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News of the Colony

FAREWELL

Mrs Schaerer, the wife of our Vice-Consul, and her daughter Theres are leaving New Zealand ahead of Mr Schaerer on the 7th of March to return to Switzerland. Most of us had the pleasure and privilege to know them personally and all our Swiss Clubs and the Swiss Society wish them bon voyage and our best wishes for their future wherever that may be.

A FINE EFFORT

The sale of the 1st of August 1966 badges in New Zealand has evoked most favourable comments from the "Schweizerisches Bundesfeier-Komitee", Zurich, and it wishes to thank warmly the members of our colony for their fine efforts. The proceeds will be used to provide services such as maternity, home-help, etc. for Swiss mothers in the mountains.

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

We have just received a news flash from Switzerland that our President, Tony Sidler, was declared "Weltmeister" 1966 in the Ausland Schweizer Fernschiessen with 95 points.

Congratulations, Tony, this is something to be proud of because there must be a lot of good shooters about amongst all the Swiss abroad. —H.E.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

GARDEN PARTY AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE SWISS EMBASSY on the 21st January 1967

Everybody was looking forward to this Garden Party as the summer climate (according to the weather statistics) would give the nice warm atmosphere expected by everyone. The ladies had prepared new frocks following the latest mini-fashion, the children's swimming togs had been mended for the occasion as everybody was hoping to be able to cool off in the nice swimming pool of the residence of the Swiss Embassy.

Things unfortunately turned out a little different, as Mr Wellington-Weather-Man decided to put on one of his (quite unusual) windy days for the occasion. But the friendly atmosphere of the party and the warm welcome greetings of Dr and Madame Weber put every guest at ease right away and when the caterer decided it was time to open the beer bottles everybody rushed under the marquee which had been erected for the occasion by the Embassy's staff in the morning, and enjoyed the refreshments and sandwiches served.

The numerous children, after having decided that they couldn't eat more sandwiches and ice cream, grabbed the plastic toys available and started ball games around the hydranges under a little anxious eye of Mrs Weber.

The grown-ups very soon formed little groups and conversation was so lively in English, Swissgerman and French, that nobody noticed that time had passed and that 6 o'clock was already close. Mothers reassembled their children and the guests departed, shaking hands of all old friends and extending their thanks to Dr and Madame Weber for the most enjoyable afternoon.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

News from the South. First of all history has been made here, because this year we have our first lady president. At our annual meeting Mrs J. Slack, who has been an enthusiastic member of the committee and club for some years, was unanimously elected President. Congratulations Mrs Slack and our best wishes for a long and successful term of office. Others on the committee are Mr J. Slack (Vice-President), Mr W. Puentener (Secretary-Treasurer), Mr B. Kalin and Mr O. Metzger.

We were honoured to have Mr and Mrs De Grafenried as our guests when they visited Christchurch and more recently we also met Mr and Mrs Homberger from the Embassy in Wellington on their tour of the South Island. Our activities for the last few months have included a most interesting and instructive talk on Yoga by Dr J. Moffat, a social get-together at the home of Mr and Mrs K. Gottini and an afternoon of Kegeln (and talk!) at the home of our President. In spite of bad weather in the morning we still held our Christmas picnic on December 11th at Woodend and our optimism was rewarded with a bright sunny afternoon. The attendance was not big, but all those present, particularly the children who all received presents, enjoyed the outing.

Our final meeting for the year was a farewell party for Mr and Mrs O. Metzger who, with their three boys, returned to Switzerland early in the New Year. We were very sorry to say goodbye to them as they have both worked hard for the club, but we wish them Bon Voyage and all the best for the future.

—E.P.



THE CROSS-COUNTRY CYCLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's Cross-Country Cycling World Championships will be held at the Brunau Allmend near Zurich. The world's top professionals and amateurs will gather there on February 19, for a race in which a 3-kilometre course will have to be traversed either eight or seven times (depending on class). Among the best prospects for winning a world championship is the Swiss cyclist Hermann Gretener.

OBITUARY

MR ADALBERT HALTMEIER

Mr Adalbert Haltmeier, one of the oldest Swiss in Auckland, passed away on December 12th, 1966 at the Cornwall Hospital, at the age of 83. He was very well known as a pastrycook.

Mr Haltmeier was born in Niederuzwil, St Gallen, on October 7th, 1883 and grew up in a family of six children. He left school at a very early age to begin his apprenticeship as a pastrycook. In those days the training was very thorough, but it had to be paid for; holidays were nonexistent and the working hours were long and hard.

At the end of three years the wanderlust took hold of him, or more correctly the life of seafaring, and he obtained assignments as pastrycook on ships and sailed around the world. On one of the trips home he met Miss Berta Schoentaler in St Gallen and was married in the same year 1921. Their marriage was blessed with one daughter.

Having been in New Zealand previously for fourteen years, Mr Haltmeier decided to return to this country with his wife to settle down. He gained his reputation in his trade when he was appointed to make the wedding cake for the late Queen Salote of Tonga. The cake was seven feet high from the bottom tier and a foot wider than the door of the bakehouse and the staff had to remove a window to get the cake out. On many other occasions he won Gold Medals and in 1914 his masterpiece for the "House of Wedding Cakes" earned him the Auckland Exhibition Award.

At the age of 65, and after 47 years as a pastrycook, Mr Haltmeier retired and although lately not in the best of health, was still very alert and enjoyed an amazingly good memory.

—H. & L.M.

"Home" For Swiss Living Abroad

Once again we would like to remind our readers of the "Home" for Swiss living abroad at Duerrenaesch in Switzerland.

The "Home" at Duerrenaesch is not just a hotel where one can spend one's ordinary holidays at advantageous prices. It is much more than that for it promotes the necessary contact between Swiss abroad and the land of their fathers by arranging a

"Home" holiday in the country,

a new type of holiday in a Swiss village. This contact, indeed, forms part of that experience of the homeland which is longed for by all Swiss who live abroad—particularly the young ones—and which mainly helps to keep alive the good Swiss spirit in far-off places.

This ideal aim is served by the practical arrangement of a stay at the "Home" which is open to all Swiss abroad irrespective of origin, language or religion. In addition to plenty of free time during which each guest may do as he pleases, he will also contribute his share by cooperating in the work involved in sustaining the "Home". Property, self-supporting establishments, buildings, furnishings, etc., are put at the disposal of the "Home".

The standard all-in price consists normally in making a small cash payment per day and in cooperating under skilful guidance in the self-supporting establishments of the "Home" (housework, gardening, agriculture, forestry, maintenance of buildings and furnishings, etc.).

The "Home" is ready to assist its guests in planning their free time, and the study of languages ("Schweizerdeutsch" and the other languages of the country), Swiss customs, sports and national pastimes, lectures and pleasant entertainment are to be encouraged; small and large trips and excursions will also be arranged according to the season and where possible.

Further particulars and application forms from our Embassy or Press Committee.

Forthcoming Events

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The film Polizist Waekerli will be shown in the Cosy Theatre, Blockhouse Bay at 2 p.m. on Sunday, 12th March.

The annual Auckland Meisterschaft will be held combined with the Swiss Society Shooting Competition on the 4th and 5th March at the shooting ranch on Frank Reichmuth's farm in Chamberlain Road, Henderson.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Owing to the fact that the Embassy Theatre in Hamilton was not available in March, the film Polizist Waekerli will be shown on Sunday, 26th February at 8.30 p.m.

The Swiss Society Shooting Competitions of the Hamilton Swiss Club will be held on 4th and 5th March at Ngaruawahia.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

12th or 19th March, Car Rally (cancellation over 2ZB).

8th April, Annual General Meeting.