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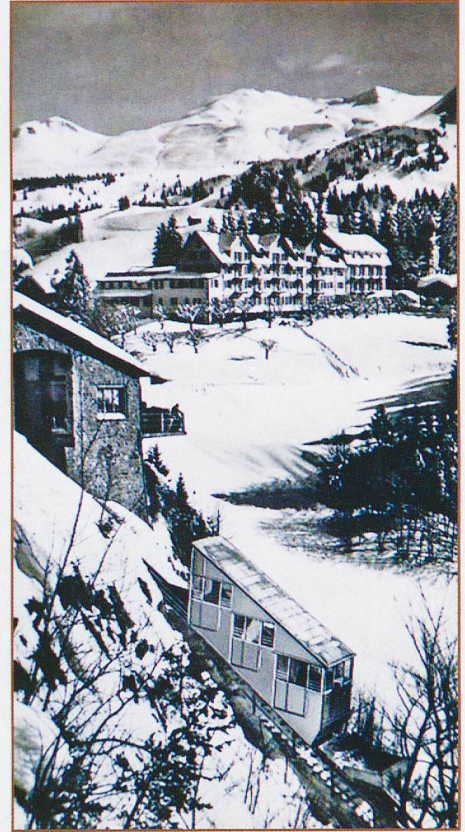
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Three views of the Stoosbahn from past times.

passing loop at its halfway point. The original 50-seater cars were replaced in 1971 by new 97-seat vehicles (with an unusual stepped roof line) from Gangloff of Bern that gave the line a peak capacity of 1,000 passengers/hour. Both the original and replacement vehicles included facilities for handling freight, with around 7,000t being handled annually in addition to some ½ million passengers. At the time of the replacement of the cars the whole of the line was modernised with a new cable drive, new valley and mountain stations and a replacement bridge by the base station. With the concession due to expire in 2010 the operator commenced a feasibility study in 2004 to consider the optimum manner in which to upgrade the facility. Many options were studied and rejected and ultimately, with time running out, the Federal Office of Transport (BAV) was forced to give a 3-year extension to the franchise, and has subsequently given

two more resulting in the current line having to close by the end of 2017. In practice the line will run its last trips on the 16th December 2017, when a completely new funicular on a new alignment is due to open the next day.

In addition to the funicular, the village of Stoos is also served by a 150 person/hour cable-car from Morschach, built in 1981 by a private company and now owned by the funicular organisation. Other cableways on the Stoos plateau are two linked four-seater chairlifts dating from 2000 that climb to the Fronalpstock (1922m); a six-seater chairlift (with seat heating!) that opened in 2007 and climbs to the Klingenstein (1935m) and the ski lifts Maggiweid, Sternegg and Holibrig among other tourist facilities for skiers or hikers. +

To be continued, when we will look at the new funicular.

Where's Heidi?

If you wanted to look down on your fellow waiting passengers, where would you find these unusual double-stacked platform seats? +

Answer on page 43.




And finally... The Bernina Monster

Experience something unique to Switzerland

Bernina-Hospiz


ABOVE: A view of our steam-powered snowplough, 'The Bernina Monster'.

BELOW: The snowplough.

The Rhätische Bahn's steam powered snowplough is the world's only one still in operation. The 60-ton monster is over one hundred years old and the 3-ton rotating blade has no problem in casting the snow aside. It has even been known to free the track of rocks and whole trees! Our friends at the STC are offering SRS Members the opportunity to get close to the action with a 3-night package including the snowplough excursion in February 2018. The 5% Swiss Railway Society discount can be applied to this package. Places are very limited and available on a first come, first served basis. For more information visit www.switzerland-travelcentre.co.uk/tours/berninamonster or call STC on 0207 420 4934. 



Where's Heidi?

You could go up in the world at Zofingen. 



Rob Morley's "End of the line".

Why is there a signal on Platform 5 at Cornaviv station?

