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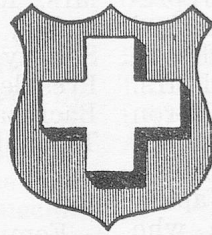
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# HELVETIA

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OF THE



SWISS SOCIETY  
IN  
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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

21st YEAR

SEPTEMBER, 1957

HAMILTON

## IMPRESSIONS FROM KAPONGA, HAMILTON AND AUCKLAND

My wife and I were very lucky to be able to be present at three very impressive 1st August Celebrations. The first one in Taranaki on 29th July, in Kaponga, was a real "coming home" for us and we were very moved by the warm welcome we received from everybody. Apart from the very highly esteemed visit to the Taranaki compatriots of our Vice-Consul in New Zealand, Mr. W. Sollberger, the highlight of the evening was the presence of our oldest Swiss member in New Zealand, the 103 years young Mr. Zinsli from Waitara. Mr. Zinsli demonstrated to everybody's joy and surprise in a really good speech his outstanding memory and fitness. He said that on 20th August next he will be celebrating the 80th year of his arrival in New Zealand, and that he is not in a hurry to die yet. Besides Mr. Zinsli, another honoured guest was Mr. B. B. Zurcher from Longburn, Palmerston North. Mr. Zurcher's age is 84 and of these years he has spent 65 in New Zealand. In his speech, Mr. Zurcher said that he owes a lot to New Zealand, and that he is proud to be here.

The highlights of the Hamilton Celebration on 1st August, in the Riverlea were the variety and abundance of items. The "Fahnenschwingen" by Joe Egger, the songs and yodelling by the Rust family and by the newly-formed choir, the magnificent acts by Mr. and Mrs. Studer and the lovely handoergely playing by Mr. Oettli. As a whole the atmosphere was of more modern type and reflects great credit on the organising ability of the President, Mr. Arnold Biland, and Mrs. Biland.

In Auckland on Sunday, 4th August, I was greatly impressed by the patriotic feelings, the friendly pioneer atmosphere and trying to make do with what was available, especially in the way of providing for the children. The highlight of that function was the speech given by Dr. Kaegi emphasizing the point that not the good times, but the lean and trying periods are bringing the best out in mankind. He ably demonstrated from

the history of Switzerland that hardships and oppression united the peoples spiritually and materially.

The manner in which this event was celebrated may have differed from place to place, but all had one thing in common; the feeling of a family relationship; everybody was proud of being Swiss and it was moving to see how second and third generation descendants tried to keep up and make new acquaintances. My thanks must go to Club Presidents, Messrs. John Steiner, Arnold Biland and Max Bachmann, who with their complimentary visits are greatly fostering this excellent relationship, not only within their respective social centres, but also from one district to another.

WALTER RISI.

President of the Swiss Society in New Zealand (Inc.).

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY OBSERVED BY TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB

Following the high standard of former years, the celebrations for this 666th anniversary of the founding of the Swiss confederation was held by the Swiss Club in the Kaponga War Memorial Hall on Monday, 29th July. Whereas in other years the banquet was held in the supper room, this year's function was held in the main body of the hall as the numbers present would have been too large to accommodate in the supper room.

The hall was tastefully decorated and pride of place was given to the Club's most prized possession, a complete set of Cantonal flags. The stage itself was surmounted by a huge Swiss National Flag. Before the banquet commenced, early arrivals were entertained by a screening of coloured slides taken by Dr. A. Russell of Napier at the Taranaki Club's picnic at Te Ngutu last summer.

At the conclusion of the banquet, President John Steiner welcomed the guests and visitors, especially the Vice-Consul, Mr. Walter Sollberger. Mr. Sollberger addressed the gathering and also

read a message from M. P-H. Aubaret, Consul-General in New Zealand, who is at present representing his country in Korea. Other distinguished guests, all of whom spoke, were Mr. E. L. Abbott, Chairman of the Kaponga Town Council, and Mrs. Abbott, Mr. Walter Risi, of Ngaruawahia, Patron of the Club, and Mrs. Risi, Mr. A. Biland, of Hamilton, President of the Waikato's newly-formed Swiss Club, Dr. A. Russell, of Napier, and Mrs. Russell, Mr. E. Zinsli, of Waitara, who has celebrated his 103rd birthday, Mr. Ben Zurcher, of Palmerston North, Mr. Len Chamberlain, of Kaponga.

After the speeches the tables were cleared and the hall prepared for dancing, while non-dancers were able to play Swiss cards.

The ballroom was a colourful scene, a number being in Swiss national costume while nearly everyone wore some national emblem or token such as richly embroidered caps or just red and white ribbons. The music was exclusively Swiss in flavour, ably rendered by dexterous accordionists and interspersed with yodelling items. Dancing continued to a late hour.

During the evening the opportunity was taken of presenting prizes for card winners for the series just concluded. They were:—

**ZURCHER CUP:** Mr. Edwin Fuglistaller.

Men: Mr. E. Fuglistaller 1st, Mr. M. Steiner Jr. 2nd, Mr. P. Amstalden 3rd.

Ladies: Mrs. A. Schuler 1st, Mrs. L. Chamberlain 2nd, Mrs F. Suter 3rd.

**ROMER CUP:** Equal, Mr. M. Steiner Snr. and Mr. E. Kaumann.

The Committee of the Taranaki Swiss Club includes:—Mr. John Steiner, President; Mr. J. Kaiser, Vice-President, Messrs. L. Chamberlain Jr., A. Kalin, D. Luond, M. Steiner, J. Dettling, J. Fohn, T. Napflin, W. Waldvogel, and Mesdames J. Fohn, C. Schuler Snr., and M. Steiner. The Secretary is Mr. Bruno P. Frank.

For the Swiss Social Club,

**JOHN STEINER,**  
President.

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED AT BALL

Swiss National Day in Hamilton was celebrated with a ball at Riverlea organised by the Hamilton Swiss Slub.

More than 200 Swiss residents and their New Zealand friends were received by the President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, Mr. A. Biland, and Mrs. Biland. Among the official guests were

the Mayor and Mayoress of Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Braithwaite, Mr. W. Risi, of Ngaruawahia, President of the New Zealand Swiss Society, and Mrs. Risi, Mr. M. Bachmann, President of the Auckland Society, and Mrs. Bachmann, and Mr. J. Steiner, President of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and Mrs. Steiner.

### Decorations With Swiss Theme

Feminine guests of honour were presented with flowers by a Swiss girl wearing national costume. Swiss and New Zealand flags, cowbells, paper lanterns and posters showing Swiss tourist centres, decorated Riverlea for the occasion.

In a speech of welcome, Mr. Biland sketched the Swiss charter of 1291 and the beginning of the world's oldest democracy. He added, "We Swiss in New Zealand can do no better service to our beloved homeland than by being loyal and law-abiding citizens of New Zealand."

The British and Swiss National Anthems were sung simultaneously as both countries have the same tune for the National Anthem.

Between dances guests were entertained with flag throwing, yodelling, a Swiss choir and accordion and humorous items.

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY AT AUCKLAND

To commemorate the occasion of Switzerland's National Day, the Auckland Swiss Club held their 1st of August celebrations on Sunday afternoon at the Coronation Hall. There was a large gathering of some one hundred and forty people including a great number of children.

President of the Club, Mr. M. Bachmann, and Mrs. Bachmann, received the guests, and among the official party welcomed from sister clubs were Mr. W. Risi, President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, and Mrs. Risi, Mr. A. Biland, President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, and Mrs. Biland, Mr. J. Steiner, President of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and Mrs. Steiner. Misses Veronica and Elizabeth Bachmann, dressed in Swiss National costume, presented the ladies with small gifts of flowers.

Following a short speech of welcome made by Mr. Bachmann, Dr. Kaegi addressed those present in "Schwizerduetsch", touching on the history of Switzerland, and its connection with the significance of the National Day celebrations.

A feature of the celebrations was the dancing of the polonaise by the children, organised by Mr. C. Ding, and danced to the accompaniment of the accordion. Everybody heartily joined in the singing of national songs, and a very witty recitation was given by Miss A. Weber. Mrs. Heidi Spielmann obliged with a yodelling item