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## EMIL WIDMER

A large number of people paid their last respects to Emil Widmer, of Stratford, whose funeral took place on 20th April, at Stratford.

Emil came to New Zealand in May, 1904. He took up farming at Mere Mere and after a while he went to Napier as a labourer. A few years later he went to Mokoia to start farming and operate as a blacksmith. Some time later he bought a farm at Midhurst and worked it for 14 years. Emil retired in 1940 to live at Stratford. He was a very keen follower of the Swiss card game Jass and would travel many miles to have a game.

Emil lived to a great age of 83 years. He leaves a wife and four daughters. We extend to his wife and daughters our deepest sympathy.

—J.S.

## NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

### Auckland Swiss Club

The General Meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club was held on April 20th, 1963, at the Professional Club. Following are the election results for the current year 1963-64.—

President: A. L. Mueller. Vice-President: Peter Buecheler.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs Hanny B. Mueller.

Committee Members: Mrs M. Gianotti, Messrs Hans Enzler, Charly Rickenbacher, Erich Flueck, Fritz Baertschi, Fritz Scheidegger.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT — 1963

The term of another successful year of the Social Swiss Club has ended and with pleasure I wish to review some of our activities during the past year.

The highlights of our social evenings were undoubtedly the "Tessiner-Abig," still remembered by many members as one of the most original shows with the true atmosphere of the popular county "Tessin"; the 1st August celebration, also acclaimed as one of the best for many years, showing at the same time some astonishing good talents for entertainment, such as yodelling; a comedian who contributed so much on the humoristic side, the show of "Wilhelm Tell" was unique as well as the patriotic speech. A Maskenball was held in October, the theme was "Fastnacht im Niederdorf" and thanks to our expert decorators the Hall really looked like a Niederdorf-Beiz, some hillarious costumes could be seen and it was altogether an entertaining evening. A film evening followed, showing besides other countries a good part of Switzerland to the delight of many members recognising their own district. The

Christmas Party was mainly for the children but also the grown-ups enjoyed an execelent Christmas dinner. A picnic was then to follow with a Ballon-Wettbewerb. However, due to very bad weather it had to be cancelled and in place a "Barbeque" was arranged at Redwood Park. It proved to be quite a success and very suitable for a similar function such as a Picnic in the afternoon with the children and a Barbeque to follow at night.

During this term the Committee followed again the policy of inviting New Zealand guests to our social evenings and it proved not only socially a very high success but also financially a very considerable contribution. It further proved how very popular our Swiss Band is, particularly to the N.Z. guests; no persuasion is needed on our side to ask them to attend our social evenings as long as they can hear the Swiss Musik.

Besides these social functions the members of the committee were busy to procure finally our own "Kegelbahn," which was inaugurated in Redwood Park at the Barbeque. It gives me also pleasure to present a hand-carved wooden plaque of our National Symbol, the Swiss Cross, which will be placed at the Princess Wharf. For a long time it has been our aim to find a solution to help new-arrivals get in contact with the Swiss Club when arriving from overseas, to assist them in their early difficulties. It will have the telephone number and address of the acting President inscribed and permission to have it on display at Princess Wharf has been granted. We feel sure that it will prove to be a big help and compatriots from our country will spot it easily. In time, no doubt, the authorities will be able to pass on the information.

Coming to the conclusion, I wish to thank all members who supported the Club during this last season. To some extent it has been very encouraging as the member list has grown to 62 members. Five of these members have left for overseas and to our regret among those are Miss Therese Bitschman, our treasurer, who did her job very conscientiously, and Mr Arthur Lussy, a very active member of the committee and one of the expert decorators, wood-carver, electrician, handyman and all. Sincere thanks also to the other committee members who all have done an excellent job during the year and to the ladies who have helped and contributed with cakes, etc.

HANS FITZI, President.

—H.B.M.

## Hamilton Swiss Club

On May 5th a masked fancy dress dance was held at the Riverlea Cabaret. The hall was well filled with a happy crowd, and a gratifying number were in masked costumes. We did not even suspect

that we had such a large number of accomplished actors in our midst, judging by the costume-inspired antics and frolics!

The hall was decorated with plenty of streamers and balloons and the Te Aroha band played with such "Schwung" that they lured couples on to the dance floor right from the start. To add to the carnival spirit, Hedy Biland had put into verse many happenings from within the club (in true "Basler Fasnacht Schnitzelbank" style); it was read in excellent voice by Ernst Studer. A demonstration of highly professional ballroom dancing was given by Mr & Mrs Sharp, from Matamata. A Polonaise, led by Hedy Biland, proved an hilarious affair as the way was led through the whole building through light and pitch dark.

The leaving of the dance band at 1 p.m. was by no means the end of the evening. Harry Schuler and Percy Mathis took over with their accordions, Sepp Arnold felt inspired to give us some yodel songs and Walter Risi acted as M.C. Plenty of excellent Fleischkaes and hot coffee kept body and soul together and of course there was no difficulty in quenching one's thirst!

The evening was organised and run by sub-committee No. 1. Judging for 1st and 2nd prizes was by popular vote and was awarded to the following masked costumes: 1st prize for group, "Beatniks"; 2nd prize for group, "Nurse and Baby"; 1st prize for single mask, "Swiss Gymnast 1910"; 2nd prize for single mask, "Nurse."

—H.B.

### Taranaki Swiss Social Club

At a well-attended Taranaki Swiss Social Club annual meeting held in the Kapuni Hall on March 17th the following were elected to the committee for the new year.—

President: M. J. Steiner. Vice-President: L. C. Chamberlain.

Secretary: P. Hermann.

Committee: J. Hermann, D. Butler, Alex Gwerder, D. Hiestand, H. A. Maechler, A. Kuriger, L. Kuriger, A. Kalin, Mrs M. Steiner, Mrs P. Meyer and Mrs M. Suter.

### Wellington Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Swiss Club took place on April 20th, 1963, at the Brooklyn Hall. Thirty-nine members and a few friends were present.

In his report, the president had the pleasure to state that the seven social evenings and the three picnics organised by the Committee were well attended. The "Gemutliche Aben" and the "Chilbi" attracted the biggest crowds. The financial situation was also quite satisfactory.

Dr O. Rossetti was in the chair for the election. Mr H. Ittensohn, who had been president for the last two years, declined to be re-elected. He had done a great job and we all wish him "Happy Retirement." The officers elected were.—

President: F. Wehrli.

Vice-President: R. Storz.

Secretary: L. Napp.

Treasurer: H. Scharer.

Committee: W. Hofmann, U. Wolf and H. P. Bowald.

With the ceremony proper to the occasion our new skittle-alley was inaugurated. All those present had a few shots to get the feel of it and then a regular competition, 3 shots each, was organised. Mr N. Matt won with 56 points and Miss A. Oswald was a close second with 52 points. The skittle-alley, constructed by Mr F. Wehrli and some voluntary helpers, stood up to the wear and tear of this first evening very well indeed and the underfelt absorbed most of the noise. Everybody seemed to be very pleased with our new acquisition and thoroughly amused by it.

—L.P.

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#### SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

#### SWISS WORLD-WIDE SHOOTING COMPETITION

In conjunction with the Eidgenoschisses Schuetzenfest 1963, a shooting competition for all Swiss abroad will take place. We hope that a strong team from New Zealand will compete in this unique event which only takes place once every five years. The date of the competition will be 7th July, which will apply to all colonies all over the world. Please contact your Club President for further particulars.

—H. OETTLI

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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#### SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

##### — Notice of Annual General Meeting —

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society will be held in the Brooklyn Community Hall, Wellington, on

SATURDAY, 15th JUNE, 1963

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At 8 p.m.

L. KURIGER,

Honorary Secretary.

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