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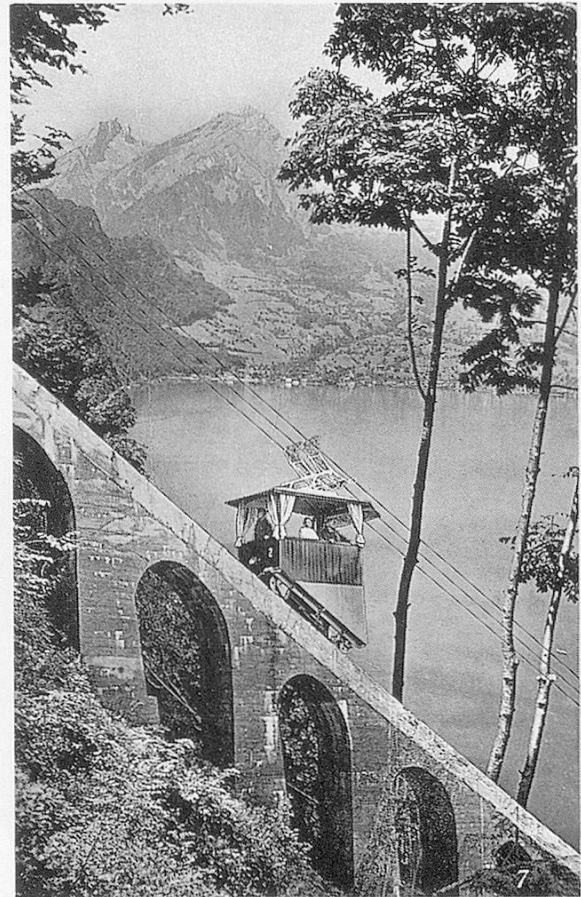
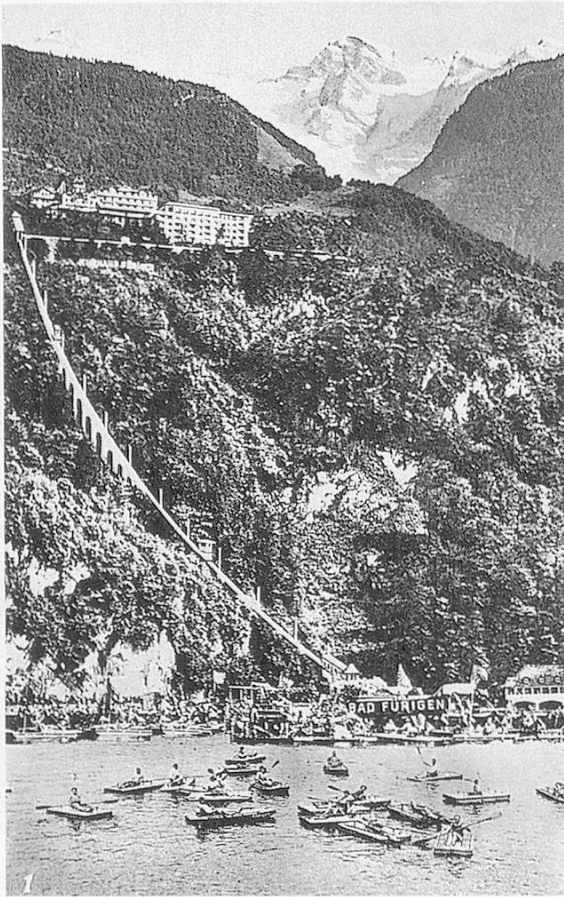
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Recollections of the Fürigen Bahn

by R.C.Bernheim

With reference to the article on the Fürigen Bahn in *Swiss Express* for March and a letter in the June issue, I stayed at the Hotel Fürigen with my parents in August 1933, and can remember the railway quite well.

At that time the bottom terminus of the line was the Strandbad Fürigen, a small harbour formed in the Harissenbucht by two short piers. Here there were a hundred cabins, a hundred paddle floats, a diving tower and a large restaurant. Both Strandbad and the railway were owned by and under the control of the hotel proprietors.

Use of the railway was free to hotel guests, and it was a source of great delight to a nine-year-old boy! It was in continuous use all day, and had its own rush-hour periods - after breakfast for descent to the Strandbad and late afternoon for return to the hotel for evening dinner - when queues were commonplace! There were two cars, each with a capacity of about ten persons. A passing loop was situated

These 1933 photographs show the Fürigen Bahn in its original condition.

on a long brick viaduct halfway up the escarpment and the journey time was a mere four or five minutes.

Editorial Note

These notes explain the original purpose of the Fürigen Bahn while the two contemporary prints, kindly loaned by Mr. Bernheim, show a completely different picture from the present day scene.

While travelling on the MV *Rigi* from Bürgenstock to Alpnachstad in June (it was far too hot to be on a train!), I caught a brief glimpse of a Fürigen Bahn car descending the incline before it was lost in the trees, which in the intervening sixty years, have grown more than somewhat. There was no sign of the piers, let alone the cabins or pedalos, nor were there obvious traces of a large restaurant to be picked out along the heavily wooded shoreline. The hotel however is very obvious, with its name proudly displayed in large letters on the side of the wooded cliff.