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News of the Colony

★ AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

On Saturday, 3rd May, the Auckland Swiss Club held its first Ball ever at the Peter Pan Cabaret. The Club was honoured to have guests from as far afield as Australia — namely, Mr Apfelsbaum who came over especially to celebrate the occasion — and also the President from Hamilton Swiss Club with other friends from the Waikato.

A rather large crowd gathered to join in with the dancing and also to see the highlights of the Ball — items provided by the Club. There were namely Jodelling, Flag throwing, Alphorn tunes and dancing to the accompaniment of accordion music. All this was thoroughly enjoyed by those present and a tremendous supper was provided with a selection of food to please everyone's own gourmet.

No doubt the atmosphere and the happy crowd gave the organisers and all helpers great satisfaction to know that this evening was an enormous success. —E.B.

ANNUAL MEETING

Once more the Annual General Meeting was held in the Blockhouse Bay Improvement Hall on April 12th. Although a relatively small number attended the meeting, it was not lacking in fierce discussions or the odd emotional outbreak, which is quite common if not expected of a real Swiss meeting.

We were honoured by a special guest from Wellington, the Vice-Consul, Mr P. Erb, who spent the whole evening with us.

Newly-elected were.—President, Mr W. Piatti, 33a Brandon Road, Glen Eden. Secretary, Miss E. Bachmann, 106 Bolton Street, Blockhouse Bay. Vice-President, Mr T. Sidler. Treasurer, Mrs E. Gamperle. Members: Mrs D. Holzapfel, Messrs H. Bryner, K. Leutenegger, J. Wildhaber, H. Wolf. —E.B.

SHOOTING SECTION

Auslandschweizer Schiessen — which was shot for the Auckland Silver Medal Coat of Arms:

On Saturday morning it looked as if we would get the most enjoyable shooting festival ever. It was light cloudy weather, with an occasional break-through of our much-loved sun — after Friday's downpour it was like a seventh heaven!

Early-bird arrivals at Kaupakapaka saw our good friend Mr Bell preparing his tractor to ferry our heavy equipment up to the chalet; to him our grateful thanks. After a ten to forty minutes'

walk we arrived at the chalet and following a short breather we smartly got organised. Within minutes the first group was ready to fire — and so it was for the rest of the day; we had hardly a break between banp, shouting, and marking the scores. I sometimes felt as though I was between New York's 30th Avenue and Wall Street collecting shooting fees!

Quite a few New Zealanders attended and one, Mr H. Gray from Waihi, stayed overnight. Mr Gray was a real shooting enthusiast and a consistent shooter.

After the shooting came the tooting, we celebrated Hedy's birthday, and had a few bottles of this and that between sing-songs and a lot of jokes. The night, what was left of it, was spent in tents. About seven o'clock, after breakfast, we had some rain — which didn't stop the Riflemaster from shooting the top score for the two days, 90 points. This made the weatherman so happy that he brought the sun back again!

Sunday turned out to be twice as busy as Saturday. Meisters from Hamilton turned up and he, with a tremendous fighting spirit which everyone could see on the evening news on T.V., equalised the top result. And she, well she shot many he's into the ground. Congratulations! Oh yes . . . the women were shooting too, and not bad you know.

Two good old fellows, F. Baettig and W. Fluehler, and their families, turned up from Whangarei; they did their best and we thank them for coming. We had navy boys with us and two policemen too. We all wish to see them more often on such occasions. Also, I want to thank all the helpful ladies who came and enjoyed themselves — and so did we!

—U.H.

The Auckland Swiss Club and their Riflemaster quite obviously scored a tremendous success with preparing and carrying out the enormous task of organising the last shooting competition. I do not think that anyone who participated will again have the pleasure of receiving the particular emblem of the Auckland City. This was really a chance in a lifetime.

The preparation for this event was started more than three years ago and it was a thrilling sight to see people there from far afield helping to make the day such a success. The ladies, without mentioning any names, kept every soul happy and filled our stomachs with their home-made goodies!

Congratulations for a job very well done. May the sporting enthusiasm flower on for many years to come and we will then be well set.

—S.H.

► SWISS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ◄
June 1 - 1.30 p.m. - Newmarket Club, Teed St., Newmarket
AUCKLAND

★ HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The Hamilton Swiss Club held a Maskenball at the Old Folks Hall on Saturday, May 10th. A lot of work had been put in decorating the hall. The evening started off slowly but once the masks started to arrive the stage was set for an evening of gaiety and laughter and the dance floor was kept busy throughout the evening.

We were surprised to see so many masks from Auckland. By popular vote they were able to take home first prize in group and single masks — very well deserved!

Everybody enjoyed the hot Schublig and the home-made Fasnachtskuechli which were served with coffee. Many thanks to all who helped to make this evening such a success. —M.T.R.

★ TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB

ANNUAL MEETING

A good attendance of members were present for the Annual Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club, held on April 14th in the lounge of the Kapuni War Memorial Hall.

The President, Mr Len Chamberlain, opened the meeting and thanked those present for their interest and support. In his report Mr Chamberlain said that the Club had had a very active year. During the year seven card evenings, three winter cabarets, one summer cabaret and the annual picnic were held — all these occasions being well attended and successful functions, due to the support and interest members took in the activities of the Club. Also, many shoots were held at the rifle range on Mr Ted Napflin's property.

The President then went on to thank his committee and others who had helped at various functions. He also reported that the Club, although showing a small loss for the year, was in a very sound financial position.

The Riflemaster, Mr T. Napflin, reported that the Club's shooting activities had once again been very successful, with many new shooting members both senior and junior who, if given time and practise, could turn out top marksmen. Mr Napflin said the Club would like to see more members coming along to the rifle range and taking up this sport as the Club had a large range of fine trophies to shoot for.

The best wishes of the Club were extended to Mr & Mrs D. Hiestand and Mr T. Kurmann, who have left recently for a visit to Switzerland. —R.W.

★ WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

NOISY WEEKEND

On a fine Saturday morning, five cars loaded with shooting enthusiasts from Wellington headed northwards on the main highway No. 1. Why? They were on the way to meet their friends in Taranaki, in order to fulfil their programme in the Shooting Competition of the Swiss Society, for they could not find a suitable range in the Wellington area.

The nearly all-male party was greeted, as usual, with open arms in Hawera by the President of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club, Mr L. Chamberlain, and a quick sit down in a local hotel moistened our thirsty throats. Then, for some of us, came the challenge of putting up the tents. Others, the wealthier ones I suppose, chose to book into the hotel. Then we went for an interesting drive to an old Maori Pa site, and shortly after it was time for dinner. The rest of the evening was spent playing games, most of them with cards.

Sunday morning brought an early start, and after we were shown the Kapuni Gas Fields, we reached the shooting range situated on Mr Ted Napflin's farm. The first bullets soon flew through the air and tried to hit the targets with more or less success. All of a sudden, a big mysterious table was brought in and covered with "goodies". So we had an abundant and fabulous lunch sponsored and served by the local ladies, which was very much appreciated by everyone. All too soon after, we had to leave this beautiful spot and make the road for Wellington.

In the name of all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our friends in Taranaki, and especially to Messrs Chamberlain and Napflin, who made it possible for us not only to shoot but also to spend a most enjoyable weekend in the fresh country air.

—E.H.

★ CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Saturday, April 12th, the Christchurch Swiss Club held its Annual General Meeting in the Hard of Hearing Hall, Victoria Street, at 8 p.m. The meeting was very well attended.

Mrs Slack welcomed Mr Bischof, President of the Swiss Society, apologies were received and the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read. Mr Bischof took the chair and conducted the election of new officers, which was the fastest in the history of the Club. The result was as follows.—

President: Mr K. Suter, 104 Mt. Pleasant Road, Christchurch 8. Phone 814-744.

Vice-President: Mr K. Gottini, 28 Devonport Lane, Christchurch 1. Phone 599-483.

Treasurer: Mrs K. Suter, 104 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Christchurch 8.

Secretary: Mrs J. Feldmann, 41 Greenhaven Drive, Christchurch 6. Phone 858-018.

Committee: Mr M. Roth, 152 Rutland Street, Christchurch 5. Mrs E. Miles, 25 Matai Street, Christchurch 1. Mr B. Kalin, 123 Woodham Road, Christchurch 6.

It was moved by Mrs Slack that the Club again belong to the Swiss Society, which meant that the Club was responsible for any non-payment of subscriptions. This motion was seconded by Mr Kalin. After much discussion the motion was passed. It was also agreed that subscriptions be paid at the end of the meeting.

It was agreed among the members that a donation from the Club funds, plus a personal donation, be sent to the "Thonig Appeal".

The main discussion in the general matters was the decision to hold the National Day celebrations on Saturday, August 9th. This was carried unanimously.

Mr Wagner, on behalf of the Club, thanked the past committee for their untiring service and hoped the new committee would carry on the good work.

Three films were shown; the first showed the force of the defence system in Switzerland, which was very well filmed. Supper was served and the gathering concluded about 12 o'clock. —J.F.

AN APPEAL

To all Young Swiss in the Canterbury Area:

It has come to the attention of the members of the Christchurch Swiss Club that the Club is lacking in young people, not that we are all terribly old!!! So there isn't enough to interest you at Club outings? That is probably because **you** are not there at the meetings to put forward your ideas. It is as simple as that. So why not join. We would like a change also. We do need your interest.

The Secretary.

★ NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE OLD AGE PENSIONS SINCE THE YEAR 1948

The Federal Old Age and Survivors' Insurance benefits are today in all cases a manifold of the rates existing at the very beginning. After the recent 7th revision, the minimum old age pensions for single and couples has been increased by 400% and the maximum is now 220% higher than at the time of introduction of this insurance scheme. The survivors' pensions have benefited from an even more noticeable improvement. These