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150 Years of Railways in Switzerland - Update

As information becomes available we will bring it to you, although 1997 is quite some time away, we do appreciate that some members who live far away may need to plan their holidays, to fit in with business plans etc.

In 1997 Swiss Federal Railways, the private railway companies and the Swiss Transport Museum in Luzern will be looking back at 150 years of rail travel in Switzerland.

On 9th August 1847 rail travel started with the first steam train the "Spanisch-Brötli-Bahn" from Zurich to Baden.

In 1997, in addition to the celebrations, work will start at the Gotthard-Basis Tunnel (Alp-Transit), the largest building structure of the railway history. Special Alp-Transit Information Centres will be opened in Altdorf, Biasca, Lugano, Frütigen, Raron and Brig.

Until 1997 the reconstructed "Spanisch-Brötli-Bahn" as well as fast trains from 1930 and 1947 will be put into working condition again. A steam engine built in 1847 is at present being reconditioned under an unemployment scheme.

A new generation of two-storey train carriages will be available on the Intercity train line St. Gallen - Zurich - Bern - Interlaken.

This is the provisional programme for 1997,
3-4 April Degersheim (BT) Steam Festival.

10-11 May St. Gallen. Historic SBB electric locos operating locally. Steam trains from BT, MThB, AB, Eurovapor. Naming of 460 'Rosenberg' 100th Anniversary, St. Gallen trams.

7-8 June St. Maurice. Historic electric locos in the roundhouse and electric and steam hauled trains on the 'Tonkin' line (Bouveret).

14-15 June "Rail Show" Lausanne marshalling yard. First outing of the 'Spanisch Brotli- Bahn train since 1977.

21 June - 20 July Steam trains on SBB/CJ/Delemont lines using one to three locos daily. Other locos on public display in roundhouse at Delemont. Steam railcar from station to depot. Vintage electrics on special trains from time to time.

La Chaux de Fonds. In association with Delemont-Jura events, special trains, Bienne to

La Chaux de Fonds with Historic electric locos at La Chaux de Fonds Depot.

21-22 / 28-29 June Eglisau town festival. Centenary Eglisau - Neuhausen (Rheinbrücke) steam services by DVZO.

8-10 August Distribution of free 'Spanisch Buns' at stations Baden - Zurich. Buffets on the line will charge the prices pertaining to 150 years before. Trips, Baden - Zurich with 'Spanisch Brotli-Bahn' train; all 3 steam locos in steam and all historic electric locos in use at some time during this period.

Zurich Hbf. Official opening of 150th Anniversary celebrations on **8th August** at the Haupthalle at the station. Spanisch Brotli-Bahn display in the Haupthalle; various other events nearby; sales of official postal items. **9th August** Big celebrations in Baden Dietikon, shunting yard at Limmattal and Zurich Hbf. Public rides on the Spanisch Brotli-Bahn train. Naming of 460 'Limmattal'. International train parade, Limmattal Marshalling yard, Dietikon. Special editions of local newspapers. More official ceremonies at the Haupthalle, Zurich. Departure of official train, music and eating as in 1847. **10 August** Public services with Spanisch Brotli-Bahn train. Rolling stock exhibition at Zurich Herden.

5 August Start of 4 weeks of Festivities in various parts of the Ticino concentrated on the weekends examples:-

16-17 August Open days at Bellizona loco and carriage works as well as the depot.

30 August-1 Sept. Rolling stock exhibition at Biasca and Mendrisio. All types of stock.

6-7 Sept. Exhibitions at Lugano - Veduggio and Chiasso on the theme of 'Transport and logistics in freight traffic'.

13-14 Sept. Close of Ticino celebrations. Events in co-operation with FS, FLP, FART/SSIF and ships of Lake Maggiore at Chiasso and Mendrisio.

20 - 28 Sept. Zurich Hbf: Model Railway experience, Lego will have a model of the station; Marklin a layout, Eurodisney will be there.

24-26 Oct. Zurich Hbf: Railway 'Bring & Buy' models, antiques. SBB will be selling spare posters from its Archive stock.

There is much more, railway events, sport, music, etc. NEXT ISSUE



Above: Bdt 1722 heads train 145, the 13.52 to Filisur, at Davos Platz on June 24th 1995. The remodelled cab front with the removed gangway door is clearly visible.

Below: BTI twin unit Bt 552/Be4/4 405, in white, red and blue dazzle painted livery, stands at Ins on 1st June 1995 after working train 7070, the 13.03 from Biel/Bienne.

