

News of the colony

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back to Berne according to the requirements. The normal career of a civil servant of the EPD runs its course partly in Berne, partly abroad.

—The Swiss Observer

(To be concluded)

News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

ANNUAL PICNIC

To hold the picnic or not to hold the picnic was the prize question on February 20th. At 7, 8 or 9 a.m. club members tuned in to the local radio station and with bated breath awaited a cancellation. However, for once a handful of Swiss showed that they have learned in New Zealand to put their hat on a horse, for better or worse. And so it turned out: Clouds, drizzle, watery sunshine alternated, but what was not changeable was the sporting good humour with which a surprisingly large gathering took "the weather" in its stride.

Around 200 adults and some 100 children moved or romped around when the going was good, or took shelter under the dense branches of the trees in the Risis' large garden. A large number of members from the Auckland Swiss Club also arrived, joining and boosting the general sporting spirit. We were delighted to see so many of you Aucklanders.

That our Charge d'Affaires and Mrs Weber stayed with us all day was greatly appreciated. Mr Weber, speaking to us all over the loud-speaker system, made particular reference to, and elaborated on, that this year 1966 was the "Auslandschweizer" year. Regardless of the drizzle Mr and Mrs Weber went around the grounds to mix freely with their compatriots. Mr and Mrs Homberger, also from the Embassy, sacrificed a day of their holidays to share our picnic day. This enabled everybody to meet this delightful young couple.

The children as usual had their lolly scramble and the barbecue Bratwurst and particularly the Real Cafe Kirsch enjoyed great popularity. Spontaneously-rendered accordion items and yodel songs were much appreciated.

Games were as follows.—**Kegeln:** 1st, Arthur Mueller, Auckland; 2nd, Arthur Plank, Hamilton. **Steinstossen:** 1st, Walter Piatti; 2nd, Willy Mueller; 3rd, Ossie Risi; 4th, Rinaldo Rust.

As usual, the Risis' garden proved to be the picnic spot par excellence and once again we are greatly indebted to them for being able to use any facilities desired in garden and house. To Mr and Mrs Risi, senior and junior, who worked also the day before and the day after the picnic, we owe special recognition. To them and to the other committee members go our warmest thanks for a day's hard work, done without a hitch.

—H.B.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

ANNUAL PICNIC

Once again from all over Taranaki, Swiss folk, whether born in Switzerland or first, second and even third generation New Zealand-born Swiss, gathered together at Te Ngutu Park on Sunday, 13th February, for the Annual Swiss Picnic. We were honoured to have with us Dr and Mrs Weber, from the Embassy, and members of his staff. Also, visitors from Waikato and a lot of non-member friends were welcomed by the President, Mr M. J. Steiner.

A brilliantly hot day enabled members' wives and daughters to show off their finery; a lot of beach umbrellas were seen and of course numerous people in shorts. By lunch time the whole park was ringed by cars, and people were meandering around meeting old friends and making new acquaintances—all in all a colourful picture. And everywhere there were children—hundreds of them—happily enjoying the swings, see-saws and slides, and of course making numerous trips to the ice-cream bars to cash in the tickets for free ice-creams which had been issued to each woman and child on their arrival.

The children's races were all over before lunch time, as the committee felt that if races had been left until after the contents of the huge picnic hampers had been transferred to the kiddies they would be too full to run. Many families amalgamated for lunch, this being enjoyed under long lines of the flags of each Canton fluttering overhead and to the strains of real Swiss music coming over the loud-speakers.

Lunch over, the various competitions commenced. Skittles proved to be very popular both to the menfolk and their fairer companions. Two of our "new Swiss" showed us New Zealanders how the game should be played, Mr F. Neuberger and Mr E. Forster being first and second respectively in the men's skittles; the ladies competition was won by Mrs F. Gwerder, the runner-up being Mrs J. Schmidt. Stepping-the-chain competition was also held and this was won in the ladies' section by Miss Rosie Luond and Mrs R. Mathis. The men's prizes were taken by Brian Luond and Louis Romer.

Of course the highlight of our Picnic is always the Steinstossen competition. This year the Senior Challenge Cup was again won by the holder Brian Muller, while another new arrival in the country, Sam Knoff, threw a good second. The junior section was won by L. Muller and second prize went to Pat Steiner, from Waikato. The first prize of a raffle went to Mrs D. Butler and second to Mr Tom Walker.

After all that activity on a hot day it is quite natural that many cool drinks were consumed. But all too soon time had run out and a large proportion of the public had to head away to their

cowsheds. But all vowed it was the best picnic yet—what a pity the next one was twelve months away! —P.H.

SOCIAL EVENING ON 17th FEBRUARY

This was the first-ever attempt at a summer dance and very successful it proved in spite of a rainy evening. The Kapuni Memorial Hall was nicely filled and members danced to Swiss music played by our faithful member orchestra: Mrs Chamberlain and Messrs A. Engleberger and P. Amstalden. Extras were played by the Tipler Family, F. Imhof and Miss M. Hospenthal. Monte Carlo prizes went to Mrs Ehrler and E. Fuglistaller, and to Mrs L. Chamberlain and J. Kaiser. Swiss and English cards were played by the non-dancers. A raffle prize went to J. Kaiser (1st) and E. Chamberlain (2nd).

The committee thank members for turning up in such large numbers. The only complaint heard all evening was to the effect that the dancing should have carried on all night! —P.H.

Obituary

MR JOHN STUCKI

On Thursday, March 3rd, an unusually large funeral procession paid its last respects to John Stucki, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Rudolf Stucki, of Springdale. John died after a long illness in the prime of his life, leaving a wife and family of six school and pre-school age daughters.

It is impossible to understand why a father has to leave a family and we will never know because God alone knows and selects the calls, irrespective of age. However, the Almighty will suit the bereaved and provide them with strength to look after the children and grandchildren. Obligations like this are a challenge to look forward to for the grandfather to take the son's place in as many ways as possible to assist them in the education perhaps what their father was looking forward to giving them.

The numerous friends who paid their last respects and many more who were unable to go are praying that God will heal the breach as much as possible. —W.R.

CORRECTION

Mr Peter Oettli, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hans Oettli, of Whatawhata, has been offered a lectureship in the German language at the Waikato University. We regret any inconvenience our faulty report in last month's issue of the Helvetia may have caused and our congratulations still hold good.