

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 15 (1988)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Mosaic

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 15.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



The Red Cross Missing Persons Service

The service for tracing missing persons created by the Red Cross in the 1950s handles about 200 applications a year. Often with success, thanks to a world-wide communications network. The individual services are free and the Red Cross in principle processes only those cases in which either the applicant or the missing person is or is believed to be in Switzerland. Initially, the tracing service used to be called upon to deal only with a few, rare cases. But the wave of emigrating Hungarians in 1956 brought the first large run on the service. Entire families then sought to trace relatives, some of whom were living

vice has found itself faced with the phenomenon of population shifts. Very many refugees in camps in South-East Asia call on the Service in the hope of tracing members of their families who have found asylum in our country. «In the case of applications from areas of conflict», says Helène Marbacher, «we turn to the central Missing Persons Service of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), with which all particulars of civil and military prisoners and internees are filed, and which is trying to trace the missing persons».

The ICRC central tracing service also acts as intermediary for the exchange of news between members of families who have been cut off from their familiar surroundings owing to the ravages of war. In this way, in 1986, a Palestine refugee who lives in Switzerland got news of his uncle from a camp in Beirut which, months previously, had been attacked and occupied several times. «In most cases, the missing persons service of the Red Cross Society in the country where we are trying to trace somebody is our most import-

ant partner», says Helène Marbacher. As between each other, the one hundred or so national Red Cross societies maintain a world-wide and indeed unique mediation network. That over 60% of requests for searches sent out by the Swiss Red Cross in Berne end in success, is no doubt thanks to this close co-

operation between the national societies, but also to the confidence that the Red Cross enjoys with the political authorities. This has meant that within a period of ten years over 1,000 people have been able to find a relative again.

Bertrand Baumann (condensed from «Actio»)

«Dirty Paradise»

Four cave explorers from the canton of Schwyz have discovered a new cavern in the Muotatal. Two of the speleologists, Erwin Auf der Maur and Albert Lüond, came across traces of a cave in the winter of 1986. Then, eighteen months ago, they found the entrance with the help of pendulum apparatus, but first had to clear away some 25 to 40 cubic yards of detritus and clay before they could get into the cave. Once inside, the explorers came upon stalactites after only a few yards of progress. Still later, all four spelunkers were able to penetrate the cavern to a distance of some two miles. On average, the team meets once a week to con-

tinue their exploration of the «dirty paradise» they call their cave.

The explorers and their friends in the know, all together ten people, want to keep the location of the cave a secret for the time being, that is, until they have fully explored and measured it. The reason is not far to seek: anyone who has surveyed and measured a cave is regarded as the official discoverer; should the location be made known now, other people could come and measure it up and then get acclaimed as the discoverers. Franz Suter: «There are various instances where it has already happened; we want to avoid that.»



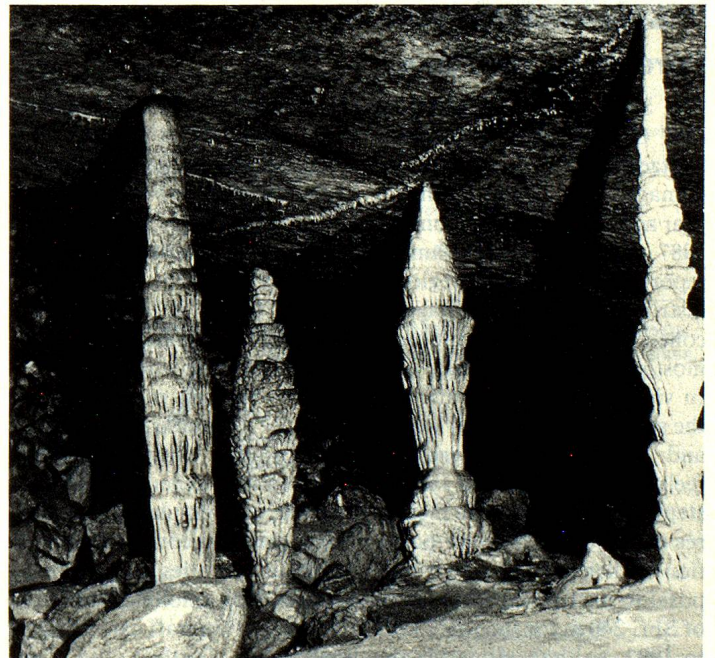
A reunion after long years of separation (ICRC Photo Archives).

scattered throughout Switzerland. «Still today, the majority of applications come from the communist bloc states and concern refugees who have settled in our country. It is often a question of alimony problems or maintenance. Of course, it is left up to the person being sought whether he or she wants to respond or not», explains Helène Marbacher, responsible for the running of the Missing Persons Service.

For some years now, this Ser-

The Services

- Requests for searches by persons in Switzerland for missing persons abroad and requests from persons abroad to trace missing persons in Switzerland.
- Establishing contacts between former Red Cross children (in need of holidays after the second world war) and the families who then cared for them in Switzerland.
- Exchange of news between separated persons.
- Re-uniting of families.
- Obtaining confirmation of the internment of foreigners in Switzerland during the second world war. Such documents are often needed by the applicants to be able to submit claims for old-age and disablement pensions in their own countries.

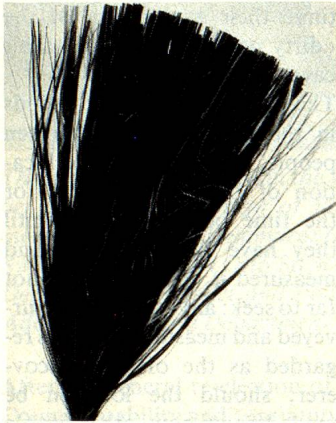


No one can yet see the stalactites in the newly-discovered cave. Are they as beautiful as those in the famous Reclère caverns in the Bernese Jura (photo: Keystone).



Gibraltar bridge with Swiss technology?

The Swiss Federal Materials Testing and Research Institute (EMPA) in Dübendorf is working on an exciting project for a suspension bridge across the Strait of Gibraltar. Part of the project provides for the use of modern, high-technology, lightweight materials. The bridge, more than ten miles long, is to be suspended on carbon-fibre



cables. Our picture shows the unravelling end of a six-mm-thick wire consisting of half-a-million carbon fibres. Four hundred such wires would go to form one suspension cable of the bridge (photo: EMPA).

Forests go on dying

The Swiss woods continue to die. On average, throughout Switzerland, 56% of trees are damaged, i.e., 6% more than a year ago. This emerges from the 1987 Sanasilva forest-damage report. In so far as the regional distribution of the damage is concerned, the deterioration is most marked in the Jura.

In view of this deterioration in the state of health of our woods and forests, the government feels compelled to take further steps, in addition to the measures adopted to reduce air pollution. It has put forward a proposal to parliament for a credit of SFr. 240 m for the years 1989 to 1992, so that, alongside the measures already taken to combat forest damage, the care of young woods and plantations,

the further training of forestry personnel and self-help action for forestry and the timber industry can be fostered.

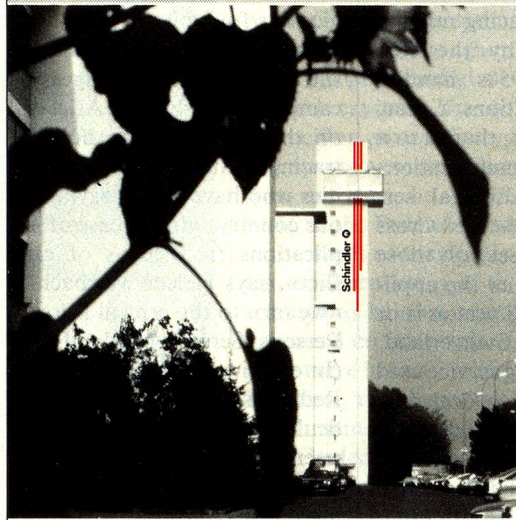
Lethal cheese

In the last four years, Vacherin-Mont d'Or soft cheese contaminated with listeriosis bacteria has caused over 30 deaths in the canton of Vaud. About half of the cases were stillbirths. The production and sale of this popular cream cheese has been banned. Listeriosis is particularly dangerous for pregnant women, elderly people and for persons with immuno-insufficiency. The bacteria are found practically only in the rind of the cheese. Other local and imported varieties of soft cheese are now undergoing intensive investigation and in the meantime further types of cheese have been banned.

The fragrant weed

Major offensive against smoking in the Federal Administration: the government's staff department has inveighed against the blue haze in offices and public rooms, with stricter rules for the protection of non-smokers, still further general restrictions and with withdrawal courses. An enquiry mounted within the Federal Administration revealed that tobacco smoking causes internal problems in two out of three Federal offices because passive smokers feel themselves increasingly burdened by it. So the Federal Personnel Office is to issue more stringent regulations for the benefit of the non-smoker. According to the new rules, smoking is to be forbidden particularly on counter duty, in offices where the general public is served, in open-plan offices with large staffs, in conference rooms and in libraries and waiting rooms. Non-smoking areas must be set apart in staff canteens and cafeterias. Further, the Confederation is to set up courses to wean smokers away from the fragrant weed.

Back to Switzerland: Join Schindler!



Schindler, Europe's largest lift systems manufacturer, offers its products and services in more than 100 countries on all continents of the world, generates sales of more than S.Fr. 1.8 billion with a total work force of 22 000 employees.

In conjunction with the Company's continuing expansion, excellent **career possibilities** for fully qualified and experienced

Electronic engineers

have been created at the Company's Headquarter, located near the picturesque town of Lucerne in Switzerland.

Join Schindler

If you are looking for a position where you will have the opportunity to realise your full career potential, then bring your talent to Schindler and become part of our team in one of the following areas:

- SW-Engineering (System analysis, real time applications).
- HW-Engineering (Micro-processor based systems).
- Communication (local area networking, modern applications).
- Test Systems.

You are convinced that the opportunity of working for an expanding and progressive international company offering genuine career prospects worldwide appeals to you, then please apply to

Schindler Lifts Ltd

Heinz Kronenberg
Personnel Department
CH-6030 Ebikon/Lucerne, Switzerland
Tel. 041-39 36 39

Schindler



Telegrams

■ The *Local Radio Trial Decree*, originally in force only until the end of 1988, has been extended by two years. As from 1989, local radio stations will be able to broadcast advertising for banks, jobs and real estate.

■ *Schwyzerdütsch* seems to be ever more popular in Romandie, i.e. western Switzerland. More than 14,000 Romans have already attended courses in Swiss German.

■ Silent *butterfly deaths* in Switzerland: some 66% of

butterflies and 54% of dragonflies are threatened or have already died out.

■ Since the second world war the *density of doctors* in Switzerland has increased by 75% and is now 14.7 doctors to every 10,000 inhabitants.

■ Continuing steady *trend towards the land*: in 1986,

too, the Swiss population grew faster in rural than in urban areas.

■ A combination of various ecological and environmental factors has made the Alps the *most-threatened mountain system*, worldwide. These are the findings of a meeting of international experts.

Hochalpinen
Töchter-
Institut
Fetan
Unter-Engadin

Auf der Sonnenterrasse des Unterengadins
(1712 m ü. M.)

Schultypen: **Primarschule 5./6. Kl., Gymnasium Typus B und D** (eidg. anerkannt), **Sekundarschule, Handelsdiplomschule** (eidg. Diplom), **Diplommittelschule (DMS), Deutschkurse** für Fremdsprachige.

Ausführlicher Prospekt auf Anfrage.

Hochalpinen Töchter-Institut Fetan

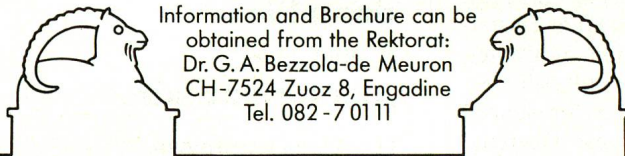
Rektor:
H. Gallmann-Kübler, lic. phil.
CH-7551 Fetan
Telefon 084 9 02 22

LYCEUM ALPINUM ZUOZ

International Boarding School for Boys from 10 to 19 years. Primary School forms 5 and 6. Upper school departments (Grammar School) types A, B, C, D, E with Matriculation. Commercial School with Diploma.

All final examinations are federally recognised; they are held at the school. The German Abitur is available.

Teaching language German. Excellent sports facilities.



Information and Brochure can be obtained from the Rektorat:
Dr. G. A. Bezzola-de Meuron
CH-7524 Zuoz 8, Engadine
Tel. 082 - 7 0111

Ideal study combination for a successful career:

Intensive Language studies and Hotel and Tourism in Switzerland

In our boarding school we have been preparing girls of 15-24 years for international recognised language diplomas in German, French and English. At the same time we offer a **Hotel and Tourism course** up to Management Assistant, taught in German and English. **Our further aims:** broadening of interests, general culture, Savoir-vivre, Etiquette, History of Culture, development of personality and self-confidence, all sports. Careful supervision. Best references.

Summer language courses (July and August)

Institut Sunny Dale (since 1950) - Villa Unspunnen, Fam. Dr. Gaugler
3812 Interlaken/Switzerland, Phone 036 22 17 18, Telex 923 173



Ecole d'Humanité 6085 Hasliberg Goldern

Gemeinnützige Genossenschaft; Telefon 036 71 15 15; B.O., 1050 m ü. M.

Internat: familiäre Kleingruppen, Knaben und Mädchen, Primar-, Sekundar-, Realschule, Gymnasium. Flexible Kursorganisation (Fähigkeitsgruppen, nicht Jahrgangsklassen) ermöglicht u. a. Umschulung auf Schweizerische Schulverhältnisse.

English-speaking school system: CEEB and GCE preparation
Gründer: Paul und Edith Geheeb. 150 Schüler, 34 Lehrer.
Leitung: Natalie und Armin Lüthi-Peterson.

Study in Switzerland

in Geneva or Lausanne

- **Intensive French Courses** (Alliance française)
- English all levels (Cambridge and RSA)
- Diploma: commercial, secretary and executive secretary
- Maturité suisse ● Baccalauréat français
- Computer science ● Word processor
- **Summer Courses** June-Sept. ● **Boarding accomodation**

Informations:
Tel. 021/201501
Fax. 021/226700
Telex 450600 el ch

Ecole Lémania
3, ch. de Préville
CH-1001 Lausanne

Ecole Lémania
Lausanne Genève

Institut Kandersteg Berner Oberland 1200 m ü. M.

Ferienkurse mit Sprachunterricht

Für Jungen und Mädchen von 9-14 Jahren im Juli/August, Kursdauer 3 oder 6 Wochen

- Unterricht in verschiedenen Niveauebenen
- Vielseitiges Sportangebot - Eigene grosse Wiesenflächen - Kulturelle Programme und Exkursionen - Bergwanderungen
- Frohes Gemeinschaftsleben in freundlicher und familiärer Internatsatmosphäre

Auskünfte und Prospekte: **Institut Kandersteg**

Familie Dr. J. Züger, 3718 Kandersteg/Schweiz, Telefon 033 75 14 74



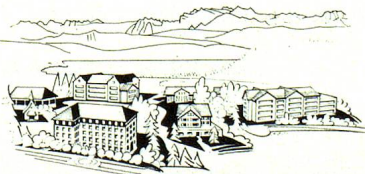
Schweizerische Alpine Mittelschule Davos

- Internat für Knaben und Mädchen von 12 bis 19 Jahren.
- Gymnasium (Typen A, B, C, E) mit eidg. anerkannter Maturität.

- Handelsmittelschule (BIGA-anerkannt).

Sommer- und Wintersport.

Auskünfte erteilt: **Rektor Dr. E. Bolliger**
Telefon 083 352 36



INSTITUT MONTANA ZUGERBERG

Leitung: Dr. K. Storchenegger
6316 Zugerberg, Telefon 042 21 17 22
1000 Meter über Meer

Internationale Schule für Söhne ab 10 Jahren
Schweizer Sektion:
Primarschule Klassen 4-6
Gymnasium und Wirtschaftsdiplomschule
Eidgenössisch anerkannte Diplom- und Maturitätsprüfungen im Institut
Ferienkurse: Juli-August
American School: 5th-12th Grade
Scuola italiana, Niederlandse Sectie