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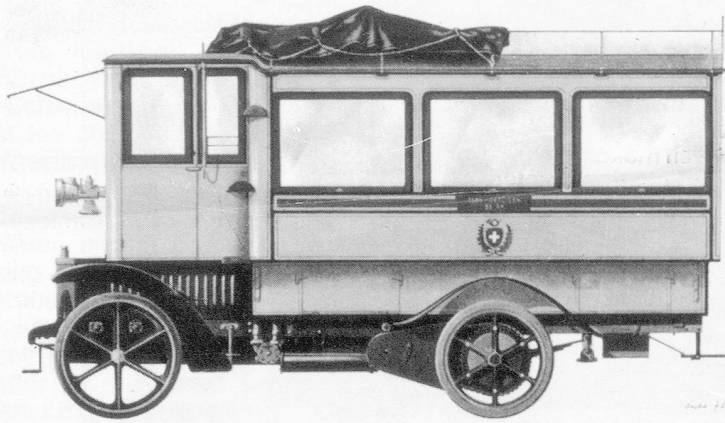
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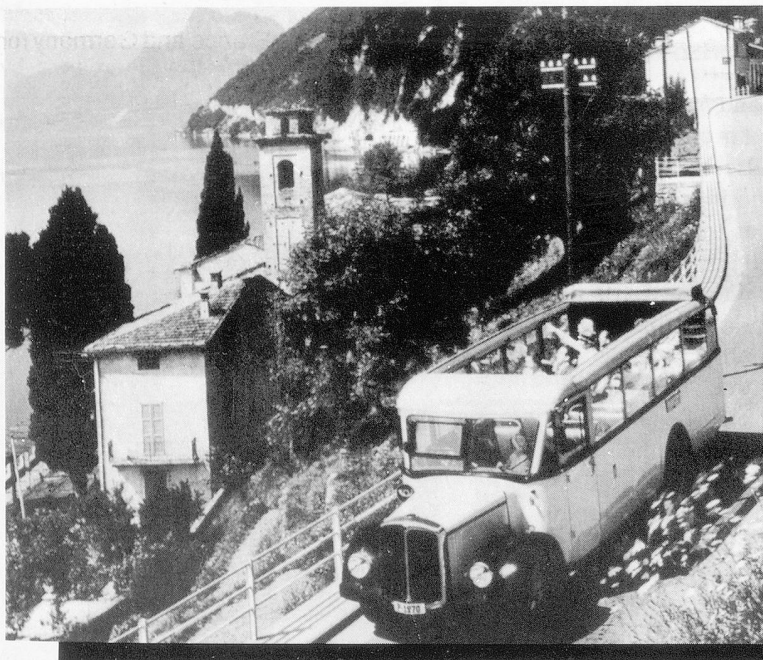
SWISS POSTAL CARS IN DANGER

The Swiss Postal Department (PTT) does not exclude the possibility of a drastic reduction in its nationwide "Postauto" service. For the moment though, it has only decided not to extend the service any further in order to contain the annual deficit of 167 million SFR this service is costing the tax payers. Any new services or added frequencies would only be considered provided the local authorities (Kanton/Gemeinde) are prepared to foot the bill.

In 1991, 90 million passengers used the 674 "Postauto" services whose network extends over 8500 km, a network which is 2½ times larger than the one of the national railways (SBB/CFF). But because more and more passengers travel on reduced fares or specially dis-



One of the very first "Postautos" fully equipped with horn and crank handle.



Open-roof "Postauto" of the 1950's on a road in Tessin.

counted passes, the PTT loses 2 SFR on every Km travelled by its buses.

If the PTT are unable to stabilise the deficit and then slowly reduce it, they may consider a drastic reduction in services in the future.

Throughout the years, the yellow Swiss Postal Cars have become a traditional sight on the Swiss roads. Who could ever forget the sound of the melodious Postauto horns echoing through the valleys and the mountains as the Postal cars made their way up and down our twisting mountain and pass roads.

In the more remote parts of Switzerland, the Postauto conductor is far more than just a bus driver. He is the local "postie", a friend, a helper, a rescuer, a messenger, an advisor, a samaritan, even a midwife in extreme cases. No doubt everyone of the 2000 postal car drivers could tell some unforgettable stories of happy and tragic adventures. Should the services to these remote areas be cut, these mountain valleys would certainly suffer a severe loss.

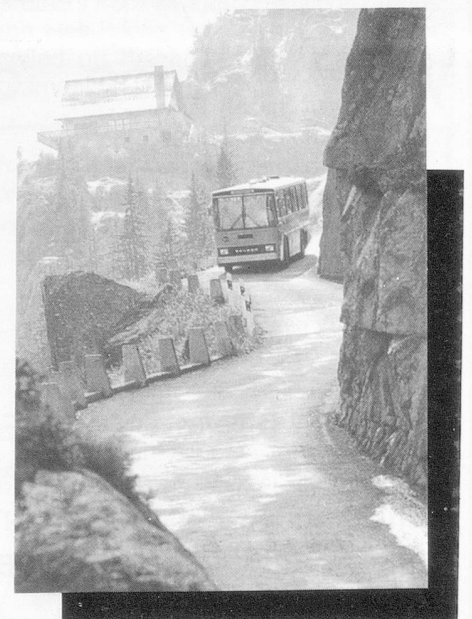


Navigating steep mountain passes or winding through idyllic valleys, the postbus is an essential link in Switzerland's transportation network.

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Modern "Postauto" navigating a narrow and twisting road in Wallis.