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who form part of the executive while at the same time wielding considerable influence over the legislature. All members of the Great Council but one are elected in the name of a party, but the tendency is to share out authority and rule by discussion and consent. The balance between the parties is maintained in the third named organ of a triumvirate formed by the people, the Great Council and the Kleiner Rat. The latter has five full-time and salaried ministers responsible to and chosen by the people. They are ineligible for membership of the Great Council but play an important part in its debates. Each is elected for a term of three years and is only twice eligible for re-election. The Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Kleiner Rat are held in rotation, for the retiring President cannot remain in office for a second consecutive year. Each minister is allotted a department. These are at present the departments of Justice and Police, the Interior and Economy, Works and Forestry, Finance and the Army, Education and Health. All decisions are, however, taken by the Council as a whole. The Kleiner Rat is in fact responsible for the management of the cantonal state. It decides on all political and administrative matters without prejudice to the further authority of the Great Council, with the exception of matters reserved to the Great Council alone. They appoint almost all cantonal administrative officials and only have to "consider" the proposals of the health and education committees.

## NEWS OF THE COLONY

### Taranaki Swiss Social Club

#### Obituaries

##### Mrs Luisa Katherina Schwyter

August 23rd was a sad day for many Swiss when Mrs Luisa Schwyter passed away at Stratford in her 78th year.

Mrs Schwyter was housekeeping for many years for the Priests at Opunake who all enjoyed her company and her charming accent. She arrived in New Zealand in 1939 with her family from Baar, Canton Zug. During the last 10 years of her life she has been actively engaged in mission work for her church while keeping house for her brother Mr Jacob Schumacher, Stratford.

Mrs Schwyter leaves two daughters, Mrs F. Suter (Eltham) and Mrs C. Baker (Porirua), 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

—L.K.

### Mr Frank Joseph Holdener

The death occurred on September 15th at Calvary Hospital, Hawera, of Frank Joseph Holdener, aged 92 years.

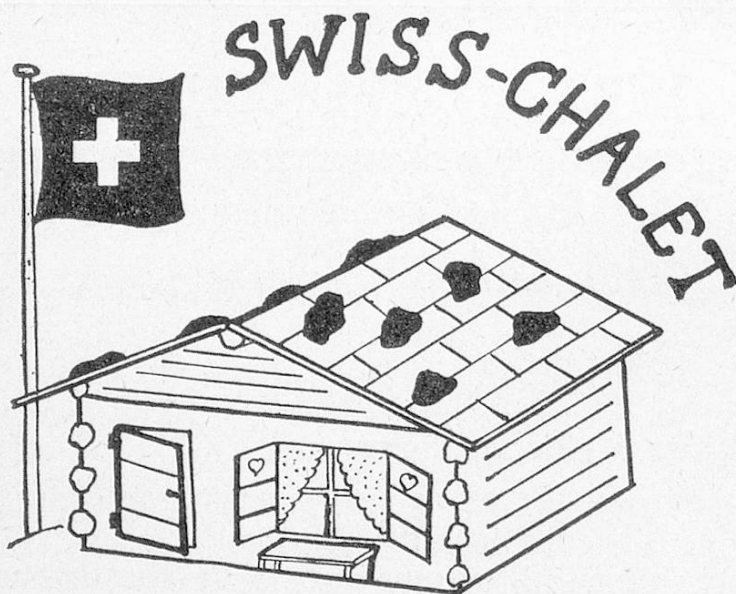
Frank arrived in New Zealand in 1914 with his wife Marie and family, and brother Charlie. After working on farms for eleven years in South Taranaki, Frank and his family made a return visit to Steinerberg, Canton Schwyz,. After two years in his homeland he returned to New Zealand and bought a farm near Hawera. After farming this property for nearly thirty years, Frank and his wife went to live in Hawera to enjoy a well-earned retirement, where he has resided for the last seventeen years.

In recent years Frank has enjoyed making wooden ornaments, a hobby at which he used to spend much time. He was also a very accomplished accordion player and he still enjoyed playing until about twelve months ago.

Frank was of a quiet disposition with a very kind and gentle nature. He had a very alert mind right up to the time of his death.

Frank was pre-deceased by his wife in 1963 and is survived by two daughters, Mary (Mrs J. Steiner, New Plymouth) and Hilda (Hawera).

His passing leaves a place which cannot be filled. —R.W.



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### **Mr Kasper Hermann**

Mr Kasper Hermann, of Hawera, passed away on September 8th, 1971, at the age of 82 years. Mr Hermann arrived in New Zealand from Stons, Unterwalden, Switzerland, in June 1912. On the same ship were three of his fellow countrymen, Albert Kalin, John Notter and Lou Schönbachler.

Keen on the land his first job was working on a farm for Sattler and Keppel at Manaia, followed by sharemilking for Frank Muggeridge at Oeo. In 1917 he married Miss Regina Styger who also came to New Zealand from Switzerland in 1908. They leased a small property at Riverlea and at the same time Mr Hermann worked at the Awatuna dairy factory. In 1920 he took over a bigger farm at Manaia, before purchasing his own property at Waitoitoi, Urenui.

His wife pre-deceased him in 1947 after which he semi-retired to Hawera to live with his daughter Mary and helped two of his sons in the building profession.

The call of his homeland was strong and he made two trips to Switzerland, in 1948 and in 1960. He was always a popular figure at the Swiss functions he attended and really enjoyed himself. He was a kind and loving father to his family and was always very keen and interested in their work.

He leaves a family of six: Werner (Waitoitoi), Mary, Joe and Walter (Hawera) and Freda (Mrs K. Hurley (Hurleyville)).

To the family we extend our sympathy.

—L.K.

## **Wellington Swiss Club**

### **"CHILBI" — 11th SEPTEMBER**

A strong northerly wind and persistent rain no doubt discouraged many of our members and friends from joining us at the Brooklyn Hall for our annual Chilbi.

But the ones present enjoyed themselves with shooting, kegel, darts, bottle-fishing and other games. The real Chilbi-music and colourful decorations helped to put us in the right "Stimmung". No-one felt like dancing but everybody seemed to be quite happy having a little chat with their friends.

It was earlier than usual when the last ones said goodbye — maybe they were anxious to make sure that they still had a roof on their house . . .

—R.L.

## **Christchurch Swiss Club**

### **CAR RALLY**

Spring was well and truly here when we had our second car rally on Sunday, 19th September. Fifteen cars entered but not that many finished the whole course. Once on the way, the cars followed an easy course, if the drivers and navigators used their

eyes and heads. At each checkpoint questions were asked; some were general knowledge, others were about things seen on the way. The cars followed a course which took them from Belfast, around the airport, to Yaldhurst, Weedons (where the first checkpoint was), along many dusty dirt roads to an intersection of five roads. Here they had to take the 8th counting clockwise. That would've been funny to watch. The second checkpoint was at the end of this road. It was from here that one had to keep one's eyes open wide. The final checkpoint was at Coes Ford, where the cars had to ford the river to get to it. By the time the rally ended, a cold wind had come up which smothered the atmosphere a bit.

Congratulations to the winners, Mr and Mrs M. Nussbaumer, and to Graeme Slack who was placed second. —J.F.

## GROUP TRAVEL 1972

The Society has finalised the Group Travel itinerary for next year as follows.—

**Wednesday, 19th July:** Depart Auckland 11.59 p.m. on U.T.A. French Airlines Flight UT 566A (DC-8). Arrive Papeete 6.50 a.m.

Thursday 20th: Papeete, day at leisure. Depart Quantas Boeing 707 11.25 p.m. Arrive Mexico City 1.10 p.m.

Saturday 22nd to Wednesday 26th: Five days in Mexico City.

Thursday 27th: Depart DC-8 Aeronaves de Mexico 9.15 a.m.

Tranship for New York/Zurich Swissair Flight SR 101 (DC-8).

Arrive New York 3.40 p.m. Depart New York 9.30 p.m.

Friday 28th: Zurich Kloten. Arrive 10.55 a.m.

**Tuesday, 12th September:** Zurich, Swissair DC-8. Depart 12.50 p.m.

Wednesday 13th: Hong Kong. Arrive 4.15 p.m.

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th: Hong Kong, 3 days at leisure.

Saturday 16th: Hong Kong, Pan American Flight PA 812. Depart 9 p.m.

Sunday 17th: Sydney. Arrive 10.45 a.m. Depart for N.Z. (Auckland) by Air New Zealand Flight TE 556A (DC-8) 5.15 p.m. Arrive Auckland 10 p.m.

This itinerary gives ample time for pleasure in Tahiti, five days in Mexico and three days in Hong Kong.

Cost of trip per adult (based on a group of 15) NZ\$1021 (not included are hotel meals, sightseeing personal expenses). This cost now includes accommodation in Tahiti, Mexico City and Hong Kong. Also transport from the airports to hotels and return in these same stopovers.

● **Please write now to our Secretary for pamphlets and further information.**