

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 25 (1962)  
**Heft:** [12]  
  
**Rubrik:** Obituaries

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 26.07.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

Theo Bonnet, not discouraged, played a great variety of tunes in his usual excellent style. He also introduced Diana Brown, a night-club singer, whose charming voice entered everybody's heart.

An interesting dance quiz was launched by the President. He gave every couple one good and one bad chance at the time. Apparently he had so many questions written down, that he wasn't happy until he used them all up . . . the questions.

The supper, with hot Frankfurters (why do Vienna sausages have to be called Frankfurters???—I don't know), was very welcome, and the beerflow was sound. . . .

Then followed a Beauty Contest, and do you know what it was. . . . It was a men's leg competition, and all the ladies were judging those crummy ol' legs, hidden halfway behind the curtain. Some of the contestants showed, to the morals' disgust, more than half their legs—and there were even people under 21 present (but I didn't report it to the New Zealand Film Censorship Committee!!!) I tell you, it was a great success. A young, bearded architect, who had just returned from a sunny island trip, was chosen winner and earned a bottle of wine.

The dance ended well after midnight, and after everybody vanished, the committee—including the President—cleared up the mess. I don't blame him for not writing his own critic.

### Christmas Meeting

The Wellington Swiss Club Christmas Meeting was held on Saturday, 8th December in the Brooklyn Community Hall.

This function was enjoyed equally by the 45 children and 60 adults present. Early in the evening some short films were shown, but the high spot for the children was, of course the arrival of Father Christmas, laden with gifts, who had something for every child. The adults no doubt found as much pleasure as the children in this, for the childrens awe at Father Christmas and their delight in their gifts were a joy to see.

Later in the evening when most of the children had been taken home to bed, entertainment arrived in the form of a dance band and dancing went on gaily until late in the evening. As usual, an otherwise cheerless room was made gay and festive by bright decorations and the serving of coffee and cake throughout the evening added to the party spirit; it was only after midnight that we show, with regret, the conclusion of another enjoyable evening put on by our capable committee.

C. S.

---

### Obituaries

With the deepest regrets we have been notified of the sudden death of Mr U. Victor Benziger at home in Schwyz, Switzerland. only a few months back the deceased has been among us in the

For many of us here in Auckland it is hard to believe it, as prime of his health. The Auckland Swiss Club had the honour to have him on two occasions as a guest and everybody who had the opportunity to meet him, was impressed by his prominent and friendly personality. His interest in our way of life and admiration for the many strange beauties of this country will be remembered always.

Was it a foreboding feeling he had, to press on his departure, although it must have been very hard to, leave his daughter and son-in-law with the grandchild, Mr & Mrs J. Tollemache, nothing could persuade him to stay longer.

It is often very hard to understand fate, generous in one way to have given Mr Benziger the time to see his daughter and family so far away from home, immensely sad for the bereaved to have lost so suddenly the leading member of the family.

The members of the Auckland Swiss Club wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Mr & Mrs J. Tollemache and also to the family at home.

—H.B.M.

The committee of the Swiss Society also wishes to join the Auckland Swiss Club in extending our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families of the late Victor Benziger. Victor Benziger was a man with an enormous capacity of mind, a man of great vision and drive. As he said himself: "During my short sojourn in New Zealand I have met many people and I have learned much." It would be safe to say that in those four months Mr Benziger has seen and learned more than many of us in the last 40 years. To most of us his ideas in the economical field were revolutionary, the ideas of a young man tempered with the wisdom of a grey head, a man who one would like to meet more often as a friend and counsellor. His sudden departure reminds me of Milman's verse: "It matters not at what hour the righteous fall asleep. The less of this cold world the more of heaven, the briefer life, the earlier immortality."

—W.R.

## OSWALD STEINER

By the sudden passing away of Oswald Steiner of 35 Dixon Avenue, Hawera, leaves a big gap in the Steiner family. Oswald was born in Denikon Baar Kt Zug. He arrived in New Zealand on 6th August, 1906, and started work as a farm labourer at Kaponga. After seven years he leased a farm on the Palmer Road. He then married Anna Meier, from Steinhavsen Zug, then he bought a farm on the Skeet Road, Kapuni. In 1951 the wife and him went back to the Old Country for a trip for a well-deserved holiday. After they returned he retired to live in Hawera. He was the youngest son of Kasper Steiner family. The funeral was held at Hawera and was attended by a large crowd. He leaves a wife, three daughters and a son. We extend to them our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

—J.S.

## ALOIS SCHONBACHLER

A man who gave conscientious and valuable service of 26 years in the maintenance of New Plymouth's Pukekura Park died recently, aged 69. Mr Schonbachler was born in Willerzell, Switzerland, and came to New Zealand when he was 19. He began work at Pungrarehu in a cheese factory and the following year went sharemilking in



the same district. In 1918 he married at Kaponga, then went farming near Stratford. He later moved to New Plymouth, and in December, 1928, started work at Pukekura Park as groundsman.

He used to play the accordeon and piano for the Swiss dances for many years. He will be missed very much. We extend to his wife our deepest sympathy.

—J.S.

---

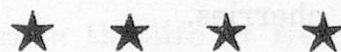
## SWISS BROADCAST

For Australia and New Zealand:

Times: Daily 9 p.m. to 10.45 p.m.

Frequencies: 19.59 m, 16.86 m, 25.28 m.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### Hamilton Swiss Club

Our next evening will be held on the second Sunday (13th) in January in the Riverlea. A Bring and Buy will be arranged and we hope for your generous support. The Dutch Orchestra will again play for you. Bring your partners.

### Taranaki Swiss Social Club

|| The annual picnic of the above will be held in the Te Ngutu Domain, Okaiawa, on Sunday, 10th of February, 1963.

## Laugh a little . . .

Two Scots are in London, and there also you can drink whisky. Next morning the one says to the other: Believe me, you were very drunk last night. You stood in front of a letter box, threw in a penny, and then you looked toward Big Ben to see how much you weighed.

A Scott takes two days' holiday to get married. When he comes back to the office the boss asks:

"And what is your wife like?"

"Well," answers the Scott, "she is a work of God, but not exactly his master work."

—Nebelspalter

---

## SITUATION VACANT

The Swiss Chalet in Gisborne requires a waitress urgently (not necessarily experienced). Anyone interested please contact F. Fankhauser, Swiss Chalet, Gisborne.