

A sheep, a chicken and a duck as pioneers in flying

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A SHEEP, A CHICKEN AND A DUCK AS PIONEERS IN FLYING

It was in September 1783 that thanks to human spirit of invention living creatures were flying in the air, as in the courtyard of Versailles, in a balloon filled with hot air, a sheep, a chicken and a duck were making a first flight. Not much later, on 21st November of the same year, Pilâtre de Rozier and d'Arlandes in Paris succeeded with the first human flight. Two years later, a first country to country flight was achieved, when Jean Pierre Blanchard and Dr. Jeffries crossed the English Channel in a gas balloon. In 1884 Charles Renard and Krebs in Paris made a first circuit flight in a dirigible airship. From 1891-1896 Otto Lilienthal, a pioneer flyer and promoter of the flying principle "heavier than the air" performed hundreds of successful glider flights. The two brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright from Dayton, Ohio (U.S.A.) were able to make a first air flight with an aeroplane equipped with a motor, at Kitty Hawk, N.C. on 17th December 1903. A grand date was 25th July 1909, when the Frenchman Louis Blériot flew over the English Channel with an aeroplane in 37 minutes. Another remarkable date, of course, was the long distance non-stop flight of Charles Lindbergh on 20th/21st May 1927, over a 5,800 km. route in 34 hours from New York to Paris. — These then would be the seven principal dates in the history of early aviation, and the descriptive and illustrated events are being shown and displayed in the Swiss Transport Museum, Lucerne, in the section on aviation.

(Lucerne Tourist Office.)

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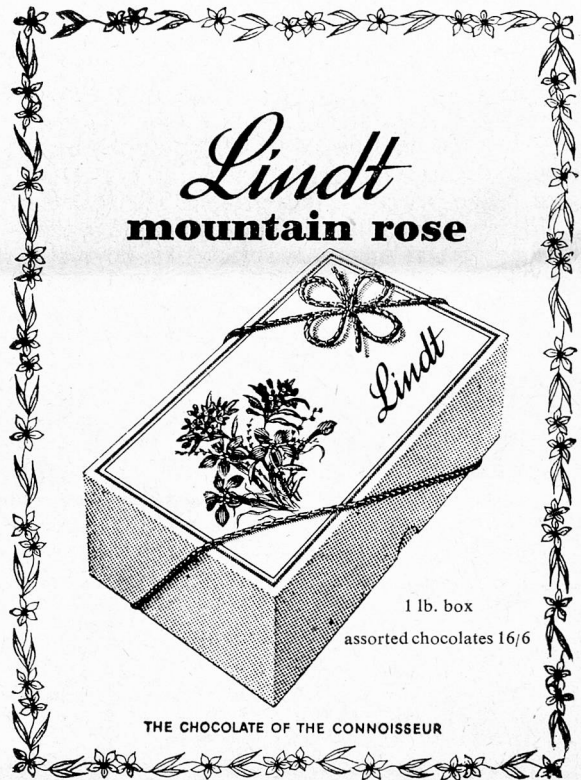
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CABLECAR UP THE MATTERHORN?

Of course we are not referring here to Switzerland's most famous mountain but to its neighbour, the Lesser Matterhorn (12,815 ft.). The Zermatt-Trockener Steg cablecar, which runs in three sections up to the Trockener Steg at an altitude of 9,700 feet, has already made a broad new ski region comfortably and easily accessible. Now a fourth section is being scheduled for the Lesser Matterhorn, to open still another, virtually inexhaustible area for summer ski-ing, which has become increasingly popular in recent years. The third section of the system, which runs from Furgg to Trockener Steg, is the world's first cablecar with 100-passenger cabins; it went into operation at the end of February 1965. Its heaviest daily load to date has been 4,472 people.

[S.N.T.O.]



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