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This and That Corner

Canton Berne

Diversity in the Canton of Berne. From scorching heat in the valleys to arctic frost in the altitudes. No faster changes bridging miles and parallels than here.

Why does the tourist cross the seven seas and come to Switzerland, if not to go up among the summits, near the radiant peaks? For the few, the climb has been shortened, for the many, the sight has been widened towards the towering peaks!! Hundreds of chairlifts and cable railways wait to carry the freedom-seekers into an alpine wonderland - and yet there is a yearning for air adventure. Helicopter and air taxi trips and glacier landings are a still greater attraction.

The Bernese Oberland has a number of major tourist resorts which are among the oldest established in Switzerland. The Bernese Oberland, with its magnificent scenery and its excellent and steadily expanding facilities for winter sport, is perhaps still the best known holiday region in Switzerland. Berne is the capital of Switzerland, the second largest canton and a university town. The charming older part of Berne still preserves its original layout.

The Swiss, when entering the Federal Palace, in Berne, are mindful of the sacred oath uniting their ancestors. The day when the danger of the Great War had vanished and banners gathered beneath the high cupola of the Federal Palace, the Swiss Army went home after a five year watch on the extensive borderline.

A joke - "Snails are our speciality," the head waiter of a Bernese restaurant informed the guest. "I know, I was served by one yesterday!!!" the guest replied.

Bernese people are supposed to be slow, and are often called "snails with brakes"!

Switzerland is the only country where the mountains are higher than the taxes.

Berner Zupfe - plaited bread

1 kg flour
30gr yeast
2 cups of milk
50 gr butter
3 egg yolks
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt

Warm the butter in a pot. Add cold milk, 2 egg yolks, sugar, salt and yeast. Mix with flour and knead well. Leave the pastry to rise to double the quantity. Cut pastry in half and roll into two long pieces, then plait the pastry. Brush with the remaining egg yolk and place in cold oven, switching temperature to 180°C. Bake for 1½ hour.

Berner Hazelnuss Leckerli

Mix 500gr grated hazelnuts (or almonds), 500 gr sugar and 1 tbsp cinnamon. Beat three egg whites with 1 tbsp of kirsch. Add to the dry ingredients.

Put little heaps of the mixture onto a buttered tray and leave to dry for 3 - 4 hours. Bake on low heat.

This is a good way to use the egg whites left over from the Zupfe!

*Bon Appetit
Lisette*

A POEM FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Ds Mueti

Dert obe im aute Hus,
luegt es graus Mueti au Tag zum Fanschter us,
as dankt a sis Meieli, seit:
"Wenn chunsch einisch hei,
i bi aut, verlasse, ganz allei."
Wo de no i d'Schueu bisch gange,
wie hesch du nach em Aetti planget;
i ha gwarchet fur di, bi mangisch schpat is Bett,
ha fur di gsorget, dass du Chleider u z'Aesse hesch.
Schpeter bisch i d'Frondi gange
hesch nid a ds Mueti dankt.
Zyt isch ume gange, es het mi mangisch krankt,
e so het ds Mueti gseit u dankt.
Derwile het ds Meieli langi Zyti gha
am fromde Ort, bi fromde Lut,
wo d'Wanduhr schlat wie Muetis Schtubezyt,
wo aube gschlage het, wi wes fur ds Meieli tone sot,
gang nid so wit, gang nid so wit.
Aber jetze grad louft ds Meieli ds Schtrassli uf,
het i z'noie Wagli grankt.
Bi dr Hustur geit as iche,
het fur ds Mueti es Packli im Gang ufghankt,
as geit i d'Schtube iche,
louft liesli, liesli dure nab dr brune Wang,
vo hinger umarmet as sis Mueti
git ihm as Muntschi uf d'Schtirne
u es Schtrussli Blueme i d'Hang.
Ds Mueti isch erchlupft,
isch uf em Schtueu chlei umegruscht,
luegt uf u seit:
"E Meieli, wi ha-ni Froid,
i gloube dr Herrgott het di zu dam Bsuechli beuffreit."

*Contributed by
Walter Seifert*

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Postal workers strike

Around 1500 post office employees stopped work on Tuesday for two hours to protest at restructuring measures proposed by the Swiss Post.

In 14 cities - including Basel, Bern, and Geneva - postal workers staged either a partial or complete work stoppage, according to the communications' trade union. The union called for the stoppage in protest at the current negotiations between the Post and trade unions on a social plan.

The Post has suggested social measures - such as early retirement - which the unions find unacceptable. Last October the Post announced plans to cut 2500 jobs.