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News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

It was gratifying to see our first Fondue Evening so well attended. Some guests even inquired on their arrival: "When are you serving supper?"

The President, Mr J. Villiger, warmly welcomed all the guests. He also took the opportunity to present Mr W. Rudolf, from Tauranga, the "Kegel Wanderbäcker" which he won for the year at the Picnic. He received a good clap for his fine performance.

Everybody enjoyed the five-man band, despite the sometimes too noisy pop tunes. However, it was great fun to watch how the many couples shaped up to these modern tunes. In between, Rangi Gilgen surprised us with a nice Maori song.

By about 10 o'clock came the delicious smell of hot wine and cheese. Soon after there were nine Fondue sets on the tables and the ladies in the kitchen were kept busy preparing more in frying pans to refill the empty Caquelons. Judging from the nice remarks everybody enjoyed our Swiss speciality — even our Kiwi friends!

Thanks to everyone who lent their Fondue set and those who helped preparing the "cheesy disch". —R.E.W.

"STRADIVARIUS" PLAYERS ENTERTAINED

On September 27th the four Swiss chamber music players, the Stradivarius string Trio and Werner Giger, piano, enraptured a full capacity house in Hamilton. And no wonder, the string instruments are matchless in beautiful tone and literally beyond price, as they were all made by the most famous craftsman Stradivarius in the 17th century.

After the concert the Committee of our Club acted as hosts at a most "gemuetliche" supper party held at the Swiss Chalet restaurant, where the president, Mr Villiger, welcomed the players in a short speech. Mr Fluhler served his excellent Rahmschnitzel to the hungry musicians and Mrs Fluhler had a spread of delectable Swiss-decorated sandwiches set out on tables for the other guests, which comprised quite a number of Swiss and some New Zealanders. The vice-president and secretary of our Club were at the service car terminus to welcome the musicians upon their arrival.

Both these gestures were greatly appreciated by the "Stradivarius" players and a big vote of thanks is due to the Committee for their warm-hearted "Gastfreundlichkeit". —H.B.

Christchurch Swiss Club

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

It seems that all our social functions start off badly, but the end product is always the opposite. Right up to the hour of our celebrations, things went from bad to worse: Reservations came in slowly; during the week we had a storm which moved slowly north, holding up a container of specialities from Wellington; the plane carrying our special guests from Wellington was delayed for an hour; and we had a power failure a half an hour before things were due to start!

Friday dawned bright and sunny. Our container arrived and cooking began. Arranging tables, flowers and decorating the room at Riccarton House took all afternoon and part of the early evening; it was a very fast trip home to change and compose oneself.

Drinks were served before the meal in the entrance hall of Riccarton House. Mr and Mrs Erb arrived and were greeted by the Club's President, Mr A. Moser, who introduced them to the Club members.

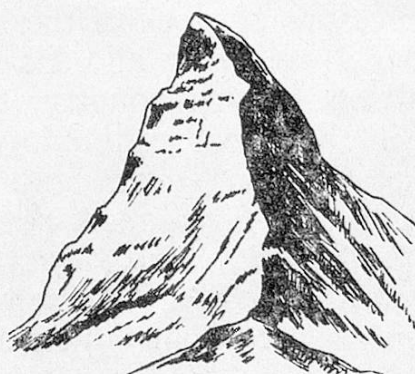
The meal was served in a big room furnished in gold and white. The tables were set with white tablecloths and the head table had flower arrangements of lilac and daffodils; the side tables had pink daisies peeping out from bottles of wine. The

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menu consisted of Schueblig, Wienerli and Pork, with Sauerkraut, Potato Salad and Potatoes. With this one could drink red or white wine or beer.

With a nervous shuffle of feet, Mr Moser stood to deliver his first speech at a Club's social function. He welcomed Mr and Mrs Erb and specially welcomed Miss Waldvogel, who represented the Taranaki Club, and from Timaru Mr and Mrs Kempfe and Mr and Mrs Steinemann. Best wishes were received from Mr Bischof on behalf of the Committee of the Swiss Society and from the Wellington and Taranaki Clubs. Invitations had been sent further north, but they must still be having the Post Office "Go Slow"!

Mr Moser referred to the Club as a "little ship which has been shaken about in the rough seas since its founding". Some of the crew and passengers have been swept overboard or have just abandoned the ship, but the survivors have kept the ship going. Mr Moser went on to say: "As the present Captain of the ship, I am proud to tell you that we have kept dead on course all the way so far towards a definite destination and it is a pleasure to see such a wonderful crowd on board". Mr Erb said that the Christchurch Swiss Club, although small and so far from the other Clubs, had done very well in keeping united.

Speech time over, the dancing began and went on and on and on until 1 a.m. It was a lovely evening enjoyed by everyone.

—J.F.

News from the Embassy:

Six years ago, Mr Enrico Homberger took up his duties in Wellington, and his arrival meant a most welcome alleviation from pressure of work of the Embassy's staff. All throughout his stay, Mr Homberger and his wife have met a great number of compatriots in this country, and both of them have been very active in the Swiss community. It is thus not surprising that a number of compatriots and friends will regret their recent departure, first for a short period of replacement in Saigon, then on to the well deserved vacation at home and, finally, in January, 1971, on the way to their new assignment in Black Africa. Our best wishes accompany them for the future.

* *

Almost at the same time, another change has taken place. Miss Elisabeth Wunderli, who joined the Embassy in October, 1967, as the new secretary, has now been transferred to the home offices. During these three years, Miss Wunderli has met a number of compatriots here in Wellington, and on the occasions when she has made trips to other parts of New Zealand. Only a