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NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

Auckland Swiss Club

Brilliant sunshine and a lovely breeze made the day perfect for the Christmas Family-Picnic, attended by most families and also other members of the Club.

Vreny and Roland Mueller with other teenagers took charge of the children, supervised by Mr and Mrs E. Flueck, but the supervision was not required for very long, the kids were too busy with the farm pets feeding them with sugar, etc. The Hay-Bales too were an excellent playground and in no time Roland, with his aids, had a raft built which he, as the captain, commanded alternately as a "Kon-Tiki" raft or as a "Pirate-Ship," giving specific orders to the delight of his crew — not forgetting a prisoner taken in for some reason or another. However, not even his plight seemed to be such a bad lot, as his diet was not only "water," but he also got a big sausage, bread, ice-cream etc., etc.

The highlight was when Santa Claus arrived with the pony, followed closely by the tiny filly. To watch the children while Santa Claus distributed the gifts was a special joy for all. Cameras were clicking and the buzzing of movie cameras was heard. Later on, a ride on the pony added to all the fun; also, the bowling alley was a great attraction for the children. It seemed to be their's for most of the afternoon as the men were too occupied with the opening of the shooting range, erected so expertly by Mr Frank Reichmuth.

Our sincere thanks from all members of the Club for all the work Frank had done in preparing the grounds for the Picnic and above all, for the tremendous job digging out the shooting range. Mr Hans Enzler, the chairman for the shooting section, inspected the range and gave his full approval and blessing to the lay-out. Preliminary shooting exercises took place, followed by snap-shooting competitions with lovely prizes to be won. The competitions were won by Mr Norm Mueller, Mr Arthur Mueller and Mr Simi Hartman in the marvelous short time of approx. 14 seconds only.

We have every reason to believe that the shooting competitions will be followed up with great enthusiasm as most attractive medals (Kranz-Abseichen) imported from Switzerland can be won by everyone who is competing and a "Wanderpreis" (Shield) for members only. A plaque with Wilhelm Tell mounted on a fine wooden plate will be a very coveted prize.

Anyone who is interested in a training course for shooting can contact Mr H. Enzler, 3 Boyd Ave., Royal Oak, Onehunga, Tel. 559-183. The range at Mr Frank Reichmuth's property, Chamberlain Road, Henderson, is now open every day. The big competition for "Kranzabzeichen" and "Wanderpreis" (medals and shield) will be

held by a big "Schuetzenfest" on the 22nd February at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road, Sandringham, with the distribution of the prizes. Separate programmes for this occasion will be sent out at a later date. —H.B.M.

WEDDING BELLS

The wedding of Miss Heather Manning to Mr Jakob Glauser took place recently at the St John's Chapel, Belvedere Street, Auckland. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a short pale blue dress with a matching hat and a spray of flowers.

After the wedding a small reception was held at the bride's home. Among the guests were members of the Swiss Club and with Alf Meier playing a few dances with his accordion it added a touch of home, the bride trying hard to dance to the Swiss tunes.

The committee and the members of the Swiss Club wish the couple all the happiness and the very best for their future. — H.B.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

An evening extraordinary was enjoyed by members of the club and their families by the candle lighted Christmas tree at the Riverlea on December 15. Carefully prepared items began with the community song "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht," followed by two items presented by Mrs H. Biland (violin), and Mrs E. Fluhler (piano), then Otto Fitzi played some Christmas tunes on the "Hackbrett."

The adults' and children's choirs, with their songs "Jauchzet ihr Himmel" and "Come All Ye Faithful," provided an ascendo to the very nice "Krippenspiel." It would take too much space to mention the names of all the participants who helped with this, the angelines and angels, the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Wise Men from the East, etc, but everything harmonised so beautifully and it must have been very rewarding for the organising committee when the audience gave them such tremendous applause. Of course there would be no Christmas without a Father Christmas, who had a small parcel for every child and, being his first time out, "father" done his job like a veteran. He was able to win the confidence of the small children accepting gifts.

Supper was supplemented by a plate provided by the lady members and this always puts something just a bit extra into the evening.

The Club's thanks go to the organising committee and all who helped in any way to make the evening such a success. We know that a lot of preparation and, especially, a lot of love went into it beforehand and with thanks may we hope that we see more of this. —W.R.

FOUND at the Riverlea during the Christmas evening: One Brooch.

Wellington Swiss Club

Swiss residents from the Wellington and Hutt area were entertained by the Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland and Mme. Jean-Pierre Weber at a reception held on the lawns and garden of their residence in Lower Hutt, on Saturday, December 7th last.

The gathering was quickly enhanced in a happy atmosphere, inspired by the host and his charming lady. For the "old timers" it was a pleasant reunion and an opportunity to meet old friends again and there seemed to be a good many new and younger faces to strengthen the number of compatriots in the district.

Members of the Embassy Staff did much to contribute to the success of the reception, looking after the visitors' children and making sure everyone was enjoying a full choice of their favourite eats and drinks. To make the occasion perfect, the weather - god made his contribution with a beautiful and warm day. May this be a sign to a happy and successful stay in New Zealand for our Swiss Representative and Mrs Weber.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

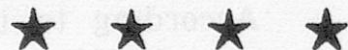
Once again the Wellington Swiss Club Christmas Party was held on Saturday, 14th December in the Brooklyn Community Hall. The function got on its way with a good attendance of children as well as parents. Everybody joined in with hearty singing of our loved Christmas carol "Silent Night."

The children were eager at that stage to meet Father Christmas who really very ably coped with all ages. Once again all children received lovely presents—something to gladden every heart. Looking around one could see that even parents were enjoying this interlude between Father Christmas and the children.

The second part was for the grown-ups to enjoy. With good music to swing one's leg to, and refreshments throughout the evening to keep one's ever-hungry constitution quiet, we danced to the last strains of music and took leave of our friends once more for this year.

We thank all those who so willingly gave their help in making sure of a wonderful success to be enjoyed by all, especially the ones who had all the work in selecting each child's special gift. —I.F.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Auckland Swiss Club

"SCHUETZENFEST"

Further to our notice re "Schuetzenfest" on the 22nd February 1964 at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Rd., Sandringham,