

# News of the colony

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"Aside from neutrality, Switzerland would practically only have two other ways by which to enhance its security; by joining an alliance or hoping for an effective functioning of the United Nations. Since the United Nations accurately reflect the present state of international relations and therefore will not be able for a long time to come (if ever) to guarantee international peace and security, the only remaining viable alternative would be to join an alliance.

"Assuming for example, that Switzerland decided to join NATO quite a number of obstacles would have to be overcome, if the country wanted to play an active role within the Alliance.

"Switzerland's armed forces are uniquely defence-orientated and are based on the principle of area defence.

"The armed forces of NATO members are generally mobile and have a high degree of mechanisation. Switzerland would most likely have to adapt its armed forces to comply with NATO norms. The obstacles in the way of such an adaptation were already mentioned in connection with the debate between the adherents of a mobile or area defence.

"Considering all the pros and cons, it can probably be said that a policy of neutrality still constitutes the best means to satisfy Switzerland's security needs in the absence of viable alternatives in the foreseeable future."

*(Concluded)*

## News of the Colony

### AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB PICNIC

The day was as perfect as anyone could have wished for. One of those very rare summer days this year. And people came in droves. There has never been such an occasion, I think, when our farm facilities were used to capacity. We were, of course, very privileged to have amongst us two groups of Swiss travellers who obviously appreciated the beauty of the surroundings. And a very friendly and outgoing lot they were too! Along with the soccer team came their new friends, members of the Glenfield Soccer Club, whose team they had beaten on Saturday. Never mind, they certainly have got an excellent dart-thrower in Brian Lane, who won the "Zopf" with 128 points for three throws. One of their group also took home the delicious looking fruit basket, won in the raffle.

Unofficially here and very much on holiday were also our Ambassador and his wife, who by now are becoming quite well-known to a lot of us.

It was about midday when our president welcomed us all. Following were a few friendly words from Mr Adams and we were then addressed by the spokesman for the travel group from Brugg, who amongst other things mentioned that it was a welcome change to see an Ambassador in shorts rather than the traditional tailcoat. Did anyone hear Mr Adams reply that there had, of course, never been an

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Ambassador with such good looking legs?! Mrs Adams was then asked to accept, on behalf of our club, a present that had been brought especially all the way from Switzerland. Great was the surprise and the pleasure when she unpacked a complete new set for our pinbowling alley. How did they know that our old one had just become "a little worn" over the years? Mr Boeckli, father of the tour leader, was asked to throw the first ball and this was the beginning of a very busy afternoon. A successful one, too, for that group, as one of them scored the most points and took the Salami home.

Lunch, which consisted of bull-on-the-spit, cooked to perfection by our Paul Wuethrich, and an excellent potato and a tossed salad, was served soon after one o'clock and was praised by many. The big task of slaughtering the beast was accomplished by Max Bachman. Thank you, Paul and Max! How the committee managed to be so well organised I'll never know!

Guests and locals mixed freely. New acquaintances were quickly made, mutual old ones were discovered and jokes and laughter abounded. Judging by the number of "posties" in the travel group, salaries within the PTT must have risen dramatically since my days!

It was late in the afternoon when the crowd departed, well contented and quite a few a bit sunburned from the unaccustomed summer's day.

A big "thank you" must go to those ladies who very spontaneously and generously washed and dried never-ending stacks of dishes and obviously enjoyed it too!

M.W.

#### HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

On January 24th, the F.C. Brugg visited Hamilton as part of their Australasian soccer tour. For the three days' stay in the city most players were billeted with Swiss families, much appreciated by the visitors as it helped to solve the language difference.

On Sunday they played one game against A.F.C. Hamilton before a large crowd; it ended in a 1-all draw. In the evening the A.F.C. entertained the visitors at their clubhouse in Muir Park; soon it developed into a jolly good party, which only finished in the early morning hours.

On Monday some hosts took their guests on a sightseeing tour, for the others a game of golf was arranged at the 18 hole Westland golf course. For most members it was their first game and after the ninth hole many were a bit weary and remarked, they didn't realise golf was such a strenuous hobby.

For the evening a dinner was organised at the Swisschalet by a few resident Swiss, which was very much enjoyed by everyone present. On Tuesday they left by bus for Auckland, where they had arrangements for three more games.

We all hope they have a safe journey back to Switzerland and that they take with them many happy memories of their stay in Hamilton.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the visit of the F.C. Brugg, a special thanks to those who provided billets.

E.S.