

# News of the colony

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It has taken a long time to complete, but the result is very pleasing. The accumulated interest and further gifts have helped to increase the original sum to cover the cost. At the moment, the Hall will be used for tutorial classes as well as for large gatherings, but once the planned educational centre is ready, "Swiss Hall" will be the communal and cultural centre of the Village.

In the absence of the Trust's President, the Right Honourable The Lord Sainsbury, the chair was taken by the Chairman of the Council, The Rev. W. W. Simpson, M.A. He welcomed the guests, especially the Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer, and, of course, Monsieur Daeniker. His Worship the Mayor of Battle and the Mayoress were present, also the founders of the British Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust, Mrs Mary Buchanan and Dr H. J. Alexander. Amongst the few Swiss visitors were the President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom, Dr H. W. Egli, and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer". The Warden of the Pestalozzi Village at Trogen was unfortunately unable to attend owing to an accident.

The Chairman expressed gratitude for the Swiss gift and referred to the imaginative lead Monsieur and Madame Daeniker had given to the charity effort made in 1959. He much regretted Madame Daeniker's absence. The first children of the British Village were just going out into the world, and the fact that the opening of the "Swiss Hall" coincided with this, meant a decisive new chapter in the history of the Village.

The Warden of the Village, Mr F. Spencer Chapman, D.S.O., T.D., M.A., talked about the life of the Village and said that no new building had been opened since the Duchess of Leeds inaugurated the Tibetan House on United Nations Day in 1962.

Next, Monsieur Daeniker performed the official opening by raising the Swiss flag which had been draped over the wooden plaque above the entrance, and, back on the stage, he addressed the gathering of visitors, house parents, teachers and the attentive children of the Village.



## ~~~~~ News of the Colony ~~~~~

### Auckland Swiss Club

On 30th July 1966 the Auckland Swiss Club held its 1st August Celebrations.

A truly festive atmosphere greeted the guests who came along to join in the common sentiment to remember the foundation day of our Fatherland.

The hall, which was decorated with the Swiss flags and blazons of all the Cantons, together with the evergreen branches of native trees, displayed the appreciation of our new homeland.

The evening started with a welcoming song by a group of young members led by an experienced performer. The President then gave a short address which was followed by the sound of the church bells of Solothurn and a speech by the Bundespraesident recorded on a tape. The whole assembly then joined in singing the National Hymn.

Many thanks go to all the enthusiastic helpers who entertained, the gathering with yodelling, singing and other items. Of course the delightful supper with that personal touch never fails to maintain a happy note for the rest of the night.

The dance floor was again the barometer of gaiety and the musicians kept it going up.

The committee has again succeeded in making the occasion such a happy one.

The generous gift of the Swiss paper, "Die Weltwoche", which had air-freighted a free copy of the 1st August issue for all our members and friends, really reassured us that we are part of the 5th Switzerland. —MWB

## **Hamilton Swiss Club**

The Hamilton Swiss Club's 1st August Celebration took place at Pine Lodge on Saturday, 30th July.

We did have the pleasure of seeing many strange faces, which we seldom see, and several guests from Taranaki including the President of the Swiss Society, Mr John Steiner and Loui Kuriger, secretary. Unfortunately the Embassy was unable to be represented but did send us a nice telegram of best wishes for the occasion. The Swiss Ambassador of Canberra, Dr von Graffenried, also sent his greetings.

The highlight of the function was the many items presented by our artists, such as the yodel quintet, the Oettli-Laendler duet, songs by the choir and the Volkdance group. A particularly charming item was presented by the little angel Belinda Fluhler. The latest discovery of a Mexican cowboy in the person of Master Willy Muller is well worth noting too.

Our special thanks are due to the entertainment committee and to all of them who helped in any way to decorate the hall and prepare and cater for the sumptuous supper of a "Bernerplatte" and for the needs of the thirsty. —WR



## Wellington Swiss Club

The Wellington Swiss Club's National Day celebrations were held at the Brooklyn Community Hall on the 30th July. Unfortunately, the usual 1st August weather prevailed, but the wind and rain did not manage to dampen anyone's spirits once inside the warm, friendly atmosphere of the beautifully decorated hall, and soon everyone was engaged with a "Name the place in Switzerland" competition.

The Bells of St Ursen of Solothurn opened the main part of the programme and then our president, Mr W. Frick, welcomed our Charge d'Affaire and his wife, Mr and Mrs J. P. Weber, members and friends to the evening. The choir sang several Swiss songs conducted by Mr H. Schaerer and accompanied on the piano by Mr H. Schlatter, after which a recorded speech by the Bundespraesident, Mr Schaffner was played. Some more items from the choir with some really magnificent yodelling by Mrs Trachsel and then Mr J. P. Weber gave a most entertaining and informative address on the early Swiss pioneers in New Zealand. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all as little is known of the part Swiss played in shaping the destiny of New Zealand.

After some more songs from the choir the Ngati Poneke concert party performed action songs, poi dances and hakas much to the audience's delight.

A delicious supper of potato salad, St Galler Schublig, dessert and coffee was served and a four-piece orchestra played for those wishing to dance.

The results of the competition were later announced after an elimination contest. Mrs L. Napp was first, Mr John Braun, second and third was Mr P. Krueger with a special prize to Mrs Schaerer. Singing and dancing continued until the early hours of Sunday morning and the ever hardworking committee must be congratulated on another marvellous evening. —Paddi



## ~~~~~ **Forthcoming Events** ~~~~~

### Auckland Swiss Club

On the 24th September 1966 the Auckland Swiss Club is holding a Fastnacht at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham. —VB

### Wellington Swiss Club

A combined evening 'Metzgete—Housie-Housie' will be held on Saturday 10th September at 8 p.m. at the Tararua Tramping Club Hall.