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Please send your contributions for the Helvetia and the Swiss Review to Lotti Napp, 61 Pembroke Road, Wellington 5. The respective deadlines for 1989 are: SWISS REVIEW: August 7th, HELVETIA: June 20th, July 20th, 1989.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Hamilton Swiss Club Card Evenings: 17th June, 7.30p.m. Eureka; 1st July, 7.30p.m. Putaruru; 15th July, 7.30p.m. Eureka. National Day Celebration, 5th August, Eureka Hall.

Wellington Swiss Club Fondue Evening, June 24th; National Day Celebration, 29th July.

Taranaki Swiss Club June 18, 1 p.m.: Club championship; July 2, 1-3 p.m. Anniversary and Club championships; July 16, 1 p.m. Practise shoot; July 29: National Day Celebrations at Kaponga Town Hall. Members will be contacted. No door sales.

AN INVITATION ALSO TO NON-MEMBERS Clubs welcome new members, of course, but they are also very pleased to receive compatriots who only want to attend the odd function. If you would like to go to any of the events mentioned above, just get in touch with a Committee member.

OBITUARY

JOHN MELCHIOR VILLIGER - DIED MARCH 1989

John was born in the small city of Zug in Central Switzerland on October 15th, 1929. At that time the family lived in a small village in the Austrian Alps called Fendels. Melchior Villiger, Johns father, worked as a lawyer in Innsbruck. When John was fifteen, his father died and he had sole responsibility for working their small farm, consisting of one cow, two goats and about three acres. It is certain that at this stage, John developed his strong independence, love of hard work and the land. Following the end of the war, John returned to Zurich, Switzerland, to attend Agricultural College. In 1949, he graduated and decided there was little future in farming in Europe and therefore in 1950 emigrated to New Zealand. After a short period in Motueka he moved to work at Tatua Dairy Factory. It was in Tatuanui at the Mullers, that he met Violanta Muller, who was to be his wife. John and Violanta married in 1953 and began farming and raising their family. They had sharemilking jobs initially at Hinuera and then at Springdale. In 1963 they bought their first farm at Wairama Road, Kiwitahi. At this stage the last of their five children, Roger, was born.

When the opportunity to purchase the Wrights property in Chepmells Road arose in 1973, John could not resist the challenge of converting a sheep farm to dairying, and the family shifted to the farm, where John spent his last seventeen years. Throughout that time John was an active member of the wider community. He had periods as President of the Federated Farmers, Farm Cadet Scheme, Hamilton Swiss Club, The Swiss Society of New Zealand and the Morrinsville Trotting Club. He also spent time as Chairman of the Kiwitahi School Committee and was a current Director of Cambridge Raceways.

Johns personal qualities were many-fold. Those which stand out the most were his fairness, his ability to stay cool and logical in the most emotional situations, his glorious sense of humour and above all his strength. He was a great man. He loved his family, he loved his farm and horses and above all he loved living. One can only begin to imagine life without him. The Swiss Community must be very grateful for the time John gave to it and the facilities that the Villiger family has provided.

J.V. & H.J.S.

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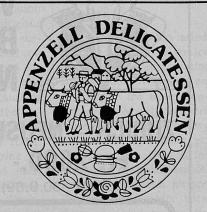
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