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DUO WITH ST BERNARD

The well known Duo Vreni and Rudi never perform without Johnny, their huge St Bernard. Despite his size Johnny is still only a 'baby', but a baby that apparently knows what he wants. Johnny loves the limelight. Whenever Vreni and Rudi present their show of country music, Johnny is always there on stage with them. He does not perform any tricks himself, but his presence alone has made the duo even more popular with their audiences.

Vreni Bieri is a top class yodlerin and Rudi Margritter has been a successful musician and composer for many years. They are married to each other and live in Illnau (Zürcher Oberland). They are often called 'the most beautiful country music duo' or 'the dream couple of country music'. The story did not tell what sort of 'alcoholic medicine' Johnny was carrying in the little barrel around his neck.

SWISS BLUE HELMETS

Bière (Waadt) has been chosen as the training place for the new battalion of "Blue Helmets", "Blue Berets" and military observers (see Helvetia, January issue) that Switzerland has decided to create as part of its contribution to world peace.

At the same time, the Federal Council also decided to centralise in Lucerne the training for all higher ranking officers. To make the Lucerne army camp available for this purpose, the training of infantry recruits which used to be done there will now be transferred to the army camps of Aarau and Liestal.

DEATH OF A VERY FAMOUS PARROT

SCHAGGO, the parrot that belonged to the world famous doctor Albert Schweitzer, died in the Jura village of Le Noirmont. Schaggo was born in Lambarene where it had been rescued by Albert Schweitzer after it had fallen out of its nest. From then on Schaggo was a constant companion to the doctor. Schaggo spoke several languages and dialects, amongst them French, "Baseldütsch" and several african dialects. It could also imitate various human voices. Schaggo will 'continue' its life as a stuffed parrot.

22ND EIDGENÖSSISCHES JODLERFEST, SARNEN, OBWALDEN

18-19-20 JUNI 1993

The organisation of these festivities are already in full swing. The organisers of the 22nd "Eidgenössisches Jodlerfest" expect this to be an even greater success than the last one in Brig. Excitement is growing by the day in Sarnen and in the surrounding area where many thousands of spectators are expected to congregate during these festivities. More news on this event will appear in the next issues of the Helvetia magazine.

AXENSTRASSE

Although the Axenstrasse is open again (see Helvetia October issue) its total reconstruction was planned to start in 1999. However the Cantons of Schwyz and Uri tried to convince the Federal Government to advance the date of the reconstruction to 1996, but the Government rejected their request in view of the unfavourable economical situation and the Government's lack of funds.



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