

News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY

☆ Hamilton Swiss Club

The words "Swiss Fondue" must be spreading in the Waikato, for each year our members bring along more of their Kiwi friends to this "Cheesy Evening". They cautiously tried their first cube and with delighted, surprised faces they got "stuck in". We are pleased of course to be able to buy the right type of cheese and wine so as to keep this winter tradition up.

A big "thank you" goes to the male "muscles" who grated all the cheese, and to those ladies helping in the kitchen and lending their sets. During the evening Mr E. Rust provided an excellent selection of dance music on his stereo. He deserves special thanks as our bandleader. As usual everybody was happy and enjoyed the dancing and talking. The big event of the evening was the presentation of sports medals by our President, Mr J. Villiger. Congratulations to all the lucky sportsmen!

FOUND (after the evening): Nice, small handbag. Would the owner please ring 65-744. —R.E.W.

☆ Wellington Swiss Club

Ever tried to shift a skittle set, 25 ft in length, from a remote basement to the hall every time you want to play? Well, for years committee members and faithful helpers have done so. You'll understand our joy and relief hearing the Fuhrer family's offer of the use of a large farm-den. The skills of Fred Wehrli (who built the whole set years ago) came to our aid again, and with Max Fuhrer the concrete base came to fabulous accuracy.

Opening day, October 8th, saw an enthusiastic lot of nearly forty participating, with ever so varied results. Few people have seen a carpeted chicken-house before, being served coffee and cakes, and listening to very happy chatter from the very young and not so young. Only a few feet away some muscular show-offs tossed that 33 lb block into the far distance of nearly 20 feet — no wonder a concrete specialist (Hans Buess) secured that first prize with over 20 ft average throws! A table tennis set also had a very busy time, and a small set of skittles for toddlers was there.

Although Mrs Rosina Fuhrer and husband Max won't get a sports medal this time, their hospitality and the work they and their sons and daughters put in is truly appreciated. We are happily looking forward to follow-up activities. —J.H.

CAR RALLY

On a very nice October day a "Tour des Suisses" (rally of Swiss people) took place from Petone to Paraparaumu over Haywards and along the road which winds its way through the hilly country up to the summit, where you see Paekakariki and the west coast at your feet. Fifteen car loads of people took part, wondering where they were being led to and eager to answer the tricky questions; one example: "What distance do you observe by following a car which travels 75 miles per hour?" Not everybody remembered then that there is a speed limit! Observers could see people driving a scooter in Queen Elizabeth Park and collecting driftwood at the beach.

The final destination was reached at Tony Tresch's weekend house, which could be recognised by a large Swiss flag. Now the time had come to unpack everything that is needed for a barbeque, and very soon the smell of grilled sausages filled the air. Everybody had a marvelous time, except some committee members who were busy marking the questionnaires and finally handing out the prizes to the two lucky winners. Thank you Mr and Mrs Tresch for helping so much to make this event a very memorable one.

—M.K.

Hans Gilgen Reminiscences On His Swiss Tour

On our tour to Europe my wife and I had many highlights. One of the things that did particularly make me personally really happy was to meet a few of the Kiwi-Swiss in Bern. There was Mr Biland and Hans Fitzi at the mock battle in Schonbühl, were our infantry gave a fantastic demonstration of its much up-to-date readiness. Again the day after, a beautiful summer's day, Hans Fitzi, Hans Enzler, and his pretty wife, and I met at the Schützenfest organised for the Swiss abroad. It was wonderful to have this feeling of solidarity, to be for a few moments with compatriots from New Zealand. There was the comical instance at the Schützenfest when, after the military-style meal accompanied by the sound of a well conducted army band, the prizegiving time arrived and the official in charge gave a special prize to the Swiss who had travelled the furthest to the event. A Swiss from Melbourne received this trophy and of course the three Hans's from New Zealand had a giggle at the poor geographical knowledge of that official!

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Before leaving New Zealand on our world trip, I read in the local press that an old Tahitian friend of mine in Auckland had received from the French government the much honoured gift of the Croix de la Legion d'Honneur. He was given this great distinction for the help he gave to his fellow compatriots from Tahiti here in New Zealand. My friend is a great humanist and I believe