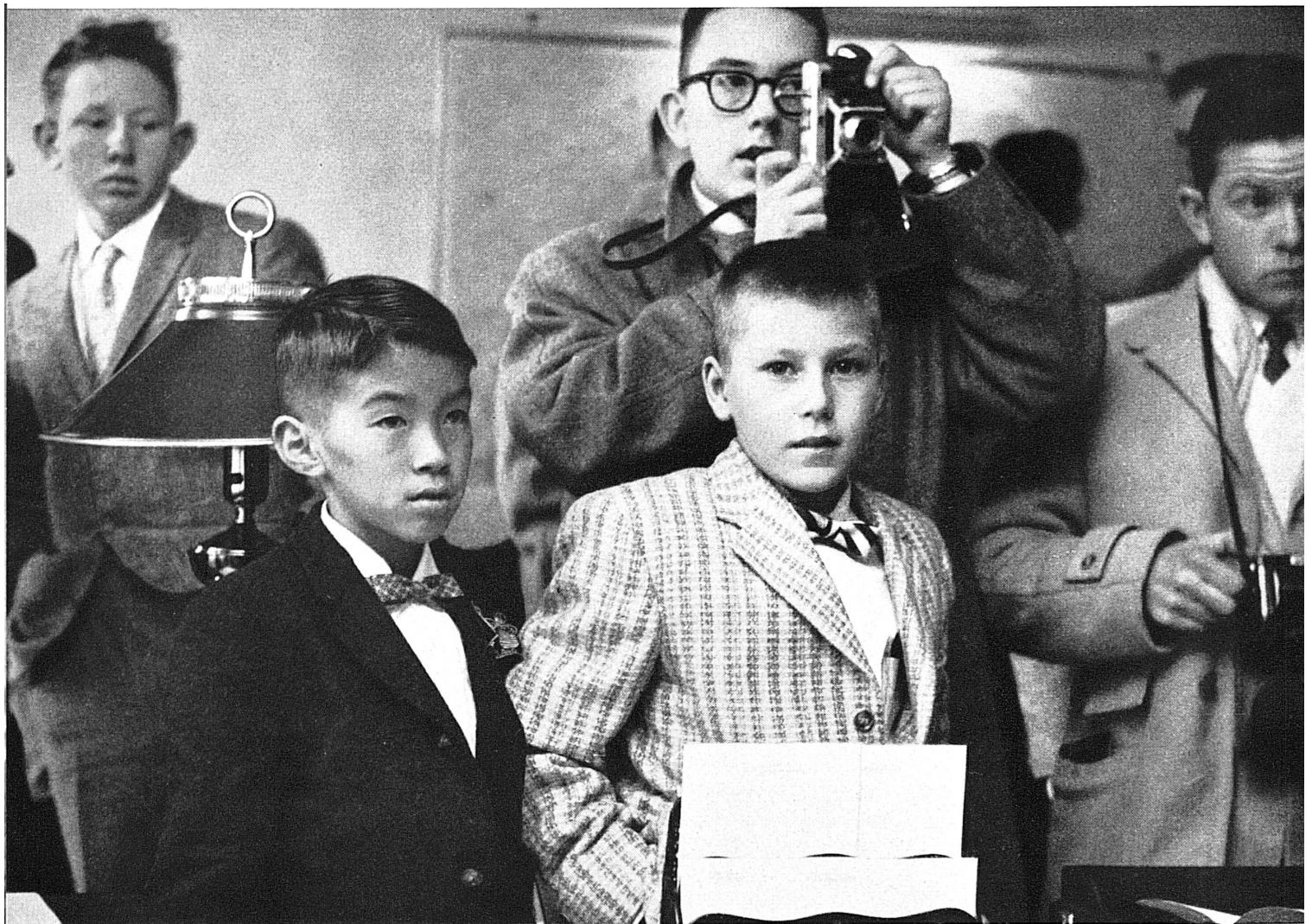
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## GÄSTE UND BERGFÜHRER TOURISTS AND MOUNTAIN-GUIDES

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 Lötscher, 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

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 goldenen Gipfeln der Erinnerung!*

N.O. Scarpi, aus: NZZ, 2. Oktober 1953

### CHRISTIAN ALMER (1826–1898) a Swiss Mountain Guide of Winter Alpinism

Christian Almer, who was born in Grindelwald on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 Taléfre, 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, Jungfrauojoch, Col du Tour Noir, Col de la Pilatte, Brèche de la Meije, Moming Pass, Schallijoch, Ebnefluhjoch, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 1896.

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