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- Noting that La Jolla is an international community with a sizeable Swiss population, Switzerland Tourism held a luncheon for travel writers at George's at the Cove on Nov. 19. While the Swiss contingent was promoting travel to their unique country, its members were impressed with La Jolla's beauty. The lovely dining room at George's was bathed in San Diego's sunny rays as each representative gave an account of their own particular Swiss region. Christopher Adams told of Lake Geneva and the Matterhorn region. This area is known for rare watches, spectacular cuisine, fine cheeses and 47 types of grapes which are harvested each year. Aurelia Carlen represented ZYrich, otherwise known as downtown Switzerland. ZYrich has fine culture with 50 museums and 100 art galleries. It also has some incredible restaurants. One of the more trendy ones is completely dark inside; all the better to promote the senses of taste and smell while giving diners the experience of eating while blind. Claudio Duschletta, representing St. Moritz, brought up some interesting facts. For instance, he said ski passes to Vail are going for around \$60-\$70 these days while a day pass for a ski resort in St. Moritz is only about \$42. Skiing is not the only attraction in St. Moritz, however, as 40 percent of the area's visitors do not even ski. Surprisingly, two of the major attractions are polo and horse racing on the frozen lakes. Approximately 10,000 fans turn out for horse racing on Sundays. Claudio also noted that some skating fanatics, such as himself, enjoy "bobrun" skating — flying down a bobsled run on ice skates. Those insane enough to give it a try must wear full ice hockey gear and a bicycle helmet for safety. Bobrun skaters reach 60 mph, so, as Claudio put it, skaters absolutely must stay up on their skates throughout the course.
- A wonderfully fitting memorial service was held for reporter Natalie Best at St. James by the Sea on Nov. 1. Natalie was a longtime journalist in both print and broadcast media. She was one of the few female reporters to cover the Vietnam War. She also wrote many stories for our newspapers. But Natalie's legacy has most to do with her wonderful

personality. She was one of the kindest people anyone could ever meet, always had something nice to say.

As her daughter Jennifer Andrews told me, Natalie and husband Les Dodds were advocates for the homeless: both humans and animals. That explains some of the articles she turned in to us. I remember one specifically about a young homeless man and his pet dog. Les and Natalie helped him get cleaned up. The haircut alone made a remarkable difference. Then they helped him locate his mother and soon mother and son were reunited. It was so much like Natalie to do such a thing. Les, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, took photos of the reunion.

So, sitting in the church and watching the friends and family members pay their respects to Natalie was very touching. The church was filled with notable San Diegans. Sheriff Bill Kollander was one of the attendees, as were a number of retired journalists. Television personality Jack White was one of four who were chosen to say a few words about Natalie. He remembered that she was his news editor and how he met her on his first day at the station. She sat him down and told him she was about to tell him the two most important things he would have to know about the place. It went something like this: "First, over there is the mens room; and over there is the coffee shop." One would have to know Natalie to understand her unique personality.

So, following the service, it meant the world when Les told me, "You know, she worked just as hard on stories for your papers as she did on any stories." That's just the way she was. A truly dedicated journalist, a fantastic example for young reporters, and a fine human being all the way around. We will miss her.

- The village of La Jolla has rightfully earned its reputation as a sunny art colony beside the Pacific Ocean. With this in mind, Architectural Digest and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company showcased six of La Jolla's many art galleries during a private tour and progressive cocktail party called "Art Across America" on the beautiful, balmy evening of Nov. 21. The event began with drinks and hors d'ouvres at Monroe Gallery and nearby Tasende Gallery. Later, the attendees visited Joseph Bellows Gallery, Quint Contemporary Art, Scott White Contemporary Art and Alcala Gallery. Besides La Jolla, the national "Art Across America"

tour included such cities as Boston, Washington, D.C., and Scottsdale, Ariz. Fireman's Fund was building on its reputation as a leader in fine art coverage for the home and commercial coverage for galleries. Architectural Digest devoted four page gallery guides for each "Art Across America" event and the magazine's December issue features a California theme.