

News of the colony

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The new Membership list will appear in the April issue of the Helvetia. For any alterations required would Clubs please inform the secretary of the newly elected committees after their annual meetings.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB PICNIC

It was very much worthwhile to drive 700 miles last weekend in order to spend some time among our compatriots in the Hamilton District, on the occasion of the Hamilton Swiss Club's picnic, combined with the shooting competition held by the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

I was delighted to have the opportunity of meeting so many compatriots and in particular to see so many young people taking such an interest in the activities of the club, not to mention the support and encouragement given to them by the older members. On this occasion it was very pleasant to have the opportunity to chat with the older compatriots who, although they have wholeheartedly taken New Zealand as their adopted country have, nevertheless, retained those basic qualities associated with our homeland.

The music provided by the accordin players and the alp-horn, imparted a realistic Swiss atmosphere, and I must admit made me feel more than a little nostalgic. I also enjoyed the games a great deal; the Schwingen, Kegeln, Steinstossen, Schiessen and, of course, particularly the football match between Auckland and Waikato, when I had the honour of being asked to referee in spite of the lack of the conventional whistle, which was re-

placed by a real Swiss cow bell; I can only hope that my decisions in favour and against, were acceptable to all.

Allow me to say what a treat it was to have the opportunity of relishing genuine "Rost-Bratwurst," so well made by the Risi boys and delightfully served by Mrs Biland and Therese, and I deeply appreciated the generous hospitality extended to me by one and all.

H. SCHAEERER,
Chancellor.

May I add a few words of thanks—first to Mr Risi for letting us use his ideal residence for our Picnic; to Therese Von Holzen who so ably fulfilled her role as our hostess; to the great number from the Auckland Swiss Club who helped us so very much by coming down and later won the Auckland-Hamilton Soccer match; to all the Committee members; to members who did such a grand job in their various allotted tasks; to our Musicians; and last but really most important, Thank You to those over-250 people who gave our Picnic such a wonderful support and made our work really worthwhile.

ARNOLD BILAND,
President.

● Winners of Competitions

Kegeln: 1st, T. Villiger; 2nd equal, F. Von Lanthem and Ernst Studer.

Schwingen: 1st, Leo Rust; 2nd equal, O. Risi and F. Schuler.

Steinstossen: 1st, E. Wuethrich; 2nd, O. Risi; 3rd, R. Rust.

Fancy Dress Evening

A Fancy Dress evening was the feature of the March meeting, held at Riverlea Cabaret. From a large attendance unfortunately less than half wore fancy dress, but the ones who came masked certainly created the real "Stimmung" with their variety of original costumes and with their frolicking. It is confidently hoped that now that the "ice is broken," we will have much larger masked participation should another fancy dress evening be held next year.

A party from Auckland Swiss Club attended our function, among them being the Auckland Swiss Club president Hans Fitzi with Mrs Fitzi. As usual the Dutch orchestra provided the dance music and they seemed to be playing even better than usual—no doubt inspired by the merry goings on.

Judging for the most original single mask and the most original masked group was done by popular vote. First prize for single mask went to Rinaldo Rust, who was "transformed" into a stone-age man complete with long, black hair disguising not only his head but also all of his face. His attire consisted solely of a few calf skins and he

carried a stone axe and a collection of cleanly gnawed bones. The group prize went to Mr and Mrs H. Meister and Mr and Mrs B. Bolly. They wore costumes depicting the four "Buure" of Swiss Jass cards. In their hands they carried the four emblems.

Aufschnitt was served for supper and was enjoyed heartily by everyone. —H.B.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Steinstossen results: 1st, J. A. Kuriger; 2nd, M. Muller; 3rd, A. Muller.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

On February 25th our first picnic was held at Waikanae Beach in splendid weather. Towards lunchtime, more and more people arrived at the beach to enjoy a pleasant day with swimming, games or just to roast in bright sunshine between sand dunes. The proper atmosphere of a Swiss gathering was felt when a slight breeze carried the accordin tunes across the hills "Guete Suintig mitenand." Amongst about 50 adults, 26 children of all ages (beginning with 2 months) had a wonderful time in the water and sand.

In the afternoon, the "Steinstossen" Competition was held. Unfortunately the conditions on the half dry sand were unsuitable and the strongest competitors soon felt tired. Towards six o'clock, people started to move, having experienced a wonderful day in perfect conditions.

"Steinstossen" results: 1st, Rolly Studer; 2nd, Roy Sommer; 3rd, Fred Fluehler.

Camping Weekend: Owing to very unusual weather conditions prevailing in Wellington (wet, cold and raining!) the camping weekend planned for Saturday and Sunday, March 10th and 11th, at Kaitoke, was, as could be expected, not very well attended. However, those who did turn up (the hardy types, including children) thoroughly enjoyed themselves, despite feeling more like ducks than picnickers, and a happy time was had by the twenty-odd who attended.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The next evening will be held on the second Sunday in April (8th) in the Riverlea. The Dutch orchestra will again play for you—so bring your partners.

The Annual General Meeting will be held during the evening. Make sure to come along.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 31st, 1962, at 8 p.m. in the Brooklyn Community Hall. Please make sure to come along to this most important evening.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

MARCH OF TELEVISION

Before the end of January 1962, the 200,000th television set was licensed in Switzerland. The 100,000 mark had been reached during the month of April 1960. Consequently the number of licensed Tv sets has doubled in about 20 months.

YEAR WITHOUT STRIKES

For the first time since the institution of official statistics in this field—in 1927 to be precise—no labour conflict of at least a day's duration was recorded throughout the year 1961. In 1927, 34,160 man-days were lost through strikes; most of the collective labour disputes that have occurred since then date back to the slump of 1930 when the figure for Switzerland's loss of man-days amounted to 265,695. In 1930, there were eight disputes, involving 20 firms and the loss of 1016 days.

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