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Delle will close.

The evening and Sunday service over the Zofingen - Aarau line is also substituted. In the same region, the opening of the Grauholz Tunnel in May will see only a minor (2 minute) reduction in timings between Bern and Olten. Its big advantage will be to take overnight freight traffic.

Service changes in East Switzerland see the appearance of an hourly IC service between Zürich and Chur, stopping at Landquart only! A semi-fast service is also provided. The Rheintal fast service is increased to hourly intervals. This is not without cost, as the

Rheintal local services between Sargans and Altstätten are generally replaced by buses. Other minor rearrangements are designed to extend the hourly (or half-hourly) pattern further and improve connections with ICE services at Basel.

On the SOB / BT lines, the through Voralpen Express services to Luzern are reduced to two-hourly; on the other hour, the *Schnellzug* from St Gallen runs as a local between Pfäffikon and Arth-Goldau. Many of the other lines in the area see revisions, but without any serious service reductions.

## Mailbag

### Cross-border bargain travel

Switzerland has joined other railway and tourist authorities in attempts to encourage more use of public transport. It is as well to visit the nearest main station to see what is on offer.

For example, rail and bus undertakings in North-East Switzerland have joined with their counterparts in Germany and Austria to provide a day ticket covering unlimited travel over a wide area. A fat pocket timetable, sometimes costing Sfr.2, but sometimes given free, defines the area. Reduced prices are available for *senioren*. As an example, I obtained a ticket which even allowed travel on an EC from St.Gallen to Bludenz in the Vorarlberg. The price (for a senior citizen), was about £4.

Remember you can still buy tickets, country to country, with the Eurocard, but do not attempt to buy them at border stations for, even though they are in Switzerland, the journey is on the neighbouring country's fare system.

Alan Pike

Hemel Hempstead.

### Computerized Kursbuch

I note the dissatisfaction expressed with the new format of the SBB Kursbuch in the December issue of *Swiss Express*. As a fan of the Kursbuch (my collection goes back to 1947), I agree that change is always a little unsettling. But there is a new delight now available.

For those who want a challenge and have an IBM compatible computer, preferably with

Windows, let me recommend the computerised SBB schedules. The disks for this German-generated program are sold at ticket offices throughout Switzerland for Sfr.35 (I get mine direct from Bern), and gobble up an amazing 12 megabytes on one's hard disk. That's more than my word-processing or spreadsheet programs!

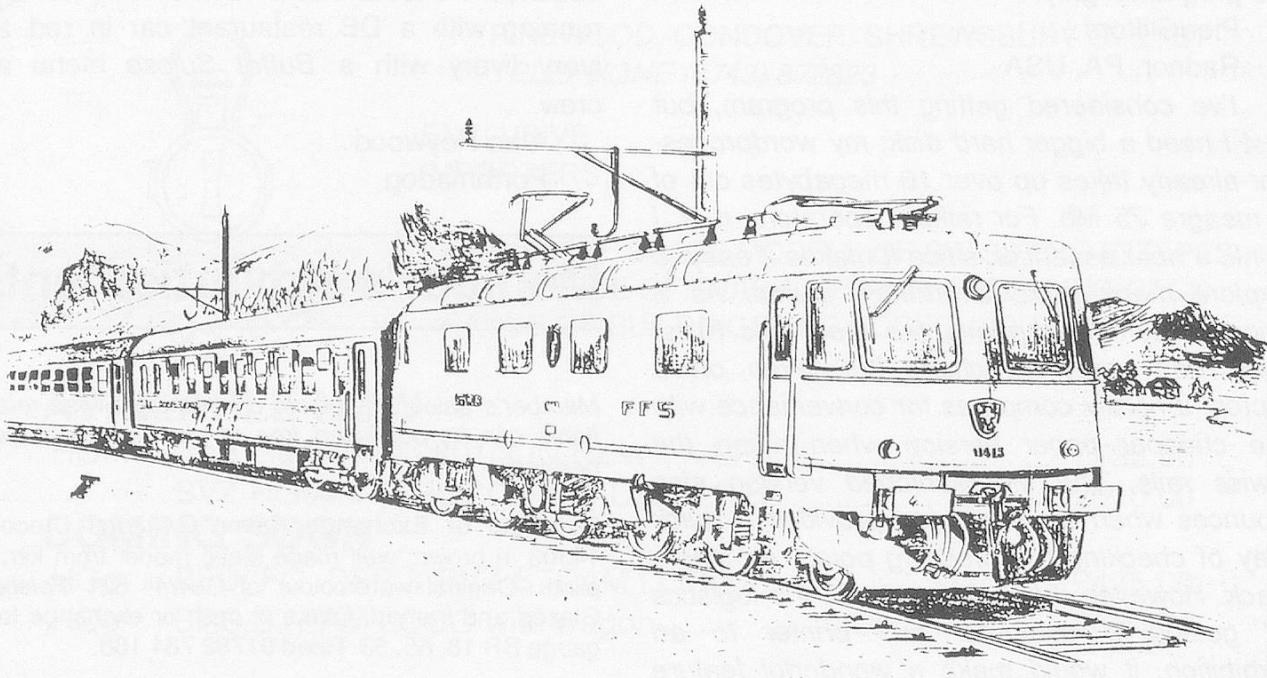
The reward, though, is very satisfying. I have been getting this electronic timetable for three years now, and each year it is bigger and better. The latest edition gives one all the rail schedules, both for the SBB and all private lines, plus all buses and selected boats. The program this year also adds a very few schedules between Switzerland and major German and Austrian points.

For timetable buffs, this offers hours of fascinating play. What is the longest rail journey possible, without retracing one's steps? At first sight La Plaine, outside Genève to Scuol-Tarasp would seem to be it, but I'm still looking. Which trains have the panorama wagons, or children's cars, or full dining cars. The program knows.

When you have the schedule you want, the program prints it out in an exemplary way, shows you all the necessary changes of train, the total elapsed time and the on-board services offered.

What does the future hold? I would like to see TGV and Channel Tunnel connections, as well as through schedules to major Italian

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points, at least as far as Roma. Fares, too, would be helpful, but I'm really content with what has been offered so far and I recommend the program highly.

Pier Clifford  
Radnor, PA, USA

*I've considered getting this program, but first I need a bigger hard disk; my wordprocessor already takes up over 16 megabytes out of a meagre 75 Mb. For railtour operators, it is, I think, a near essential, since it makes it easy to explore many more alternative jaunts. As a superior computer game, the electronic Kursbuch has great attractions but, even on a laptop, it hardly compares for convenience with the cheaper paper version when riding the Swiss rails. The old fashioned version also bounces when dropped, and provides a quick way of checking the crossing points on single track. However, if I could work out the logistics of getting a computer and printer to an exhibition, it would make a wonderful feature on a SRS exhibition stand.*

CJF

#### RhB mouse mat

At a computer show held at London Olympia last December, amongst the numerous novelty design mouse mats on display was an example depicting a RhB green-liveried Ge4/4<sup>I</sup> hauling a short passenger train. I could not identify the location, but think it might be on the Scuol-Tarasp branch. The price quoted at the stand was £5.00. Anyone interested should contact Cardinal Computer Products Ltd. at 01825 724019.

Giles Della Gana  
London

#### RhB car trains - help wanted

Has any member taken a photograph of cars being transported on the Albula line in the winter? If so would they please send me a print and I will refund reasonable expenses.

R.J.Foot  
Fermain House, Casthorpe Road,  
Barrowby, Grantham NG32 1DP

#### EC2 Rembrandt

I was interested in the paragraph on the EC2 *Rembrandt* on p.15 of the December 1994 issue. The core part of the train is always SBB stock, with additional DB coaches between

Emmerich and Basel SBB, but the refurbished UIC stock is unusual. Normally this train is composed of new-generation international coaches. At least one of the sets is currently running with a DB restaurant car in red and ivory livery with a *Buffet Suisse* menu and crew.

Alan Heywood  
Porthmadog

## Member's Advertisements

Member's sales, wants etc concerning Swiss related items can be published free of charge, when space permits.

**For Sale or Exchange** Raimo O gauge Crocodile 14303 in brown; well made static model from kit, on plinth. Original watercolour of Ge4/4<sup>II</sup> 621 *Felsberg*. Glazed and framed. Offers in cash or exchange for N gauge BR 18, 65, 93. Reed 01782 784 168.

**SBB** (and some DRG/DB) 1:87 HO stock for sale. For list please telephone David Carpenter 01737 354861

**Surplus Bemo**, all boxed and unused Ge4/4<sup>I</sup> *Madrisa* or *Surselva* (RhB); Ge4/4<sup>III</sup> *Wallis* (FO); 3 LSE carriages (special for Luzern model shop); 2251 Open box wagon; 2255 open box wagon; 2258 ballast wagon; 2257 flat wagon; 2274 (MOB) Coop van; 2208 MOB van; 2263 flat wagon; 2 x 4227 point adaptor; 2 x 4420 fishplates; 4202 box straights; 4208 RH point; 4209 LH point; 4217 scissors crossing centre. Offers or exchange for Ge4/4<sup>II</sup> (red); ABe4/4 (red); RhB carriage 3253 (red); 2 X RhB carriages 3258 or 3260 (red); RhB carriage 3261 (red); 2 x 2264 timber wagon (RhB), 3 x 2250 or 2256 RhB box vans; 3263 or 3264 luggage van (RhB) red (or green as last resort. Bruce Smeetham 9 Coney Close, Langley Green, Crawley, W.Sussex RH11 7QA.

## Swiss Layouts on View

#### Lenk

15-19 April 70th Model Railway Exhibition  
New Horticultural Hall, Westminster

#### Lenk+Malix (New Extended form)

29-30 April Brunel Exhibition  
Temple Meads, Bristol

#### Oberfriedhof

14-16 April Barrow