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MAILBAG

Dear Sir,

On 3rd September 1995 I was at the Oensingen Balsthal Bahn steam festival (see December 1995 'Swiss Express') and found the SBB 'Railshop' coach. Included amongst the myriad sale items were SBB uniforms, and I purchased a couple of pale grey shirts.

Over the winter I came to appreciate these shirts, they are excellent quality, Swiss made, warm, easily washed and ironed, and I looked forward to buying some more this year.

Unfortunately, the OeBB decided not to hold a steam festival in 1996, so I could not visit the 'Railshop' coach. Whilst we were in Luzern I decided to try to track it down.

The information desk lassie looked at me most doubtfully, she had never heard of such a thing. I insisted that I had visited it. She went off to ask someone else. The queue was lengthening behind me, and we had planned to catch a train to visit the Schinznacher Baumshulbahn (after reading about it in 'Swiss Express' March 1993) and time was wearing on. Eventually she returned and said that yes, it did exist, but they were not sure where it was or which department it came under, but thought it might be at Brugg.

If I could wait they would make some telephone calls. We had to dash off, so we left it at that.

On another day, at Zug, I enquired again. The lassie explained that she was not from around there and had never head of it. Again she went away and made some telephone calls and said that she too thought it was at Brugg, but was probably shut that day, and nobody seemed to know anything about it much.

Finally, on another day, we went to Brugg. Again, the lassie was extremely sceptical, and only by me reassuring her that two other places had said that it was at Brugg did she finally go off to the telephone. She returned full of information, the place where the 'Railshop' was, was just across the tracks via an underpass, turn right past a kiosk to the 'Zentraleinkauf'. This is where all old documents, relics, old items of uniforms etc. were sent. At last! She even gave me a little map and with a highlighter marked the route. We rose to go. Then she hit me with the bad news. The place was closed, it closed early on a Friday,

was only open limited hours anyway (although nobody knew what they were) and would not be open again until Monday, possibly. This was bad because we were leaving on the Monday. Does any reader know any more about the 'Railshop'? Is the coach based at Brugg? Has anyone visited the depot and actually bought anything? Any advice would be appreciated so that next year I can plan well in advance to actually get there!

Ron Smith,
Banffshire

Dear Sir,

Could I please pass on my appreciation for the efforts that you and the Committee carry out on mine and the members behalf, I realise that you all work on our behalf for the 'love of it'. I took advantage of three offers from the Swiss Express this year the first was Anthony Lamberts book, the next two were the offers from the Golden Pass and the Hotel National, both of these establishments could not have been friendlier, the food and service was superb as was the accomodation, It was nice to see the Society mags in the 'library' at the Hotel National.

Please keep up the good work and I for one would will consider taking advantage of any offers that you can arrange for next year.

Dear Members,

If you are replying to advertisers in the Swiss Express please be sure to mention that you are a Society member and that you have read their advertisement in the Swiss Express, this lets them know that they are investing wisely in supporting the Society.

Would you please keep sending in your articles for the Swiss Express, with or without photographs, all are most welcome, it has been nice to meet so many members on holiday in Switzerland, remember if you need advice about different areas etc. please contact me, if I can't help I know a committee member who can.

Thanks for your support.
Les Heath, Editor