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Your Corner...

Quiz from October Issue:

Unfortunately, we received only very few responses to our Quiz in last month's *Helvetia*.

Yes, some of the questions were quite difficult and, of course, it also coincided with the school holidays! So, the deadline for receiving your answers has now been extended for a further month, to 15th November. It doesn't matter if you can't find the answers to all of the questions - just do as many as you can. Remember, besides the winners, all entrants will receive a consolation prize. You will find the questions in the October *Helvetia* on page 4 (if another copy of the quiz is required, just call Beatrice on 07 843 7971). Write your answers (don't forget to number them) clearly on a sheet of paper and include your name, address, age and school class. Send your reply to:

Quiz on Switzerland
Swiss Society of New Zealand
P O Box 4035
Hamilton East

to reach us by **15th November**.

We really look forward to receiving lots more entries. **Good luck !!**

Re-election of Swiss Abroad Council

(as reported by our Swiss Abroad Delegate, Heinz Leuenberger)

The Swiss Abroad Council can look back on numerous successes. Among the more pertinent was the right to vote in federal elections and referenda by postal vote (e-mail is presently being looked at, too). Also of importance is the inclusion of the Swiss Abroad into the Federal Constitution (Art.40), as well as the continuation of the voluntary AHV/IV, and of course the 'Swiss Revue'.

These remarkable achievements point to the importance placed on the Swiss Abroad Council (ASC), popularly known as the "Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland". The Council specifically concerns itself with Swiss foreign policy and makes sure the Authorities and the general public are aware of the matters that are under their consideration.

Therefore, the ASC fulfils a very important mission in the interests of **all** Swiss Abroad. **All** compatriots

Member's Profile

Patron - Taranaki Club

Dominic and Laura Hiestand

Don was born in 1917, in Bäch, Canton Schwyz, on the shores of the Lake of Zürich.

His father was a "Berufsfischer" (fisherman), which brought in the income for the family. His was a big family of seven boys and one sister. After doing an apprenticeship as a joiner, Don didn't see much of a future for himself in Switzerland, with a wage then of Fr 1.25 per hour.

In 1939 he decided to emigrate to New Zealand. Mrs Kaiser and Louis Ehrler were on holiday in Switzerland, and they gathered up 28 young Swiss for this big emigration to their 'new country' - New Zealand.

As a single man, Don worked in a few places - at first for a relation, Joe Hiestand, at Oeo Road. His next job took him to Stevenson's in Manaia Road, and then he moved on to Alf Kalin in Normanby. This is where he met Lora Burkhart.

Lora also came from a big family of nine - two boys and seven girls. The two were married in 1943, and started sharemilking - first for Lora's brother, Joe, on Mangawhero Road, for three years, and then they shifted down to Pihama.

In 1961, they bought their own farm in Awatuna, where they still are now. They brought up their own large family of four boys and three girls.

interested in maintaining their rights can take part, through one of approx 750 Swiss Societies spread around the world, to elect a new Council. The seats are allocated to countries or groups of countries, according to the number of people registered with Embassies and Consulates. Between Autumn and Spring 2001 (Sth Hemisphere), the Council will come up for renewal for the third time. It's up to compatriots to defend the interests of the "Fifth Switzerland" by taking part in the election of **their**

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Laura and Dominic Hiestand

Don and Lora are very loyal members of the Taranaki Swiss Club, which they joined in 1952. For many years Don served as an executive of the Club, and Lora did all the floral arrangements for Club functions, and always gave a helping hand in the kitchen.

Don was a leading helper during the building of our Clubhouse in 1980/81 - he spent hundreds of hours on this building, and all for no charge.

We wish Don and Lora all the best for many years to come. R.D.

representatives. *Swiss Revue* 6/00 will carry a feature regarding the upcoming elections and you can also visit the website: www.aso.ch

New Format of Seat Allocation

Starting with the term of office 2001-2005, there will be three extra seats. Two will go to France and the third to Egypt/Asia minor. France has just under 150,000 registered Swiss. The allocation of seats for Deputy Delegates has also changed. Previously, the number of Delegates and Deputy Delegates was the same, but under the new system there will be two Deputy Delegates per country or region of countries, irrespective of the number of Delegates. So, under the new arrangement, New Zealand will be entitled to one Delegate, as well as **two** Deputy Delegates.

(Swiss Abroad report continued on page 11)