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CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

Our activities are not regularly reported in the *Helvetia*, though many events are taking place.

A resume about such happenings among all our active members are worth to be recalled. The Raclette evening on one of these cold winter nights in September suited a more than expected number of people. In the Newbury Lodge Hall, the most suitable locality for such an occasion, gathered together the complete membership and so many other friends of the club. The novelty of the Raclette tasted delicious and the speciality was offered with many delicacies. The club committee was that evening surely well occupied with attending the "guests", but we didn't mind; then the good inclusive wine created a gay and humorous atmosphere amongst everyone.

Too soon the clock on the wall announced a new day and we said 'good-night' to each other, with a hope to meet again in not a too far a future. The ski-field (Mt. Hutt) was our next goal. For many of us, this was the place to go for the very first time—this famous New Zealand ski field. The sun and the snow were favourable to us. On arrival there, late morning, all three ski lifts were in continuous demand and the hills were marked with "spots alive" i.e. with skiers of all ages. A few only sightseers were there. No doubt this place is worth going to, amid the sporting season.

It recalled memories to me of a skiing weekend in March, many years ago at Weissfluh-Joch-Davos;—so similar in many ways. Afterwards, on the way home, down on the banks of the Rakaia Gorge, in the fertile Canterbury Plains, where nature had already walked its way into Spring, the grilled sausages on barbecue were most appreciated after this strenuous day. All of us who took this unique opportunity at Mt. Hutt found they were fully rewarded and well fitted for their on-coming week.

In November we chose the long Show Weekend (Christchurch Agricultural Show) to go to Akaroa on the Banks Peninsula. Akaroa, discovered and once settled by Frenchmen.

This historical place with the streets and buildings named in French, the sub-tropical climate, the wonderful scenery has certainly its own charm; and I always seem to breathe a bit of 'home air' when I go there. The senior members of the club were quite familiar with the camping area. Since some years ago when Mr and Mrs Suter were farming on the hills of Akaroa, the club was often invited to have their annual autumn picnic on their farm. The Bon Chretien pear tree was then laden with fruit and the Suters generously let us pick them and buy it off them for a reasonable price. All that money then went into the Swiss Club bank account.

This time though, we set up camp by the pine trees near their

weekend bach. Day in, day out, there was ample to do — talking, wandering and discovering things in this fascinating place. The highlight of that weekend was by all means the barbecue on Saturday night near the cottage, looking over a glamorous sight of ocean and hills. In addition, we watched from there the fireworks down on shore, which lightened the evening sky beautifully. On Sunday the "hangi", prepared by an expert (a wholesome Maori). It was delicious and the procedures were curiously observed by us Swiss people. Many thanks to our President, Mr Schibli, who initiated the "hangi".

We concluded the yearling meetings with a Christmas party for the children, in the beautiful setting of Okuti Valley near Little River, once again on the Banks Peninsula. Mr Karl Gottini sighted that spot and even arranged with the farmer for fresh ice-cooled delicious cow's milk, this being welcomed by young and old. The children finally spotted St. Nicolaus coming out of the woods, carrying his heavy knapsack. He was a man with a profound impressive voice though kind to the children, knowing only too well each and every one of them. He also wore a "real" beard. And so, his little daughter Franzesca remarked, "He wears exactly the same shoes as my Dad!" Thanks Rainer Kuprecht (not Knecht Ruprecht) for your excellent performance!

Now 1975 has come to its end and the door opens for the unknown 1976. The Christchurch Swiss Club sends good wishes to all the compatriots and friends.

Let's quote the faithful words composed by Edward Morike:

"So nahte der Morgen.
Jauchst ihm, ihr Frommen,
Ein heilig Wilkommen!
Ein heilig Wilkommen!
Herze, jauschze du mit!"

In ihm sei 's begonnen
Der Monde und Sonnen
Am blauen Gezelten
Des Himmels bewegt.
Du, Vater, du rate!
Lenke du und wende!
Herr, dir in die Hände,
Sei Anfang und Ende,
Sei alles gelegt!"

(Mrs) S.N.

Saurer Signs Brazilian Contract

Adolph Saurer Co. Ltd., at Arbon (Thurgau), whose utility vehicles and textile machines are known all over the world, has signed a co-operation contract with the biggest Brazilian textile machinery factory, "Howa do Brasil SA", of Sao Paulo.

This agreement concerns the production in Brazil of certain types of Sauer weaving looms, which will be added to the manufacturing programme of the Brazilian firm.

The Swiss firm has also won another big export success, including orders for over 25 million francs' worth of weaving looms from a country in the Near East.