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NEWS OF THE COLONY

★ Hamilton Swiss Club

THE ANNUAL PICNIC

About a month ago Ngaruawahia saw its first Music Festival, but unfortunately today its last Swiss Festival. This reason and the perfect weather must surely account for the large crowd that gathered on the lovely "Mountley" farm on Sunday, 4th February. by midday every shady corner under the huge trees and sun umbrellas was occupied by groups of friends. The "Bar" was a favourite place and after the first grilled sausages arrived, the ladies were "flat out" all day long selling Bratwürste, cakes and coffee.

The president, Mr J. Villiger, was pleased to welcome our Ambassador Mr Corti and Mrs Corti, members and friends from near and far. It was a nice moment when our president, on behalf of the Hamilton Swiss Club, presented Mr and Mrs Walter Risi with a beautiful hand-carved flower box as a sign of thanks for letting us use their ideal place and all the work involved in having our Picnic there for the past 12 years.

On the sporting side were as usual the "Kegelbahn" and the "Schwingen" — very popular. The new "Bahn" made and donated by Mr E. Staheli was a big improvement and attracted many competitors. The winner was Mr O. Muoth of Tokoroa with 22 points. Twelve men competed for the honour to be the strongest man of the day. Our expert judge, Mr E. Rust, declared after the "Ausstich" Mr Sepp Matzenauer as "Schwingerkönig". In second place was Mr H. Gerhard, and in third place were Mr V. Ackermann and Mr J. Emmenegger with equal points. Congratulations to all winners and many thanks to all helpers.

Well, we are very sorry to say goodbye to the "Mountley" farm, but hope our next picnic on new grounds will be as popular as the ones in the past.

Found after the picnic: Girl's Handbag. Will owner please ring Hamilton 65-744. —R.E.W.

★ Taranaki Swiss Social Club

WEDDING: BIESIEK — Hiestand

The marriage of Carolyn Gertrude, sixth daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Hiestand, Oeo Road, Awatuna, and Kevin Iden, eldest son of Mr and Mrs L. R. Biesiek, Inglewood, took place at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Kaponga, on January 6th 1973.

The bridesmaids were Julia Bublitz, sister of the bride, Teresa Biesiek, sister of the groom, and junior maid was Dianna Harvey, niece of the bride. The best man was Jim Aitken, and the groomsman was Trevor Biesiek, brother of the groom.

A large gathering of friends and relations attended the reception in the Kaponga Memorial Hall. Swiss musical items were provided by Molly Chamberlain and Joe Föhn. Swiss and Kiwi music, provided by the two bands, was enjoyed by all at the dance in the evening. The couple will live in Inglewood. —L.K.

NOTICE FROM THE RIFLEMASTER:

Dear Compatriot,

Firstly I should like to wish you a very happy and successful 1973.

Once again it is time for the Swiss Society Shooting Competition, and no doubt you will already have heard from your Presidents concerning events being held at picnics. The shooting event will be from **24th February to 25th March inclusive.**

It is necessary to have an early start to the Competition, so that the majority of events will be completed by the end of March. As soon as the events are over the Inter-Club Competition for the Floating Trophy—the “Kühe Glocke”—will take place. Because of the distance between Clubs I propose that Christchurch, Taranaki, and Wellington have their knockout together. This leaves Auckland and Hamilton to have theirs, and the winning Clubs from the two groups will meet for the final.

From each Club there will be four entrants for each event. I have left it to the discretion of your President and committees whether you choose the four best in each event, or the four best all-rounders to compete in each event. It matters not whether you are represented by four or sixteen people.

At this stage I would like to point out the most important reason behind this Inter-Club Competition: that of friendship—promotion of relationships between Clubs, an opportunity to get to know each other not just through the news media, but personally in friendly competition.

Arthur W. Muller,
Riflemaster,
Swiss Society of New Zealand.

☆ Remember to send your contributions in for the “Helvetia” before the 8th of each month to avoid missing publication in the current issue.