

# News from Switzerland

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## NEWS OF THE COLONY

### TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

The Taranaki Swiss Club held its Annual Picnic on Sunday, February 12th, at the Te Ngutu Domain, Okaiawa. Once again we were favoured with a beautiful fine day which brought a large crowd of adults and children, including visitors from the Waikato.

Swiss flags representing each Canton of Switzerland were strung out across the ground, the effect of which was very striking to those arriving.

Children's races for all ages were held and prize-winners during the day were.—

Steintossen: E. Wuthrich 1, J. Kuriger 2, A. Muller 3, B. Muller 4. Kegelbahn: Men, J. Wuthrich 1, J. M. Wyss 2; Ladies, Mrs R. Ehrler 1, Mrs T. Napflin 2. Children's Skittles: A. Dettling 1, M. Buhler 2. Nail Driving: Men, J. Kuriger 1, A. Hermann 2; Ladies, Mrs F. Gwerder 1, Mrs J. Dettling 2. Competition for Framed Picture: J. A. Kaiser.

Races: Single Ladies, Agnes Suter 1, Pauline Zimmeran 2; Single Men, M. Steiner 1, F. Steiner 2; Married Men, M. Steiner 1, J. Kuriger 2.

—M.S.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club will be held on Saturday, April 15th, at the Professional Club, commencing at 8 p.m. sharp. Besides the Annual Report given by the President and the election of officers, etc., included in the evening's programme will be the presentation of prizes to winners of the various sections of the Auckland Schutzenfest, and also for the Swiss Society of New Zealand shooting competition.

### HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The Hamilton Swiss Club Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with our Club Evening in the Riverlea on April 9th (second Sunday in April, the first Sunday being Easter Sunday). As we have no other business besides the election of the Committee and General, we expect the meeting to last only about 30 minutes. Therefore, we have everything as usual: the Dutch Orchestra, a tasty Supper, etc., so don't miss this evening. Bring your dancing partners and friends.

A Card Evening, the first of three, will be held in the Tauwhare Hall on Saturday, April 22nd. A special prize will be given this year for the highest aggregate points for the three card evenings as well as generous prizes for each evening.

### CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

March 28th: Big "Chilbi" under the direction of Fritz Wangler, with rifle shooting, darts, ball games, etc. There will be lots of lovely prizes to be won. Proceeds of the evening will go to the funds of the Christchurch Swiss Club.

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### "A Home Away From Home"

A recent article appearing in the "Swiss Observer," London, has prompted me to write the following article about the Auslandschweizer Home. I would venture to say that very little is known in New Zealand about this Home for Swiss nationals from abroad, and as I had the opportunity while in Switzerland to stay some days with this wonderful group of people who run the "Home," I wish to tell others about the facilities available.

SITUATED at Durrenaesch (Canton Aargau) between the Wynen and Lake Valleys (Hallwilersee) the "Home" is set in ideal surroundings, and is within easy reach of Zurich, Basel, Lucerne and Berne. Open to all Swiss nationals from abroad and their descendants, the "Home" provides something new in the way of a holiday, i.e. a holiday in a Swiss village.

My visit to the "Home" coincided with the Easter holiday break, and on my arrival at Hallwil station I was met with a warm welcome by Miss Spahr, a member of the "Home" committee. The next day being Easter day everyone gathered in the dining room and joined in the traditional breaking of real Easter eggs, having the night before gathered small amounts of flowers and grasses and wrapped these around the eggs and then boiled them. Later on we all sat down to a lovely meal and each guest was given a small basket of chocolate Easter eggs.

At this time of the year there were not many guests, and so I was able to make a full tour of inspection of the "Home" and the surrounding countryside.

Functioning as a complete self-contained unit, the "Home" has its own farm (known as the Bampf) and it is here that most of the food is produced. All the bedrooms at the "Home" are provided with hand basins, hot and cold water, and are kept spotlessly clean. There is a writing room, a large lounge with television, music room with piano, and even facilities for games, etc., for the youngsters. Outside one of the main buildings is a small rockery with a spring fountain, and this is always greatly admired by the guests, besides adding to the already attractive gardens of the "Home."

My wanderings around the countryside took me to several points of historical and general interest, including the Schloss Hallwil, the battlefield of Sempach, a visit to the Zoo at Basel, and to Radio Beromunster.

The summer months are, of course, in the main, the busiest, when over one hundred guests are accommodated. Many of these people speak different languages but this really does not present too much of a problem. Everyone is so happy that the difficulty is soon overcome, and, indeed, the "Home" will, provided there are sufficient numbers, hold classes for the study of Schweizerduetsch and the other national languages of Switzerland.

To many of the older visitors (many of whom come back year after year), Durrenaesch means rest and quiet should they so desire it, and to the young there are the camping and hiking trips, excursions to the main towns, and in general a healthy outdoor life. Every year there is a big 1st of August celebration with the traditional flag throwing, dancing and the like, and here the guests really see the Swiss way of life.

For those of you then who intend in the future to return or visit Switzerland, I would certainly recommend this little village tucked away in the Canton of Aargau as "A Home Away from Home": it is open all the year round, and the costs are very reasonable, and in addition any guest who will lend a hand in helping with the work will receive a reduction in price.

Further information regarding the Ausland-schweizer Home in Durrenaesch, can be obtained from Mr A. Biland, of the Hamilton Club, or Miss D. Peyer, of the Auckland Swiss Club, or direct inquiries to either of the following persons in Switzerland, and they are:

Miss Spahr, Mlle Benoit or Mr Lienhart, who are the staff in charge, and all can be contacted at the "Home," Durrenaesch, Canton Aargau, Switzerland.

#### ELECTRONIC CALCULATION CENTRE

The Swiss firm of Omni Ray, Ltd., in collaboration with an American company, has just opened in Zurich a centre for electronic calculations, which can carry out, on request, mathematical calculations for scientific, technical and administrative use. The technical staff attached to this centre, has a variety of electronic machines at its disposal, one of which possesses an electronic memory capable of storing more than 2000 numbers composed of 7 figures; another electronic brain can store and restate, at will, 300,000 numbers composed of 7 figures; among the other apparatuses to be found in this centre, we would like to mention a differential analyser.

#### BIGGEST AIR CURTAIN IN THE WORLD

The passenger entrance of the new Idlewild air station, in New York, is not closed by a door, but by an air curtain, which is the biggest in the world. The elaboration and construction of this device, which protects the entrance hall from winds, cold and dust, were entrusted to the Swiss firm of Sulzer Brothers Ltd., of Winterthur. The resistance of this air curtain to the strong pressure exercised by the wind—measured on the spot—was tested by means of a model on a reduced scale, in the aero-dynamic tunnel of the Federal Polytechnical School at Zurich.

#### NEW SWISS OCEAN-GOING VESSEL

The launching took place recently at the naval shipyards of Flensburg, of a new sea-going vessel, the MS "Castagnola," which will sail under the Swiss flag. This ship, which is 492 feet in length, 62 feet in width and capable of carrying a dead weight of 12,150 tons, is equipped with a Sulzer marine engine of a capacity of 5400 h.p., enabling it to sail at a speed of 15 knots. This new ship has been made for the St. Gotthard Shipping Company Ltd., at Coire, and has been entrusted to the management of the "Societe genevoise Suisse-Outermer, S.A."

#### SWISS HAMMER FOR U.N.O.

Mr Dag Hammarskjold, the Secretary General of the U.N.O. has just received a new hammer, to replace the one that was broken during a stormy meeting. The hammer in question is made of brass, cast in the crucibles of a foundry in Reconvillier and ornamented with a dove made by a goldsmith in La Chaux-de-Fonds, one of the centres of the Swiss watchmaking industry.

#### SWISS AIRCRAFT FOR NEPAL

Three Swiss-made aircraft, of the Pilatus-Porter type, recently left the Kloten airport, for Nepal. Two of these aircraft are intended for the Nepalese Government, which will use them within the framework of technical assistance for the development of a country. The third machine has been placed at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with its pilot, by the Swiss aircraft manufacturing company, in order to facilitate aid to the Tibetan refugees in Nepal.

#### CONTRIBUTION TO ATOMIC SCIENCE

A firm in the Principality of Liechtenstein—with which Switzerland is united through a Customs Agreement—is now contributing towards the equipment of a large British atomic research centre. It has received orders for the delivery of three special furnaces for the calcination and brazing, under high vacuum, of graphitic reactor elements. The construction in question is of quite a new type.



### SWISS TEXTILES FOR THE HOME

Even if the women embroiderers, dressed in their national costumes, whose pictures are still to be found on post-cards, have almost entirely disappeared from East Switzerland, the so-called "cottage work" goes on to a considerable extent, more particularly in regard to chain-stitch embroidery, which is greatly in demand at present as a decoration for modern table and bed linen. The reputation possessed by East Switzerland, as being a centre for embroidery, and the use of this for model garments, as well as for "ready-to-wear" articles, has tended to make people forget that the Swiss cotton and embroidery industries also produce furnishing fabrics: curtains, hangings, household linen, materials for covering furniture, etc. This production, like that of all the other Swiss textile branches, owes its reputation not so much to its quantity, but to the quality of these products and to the elegance of the novelties which are put on the market, each year. It is this aspect of the Swiss textile industry which was stressed particularly, on the occasion of a visit made by the Swiss Press recently to East Switzerland, for purposes of information.

### SWITZERLAND, LAND OF AERIAL CABLEWAYS

Swiss manufacturers of aerial cableways and of similar means of transport, are so experienced in the matter that their constructions are greatly appreciated abroad, as can be seen from the results obtained. Indeed, in 1960, one Swiss factory, the de Roll firm, delivered several aerial-seats to the United States, for the "Lakeland" recreation park in Memphis and for the "Freedomland" recreation park in New York. This same firm also supplied the Ulriken aerial cableway at Bergen, in Norway, and the Miranda funicular, in Portugal. It also put into service, last December, the Mont-Gele aerial cableway, at Verbier, the famous winter sports resort in the Valais. This last mentioned line, which is 2890 feet in length and has a difference in level of 886 feet, is capable of carrying as many as 40 passengers in one cabin, up to a altitude of 9840 feet. The operation of the cable is assured, for the first time in the history of aerial transport, by means of a Hydro-Titan variable speed transmission mechanism with infinitely variable speed. To this impressive picture, we must add that an order was received recently for an aerial seat, intended for a recreation park, in Dallas, Texas.

### CHEESE SOUFFLE

Soften  $\frac{1}{2}$  loaf of old bread in two cups of boiling milk, mash up, add two egg yolks and  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb of grated cheese. Season to taste (ever tried nutmeg?), beat egg whites and fold in carefully. Put into buttered dish, bake in medium hot oven (400F). Will serve six.  
—H.Oe.

### SWISS BROADCASTING SERVICE FOR THE FAR EAST AND NEW ZEALAND

7th May, 1961 — 4th November, 1961  
07.15 — 09.45 p.m.

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