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~~~~~ News of the Colony ~~~~~

Auckland Swiss Club

ANNUAL PICNIC ON FRANK REICHMUTH'S FARM

— February 5th, 1966 —

What a beautiful day we had chosen—sunshine from early morning until late evening. The Charge d'Affaires of the Swiss Embassy, Dr. Weber, and Mrs Weber, came all the way from Wellington to attend our annual picnic and the Auckland Swiss Club appreciate this honour.

A few people received little souvenirs from the "Henderson" sun, in the form of sunburn, while sitting on the grass and eating sausages for lunch. There was always a crowd in front of the bar, waiting for a drink to quench their thirst. The children enjoyed the ice-creams and "Nussgipfel" very much and the Gleucksfischen game kept them busy. Ninepin was played without interruption—groups of six people formed a team and everybody hoped to get the highest amount of points, in order to win a tasty garlic sausage.

A girl dressed in Swiss costume sold raffle tickets for which the big prize was a ham! For the shooting and the guinea-pig race there were lots of other prizes such as jugs of beer, knives, handkerchiefs and pictures. Mrs Kugler won the big ham.

We express many thanks to the members who played Swiss music so that we were able to enjoy the dancing.

Results of the shooting competition were: **Air Rifle and Pistol:** Ladies, Miss Hedy Calonder (91) 1, Mrs Schwarz (88) 2, Mrs Valerie Stalder (84) 3; men, Mr John Schwarz (96) 1, Mrs Tony Amstutz (95) 2, Mr Simi Hartmann (94) 3; juniors, Roland Muller (91) 1, Paul Wuethrich (91) 2, Ernst Wuethrich (91) 3. **.22 Small Bore:** Men, Simi Hartmann (71) 1, Paul Wuethrich (69) 2, Hans Fitzi (59) 3; ladies, Valerie Stalder (54). —M.M.

VOLCANO AHEAD!

Another successful weekend excursion was arranged by the Auckland Swiss Club's president, Tony Sidler, this time to Mt. Ngauruhoe. Ideal weather right from the start was also the barometer for the happy nineteen.

A fast trip brought the party from Auckland, via Hamilton-Tokoroa-Atiamuri-Taupo, to a wonderfully secluded camp site at Lake Roto Aira. Of course there was a lunch break besides a little lake in the midst of a pine forest a few miles out of Tokoroa, as well as a refreshment stop on a street corner at Taupo.

The Barbecue dinner really made the travellers aware of the vicinity and the dangers of climbing a live volcano, when an explosion from an overheated tin took place. Spaghetti lava covered

a much depressed and hungry mountaineer from head to toe. An eruption of laughter broke the stillness around the camp fire and the unlucky person had to stand endless teasing for the rest of the trip.

After numerous mountaineering stories and yarns had been exchanged, accompanied by background accordion music, the camp became quiet for the night. Once again a certain individual, after being bitten by mosquitoes, thought it wise to declare "Reveille" at 3.30 a.m. A big pot of already hot water was over a huge fire awaiting the yawning climbers. At the break of dawn everyone had had breakfast, tents were packed and the camp site was cleaned. At 5.30 motors were revved up and the cars started moving towards Mt. Ngauruhoe.

The reliable Landrover took over again where the other cars had to give up and brought the groups as close as possible to the mountain. Soon the party was on the way, tramping past Manga te Popo Hut on to the first real lava tracks. After about two hours of strong walking the party split up. While 14 enthusiasts tackled the real target, the other group undertook to climb a less strenuous peak.

Swift travelling fog often closed in on the Ngauruhoe party. The keen tempo held on for quite a while, but then the distance between the fit and not so fit became bigger and bigger. The going in the loose scoria was by no means easy and lots of healthy fresh air was used up to bring the last one to the top.

The view was unfortunately too often blanketed by fog, but for Swiss a bit of snow is also heartwarming. A look over the lip of the crater into the soul of the earth was the prize for the hard work. After a good snack and rest the party descended at a good pace.

Tired but contented the reunited groups took again to the road in the much-appreciated cars. The journey home through the green King Country and Waikato brought the tour to a happy end.

More trips of this nature would be appreciated by everyone.
Thank you Tony. —E. & M.B.

Wellington Swiss Club

It was a pleasant change to have the first outdoor gathering for 1966 at the Queen Elizabeth Park in Paekakariki. This picnic, which took place on Sunday, January 30th, was a great success.

Attendance was indeed very good, as about forty adults and at least thirty children turned up. It was much to the credit of the organising committee to have chosen such an ideal spot; something for everybody and especially so for the children. The weather was perfect. To say the least, a very energetic game of

football was played, barefooted, on the beach. Not all the players will remember the score—the winning team of the Canton of Aargau against the quick (but not quick enough) moving Bernese. Without doubt the scars, strained muscles and bruises (fortunately no broken bones!) will be constant reminders for a long time to come.

By lunchtime the Charge d’Affaires and Mrs Weber had joined us and found time to have a friendly word with almost everyone. Soon after lunch volunteers were called to clear the ground for a game of volley ball. Precise instructions were given by “experts” to the novices, who turned out to be quick learners and soon play was in full swing.

Organised games for the children were quite unnecessary, as there were plenty of opportunities for imaginative games in the sand dunes and bushes nearby. A very happy time was had by all.
—H.S.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We have been advised that Mr Peter Oettli has been appointed Professor of Languages at Waikato University.

Forthcoming Events

Hamilton Swiss Club

The annual Swiss Society Shooting Competition will be held at Mr and Mrs Risi’s residence on Saturday and Sunday, March 12th and 13th.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Pine Lodge on the second Sunday in April—10th April, 1966—at 8 p.m.

Wellington Swiss Club

Advance Notice: The Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Swiss Club will be held on Saturday, March 26th, at the Brooklyn Hall.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

For information write to.— A. BILAND,
TE RAPA, R.D. 8,
FRANKTON JUNCTION.