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Mailbag

RhB Specials

Have I missed something in *Swiss Express*?

I was sitting in a train at Chur, late afternoon Saturday 5 September, waiting to depart for Filisur when a steam locomotive, possibly No.1, nipped past in the direction of Landquart. The front end was decorated with a great display of flowers.

We got going, and stopped, of course, at Reichenau as another train was leaving for Chur. When it had cleared, I looked back and saw a Krok on a short passenger train facing Chur. In the region of Rothenbrunnen we met another Krok on passenger duty - again with the front end ornately decorated. What was this special occasion.

This morning, - 7 September - while I was having breakfast at the Hotel Grischuna at about 08:40, a Krok was seen climbing towards Bergün with a load of timber and 2 open passenger wagons, presumably left over from Saturday's activities.

I bought a new map of the RhB network and was interested to see that the Vereina

Tunnel is marked on it, although labelled 'in build'.

Between Zürich Hbf and the airport I noticed in the carriage sidings were a German ICE unit and a Talgo set - the first time I've seen either of these at Zürich.

Perhaps you can throw some light on my observations.

Brian Haggett
Crawley

The Swiss like to charter special trains for private functions; weddings are probably the most common. For these latter occasions it is usual for the locomotive to be decorated and, on the RhB, the surviving Kroks are the favoured motive power (obviously). Ausschitswagen are moved about to meet demand, a freight would be a good way of getting them across without collecting passengers en-route.

The ICE was being used for training, see Notepad. The Talgo set is used on EC273/274 Pablo Casals, Zürich - Barcelona.

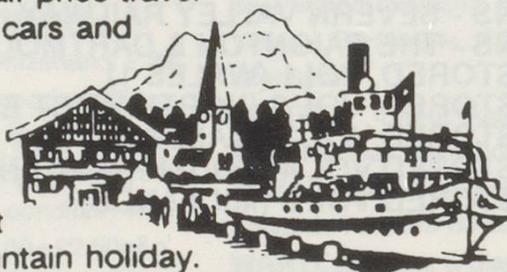
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