

News of the colony

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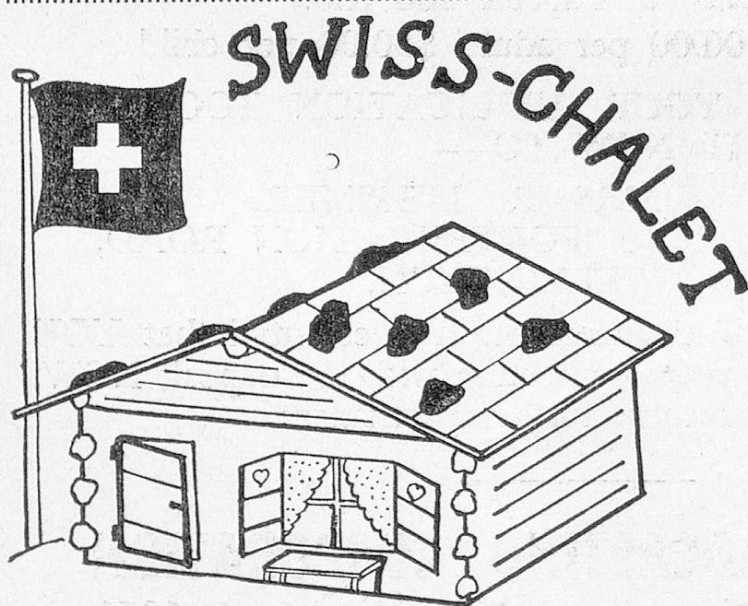
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News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

On 13th October six Swiss members of the touring Moral Rearmament group attended an afternoon tea, or rather coffee, given in their honour in the home of one of our Committee members. Everybody was interested to hear more about their Organisation. Their high, but most difficult aim, is to improve the understanding among nations, and to end hunger, poverty, corrouption and misery in East and West. They were excited about the Swiss specialities because some of them have been on tour for the last three years.

Altogether there are 10 Swiss members in the group, who present the very fast-moving and enlightening musical revue "Anything to Declare?" Unfortunately four members arrived one or two days later, but we were still able to meet them on the night they presented their show at the Founders Hall, and it was nice to see so many Swiss friends in the audience. —R.E.W.



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CAR RALLY

Sunday, 18th October, dawned beautifully sunny and warm and at 1 p.m. at the Belfast Hotel eight cars lined up to start the Rally. As it was the first car rally we had held, it was fairly easy. The cars were started at five-minute intervals. I was at the first checkpoint and all the cars made good times to this point (I even checked in a car from another rally!).

Mr Moser was at the second checkpoint and he had a few amusing moments. Questions were asked at the checkpoints and penalty points were given accordingly. The last checkpoint was at Mr Moser's bach where Brigitte Moser waited to check the cars in for a barbeque of Swiss saveloys.

The job of sorting out who had won was a hard one and I'm glad it was Mr Moser's responsibility and not mine. First prize went to Mr John White, second prize to Mr Kurt Suter and third prize to Mr Otto Bolt. Congratulations to the prizewinners and thanks to Mr Moser for the organisation of the rally.

FISHING TRIP

This weekend was put forward a week so as not to clash with any Show Weekend activities. On the Friday afternoon of the 6th two car-loads of us travelled up to Lake Lyndon laden with camping gear. The sun was with us all the way and the water in the lake was clear and blue. The tents were put up, slowly but surely, and as the sun was setting we sat down for tea. The evening was beautiful, perfectly still with a bright starry sky. After the children had gone to bed, but not to sleep, we sat and talked for about an hour and then hit the hay ourselves.

Saturday, 7th November: I woke at 6 o'clock to find that Mr and Mrs Moser had gone fishing over an hour before. There had been a slight frost, but the day dawned clear and bright. After breakfast, three of us climbed up a small mountain, or perhaps it was just a big hill. By now the sun was very hot; Mr and Mrs Moser were back from their fishing with six fish altogether. The children went fishing later but only got their lines tangled. Brigitte and her friend Lois went again later in the afternoon and came back in triumph with their first fish each. It was funny when they had to clean them. Cooking began in earnest as fish was on the menu. Thick mist had come now from down the mountains and covered the lake. Mr Moser caught another fish which brought the tally to eight until they were eaten. In the evening we lit a bonfire which combined with the mist and gave the place an eerie look. We finally went to bed at about 10 o'clock.

Sunday, 8th November: The mist still hung low, but at least we could see the lake. Fishing wasn't the best, but Mrs Moser beat her husband this time — two to one! By breakfast time

the sun was breaking through the mist. The crowd had grown since Friday night with the addition of Mr and Mrs Bashford, Mr and Mrs Power, Mr and Mrs Mueller and Mr Bolt and Glenys. Out came the sun and the tennis racquets and ball. We played French cricket for an hour or so and then collapsed. Otto and Glenys went to climb the mountain, and it really was a mountain this time! Lunch was served and it was lovely. During lunch we found out it was Mr Mueller's birthday, so while Mr Moser led him away we rushed around, lit a candle and poured out some beer. As he joined us, we sang "Happy Birthday" to him and toasted him. Later we went for what we were told was a ten-minute drive, which actually took twenty minutes, up to Lake Pearson. It was very cold up there and rough, so we came back to finish taking the tents down and generally packing up. It didn't take long and soon we were on the way home: tired, sunburned and feeling happy that the weather had stayed so fine for us. We have been very lucky with the weather this year for all our activities. —J.F.

Forthcoming Events

Hamilton Swiss Club

We will have our **Christmas Celebration** on Sunday, 13th December, at 8 p.m. sharp in the Eureka Hall. Admission: Members 50c, non-members \$1, children free. Ladies a plate please.

Preliminary date for Picnic: 21st February, 1971. —R.E.W.

Christchurch Swiss Club

Children's Christmas Party: 6th December, 1970. —J.F.

EARLY SWISS SETTLERS

A record in booklet form of the first Swiss in New Zealand has been compiled by Irene Weber de Candolle. Mrs Weber is the wife of Dr Jean Pierre Weber who was the Charge d'Affair of our Embassy in Wellington. She gives a most interesting account of early Swiss settlers starting with John Webber, who accompanied Captain Cook on his last voyage to New Zealand.

The booklet is available from Arnold Biland, Frankton 8 R.D. at a charge of 50 cents per copy which will be donated, as requested by Mrs Weber, to the Swiss Society.