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News of the Colony

Auckland Swiss Club

This year's 1st of August Celebrations were held in the Edendale School Hall. Members of the Committee spent most of the Saturday collecting shrubbery and other items for the decoration of the hall which on the evening looked terrific. Red and white candles gave the hall a calm and serene appearance onlooking the stage which showed a scene of the Swiss Alps dominated by the Matterhorn in the background.

The evening got off to a good start with a wonderful buffet dinner, perhaps the best ever, which was prepared by Paul Wuetrich who spent a lot of time and effort with a good result.

After supper the guests were welcomed by the President Mr Hans Fitzi with a speech briefly outlining the history of Switzerland and the problems which faced the home country in the future. Following this there was an excellent performance, compered by Mr John Gamperle, signifying the meaning of the celebrated Swiss National Day. The performance incorporated aspects of the Swiss Way of Life and this was shown by recitals in the different languages of the Swiss people. One of the highlights of the evening was a tape of a speech by the Federal President of Switzerland sent to us from the Embassy.

The evening also included items from the Swiss Yodel Club. Interest was shown for the item 'taler schwingen' which was performed for the first time at a Swiss evening in Auckland. A big crowd gathered round the bowl to see the five franc piece rotating round the side of the bowl thus making tunes. After the show the evening continued with drinking and dancing to a band until the early hours of the morning. Many people who attended in national costume added a colourful touch to the evening.

Altogether the evening proved to be a great success and all the people who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. —C.F.

Wedding Bells: Gielen-Steiner

The recent wedding at Saint Antony's Church, Huntly, of Monica, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Steiner, Russells Road, Huntly, and John Gielen, second son of Mr and Mrs J. Gielen of Te Awamutu, created a distinct Swiss and Dutch atmosphere as a great number of relatives and friends of the two popular families congregated to mark the occasion. Father Clive

Littan, who was two years ago assistant parish priest at Huntly and very active in youth work, came all the way from Dargaville to celebrate the wedding mass.

At the reception that followed in the Huntly Memorial Hall, items were presented by John Schumacher, formerly of Waerenga, with the old and ever new Swiss accordian, and Mrs Yolanda Villiger was at her best with her lovely yodelling voice. Father Le Strange, the present assistant parish priest of Huntly, added a truly South Sea flavour with his items accompanied by guitar.

At the evening dance arranged especially for the younger generation the Hamilton Swiss Club Trachtengruppe rounded off a truly memorable day. The young couple are going to reside at Ngaruawahia.

HEDY'S CORNER:

CHRISTMAS MAIL

By the time this copy reaches you there will only be approximately a fortnight before mail to Switzerland closes.

Postage rates, known in advance, can save a lot of inconvenience — even a saving in stamps: by keeping the weight of gift parcels just within the limit of a given weight range. Here are postage rates for **surface mail parcels** to Switzerland.—

up to 2 lbs: \$1.09 up to 11 lbs: \$1.98

up to 7 lbs: \$1.48 up to 22 lbs: \$3.45

Airmail parcels: each 8 ozs: \$1.33

Postage rates for letters and cards and small packets.—

Airmail: Letters in envelopes, sealed, 28c; each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz or part thereof over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, rate doubles. Postcards, open, 14c; in unsealed envelope, 10c. Aerograms, 10c (no enclosures whatsoever allowed). Second class articles, each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz 10c (but minimum charge for small packets 15c).

Surface mail: Christmas cards, sealed envelope 7c first oz, each additional oz 4c extra. Unsealed Christmas cards, 3c first 2 ozs, each additional oz 2c. Ordinary postcards (without envelope) 4c.

- Closing time of surface mail for packets and parcels: October 15th, 5.30 p.m. Letters and cards: October 16th, 7 p.m.
- Closing time for airmail (this needs to be much earlier than normal on account of the large amounts of mail): be on the safe side and post up to 2 weeks before Christmas.

Parcels up to 2 lbs need only a green, small label as customs declaration. Above that weight more detailed customs declara-