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~~~~~ Forthcoming Events ~~~~~

Auckland Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club will be held on Saturday, 23rd April, in the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Pine Lodge on the third Sunday in April (17th April, 1966) at 8 p.m., and not on the 10th as previously stated.



CONGRATULATIONS . . .

to Mr and Mrs Rinaldo Rust, a daughter; to Mr and Mrs Franz Krieger, a son; to Mr and Mrs Brian Schnuriger, a son; and to Mr and Mrs Louis Schnuriger, also a son.



~~~~~ News from Switzerland ~~~~~

SWITZERLAND AND THE AUTOMATIC DRIVING OF TRAINS

In spite of the existence of a certain number of experimental devices on the railway lines of various countries, the automatic driving of trains is still a new field. The management of the Bodensee-Toggenburg railway has the merit of being the first in Switzerland to have introduced a regular service of trains driven entirely automatically, which will make it possible to gain invaluable experience in the field and contribute to progress in the running of railways.

They are shuttle-trains in which the normal equipment with manually operated switches is partially replaced by an automatic device made by Brown, Boveri and Co., in Baden (Switzerland) carrying out the following operations: speed setting, i.e. maintenance of the pre-set speed whatever the slope and load, with gradual acceleration, deceleration and braking according to a previously set programme, reduction and restoration of speed in accordance with the demands of the journey (magnets placed on the track automatically operate the reduction and restoration of the set speed, in case of work on the line and other factors) and finally automatic braking at the destination. This braking, which is also controlled by magnets on the track, brings the train to a stop in the station at the required spot, without any help at all from the engaged driver.

The new equipment frees the driver from a number of manual operations; he can thus devote all his attention to watching the line. In this way the automatic driving device helps greatly to increase the safety of trains, particularly in the case of fog or