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16th SPRING MEET - CARLISLE - 8th March 1997

If you have a layout or an item for display let Willie Mc Knight know as soon as possible, he might be able to fit you in. Tel: 01236 729499

PHOTO PRINT COMPETITION

Photos should not exceed 7" x 5" and should fall into the following categories:-

1. Swiss Railways

2. Swiss Scenery

3. Humour

All photos must be taken in Switzerland.

All photos should be clearly marked with the owners name.

Entries will be accepted at the Bring & Buy stand at the meeting.

Continental railways in Yorkshire by Peter Dransfield

On Saturday the 30th November 1996, the 4th Annual Model Railway Exhibition was held in Mirfield, West Yorkshire with the emphasis on Continental Railways. A number of Societies were represented with both layouts and publicity stands. These included the Swiss, German, Italian, Austrian, Japanese and Hungarian Societies. The Exhibition consisted of over 20 layouts and stands including MITV and Platform 5 the publishers of Today's Railways.

The Swiss Railways Society was represented by three layouts and a publicity stand manned by Alan Pike and Peter Dransfield with assistance from member Clifford Spivey.

The Bernese Dogs were well received pulling their festive coloured carts through the Town Centre at various times during the day. Jeffrey Long, the President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club attended the Exhibition for most of the day in full traditional Swiss dress. A number of new members were recruited from an attendance of over 1,000 visitors. The Exhibition was opened by Miss Debbie Lindley, Yorkshire Television's local weather presenter, who made a visit to the Society's stand during the course of the day.

This exhibition is fast becoming an established event mainly for its continental presence, and bookings are already being received for 1997.

EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

The last twelve months have flown by, looking back it has been a mixed year, the Swiss franc has at last started to go in our favour making Switzerland more affordable, so no excuses for not trying to visit this year.

I have been in contact with the Hotels that supported us last year and they will do so again this year so you can travel by your own favourite method and stay for a while in Switzerland, combine it with a visit to part of the 150th celebrations. A leaflet with this issue has been supplied by Switzerland Tourist Office. I have a few extra, if anyone wants an extra one please send a large stamped self addressed envelope.

Please keep the articles coming, I have quite a few walks in different areas, but visits to different railways would be welcome.

I have used the Editor's power to have a coloured cover to celebrate the 150th Anniversary.

I am now on the Internet, whether this is for the better I'm not yet sure, my email address is:-

heathservices@btinternet.com

If you wish to send articles or just converse I will do my best to respond but please be patient, I am still fighting with the machine and it seems to win quite often. You can still send articles by post so don't be shy, write something about your trip to Switzerland and share the experience with us all.

On my last visit to Switzerland I was fortunate enough to bump into an English gentleman who went to Switzerland several years ago for a short working visit and then married a Swiss lady and ended up staying. He works for Swiss Radio International and was so fascinated as to why 1000 'foreigners' were interested in Switzerland and its Railways that his radio station is sending him to the Society's AGM in Carlisle to find out more. He will be interviewing some members about the Society for a future broadcast and giving us a short after dinner talk about Swiss Radio International.

My thanks to all those who have supported me and the magazine in the past year.

Les Heath