

Obituary

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OBITUARY

HANS OETTLI

An unusually large gathering of relations and friends paid the last tribute to one of our compatriots who we learned to respect and love. Hans Oettli, a member of our editing committee, passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 5th. The great Master called him unexpectedly resting on the sofa in the livingroom.

Hans Oettli arrived in New Zealand from Switzerland with his family of three boys and one girl in 1956. After carefully considering the pros and cons of emigrating from Switzerland which abounded with prosperity, the Oettli family chose New Zealand as the place to bring up their family. In private Hans was manager of the Hypothekar Co-operative Organisation of the Canton Thurgau. In the Swiss Army in World War II he had the rank of Major in charge of provisions and accommodations. His organising ability won him the acclaim of the Swiss authorities. Therefore the choice of where to live with his family was his own.

The first place he purchased here was in Whatawhata, where he played a prominent part in the local school committee. Mr Amos, the present Minister of Education, was headmaster at Whatawhata at that time. Together with Hans they tried to bring in the local Maoris and that is where Hans made a lot of friends with his neighbours. It was a fitting tribute to the standing of the Oettli family when Mrs Amos, wife of the Minister of Education, was at the funeral service.

In his eulogy the Rev. William Field mentioned the Oettli family's love and ability for music, encouraged and participated by Hans and he paid tribute to the fact that this was freely available at all times.

In latter years the Oettli family moved to Eureka where son Eric farms the family farm. Hans was a prominent member of Federated Farmers and the local hall committee.

After leaving school, Peter, the eldest son, studied Ph. Science and is now a lecturer in German at the Waikato University with a Ph.D.

Daughter Heidi Nunan (nee Oettli), B.A., is teaching English in Kuching, Sarawack, and Max Oettli is Technical Advisor, Department of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland.

Our deepest sympathies to Mrs Oettli and family and to brother Henry Oettli and father and mother of the deceased, Mr and Mrs Jean Oettli.

W.R.

For just on 18 years Hans Oettli has been a member of the editing committee of the Helvetia, meeting monthly during all this time. His co-operation, loyalty and particularly his forthright approach to problems never left us in any doubt of his value. We cannot thank him personally any more and he will not only be sadly missed by his family but also by the three remaining members of the editing committee.

A.B.