

News of the colony

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on toy lead soldiers sold in the souvenir shops of Rome. The costume, attributed to Michelangelo, was revived by the good Colonel, much to the delight of the tourists who want that prized photograph at the side of a Swiss Guard.

The defence budget of the Vatican unlike that of most modern states and some not much larger than it, is not a heavy drain on finances. Equipment for the Guards amounts to a total of 100 mausers and a hundred halberds. Their colours is a flag of five horizontal bands of blue, red and yellow on which are attached the arms of the reigning Pope, Julius II and the Commander of the Guard.

Re-organised in 1959 by Pope John XXIII, the Swiss Guard Corps which has often been threatened by disbandment, was reduced in size. It now includes seventy men, two drummers, twenty-three non-commissioned officers, a chaplain and four officers including the Commander, Robert Nunlist.

Their quarters are decorated with old mosaics discovered during excavations under the Vatican. The young Swiss, which are still recruited from the Helvetian Cantons, enlist for a period of at least two years and have the right to a pension in Swiss francs after twenty years of service.

But their military functions, in this age of the atomic bomb, are limited to the guard of the external gates of the Vatican and the antichamber of the Pontifical Apartments. The Swiss Guards, more than any military corps, is a symbol of peace, and force in the service of the spirit.

After the closing of the Ecumenical Council, it was rumoured that Pope Paul VI was contemplating to drastically reduce, or abolish, the Swiss Guard, but it now appears that the plan has been set aside for many reasons, concerning the security of the Vatican and the many thousands of visitors.

That the Guard will remain seems confirmed by the recent admission of 18 new Swiss recruits.

(“Swiss Journal” California)

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AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

On June 24th some members of the Auckland Swiss Club put on a play at the Edendale School Hall. The “Daellebach Kari” proved to be a very entertaining play; there was plenty to laugh about and on the other hand there were also certain parts that gave us food for thought. All the different parts were

played extremely well and a lot of work and practice must have gone towards achieving this result.

Also the stage sets were very well done, representing in one act a solicitor's office and in the next the lounge-room of a villa. The Sunday-suit of one of the actors also deserves mentioning. It probably was in fashion when grandmother went to kindergarten; however, today a lady could quite easily make a straight skirt out of each trouser leg!

We would like to thank the actors and actresses very much and hope that their efforts have been rewarded by the merriment they caused, and the applause they received.

After the play we were served schublig and potato salad, followed by coffee and delicious home-made cakes and apple pies. Many thanks to the ladies who baked these, they must have spent hours in the kitchen for us. After supper our musicians took over and kept us on our feet until the early hours of Sunday. —H.B.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The last Card Evening of the year, held in a homely atmosphere at the Swiss Chalet on June 24th, was well patronised by members. The excellent supper, "Kalbsvoressen," was a real Swiss Chalet speciality.

The president, Mr John Villiger, thanked Mr & Mrs B. Fluhler for their hospitality in making the Swiss Chalet available. We are looking forward to the next season! —M.S.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

I think I would like to write just a few words more about our 10th Jubilee Celebrations —

I arrived very early at the Display Centre and found it so nicely decorated with all our Cantonal Flags and a big Swiss Flag, but the N.Z. Flag was not missing either; oh, I just heard a rumour that His Worship the Mayor and Lady Kitts will come to celebrate our 10th Birthday with us. Yes, these were ten years of hard work for all the different committees, because everybody seems to be always scared to go on, but our Club flourishes and for me it was always a pleasure to attend functions.

At the door I was greeted by a few well known faces who just seemed to know everybody. I received a very nice programme and then I entered the Cocktail room. At the beginning it was still quite empty, but soon people floated in and we all could establish new contacts or renew old friendships. This Cocktail Party was a very good idea and I really felt warmed up when we finally sat down for dinner. Before the meal, some speeches had to come—Mr Frick greeted us all and then the Mayor spoke and, I must say, his knowledge about our little

country is astonishing. Mr Weber was next and he told us about some of the first settlers in Wellington, such as Mr Meier, the hairdresser, who must have been a real character; some of these "old timers" were even present, like the Bruelisauers. Then dinner was served; by gosh, this soup was making me thirsty—"they want to sell some drinks tonight," I was thinking to myself. The "Pastetli" was very nice, but with my chicken I had an awful struggle; you see, I am just not used to eating it with a knife and fork, but there was no water to dip my fingers in and, of course, I could not use the champagne!

I nearly forgot the "Jodlers," they gave us some items before our dinner; unusual to hear these songs so far away from home; and also the "Talerschwinger"—this made me quite a bit homesick. I expected to hear the Alphorn too, but I was told that somebody in the "NAC" was inquisitive and broke the mouth-piece; what a pity. Then the dancing started. The music, old and new jazz, just suited my taste and everybody was soon on the floor, enjoyiing themselves very much. The singer was just absorbed in her part and sometimes really fascinating. I never sat down and had one dance after another.

Our departing Vice-Consul, Mr Schaerer, had a few words to say too. He regrets to leave us and especially will miss all the hours he spent with our Club—work and pleasure (certainly the early hours of the morning—he somehow never seemed to get tired). Basketball was very important to him, as well as tennis, and last, but not least, swimming. He was "full of beans" and a source of ideas and energy and I am sure we will miss him in all respects. Farewell Mr Schaerer, all our best wishes.

The Jodelchoerli again gave us some items and then the Oettli brothers played their accordions—this was liked enormously and it sounded from everywhere "noch einen soettigen!" and then another "Laendler" followed. Once again the Jazz band took over and all were in full swing. Tombola prize distribution—the next break. Mr Schaerer what are you going to do with your apron? Oh, I beg your pardon, you are a "housewife" now! "Goettin Fortuna" was certainly with Mr & Mrs Fuhrer, they won the first prize, a nice transistor radio. Some people started to leave, whilst I continued to enjoy myself tremendously. Two o'clock: horse race time—first the men, then the ladies; this was hard work after all the dancing and the drinks. Do not be so curious Nick and change your seat just for this occasion! Till 3.30 we all were on our feet, but then the band stopped and we did too.

I enjoyed the whole evening very much and I say a big Thank You to all the organisers, especially to our President, Mr Frick. I know only too well how much and early planning was involved in this function.

—"One Who Likes Dancing"