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Steam at Pentecost

Jean-François Andrist

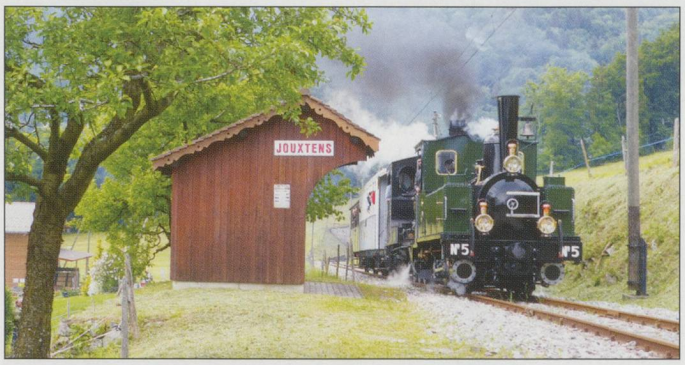
All five active B-C steam locos line up for the photographers.

Photos: Alain Candellero

Over the Pentecost Weekend of the 23rd to 25th May there was a special gathering of steam engines at the Blonay-Chamby Museum Railway (B-C). The event marked the return to operational steaming of historic loco No.5 formerly of the Lausanne-Echallens-Bercher (LEB) – see *Swiss Express,* June 2015.These were the first moves of 125-year old No.5 for 10 years and it was a close call to get her finished on time for the Steam Festival, as our dedicated volunteers finished, up working from 08.00 to 24.00 for some days prior to the event in order to meet the deadline. All five active steam engines preserved by the B-C were in steam that weekend and No.5 also had the opportunity to again operate with the LEB's G3/3 No.8, dating from 1910, which travelled from Echallens for the occasion. The 2015 Pentecost festival was the B-C's best ever thanks to having six engines in steam and very suitable weather for family visits to our museum. There was no rain, but it was also not so sunny or warm so sunbathing on the lakeside, or walking in the high mountains, were not suitable alternatives over the holiday.

Jean-François Andrist is the President of the Blonay-Chamby Museum Railway.

No.5 passing Jouxtens on a Pentecost Weekend special.



ps Simplon's Centenary

Michael Farr

CGN, the company whose fleet of ships serve ports around Lac Léman, have decided to celebrate this summer the centenary of the paddle steamer '*Simplon*', reputedly the largest steamship on all the Swiss lakes. Begun in 1914 at Sulzer's yard in Winterthur it was apparently launched into the water one hundred years ago, although its completion was delayed until after the First World War and it finally entered service in 1920.The CGN set up on board a temporary exhibition about the ship's history for passengers to enjoy while the '*ps Simplon*' plied its regular routes between Genève, Lausanne and Evian. For the 2015 summer time-tables CGN was able to call on the services of its complete fleet of six paddle ships, the flagship '*La Suisse*', '*Savoie*', '*Vevey*', '*Montreux*' and '*Rhône*', as well as '*Simplon*'.

'*ps Simplon*', dressed overall, is seen in rather damp and windy conditions off Nyon during the 2013 Parade Navale.

Photo: Michael Farr