

# Canton of Lucerne

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**24th September 1978  
Federal Ballot**

**Creation of the  
Canton of Jura**

On page 18 you will find all the information regarding the **56th Assembly** which will take place at Einsiedeln.



## Canton of Lucerne :

### Biographical notes

Roger Manzardo was born in 1931 and has lived in Lucerne since 1945. He is in charge of public relations, press and information of «800 Jahre Stadt Luzern». He works in publicity, propaganda and journalism. After 14 years as editor of «Vaterland», Lucerne, he is editor-in-chief of the periodical «Aero-Revue» and head of public relations of the Aero-Club in Switzerland.

### Its Capital in jubilee mood

The most important date in the foundation history of the town of Lucerne will be remembered this year. A charter dated 18th April 1178 testifies to the appointment by Abbot Konrad von Eschenbach of the Murbach Monastery in the Alsace of a lay priest chosen by his brother, Provost Ulrich von Eschenbach, and elected by the Convention of the Benedictine Monastery at the Hof in Lucerne. Also 800 years ago, two brothers of the noble Lucerne family von Eschenbach established the right of holding a market, the Municipal Tribunal and the *Marktmass* (a liquid measure of approximately 35 litres). In addition, they appointed two new officials, the *Schultheiss* (mayor) as Municipal Judge and the *Ammann* (magistrate) to supervise the market. The settlement at the mouth of the Reuss as it leaves the Lake of Lucerne has always held a dominating geographical position. Due to its political importance, it played a significant part over long periods in the historic development of Central Switzerland and the Confederation.

By the beginning of the 15th century, Lucerne had been elevated to the rank of a Free Imperial City, and the territory of the Municipal State of Lucerne was nearly as big as that of the subsequently formed Canton. The present boundaries were given to the Canton in the Mediation constitution of 1803.



Commemorative medal

*There is no such thing as a typical Lucerner*

Formation and development of the Canton of Lucerne were influenced significantly by the activities and the radiation of the City of Lucerne. Now as then, the town is the dominating centre of Canton and region. And yet – there is no such thing as a typical Lucerner. The author, professor and theologian Josef Vital Kopp who died in 1966, characterized this phenomenon in the following manner: «The people of Lucerne, like of old Athens, are so to speak an *agora* in which many spiritual and cultural streams overlap. The Lucerner speaks five languages; he appears as unity only when he holds his tongue. Even the most sensitive ear will be unable to differentiate between the nuances in the dialect of Southern Aargau and of those along our Northern boundaries. The sounds from an Entlebuch throat are closer to the Emmental than to the neighbouring Hinterland. The people of Weggis and Vitznau speak the idiom of the adjacent Kuessnacht, and the Schongau dialect is the same as that of the Freiamt.»

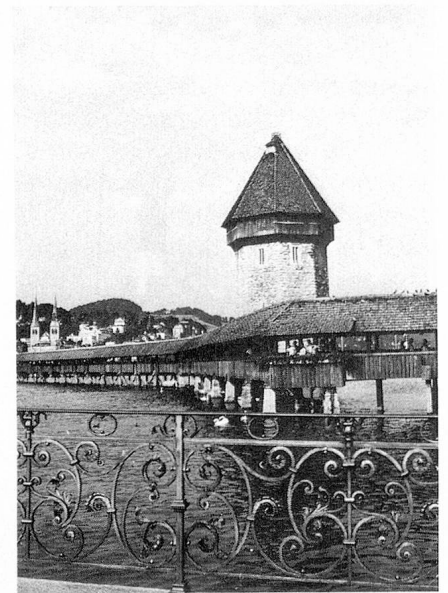
An old Alemannic fishing settlement is considered to be the origin of the Canton consisting of five districts: Lucerne, Hochdorf, Sursee, Willisau and Entlebuch. The settlement was called «Luciaria» which means pike basket-trap.

The name was first mentioned in documents in the year 840 a.d. Thanks to its position, Lucerne developed into an important centre of communications which, especially in the direction North-South, achieved international proportions. It became known as a stage on the Gotthard route. The contact with travellers, traders and pilgrims encouraged the open-mindedness and the self-assurance of the citizens. In 1291, Lucerne was surrendered to Habsburg. This episode came to a liberating end with the sealing of the pact in 1332 when Lucerne joined the Primitive Swiss in the *Vierwaldstaetterbund*, the league of the four Forest Cantons. They defended their freedom in the Sempach war of 1386 against Habsburg-Austria.

#### *Troubled History and Politics*

Thanks to its geographical position and spiritual achievements, as well as to its commanding role in the heart of the young Confederation, Lucerne became the leading force in Catholic Switzerland during the confusion and fights in the schism of the times. All the more determined were the Lucerners and their allies in fighting the Reformation. Apart from the new dogma, they were also threatened with economic recession. Since Zwingli pronounced against all mercenary service, the Lucerners

and Primitive Swiss saw one of their main sources of income, enlistment in foreign armies, in danger. Thanks to their revenue from soldiering in foreign service, the Lucerne patricians were able to promote much in the fields of economics and culture. Under the influence of political change in Europe, especially in France, the leading role of the patricians came to an end by 1798. Switzerland came under French occupation. For a short time, Lucerne became Helvetic capital. Once more, the town on the Reuss had a chance when, in 1808, it became the administrative centre of Switzerland, but for one year only. After the fall of Napoleon in 1813, the Canton of Lucerne was pulled into the vortex of tense political struggles between Conservatives and Liberals. The Lucerne historian, Dr. Hans Wicki, wrote of this epoch after the disbanding of the aristocratic regime: «With that, a century of bitter political discussion began in the history of Lucerne, during which one extreme gave way to another practically every ten years. Especially in ecclesiastical politics, positioning for power created passionate excitability which made any objective assessment almost impossible for most of the contemporaries.» The contrasts and combats intensified right up to the *Sonderbund*. In 1847, the separatist Canton of



The famous Chapel Bridge, with the Church of St. Leodegar

Lucerne capitulated, and the way to joining the new Federal State was open. There was a marked change in 1871, when the Radical regime of 1848 gave way to a Conservative majority in the elections for the Grand Council. All the same, party struggles flared up again and again, but on the whole, a line of reasonable cooperation could be found.

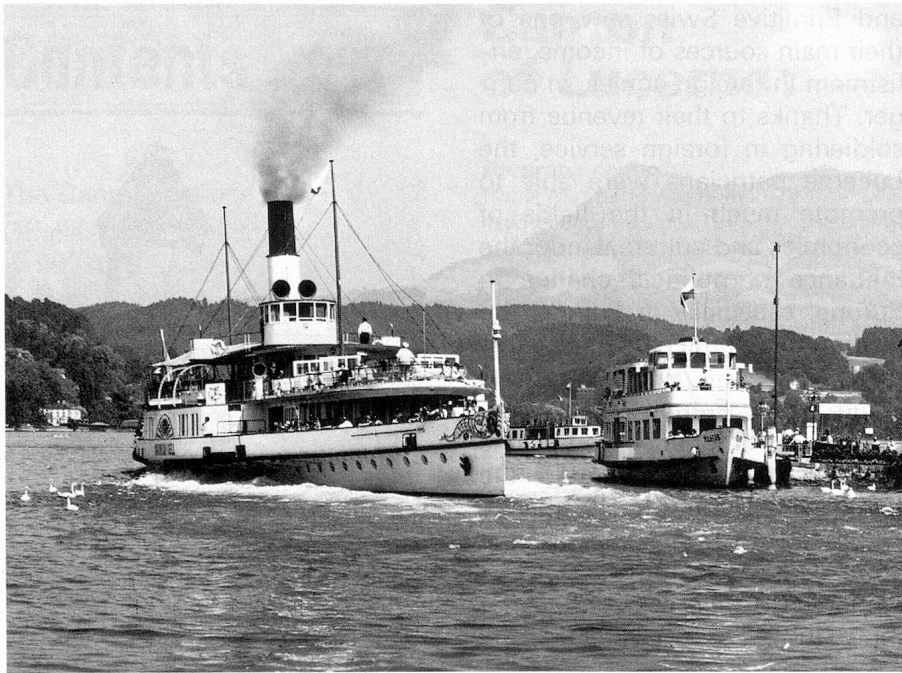
#### *Industrialisation and Tourism*

The growing industrialisation was looked upon sceptically and cautiously in the agricultural Canton of Lucerne. In the City of Lucerne, trade and communications in the wake of the Gotthard traffic and prospering tourism around the turn of the century prevented uniform development of diverse fields. In addition, the political upheavals of the 19th century had pushed the Canton of Lucerne into undue isolation. This was not exactly beneficial to economic innovations.

In the last 50 years, the arrears in this sector have been made good by adjusting the economic structure and a purposeful promotion of new concerns and undertakings. Since the situation in the Canton

#### **A few figures**

Surface area:	1492,1 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	295 000 inhabitants in 107 communes (65 000 in the town of Lucerne)
Denominations:	246 888 Roman Catholics 38 712 Protestants 3 541 other religions
Language:	German
Agricultural estates:	8 418
Tourism:	284 hotels (11 673 beds)
Industrial undertakings:	349 (26 083 employees)
Limited companies:	2 279
Net of roads:	2 503 km
Total of engine-vehicles:	87 404



Navigation on the Lake of Lucerne with the Rigi in the background.

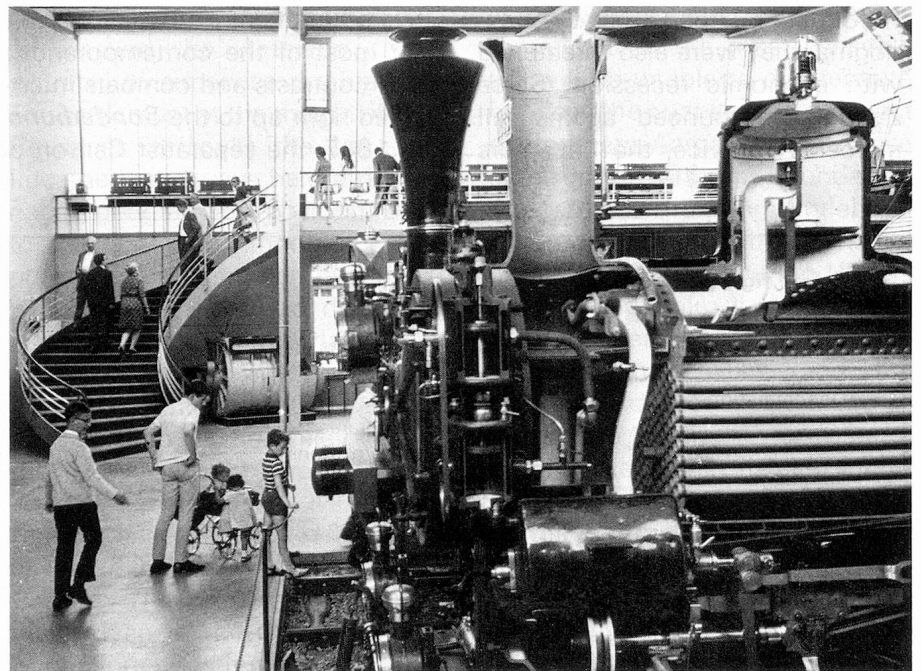
of Lucerne may be compared to the economic state of Central Switzerland, one can take this as a gauge: Between 1923 and 1975, the number of employees in industry has increased by 153% in this region. In the whole of Switzerland, the increase was some 112% during the past 50 years. Thus it more or less doubled in the whole of the country, whereas it increased two-and-a-half times in Central Switzerland and with it in the Canton of Lucerne. The industrial emphasis lies with the metal and machine industries; 127 of a total of 370 industrial concerns belong to these two.

It is reckoned that 1,4 million nights are spent by tourists in the Canton of Lucerne. The City of Lucerne lays claim to a good two-third of these due to its marked touristic infrastructure. Revenue from tourism is estimated at over 100 million Francs for the Canton, taking into consideration the effect of multiplication and continuous items.

The regrouping in the economic sector will become obvious as one compares employment figures. In

1965, out of 120 000 employees, 22 000 worked in agriculture and forestry. The corresponding figure for 1975 is 114 700 for the total and only 14 400 for employment in the sector mentioned above. In industry, craft and building trade, 54 400 employees earned their living in 1965; in 1975, the figure dropped to 47 500. In the same

Transport Museum



period, the number of employees in the service industries (commerce, banking, catering, etc.) rose from 44 700 to 52 800.

#### *Culture and Customs*

The International Music Festival with its conductors, soloists and orchestras of world repute, the Municipal Theatre and the Art Gallery provide cultural standards which are observed throughout the Canton. Private and subsidised galleries, musical and stage events, activities by many organisations with cultural aims, all allow the population outside the urban centre to partake of the cultural life.

Local customs show themselves mostly in the carnival. Carnival societies and guilds not only see to it that old rites and ancient customs are handed down, but they also take part in social and welfare activities. The Lucerne Carnival with its main days on Thursday, Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday has the greatest reputation in Switzerland apart from the famous Basle Carnival.

The Canton of Lucerne comprises





Lion Monument

149215 hectares of land of which 130220 are productive. It extends from the Lucerne Riviera with Weggis and Vitznau on the *Vierwaldstaettersee* through the Lucerne surroundings right to the mountainous regions of the Entlebuch and the Briener Rothorn (2349 m above sea-level) as highest point in the Canton, from the Reuss plain with the Honauer Schachen as lowest point (406 m above sea-level) to the Seetal and the Lucerne Hinterland and to the boundaries of the Canton of Aargau in the North and of the Canton of Berne in the West. The 107 Communes have a population of 295000, 27000 of whom are foreigners. The City of Lucerne is at the head with 65000 inhabitants, whilst Honau is the smallest as far as population is concerned, counting a mere 87 heads. Two large projects face the Canton of Lucerne, the University of Central Switzerland and the National Exhibition of 1991. The Lucerne electorate will go to the poll this summer on the question of the university. Another candidate for the «Landi» is the Canton of Schwyz. It would be an advantage if the whole of Central Switzerland would cooperate in this national venture on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the Confederation.

### *The 800-Year Jubilee of the City of Lucerne as a communal effort*

The keynote of the jubilee is that this undertaking is not an event organised for and on behalf of the state, but that it should rather form the framework for self-portrayal of individuals, groups and urban districts as well as of the city as a whole. The City Jubilee represents a communal effort; an act which should unite in its aspect of common experience, and at the same time enhance the reputation of the City of Lucerne in the outside world.

On 18th April, the date on the foundation charter of 1178, the Jubilee was opened by a festive session of the Great Municipal Council. The school children were made aware of their common heritage. New paths along the shore of the lake on both sides of the town were opened. The actual foundation festival took place on 22nd April, attended by many prominent guests, not least from the Alsace. It was followed next day by a historical pageant and procession.

The main accent on the Jubilee activities which will go on till the

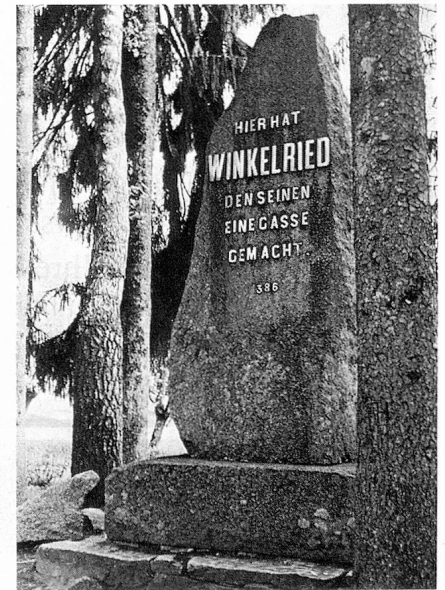
autumn, is not only put on the big events (City Festival on 1st July with the population taking part in historical costumes, the Day of Central Switzerland with a *Seenachtsfest* (fireworks on the lakeside) on 15th July, the Federal Costume Festival from 8th to 10th September and the Youth Festival on 30th September), but equally on less important events in the local districts of the town, on individual functions organised by various people, groups, clubs and societies – all of them designed to further the community spirit.

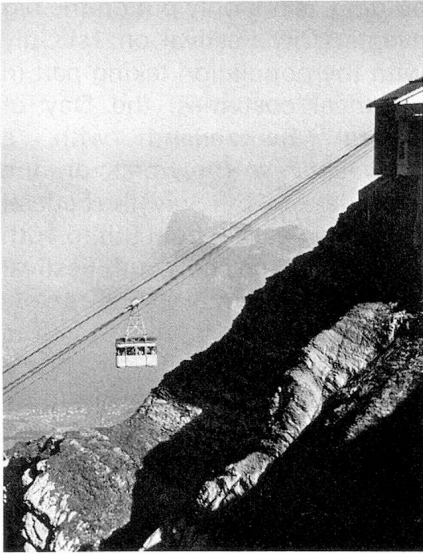
The Jubilee will act as a catalyst in the many sectors of social, welfare, cultural and sports activities of the town. Just a few examples: The creation of a statute for the sensible use of sites in the old town, the establishment of an information office for better relations between citizens and authorities, a programme of activities in aid of the lonely and handicapped, the introduction of school theatre in the curriculum, the creation of a meeting centre for young people, the popularisation of unknown literary works by Lucerne writers

In the small medieval town of Sursee



In memory of Arnold Winkelried

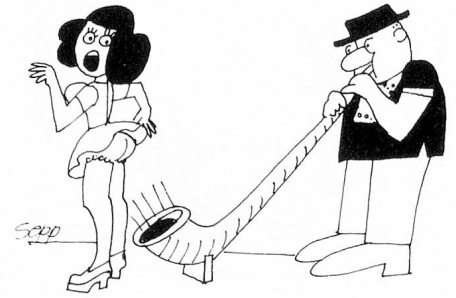




Ascending from Kriens to the Pilatus  
(Photos SNT0)

and the introduction of sports festivals as permanent institutions in all the schools of the town. With the activities in the 15 local districts of the town, the community spirit will be strengthened in Jubilee Year. Nearly 100 special events and campaigns have been listed on the programme. They are designed to draw in actively or passively all the inhabitants of the respective districts. In the 15 local organising bodies about 100 leaders and a further 300 or 400 Lucerne citizens, men and women, are engaged in working groups. Thus the activities of Jubilee Year should have a beneficial influence well beyond 1978.

*Roger Manzardo*



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