

"85th Birthday"

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COMMITTEE ELECTION.

The newly printed By-Laws reached members only a few weeks ago and in view of the fact that due notification could not be published two months prior to the end of our financial year (see Paragraph 10 of By-laws), the present Committee in office, volunteers to carry on their duties for another year with the following change:-

Mr. A. Peyer will act as President and Mr. F. Steyer as Vice-President.

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"85th BIRTHDAY."

Our much esteemed Compatriot and Fellow-member, Mr. Konrad Altherr, has celebrated his 85th birthday on October 17th, 1947. A proud record indeed and we believe he is the oldest member of the S.B.S.

Konrad Altherr was born at Speicher, Appenzell, and left his homeland in 1884 when 21 years old. He arrived in New Zealand on the then famous 4 - Master Windjammer "Ionic" 4,300 tons, after an exceptionally fast trip of only 43 days from England. Travelling in these days was not so comfortable as today, but all the more interesting. On board ship he made many close friends with English sailors, and he was nearly on the verge to become a sailor himself. (Can you fancy an Appenzeller boy, fresh from the mountains, as a sailor?). However, being too honest and straightforward to break his word to his employer, he started farmwork at once, at the now widely known farm of Mr. John Schlapfer in Pukekohe. Being an active young man he soon started business on his own as a Contractor with horse-teams of from five (5) to nine (9) horses. He worked bush and rough country, in places without bridges nor roads, through ti-trees and shrubs and mud. For many years this lively Appenzellerlad roughed it, and had his ups and downs like many of those old steward pioneers; he met with accidents that left their marks to the present day.

Later he settled in Rotorua, where he lived for over forty (40) years. All the townspeople knew him as old "Kon" and he was much respected everywhere. The last thirty (30) years he owned and conducted two motor excursion launches across Lake Rotorua and Rotoiti. His home in Rotorua was always open to his country-men and he enjoyed their company. Like a true Appenzeller, he never lost his keen sense of humour and still today in his great age, he is still joking about his many experiences in the early days.

In spite of his inability to use his legs, Mr. Altherr is still active and for his age has a wonderful retentive memory. I am sure that everyone who knows dear old Kon, will wish him the Best of Luck and Happiness for the rest of his life.

A.M.

Our Consul, Mr. Ernst Theiler, has forwarded a telegram to our compatriot as follows:-

"Konrad Altherr,
Ward 16, Cornwall Hospital,
AUCKLAND.

Heartiest congratulations and many happy returns of the day. I hope that you may enjoy yet many happy years in Good Health on the road to your century. With every Good Wish.

Yours sincerely,
ERNST THEILER
Consul of Switzerland."

the receipt of which Mr. Altherr gratefully acknowledged.

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NOTICE.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the AUCKLAND SOCIAL CLUB will be held on NOVEMBER 15th, 1947, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Peyer, 48 Moa Road, Point Chevalier. Any Member who is interested is cordially invited.