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NEWS OF THE COLONY

Auckland Swiss Club

A perfect day greeted us on 6th December — the “Samichlaus-tag and picnic, held at Frank Reichmuth’s property in Henderson. Scores of children with their parents turned up, full of expectations for their big event.—Santa Claus to arrive from the woods up the hill on a horse. First of all lunch was distributed, Bratwuerst, Servalas, Cabanos with oven-fresh buns, coffee with Vanille-creame-Cornetts, followed by ice-cream.

Two lovely thoroughbred horses, led by two young ladies from the pony-club appeared, and although shy and a bit scared at first, the bravest soon mounted the horses to have a ride up the hill and all around. Later on, even tiny tots just over a year old had also great fun on the horses, asking for more and more. A big haystack was a further attraction for the children, who had great delight in climbing it and tumbling down again; and, of course, the little white kid-goat and the guinea pigs were a great attraction for all of them.

Suddenly we could hear a bell ringing and everyone shouted, “Up! There he comes! Santa Claus!” From up behind the hill he appeared, riding down and followed by his servant, carrying an enormous bag laden with gifts. Coming to a stop with both horses, he approached the surrounding children, and what a delight to watch all the various expressions of the kids—some of them bold, others scared, but all holding their breath when Santa Claus started to distribute the gifts for every child: A beautiful beach-ball, a flute, chocolate and other “Yums-Yums” wrapped up in plastic bags! Even the smallest baby received a pretty present!

The concert which followed with all of the children trying to play the flute and the rattles was beyond description, it drowned all other noises, but the fun was great!

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Frank Reichmuth and Koebi Glauser for their assistance, it was a lovely day.

—The Committee

WEDDING BELLS!

We wish to extend best wishes to our member Mr Jack Luetschg on his recent marriage with Marie Vaese on 6th November, 1964.

—H.B.M.

“HARD-UP DANCE”

A “hard-up dance (Kehraus-Ball) was held as the last social night of this season and, as expected, the guests turned up dressed accordingly—some as beachcombers, others as tramps or just plain “hard-up,” but all commonly in comfortable attire, having twice as much fun on this occasion.

A huge fishing-net of about 100 yards—and lots of bamboo all around, decorated the hall and, being really “hard-up,” broken

mirrors were hanging on the walls and the tables were covered with newspapers and scattered seashells. Candlelight gave a soft glow to the surroundings. Driftwood, a sail, safety ring and life-belts, empty bottles, etc, made up the stage and with the Island Music Band it made you think you were stranded on a Dream Island. Even the pretty girls were not missing; Yvonne and Francoise, our two Swiss Stars, turned up as properly stranded beachcombers and later on performed a gypsy dance to the delight of the audience.

If conditions seemed "hard-up" to some extent, the supper certainly was not. An excellent "Schweins-und Kalbsvoessen," prepared by Mrs Hirzel, and Rissotto by Mrs Kaeppli, disappeared as fast as it was being served and sausages had to be served in addition. Complimented on by all guests, we particularly wish to thank Mrs Hirzel and Mrs Kaeppli for their excellent cooking.

After coffee and cakes had been served dancing went on until early in the morning—really wonderful exercise! —H.B.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The wellknown film "Ueli Der Knecht" was shown to members and friends in the Embassy Theatre in Hamilton. About 150 people very much enjoyed this excellent film with its ageless message and the rather uncanny sensation of hearing Schwyzer-Duetsch spoken to you from a New Zealand screen. We thank our Embassy for this opportunity and hope for more.

Christchurch Swiss Club

The Christchurch Swiss Club held its monthly meeting on 23rd November in the Hall of the Hard of Hearing, Christchurch. Although only half of the club's members attended this meeting the evening turned out to be really enjoyable. Up for discussion was the club's annual Christmas Party, which this year will be held at Woodend Beach, about half an hour's drive from the city. This party has been set down for Sunday, December 13. After hearing how much it would cost to arrange for a bus to take the club to the beach, it was decided that the members would take their own cars.

After all the suggestions had been put forward, the club settled down to watch two films on Switzerland which had been left here by Mr Gygax when he was in Christchurch this month.

The meeting ended with a delicious supper at about 10.30 p.m.

—J.F.

We have just learnt that the Embassy is receiving additional staff. Mr Enrico Homeberger, who has recently arrived in Wellington with his wife, will be taking up his duties as "Kanzlei-Sekretar." We extend our heartiest welcome and wish him a successful and pleasant stay in this country.