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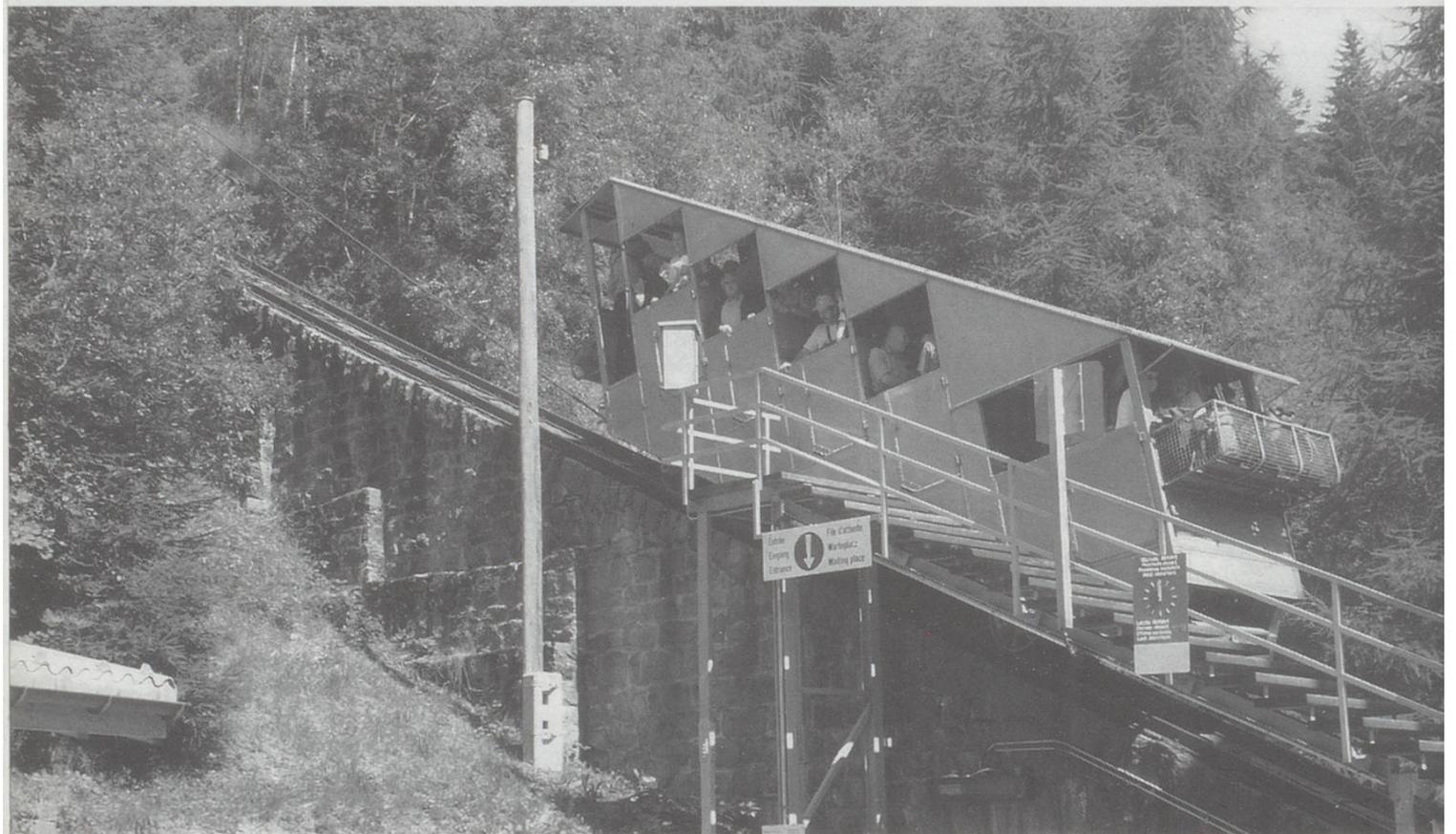
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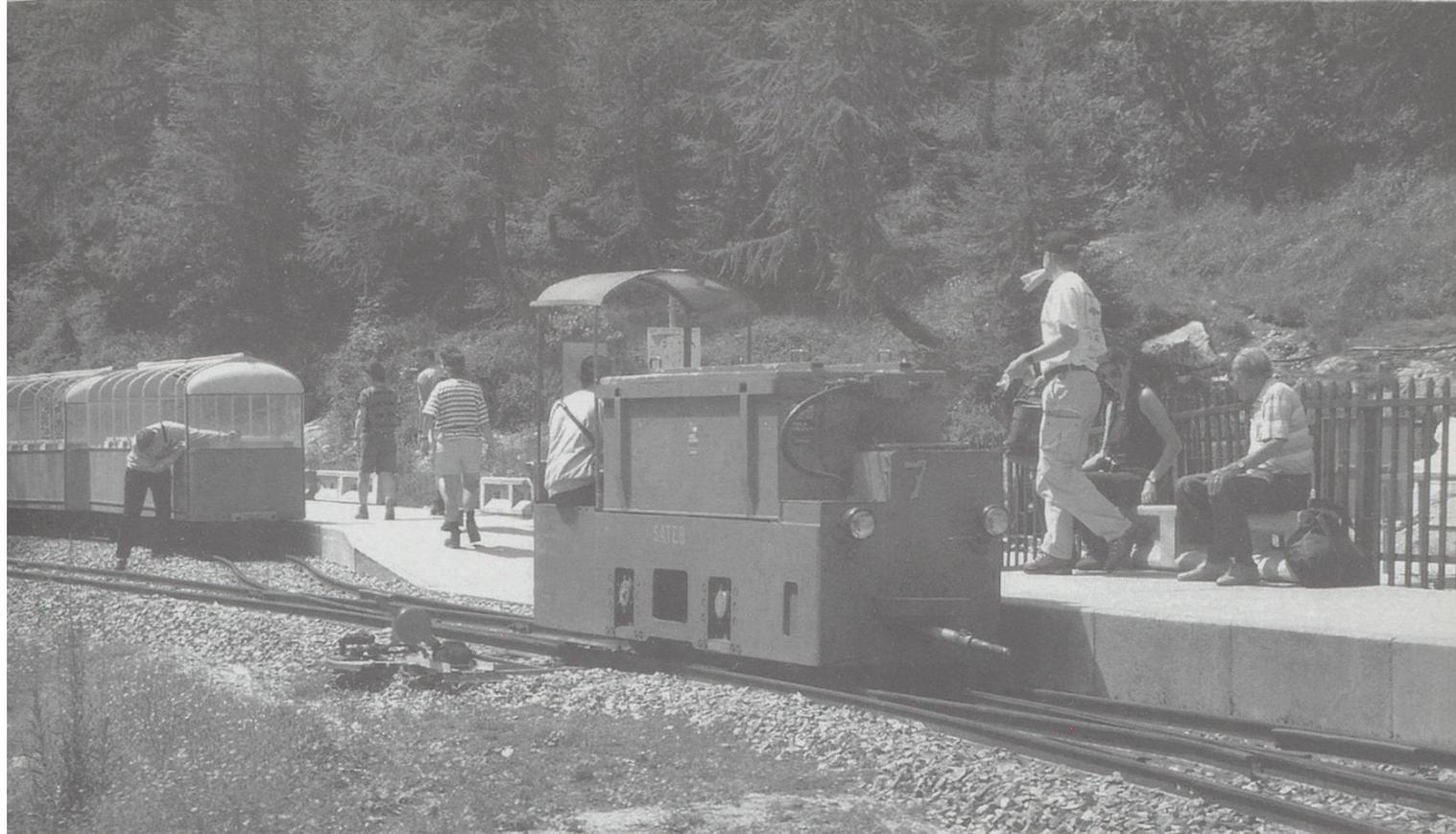


## Martigny-Chatelard & Emosson Dam by Les Heath

On a recent trip to Switzerland we decided to try the new Mont-Blanc Express of the Martigny Chatelard Railway. These new units were delivered at the end of 1996, being owned by the Swiss and French railway companies. They run from Martigny through to Chamonix at the base of Mont Blanc.

The ride on these panoramic units is good with excellent views out of the large windows. There is some spectacular scenery. To help you there is a commentary in French, German and English, explaining where you are and what to look out for as you go.





We left the train at Chatelard and walked past the power station to the first funicular, which climbed at an incredible angle. This ride was about 15 minutes. We then walked to a small gauge ( about 18in.) line that ran around the side of the mountain to the side of the dam. Here you ride in a new mini funicular (ten people max.) for the final climb to the top of the dam. There is a restaurant to sit and enjoy the views down the alley as well as over the top of the dam across to France and Mont Blanc. If you care to take a walk you can look at some fossilised dinosaur tracks. Photos: Author

