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## **HAMLET (POP 70) GOES IT ALONE**

VELLERAT (Switzerland), Sunday.— With a symbolic border post and local passports, this tiny Swiss mountain hamlet has declared itself independent.

As the 70 rebel inhabitants celebrated their self-styled status as Switzerland's first "free commune" yesterday, more than 1000 outsiders marched in to support the unilateral declaration and join the festivities.

Vellerat, which occupies all of 200 hectares (just under a square mile) in north-western Switzerland, is one of several French-speaking villages in the mainly German-speaking canton of Berne which wants to join the neighbouring French-speaking canton of Jura.

Its unilateral declaration means it will no longer pay taxes to Canton Berne or obey orders from Berne authorities, residents say.

Since there are no precedents, no one is sure how the Swiss Government will respond to Vellerat's stand, for which 90% of the inhabitants voted last week.

After Vellerat's inhabitants voted last week in favour of independence they constructed a symbolic border post on the sole access road — which runs through Jura canton — and printed passports valid only within the hamlet.

But a minority still opposed independence, postal workers, who are federal employees, refused to cancel commemorative stamps which the rebels had printed to mark the birth of the free commune. — AAP — Reuter.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB**

16th October 1982 — Social Function

31st October 1982 — Wanderung

5th December 1982 — Family Christmas Party

20th February 1983 — Picnic

12/13 March 1983 — Society Games

2nd May 1983 — A.G.M.

### **FASNACHT IN AUCKLAND**

On Saturday 16th October 1982 at Edendale School Hall, 419 Sandringham Road, Auckland. The night of your life . . . start making your mask now!!

### **HAMILTON SWISS CLUB**

#### **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND DANCE**

Date: 27th November, 1982. Place: Eureka Hall.  
Time: 8.00 p.m.

We have arranged a Christmas Party for adults only this year, it will be the children's turn again next year, and have engaged a Band, "Blackie Roycroft's Band" to play for us. Anyone who has heard this band play, will know that it is a good one and we hope that we have a really good turn out of our members to make the night a really great one. So please note the date on your calendars so you won't forget it.

## **WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB**

October 16 — Club Evening

November 7 — Car Rally

November 13 — Club Evening

December 4 — Christmas Party

December 5 — Children's Christmas Party

**Kegel Evenings:** For reservations ring Fuhrers' Tel. 780-003.

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## **CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB**

This years hosts for our now traditional informal Swiss National Day gathering were Mr and Mrs Steiner of the Giselle restaurant. After a few words of welcome by Mr Bert Looser who specially welcomed Erika Burri who is just now visiting New Zealand, a delightful dinner, consisting mainly of the Steiners Hungarian national specialities was served. This was followed by large servings of Black Forest cake and coffee after which everyone was quite happy to sit back and listen to a taped National Day address by federal president Mr Fritz Honegger. The theme was "Is joining the United Nations compatible with our swiss neutrality"

The tape finished off with a rendition of the national anthem, with more or less everyone joining in to the best of their ability.

National day badges as well as raffle tickets for a scrumptious looking "Nussstollen" offered by Mrs Gamperle sold in no time at all.

Our special thanks to Mrs Gamperle and Mr Looser for again so ably organising this thoroughly enjoyable and much looked forward to annual gathering.

John Kradolfer.

## **NEWS OF THE COLONY**

### **HAMILTON SWISS CLUB**

This function was held on 21st August 1982 at The Swisscraft Factory. The evening was attended by over 35 people who enjoyed themselves, playing cards, joining in the Kegel competitions or just chatting to friends.

Anita and Walter Zuber cooked up a delicious Raclet for supper which was followed by coffee and lots of beautiful cakes. The evening was pronounced an unqualified success by everyone and will be repeated next year.

A big thank you to all who helped to make the evening such a success, especially to the Staheli family who let us use their premises for the occasion.

U.H.

## **WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB**

More than 100 members and friends gathered at the Wellington Swiss Club's club rooms on the 31st July to celebrate Switzerland's National Day. A glass of Gluehwein soon had the evening off to a good start and later on a buffet dinner of piping hot



hams accompanied by a variety of salads was served. During the evening the Swiss Society medals were presented. The club was also very pleased to have the opportunity to welcome the new Charges d Affairs, Mr Etienne and his wife who had arrived in Wellington only days before. We do hope that their stay in New Zealand will be a very pleasant one.

P.W.

## OBITUARY

Death does not make any distinction on age or wealth and it does come quite unexpected to some of us.

Fritz Meier was only 40 years old with a small family of 4 children when death reached him at Zurich where he went for treatment for a health complaint.

He arrived in Eltham in 1964 and farmed there until the beginning of this year when he purchased a house in Stratford.

To Marlis his wife and children we wish to extend our sympathies.

J.S.

On Saturday, July 24th, Werner Schuepbach passed away peacefully in Belmont near Wellington, in his 86th year.

Having kept out of the limelight most of his life, this is an appropriate time to say a few words about this extraordinary man and his life.

Born in Truebschachen, Emmental, into a family of Teachers, he too was teaching in Eriz, where he stayed until his retirement as Teacher and District Councilor. Most of his free time was devoted to the study of Biology, Botany, Anatomy and related subjects in the light of Antroposophical Science. he produced a number of books on these and other subjects, amongst it a study of Goethe's dramatic works, Islamic Architecture and a volume of Poetry. Werner Schuepbach was writing until well into his eighties.

Three of his four children came to live in New Zealand during the 1950s and after several lengthy stays as visitors, Werner Schuepbach and his late wife Frieda settled in Belmont for good.

He lately had become a benefactor of the new Rudolf Steiner School in Belmont and it is thanks to his generosity, that this project came into being. Peace be with you Werner.

We would like to offer our deepest sympathies to his family.

H. Messmer.

It is with deep regret, that we learned of the sudden death of Hans Burkhalter on the 10th July in Wellington.

Hans was born 1910 in Steffisburg, Kt. Bern. When he left School 1926, he began an apprenticeship in the Hotel-trade and later worked in many well

known Hotels in Switzerland and throughout Europe.

He met and married Maria and this became a happy partnership, extending into their working life as well.

1951 they went to Australia where their son James was born. Moving to Auckland in 1953 where they were involved in the formation of the Swiss Club.

1956, Hans became Butler to the American Ambassador in Wellington and Maria was able to use her skills in the service of the Ambassador's residence. They remained in this position for 20 years, serving under six Ambassadors and being highly respected for their integrity and professional competence. Hans could have written a book on all the famous people he met during those 20 years of seeing history being made. But discretion was one reason for his success.

When Hans retired 1976 to his lovely, self-converted hillside home in Highbury, Wellington, he was ready to enjoy the splendid Harbour views, his dogs and his books. One of his hobbies was his shortwave radio on which he listened every morning for 30 years to the News of Switzerland.

Last year, after some very firm persuasion by Maria and James, he accompanied Maria for his first and only return trip to Switzerland and spent some time visiting places of his memory in the Bernese Oberland.

We, who have known Hans, will sadly miss him, but with a feeling that he made the best of his time on earth.

We would like to offer our deepest sympathies to Maria, his son James, Linda and Amy.

for the Wellington Swiss Club,  
H. Messmer.

## FIRST AUGUST CELEBRATION IN QUEENSTOWN

It coincided with the towns famous winter festival which opened by the Major of Queenstown in the Travel Lodge Hotel on August 1st.

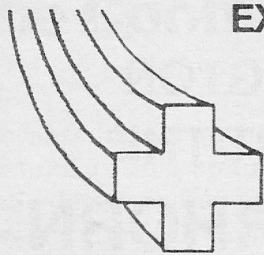
Cowbells and Swiss Music could be heard all night until next morning. We could even see on T.V. St Bernhard dogs, although they did not match the red and white colour of St Bernhards, but they were very good all the same as they helped to create the right atmosphere, at Coronet Peak.

Congratulations Queenstown Swiss for keeping up the tradition.

B.G.

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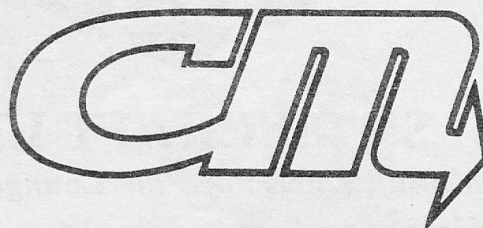
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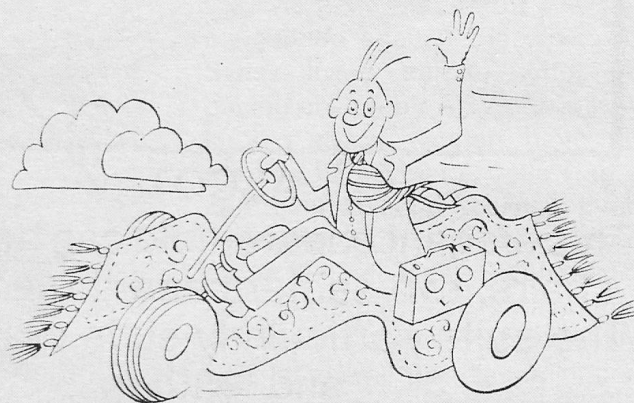
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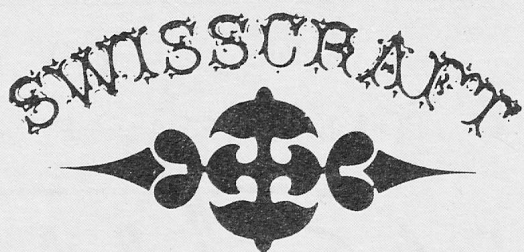
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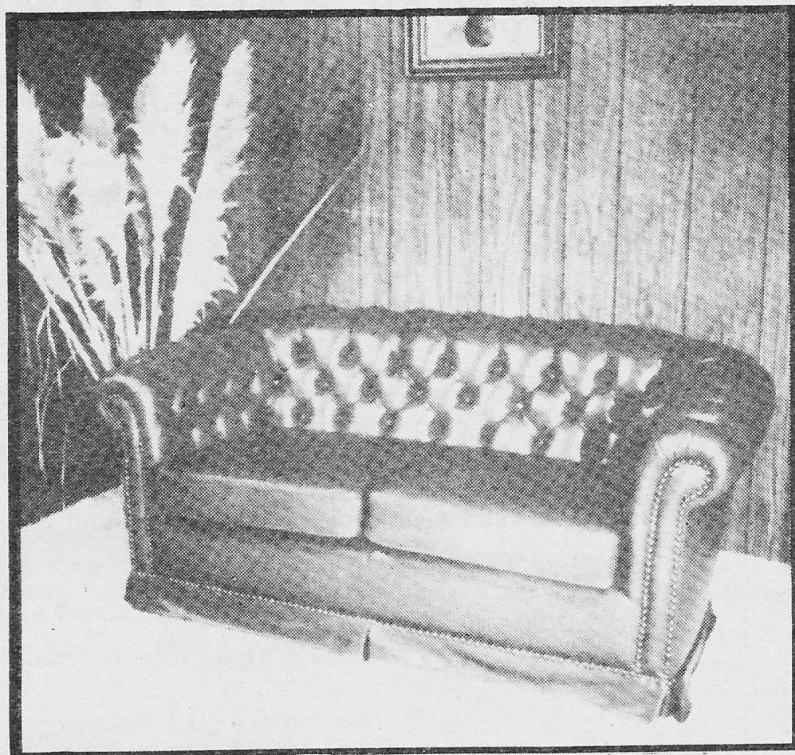


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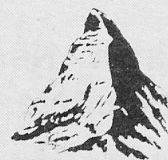
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