

News from Switzerland

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tinued with dancing and Swiss music played by our two musicians, Charley Rickenbach and Alf Meier.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

A card evening was held in the Tauwhare Hall on Saturday, 20th May, 1961. Prize winners were: 1st Jacob Von Holzen, 2nd O. Werder, 3rd A. Marty, 4th Mrs E. Trustch.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

The Taranaki Swiss Social Club held a Social and Dance in the Kapuni Hall on May 30th. A large crowd filled the hall and a very enjoyable evening was had. Music for dancing was played by A. Engelberger, J. Fohn, R. Buhler (accordions), L. Kuriger (bass) and Mrs G. Schneller (piano). Items were given by Mr & Mrs A. Whakaneke (songs), Mr & Mrs Thirwell (songs), J. Kaiser, T. Napflin, P. Zimmerman and F. Gwerder (yodelling). Mr Chamberlain was M.C.

—M.J.S.

Steinstossen Competition

Due to the fact that the Swiss Society's rectangular competition stone came under considerable criticism—because its shape lent itself to confusion as from which point to take the measurement—we have decided to replace this stone with a round one of similar weight. For this reason we did not hold an official competition this year.

However, the efforts which have gone into this year's Steinstossen, on picnics and on the day of the Swiss Society shooting competition are most praiseworthy. The best results of these competitions were 45 feet and over.

Auckland: A. Buchler 51ft 7in, C. Ding 51ft 1in, A. Muller 50ft 10in, H. Fitzi 49ft 3in, P. Gubler 48ft 7in, H. Briner 45ft 6in.

Hamilton: O. Risi 57ft 1in, R. Rust 53ft 3in, A. Schuler 52ft 2in, J. Risi 51ft 1in, F. Schuler 50ft 4in.

Wellington: B. Baumgartner 62ft 1in, H. Kratzer 53ft 1in, Dr Rossetti 52ft, Ernst Matt 50ft 6in, Urs Wolf 50ft 2in.

Taranaki: E. Wuetrich 64ft 6½in, A. Muller 57ft 5½in, J. Kuriger 54ft 1in, G. Halter 53ft 11½in, F. Gwerder 51ft 6½in, L. Zender 50ft 8½in.

Thus Taranaki hold the Cup again, as well as the best single. Special congratulations go to Ernst Wuetrich—he has opposition coming up from Wellington though.

Everyone should keep on practising for a really big event next year. The winner does not need to be a big man, practice is the key to success.

Obituary

MRS ELISABETH MULLER

Mrs Elisabeth Muller died in Morrinsville on May 15th, after a long illness. In order to get specialist treatment, Max sent her home to Switzerland 12 months ago and for a while it looked that their efforts were successful. However, it was not to be.

Mrs Muller, nee Elisabeth Weber, was one of three sisters who married three Muller brothers, of whom two of them came to New Zealand. Elisabeth and husband Max arrived here with their daughter in 1950. They settled in very well and were happy with the new country life, making a success of dairy farming.

In the social field they were regular attendants of the Hamilton Swiss Club functions, always enjoying themselves meeting other compatriots. The Hamilton Swiss Club will miss the company of Mrs Muller and extends the warmest sympathies to Max and daughter Bethy.

—W.R.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The next evening will be held on the first Sunday in July in the Riverlea. The Dutch orchestra will again play for you. Bring your partners.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND'S FASTEST-GROWING CITY

Although Lausanne is the smallest of Switzerland's five largest cities, its population increase was proportionately the greatest in the decade 1950-1960, the rise being from 106,500 to 126,700, or 19 per cent. The next fastest growth was recorded by Geneva (16 per cent) which, with its 169,100 inhabitants, displaced Berne (population 164,200, increase 12 per cent) to take third place among Swiss cities. After Geneva came Basel, with an increase of 13 per cent, it has a population of 207,600 and is Switzerland's second largest city. The largest, Zurich, which now has 430,600 inhabitants, showed the relatively smallest gain (10 per cent). Together, the increase in the population of all five places was 125,900, almost equivalent to the total population of Lausanne. The average gain was 13 per cent.

WINTER SPORTS SEASON SUCCESSFUL

St. Moritz reports that the 1960-61 winter sports season was a big all-round success. Even the public services did well out of the good business. February telephone receipts in St. Moritz (population 3000) were higher than in Zurich (population 430,000).

WORLD'S MOST INTERNATIONAL CITY

Geneva, largest French-speaking city in Switzerland, started its brilliant career as the world's most cosmopolitan meeting place no less than 2018 years ago. This is shown in a booklet written by M. Albert Picot, a former member of the Geneva Cantonal Government. It was then that Geneva had its first historically important visitor "from abroad"—Julius Caesar. He came with his soldiers to stop the Helvetii advancing southwards. Geneva is the European headquarters of the United Nations which, with its affiliated institutions today gives employment to a staff of nearly 4000 such as the International Labour Office, set up in the city in 1920, fifty-one member States and three non-member States maintain permanent delegations in Geneva. In addition the city is the headquarters of four world-famous organisations which were founded by international conventions, the best known of these being the International Red Cross Committee. Besides these, about 70 private international organisations have made Geneva their permanent home. Among them are the World Federation of Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, the European Cultural Centre and the Carnegie Foundation.

FINAL REPORT OF INDUSTRIES FAIR

The 45th Swiss Industries Fair in Basle, which closed its doors on April 25th last, was once again attended by nearly 800,000 visitors. The number of foreign visitors was considerable, since 11,672 from 87 different countries, were recorded at the reception service placed at their disposal. Once again the general prosperity had favourable repercussions on the Fair. In almost all sectors the demand was brisk and lively from both Swiss and foreign buyers. The 46th Swiss Industries Fair will be held from March 31st to April 10th, 1962.

UNIQUE WORKS CANTEN

A big Geneva firm, the Charmilles Machine Works, has just opened a brand-new canteen, which is unique of its kind in Europe. As the consumer enters, he orders the hot dish of his choice by pressing on a button, which avoids all possibility of error and is completely silent in operation. He then helps himself to the cold dishes he wants: hors-d'oeuvres, salad and dessert, which he places in the special compartments on his tray. By this time the hot dish he ordered is ready and is automatically delivered to him. These warm dishes are pre-cooked in a big central kitchen in the middle of the town, then wrapped in isothermic containers and sent to the canteen where they are heated in a special series of infra-red ovens. The consumer pays for the whole meal as he passes with his loaded tray into the dining section. This new plant makes it possible to serve as many as 600 top quality cooked meals during each lunch break.

DIVER'S NEW WORLD RECORD

Thirty atmospheres is the amount of pressure to which a body is exposed at 958 feet below sea level. The Swiss Professor, Hannes Keller, who holds the world record for free diving, is the first man in the world to experience this formidable pressure, with the aid of a simple diving equipment, in a super-compression room filled with water, owned by the French Navy, at Toulon. It is thanks to a special system, perfected by himself in collaboration with a doctor who is a specialist for respiratory mechanism, that Professor Keller can accomplish these exploits. His method makes it possible to shorten, to a considerable extent, the time taken for the descent and, more especially the ascent, without suffering from the phenomena of decompression which always accompanies the latter. He has thus been able to progress up to a pressure of 30 atmosphere, in the extremely short time of 34 minutes, which constitutes a world record.

CORRECTION

In the Wellington Swiss Club's report of the Annual General Meeting, which appeared in the May issue of "Helvetia" a printing error occurred which read . . "membership had dropped from 78 to 75." This should have read . . . "membership had dropped from 78 to 57."

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