

Obituary

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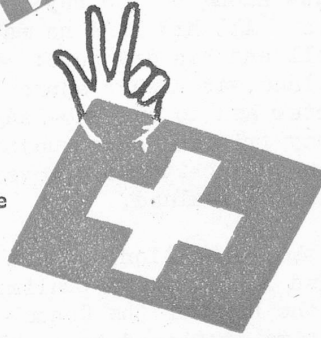
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HELVETIA



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WELLINGTON, N. Z.

ALLES LEBEN STROMT AUS DIR.
(Appenzeller Landsgemeinde Lied).

Lord, all life streams forth from Thee,
Never ceasing like a river
Flow Thy blessings, gracious Giver;
Fashioned by Thy hands are we.

To Thy greatness owe I all,
All my being, every feeling,
At Thy feet I'm humbly kneeling,
Thou whom Father I may call.

Let Thy comfort, limitless,
Fill my heart with joy unbounded,
Knowing that I am surrounded
By a father's tenderness.

Thou are near, with me abide
As I worship at Thy altar.
Lest my halting feet should falter
Let Thy angels be my guide.

Translated by J.J.F.S.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to inform the Swiss Colony in New Zealand of the passing away of our old friend, Mr. Werner Ungemuth.

Born 64 years ago in Teufen, Appenzell, his first activities as a young man were with the Appenzeller Strassenbahn and the Rigibahn. Like many of us, however, his adventurous spirit left him no peace and he decided to try his luck overseas. The further the better he thought, and New Zealand was his destination. He made the journey with his old friend, F. Frehner, in 1904. He married Anny Zellweger from Basel, who joined him in Auckland some 4 years later. After some attempt at farming, he became a member of the Auckland Ferry Co.'s staff and remained at his post for 34 years, when his health declined so much, that he was forced to retire.

Probably the best known Swiss among our Colony, he had innumerable friends and was loved and esteemed by all. All his life he was a faithful patriot and his reminiscences of the Appenzell and his dry humor so typical of the quaint little Canton in Eastern Switzerland, was always appreciated by his fellowmen. Mr. Ungemuth had a lovable character and to our knowledge never offended anyone, or had an ill thought for his many friends and acquaintances. He always was deeply attached to his homeland and he certainly proved his worth through the great work done for our Colony in New Zealand.

Werner Ungemuth was one of the foundation members of the S.B.S., which was officially formed on September 2nd 1935, after a preliminary resolution during a 1st of August gathering held at the home of the Consul. Together with Dr. Blau, Consul for Switzerland (at that time stationed in Auckland) and a few other helpers, he did most of the work for our young Society as secretary. His eagerness and genuine love for all matters connected with Switzerland, soon brought good results. The modest original membership of about 30, increased to over 100 in 2 years' time. We recall one of his annual holidays which Werner spent with his life-long friend, John C. Steiner of Waihou, solely for the purpose of touring Taranaki and enrolling new members among the large farming colony there. This drive resulted in no less than 35 new members for our Society.

Another happening of considerable interest to our compatriots worth relating is a petition sent to the President of the Swiss Confederation sometime in 1931. Our friend was the instigator of sending a petition to the Bundespraesident, suggesting the appointment of a permanent Consul of Swiss Origin and not only a "Gerant" of N.Z. birth. A suitably drafted appeal, signed by a sizable number of compatriots and suggesting a fitting man for the post, was sent home. The result was gratifying in so far that a permanent Consulate, conducted by a professional diplomat was opened within about two years.

A large gathering attended the funeral services held on October 31st. An impressive service was held at the home of the deceased. The Reverend Isherwood conducted the service, and the house, although a large one, was filled to overflowing. After the benediction and the condolences to the bereaved family, the bier was carried by the following pallbearers: Paul and Walter Ungemuth, Arnold Schlaepfer and James Gray, A. Peyer and E. Merz. The Cortège proceeded to the ferry across the Auckland harbour and thence to the Waikumete Cemetery, where he was cremated.

Thus a life full of interest and a great love for his fine family has come to a close. We Swiss in New Zealand are sad to have lost such a true friend, who always remained "schlicht und einfach". We all extend our deepest sympathy and esteem to Mrs. Ungemuth and to Werner, Paul, Walter and Marie.

The Secretary,
S. B. S.

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Upon receipt of the sad news of the death of Mr. Ungemuth, the following telegram was dispatched to the widow by Mr. Theiler, the Swiss Consul:

"The news of the passing away of your husband and our dear friend Werner Ungemuth has come as a shock to us. His services to the Swiss Benevolent Society and his interest in Swiss affairs have always been greatly appreciated. Please accept the expression of my heartfelt sympathy

Ernest Theiler Swiss Consul"

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"SWISS DEMOCRACY" (Contd.)

THE PARISH.

Three different kinds of parishes are outlined:

1. A mountain parish on the Lake of Thun: Sigriswil. With one exception this parish is the most important owner of forests in the canton of Berne. It extends over eleven villages of very different types, amongst them two watering places on the shore of the lake, but also very remote hamlets. "All these places,