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NOTEPAD

International

CIS 32, the 07 00 Milano Centrale - Genève Aéroport, failed twice on successive days on the middle of June. On Tuesday 17th June, the return working, CIS 37, 12 05 Genève - Milano Centrale, was formed of a scratch rake of FS coaches running 25 minutes late at Lausanne. On Wednesday 18th June, the train failed in the single line section between Leuk and Salgesch. The train was worked back to Leuk where passengers were transferred to the following train which did not reach Salgesch until 09.58. The failure inevitably delayed eastbound services, with the 07 05 from Genève Aéroport suffering first, reaching Visp 33 minutes late. EC 59 *Monteverdi* was also badly affected, being some 30 minutes late at Brig.

NEAT

On June 18th it was announced that the first tranche of Federal funding has been released for the main Alpine tunnels. Due to the geological problems in the Piotta fault area, construction of the Gotthard base tunnel has been postponed and work will start on the Lötschberg Base Tunnel route instead.

Schweizerische Bundesbahnen (SBB)

Full scale IC services using driving trailers are now commonplace in western Switzerland, although they may not always be propelled! With the end of through services between Lausanne and St Gallen via Bern, the Interlaken - Bern - Zürich - St Gallen service is the first to use double deck IC stock.

Following the failure of a Regionalzug to Aarau at Wettingen on 16th April, passengers were taken forward to Brugg by a driver training train from Zürich worked by A3/5 705!

Maintainence work on the single high tension transmission line between central and west Switzerland on 21st April left the lines in south west Switzerland dependant on the three Valais power stations at Châtelard and Vernayaz. When a substation failed at 18.00 it caused all three power stations to trip out within 15 minutes, stranding some 80 trains and around 15000 passengers at the end of the evening peak. Power was not restored until around 19.50 that evening.

Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon (BLS)

A rake of BLS coaches is now being used on a Lausanne - Zürich service via Fribourg.

CF Lausanne Ouchy (LO)

1958 - built locomotive 121 became the first unit to be overhauled away from the line when it went to the TSOL works at Eclubens in January. The passenger stock has been equipped with door closing alarms.

The alignment of the north east extension of the line has been determined. Three stations will be provided in the centre of Lausanne, at Place de la Riponne, Bessières and Place de l'Ours, before heading out into the north eastern suburbs to a terminus at Epalinges, 4.6 km from Flon. 70% of the route would be underground. The technical question is whether a pneumatic tyred metro or a conventional rack line will be used to handle the gradients of 120 ‰. If finance becomes available, the new line could be opened in 2003, followed by the reconstruction (as double track) and integration of the Ouchy line .

CF Pont Brassus (PBr)

The tractor at Le Brassus, one of the last SBB Te I design in normal service, is now completely anonymous.

Regionalverkehr Mittelland (RM)
(formerly EBT group)

The first units have appeared carrying the new 'RM' branding on an otherwise unaltered EBT livery. (See photograph in this issue)

Metre Gauge
CF Aigle Ollon Monthey Champèry (AOMC)

Through services between Aigle and Champèry require the use of rack fitted motorcoaches, but only the three 1987 vehicles 1 - 3 seem to be permitted to work over the adhesion section between Monthey and Aigle. When one of the new units is undergoing service, passengers either have to change at Monthey or travel on a through coach.

Montreux-Oberland-Bernois (MOB) group

The 'Golden Panoramic' rake has been remodelled on the lines of the 'Crystal Panoramic' with

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During the following periods in December we offer you this special package:- 1-4 / 4-7 / 7-10 / 10-13 / 13-16 / 16-19

* Welcome drink on arrival day
* Rich Buffet Breakfast
* 4-course Dinner
* 7-course Gala Dinner
* Large and Rich Swiss Farmer Buffet
* Swiss Yodelling Service (ca. 20 singers)
* Warm Gluhwein after service
* Visit of Santa Claus and his helper
* Giftbag from Santa
* Daily night-cap in the bar

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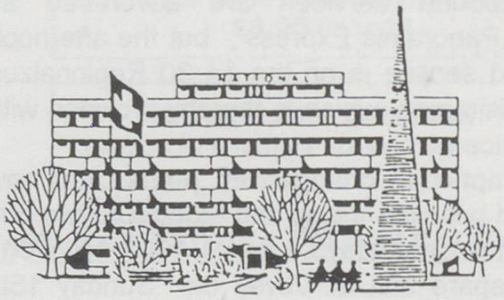

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This saves us paperwork and costs that we can pass on to you.

Above: The new livery of the Regionalverkehr Mittelland.

first and second class accomodation which is more in keeping with the pre-1956 classifications of 'extremely comfortable' and 'very comfortable'.

The new station layout at Montreux was in use in June. A work site cutting off direct access between the MOB and CFF platforms, and the subway has to be used.

There are now four 'Regional Panoramic' workings based on Zweisimmen, rostered for a Ge4/4 8000. The morning westbound service and the two eastbound services are advertised as 'Regional Panoramic Express', but the afternoon westbound service is on the 14 30 Regionalzug from Zweisimmen, which is thereby provided with a bar service.

Three optional changeover paths are now scheduled between Vevey and Montreux (two out, one back) on weekdays. Be4/4 1001 *Montreux* was the spare unit at Vevey on Sunday 15th June.

Regionalverkehr Bern-Solothurn (RBS)

The extension of the 'Muri' line service from Helvetiaplatz to Zytglogge started on 19th April.

CF Lausanne - Echallens - Bercher (LEB)

The 445 metres extension of the line from Chauderon to Flon at a cost of SwF 55m has been approved. This will be a double track line.

Trams

Transport Public Genevois (TPG)

The extension of route 13 from Bachet to Croisée des Palettes opened on June 28th. Route 12 will continue to reverse at the remodelled terminus at Bachet.

The regular historic services will in furture work over the whole of Route 13 from Palettes to Cornavin. The last date for 1997 is September 21st.

Preservation

Blonay Chamby (BC)

Genève Fe4/4 151 was scheduled to return to service on 1 August, as part of a special 'Genève' weekend. Genève tram Ce2/2 125, still in regular use during the summer months, will then retire from service at Blonay to return on loan to its home city as part of the servicable historic collection there.