

Lucerne news

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CORVATSCH THE "WUNDERBERG"

How times change! In years gone by, a trip in winter to the Alps was a real burden, almost disastrous. He who had to go on a business trip or a pilgrimage to the south and had to traverse mountain passes was only too happy when he had the mountains behind him. The only thing found there was fear and dread.

But today this has become something else: the person who can go to the mountains is happy, as the stay means peace and quiet, recovery from the nervous tension of every day, good clean air to breathe.

We don't want to report about development, or about ski-ing, or about the tourist travel in the Engadine. We want to praise the mountains which wear a "white coat" the whole year round, and during the summer freshen the onlooker's view. In a way, this reminds us that everything in life is transitory, and each year, for a longer or a shorter time, Old Man Winter reigns over the mountain world. The mountains, wrapped in glaciers and fields of snow, exercise their power over the tourists.

A real "Wunderberg" is the Piz Corvatsch in the Upper Engadine. The mountain got its name from the mountain raven, the Corv, and to this name, the magnifying end syllable *atsch* is added.

The Corvatsch has belonged to the best and most beloved ski areas of the Upper Engadine for years. Between the Rosegtal and the valley of the river Inn, it cuts off the view of the glaciers towards the South; it is like a powerful wide white tower in the middle.

A mountain guide who is today over seventy told us — we were boys then — how he, with a pounding head on a Monday morning, had to lead a group of mountain climbers up the Corvatsch. He didn't feel like climbing at all and had reached the Hahnensee after about an hour of fast marching. Suddenly a heard of chamois galloped past, and quickly Gion, the guide, lassoed one of the chamois around the straight horns with his ski stick. He offered his other stick to his two companions who were still climbing. The chamois tore up the mountain in the direction of Corvatsch, pulling Gion and the two tourists with him. The weight was heavy, and soon the horns of the chamois bent backwards. Shortly the skikjöring ride ended, and without much trouble, the whole group had arrived on the Corvatsch. Unfortunately Gion couldn't free his ski stick from the horns of the animal, and it appeared as though he had lost it forever. Two years later during the hunting season, Gion shot the chamois and came into possession again of his lost stick. One thing remained and was inherited generation after generation by the chamois of the Engadine: the horns are bent backwards.

Since this story, much water has flowed down the river Inn, and time on the Corvatsch has not stood still. The mountain remains as it was, a majestic symbol in the Engadine, but one doesn't climb the mountain on foot, nor does one use a chamois for a skikjöring harness, but rather one uses the biggest cable car lift in Switzerland, which travels from Surlej-Silvaplana to the top of the Corvatsch, 11,000 feet above sea level. There one can enjoy an eye-opening panorama that is more beautiful than anywhere else.

The run over Dürrenast and over Fuorcla Surlej down to Silvaplana is still the same, and via the new ski lift Giand'Alva, one can now ski over the Hahnensee down to St. Moritz-Bad.

(St. Moritz Courier.)

LUCERNE NEWS

International Festival of Music, Lucerne 1964

The 1964 International Festival of Music in Lucerne will be held from 15th August to 6th September. In addition to the Swiss Festival Orchestra, the Lucerne Festival Choir and the Lucerne Festival Strings, there will be guest performances by the Viennese Philharmonic and the English Chamber Orchestra, while the Zurich Collegium Musicum has been engaged for the traditional Mozart serenades at the Lion Monument. The printed Preliminary Programme will be available this month.

Lucerne has an Airport

An airport has been opened between Beromünster and Neudorf, only eleven miles from Lucerne. Thanks to its elevated location (2,130 feet above sea-level) it is exceptionally free of fog. The grass runway, 570 yards long, is adequate even for the large types of sports aircraft. There is a hangar for the accommodation of private planes, and a restaurant is laid on.

Emergency Dental Service in Lucerne

Dentists, like the rest of us, like their week-ends off. In most places the unfortunate person who gets a raging toothache on a Sunday has no alternative but to deaden the pain as best he can with tablets. Lucerne has now introduced an emergency dental service which operates on Sundays and public holidays. Then, between the hours of 10 and 11 a.m. and again from 6 to 7 p.m., a member of the Lucerne Dentists' Association will be on duty in his practice for emergency cases. His address can be obtained by telephoning Nr. 11 (Inquiries) or from the daily newspapers.

The Swiss Bread and Confectionery Museum in Lucerne

In 1960 the Association of Swiss Master Bakers and Confectioners founded in Lucerne a "Swiss bread and confectionery archive". Its mission is to carry on cultural and historical research into the practice and science of bread-making and baking, to investigate and preserve ancient, obsolete and also contemporary customs, and to collect objects associated therewith, and to make them accessible to the public. A further aim is to explore the diverse historical aspects of bread and confectionery and their everyday significance in folklore, to make the bakery trade more familiar with these and thus to increase its background of professional knowledge. In pursuit of these aims, the "Swiss Bread and Confectionery Archive" is divided into the archive proper, a library, and a museum. The latter was opened in May 1963. The present exhibition covers the theme "Bread and Confectionery in Tradition and in Everyday Life". It comprises two main groups. The first illustrates "Traditional Bakery Products for Special Occasions" and covers the special types of bread, cakes, etc., made in various regions on the occasion of a birth, a christening, a wedding, or a death. The other group is devoted to "Calendar Bakery" and includes the many and various specialities baked on certain days of the year. Among these are the loaves, cakes and sweetmeats produced for St. Nicholas' Day, for Christmas and New Year, for Carnival, Lent and Easter, etc. Bread and confectionery form an essential and informative component of cultural

history and folklore. They come into their own at Nr. 15 Gesegnetmattstrasse, Lucerne, where the entire subject is dealt with in a novel, fascinating display.

(Official Tourist Office Lucerne.)

Helicopters save human lives

To save human lives in accidents which may occur in the high Alps, special efforts must be made and these are often extremely difficult. Such emergency actions are at times only possible if an airplane is available which is able to land and rise on the smallest bit of ground — the helicopter is the best vehicle to serve this purpose. Few people know today that the first helicopter was built by two Swiss. The brothers Armand and Henry Dufaux of Geneva were experimenting for years, and finally in 1905 they succeeded with their first workable helicopter. We can read in old reports that the officials concerned with the development of aviation looked in amazement at the little machine, when it lifted itself, as if raised by unseen hands, into the air. Several times the two brothers Dufaux had to demonstrate this amazing experiment. In the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne may be seen the plans and a picture of the first demonstration which prove the facts of this important and successful pioneer experiment which most people seem to have forgotten long ago.



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