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News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

It was nice to see a few more members than usual at our Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Swiss Chalet on April 4th. The President, Mr Villiger, welcomed everybody present.

The financial report was accepted with pleasure, because it showed a marked increase in profit over last year. It was sad to hear our Treasurer, Mr J. von Holzen, is resigning from his job which he had done so well for the past 10 years. The Club showed its appreciation by presenting Mr von Holzen with Honorary Life Membership.

The President thanked everyone who helped in any way to make our Social functions successful during the year, especially Messrs Heiri Oettli, H. Odermatt and Joe Egger, and the choir and dance group for their entertainment. He also thanked Mr Hans Oettli, our Auditor, and Mr W. Unternahrer, our Rifle-master, for their work from which, unfortunately, both resigned.

The following Officers were elected.—

President: Mr J. Villiger. Vice-President: Mr J. Staheli. Secretary: Mrs R. Waldvogel. Treasurer: Mr K. Waldvogel. Auditor: Mr W. Risi. Riflemaster: Mr H. Meister. General Committee: Mr and Mrs W. Steiner, Mr and Mrs W. Muller, Mr and Mrs J. Risi, Mr and Mrs E. Rust, Mr and Mrs E. Staheli, and Mesdames V. Villiger, H. Staheli and Mary Fluhler.

Our Delegates for the Swiss Society's Annual General Meeting in Christchurch are Messrs W. Risi and J. Villiger.

After the meeting we were served a lovely supper by Mr and Mrs Fluhler. —R.E.W.

Wellington Swiss Club

Our Wellington Swiss Club held its Annual General Meeting on March 27th, 1971, in the Victoria League Hall. Thirty-six members were present. Copies of the Treasurer's Report were on hand on each table. It showed that also this time income had been higher than expenditure; the report was approved unanimously. Copies of the President's Report were also available to everybody and reminded of all our various functions which had been successfully organised during the year.

From the A.G.M. of the Swiss Society it was reported that "Swiss Ties" had been ordered and were to arrive soon in

Wellington. They would be available as an adequate Easter gift to members. We heard that our motion on Proxy Votes had been turned down and that our Club had not decided to make further moves.

The discussion about joining the "Link" was quite lively because of the difficulties in getting enough participants for group travels ourselves. It was decided to create a Junior Membership and to put the age limit for children's Christmas presents at 13 years. Progress was made in defining our financial policy: a motion was put through to create a Building Fund.

The election of the new Committee was conducted by our Ambassador. Its composition is the following: President: Mr A. J. Francis. Vice-President: Mr K. H. Signer. Treasurer: Mrs R. Messmer. Secretary: Mrs M. Katz. Members: Misses R. Landolt, Barbara Schulthess and K. Keller, and Messrs J. Hangartner, B. Ritter, W. Müller and K. Keller.

While the supper was served a screen was put up for the more informal part of the evening. We were to see holiday areas in New Zealand. Mr P. Blattner showed us some scenes of Fjordland, and then Mr Hangartner took us to the Lake Wanaka region; Mr König introduced us to the Lake Rotoiti area and the Nelson Lakes, National Park; Mr Zulauf had interesting shots from an excursion to Cape Kidnappers; and finally Mrs Messmer showed slides from Lake Rotoma and Cape Runaway. With this quick trip through some of New Zealand's beautiful areas the evening was concluded. Many thanks to all who had contributed.

—M.K.

Christchurch Swiss Club

SHOOTING COMPETITION

On Sunday morning, March 14th, three teams of our shooting group took part in the National Competition of the Swiss Society.

The weather conditions were just fine and so were most of the results achieved. It seemed that everybody enjoyed the shooting and the near-professional celebrations afterwards. I am sure we will all be there again next time.

—J.F.

TRIP TO THE HIGH COUNTRY

On Sunday, 21st March, our last event on the programme before the A.G.M., the trip to Arthurs Pass took place and again the weather couldn't have been more beautiful.

Altogether 23 adults and children met at Lake Lyndon where some early leavers had already caught some trout before the others arrived. About 11 a.m. we went on to the road again, past Lake Pearson and Lake Grassmere and we arrived just in time to enjoy a marvellous Smorgasborg lunch at Hans Bohny's chalet-restaurant. All agreed that it would be good to help digest this

plentiful meal by taking a walk and we went up to the Punchbowl waterfall — maybe a bit tough going for some, but very rewarding at the top.

About 4 p.m. we sat in our cars again and started for home, some making a halt at Lake Pearson and Lake Lyndon. A very enjoyable day indeed; one could only feel sorry for those who couldn't or wouldn't take part!

—A.M.

HEDY'S CORNER:

Last month there was a report on how to start a Play Centre and this time a guideline for forming a Kindergarten is given. Kindergarten projects are nowhere as easy to organise as Play Centres as you will presently see.

THE FREE KINDERGARTEN

A list of at least sixty children's names who would attend has to be compiled. Furthermore there must be public support by prominent citizens and the mayor's co-operation. The Kindergarten Union which is run by the State Department of Education requires that \$4000 be raised by the public to meet the cost of a standard building and initial equipment. A suitable section must also be provided. The Education Department will, however, pay a subsidy of \$2 for each \$1 raised. The maintenance costs are the full responsibility of the Kindergarten Association.

Supervising the children during sessions is a qualified Kindergarten teacher and other helpers approved by the Education Board. Staff consists of two adults for 40 children and three adults for 60 children. Play is organised and children do the same work or play together at set times.

Kindergartens are free but donations are occasionally asked for. Children may enrol between the ages of 3 - 5 years. Free Kindergartens are open five days a week for morning sessions of three hours. They are also open for two afternoons, but do not cater for the same children both morning and afternoon.

From the above you can see that to start a free Kindergarten needs a large number of people, particularly some who are sufficiently in the public eye to be known by other prominent citizens. The money angle is also a hurdle.

In conclusion it seems that Play Centres would be ideal for more sparsely settled rural areas and Kindergarten projects are more likely to succeed in urban districts. In every case it means a worthwhile effort. By the way, you who are second generation settlers in New Zealand might not be aware that the word 'Kindergarten' is bodily lifted from the German language, spelling and all, meaning "children's garden".

—R.B.