

Since May 1, 2014, Ueli and Vroni Pfister have been running the Kurhaus as the Hotel

Kurhaus Grimmialp. The Grimmialp is no stranger to them, as they have lived at the Kurhaus with their four children since 2007. Ueli was a chef

for his predecessors. The concept has changed with the takeover so that every guest of the Diemtigtal, both individuals and groups, can now stay at the Hotel Kurhaus Grimmialp. The hotel

is open year-round.

In order to run the hotel, it relies on patrons. We sincerely thank you for your support in any form.

As hosts, it is important to us that our guests feel at home on the

Grimmialp. May God meet our guests in his own way, just as He does for every person who comes and goes here. As a team, we want to serve our guests and contribute our part by providing them with excellent care.

The Grimmialp Kurhaus was built in 1899 and operated as a hotel until 1946. Its initiator was J.J. Rebmann, a member of the National Council, born in 1846 in

Schwenden. The mineral water, which was piped from the Alp Grimmi and used for drinking and bathing cures, gave the spa establishment its name Grimmialp. As early as 1903, the cooperative was converted into a joint-stock cooperative for financial reasons. Among the first guests was the

"jungle doctor" Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), who, with one exception, spent his holidays at the Kurhaus every year from 1901 to 1909.

Due to ongoing financial constraints, Rebmann took over all shares and mortgages in 1910, and from 1911 onward, the Grand Hotel and Kurhaus Grimmialp was a family business. The necessary adjustments were made to accommodate winter operations: the installation of bay windows and central heating, a new water supply connected to a small power plant, an ice rink, and much more. The first year of operation yielded a modest net profit.

World War I, however, halted the hoped-for boom. When hotelier Rebmann purchased the first car in the valley in 1920, he only received, after some resistance, permission to drive on the valley road!

The owner's daughter, Pauline, married Rudolf Kunz, a bank cashier from Thun. Together they continued to run the hotel. Rising prices

and the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1920, which kept guests away, created new difficulties. The private accommodation of the English couple Storeys in the winter of 1919/20, when the hotel remained closed, led to a long-lasting friendship, with financial commitment from the Storeys and numerous English summer and winter guests in the following years. The

Storeys also helped with structural renovations in 1924/25, and the 4% interest on the loan granted enabled him to enjoy extended holidays at the Hotel Grimmialp.

The son of the owners, Ulrich Kunz, describes the period from 1925 to 1930 as a "boom."

The Oey-Schwenden postbus service began in 1926, and hotelier Rudolf Kunz became the first postbus owner.

The winter sports enthusiasts from England arrived in large numbers, having been picked up from the train station by horse-drawn sleigh, often resulting in a considerable train of several meters. The number of overnight stays in 1929 was 3,200 in winter and 2,897 in summer.

The pre-war years were a difficult time for all sectors of the economy, nevertheless, running hot and cold water was installed in all guest rooms in 1938.

During the difficult years of World War II, the postal bus service provided the majority of income. In the fall of 1946, the hotel, including its surroundings, was sold to the public health insurance fund of the city of Basel for 400,000 francs.

The Gasthaus Rothbad and Kurhaus Grimmialp, which were supported by great private initiative and a great willingness to take risks in politically uncertain times, were of great economic importance to the valley.

Until 1989, the Hotel Kurhaus Grimmialp was run as a spa and hotel under various managers, with varying degrees of success. The "Pro Grimmialp" cooperative, founded in 1991, aimed to acquire and operate the spa. Significantly, older people in particular supported this project. They still remember how they or their parents earned welcome income working in the kitchen, the hall, the rooms, or the laundry, maintaining the buildings, preparing the ice rink, carrying skis, guiding tours, or driving wagons. And many a young man found a capable wife among the employees here!

Ulrich Kunz, grandson of the initiator J.J., who died in 1991,

was the grandson of the founder, J.J. Rebmann, foresaw the future of the Kurhaus in 1990 as follows: "It is absolutely certain that the foundations for a touring center still exist on Grimmialp. The mountains are still in the same place as they were in 1900." -----

History 1899 – 1991: Partial excerpt from pages 47 – 49 about the Kurhaus Grimmialp.

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