



The Roggerli story

Narrated by Edy Roth

Written down by Gerda Maur

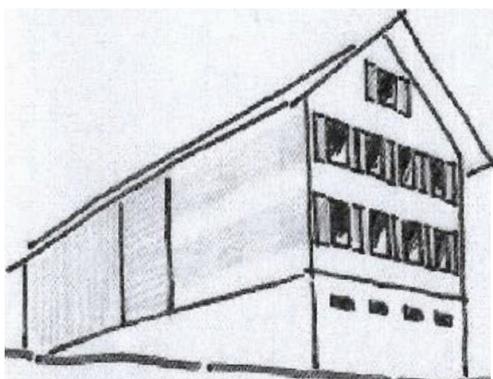
Edited and brought into shape by Markus Roth

Roggerli where does this unusual name come from?

Roggerli is the diminutive of the farm name Roggeren; originally the name was Roggerenweidli, which made it clear that the pasture belonged to the Roggeren. But what does "Roggeren" mean?

The name Roggeren is very probably an early derivation of the word 'Trog'. The original 'Trogeren' can be explained as 'place by a trough' or 'trough-shaped terrain'. The latter can easily be proven from the terrain structure. The current form of the name is probably to be interpreted as a folk etymological adaptation to the grain variety rye.

(Excerpt from the Orts- und Flurnamenlexikon des Kantons Nidwalden 2003. Vol. IV, p. 1737).



""Ur-Roggerli"

Constructed view from the south: Presumed appearance around 1900 (probably earlier). Functionally divided into three parts: stable, threshing floor and living area. The south-east façade shown here in detail will characterize the face of the Roggerli until 1997.



The Roggerli story

The 20th century



Josefa Blättler and Eduard Keiser

Josefa Blättler and Eduard Keiser married in 1891. They had four daughters and ran the Alpgschwänd from 1900 until 1916. After Eduard's death in 1916, Josefa ran the Roggerli as a summer guesthouse from 1918.

This Roggerli story begins with the Keiser-Blättler couple. Eduard, born in 1861, and Josefa, born in 1871, married in 1891.

Eduard bought the Roggerli estate from the Grauenstein owner in 1888. It was initially called Unterroggeren after the Roggeren estate above the Grauenstein. However, as it could not survive on its own, it was quickly given the name Roggerli. From 1900 to 1916, the couple farmed there and in summer on the Alpgschwänd with its inn. They had four daughters together: Josefa, Sofie, Marie and Clara. The father of the four daughters died in 1916, when the youngest was eight years old.



Structural changes before 1920

By 1920, a large shed on the north-west side, a stable and a glazed veranda on the first floor had been built. The picture shows the stable on the left and the veranda in the foreground.



The Roggerli story

The 20th century



Extension 1921

The horse stable gives way to an extension with a kitchen on the ground floor, dining room on the first floor and two rooms above. The picture shows the large shed on the north-west side on the left, the new extension in the middle and the veranda on the south side on the far right.



Extension after 1921

A second veranda was built on the south-east side. Another extension on the north-east side (visible above the veranda).

Josefa began entertaining summer guests at the Roggerli in 1918. She remodeled the farmhouse for this purpose. In 1921, a kitchen was built in place of the horse stables, with a small dining room above it and two rooms above that, so that guests could also be accommodated. A laundry room was then built on the south side and above it a glass veranda, which was used as a restaurant in the summer in addition to the garden restaurant, especially in bad weather. Later, a room was added on the north-east side - with another room above it - and a toilet facility.



The Roggerli story

The 20th century



Marie Keiser and Alfred Roth

Marie Keiser and Alfred Roth married in 1927 and had five daughters and one son together. They ran the Roggerli as a summer guesthouse from 1931.

In 1927, their daughter Marie married Alfred Roth, a neighbor's son from Hungermatt. He had previously worked at home and in the forest, but now took a permanent position in the glass factory. Marie worked in the restaurant and in the boarding house. In 1930, her mother Josefa built the Dorfblick and moved in, so that Marie took over the Roggerli in 1931. Their eldest daughter Marie was born in 1928 and Lisbeth in 1930. Twins Trudy and Edy were born in 1932, Kläry in 1936 and Hedy in 1939.



The Roggerli story

After the Second World War

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Edy began an apprenticeship as a locksmith in 1948. In the winter of 1947/48, he and his father set to work on the first conversion. Other tradesmen were brought in where necessary. The old hayloft in the north-west corner was demolished. A new hall was built, of which the meeting room still exists today, and a dumbwaiter from the kitchen to the hall was installed in the middle. Three new rooms were built above it. The rooms were occupied the following summer by the first Englishmen to arrive after the war. When the rooms in the Roggerli were occupied, up to ten people could still be accommodated in the Dorfblick.



Conversion 1954/55

The large shed on the north-west side is removed in 1948 and the hayloft is converted into a hall. During this conversion, the Roggerli loses its original contours. The roof was raised and the striking extensions were added. The windows on the western corner show the old extension from 1921.



The veranda on the south side will be fully integrated into the building volume. The entrance will be redesigned.



The Roggerli story

In the winter of 1954/55, the upper part of the house - the attic - was extended and the roof was raised. This gave the house with the transept essentially the appearance it still has today. Three more rooms, a bathroom and a WC were created. A hot water boiler was installed in the bathroom.

The old laundry room was demolished and a new one built from scratch, with the restaurant above. Two rooms were built above the restaurant, one on the lake side and one on the loft side. In the following winters, Alfred and Edy installed water pipes in the lower part of the house - starting with the lake side - until all the rooms on the lake side had cold running water. Hot water was brought up to the floor with jugs.

In those years, when a merry party was still together at police time, the lights in the restaurant were switched off and everyone moved into the kitchen to get a good night's sleep.

It is no coincidence that father and son always began their work at the Roggerli in the fall. This is when the furnace in the glass factory was extinguished, and during its renovation, father Alfred had time to work on the house.



The Roggerli story

Luxury cars arrive

Luxury cars arrive

For a long time, the traffic connections to the Roggerli were a particular problem. A footpath led from the village past Roggerli to today's Bergstrasse. On the other side, a footpath also led across the Riedmatt estate to the bridge over the Steinibach. In 1931, Alfred concluded a contract with the Riedmatt farmer Keiser, which allowed him to build a narrow road for the feeder service with the restriction that no "luxury cars" were allowed to use it. After the renovation in 1954/55, the son of the old Riedmatt farmer, who had taken over the property in the meantime, said that the Roggerli was now a hotel and that the Roth family did not have permission for luxury cars to use the road. To prevent any traffic, he installed a barrier between his house and the barn. Marie even had to carry the goods from the bridge to the Roggerli. The pole bearing the sign with the driving ban still stands between the properties at Riedmattstrasse 2 and 4, but today it bears the sign that a 30 km/h speed limit should be observed because of the children.

Guests who wanted to visit the Roggerli by car - very few at the time - were allowed to leave their cars at Riedmattstrasse 2. Edy parked his car in the Hungermatt shed.



The Roggerli story

Luxury cars arrive

Between 1955 and 1961/62, negotiations were held about an access road. In 1962, the passage was contractually regulated and the small road above the barn was built. Around three years later, the Riedmatt farmer gave up farming and sold the land above the little road in 1968. It was sold on and the first house was built. When construction began, the municipality demanded a six-metre-wide road and a two-metre-wide sidewalk in accordance with its regulations. An agreement was then reached on five meters for the road, and the owners on the upper side had to cede two meters for the sidewalk. Edy paid compensation in kind to the Riedmatt farmer for the road construction, who then sold the land together with the road. The Hergiswil road construction regulation was rejected at the Landsgemeinde, which meant that it was no longer possible to extend the road from the barn to the bridge. As a result, the road only exists in its current width with a sidewalk from the house at Riedmattstrasse 10, but at least the passage from Steinibach to Reggerli was now guaranteed, and Edy was able to create a parking lot at the house, which was constantly expanded and redesigned in the following years. Edy parked his car in the Dorfblick garage for a few years. When Hedy bought her car in 1968, Edy's car was given its own Eternit garage, which was moved around the parking lot several times as required, until finally in 1982/83 three garages were built in place of the house garden.



The Roggerli story

The new generation



Ruth and Edy Roth-Krauer

Ruth Krauer and Edy Roth married in 1963 and had five daughters and one son together. They ran the Roggerli as a summer establishment from 1965 to 1973. Since 1974, the Roggerli has been open to guests all year round.

Edy Roth married Krauer in 1963. At that time, his sisters Klary and Hedy were still working in service, as Marie and Lisbeth had done until their marriage. Up to and including 2002 - after a long interruption at the end of the 1960s and in the 1970s - Hedy was primarily responsible for the impeccable cleanliness that is so important for a restaurant kitchen. In 1962/63, the Dorfblick was converted into three apartments and the aforementioned garage was added. Klary moved in on the second floor with her husband Chaby Lindegger and the two eldest boys. Hedy and her husband Fritz Koppel have lived there in the first floor apartment since their marriage in 1969. In 1965, mother Marie handed over the Roggerli to Ruth and Edy and moved into the third apartment in Dorfblick with father Alfred. Marie died in January 1971, followed a few months later by Alfred. Throughout their marriage, the two had always enjoyed arguing. But the fact that Alfred seemed lost after Marie's death and had no more courage or vitality speaks volumes for their deep bond. Hedy and Fritz took over responsibility for the Dorfblick from the community of heirs.



The Roggerli story

The new generation

Ruth followed in her mother-in-law's footsteps in 1965. She took over all the office work as well as the kitchen. Over the years, she succeeded in making the Roggerli restaurant known far and wide as a restaurant serving home-style cooking. If you were asked where you lived when shopping in Lucerne, you would often hear the comment: "I know the Roggerli too. We like to go there to eat." Edy took care of the infrastructure in the broadest sense, but still worked in the locksmith's shop until 1975. From this time onwards, the workload at the Roggerli was so great that he could only work for the locksmith's shop on a temporary basis until 1983. At this time, their eldest daughter Heidi was already 19 years old, having been born in 1964. She was followed by Erika in 1965, Martina in 1966, Ursula in 1968, Astrid in 1971 and - last but not least - Markus in 1974.



Ruth and Edy's children

From left to right: Martina, Ursula, Astrid, Markus, Erika, Heidi.



The Roggerli story

A hotel is being built



Renovation 1968

The old veranda on the south-east side gives way to a slightly wider extension. This now extends to the southwest façade. (Partially obscured by chestnut trees in the picture). The heating and laundry room are now located in the remodeled extension on the northeast side.

Many changes were also made to the Roggerli during these years. In the winter of 1967/68, the new restaurant - one third basement, two thirds projecting - was built in place of the lower veranda. A laundry room and heating system were installed in place of the old extension. The extension extended over two floors, each with two rooms. The new building, including the large and small halls, was heated.

Ruth and Edy wanted to invest further in rooms with hot running water, but this was only profitable if the hotel was open all year round. They submitted a corresponding application to the municipality, which was approved in the fall of 1973. In 1974/75, the Roggerli remained open in winter for the first time. The new kitchen was built, and the planning caused Edy and Ruth sleepless nights because the kitchen

kitchen builders couldn't understand what they wanted. The laundry room and heating system were replaced by the new kitchen and the new heating system under the kitchen and the air-raid shelter on the lake side. The new restaurant section was located above the air-raid shelter. The laundry room was moved into the old kitchen.



The Roggerli story

A hotel is being built



Renovation 1975

The new restaurant is built in a prime location. The kitchen is now located on the north side, hidden behind the new toilet facilities in the picture. This extension has a full basement.



Renovation 1982/83

The building is once again widened towards the lake and now houses the new hall. The chestnut trees of the garden restaurant fall victim to a garden terrace with a basement. Three garages are built to the southwest.

During a total renovation in the winter of 1988/89, the north-western part of the Roggerli is completely demolished and rebuilt almost identically on the outside. An elevator is installed at this time.

In the fall of 1982, the old garden restaurant with the trees came to an end. The hall was extended and a terrace with a basement was added. At the same time, the garden restaurant was extended. Edy made the sturdy tables himself and the lamps were forged according to his design.



The Roggerli story

A hotel is being built

In the fall of 1988, the rear part of the house with the two small halls was demolished and rebuilt from below. The front of the house was moved 70 cm out onto the parking lot. Underneath, there was space for a laundry room and cold room, including a drinks store. A spacious elevator was installed. On the second floor were meeting rooms, the family apartment and a disabled toilet. Three rooms were created on the upper floor and two more in the attic. In 1991, two rooms facing south-west were added above the apartment. All rooms were equipped with a shower and WC.



Reconstruction 1996/97

The upper storeys on the lake side are now widened. The last section of the "original Roggerli" façade disappears. The first guest rooms with balconies are built.

In 1996/97, the lakeside above the restaurant was rebuilt and widened by 2.5 meters. This created space on the second floor not only for Edy and Ruth's apartment, but also for Heidi and her family. There were three rooms with balconies above and two rooms with balconies on the top floor.



The Roggerli story

A hotel is being built

The investments have paid off, because since the opening of the Seelisberg tunnel, the traffic that used to go via the Axenstrasse has increasingly shifted to the A2, bringing a steady stream of overnight guests to the Roggerli in addition to the vacation guests.

Three generations have written their chapters in the Roggerli history book. What began with a garden restaurant and two simple rooms for pension guests in summer is now a cozy restaurant and a hotel with a total of twelve comfortable rooms open all year round.

And there were always children growing up at the Roggerli. If you add them up over the three generations, you get a total of fourteen girls and two boys. But the fourth generation is also ensuring that the tradition continues. Heidi and Darren's three sons - Marc, Roy and Benjamin - currently have their home at Roggerli. No wonder that children of all ages are always welcome as guests.



The Roggerli story

On January 1, 1999, Heidi Valu-Roth took over the management of Hotel and Restaurant Roggerli from her parents. The next generation is writing a new chapter in the Roggerli story. Naturally, we will not live to see the final writing of this chapter, but Ruth and Edy and I, who have followed the development of the Roggerli story for around 40 years and have written it down with great pleasure, are convinced that the fate of the hotel and restaurant is in good hands.



Heidi Valu-Roth

Heidi Valu has been running the Roggerli since January 1, 1999.

Heidi with her children Marc, Roy and Benjamin.



The Roggerli story

Roggerli Renaissance

New life for the Panoramahotel and restaurant under new management

At the end of 2015, Brigitte Pichler and Erich Näf (owners of Möbel Näf AG) took over the lease for the Panoramahotel-Restaurant Roggerli.

From January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016, the entire building underwent a comprehensive renovation. This included a complete redesign of the hotel, from the parquet and carpeted floors in the corridors to new walls, curtains and beds. The renovation was carried out extremely quickly, so that the redesigned Roggerli Hotel and Restaurant was able to open on March 3, 2016.

It is an honor for us to be a part of this important history and to present the renovated Roggerli with its interior design.



At the end of 2015, Brigitte Pichler and Erich Näf (owners of Möbel Näf AG) took over the lease for the Panoramahotel-Restaurant Roggerli and are still running the Roggerli today (2024).