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Auckland Swiss Club

WEDDING BELLS

The wedding of Miss Doris Diethelm to Mr Fritz Baertschi took place recently at the Tabernacle of the Baptist Church, Queen Street, Auckland. The Reverend G. H. Carter officiated.

The bride, who was given away by Mr Guild, wore a short, bell-shaped gown of white brocade with embossed, silver crested roses. The bodice had a wide-cut bateau neckline, short sleeves and a lovely toga of white chiffon, attached by two roses at the back of the neckline and falling to the length of the skirt. Her fingertip-length veil was held by a white rose of chiffon matching the toga. The bride carried a posy of white tuberosies with a pearl-white rose in the centre. The bridesmaid, Miss Margaret Guild, wore a pale yellow dress of Swiss embroidered satin with a coronet of roses in her hair and a posy of pale blue tuberosies. The best man was Mr G. Bolstead.

Miss Diethelm, who arrived in New Zealand only six months ago, lived for many years in London and comes from Zurich; Fritz Baertschi, in New Zealand for not much longer than his bride, comes from Eggiswil, Emmenthal.

After the wedding a small reception was held at Mr and Mrs A. L. Mueller's residence, followed by a lovely drive to the Wai-takere. In the evening, true to the tradition of the "Emmenthal," a big wedding-dinner was given by Mr and Mrs Baertschi at the Professional Club. It started with a cocktail, followed by grilled chickens, rice, salads, red and white wine. To the delight of the guests, the wedding cake, made by Joe Keiser, Sandringham, had the ingredients of the "Torten," so well known in Switzerland.

Musical entertainment was given by Charly Rickenbacher and Louis Mueller and neither Kiwis nor us Swiss could resist dancing to their tunes until early in the morning. Mr Eugen Huebscher as usual entertained in between with humorous items, dancing also the "Hula" with Miss Monk.

Rather overwhelmed, and a bit tired too from their big day, Mr and Mrs Baertschi left the party well after midnight. All of us wish them happiness and the very best for their future.

BARBEQUE A SUCCESS

The "Barbeque," held by the Club on March 9th in the popular Redwood Park at Swanson, was again a full success. Although this summer night with a rising moon definitely had a touch of the

autumn, it did not deter people from coming. They started to arrive as early as 6 o'clock and a while later the hall, gaily decorated with lampions, was nearly full. Outside the hall, Mr F. Baertschi was busy fanning the fire for the Barbeque and later on was selling hundreds of sizzling hot Bratwurst, attended by his wife. The new Kegelbahn, duly inaugurated by one last little shower, was in full operation until late into the night. When finally a party of the Hillsborough Football Club arrived, the dance floor was full up and the enthusiasm to dance remained until early in the morning.

Our guest, Miss Dorena Borich, entertained us with a few songs in Italian, Yugoslav and English, accompanied by her own accordion and emphasised by a humorous dance to her tunes improvised by Mr E. Huebscher. The guests were thrilled and called out for more and more. Miss Doris Peyer then followed with her lovely yodelling, accompanied by Charly Rickenbacher. The cheering was tremendous and guests and members of the Club rewarded both Miss Borich and Miss Peyer with terrific applause.

Never showing signs of relaxing, our Swiss Band played almost without stopping until early in the morning and in spite of the cold temperature outside, couples could be seen promenading under the trees of this really lovely park cooling off from the very fast dances—or to spoon under the light of the silvery moon!

—H.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

WEDDING BELLS

On February 23rd a little, romantic church at Taupiri saw the wedding of two very popular Swiss Club members—Joe Risi and Theresa von Holzen. Friends of the couple had decorated the church beautifully. The bride wore a short white wedding dress of satin and cut on classical slim lines. Her short veil was held by a circlet of pearls. Mrs Plank was matron of honour and Dianne and Lana Risi were the flower girls. These three wore dresses of pink satin. Walti Risi was best man.

A jolly and happy time was spent at the Huntly Memorial Hall where the wedding breakfast was held. True to the proverbial "Risi hospitality," the groom's parents held an "open house" after the official breakfast was over.

The highlight at Mr and Mrs Risi's residence was the barbeque meal in the evening, where many a Kiwi tasted Swiss Bratwurst for the first time and liked them very much.

For her going away outfit Mrs Joe Risi wore a strawberry pink costume with a navy blue blouse. We wish the young couple all the very best for their married life.

—H.B.

HAMILTON PICNIC

Once again we were very lucky by having perfect weather for our picnic on Sunday, March 10th. Equally perfect were the grounds of Mr and Mrs W. Risi's residence at Ngaruawahia, where our outing was held. Before noon a crowd of close on 200 adults and over 100 children had gathered. Barbequed Bratwurst and bread rolls were in very keen demand as was the excellent coffee with Schillerlocken, Meringues and Zuckerbretzeln—not to mention the liquid refreshments and icecream. The new dance floor, beautifully made by W. Steiner, was duly inaugurated and the first couple on the dance floor, Mr and Mrs Wenk, received a prize.

All through the day there were groups of compatriots who sang lots of old favourites, humorous soldiers' songs, folk songs and yodel songs. Alphorn sounds also drifted around and if you closed your eyes, your ears would have given you the illusion of being at home. The highlight of the sports events was the Soccer match between the Auckland and Hamilton Clubs for the Hans Fitzl Trophy. To everybody's surprise, Waikato beat Auckland in a lively game.

The Committee wishes to thank all helpers and musicians for their efforts to make this picnic such a success. Many thanks to our Auckland Swiss friends for their support.

AGRICULTURAL SHOW STAND

Our Hamilton Club participated in the recent A. & P. Agricultural Show in Putaruru. A stand was reserved which we decorated with Swiss flags, cowbells, lampions, Swiss posters, various articles from Home and the alphorn belonging to the Arnold family. Looking after the stand and answering countless questions was our charming Mrs Arthur Schuler in her lovely national costume. In the evening our Arnold family helped to make up the programme in front of the grandstand with a few items of yodelling, flag-throwing and the alphorn.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The Taranaki Swiss Social Club annual picnic was held at Te Ngutu Domain on February 10th. With a beautiful fine day a large crowd, including visitors from Waikato, attended. With flags representing each Canton strung across the ground and music played by J. Fohn, F. Imhoff, A. Engelberger, P. Amstalden and R. Buhler, together with loudspeaker and Swiss tape music played throughout the day, made it a friendly Swiss atmosphere.

Competition winners were.—

Kegeln: Children, Anna Gwerder 1st, E. Steiner 2nd, R. Dorfinger 3rd; ladies, Mrs J. Schmidt 1st, Mrs F. Suter 2nd; men, A. Muller 1st, J. Wuthrich 2nd.

Steinstossen: Juniors under 18, 16lb shot, B. Meier 1st, Leo Meier 2nd; seniors, Brian Muller 1st, J. Kuriger 2nd.

Nail driving: Ladies, Mrs F. Gwerder 1st, Mrs D. Hiestand 2nd; men, Arnold Hermann 1st, J. Kuriger 2nd. —M.J.S.

Wellington Swiss Club

PICNIC AND SHOOTING COMPETITION

Weil ich schoen gebetet habe am Samstag musste am Sonntag doch die Sonne scheinen. Ich wollte sooo gerne ans Schweizerpicknick mit Daddy! Daddy fuhr aber viel zu langsam, wir wollten einfach nicht ankommen, und dazu hat er dann noch irgendwo sich verfahren. Aber dann gings doch uber die Wiese, wo wir unsern Wagen neben allen andern Autos einstellten. Daddy war wenig begeistert dass ich mich gleich auf den Bach lossturzte. Die Alten sollen sich mit Schiessen und Zigaretten befassen, mich interessieren momentan Wasser und Lollies entschieden mehr. Aus lauter Gwunder aber schaute ich doch hin und wieder zu wie sie sich bemuhten mehr zu schiessen als der Andere. Daddy, hat mir dann auch gesagt, er hatte 34 Punkte geschossen. Jonnie Papa soll sogar noch mehr geschossen haben, aber ich glaube Jonnie will nur gross angeben, mein Papi ist schon der beste Schutze. Daddy war nicht besonders erfreut, also ich den Schutzenstand von vorne sehen wollte, aber schlussendlich konnte ich von hinten immer nur die zwei Zelte und die vielen Fahnen darauf sehen. Der Baer auf der einen Fahne hat mir gut gefallen, der sieht aus wie meiner zuhause.

Als wir am Abend spat nach Hause fahren war ich pflotsch nass und Daddy hoch begeistert. Er meinte, es seien wenigstens 60 Personen dort gewesen und fast alle, die man erwartet habe zum Schiessen. Mami wird such freuen, wenn sie vernimmt, dass es sogar Frauen gegeben hat die gut geschossen haben. Daddy meinte, es hatte auch eiserne Kerle gegeben, die wirklich gezeltet haben trotz des schweren Regens der herunterkam am Samstag. Und nur einen Hitzeschlag soll es gegeben haben: Herr Schaerers Bleistift ist zu heiss gelaufen vor lauter Schreiberei. Hoffentlich gehen wir bald wieder, dann kann ich wieder leere Patronen sammeln und im Bach platchen.

“Chrigu.”

The feelings were mixed when we left Wellington at noon on Saturday in order to put up the Rifle Range for our big Event, the “Schutzenfest,” which took place on the 9th and 10th of March in Kaitoke, near the Rimutaka Ranges. The weather forecast was indeed not of great promise, at least not for Saturday. But, “well begun is half done” and in spite of a drizzly afternoon, combined with “some” showers, quite a number (including one of our great

hopes for both the Wellington and the Swiss Society competition, Mrs Maggie Meier) turned up in good spirits and with lots of confidence. For about three hours shooting was going on in full swing and it was already dark when most of the competitors left the very nice spot on Mr Andrew's farm, leaving behind only a few "tough guys" who, after a chat around the camp fire, crept into their sleeping bags (in a tent of course!).

But what a beautiful Sunday morning!—very promising for a successful shooting event. Towards lunchtime more and more people arrived and soon a proper atmosphere of a real Swiss "Schuetzenfest" was felt. Everybody, including the great number of children, seemed to have had a happy time. The announcement of the winner of the Wellington Shooting Competition concluded this wonderful day out in the country. "Thank you" to those over 60 people who gave our Picnic and "Schuetzenfest" such wonderful support and many, many thanks to the great number of "helping hands."

—H.P.

Obituary

ALOIS SCHNURIGER

A large number of Swiss people and other friends paid their last respects to Alois Schnuriger, whose funeral was held on March 7th in Ohaupo. This was a fitting tribute to a man we all held in very high esteem, a distinction he has earned for his friendly, sincere, helpful approach to everybody.

Loui Schnuriger came from the inner or upper part of the Kanton Schwyz, whose people were known in the older history of Switzerland as the people of the Oberalmig. Perhaps he inherited his intense patriotism from his forefathers which were regarded as the solid core of the old federation. Whenever the Swiss people in New Zealand organised a function, either in aid of the church or otherwise, Loui and his wife and family gave their wholehearted support.

Loui came to New Zealand like most Swiss, with little else than the will to succeed, and with the help of his wife, nee Miss Marie Steiner, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Steiner, Morrinsville, he did very well indeed in rearing a large family and becoming the proud owner of a nice dairy farm.

Unfortunately a heart condition forced him to take things easier for the last few months and although quite well superficially he knew that perhaps he could live for years or be called away at short notice. Our Lord has chosen the latter—however, He has found His servant not unprepared.

To his wife and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

—W.R.