

# Turtle snatchers

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## AMUSEMENT PARK "BUNDESHAUS"

To mark the occasion of the first of August being an official holiday for the first time, the Federal Palace (Bundeshaus) was transformed into something like an amusement park. In addition to the usual conducted tours through the building, stalls were set up to sell 1st of August souvenirs, chocolate, cheese, apples, chocolate drinks and Swiss yoghurts. Two "Ländlerkappelen" produced a true Swiss atmosphere and

dancing was allowed in the main lobby.

A particularly popular attraction was a stand where you could test your skill with a real "Armbrust". Three shots for 3 SFR. All participants who reached a minimum of 34 points were given a signed souvenir photograph of their favourite Federal Councillor. However, to obtain a photo of the "Bundespräsident", Kaspar Villiger, a minimum of 36 points was required.



The marble floor of the Federal Palace lobby was a perfect place to dance to some real Swiss music.

## TURTLE SNATCHERS

Pet turtles have become the target for thieves in Switzerland. No longer can the turtles be left to themselves to roam the back garden of your house without the danger of them getting stolen by some crafty thieves. With some species fetching now between \$300 and \$1500 each, these innocent household pets have become valuable and desirable commodities that can easily be sold on to unsuspecting would-be pet-turtle holders.

A keen turtle collector complained that his apartment had been broken in twice and his pet turtles stolen although the thieves had to climb onto the roof of the building to find them because the collector had thought that this would be the safest place to keep them.

At first the police would not take action when the first complaints started to come in, but eventually realised that they were actually facing a ring of professional turtle snatchers who are making good money from selling stolen turtles. The black market in turtles has become such a threat to professional turtle breeders that their Association is now urging all turtle owners to have their pets branded and registered in order to stem this epidemic of theft.



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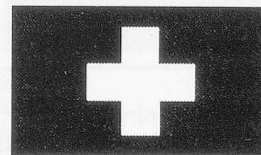
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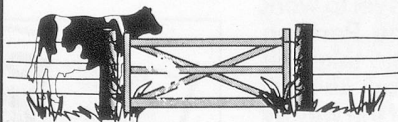


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