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Swiss Style Folk Dancing in Kaponga.

Kaponga Takes on a Swiss Air

The small central Taranaki town of Kaponga turned into a mini-Switzerland last Saturday when the town hosted the Taranaki Swiss Club's 25th jubilee celebrations.

Expatriot Swiss from all over the North Island gathered in Kaponga for the celebrations, swelling the town's population for the day to more than three thousand.

Events started with a grand street parade of 47 floats depicting the Swiss in Taranaki from the 1870's when they first settled here.

The streets of Kaponga were thronged with people viewing the floats which depicted farming, a cheese maker, wood choppers, the Old Woman Who Lived in the Shoe, old and new methods of milk transport, Swiss cabins, a large model of the Matterhorn, a Swiss farm scene complete with Swiss-style haystack and many more.

The Stratford Citizens Band led the parade which included vintage cars, clowns, decorated bikes, flag throwers, St. Bernard's dogs, Swiss dogs — relations of Fred — cows — children and adults in colourful national costume carrying flowers and flags and of course the famous bells.

The parade wound its way to the domain where they were greeted by Mr Fritz Adams, the Charge d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy, Mr Arthur Muller, the Swiss Consular representative in Auckland, the chairman of the Kaponga Community Council, Mr J. Mackie and the president of Taranaki Swiss Club, Mr L. Chamberlain.

The celebrations continued in the afternoon with displays of Swiss folk dancing, flag throwing and some music from an alpine horn. The

highlight was a Swiss wrestling display in which pairs of husky men battled for supremacy on a sawdust ring.

The celebrations ended with a cabaret at the Kaponga hall on Saturday night.

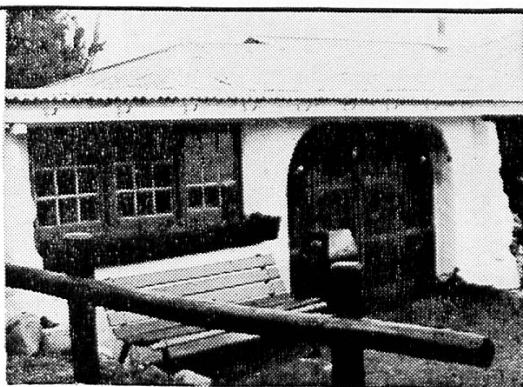
Story and Pictures by Stratford Press.

Elm: a Glarus Village Turns to Tourism

Elm, the highest village in Canton Glarus and situated right at the end of the Sernf Valley, is now known for other reasons besides its famous mineral water spring. Since the sports transportation facilities began operating in 1972, Elm has become increasingly popular as a tourist resort. A chairlift goes up to the Empachli (4,855 ft.) from where a lift takes skiers up to the Schabel (6,680 ft.). This winter a new ski lift was opened on the Bischofsalp. Other attractions are nearly 19 miles of mechanically prepared ski runs, over six miles of cross-country skiing trails, a sledge run and cleared footpaths. Ringed by mountains, Elm lies in an ideal summer walking region. There are seven pass walking routes and the romantic Suvoroc path from Schwanden to Alp Wichlen via Elm has recently been improved. The number of beds available will be increased with the completion of the apartment hotel "Sardona" for this year's summer season. It has 150 rooms, indoor swimming pool, sauna and conference rooms.

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