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News of the Colony

Auckland Swiss Club

AUCKLANDERS ON THE GO AGAIN

On Saturday June 4th 1966 a party was held at Imhof's farm in Coroglen, Coromandel. By later afternoon most of the people had arrived, even though the corner house in Coroglen proved to be quite an attraction for some.

At 5.30 p.m. dinner was ready. Blutwurst, potatoes and cooked apples were on the menu followed by coffee and cakes. A real treat, enjoyed by everybody. Well fed and strengthened, a song was started, and for nearly three hours nonstop another and another followed, to the accompaniment of an accordion. Sometimes the seams of the woolshed were about to crack under the volume of the forty-two happy participants.

Bedtime was round about 12 midnight for most. The haybarn and the woolshed proved to be just the thing for sleeping, if not a little hard at times. Tag-wach was made by a most enthusiastic pighunter at 5.30 a.m. For those who did not go pighunting at this unearthly hour, there was quite a prompt awakening in store as a .303 bullet was shot over the haybarn at 8 a.m.

Breakfast was eaten by pighunters and lazybones and then off on another trek, this time to the Slipper Goldmine, approximately a seven-hour walk altogether. The lucky ones who did not go on the trip had much pleasure in peeling some forty pounds of potatoes before leaving for the Hot Water Beach by cars.

When the hungry trampers returned, dinner consisting of Wildsaupfeffer greeted them. Quiet a welcome sight. Another enjoyable evening was passed playing party games.

All good things come to an end, and by Monday afternoon most of the crusaders were on the way back to Auckland.

Many thanks to the Imhof family and the President who organized the party and to the butcher who made the Blutwurst.

Hamilton Swiss Club

ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE CELEBRATION

A most successful dance commemorated the tenth anniversary of our club. The venue: Riverlea cabaret, with its wall-to-wall carpet and attractive sunken dance floor allowing a splendid view for all floorshows and with its renowned hot band and excellent cuisine. To dot the i's and cross the t's, beautiful decorations were arranged by our committee, posters lanterns and flags.

The officialness of commemoration perfectly balanced the informal aspect of the dance. To give dignity to the former, speeches were made by the club's new president Walter Risi, by the Swiss Society President John Steiner, and as the climax, by our honoured guest Charge d'Affairs Dr Weber. One facet of his interesting and

much-applauded speech was his fascinating resume of his research up to date, into the subject of early Swiss immigration to New Zealand. (In this context please especially note the separate paragraph appearing elsewhere in this issue.)

Mrs Weber received a beautiful bouquet of carnations. Arnold Biland, who had just retired as the club's first president, having completed ten years of unstinting service for the well-being and consolidation of the club, and Mrs Biland, were made the first honorary life members of the club. He and Mrs Biland (who also received a lovely bouquet) were presented with a silver tray, suitably inscribed with words of commemoration. They were also asked to cut the anniversary cake, a huge affair decoratively iced with the Swiss Cross and Jubilee inscription. This formal 'cutting of the cake' created some hilarity as both Mr and Mrs Biland were obviously novices at such an activity.

The informal part of the dance was the floorshow, carefully rehearsed, yet seemingly spontaneously rendered between dances: accordion-clarinet, folk dances, Fahnenschwingen, Talerschwingen with Jodel and cowbells, Jodel with 'choir', folk dances executed by five 'Trachtepaerle' and a hilariously funny sketch. Congratulations to all performers.

Guests came from Auckland, Taranaki and Wellington. Very special thanks to Taranaki guest Mr Imhof for his wonderful clarinet playing and to the evergreen accordion duettists Alf Meier and Charly Rickenbach from Auckland.

A good percentage of the patrons were New Zealanders and of continental nationalities. They obviously enjoyed themselves as much as our compatriots. —H.B.

The photos which were taken of patrons at the Jubilee dance, Riverlea, may be viewed and copies ordered at Photo Supplies, 40 Ward Street. Postal address: Kenley Candida, P.O. Box 370, Hamilton.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The Annual Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club was held in the Lounge of the Kapuni War Memorial Hall. Some forty members attended a meeting chaired by M. J. Steiner. The President reported that the Club was in excellent condition both socially and financially. In the past year seven card evenings, four social evenings and one picnic had been held and all had been well attended. The atmosphere at all of these gatherings is a perfect blending of the best of two countries.

The first social evening held very successfully in Kapuni Hall on June 2nd: while not a very big crowd was present, a wonderful

evening was had by all. Our faithful musicians: Mrs Chamberlain, Messrs Fohn, Engleberger and Amstalden helped to make the evening a very enjoyable one.

Card evenings have so far been very well attended, and again all who attend consider it a very pleasant way to meet their Swiss friends.

100 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Two Swiss sharemilkers, working at Pungarehu for Lord Rutherford's father in 1916, decided to have a double wedding at the local Roman Catholic Church, and on Monday, Mr and Mrs A. Kalin, Main Road, Puniho, and Mr and Mrs C. Schuler, Palmer Road, Kaponga, celebrate a double golden wedding.

What's more, the best man of 50 years ago—Mr J. Schuler, Paeroa, and the bridesmaid—Mrs M. Schombachler, Puniho—will be among the guests at Monday's function. So will Mrs C. Schuler's sister, Mrs R. Todd, Nagere, and Mrs Kalin's 30 grandchildren.

Mr Charles Schuler had already been in New Zealand five years before he returned to Switzerland for eight months in 1914. The voyage back to New Zealand took him via America, the Suez Canal being banned to passenger shipping because of the war, and it was en route that he met the future Mrs Matilda Schuler.

"The trip was quite exciting," he recalled. "The ship was followed part of the way by a German submarine. We were lucky to get away and it was sunk on its next trip home."



The combined ages of this happy foursome total 298 years. They are (left to right): Mrs Matilda Schuler, Mr Charles Schuler; Mrs Mary Kalin, and Mr Alexander Kalin.

The cook who provided for the sharemilkers at Pungarehu attracted the attention of one of them, Mr Alexander Kalin, and became Mrs Kalin. Mr Kalin, who is 81, the last in a family of sixteen, had also been in New Zealand five years before he started sharemilking.

Mrs Mary Kalin is 69, and the couple have five children, thirty grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

"We used to milk thirty or forty cows," recalled Mr Kalin, "and then go up to Rutherford's flax mill, where we worked another four hours, at 2s 6d an hour. We finished work there at 12, and had to be up to milk the cows again at 2 a.m."

"This is the best country on earth," said 76-year-old Mr Schuler, who spends most of his time, these days, gardening. Mrs Matilda Schuler, at 72, is a keen bowler, being a member of both outdoor and indoor teams at Kaponga. They have two children and five grandchildren.

—Extract from the "Taranaki Daily News," June 4, 1966

On Monday June 6th mass was celebrated in the Pungarehu Church where the foursome had been married fifty years ago. A reception was held in Okato Hall, some 200 friends and relations attending. All four celebrants were in excellent health and greeted their many relations and friends. A carry-on party took place in the home of Mr and Mrs M. Goodin, a daughter of Mr and Mrs Kalin.

—P.H.

SHOOTING

The Club now owns 3 rifles, and practice shooting is held at Ted Napflin's Range, Riverlea, on the LAST SUNDAY of every month excepting December and January, commencing at 12 noon.

The Committee puts a lot of time into organising these functions—please show your appreciation by your continued support of as many of these functions as is possible.

Your Committee for the 1966-67 season: President, Mr M. J. Steiner; Vice-President, Mr L. Chamberlain; Secretary, Mr P. Hermann; Committee, Ladies—Mrs M. Seiner, Mrs M. Suter and Mrs P. Meyer; Gents—Messrs D. Butler, L. Dettling, J. Hermann, D. Hiestand, A. Kuriger, L. Kuriger, T. Kurman, R. Waldvogal.

Wellington Swiss Club

A week of nonstop rain did little to lift the spirit and helped only the floodwaters and damp clothes. It was therefore an excellent idea to stage a Chilbi and produce a sunny day on May 31st to boost the morale of all Swiss friends. The big hall was very gay with all those balloons, flags, posters and stalls, but rather empty when I arrived. Still, I knew that we are all too polite to be the first arrivals and was therefore not surprised when later on the hall was nicely packed and the stalls did a roaring trade—and what a turnover!

The empty cans—the Kegel—the raffle tickets and sometimes even glasses were continually knocked over, though not always with the greatest success; no, some of those cans persistently refused to dislodge no matter how hard I threw the balls. It didn't dampen my enthusiasm either when I bought one raffle ticket after the other and had a hard job to open them up only to find an empty space greeting me. But, mind you, others fished out the numbers all right and thereafter collected the beautiful prizes.

Oh yes, I also had a go at the ham—or let's be more precise—at a guess of its weight. I never got as far as the ham itself; Mr Schlatter does that more successfully since he came closest with his guess to the actual weight of seven pounds twelve and a quarter ounces. Maybe if I practise more I will get the ham next time.

The shooting was definitely out for me. You didn't know, but I have to confess that apparently not all Swiss are descendants of Tell! However, amongst the ladies, Miss R. Meyer got the highest points, followed by Mrs Wulf. The men had a job to find the best of the best and finally Mr Buhler just topped Mr Wulf. I only wonder what hobby some have to be able to keep the prizes in the family!

After having witnessed some near fatalities, I mustered enough courage to try my feeble strength at the Kegelbahn. Does it matter if I 'thow' this all-too-heavy ball while the boys still put the Kegel in place? They manage to scramble to safety before they get hit and the Kegel doesn't have to worry; they never were in any danger from me. But oh jeh, some of the tables and some of the big toes got their share. Since that evening I very cunningly put nail polish on my toenails to cover the blue! Some were luckier, or is it really some sort of knowledge that helped them? Mrs Messmer was first in the ladies, followed by Mrs Dobos while Mr Wehrli (he ought to, after all he helped to build it and must know its inside) just managed to put Mr Homberger into second place. I made up the rear, to guard against possible dropouts. To be skilful enough to get exactly twenty-one points with three darts calls for some luck, especially if the stand is run by a nice lady. This was all too much of a hurdle for me

HELP WANTED

A reputable New Zealand family is looking for the services of a reliable girl to live in and assist with looking after four young children. Duties would revolve around routine care of children and would be accepted as one of the family. Conditions of living and environment would be excellent. Wages to be discussed according to abilities of applicant.

Please apply Mr Alexander, c/o Alexander Helicopters Ltd, Wanganui.

and the organizers must have known it, because both the dart and the cans were supervised by ladies.

So with all these attractions I couldn't resist the sweets at the stall and soon found myself completely forgetting that I ought not to be as fat as the ham that eluded me. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening that passed only too soon and will remain as a happy memory.

The success of this evening is not in doubt at all, although I do not know how much more is now in the club's account. But I would like to express my personal gratitude to all those many helpers and organizers and let them know that we all did appreciate their work. —“Chlaus”

Special thanks to the old workhorses Mr Schaerer, Mr Wehrli and Mr Hangartner which, as usual, helped to erect and clean up the hall. The same goes for the new arrivals who helped with the same matters despite being partly robbed of their weekly basketball game. —W. Frick

SWISS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Delegates from Wellington and Taranaki, as well as a good number of Hamilton Swiss Club members, attended the Society's annual event in the Swiss Chalet on June 4th. A most cordial atmosphere prevailed all through the meeting; perhaps the excellent Swiss-type dinner (Gespikter Rindsbraten) before the actual business started might have had something to do with it.

The President, Mr John Steiner, in his report, said that due to the increased subscription the Society's financial status was in a much healthier position. He thanked the clubs for their loyal support and the Secretary for his work and also the Press Committee for compiling the news for the Helvetia.

Discussing under general, Mr Paul Hermann, speaking for the Taranaki delegates, wished the Society's aims and objects more clearly defined. He questioned the merits of raising funds when practically all the needs of today are covered by the country's social security scheme.

Replying to this question, W. Risi outlined that considerable hardships can accrue if a new immigrant meets with a serious accident before he or she becomes eligible for social security and that so far the Society had paid out quite a tidy sum of money if all the contributions were added up since its foundation in 1932. Over the period he was closely associated with the affairs of the Society, one mentally ill person was assisted by paying for his board until a passage was available to get him back home to Switzerland and £150 paid towards this passage. A widow, who found herself destitute by the sudden death of her husband, was assisted with £60. Funeral arrangements were made for a young Swiss who was mentally unbalanced and committed suicide. An