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Survivor – just – of the golden age

A SFR. 3 million campaign has been launched to save a 19th century hotel described as "one of the last representatives of Switzerland's golden age of tourism" from demolition.

Initiator of the scheme is Franz Weber, the Swiss environmental campaigner and conservationist. He has started a foundation to buy and run Giessbach Hotel, perched romantically above the Lake of Brienz in the Bernese Oberland, and turn it into a national social and cultural centre.

Built in 1884 by French architect Horace Eduoard Davinet, with round towers, wrought-iron balconies and gables, the hotel has been closed since 1980.

Its owners, Erwin and Fritz Frey, said it was losing money and announced plans to demolish it and erect a labour-saving chalet-style building in its place.

Their plan was opposed by a group which includes architects and art historians who claimed

the hotel could stand for another century if renovated.

Now the Frey brothers have agreed to Mr Weber's scheme for the foundation to buy the hotel – plus 22,000 square metres of grounds, including the spectacular Giessbach waterfall and funicular railway – for Sfr. 3 million. They will then donate Sfr. 1 million of this sum to the foundation.

Mr Weber hopes that by next May the foundation will have the money to buy the hotel.

Planning ahead

SWISSAIR has outlined plans for its fleet of Boeing 747-300 aircraft, four of which are scheduled for delivery next year and a fifth in

1984.

The new aircraft will serve routes to the US next year and will eventually operate to the Far East and South Africa.

The jets each cost Sfr. 180 million, a major commitment for an airline of Swissair's size, according to the carrier's president Robert Staubli.

He told guests at the roll-out ceremony in Seattle: "We had several good reasons for acquiring the new 747. One was to ensure an adequate market-oriented composition of our long range fleet in consideration of the phasing out of our DC-8-64 aircraft.

"Furthermore, and most important, the 747-300 gives us a

valuable degree of flexibility. To cope with the increased cargo demand, some of the new 747s will be combi-version."

Mr Staubli said traffic growth on some routes warranted increased-capacity equipment.

British award for hotel

THE Hotel Olivella au Lac at Morcote, near Lugano, has won a 1982 "Wedgewood Top Fifty" award from the famous British tableware firm.

The award was for "outstanding gastronomic excellence at acceptable prices" in the hotel's La Voile d'Or restaurant.



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