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Autor: Stone, Bryan
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some 2-axle wagons and others acquired second-hand from DB. Claimed to be the most successful Swiss wagon design, they are now mostly hauled by Re6/6s. In June 2012 a jubilee train was put together by Urs Berger, the gravel pit owners, and the DSF museum, to run along the Rhein valley line with one of the preserved Crocodiles. There is a detailed booklet, 'Die vierachsigen Kieswagen, 1962-2012', on the gravel wagons and their work (www.containercars.ch). 



TOP: No.13256 at Stein-Säckingen 1969.

Photo: Bryan Stone

BELOW: Modern Re 6/6 operations.


Photos: Don Gatehouse



BRAMBLE THE SRS DOG Bryan Stone



Bramble is an Irish Setter, and had her own annual season ticket to ride Swiss trams and trains, steamers and cable cars. And ride she did, becoming an expert at leaping up three steps, at wriggling into the space under the table, and creeping into the corridor to see what's what, or asking for bones when the minibar came round! She went on narrow-gauge and inter-city trains, always in the First Class, in ice and snow and blazing summer days, but also on the Gellmerbahn (106% and not easy), to Bière and Pons de Martel, and the Brienzer Rothorn, and many steam museum trains. That's how she got into *Swiss Express*, describing the days out she organized for me and SRS visitors. She learned to distinguish an Ae6/6 from a Re 4/4; to smell a Mallet a long way off; to supervise events on the platforms, and to make for the grass and the station fountain (increasingly rare these days).

But Irish Setters do grow older; in May 2012 she had an emergency operation and had drastically to slow down. Now she is nearly 13, and since I also recently had an operation, which reduced my train riding for a while, Bramble has truly retired. She is with my daughter, who bred her and many others, and sleeps and eats, and dreams of outings long past at Susan's kennels in the Bernese countryside. She will ride the rails no more. So she asks me to say thank you to those members who ask about her. She assures them that she has enjoyed helping them, has seen quite enough trains for one dog's life, and is very contented. 

Editor's Note. Bryan's daughter Susan is an internationally renowned breeder and judge of Irish Setters. Her dogs are regular winners at Crufts. Bramble has a good lineage.

TOP: Bramble enjoyed her days out on the trains.

RIGHT: Though perhaps not waiting in the rain at Planalp.

Photos: Bryan Stone

