

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 6 (2000-2002)
Heft: 9

Artikel: Bring me some rock from the pier dad
Autor: Smith, Ron
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854960>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 22.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



Christine and I were staying in Luzern and decided to take a trip across the lake on one of the superb ships. The views are marvellous, and we sat in the sunshine mesmerised by the sparkling sun-tipped ripples of the wake. Suddenly I became aware of a colourful barge chugging past us towards Luzern, loaded down to around six inches of freeboard by a cargo of fresh granite ballast, looking like railway ballast.

This mystery had to be investigated so I went to find a crew member. I asked what it was all about. Not perturbed by this non-typical tourist enquiry, the sailor said that if I looked forward to where he was pointing just beyond Stans, I would see a scar in the side of the mountain close to the lake. This was the quarry where the stone was produced. From there it passed by conveyor belt to the lakeside and was dropped into the barges. The barges then took it across to Luzern where a crane

All the pictures are by Ron Smith and were taken at Luzern on 26/8/93 or 17/8/96 (next page),

grabbed it out and put it into railway wagons. "So it was railway ballast?" I asked. "Not necessarily" was the reply. He went on to explain that at the moment it was being used for a road construction project some distance away.

I pondered this. So it was

taken by conveyor to the barge, shipped across to Luzern, grabbed out and into rail hopper wagons, taken to a siding and dropped onto the ground, scooped up and put into lorries and taken to the road works. I asked the crewman why on earth they did not simply load it

into lorries at the quarry and drive it to the road works. He looked at me pityingly as the answer was obvious, "Pollution!" he said emphatically, and went off.

In Britain we

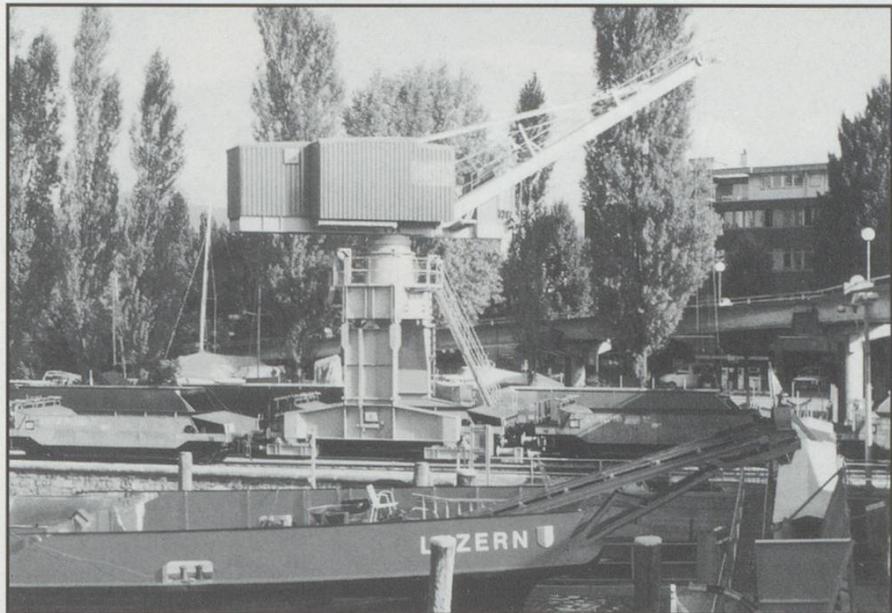
would not consider anything but the cheapest cost. In Switzerland they have a more responsible attitude, and are wealthy enough to pay the extra to have things done in the best way for the environment. Suitably ashamed I rejoined Christine and determined to find the pier when we returned to Luzern.

The next day we crossed the front of the station and continuing on, passed the boat landings and the bus park, round to the back of



the station sidings. A slightly elevated walkway carried us over the lake ships' docks and workshops, and then there was the pier ahead of us. The line is an extension of the siding, which continues across the road and under a self-propelled straddle grab crane on its own tracks so that it could load the wagons without needing a shunting loco to move them. The hopper wagons that I have seen there have been mostly SBB but some DB wagons have also been seen. I have never yet caught the shunter moving the wagons, but the facility appears to be regularly used.

Sometime between August 1993 and August 1995 a new crane was installed with a sign "PSKRAN MANNHEIM" prominently fixed to it. It is larger than the old one with a much superior cab for the operator, and



appears to have a larger capacity grab bucket. This would make a useful addition to a model layout. The barges are fairly simple to make, and the operation would be a useful feature to fill the inevitable corners on a baseboard. Unfortunately my own modelling skills are not up to it but who knows? One day I will have a go.

Rigi Steam

The ever-enterprising Rigi Bahnen have a programme of regular steam specials in the summer. Every Sunday from July to September steam trains depart Vitznau at 10.16 hrs., and also daily from Monday July 15th to Wednesday July 31st, with the same departure time. From Arth-Goldau, steam trains depart daily from Thursday August 1st to Thursday August 15th at 10.11 hrs.

Ron Smith

EXHIBITION
BREWERY ARTS CENTRE
HIGHGATE, KENDAL, CUMBRIA
APRIL 18th-MID NOVEMBER 2002

"Dialogue Across Mountains"

This is part of an extensive initiative from Switzerland to encourage contact and understanding between nations. SRS has provided much material for this particular event.

For more information:

Tel: 01539 725133 - www.breweryarts.co.uk



The driving experience of a lifetime!

Drive the world's oldest operational electric rack car, No.6 built in 1911, to mount RIGI summit in Switzerland.

The price of 500 Swiss Francs includes:

- Driving return trip in "No. 6"
- Speciality Swiss lunch at summit restaurant
- Day card for unlimited travel on the Rigibahn and the cable car for the second day
- Rigi souvenir
- Driving certificate

Apply now or ask for details from:

Marketing Dept., Rigibahnen,
CH-6354 Vitznau, Switzerland
Tel: 00 41 41 399 87 87
Fax: 00 41 41 399 87 00
E-mail: weber@rigi.ch

Reductions for groups