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near Hawera, Taranaki

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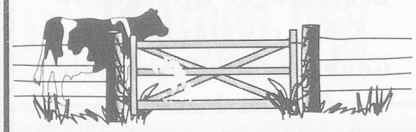

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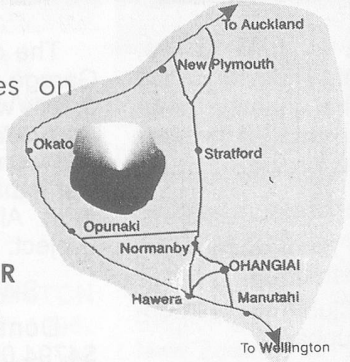
Ph 06 272-2878

Look into a NZ Dairyfarming operation.

Local swimmingpool

4 wheel motorbike-rides on Heremere track.

Come along



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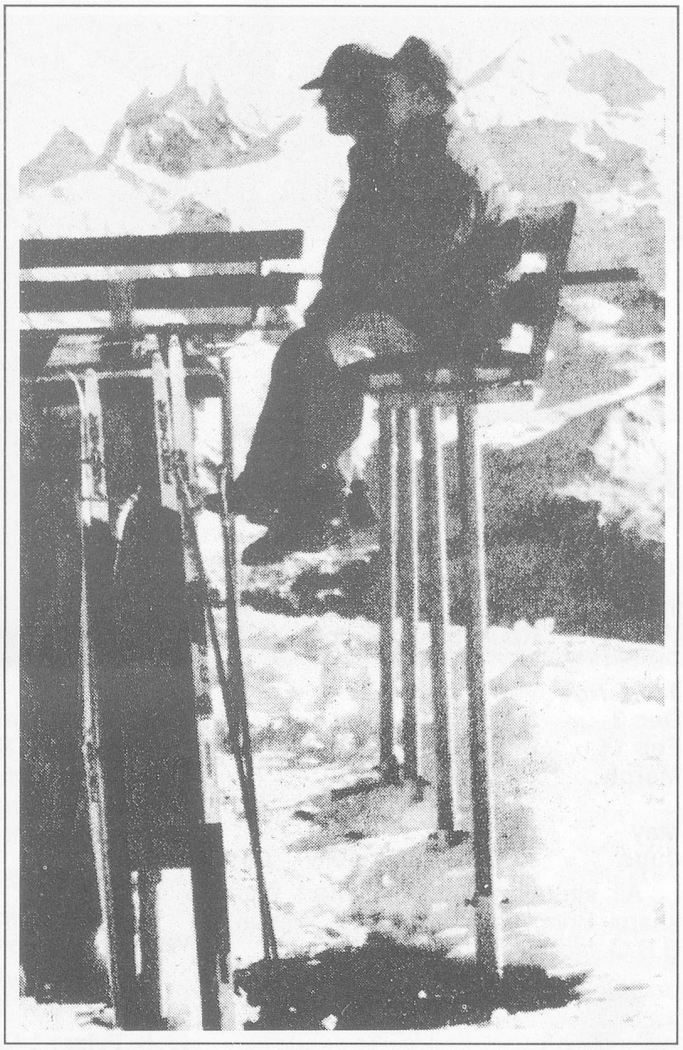

OPERATION 4000

How well do you know your Swiss mountains? Does anyone of you readers know how many mountains there are in Switzerland which are more than 4000 meters high? Have a guess.

There are of course the Jungfrau and the Mönch (but not the Eiger), the Matterhorn, the Monte Rosa massif with the Dufourspitze (highest point in Switzerland in case you had forgotten), the Mischabel group near Saas Fee and the Bernina. Perhaps you also remember the Aletschhorn, Lauteraarhorn, Schreckhorn and Finsteraarhorn, the Breithorn and some of you may even have heard of the Grand Combin with Castor and Pollux and the Lyskamm still lingering somewhere in the back of your mind. But that's about it. So with a bit of luck, you might just about get up to 20 names. But with that you are well below the mark because the total number of Swiss mountains over 4000 meters is 48.

To prove it, recruits from the "Gebirgspezialisten- Rekrutenschule" climbed all 48 peaks within a period of 35 hours. Of course not a single recruit has climbed all 48 peaks in these 35 hours, this would be impossible even for the Swiss army mountain specialists, but they did it in small groups, each group tackling one or more mountains. To achieve this unique feat, some of the climbers, in order not to spoil the attempt, had to endure terrible weather conditions with snow and ice and winds of up to 100 km per hour. But then we all know how stubborn and single minded the Swiss can be once they have set their mind to a specific task.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

But Switzerland is even smaller. Two members of the Auckland Swiss Club are quite convinced of that. Max Bachmann who left Auckland in May and Marie-Theres Melville-Schöpfer who left in August could not believe it when they collided head on with one another at the Lugano railway station on August 30 at exactly 5.09 pm. Neither of them had any idea of the whereabouts of the other until they bumped into each another on this faithful day. Coincidences are sometimes stranger than fiction.

MAMMOTH FIND

Workers digging a hole in the ground for a new building in Münchenstein (canton of Basel-Land) discovered a very well preserved mammoth tusk measuring over 3 meters in length. According to some experts, the tusk belonged to a mammoth that lived or rather died there some 20,000 years ago.

AWAITING THE SNOW

Like every year, snow is slow to fall in the Alps at the beginning of winter as proven by this picture of a "Snow Bar" set up in the Parsenn ski area near Davos. Question: How did these two guys get up there? Have they been drinking at the bar when the snow melted at the end of last winter and have been sitting and waiting there ever since during the whole summer for the snow to return to allow them to get off their perch? A baffling mystery.

of Switzerland

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