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CHRISTMAS QUESTION TIME

How well do you know Switzerland? Here is a brain-teaser to get your mind working on the run-up to Christmas. I suggest that you think about it now rather than wait until after the celebrations. There is a splendid prize on offer.

SRS Member Alan Spencer, who runs Charters Helvetica (see P38 in the September *Swiss Express*), has kindly donated a voucher for one person (or valid for two each paying 50% of the cost) to travel on Charters Helvetica railtours on the 23rd, 24th and 25th April next year. The voucher is for the Railtours only. It does not cover travel to and from Switzerland or accommodation, meals, etc whilst there. The Swiss Railways Society, although grateful for the generous donation of the voucher, has no connection with Charters Helvetica or with the organisation of the Railtours. The winner's contractual arrangements will be with Charters Helvetica. There is no cash alternative on offer.

The three one-day tours have complex itineraries but they are basically as follows: On the 23rd April "The Basel Docks Explorer" starts from Interlaken, runs via Olten to Basel where it moves around what appears to be almost every industrial line in the city before returning to Interlaken, via Olten and Spiez. On the 24th April "The Alp Transit Explorer" runs from Interlaken and Spiez via Bern, Burgdorf, Luzern, etc to the Altdorf Alp Transit site and returns to Interlaken in the evening. On the 25th April

"The Feldschlössen and Ramsen Explorer" travels from Interlaken and Spiez to Rheinfelden to travel behind steam at the Brauerei Feldschlössen and it then moves on via Schaffhausen to Ramsen returning via Winterthur and Zürich to its starting point. See spencera2@sky.com for full details.

Now what do you have to do to win this trip? Simply let us know the location in Switzerland of the only Bahnhof building constructed where there has never been a railway.

This is not a trick question; the Bahnhof is at a location in Central Switzerland near Luzern, where one of the approach routes to the Gotthard Tunnel was planned to go. It was an optimistic hope as it would have been a difficult route to build and the railway never arrived despite the hopes, plans and investment of the place concerned. The building is still there, adjacent to the Rathaus of a strongly independent community, and it is currently an apartment block whose residents can enjoy the lakeside environment of this attractive place. Our thanks to Ron Smith for setting this question.

Your entry, by either email or post, should be sent to the Editor (contact details on P3 of this magazine) to arrive no later than 2nd January 2010. The first correct entry drawn "out of the hat" at the editorial meeting for the March *Swiss Express* will win Alan Spencer's generous prize. The answer will be published in the next magazine.

Swiss Express - Portfolio

The team that brings you *Swiss Express* four times a year has now gone through the thousands of digital images held by the Swiss Railways Society and has produced a 44-page, full colour, A4 size photo album – *Swiss Express - Portfolio*. Packed with over 200 images of Swiss Railways, plus some of buses, trams and boats, it is being sold through Society Sales for £8.50 a copy, including postage, to UK addresses. Glyn Jones can accept your order now and the book will be dispatched in time for Christmas. The book will also be available from the SRS stand at selected railway exhibitions, etc.

