

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste in Bayern

„ALMABTRIEB“ oder „VIEHSCHIED“ / „CELEBRATING THE COWS“



A three-hour procession brought one thousand cows down from their summer of alpine grazing. The “Kranzkuh” gets the honor of wearing especially elaborate decorations. A group of herdsmen – and women – pose for a photograph at the Viehscheid.

with cow hide and fur, even wooden crucifixes. Drinking and eating seem to have a greater appeal than shopping, however, as the beer tent, complete with oom-pah band, is always packed. And the fest goes, in true Bavarian fashion, drink their beer in Mass mugs, which hold a liter of the golden liquid.

Berg said the Viehscheid used to be a fest just for the locals, but its popularity has grown and now visitors come from all over Germany. “But we try to keep it at the same level. We want to keep to its roots,” he said.

At 11:00 a.m. the last group of cows made it down. There was a note of sadness at the finish, however, as the majority of the beasts were loaded into trucks and hauled off to the slaughterhouse.

“At least they had a wonderful summer in the mountains,” commented a woman from Ireland, a guest of Berg’s who was enjoying the party.

