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NEWS OF THE COLONY



Auckland Swiss Club

"A Night In Tahiti," our last social night for this season, turned out to be one of the best shows the Club has ever had, with a record attendance of about 200 guests. Among the guests from Taranaki and the Waikato, there was also the President of the Tahiti Club, Mrs G. Duane, and her very complimentary remarks regarding the decoration of the Hall was a high reward for all the work involved to make the show such a success.

The Hall was lavishly decorated with punga and cabbage trees, palms and bamboo. The tables, covered with ferns, had also plenty of oranges, bananas, watermelons and nuts, which made a very colourful picture. Charming Miss Sue greeted the guests with lovely "Leis" made by members of the Club, giving the final touch to a real tropical scene of the "South Seas."

The popular Band, playing hit-parade tunes from the South Seas, soon had the guests on the dance floor and in no time a happy and cordial atmosphere was apparent among all present, which reached a climax when the first floor show was announced about 10 p.m. It started with a prelude of the drummers and then from the entrance four lovely Tahitian girls swayed in, attired in their traditional costumes. Each gave a separate performance with such grace, charm and apparent ease it made you forget how extremely strenuous a Tahitian Dance in fact really is.

Nat Mara, the manager and leader of the troupe and the band, increased the tempo of the drummers continuously and faster and faster they danced—to a sudden stop, waiting gracefully on bended knees until their partners finished their part; they then danced their way out again with smiles on their faces.

A torch dance followed; all lights were switched off and only the stirring sound of the drummers could be heard, when suddenly they appeared! It was a spectacular sight, performed with such skill, beauty and grace that the applause would not end until they had performed the item for a second time.

An excellent supper was served immediately after the show, followed by Swiss music for a short interval. Our very popular committee members, Mr & Mrs Enzler, performed another "Laendler" on the stage to the delight of all the guests. Dancing started again for a short while but then the second show was announced—performing this time a quite unusual dance called the "Blacklight Dance." The Hall was completely dark when they appeared on the stage, illuminated only by the phosphorous lights, showing the

graceful swaying of the costumes and the "Bushels" (ii-ii's) in their hands. Miss Doris Morel was dancing on the top of a barrell on very limited space, faster and faster, surrounded by the other dancers, Misses Kao, Tao and Matamua. This was a most exciting and inspiring dance and finally they all came down from the stage and invited—with an irresistible smile—our guests for a dance with them. From excitement or just being plain shy, chosen partners seemed all of a sudden to have very shaky legs!

Dancing started again, accompanied with the singing of some lovely Tahitian songs by Miss Kao and also other gay performances from the drum player Jimmy Haywood, and ended early in the morning—for the guests apparently too early, but for the organisers and performers it was time to call it a day of hard bork, compensated undoubtedly with a most rewarding success! —H.B.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

A most pleasant evening was held in November in the form of a Barbecue at the residence of Mr & Mrs Risi in Ngaruawahia. Nearly 150 people, including four carloads from our Auckland Swiss and one from Taranaki, enjoyed a real Swiss atmosphere created by lampions, music, singing and dancing. Beer and Bratwurst was served—all sittings on long tables out in the open.

This is definitely worth repeating. Once again we would like to thank Mr & Mrs Risi for their hospitality.

VISITORS FROM SWITZERLAND

For the first time since its inception the annual congress of the International Dairy Conference was held in New Zealand. The delegates had the opportunity to visit farms, dairy factories and milk treatment stations.

Switzerland was represented by Prof. Dr. Med. Vet. P. O. Kaestli, Director of the Swiss Federal Experimental Station; Mr Oscar Langhard, Dipl. Ing. Agr. Director of the Swiss Cheese Union; and Dr. Theodor Stocker, Secretary of the Swiss Milk Producers' Federation. Some members of our Club had the pleasure of meeting these gentlemen who were most impressed by the New Zealand way of farming and particularly the enormous quantity of milk produced per labour unit on our farms and handled in our dairy factories.

Christchurch Swiss Club

On 12th October, 1963, at Knox Presbyterian Church, Christchurch, the marriage took place of Kurt Feldmann, of Zurich, Switzerland, and Jacqui Wilkinson, of Christchurch. The day turned out to be a real "scorcher" when the temperature rose to 84 deg.

The bride wore a white satin dress with a detachable train and a French lace bodice piped with white satin. Her short puffy veil was held on by a pearl and lace coronet. The attendants, Sylvia Hayward, Christine and Nicola Wilkinson and Maureen Pfenniger, wore turquoise satin dresses with white chantilly lace bodices. The best man was Chris Noser, also from Switzerland.

Among the guests who attended the wedding was Mr Karl Gottini, who is the new President of the Christchurch Swiss Club. Mr & Mrs H. Schmidli, of Christchurch, stood in for the groom's parents. —J.F.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Hamilton Swiss Club

There will be no evenings in January. Our Annual Picnic will be held on 16th February at the residence of Mr & Mrs Risi, in Ngaruawahia. Further particulars later.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND



ARRIVAL OF TIBETAN REFUGEES

At the invitation of the Association for the Creation of Tibetan Homes in Switzerland, a third and fourth group of Tibetan refugees arrived at Kloten-Zurich airport after flying from India on board two Swissair planes. The third group, totalling 24 persons, viz. a lama and 10 families, has been given a permanent home in a house purchased by the Swiss Red Cross in the canton of the Grisons. The fourth group of 23 refugees, has been housed in the mountainous region of Toggenbourg (canton of St. Gall), in a house belonging to the Association for the Creation of Tibetan Homes in Switzerland, and furnished by the Swiss Red Cross.

In both regions where the new-style colonists have been received, there exist sufficient possibilities of work for the heads of the families to be able to provide for their dependants.

BIG ORDER WITH SWISS INDUSTRY

A big British automobile manufacturer recently started up a new factory, producing a new type of mini-car, with an engine made entirely of aluminium. The whole of the pressure die-casting plant consisting of 15 machines, was supplied by a Swiss engineering works at Uzwil, which has for a long time carried out its own pressure die-casting of aluminium.