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Your Corner.....

Once again we are able to print a Society Member's Profile. This time we thank Marianne Benkert, Taranaki, for the great effort in composing a Profile of her fellow Swiss Club member, **Charlie Schuler**, (a life-member of the Swiss Society) - We recommend Marianne's example to any Swiss Society member and we thank Charlie Schuler for this opportunity to gain an insight into his life's journey to this day.

Doris and Trudy.

Profile of Charlie Schuler

Charlie's father was Karl (known in NZ as Charlie, because he didn't want Kiwis to think he was a German) and hailed from Goldau.

- He originally came to NZ in 1906, but returned to Switzerland not long after. However to avoid army training he decided to return once again to NZ.

On the boat trip over he met his future Wife Matilda who was going to America.

- After settling in the Taranaki area, Charlie wrote to Matilda to join him in NZ. - Matilda was from Grindelwald in the 'Bernese Oberland'. She duly obliged and eventually they had a double wedding with Charlie's sister and her husband (Marie and Alex Kälin).

50 years later all were still alive to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary together !

- Charlie and Matilda had two children, Tilly (the younger one!) and **Charlie, born in 1918 in Kaponga...**, goodness me, Charlie, you didn't travel far !!!

- His entire schooling was undertaken in Kapuni, except for an eighteen month stint when his mother became so homesick that in 1924 she returned to Switzerland with young Charlie.

- During these eighteen months, Charlie went to school in Grindelwald and fell in love with it's beauty.

- Charlie kept up his 'Bärn-deutsch' and today still speaks the dialect perfectly.

- Upon leaving school, Charlie worked on the family-farm and also worked for a builder from time to time.

- Bored with just milking cows, he noticed a quarry on the farm, so in the late 1940's he started his own concreting business where he still works today.

Whenever you pop in to see Charlie today, he always has his work



clothes on!! Now he says 'I'm just the boy'. with son Neil running the business.

Many older people still remember Charlie taking his two horses 'Rose' and 'Prince', (hell for leather) down the road to the factory to deliver the milk !!

- In 1939 he was fortunate to meet his lovely wife Doreen, but had to wait five years until she was 21 to get married!!

- Charlie and Doreen were blessed with five children and now have thirteen grandchildren, and will soon have four great-grandchildren !

- Charlie has travelled to Switzer-

land six times..., most of that time being spent in his beloved Grindelwald. The home he lived in back in 1924 still exists, although it is now not owned by the Schuler family.

- In 1989, Charlie was made a life member of the Swiss Society of NZ for his efforts with the HELVETIA magazine. - Charlie has been a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club since it's inception in 1952, and has served on the committee for nineteen years.

What an achievement !! Charlie was a very hardworking member of our club during the time our Swiss club buildings were erected, and has spent many, many hours helping with maintenance and improvements. Charlie has donated the use of land where our current 'Karabiner-rifle-range' stands. On behalf of the members of the Taranaki Swiss Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charlie and Doreen very much for their many, many years of dedicated and loyal service to our club.

- We all really appreciate what both of you have done for the Taranaki Swiss Club, and hope that you can still enjoy the facilities for many more years.

- Charlie celebrated his 80th. birthday in style at the Swiss Club (his second home !!). His family gave him a treasured present..., four new tyres for his payloader..., hope you don't wear them out too quickly, Charlie !!

- Coffee schnaps, red wine, and chocolate are Charlie's culinary delights !! And Charlie also enjoys Swiss music and having a chat to friends. To both of you, Charlie and Doreen, we wish you all the best, many more years together and good health. - Hope you have another trip to Switzerland and are able to enjoy the beauty of Grindelwald and the company of distant relatives.

M.B.

KIWI LIFESTYLE

Wir möchten unser wunderschön gelegenes Ferienhaus (Eine Stunde Fahrt von Auckland) langfristig mit ein bis zwei Familien teilen, z.B. jedes dritte Wochenende und den dritten Teil aller Ferien - wir sind flexibel. Ideal für grosse und kleine Kinder! -Ph. 09-419 22 95

Thought for the Month

A secret is something you tell someone not to tell because you can't keep it to yourself.

We're going live...!!

Recently, courtesy of Edi Brändli, our computer expert in Auckland, a web-site was made available for the use of all clubs and the Society. Through this, two Clubs have already acquired new members - people who were looking for a 'Swiss connection' on the Internet. Edi has written to all the Clubs to inform them of the availability of the Website for any who choose to use it.

The address is: <http://swiss.org.nz>