

News of the colony

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **21 (1958)**

Heft [8]

PDF erstellt am: **25.05.2024**

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HELVETIA

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

21st Year

August, 1958

Hamilton

BOTSCHAFT DES BUNDESPRASIDENTEN AN DIE SCHWEIZER IM AUSLAND ZUM 1. AUGUST 1958

Alljährlich am 1. August gedenken wir in Freude und Dankbarkeit der Grundung unserer Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft. Diese Besinnung ist nicht allein das Vorrecht der Schweizer, die in der Heimat leben; wenn es gilt, den Ehrentag unseres Landes zu feiern, fühlen sich die Schweizer ausserhalb unserer Grenzen mit ihrer Heimat in besonders enger Weise verbunden.

So ist es denn für mich eine grosse Freude, Euch, liebe Landsleute im Ausland, zum 1. August den Gruss der Heimat zu entbieten. Der Bundesrat und mit ihm das ganze Schweizervolk wollen Euch an diesem Tage befragen, dass wir Euch mit Stolz zu uns zählen, die wir alle das Fest unseres Vaterlandes begehen dürfen. Mit dieser Freude sei auch unser aufrichtiger Dank verbunden an Euch Schweizer im Ausland, die Ihr mit Eurer Treue und Anhänglichkeit an das ferne Vaterland den andern Völkern Kunde gebt von der Existenz unserer Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft und die Ihr gleichzeitig, guter Tradition folgend, durch Eure Arbeit und Leistungen unserem Lande in aller Welt Ehre einlegt.

Die Aufgabe, Ansehen und Stellung unseres Landes zu behaupten, ist uns stets neu auferlegt. Angesichts der Gegensätze und Spannungen, welche die weltpolitische Lage nach wie vor beherrschen, muss es ein besonderes Anliegen der Schweiz-sein, nach ihren Kräften zur Verminderung dieser Spannungen beizutragen. Wir werden diese Aufgabe jedoch nur dann erfüllen können, wenn wir alle, in der Fremde und in der Heimat, selbst Zeugnis einer innern Bewahrung ablegen.

Ich verbinde den Gruss der Heimat mit den besten Wünschen für Euer persönliches Wohlergehen. Unsere Gedanken am Ehrentag der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft weilen auch bei Euch.

THOMAS HOLENSTEIN
Bundespräsident

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Notice from the Consulate

With a decision of September 20th, 1957, the Federal Parliament have decided to give special help to Swiss citizens

who have been victims of National-Socialist persecutions (detention in concentration camps, torture, bad treatment, condemnation without regular procedure respecting the rights of defence, homicide, etc.).

Applications must be addressed before October 31st, 1958, to the competent authorities in Switzerland, and any Swiss citizen in New Zealand who wishes to lodge such an application should get in touch with the Consulate of Switzerland, G.P.O. Box 386, Wellington, *without delay*.

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News of the Colony

1. AUGUST FUNCTIONS

HAMILTON CLUB

On July 29th a very successful ball was held at Riverlea Cabaret. Patrons were received by Hamilton club president A. Biland and Mrs Biland. Guests of honour were: Mr P. H. Aubaret, Consul-General, Wellington; Mr W. Risi, president Swiss Society, and Mrs Risi, Ngaruawahia; Mr J. Steiner, president Taranaki club; and Mr C. Ding, president Auckland club. Apologies were received from Dr Rogers, deputy-Mayor of Hamilton, and Mr. Bischof, president Wellington club. Mr A. Biland extended the official welcome and Mr Aubaret then addressed the large gathering of Swiss and New Zealanders. Large and small Swiss and cantonal flags, lampions, as well as colourful posters, plus a couple of cowbells, were used in decorating the lobby, lounge and dance floor. An excellent orchestra, suited to Swiss taste, provided dance music; and the excellence of the supper was commented on by one and all. A number of items provided variety and were very popular. These were Swiss folksong duets with lute accompaniment, rendered by Heidi and Mariann Oettli; malechoir; Thalerschwigen, presented by E. Scheidegger and Heidi Sautner; and a humorous sketch, sung by Mr. and Mrs. E. Studer. Accordion items by Heiri Oettli were much enjoyed.

AUCKLAND CLUB

On August 3rd the Auckland club arranged an afternoon function at the Newmarket Railway Hall with a truly home-like touch of "Gemuetlichkeit." Mr C. Ding officially

welcomed those present, amongst them guests of honour: Mr P. H. Aubaret, Consul-General, and Mrs Aubaret, Wellington; Mr W. Risi, president Swiss Society, and Mrs Risi, Ngaruawahia; Mr A. Biland, president Hamilton Swiss club, and Mrs Biland; and Dr L. Bosshard, of the International Red Cross.

Mr Aubaret then spoke to the gathering, in the course of which he read out the wording of the "Bundesbrief" and mentioned our eratitude for the hospitality we all of us enjoy in New Zealand. Mr F. Lussy then presented a very impressive item: The light of 1291. He told of the gradual growth of the Swiss confederation and by way of illustration children carried the various cantonal flags up to the stage with a lighted candle in one hand. The flags were then fixed on to a large Swiss map in the order in which the cantons had joined. The president of the Swiss Society then gave his "Festrede." He very rightly convened to us what human qualities had made Switzerland the great little land it now has become, giving us a sense of humbleness. What was even more valuable, he gave us much food for thought by singling out two such qualities and urging their cultivation upon all Swiss in New Zealand, namely the sense of love and pride in high quality workmanship and the second quality the one of forbearance and tolerance amongst the Swiss community in New Zealand, the lack of which is inclined to give rise to too many rifts and tensions amongst its ranks.

This official first part was rounded off by singing of several patriotic songs and by two well-written poems by Mrs Hirzel recited by Paul Hirzel.

The second half of the afternoon was given over to refreshments and to many yodelsongs by Mesdames Bachmann and Ospelt. Messrs Ch. Von Rickenbach, Alf Meier and Max Bachmann provided music for those wishing to dance.

—H.B.

TARANAKI SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION IN THE KAPUNI HALL

For a few hours last night Taranaki's Swiss population gathered in the Kapuni Memorial Hall and men and women imagined themselves back in a similar building in their native land. They created with traditional enthusiasm the 667th anniversary of Switzerland's emergencion as an independent state. Each year on August the 1st Swiss people the world over gather to observe Switzerland's National Day and to remember the breaking away of their country in 1291 from the savage Monarchy of the Habsburg. Last night over 250 Swiss spoke, ate, drank, danced and dressed at a cabaret gathering organised by the Swiss Club of Taranaki as though they were back in Switzerland. Gay flags of the 22 Cantons were hung in the hall. The main part of the dance music was supplied by the Swiss orchestra and in the lounge "Jazz" played. Included in the sumptuous supper were genuine Smiss Servelats specially for the occasion. Last night's celebration attracted visitors from many parts of Taranaki and Hawke's Bay. Our guest of honour, the Consul-General of Switzerland, Mr P. H. Aubaret, was present and received a great twelcome. The prizewinners for cards played were as follows: Lady's fist "Zurcher Cup," Mrs J. Kaiser, 94 points; 2nd, Mrs A. Amstalden, 86 points. Gent's first "Romer Cup," Mr Joe Dettling, 82 points; 2nd, D. Luond snr., 79 points. Also present at the function was Mr S. Zinsli, 103 years old.

—J.S.

Obituary

Mr. B. B. Zurcher, Longburn, Palmerston North, a member of Swiss Society since its foundation, died in the New Plymouth Hospital on July 1st.

Obituary in next months Helvetia.

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WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB ENJOYS SKI WEEKEND ON RUAPEHU

On Friday night, July 11th, a truck left Wellington Station to go up to Ruapehu, with about 20 members of the Swiss Club aboard. The weather was beautiful, although a rather strong wind blew on Saturday.

Snow conditions were perfect—powder snow like at home. The rocks, however, were peeping out all over the place and it was not always easy to avoid contact with them.

In the afternoon the non-skiers also enjoyed the sunshine very much, watching the brave ones schussing down the staircase. In the evening Swiss boys working on the chair-lift came for a drink and many happy songs were sung. After an excellent dinner Mr Bischof played the accordion while some danced and others played cards. By 10 o'clock everybody seemed to feel the affect of several hours of exercise and fresh air and got into their sleeping bags. Sunday was another beautiful day and it was a real pity to end it so early, but the truck had to leave by 3 o'clock in order to get back home at a reasonable hour. All were nicely relaxed and a little bit tired and on the whole very pleased with the weekend spent up in the snow.

L.H.

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RESULT OF COMPETITION

Once again we would like to thank our many contributors for their work and enthusiasm they showed in helping us. The Committee had no easy task in selecting the winner. After lengthy considerations we decided to select and give the first prize to Hans Fitzi, whose "Head" appears for the first time in this issue. Congratulations Hans—our cheque will arrive in due course.

To improve the general lay-out of our newspaper we decided to make use of the contribution from Mr H. Suter, Wellington, for which he will receive a second prize of £2/10/-.

For the Press-Committee,
A.B.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Swiss Club:

The Hamilton Swiss Club is holding the regular monthly evening every third Sunday in the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton. Next evening: 17th August. All welcome. Fuer Unterhaltung wird gesorgt.

Auckland Swiss Club:

Just a reminder to all our Swiss friends in Auckland.

Don't forget that the Auckland Swiss Club holds its monthly Social at the Epiphany Church Hall, Gundry St., Newton, on the first Tuesday in the month. Come along and spend a enjoyable evening among friends. Everybody is made most welcome. Our next Social on the 2nd of September will be a film evening.

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Schweizerischer Kurzwellensender

Von Donnerstag, dem 10. Juli an werden wir an Stelle des Senders HEI 9 21 605 kc/s 13, 88 m den Sender

HER 6 15 305 kc/s 19, 60 m einsetzen.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

Question:

I have a relative in Switzerland who is getting on in age and who is not too well off and I would like to help him a bit financially. How can I do this?

Answer:

Get your relative to send you an officially signed and translated statement (amtlich bestaetigt und uebersetzt) from the place where he lives, that he is unable to support himself and then take this document to your local Bank-Manager and state the amount of your intended help. He will pass these informations on to the Reserve Bank for approval.

—A.B.

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RECIPES

Mocca Cream Cake:

For the cake beat 4 egg yolks with 2 tablespoons of hot water and add slowly 5½ ozs. sugar. Beat until foamy, then add 4 stiff egg whites. Mix 3½ ozs. flour with 3 ozs. cornflour and two teaspoons baking powder, sieve and mix with eggs. Put in tin, bake for 25 minutes. When cold, cut in half. Filling: Whip cream, sweeten with sugar, add gelatine dissolved in a little water, and 1 teaspoon Nescafe.

Put cake in cold place for ½ hour. Icing: 6 ozs. icing sugar, 1 teaspoon Nescafe, 3 tablespoons hot water.

—J.S.

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News from Switzerland

GLACIER FLIGHTS

Glacier flights by helicopters are new attractions at Engelberg-Trubsee, Central Switzerland. The flights will lead to the region of Mount Titlis (10,627 ft.) and offer unforgettable vistas to skier as well as non-skier.

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THREE BUILD A PLANE—NO ONE ABLE TO FLY

Rapperswil, Switzerland: A brand-new sporting plane of the French "Jodel" type was the result of more than 3000

hours of hard work which the three sons of a Rapperswil family, Jules, Sepp and Hermann Huber, had devoted to their special hobby. Although their vocation—Jules is a merchant, Sepp a mason and Hermann a locksmith—does not imply any connection with the construction of planes, the three lads managed to build an aircraft which successfully passed the severe examinations by the Swiss authorities. The most astonishing point is that none of the three young men is able to pilot a plane.

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MORE THAN 100,000 SWISS FRANCS FOR LITTLE MARLENE

Neuchatel, Switzerland: Far more than one hundred thousand Swiss francs from all over the country recently poured into the sickroom of little Marlene Audetat who lost one leg and one foot in a railway accident at Neuchatel a few weeks ago. The overwhelming success of this money-raising campaign came as a surprise even to the traditionally charity-minded Swiss and was an encouraging token of sympathy to little Marlene who bravely and hopefully carries her burden.

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The world-famed violinist Yehudi Menuhin, who frequently spends his holidays at his Swiss chalet in the resort of Gstaad, Bernese Oberland, has bought an Alpine horn, it was learned. The artist and his two young sons are trying hard to master this sturdy musical instrument.

★ ★ ★

Old-timer Victor Sohm, probably the oldest pioneer of skiing in the Alps, recently celebrated his 89th birthday at Trogen, Switzerland. The "grand old man of skiing" still taught his grandchildren the ropes of skiing no less than two years ago.

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An ambulance, a surgeon and the police can now be called over the same telephone number to be rushed to sites of traffic accidents in the entire area of the Canton of Vaud, Western Switzerland. This new first aid and emergency service has its centres scattered all over the canton.

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The 13th International Festival of Music at Montreux will take place under the designation "Septembre Musical" from September 5 through to October 9. The following orchestras are scheduled to participate: Symphony Orchestra and Choir of the Bavarian Broadcasting Company, Munich; Orchestre National, Paris; Symphony Orchestra and Choir of Radio Northern Germany, Hamburg. The list of the soloists includes, among others, such celebrities as Alexander Brailowsky, Robert Casadesu, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Clara Haskil, Nathan Milstein, Arthur Rubinstein and Isaac Stern.

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THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN THE SWISS ECONOMY

During a recent Congress, Mr. Feldmann, Federal Councillor and Head of the Department of Justice and Police, applied himself to an analysis of the relations between economy and politics. When examining more specifically the ascendancy—so often criticised—of the State over certain branches