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Obituary

EMIL SCHICKER

Emil Schicker passed away at Hawera on Tuesday, December the 15th. Although he was nearing the eighties, he was still as active as many a man 20 years younger and his death came as a surprise. Straight-forward and peace-loving all his life, he was respected and loved by all. Perhaps his character can best be interpreted by his love for flowers and a well-kept garden. Emil arrived in New Zealand in 1904 and married Bertha Kalin in Inglewood the same year and took up farming. The marriage was a most happy one and was blessed by 3 sons and 6 daughters and now there are 33 grand-children and 12 great-grandchildren. Mrs Schicker died in 1944. A great love for his old home-country made him return to Switzerland to visit his home town, Baar, in 1949 and again in 1954. I believe that he planned a third visit in a year or so. Rest in peace amongst flowers. —W.R

PAUL KUHN

On December 24th, 1959 Paul Kuhn passed away aged 77. He was a Gold Prospector from the Howard Goldfields in Nelson. Paul came to New Zealand 45 years ago and took the job as a guide on Mt. Ruapehu for some time, also on Mt. Egmont. Afterwards he went to the South Island where he took up prospecting and finally settled down on the Howard Goldfields where he lived for over 25 years. He was born in St. Gallen-Kappel and never went back to his native land.

In January last year he met with an accident and became pinned under a log he wanted to climb on his Sunday walk. Two visiting countrymen arranged a search party to look for him as he was not home on Monday night. By 4 p.m. on Wednesday he was found in a semi-conscious condition. In Nelson they had to amputate one of his legs. After months of hard trying he could not get used to an artificial leg and it took the old freedom loving man very hard.

He gave us every hope and so another restless life ended. We will miss you, old mate. —M.M.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

COMBINED PICNIC—AUCKLAND AND HAMILTON CLUBS

A cool breeze was blowing on the banks of the Waikato River on the day of the Combined Picnic, held on the Mercer Sports Ground. The weather was ideal. The Aucklanders brought along excellent Bratwuerst, Buerle, sweet filled rolls and Cremeschnitten. The Hamiltonians supplemented this with the appropriate liquid refreshments. Mr. J. Basler donated ic cream as an extra treat for the children. Some Swiss flags, and particularly the accordion playing of A. Meier and Cr. Rickenbach made it a true Swiss picnic. The men of the combined picnic committee were running the various sports features and served thirsty compatriots from behind a counter. A band of women were in charge of the food, staying behind their couter pretty well all day. One person must, however, be mentioned by name as he was the martyr of the day, namely A. Buchler. He nearly roasted himself alive behind the charcoal griller. The Committee is most grateful to all these unselfish helpers who assisted in making the day such a success. An Auckland member, Simmy Hartmann, sent along some potted plants to be given to the working ladies, a truly gallant gesture, delightedly accepted by the recipients.

Mr. Charles O'Connor from the St. Josephs Old Peoples Home, Auckland, a friend of the Swiss, sent along a pound which was used for the prizes for the children's races. Many thanks Mr. O'Connor.

The winners of the children's races were as follows: A. Trutsch, A. Fluhler, B. Williamson, Ch. Fluhler, and J. Fluhler. The Fluhler children figured very prominently in their classes. Is it in the breed?

There were attractive prizes for the winners in the adult sports, some of them privately donated and most keenly contested. Winners were as follows: The Shooting trophy, a Woodcarved Eagle, was won by Loui Holzgang, 15 points out of a possible 16. The Kegeln (nine pins) Trophy, a Smokers Stand, was won by Frank Vonlanthen. The Schwingen (Swiss style wrestling) Trophy, a Live Sheep, was won by Arthur Schuler. The Steintossen Picnic Trophy, Woodcarved Bear, was won by Oliver Bosshard, 18ft. 6ins. The best National Costume competed for by the ladies, was declared a draw between Mrs. H. Reichmuth and Mrs. A. Schuler. The judges felt that the Schwyzer and Berner Trachten were equally beautiful. Both received a Crystal Vase.

—H.B.

CONSULATE NEWS

All Swiss citizens have recently received a circular from our Consulate regarding the Military Tax. The very considerable reduction removes long standing anomalies which were a stumbling block to the friendly relationship between the Swiss abroad and the authorities at home. It is indeed very good news.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

The Wellington Swiss Club held its first Picnic on January 31st. Quite a row of cars drove to Waikanae Beach where about 50 adults and children settled in the sand.

At first the sky did not look too bright but after 1 o'clock the dark clouds disappeared and hot sunshine and a beautiful surf in warm water invited swimmers. Some tents were put up, which provided some shade and plenty of cold drinks and ice cream kept everybody comfortably cool.

Some groups enpoyed a game of chess or "Jasse" and others were energetic enough to play football, etc.

About 5.30, people started to move, suntanned and happy after a very enjoyable day.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost—A lady's money purse at the Picnic in Mercer. Containing approximately 30 shillings.

Found—Pair of small child's knitted socks and pair of shoes. Also one set of red Rosary beads.

Enquiries to the Secretary, A. Biland.