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News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

The first two Card Evenings of the season were held on 25th April and 9th May in the Eureka Hall. Both were very well attended.

Prizes for the first evening were won by: Pat Steiner 1, Franz Arnold 2, Walter Steiner 3, Jack Dunner 4. Second evening: Ruedi Stuchi 1, Fritz Hasli 2, Mig. Bosch 3, Louis Steiner 4.

—R.E.W.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A small attendance of members were present for the Annual Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club, held in the Lounge of the Kapuni War Memorial Hall on 15th April, 1970.

In his report the President, Mr Len Chamberlain, reported that the Club had had a very successful year socially with all functions being generally well attended. Officers elected were:

President: Mr Len Chamberlain. Vice-President: Mr Joe Hermann. Secretary: Mr Raymond Waldvogel. Committee: Mrs C. Gwerder, Mrs P. Meyer, Miss L. Suter, Mr Paul Amstalden, Mr Dan Bulter, Mr Len Dettling, Mr Bruno Frank Jnr., Mr Alex Gwerder, Mr Alec Kuriger, Mr Lou Kuriger, Mr Ted Napflin and Mr Holdi Mathis. Shooting Sub-committee: Riflemaster, Mr T. Napflin; members, Messrs J. Kaiser, Z. Hospenthal, H. Mathis.

Obituary —

Alexander Kalin

Alexander Kalin, who died on 13th January, was the youngest of sixteen children. He arrived in New Zealand in 1906 accompanied by his brother Albert and with threepence in his pocket. He came to Kapuni and worked for a time with his brother-in-law Emil Schicker. He then moved to the Inaha district where he was employed by a brother of Lord Rutherford. Later he transferred to Lord Rutherford's father's farm at Pungarehu. Incidentally, this farm is now occupied by two of Alex Kalin's grand-daughters and their husbands. It was there he met and was married to Mary Schuler at Pungarehu Catholic Church in 1916 by Fr. Kelly. The occasion was rather unique as it was a double wedding with Mr and Mrs Charlie Schuler of Kaponga.

Upon leaving Pungarehu Mr and Mrs Kalin spent various periods at Auroa, Watui and Lepperton. In 1926, accompanied by four of five children, they made a final move to Puniho to a farm covered with blackberry and gorse. Through Mr Kalin's efforts, often ploughing until 2 o'clock in the morning, and helped by his wife and young family this is now one of the most highly-productive farms on the coast.

In his younger days Alex Kalin's favourite pastime was breaking in horses. In later years he devoted his spare time to gardening and wine-making — a field in which his natural thoroughness showed in his fine products.

He is survived by his wife and five children, Alex, Pauline (Mrs M. J. Goodin), Charlie, Mary (Mrs J. B. Doyle) and Margaret (Mrs B. D. Fleming), to whom we extend our sympathy.

Henry Waldvogel

It was a sunny, cool autumn day when a large number of people paid their last respects to Henry Waldvogel at Tokoroa on 23rd April. As a Swiss-trained engineer, Henry arrived with his wife in New Zealand 18 years ago. Six months after arrival he joined the firm of N.Z. Forest Products Ltd. to which he served as a foreman for several years right to his last day.

At home he was a keen mountaineer and climbed many difficult 4000m peaks, admiring the unchallenged beauty of the alps. As president of the Tokoroa Alpine Club, he passed on his wide experience with great pleasure. With love and enthusiasm for the sport, he devoted much of his spare time building and supervising the club's facilities up on Mt. Ruapehu. By his work Henry Waldvogel's name will live on and be remembered.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, son and two daughters.
—R.W.

Amalie Maria Meier

On May 3rd, Mrs Amalie Maria Meier (born 75 years ago at Gummiswald, St. Gallen) died at 'Santis Lodge', Matangi, after a long illness. She married Julius Meier in Switzerland in 1920 and in 1924 emigrated with her husband and two sons Antony and Frank to Napier. The long life as a farmer's wife started in Whakatane, where also her only daughter Anna was born. Apart from the Meier family there were only two other Swiss in that district. In 1940 Amalie with her family went to live on the beautiful 'Santis Lodge' farm her husband had acquired, located at Matangi, near Hamilton. The only other Swiss around in those days were the Biland family.

Knitting a cardigan of homespun wool for the former Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, and being especially sought out by him for a chat and 'thank you', was the highlight in Amalie's life.

Many new Swiss arrivals remember the ever open door kept by the deceased at 'Santis Lodge'.