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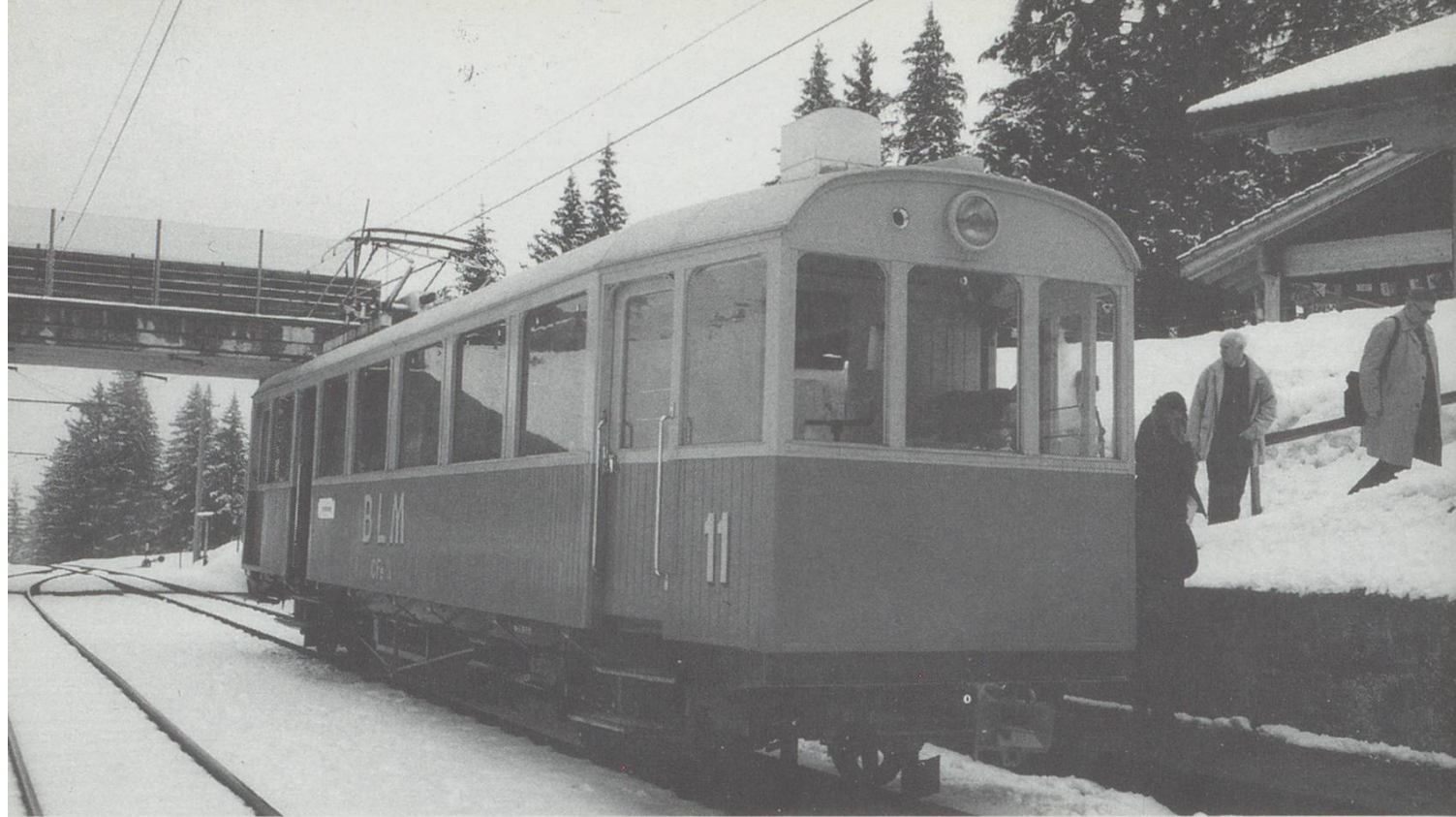
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The Annual Conference of the Schweizer Verband Eisenbahn Amateur by Alan Pike OBE

The 49th Annual Conference took place at Matten, near Interlaken on 13/14 April, I was invited as a guest to attend the proceedings at which it is practise to give a short address (in German or French) to the delegates before the start of business. The Swiss Railways Society is one of the few 'foreign' organisations affiliated to the SVEA and the invitation provides opportunity not only to inform the delegates of our progress but also to meet officers of the SVEA and of the constituent clubs.

It is also a time when important information about forthcoming events is first revealed and this year was no exception with a mass of data about the 1997 celebrations from which details of the events are being put together to appear in a special supplement with the September Swiss Express.

Members should know that it is as a consequence of our affiliation that individual members may subscribe to the "Eisenbahn Amateur" at extremely favourable rates. This is a unique concession to SRS members and a little concern was expressed that the numbers taking advantage of it had declined. Those who are already subscribers will, we hope, continue especially because there will be no increase in

Above: BLM, CFe4/4 11 used to convey party on afternoon trip, from Grutschalp to Winteregg.

price for 1997, indeed it may be that we can OFFER A REDUCTION TO EXISTING SUBSCRIBERS and a small incentive to NEW SUBSCRIBERS for 1997. Watch out for the application form in the SEPTEMBER issue of 'Swiss Express'.

It is usual to provide delegates to the conference with an interesting visit or train journey on the second day. This year was no exception for a typical train of yesteryear on the BOB was provided from Interlaken Ost to Lauterbrunnen and a visit was made to the BOB workshops at Zweilutschinen where the organising club's layout was examined. Restored BLM BDe2/4 11 of 1913 took us from Grutschalp to Winteregg. The weather could hardly have been worse. In the valley it poured with rain on both days while some 6" of new snow covered the ground at Winteregg which, for much of the time we were there, was wrapped in cloud. However, it was a great experience and the thanks of everyone must go to the organising club, MEFEZ, of Zweilutschinen, for their hard work in making it a memorable occasion.