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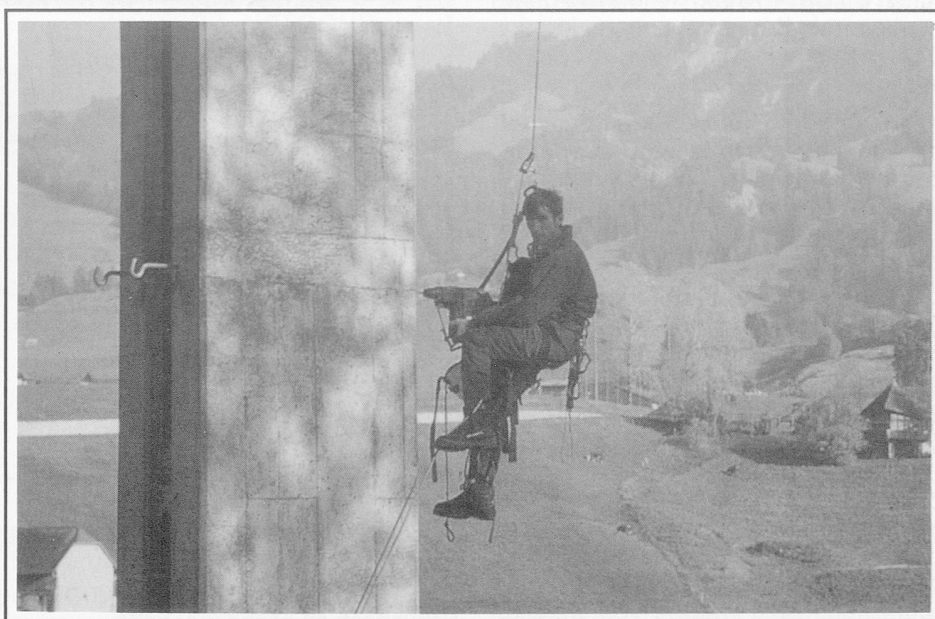
## OLD POSTCARDS

A new craze has come to Switzerland: collecting old postcards. At a recent trade fair in Zurich, over 100,000 old postcards dating back to 1895 were on sale. Prices ranged from 1 to 200 SFR a piece. But apart from these postcards, the trade fair also offered for sale an enormous assortment of unimaginable "kitsch" such as old toys, dolls, watches, faked jewellery, stamps, books, music boxes, paintings, carpets, furniture and even some old "Packard" cars. On the other hand, discerning buyers with plenty of money could also purchase statuettes representing Humphry Bogard (with cigarette) for SFR 27,500.-, Charly Chaplin (with cane) for SFR 29,500.-, Picasso (with paint brush) for SFR 29,500.- or Mao Tse Tung (with smile) for only SFR 24,500.-.

## NEW SWISS RECORD

Erhard Lorétan from Fribourg is the first Swiss alpinist to have conquered all 14 mountains of the world that stand over 8000 metres in height. Before him, only two other men have also achieved that record: Reinhard Messner from south Tirol and Jerzy Kukucka from Poland. Loretan is 1m 68 tall and weighs only 58 kg but he is one of the fastest high altitude climbers.

Around 8000 m most mountaineers can only climb 30 to 50 m per hour but Loretan manages 80 to 100 m. When not on climbing expeditions, Loretan makes his living from writing articles and giving public speeches. Another one of his specialities is dangerous work involving hanging off ropes to do repair work on high rise buildings, church steeples and viaducts to name a few.



When scaffolding becomes too expensive, Loretan is called in to do the repair job. He loves these "acrobatic" jobs.

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