

News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

Auckland Swiss Club

1st AUGUST CELEBRATION

According to programme it was to begin at 8 p.m. but for the organisers it started early in the morning—decorating, rehearsing, etc. Then at approximately 3 p.m. the hall, decorated with flags and lampions, looked very festive and us, accordingly, dishevelled and ready to leave. But who comes in at the door, Dr Rossetti and Mr Schaerer, our honoured guests from Wellington, to have a glance of what was to come and, although very conscious of our appearance, we soon got over it and were very happy to welcome our guests.

At 7 p.m. most of us were ready to receive the guests who appeared in great numbers. By 9 p.m. the hall was full and the programme started with music, played by C. Rickenbacher and A f Meier. The National Hymn followed, then our President, Louis Mueller, addressed the guests by welcoming them in five languages (somewhat surprising himself at his multi-lingual knowledge) and thanked also the organisers for their help with decorating, preparing the programme bis zum "Chuechlibache." A special welcome went to our guests, Dr Rossetti and Mr Schaerer, from the Embassy, Wellington, Mr A. Biland, President, from the Hamilton Swiss Club, and his wife, Mrs Biland.

Mr Schaerer continued by reading the message from the Bundespresident Spuehler. After another musical item Dr Rossetti made his speech, which was so full of personal appeal, and humorous too that it went right to the hearts of all present and was warmly applauded. To some of us it made us wonder if Dr Rossetti had an inkling of our programme; it had such a close resemblance to the version he gave us of a 1st August Celebration at home!

Then came the show "Heikles Thema," played by Mrs Hirzel and her daughter Frida. Poor Mum, she hadn't a chance to tell her daughter anything about the birds and the bees; it turned out the daughter was teaching dear mother in the end! Mrs Doris Binder then appeared on the stage with C. Rickenbacher and sang the well-known Jodelsong "Vom Zuerifest," also "Gruess mir Lugano."

Music followed again, the guests starting to dance and having plenty of fun together. Louis Mueller then introduced Roy Tanner, who was "Mr Auckland" on three successive occasions and holds now the title of "Mr New Zealand." With his daughter Kathy, their artistic display was unique and drew gasps of admiration. Following was Mr Simon Corremann, accompanying himself with

the guitar and singing in Italian and also in Maori—very much appreciated and applauded, particularly by New Zealand friends.

After a dance or two another show in French was announced by Mrs Mueller: "Young Ladies of Society" attending a finishing school in Switzerland and, while giving first the English version of the story, she introduced then Madame Evelyne Flueck with her cast, Mesdemoiselles Petronia, Cunigunde, Isabeaux and Pricillia. Ah! Such pretty French girls with frills and all, long pig-tails, lace trimmed panties and such shapely legs, prickly with bristles! The audience couldn't stop laughing and gave them all (Erich Flueck, Peter Ryf, Peter Junker and Urs Amstutz) terrific applause after the performance. Familie Hirzel were next on the programme singing "Das Heimatdoerfli" in such lovely harmony it stirred the whole audience; how very nice to have a choir in your own family; it reminds me of the "Trapp Family."

This was not the end yet. Mr W. Hirzel, senior, came up with another item, reciting the story of the "Fabrikler," written by the late Mr Moosberger—a very humoristic and yet realistic tale of routine life. Community singing was also on the programme but that started only after supper, which was served around midnight. Shortly before more visitors arrived from the Waikato: Mr and Mrs Risi with friends, and although they missed the programme it was very nice to have them for the latter part of the evening.

Supper was excellent, complimented upon by everyone and followed by an enormous amount of Chuechli and Krapfen with coffee. Dancing went on until early in the morning with more jodeling and singing, a very happy celebration altogether!

—H.M.

FROM A HAMILTON VISITOR

I can allow myself only a few words, there is no room left in the "Helvetia" after Auckland played havoc with the available space!

Having been there myself I fully endorse Hanny Mueller's report of the Auckland celebration. It was a most enjoyable evening, but these Auckland Swiss must be a terrific race, they can go on for hours and hours and hours and nothing to eat, while, of course, making full provision for adequate liquid diet! The old saying proved itself again: All good things are worth waiting for.

—Arnold Biland

Hamilton Swiss Club

A record crowd filled the Riverlea Hall to bursting point on August 1st for our National Day celebrations. The committee deserves a hearty vote of thanks for their extremely hard work.

be it in the kitchen, the bar, or in so beautifully decorating the hall. Supper was enjoyed all the more, because it was eaten by candle light.

The committee wishes to thank all those who gave us such a high standard and suitable entertainment during the evening. Walter Risi was M.C. and Messrs Hans Oettli and Studer the programme organisers.

Doppellquartett: Mesdames Studer, Baumann, Villiger and Schaeffer; Messrs Hans Oettli, J. Risi, R. Rust and E. Studer.

Laendlerkappelle: H. Biland (piano), Heiri Oettli (accordion), W. Schwitzer (clarinet).

Jodeln: J. Arnold. Fahnenschwingen and Alphorn: F. Arnold. Sketch: J. & E. Studer. Dance music: Harry Schuler and daughter.

Photos taken during the evening can be seen at Photo Supplies, Ward Street, Hamilton.

FROM AN AUCKLAND VISITOR

A hectic dash from office to home, a further dash into a pretty dress, a light supper and there I was, all ready, when Mr Sigris rang the bell to take us with some other friends to Hamilton for the 1st August celebration. We arrived at approximately 8.30 p.m., just a nice time and were welcomed by Mr and Mrs Biland, President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, and many other friends from the Waikato. Dr Rossetti and Mr Schaefer, from Wellington, were, of course, present too, and to our surprise and pleasure we met also the President of the Wellington Swiss Club, Mr Wehrli and Mrs Wehrli—a long way to come, and a special welcome was given to them. Another lovely surprise came from Mrs Biland, who presented Mrs Wehrli and myself a lovely flower arrangement—an acknowledgment for all the work we do behind the scenes. Thank you!

Mr Biland started the programme with a speech, followed by the National Hymn, then Dr Rossetti made his speech, very amusing and yet of great interest, referring also to the foundation of the Red Cross, now in operation for 100 years. From then on the show was in full swing with various items of yodelling, Alphornblasen, Fahnenschwingen and very nice singing from the choir. The "Laendermusik" was complete with a Klarinettspieler and it sure made a big difference to the tunes. As a matter of fact, it was a bit hard to sit quiet and demure when your feet were itchy and tapping the tunes below the table, but knowing our compatriots from the Waikato, I knew there was not much chance for a dance until after midnight. Never in a hurry, they sit there like solid rock, waiting first for the excellent supper—Bernerplatte with all the trimmings—then, after the cakes with coffee and a few more biers, suddenly the official part comes to an end.

It started with an Opperette, sang by Mr and Mrs Studer, about the poor, lonely wife doing her ironing and sewing at home while her husband is going merrily every Saturday night to the Casino to play cards and have some biers. No wonder she was so distressed and annoyed—all at the same time, thinking of revenge, divorce and what have you. Heaven and Hell was brewing up, when in comes her husband singing happily about all the good things in life, not realising that disaster was looming around the corner. What a lashing in words rained upon his guilty head! No good being sorry, no good to implore and remind how much he still loved her. No! It was not good enough and no use anyhow, she still wanted a divorce and meant it too; packed her belongings—and then, in sheer desperation, a flash went through his bambuzled mind, he turned the facts to his advantage and threatened to leave her really and go to “AFRICA!” to AFRICA? No! Not this! Not to AFRICA! Never could she survive this; no; he would not go to this dark, dark country—to AFRICA! Here my darling, have the key, every Saturday you can go and have your bier, play cards, come home when you please, but oh, my darling, please don't go to AFRICA!

What a show. Tremendous applause followed and finally everybody shifted, getting ready to dance. For us it was time to leave, a long way back to Auckland—Friday is not a day to rest in Auckland, sorry to say!

Thank you Hamilton, for having us; it was a fine celebration!

—Hanny B. Mueller

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The 672nd Anniversary of Swiss Independence was celebrated by 200 Swiss on 1st August at a cabaret evening in the Kapuni Hall. Swiss flags, representing each Canton, were the main hall decoration.

Music for dancing was played by A. Engelberger, P. Amstaldwen, J. Fohn and John Hughes (accordions), and Mrs L. Chamberlain (piano). Items were given by Mrs F. Suter, Mrs Seifert (sketch), Alec Kuriger's Party (sketch), and Mrs Dudli (yodelling).

Monte Carlo dance prizes were won by Mr and Mrs Kimmenacher, Mr and Mrs R. Butler and Mr and Mrs P. Zimmerman.

Mr Arnold Engelberger, who arrived in Taranaki 50 years ago, was treated to a surprise when Martin Steiner, on behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club, presented him with a wristlet watch as a mark of appreciation of his efforts playing the accordion for the Swiss community and he is still going strong.

7th Card winners—Ladies: Mrs Gwerder 1, Mrs Muller 2, Mrs Kuchler 3. Men: Albi Dettling 1, F. Gwerder 2, J. Schwab 3. Competition: J. Schwab.

8th Card winners—Ladies: Mrs A. Schicker 1, Mrs A. Schuler 2, Mrs P. Zimmerman 3. Men: P. Zimmerman 1, David Gwerder 2, Joe Hermann 3. Competition: Agnes Suter.

Card Points Prize-winners: Mrs P. Zimmerman 1, Mrs A. Schuler 2. —M.S.

Christchurch Swiss Club

A large number of members and friends with their children attended our 1st August celebrations, held at the United Service Hotel, Christchurch, on Saturday, 3rd August.

Mr Watser, from Switzerland, and the manager of the hotel, provided us with an excellent Swiss meal of Aufschnitt und Kartoffelschlag.

A most interesting and beautiful film of our homeland (provided by the Swissair) was very much appreciated by everyone and throughout the evening a happy and friendly atmosphere prevailed. —E.M.

SWISS EXPOSITION, 1964 — GROUP TRAVEL

Would all those interested please let me have the circular from the Embassy or contact me direct by the 30th September. Even if you have not quite decided, let me know; the present application does not commit you in any way.

ARNOLD BILAND

Te Rapa, Frankton, 8 R.D.

Phone 88-414 (Hamilton)

Obituary

JAN THOMAS LIPA

Our Auckland compatriot, Mrs Liselotte Lipa, has suffered a great bereavement last month in the loss of her husband, Jan Thomas. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him will always remember him as a wonderful family man and as possessing outstanding intellectual gifts.

As a young man he arrived in Switzerland as a Polish refugee. As a science student he had the privilege to work under Professor Reichstein, of Cortisone Nobel prize fame. In Auckland he worked as an industrial chemist and his associates valued his precision, efficiency and conscientiousness.

To Mrs Lipa and her two young boys go our sympathy and our wish for strength for her future life.

—Mrs H.B.