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PROFILE

Mr Josef Leonhard Dettling

Joe, as he was known to us, was born on 7 August 1913 in Lauerz, canton Schwyz. He was the eldest of eight siblings from a farming family. He left Switzerland when he was 25, feeling that there wasn't a future in Switzerland for him. Frank Ehrlar, Joe's first cousin, was back in Switzerland recruiting young Swiss men to immigrate to New Zealand to work. Joe left his homeland on May 4, 1939 and arrived in Wellington on June 14, 1939 amongst a group of 19. They travelled by train to Hawera and then by car to the Kapuni Hall where a welcome was held for the newly arrived Swiss workers. In 1941 he married Josie Burkhart and they had a family of five - Mary, Pauline, Len, Albert and Trudy. Joe was a foundation member of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club. The first meeting was held on November 6, 1952 at Mr F Gwerder's house (Joe's brother-in-law). Joe and Josie have always been active, supportive and loyal members of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

Joe had a love of vehicles and owned a variety of cars, trucks and tractors during his farming career. After working on various farms, Joe bought his first farm on York Road, Midhirst in 1963, with a herd of 75 cows. The cowshed was a three-bail double-up walk-through!!! In 1973 Joe bought the neighbouring 64 acres, and sold his herd to his son, Albert. On the newly purchased block of land, Joe bought weaner calves and later sold them as in-calf heifers. Albert and Mary now own the farm. In 1982 Joe and Josie moved to New Plymouth where they lived for 20 years. Joe continued to go to the saleyards every Tuesday to keep in touch with the farming scene.

Joe and Josie returned to Switzerland for the first time in 1976 for three months and they made a second trip in 1985 for six weeks. Joe and Josie were married for 60 years, until Josie's death in April 2002.

Joe celebrated his 90th birthday in style with many family, friends and Swiss Club members at Albert and Mary's home (where Joe now lives). On his birthday, Joe was most touched by members of the Taranaki Swiss Club singing, playing the accordion and blowing the alphorn.



Congratulations on your 90th Joe, and we hope you will continue to enjoy good health for many more years.

QUOTES

For every minute you're angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness!!

★★★★★

Happiness is the result of being too busy to be miserable.

★★★★★

Happiness does not come from what you have but what you are.

★★★★★

To be happy, do not add to your possessions but subtract from your desires.

★★★★★

Happiness is where you find it and very seldom where you seek it.

★★★★★

Money never did buy happiness; and credit cards aren't doing much better.

★★★★★

Wealth may not bring happiness, but it seems to bring a pleasant kind of misery.

★★★★★

Happiness is a place somewhere between too much and too little.

★★★★★

True happiness may be sought, thought or caught - but never bought!

★★★★★

The heart is happiest when it beats for others.

★★★★★

It isn't your position that makes you happy or unhappy. It's your disposition.

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Henry SIGERIST

TRAVELAIR International Ltd

347 Parnell Rd, Auckland

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Evenings & Weekends

Ph (09) 473 9011 • Fax (09) 473 2966

Email henry.s@ihug.co.nz