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News of the Colony

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

As promised, the family Christmas Party held on December 7th, at the Swiss Farm at Kaukapakapa, was great fun for everyone, especially for the children.

The improved surroundings with the magnificent slide for young and not so young, the four lovely swings and the large sandpit were enjoyed and prized by everyone.

After an excellent barbecued fleischkaes, frankfurters and sausage lunch, the desperately expected "Samichlaus" arrived with his large bag of goodies. The children followed him and listened to his kind talking, some of them even knew "as prechli". He then presented them with a real "Chlaus sack" with the traditional "Gritibaenz" carefully baked by Mrs E. Hess. Thanks a lot!

After the Samichlaus had gone it was the big ones who received chocolates from a special guest, Mrs F. Adams, who was there with her husband the "Charge d'Affairs". We were all very honoured and pleased to meet them.

Kegeln and darts were some of the side attractions and great fun for all who tried their luck. To keep the strength up and the spirit high coffee and most delicious "Nussgipfel" were served. A very large beautiful "Zopf" was the raffle prize.

It was a truly wonderful Family Christmas Party thanks to the committee who worked so hard and had organised everything so well.

(Mrs) R.A.H.

Wine Harvest Festivals — a Swiss Autumn Custom

After the grapes have been picked, festivals are held everywhere in the wine-growing regions of Switzerland. On the first weekend in October these wine harvest festivals take place in Lugano, Morges, and —this year for the 50th time—in Neuchatel. The programme is made up of a variety of attractions, such as carnival of flowers, children's procession and confetti battle. Market stalls and temporary bars are put up in the streets and some of the fountains run with wine. A week later come the festivals in Lutry and Spiez. In the wine-growing villages on the northern bank of the Lake of Biel the festivals take place on five successive Sundays, with entertainment and here and there small parades as well.