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Vancouver

Vancouver Swiss Choir

The Annual Spring Concert

The active participation and enthusiastic support of the Greater Vancouver Swiss community was clearly evident once again at the annual Spring Concert of the Swiss Choir held on Saturday, May 28th. The Choir, under the expert direction of Roderick Fader, was pleased to be able to present their program to an audience of over 450 people, one of the largest turn-outs ever. The songs presented were taken from the repertoire we have been preparing for the 1988 Swiss American Singing Alliance Festival to be held in Calgary, Alberta from June 24th to 27th, and was warmly received by all, adults and children alike. It included some beautiful classical and traditional pieces as well as Canadian folk songs which we were proud to sing as representatives of the music of the beloved land in which we have all chosen to live and work.

The haunting sounds of the Swiss cowbells and alphorn, beautifully played by Ulrich Bleiker, opened the program reminding

everyone present of the incomparable Swiss Alps. After welcoming remarks from the President of the Swiss Choir, Max Bissegger, our Master of Ceremonies, Peter Brunold (Vice-President of the Swiss Society) did an admirable job of providing the audience with background information on the musical selections performed. The program also included a magician, Randy Charach, who equally delighted all the children in the audience; a duet by Heidi Legère and Othmar Kägi, accompanied by Rösli Menzi on the accordion, and solos by Frank Neff and again by Heidi who performed typical Swiss yodelling favourites. Our very accomplished pianist and accompanist, Barbara Baxter, devoted a significant amount of time to us in rehearsals as well as at the concert and her musical talents were certainly much appreciated by our Choir as well as all concert attendees.

As a new member of the Choir, and the daughter of a very devoted and patriotic

Swiss, I took great personal pleasure in my involvement with the Choir this past years. I was very impressed with the regular attendance of our members and particularly with our hard-working and dedicated Director, Rory, who never failed to appear well ahead of time and well prepared for each evening practice. Another great discovery I have made this year is that the pleasure and enthusiasm I experienced is equally shared by every member, many of whom have been active participants with the Choir for a number of years. They have all worked very hard and take great pride in representing the Swiss community of the Greater Vancouver area in bringing the Swiss musical heritage to the people here. The warm response from the comments received such as, «we wish the choir could have sung all night»; «it was the best performance ever»; «the choir never sounded so good»; «we were so surprised to find that the choir was so accomplished and professional»; etc., clearly supports what the choir has been attempting to achieve during this year. The accolades we received were due in no small measure to the devoted service of our Director, and we are very proud and honoured to announce that Rory's talents have been well recognized nationally and internationally as he has been selected to lead Festival '88 in Calgary!

The concert was followed with dancing to the beautiful sounds of 'Amber' and as always the dance floor was full of couples dancing late into the night. The wonderful evening meal prepared by Hans Rieder was again enjoyed by all and our thanks to everyone in the Choir and in the Society who provided assistance in making this one of the most successful events of the year!

Claudette Elder



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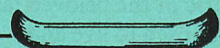
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The 32nd Swiss American Singing and Yodelling Festival '88

The exciting experience of joining 450 voices together in the spirit of the 32nd Swiss American Singing and Yodelling Festival '88 of June 24 - 26 was an unqualified success. The grand concert was the climax of many wonderful events which were planned and orchestrated to perfection by our hosts, The Jodlerklub Heimattreu of Calgary. Our own Rory Fader instantly won the love and deep respect of all concert participants. Under his capable direction, all the choirs who had for the past year practiced and worked so hard towards the common goal of singing for this Sängerfest, joined together as though they in fact had practiced as one.

The festival celebrations began with the arrival of all the participants and their guests: *Jodlerklub Berna Bern (Switzerland)*

The Alphorn-Quartet Swissair and Flagthrower (Switzerland)

Alpenrösli Singing Society (Canton, Ohio)

Helvetia Männerchor and Edelweiss Damenchor (Columbus, Ohio)

The Edmonton Swiss Society Choir

The Harmonie (Los Angeles, California)

The Swiss Singing Society of Milwaukee

The Monroe Swiss Singers

The Montagna Singers (Ottawa, Ontario)

The Toledo Swiss Singers (Toledo, Ohio)

The Swiss Yodlers of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)

The Vancouver Swiss Choir

Schauenberg (Zürich, Switzerland)

Eggenberger / Lippuner («Duet», Zürich, Switzerland)

We all gathered together for the first time at a welcoming reception held in the Calgary Conference Centre where the Vancouver

Swiss Choir had been asked to entertain in addition to outstanding performances by Jodlerklub The Berna Bern and Eggenberger/Lippuner, the two female singers from Zürich, the Swissair Alphorn Quartet, etc. which set the tone for a most enjoyable evening, permitting many to already make new and renew old acquaintances. We danced to Schauenberg Echo, the 'band of three' from Zürich, Switzerland and as they took breaks, we were entertained further by impromptu performances by several choir groups. The sounds of our beloved Switzerland were ever present with us on this first of many pleasant occasions throughout our three-day weekend together. The next morning we were asked to gather en masse at 8.00 a.m. in the magnificent Jack Singer Hall where we rehearsed for the first and only time for the grand concert. The joining of all these magnificent choirs was a very moving and touching experience for many of us including our beloved Director, Rory, who said, «I have to tell you people, you sound really GOOD»! And we did truly sound great, in the modest opinion of the writer. It was a morning of work but one which I'm sure will be long remembered as the most fun time a group of this size could have together. Again this was due, in no small measure, to the competent leadership of Roderick Fader, our Festival Director.

The afternoon was taken up with the competition of all participating choirs which gave all the individual groups an opportunity to strive for excellence and indeed to provide wonderful entertainment for each other. Many of the choirs achieved excel-

lence as is clearly evident by the winners in the different categories of music performed:

Ladies' Choirs:

Easy Artistic Songs: Columbus

Difficult Artistic Songs: Toledo

Men's Choirs:

Easy Artistic Songs: Edmonton (1st);

Toledo (2nd)

Difficult Artistic Songs: Columbus

Mixed Choirs:

Difficult Yodel Songs: Monroe

Difficult Artistic Songs: Toledo

Easy Artistic Songs: Columbus (1st);

Ottawa (2nd); Milwaukee (3rd)

Guest Choirs:

Easy Yodel Songs: Berna Bern

Easy Artistic Songs: Vancouver Swiss Choir

Difficult Yodel Songs: Toronto

Our grand concert opened in a darkened theatre to the sounds of a Echo-jodel by Jodlerklub Heimattreu of Calgary. The lights were then slowly brightened to reveal on stage the 450 choir members dressed in traditional costume and the Jodlerklub Berna Bern which then performed a Jodel-song. This was followed by the colourful Parade of Flags, the R.C.M.P. Colour Guard and opening remarks by our Master of Ceremonies, Christian Gretener. He noted to us that the Swiss American Singing and Yodelling Festival had a 96-year history, had joined together every three years during this time, and that this was the first time the Festival had been held in Canada. The Swiss, American and Canadian anthems were then sung which I am sure raised patriotic pride in all who had the pleasure of listening. The program of Swiss/American folk songs by the grand choir along with appearances by the Youth Choir Enzian, the Duett Eggenberger/Lippuner, the Swissair Folklore Group, the Alpenrösli Dance Group, and the Jodlerklub Berna Bern were then performed and warmly received by the thunderous applause of our audience. All in all it was a very colourful, exciting, and emotionally charged evening which I am sure will be long remembered by all who were present.

The grand concert was followed by another gala reception in the Convention Centre ballroom and dancing late into the night. It was tremendously enjoyed by all.

The closing ceremonies for the Festival were held at the Calgary Stampede Grounds and included a marvelous brunch and the presentation of awards to the choir competition winners. We were again entertained by several choir groups, the Calgary Youth Band

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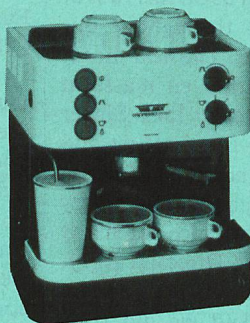
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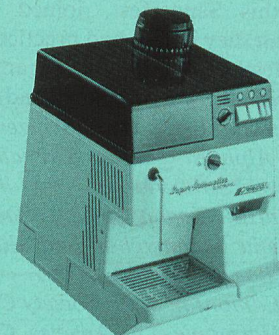
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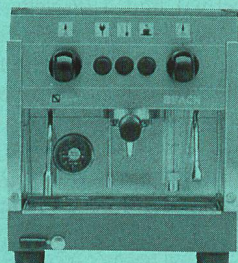
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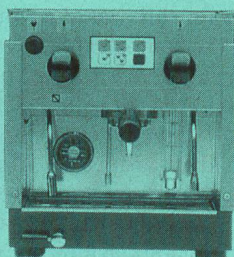
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and a Country and Western Dance Band which delighted and inspired many to 'kick up their heels' to their wonderful sound. The fellowship that was experienced by many will remain with us for many years to come and I am sure will encourage us to join together again for the 33rd Swiss American Singing and Yodelling Festival in 1991. Our deepest thanks to our hosting committee in Calgary for the hard work in organizing this event and for making it a most memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone who had the privilege of attending. Our fondest memories will be of the cordial and friendly spirit of the all the people of Calgary involved in hosting this historical event.

Claudette Elder

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association

As an active group, it is sometimes hard to decide on which event to report. In the last review I mentioned that we were expecting a large group of veterans (100). In the end 120 persons visited with us, 3 bus loads spread over 2 hotels. It was a great weekend, but in hindsight we would probably suggest that such large groups are not the ideal way to travel. For the club, it overtaxed our voluntary work force and lacked the kind of personal contact one is able to establish with a smaller group. I am sure the seniors went home happy and for many it will be an experience they will not soon forget. The shooting competition lasted 3 days, and it was obvious that these oldtimers really enjoy their shooting. The social part was not neglected either, and many were on the dance floor till the final tune was played. I think the event was a credit to the team spirit who exists in our club and all the volunteers have to be congratulated for a job well done. Our summer events were a success too. The traditional Waldfest will have too be reor-

ganized and its date moved as it appears to be to close to our National Day Celebrations. This seems to be the event when all Swiss from the Vancouver and Fraser Valley get together. It was nice to see many new and especially young faces participate. This gives us hope that the traditions will be kept for many years yet. The fackelzug with all the little ones, dressed in costumes, is always the highlight. The marcher were lead this year by a Bärner Sennenhund pulling a «milkcart».

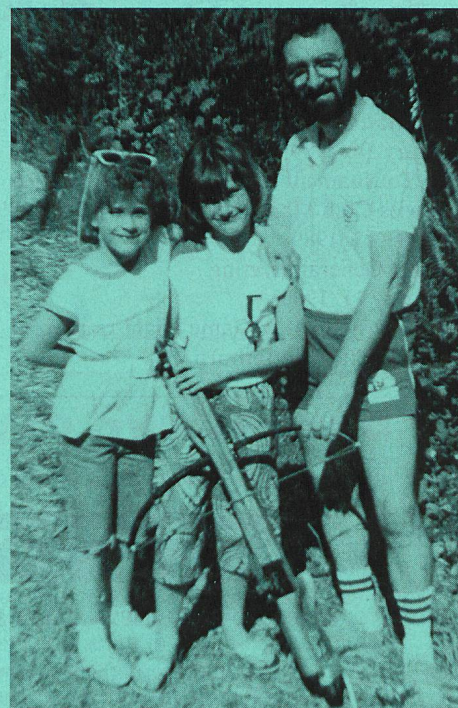
It is very nice to see that many a visitor to Vancouver takes the opportunity to visit our Chalet. One just has to look through our guest book. *Markus Spycher, President*

Swiss Crossbow Association

Past Events: Postal Match: 9. Zürcher Armbrustschützenfest 1988. «Auslandsektion Vancouver Canada» competet in the 3rd Kategorie and eleven of our members won a shooting medal. Our Club score might even be good enough for a Silver Laurel!?

The «Visitors Shoot» was held on June 12th and nearly 60 competitors had a marvelous time. Most of them had never seen a crossbow(modern) but with the help of our instructors they learned to handle the Armbrust nearly as good as old «Willy» himself. Some families had four competitors. One girl, not much taller than the crossbow she used, was whispering to her father» dad, you are not doing well at all!» She then went ahead and put herself in in second place in the Juniors competition. The Top scorers are:

Men	
1st Buchler Ruedi	57 points
2nd Merkli Norman	56 points
3rd Gubeli Nick	56 points



Instructor Alois Lander with Medal Winner Melissa Hunn and Sister Leone, who placed 9th.

Ladies	
1st Baumann Sibylle	56 points
2nd Hunn Marie-Claire	51 points
3rd Breich Lilly	49 points

Pairs:	points
1st Merkli Brigitte and Kurz Earl	108
2nd Rauh Hedi and Andre	106
3rd Horisberger Margrit and Walter	104

Juniors up to 16 Years	
1st Frank Toby	57 points
2nd Hunn Melissa	53 points
3rd Chippendale Yuki	51 points
The Shooters were very happy with the prizes: Silver Spoons with the crests of the Fed. Crossbow Association of Switzerland, Medals, Badges, Pins and even a Swiss Army Knife. To all the Sponsors, Instructors, Scorekeepers, Gastarbeiters who grilled a top hamburger and to the Visitors: Thank you very much, you made OUR day.	

Walter Burki, President

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