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NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

Auckland Swiss Club

A very happy Christmas Party was held by the Auckland Swiss Club on Sunday, the 9th December, 1962, at the Professional Club, 12 Kitchener Street.

A big, glittering Christmas tree was very much admired by the little toddlers, their eyes reflecting the wonder and joy like shimmering stars.

When Great Grand Ma Went To School," a play rehearsed by Elmer Newland, Brown Owl and Leader of the Ramari Brownies, Westmere, brought us to a scene in a boarding school during the early 19th century with the little girls—trim and proper—studying industriously Geography, when a new pupil was introduced, a youngster very much of our present age, and—*mai c'est terrible, c'est ne pas come il faut*—plays havoc to the rules of the past, causing one girl to faint and the others dashing for the smelling salts. A delightful play and by the merry laughter and giggling of the children a success. Then came Santa Claus—well, some of the bravest little ones turned round meekly and run for cover behind Mum or Dad to reappear only very cautiously and in safe distance, others approached him with big trusting eyes, but most of them too spell-bound when it came to reciting a little nursery rhyme or song. Santa Claus seems to have known quite a lot of all the mischief done during the year as quite a few of them got a birch to their surprise, however, in the end all of them were very happy with a little parcel in their hands.

Christmas dinner was then served and what a feast. Ham and chicken, sausages and chips, tutti-frutti with assorted nuts, ice cream, coffee—a most palatable and delicious dinner. The Swiss Band playing in-between a few tunes, gave the party a very friendly and happy atmosphere.

The Committee members of the Auckland Swiss Club wish to extend the season's greetings to everybody, far and near, and a very happy and prosperous New Year!

—H.B.M.

Wellington Swiss Club

Dance Evening in Wellington

Dear Compatriot, or shall I say—Kiwi . . . or do you expect a Helvetian to read his own magazine?

Asking the President of the Swiss Club: "Who organised the evening at the Brooklyn Community Hall?" he looked surprised. "Me—of course!"—and mind you, he organised it well.

On entering the Hall at 8 p.m. on November 10th (as advertised) I recognised a small crowd in the far corner, apart from a few officials. However, towards 9 p.m. people kept coming in lines, including the trio of Theo Bonnet! My word, those Swiss are really getting the Kiwi idea . . . unfortunately the male majority was 3 to 1. Was everybody scared to show his girlfriend to the Club (I came solo, incidentally. . .), or were there other reasons, I don't know!

Theo Bonnet, not discouraged, played a great variety of tunes in his usual excellent style. He also introduced Diana Brown, a night-club singer, whose charming voice entered everybody's heart.

An interesting dance quiz was launched by the President. He gave every couple one good and one bad chance at the time. Apparently he had so many questions written down, that he wasn't happy until he used them all up . . . the questions.

The supper, with hot Frankfurters (why do Vienna sausages have to be called Frankfurters???)—I don't know), was very welcome, and the beerflow was sound. . . .

Then followed a Beauty Contest, and do you know what it was. . . . It was a men's leg competition, and all the ladies were judging those crummy ol' legs, hidden halfway behind the curtain. Some of the contestants showed, to the morals' disgust, more than half their legs—and there were even people under 21 present (but I didn't report it to the New Zealand Film Censorship Committee!!!) I tell you, it was a great success. A young, bearded architect, who had just returned from a sunny island trip, was chosen winner and earned a bottle of wine.

The dance ended well after midnight, and after everybody vanished, the committee—including the President—cleared up the mess. I don't blame him for not writing his own critic.

Christmas Meeting

The Wellington Swiss Club Christmas Meeting was held on Saturday, 8th December in the Brooklyn Community Hall.

This function was enjoyed equally by the 45 children and 60 adults present. Early in the evening some short films were shown, but the high spot for the children was, of course the arrival of Father Christmas, laden with gifts, who had something for every child. The adults no doubt found as much pleasure as the children in this, for the childrens awe at Father Christmas and their delight in their gifts were a joy to see.

Later in the evening when most of the children had been taken home to bed, entertainment arrived in the form of a dance band and dancing went on gaily until late in the evening. As usual, an otherwise cheerless room was made gay and festive by bright decorations and the serving of coffee and cake throughout the evening added to the party spirit; it was only after midnight that we show, with regret, the conclusion of another enjoyable evening put on by our capable committee.

C. S.

Obituaries

With the deepest regrets we have been notified of the sudden death of Mr U. Victor Benziger at home in Schwyz, Switzerland. only a few months back the deceased has been among us in the

prime of his health. The Auckland Swiss Club had the honour to have him on two occasions as a guest and everybody who had the opportunity to meet him, was impressed by his prominent and friendly personality. His interest in our way of life and admiration for the many strange beauties of this country will be remembered always.