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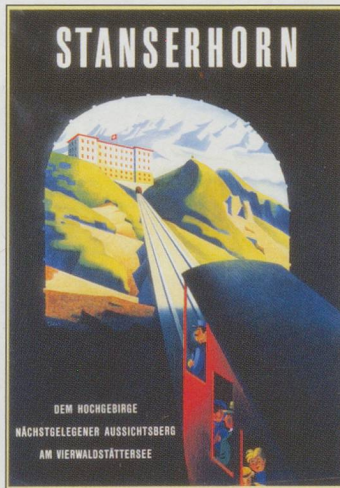
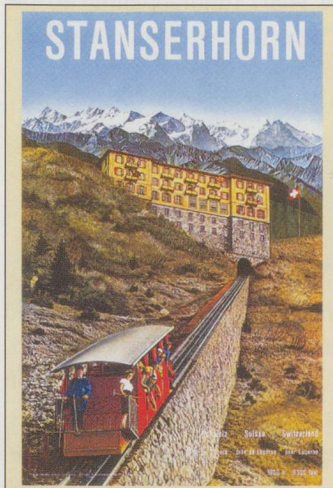
Past Times - 1

Trevor Bond recalls his first trip to Switzerland



Having acquired Cecil J. Allen's *'Switzerland's Amazing Railways'* in 1965 it whetted my appetite for my first visit to Switzerland in 1968. Subsequently I have made 31 visits, always staying in Luzern, my first destination some 47 years ago. My memories of those early years are now somewhat vague, but on that first visit, or it may have been the following year, one journey still remains vivid. This was the climb of the Stanserhorn from Stans. In those days the journey consisted of three separate funiculars requiring changes of cars at two intermediate stations.

Each section became progressively steeper, starting at 1 in 8 and finishing at 1 in 1½ - real white-knuckle stuff. On the way up one did not get any inclination of the views about to unfold, the final stop being inside the original hotel, and only on walking through to the terrace did one see the magnificent span of mountain peaks spread in front of you. In 1974 a lightning strike caused the top funicular and the hotel to be destroyed; today the trip is accomplished using one funicular and an impressive double-deck cable car, but the view still remains as impressive as ever. 



All pictures are of postcards from the collection of Michael Farr.