News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Annual Picnic:

Green pastures and a smiling sun in the blue sky welcomed almost 400 members and friends to our annual "Wiesenfest" on Mr and Mrs Villiger's farm on the 2nd of February.

Everybody enjoyed the "heimatliche" atmosphere created by "volkstumliche" record music, traditional Swiss sports as Schwingen and Kegeln and of course plenty of well grilled sausages with a "kuhlen Tropfen vom bestem Hopfen". Our President, Mr E. Staheli, welcomed the happy gathering, especially the visitors from Switzerland and also many friends from Taranaki, Auckland, Reporoa and Tauranga. He presented our past-President, Mr J. Villiger with a nicely framed "Ehrenmitglied-Urkunde" and his wife Yolantha with a pot plant in appreciation for their services to our Club.

On the one Kegelbahn, 200 competitors challenged the Trophy ,which was finally won by Mr A. Muller of Auckland, who shot one Kranz and one Babeli and finished up with 26 points. On the other, 76 sausages were won. Ex-Schwinger Mr E. Rust and family had the Schwinger-competition in firm hands. The "Ausstich" between Sery Odermatt and Peter Arnold made Sery the "Schwingerkonig" and holder of the Risi-Cup for 1975. Other placegetters were: Kurt Aberhard, Tauranga 3rd; Gerhard Hodel 4th and John Steiner 5th, both from Taranaki. Congratulations to all the winners. In between all the activities, Mr S. Voser, a visitor from Switzerland, delighted us all with his superb yodelling. The young ones had fun with bottle fishing and lolly scramble. I don't know how the Risi chefs did it, but they provided a constant supply of top barbecued sausages. The ladies behind the stall and the barmen were kept busy till after 5 o'clock, they did a marvellous job.

Well, this picnic was a nice ending to the holiday season. We hope everybody had a good journey home. Last, but not least, we would like to thank very much Mr and Mrs Villiger for kindly letting us use their grounds and all the members who contributed so willingly to make our picnic such a memorable success. —R.E.W.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB PICNIC

The above club's picnic was held again on the Te Ngutu Park on Sunday, February 9th, in ideal weather conditions. About 600 persons were counted at lunchtime with more coming in constantly. Some of the participants came from Auckland and the Waikato, just to pick up old threads and renew acquaintances.

The highlight of the day was the traditional Swiss Sport "Schwingen", which is so very popular in America and widely practiced over

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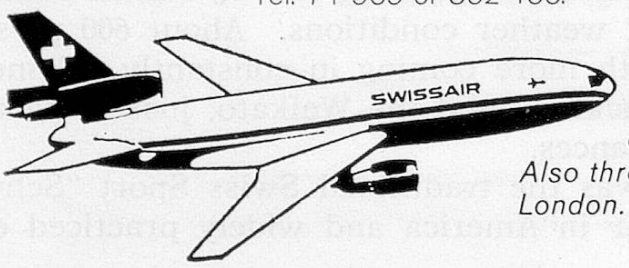

BONDED MEMBER OF TRAVEL AGENTS ASSOCIATION OF N.Z. 7369

there. About 20 youngsters pitched their strength against one another and many of them received some moral support from their parents who gathered around the ring and just about pushed and heaved as hard as the partcipants. For the outsider it was a great thrill to pick the offspring of most of the parents and it was good to watch their play. It is hoped that this eventually leads to an inter-club competition where the winners at different clubs could partake in a N.Z. wide competition. It would be good if Taranaki could clinch best "Schwinger" to the already coveted Cowbell which they are holding. So Waikato and Auckland look out, and Wellington and Christchurch get into practice and be ready for the big event.

Towards the evening the people gathered into groups and the hot water got into demand for a freshly brewed cup of coffee with the traditional ingredients. Charles Schuler, 86 years of age and as straight as a die came in too, to be with the young folk and also, I was surprised, some young people whose parents came out in the 70's or 80's, came near for a sip of the good stuff that made their forebears happy.

On the evening some people made their way up to Kiser's in Eltham for a game of skittles or to play cards until the small hours of the morning. All in all it was a wonderful day to remember, a day of friendly games and competitions and a day to meet friends and make new friendships. Frank Imhof and the Tippler's gave us some of their best music to crown the day.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the . . .

EUREKA HALL, SATURDAY, 5th APRIL, 8 p.m.

Please mark this date on your calendar and support YOUR Club with new ideas.

—R.E.W.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

1. We are holding our Rifle Shooting Competition on Saturday morning, 16th March, at the McLean's Island Rifle Range, Harewood Road, commencing 10 a.m. All members interested please phone 325-525.

2. Members are reminde dthat we are participating in the "Pan-Pacific Art Festival Procession" as a demonstration group and hope to have a short performance of "Alphorn and Cowbells" during the lunch interval.

3. The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on 20th April, 1975. Please keep this date free, further particulars later.

—Mrs G. S., Secretary.