

News of the colony

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The Building

The new Swiss Headquarters has cost 47 million Swiss francs. The main building comprises a lower ground floor, lower and upper terrace floors, ground floor and three upper storeys. In addition there are a connecting tract, the restaurant building, including the heating and air conditioning plant. All sections using heavy equipment and handling goods in volume are housed on the three lower floors. The main office block, measuring 79.20 metres x 64.80 metres, stands on the upper terrace floor and encloses a courtyard 36 metres square. Four intersections connect the office block with the terrace floor. A two-storey connecting tract, 64.80 metres long, links the administration building with the restaurant block which measures 57.60 x 43.20 metres.

The main entrance opens into a spacious entrance hall from which two sets of lifts and staircases lead to the three upper floors and the upper terrace floor. All floors can also be reached from the car park on the lower ground floor via two more lifts and stairs.

The offices are subdivided partly by light structural walls partly by prefabricated moveable wooden partitions.

Conventional air conditioning has been installed to maintain the required temperatures, especially to eliminate excess heat in the reservations rooms. The building also has oil-fired central heating.

For organisational and constructional reasons the small working units are located around the courtyard and the open-plan, medium-sized offices around the outside.

The staff dining room seats 420. In addition there is an executive restaurant seating 50 and catering also for visitors.

Each floor has a rest room in which staff can take refreshments twice daily during breaks.

—The Swiss Observer

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AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The Auckland Swiss Club held a Fastnacht on 9th September 1967 and what an evening it turned out to be! The hall was beautifully decorated with native bush and coloured lights, making it look like part of an exotic island. A great number of people had gone to a lot of trouble, making up very attractive and original costumes. There was a "Swiss-negro," whose costume consisted mainly of shoe polish and a grass skirt. One of our fore-forefathers, also a native of the jungle, kept him company.

The family of gipsies also attracted a lot of attention. They arrived complete with pram, pots and pans and there seemed to be no end to the number of children trailing behind. Don't they read in the papers about the dangers of population explosion? To mention a few more costumes, there was a batman, wall-flower, witch, red indian, arab, beach-comber, etc. The modern age was represented by a shiny sputnik in mini-skirt.

Everyone was looking forward to the unmasking parade; which did in fact hold a few surprises. After the prize-giving supper was served, which consisted of Kalte Platte, followed by coffee and "Berliner." This was for many people the first chance to have a rest. Dancing can be very strenuous, especially these modern ones with their peculiar names.

The band played until the early hours of the morning, after which one of our own musicians took over for a while. It was a very gay party indeed, truly carnival style. Dawn was already breaking when the last members left to go home. Their excuse: It's only carnival once a year!

Many thanks to all the members who once again devoted a lot of time towards making this evening a success.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

I received a nice "golden-looking" invitation to a Swiss Cheese Fondue wishing me "En Guete" and to this I simply could not resist.

Quite early in the evening I entered the gaily decorated "new-looking" Brooklyn Hall. A lot of "busy bees" were already at work in the kitchen. Mmm, I could smell it already now. Soon my friends arrived too and we all gathered at a table. But you know we were not the only ones—over a hundred people seemed to like this traditional Swiss dish as much as I, and I am sure the cooks had a very busy time. Soon a Caquelon stood in front of us filled with Fondue. It was really delicious and I must pay a compliment to all the cooks. Everybody seemed to enjoy it.

Then the President went on the stage and presented our departing Secretary with a gift from the Wellington Swiss Club and thanked her for all her help during the last three years.

Housie is one of my favourite games and now we were going to play four rounds. You know I was very eager to win a prize; but despite me calling "schuettle" I did not have very much luck, but never mind. Goettin Fortuna was with Gaby and she won the first prize of the first round. Some people of course did not dare to be as ambitious as to win first prizes and were very happy with cabbage, potatoes, and carrots—even onions!

Afterwards Heinz and Nick played their accordions and then we were dancing and started a "Polonaise" throughout the hall. It was real good fun—perhaps not for everybody—but . . . beer after a Fondue is not the best idea. The evening was a great

success and I say a big thank you to the organisers and all helpers for this great effort. —Fondue-lover.

“Der Teufel Hat Gut Lachen” was screened at the Lido Theatre on 3rd September at 4 p.m. It was a treat for the eyes and the ears and the fairly big audience followed the adventures of the three lovable rogues with a lively interest. One could not help but feel sorry for the people who came with the idea that the whole dialogue would be in high German, whereas in actual fact only the devil spoke the language of Goethe. The very rich dialects of the three heroes must have been well-nigh unintelligible to anybody who was not born and bred in Switzerland.

Cocktail Party to Farewell Dr. and Mrs Weber: The same evening members of the Wellington Swiss Club were invited to attend a Cocktail Party at the Matterhorn in honour of Dr. and Mrs Weber. In his speech Dr Weber mentioned again how much he had enjoyed his stay in New Zealand and how impressed he was with the activities of the various Swiss Clubs. He was presented with a set of reproductions of water-colours of early Wellington which would appeal to his strong interest in the history of this country. The president, Mr Frick, thanked Dr. Weber for the warm interest he had always taken in our Club and wished him all the best for the future. The committee would like to thank Mr and Mrs Tresch very much indeed for the use of the Matterhorn which was simply ideal for this occasion.

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