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within the next few days, to guarantee you a place. Please let the secretary know also, once you have booked, so we get a rough idea on how many are coming.

The area features a range of excellent walks, picnics, fishing, relaxing and some spectacular scenery!

Sunday 24 March 1996: Wine trial

Monday 6 May 1996: 7.30pm
Christchurch Swiss Club AGM

SUBSCRIPTIONS

They are now well overdue, so if you haven't paid yours as yet, please do it right away. Please pay \$5 and \$25 (i.e. \$30 in total) for the Christchurch Swiss Club and the Swiss Society membership respectively to Werner Schibli, 72 Hawford St. Christchurch 2. Membership to the Society includes the subscription to the HELVETIA.

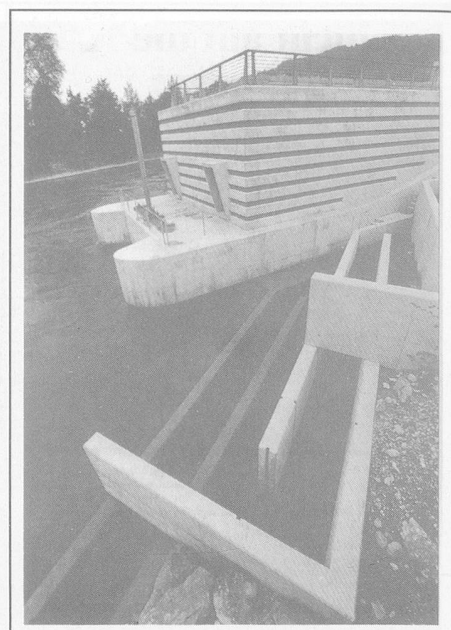
SNIPPETS

Looking for some accommodation in Christchurch for relatives or friends coming out from Switzerland? Well your secretary will be in Europe with his family during July, August and September next year and could make his house in Cashmere available for this period. If you are interested, just give me a call.

Well the Swiss Government has just launched itself onto the "Information Highway", the Internet, as I discovered the other night, while "cruising the net". There isn't all that much there (as yet) to see and read about, but I guess it is a beginning. If you have a computer with Internet access and want to visit their "homepage", here is the address: "<http://www.admin.ch/>". There is also a Newsgroup, where Swiss and others discuss (fairly hotly at times) people and things Swiss. You can join them at "soc.culture.swiss". Happy surfing!

I am looking forward to seeing you on one of our events.

Regards, Jürg Hönger.



STAIRCASE FOR FISH

A new power station has recently been put into operation near Thun. As per new conservation regulations in force in the canton of Berne, a special staircase had to be built alongside the power station to allow the fish to move up and down stream past the station.

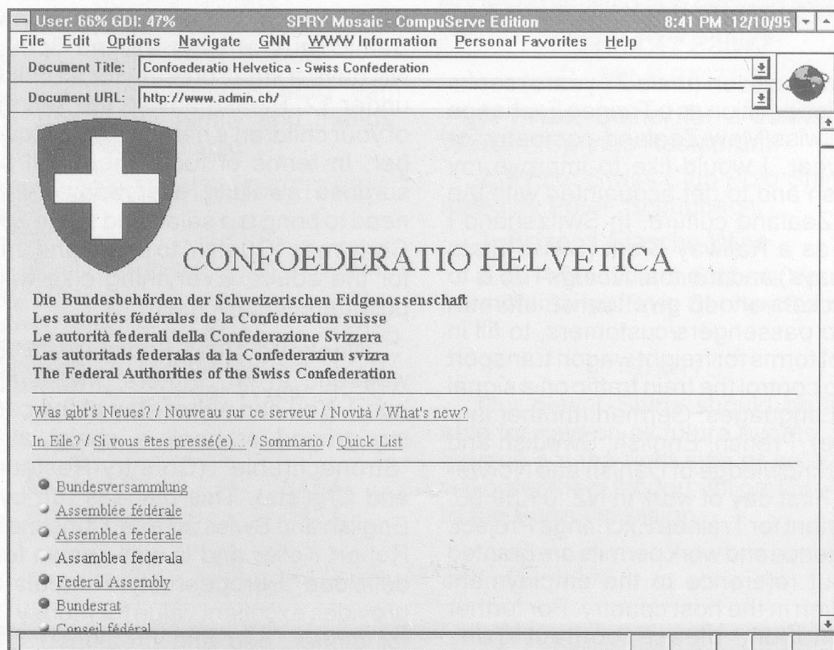
According to reports, the staircase is very much in use and very popular with the fish. It better be, because it is 140 meters long and has cost over one million SFR to build. But looking at the picture, it is somewhat difficult to understand how it really works. No doubt, the fish will have it all figured out.

STRESSED SWISS

Stress and mental disorder seem to flourish in Switzerland according to a survey which shows that Switzerland has by far the biggest number of psychologists per head of population in Europe, in fact more than twice as many as the next country.

Number of psychologists per one million inhabitants:

Switzerland	487	Italy	90
Germany	232	France	47
Austria	133		



BINGO PINGU

Pingu, the Swiss children's favourite mascot is now also taking the German children by storm. In Munich, Pingu, together with Swiss football star Alain Sutter, was allowed to kick off F.C. Bayern's one thousandth soccer game. Unfortunately, Pingu's feet were too big otherwise he would have been allowed to take part in the game too.

Although unknown here in New Zealand, the unlikely penguin Pingu is a huge hit in Switzerland. It is rather surprising that children in a totally landlocked country adopt as their mascot an animal that lives strictly by the sea and thousands of kilometres away from Switzerland.

