

Passports

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The welcome to visitors and guests was replied to by Dr. E. Russell, of Napier, who said that though he wasn't Swiss, he had spent a considerable time on vacation in Switzerland, and among the Swiss settled overseas, and held them in the highest regard, particularly in respect to their sincerity and hospitality.

At the conclusion of the banquet, the official toast to the Queen was given, and whilst still standing, those present joined in song with the Swiss National Anthem.

Dancing then followed in the gaily bedecked dance hall. Music, typically Swiss, was provided by members of the Social Club, dancing continuing to a late hour. The dance floor reflected a true Swiss atmosphere with many dancers, young and old, in Swiss national costume.

During the evening, the Swiss Consul-General and his Chancellor were afforded the opportunity of meeting and conversing with all present individually.

The opportunity was also taken of presenting the Zurcher Cup for the first time to this year's winner of the card series, Mrs. Josephine Kaiser and Mr. Walter Fluhler. Prizes were also presented for second place to Mrs. J. Schmid and Mr. Martin Steiner, Jr. Third place winners were Mrs. Cyril Riddick and Mr. E. Napflin.

It is worthy of note to mention that this function was one of the first to be held in Kaponga's new War Memorial Hall, because the Swiss community of Kaponga have a particular interest in this hall, in as much that it was as a result of a Queen Carnival to raise the money necessary to build this hall that the Swiss community set up their own committee, elected a Swiss Princess, and set out to win the carnival in a convincing manner, installing their Princess as Queen Pauline (Schupfer) of the Carnival.

This fine hall stands today as testimony to the magnificent effort of the Kaponga and Districts Swiss community in the interests of the people they are living amongst.

JOHN STEINER,
President
Swiss Social Club (Inc.).

PASSPORTS

The Consulate wishes to draw the attention of all compatriots to the fact that, even if at the present time this document is not needed very often, particularly if no voyage outside of New Zealand is contemplated, a VALID passport is the only legally recognized identification document of a Swiss citizen abroad. Moreover, only a passport, the validity of which has recently expired, can be renewed without difficulty. It is felt that these facts, coupled with experiences

made during the last few months by the Consulate, make it desirable to recommend very strongly that all compatriots take the necessary steps to renew their passports before or immediately after the expiry date.

NOTICE

A new Law concerning the reparation of damages and prejudices caused by national socialistic persecution has been passed by the Federal Republic of Germany. Swiss citizens interested are invited to get in touch with the Consulate without delay.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

"HOME" FOR SWISS NATIONALS LIVING ABROAD—DURRENAESCH

The "Home" for Swiss nationals abroad has now been opened. One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four feet above sea level, it is situated on the idyllic wooded hills between the Wynen Valley and the lake valley (lake of Hallwil). It is easily accessible from Aarau, and Zurich, Basel, Berne and Lucerne are only 20 to 40 miles away. A fruitful idea has thus been transformed into reality with the aim of helping our fellow citizens in foreign countries to maintain and strengthen their close contacts with Switzerland. The "Home" has been established in order to offer many Swiss nationals abroad—there is room for 50 guests—

a "pied-a-terre" in the homeland.

It is intended not only as a holiday centre, but also to help further the feelings of solidarity among our countrymen through its "esprit de corps" and the many and varied services that it is capable of rendering.

The "Home" in Durrenaesch is not just a hotel where one can spend one's ordinary holidays at advantageous prices. It is much more than that for it promotes the necessary contact between Swiss nationals abroad and the land of their fathers by arranging a

"Home" holiday in the country,

a new type of holiday in a Swiss village. This contact, indeed, forms part of that experience of the homeland which is longed for by all Swiss who live abroad—particularly the young ones—and which mainly helps to keep alive the good Swiss spirit in far-off places.

This ideal aim is served by the practical arrangement of a stay at the "Home" which is open to all Swiss nationals abroad irrespective of origin, language or religion. In addition to plenty of free time during which each guest may