

Kalti takes a Post-horn gallop past Grosse Scheidigg [i.e. Scheidegg]

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relief bus had been sent and this was in the AVG livery and could only take passengers who had pre-paid tickets – presumably the driver (who wore a jacket proclaiming him as “The Singing Driver”) could not collect cash. We chose the “proper” PostAuto and alighted at Innetkirchen where, after a walk around the village, we caught the Meiringen Innetkirchen Bahn (MIB) for our return to Meiringen. It was the first time we had travelled on the MIB and the 16:02 service was well patronised.

Kalti takes a POST-HORN GALLOP PAST GROSSE SCHEIDIGG

“You MUST try the bus ride from Grindelwald to Meiringen” said the guide on one of our first Swiss holidays. As a railway enthusiast I had my doubts, but we had hardly left Grindelwald and Grosse Scheidegg and the glacier behind when I realised this would be a bus journey like no other.

As we took gradients and hairpin bends at what seemed like breakneck speed, our admiration for the driver of our bright yellow Autoverkehr Grindelwald (AVG) bus increased by the kilometre. The road, perhaps better described

as a single track, beat a path through wild and craggy countryside, the post-horn being sounded regularly on blind corners. At one time we pulled in to let a lady driving a car pass – and she was left in no doubt that she should have not been using that stretch of road at a time reserved for the buses. Soon after that another bright yellow bus appeared, going in the opposite direction, and presumably an extra working as it had no passengers. Somehow that driver managed to squeeze past us and I swear his offside wheels must have been hanging over the edge of a sheer precipice!

After our long, journey we turned a corner and were suddenly back in habitation at Schwarzwaldalp, where we had been warned we would need to change vehicles. The joint timetable run by AVG and the PTT PostAuto service which operates the onward journey to Meiringen allowed a long enough break to have a quick drink at the

Postbuses at Meiringen, 2/9/1991. PHOTO: Kälti





rustic café here.

On our way down in the bus to the Meiringen valley we noticed a sign to the Trummelbach Falls and, remembering the tales of Sherlock Holmes, realised that this was where the detective was believed to have fallen to his death – but of course we all know better! So, on arrival at the destination I checked in the Post Office and found a bus would shortly leave for the return journey and if we alighted at Zwirgi we could walk down past the falls. Before the descent we paused to take in the glorious panoramic view over Meiringen and, after carefully avoiding a repetition of Holmes' escapade, we took a step back in time and invested CHF3.40 to catch the car of the Reichenbachfallbahn down to the valley floor. Sadly we had to walk from the bottom station of the funicular to the town centre as the former tramway is no more than a memory, having closed in 1956.

TOP & MIDDLE: *En route to Grosse Scheidegg showing the magnificent country traversed by the PTT and AVG buses.*

Passengers arriving at Schwarzwaldalp for PTT Postbus to Meiringen, 2/9/1991.

PHOTOS: Kälti