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News of the Colony

INTENDING GROUP TRAVELLERS FOR 1968

Would all intending travellers for next year (1968) who have not yet contacted me, please do so.

I would like to finalise my list before Christmas in order to co-ordinate the wishes of all concerned.

Arnold Biland.

INTERESTING VISITOR

A distinguished visitor in the person of Mr H. Tschaeni, political editor of the Zuercher Tagesanzeiger and a member of the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft, spent a few days in New Zealand recently. Being passed from one Swiss Club to another, who each tried to show him as much of the country and our way of life as possible, he must be one of the few who have seen so much in so little time.

His most well-informed talks about the present day problems of our homeland, his hopes that the new constitutional article of the Swiss living abroad proves to be of benefit made his stay of particular interest to his listeners.

I think he thoroughly enjoyed his all too short visit and I am looking forward to his promised report for our "Helvetia" from a 'real editor'.

—Arnold Biland.

Obituary

MR FRANK STEINER

On September 25th, 1967, Frank Steiner, aged 79, of Eltham, passed away at Hawera Hospital.

Frank Steiner, born in Lauerz, Kt. Schwyz, arrived in New Zealand in 1909 and took on a farm job at Kaponga. Later he married Miss Regina Leuthard and took over a farm at Kaponga. After a few years he bought a farm at Stuart Road, Eltham, and several years later he leased this property and shifted to Eltham township and began a building business. He built a large number of houses there, mainly for Swiss people.

A few years ago Frank and his wife visited Switzerland. Frank, who was a keen Jass player, leaves a wife, three sons and one daughter.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.—J.S.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

On Sunday, 10th December, the Hamilton Swiss Club held their Christmas Party, which was well attended by young and old alike.

The feature event of the evening was the musical play performed by the children under the capable direction of Mrs Josy Fluhler. The talent of the young ones was also shown in another item — group dancing — the music for which was provided by a “junior band”. Another highlight was the solo ballet dance by Belinda Fluhler.

Father Christmas evidently enjoyed the children's effort also, since he wasted no time in appearing personally to distribute presents to all young ones. The festive season was also honoured with carol singing by candlelight.

The sincere thanks of the Club go to all those who helped in any way to make the evening such a success.

TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB

A number of Swiss people from various parts of Taranaki held a most successful evening at the Motor Lodge in New Plymouth on November 18th. The occasion took the form of a Swiss Dinner, Swiss Entertainment and Swiss Accordion Music. A competition for the best Laendler was won by Mr & Mrs Ruebli, of Warea. About 150 attended the function and it was decided to repeat the evening in the winter of next year.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Christmas Social

Another Christmas, another year has nearly gone. The programme looked very promising. Towards 8 o'clock people started to drop in at the Brooklyn Community Hall, where they were welcomed with a drink. The hall, decorated with the colourful flags of each Kanton, looked very gay and, of course, the Christmas tree near the stage and candles and fir branches on the tables were not missing.

Very important visitors joined the party: Ambassador and Mrs E. de Graffenried, from Canberra; Mr Applebaum, Swissair Manager, from Sydney; and Mr Tschaeni, almost straight from Zurich, Switzerland, where he is an editor of the Tages-Anzeiger and also a member of the Central Committee of the NHG.

The committee members were responsible for the prompt service of a very good dinner. Many thanks to all, especially Mr Tresch who took care of the kitchen.

After the president's welcome and interesting speeches by the Ambassador and Mr Tschaeni, dancing started and most people joined in. Due to a misunderstanding, the much-looked-

forward-to Maori Group did not turn up, which was a great pity. Nevertheless, the cheerful evening continued until 2 o'clock in the morning when a happy crowd finally departed. —D.D.

Children's Christmas Afternoon

To walk from brilliant sunshine into a darkened hall, on Sunday, 3rd December, made one hesitate, but there we were already engulfed in Christmas atmosphere with background music kindly played by Mrs Kaspar — a huge Christmas tree with its lights on, decorated walls and tables on which candles were burning. Heartwarming it was to see the expectancy in the children's eyes while getting seated and gazing at the gaily wrapped parcels by the tree. About 70 children were seated in a large semi-circle and their parents, with smaller children on their laps, sat at tables behind them. Then the President announced the start of events; and what a pleasant surprise it was to see young artists arise from our midst and sing and play items on piano and string instruments. Yet another group of children came up with a very well acted nativity play. A lot of hand-clapping followed these fine efforts.

Then . . . clip clop, clip clop, in came Father Christmas and took over near those presents. Straight after his greetings he called up the children in family lots. Many a little toddler was very glad then to have an older brother or sister to hang on to.

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————— Bierwurst - Salami —————

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A few were close to tears and very few howled properly. A good number plucked up courage to talk to Father Christmas and answer his questions. Meanwhile adults were served coffee and cakes which was much appreciated. All too soon Father Christmas was on his way again and children started to open presents and just as eager to look into their fruit bag and nibble away at their big cake that had Santa's picture on it. Quite relaxed by now, we got the youngsters back into the cars again where they started to recall all the good things they had seen and heard that day. How long their promises to Father Christmas will last is anybody's guess.

Special thanks for all the donations given to the Club. Without them it would not have been possible to give away presents at such a scale. (The Committee.) —J.H.

The Committee of the Wellington Swiss Club wishes all its members and friends throughout New Zealand a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Congratulations

. . . To Mr & Mrs F. R. Gisler, of Turua, Hauraki Plains, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on November 28th.

Forthcoming Events

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Fancy Dress Ball: Saturday, 3rd February, 1968, Pine Lodge, 8 p.m. Motto: Zigeunerabend (Gypsy evening). Please note change of date!

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

The Club is to have a **Picnic** at Waikanae on Sunday, 14th January, 1968.

Laugh a little . . .

At a bowser station in Vienna a man stands by one of the pumps and watches the attendant filling up someone's car. After a while the attendant asks the silent observer: "Do you want something?" With a sigh the man answers: "No, but please let me stand here, I want to make myself stop smoking."

The husband looks through the bills to be paid. "Here is a bill for Fr. 60.— from the beauty institute 'Belladonna'. May I ask dear Lina, whether you pay in advance?"

—Nebelspalter