

Editorial... : my Saturday night feeling... The editor's swansong...

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Editorial..

My Saturday night feeling.....

The editor's swansong.....

Even the most humble village newspaper that I receive from Switzerland, (printed in German) nowadays contains some or quite a few expressions in English.

It is no good being annoyed by this as I was for a long time, since we all know that some words in English are more descriptive than the equivalent in German or Swiss German.

However it can apply the other way round just as well with a word or short sentence in German being far more meaningful than the English equivalent. One of these words is the Swiss-German or German word *Vorfreude*, describing the joy of expectation. And this word *Vorfreude* has a lot to do with my Saturday night feeling I have just now writing

my last editorial. Saturday night *Vorfreude* is the feeling of having accomplished the demands of the previous days of the working week while looking forward to the good things of Sunday.

During the time of my growing up in Switzerland most everybody used Saturday to prepare for Sunday. It could have been looked upon as a 'Saturday culture'. The mother of the family would follow a routine of household chores set by generations before her. Specific duties were assigned to children and the husband. Everyone had their own routine of passing the day appropriately in view of the coming day of rest. - There was the house cleaning with polishing floors, cleaning windows and toilets, dusting the furniture. For children there were shoe-polishing duties, preparing enough

kindling and bringing in enough fire wood to last until Monday, cutting enough toilet paper from old newsprint to last the following week. School in those days finished at midday Saturday, so homework had to be attended to after the house duties. One of us children was usually assigned to make the long trip to the village for 'last minute' shopping at the 'Konsum', 'Usego', the Migros-travelling-van, and the butchers. - Even the main meal at midday followed an old custom and consisted mainly of 'Siedfleisch', (beef from old cow or ox, old animals that had come to the end of a useful life). Such a meal, a one-pot-requirement, was quick and cooked itself unattended leaving the housewife free to reign supreme in her Saturday household.

Besides cleaning up work place and tools used during the week, men finished all necessary jobs that would otherwise have to wait until Monday. Sometimes during the day (usually in the afternoon) men would devote the necessary time to the weekly procedure of shaving, the trimming of the moustache and cutting of fingernails, all in preparation for Sunday. The 'better to do type of patriarch' would make his way to the local barber and his income would probably allow him to quench his thirst in one of the many Pubs of the village before making his way home to a spotless household smelling of a mixture of 'Schmierseife (soft soap), floor polish, and Saturday-baking'. There was one job my Father never delegated to anyone and that was the cleaning of the kerosene storm lantern used mainly in the cattle stable devoid of electricity. Thinking back I can still see him in my memory carefully dismantling the glass mantle to clean it with newspaper from soot and dust, expertly trimming the wick and replenishing the lamp's reservoir with kerosene. Catholic people, especially children would feel compelled to go to confession in the afternoon, in order to approach Sunday with a 'clean slate'. By evening that Saturday night feeling was omnipresent and in our area it was customary for the church bells of both denominations of every village to 'ring in Sunday' at half past seven in the evening, lasting for 15 minutes.

My happy Saturday night feeling

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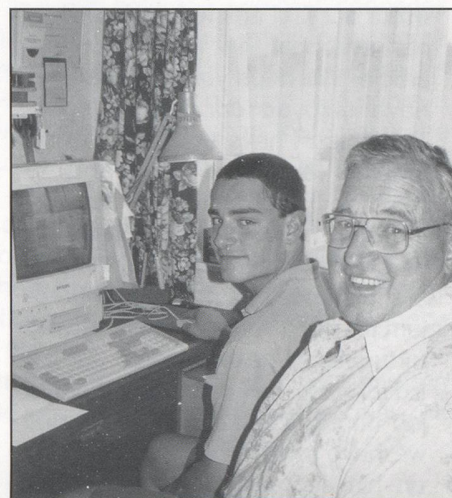
was never more pronounced than during the early austere days of my youth in Toggenburg/Switzerland. Those were the days when the *Vorfreude* to the following day, Sunday, was immense. Sunday brought the culmination of rewards for the productive week that entitled the whole population of the valley to celebrate by attending Church in the morning and spending the afternoon in relaxation. Quite often this was the only time of the week left for sporting activities and leisure.

I am using the explanation of my Saturday night feeling because it is exactly the feeling of accomplishment I have now, writing this final editorial with the five-year task behind us of producing our *HELVETIA* magazine. I am sure this feeling also applies to all helpers in 'my team'! The feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment has the built-in component of thankfulness. I feel the need to thank especially Beatrice Leuenberger, our President of the Swiss Society for all her help as well as the following members of 'our team', Ruth and Charlie Waldvogel,

Joe Staheli, Bert Flühler, Heinz Leuenberger and the two ladies of 'Your Corner', Trudy Wilson and Doris Rust. - A 'thankyou' from my heart goes to my wife Margrit (Gritli) as she usually had to endure the company of a difficult husband sharing most of his leisure time with 'his mistress' *HELVETIA*. Thank you to the different Swiss club officials (especially the secretaries) as well as all the people that contributed with articles, photos and with tangible help making up the 'dispatch team' enabling our magazine to be delivered on time to you our readers. Words of encouragement from readers were always much appreciated by all the editing team. We enjoyed the friendly encounters with the Swiss Embassy receiving Swiss reading material on a regular basis. Thank you to Te Awamutu's Rose-town Print and to all advertisers who made the production of our Swiss magazine financially and practically possible during the past five years.

With much Saturday night feeling I want to wish the editing team of the

Taranaki Swiss Club well in their endeavors to continue with the publication of 'our *HELVETIA*'!



Publication of this photo will fulfill a longstanding promise to my computer helper during the early days of Helvetia (Luuk Paulussen, high School student in 1997).

Rinaldo Rust, editor in retirement.

President's Message

I am once again looking forward to the upcoming Queen's Birthday Weekend and our annual Swiss Society Annual General Meeting, this year taking place in Taranaki. This will be my last AGM as President, and will signal the completion of my five year term in office.

Our whole current Society committee can be very proud of what we have achieved over the past five years. The *Helvetia* magazine produced by our Editor, Rinaldo Rust, has been positively received by you, our readers, as is evident by the large number of notes and comments we have received. Many have told us how they look forward to reading each issue every month. Thank you, Rinaldo, on behalf of the Swiss Society, for your five years of work and dedication in providing us with what is probably one of the best ethnic publications. I wish both you and Gritli well in all your future undertakings.

Over the five years, we have also achieved extremely well financially - due to an overall rise in net membership numbers; increased advertising

in the *Helvetia*; and careful management and use of Society funds.

This, in turn, has allowed us to spend some extra money on prizes for occasional activities and competitions for children, besides our monthly front page competition, as well as paying a bit more to provide some colour pictures in the *Helvetia*. And it is always rewarding to receive some response from our readers, such as the lovely letter we received from one of our younger members, Jessica Hardegger from Taranaki, after she won the April competition. Here's what she wrote:

To whom it may concern:

Re Book Voucher

Thank you very much for the \$10 book voucher. My Mum said she will take me to the book shop. My Poppa gave me a little help because he used to live in Switzerland.

Did you get many right answers?

Love from Jessica Hardegger.

This was written on decorated note paper, with a number of "happy face" stickers on the letter and envelope.

Thank you so much for your letter, Jessica, and I hope you got some nice things with your voucher.

This is also a good reminder to par-

ents to encourage your children to read the *Helvetia*, to help them learn a little about Switzerland.

This issue should reach your letter-boxes at around the same time of the upcoming AGM, where I will be presenting my final annual President's Report, which will then appear in next month's issue (July), along with a report of the meeting and the financial statements, and this will then constitute my final President's Message for the *Helvetia*.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the long weekend in Kaponga, and send everyone around the country my kindest regards.

Beatrice.



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