

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 71 (2005)
Heft: [5]

Rubrik: Poems

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President's Report

Well, it looks like winter is approaching fast we have had the first few frosts and Mt Egmont had a good dumping of snow at the end of April. However, with the warm rain we have had recently, the snow has now disappeared!!! Not good for those that wanted to do some early skiing!!! We're still getting a few frosts but are enjoying some warm days!!! Long may that last!!! I don't think so. Time to start lighting those fires and enjoying the warmth with a good game of cards!!!

Must fly ... still preparing a few items for the AGM in June. The editing

team is looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Queen's Birthday weekend in Hamilton.

Once again, the Taranaki Swiss Club has organised a bus, so about 35 of us will be invading Hamilton ... I'm sure we won't be as unruly as the "Barmy Army" that accompanies the Lions Rugby Team on its' travels!!! So don't be frightened!!!

See you then

Regards

Marianne

Poems

Have Courage

When storms come upon you
Have courage
Take comfort in the knowledge
The sun will shine again.

When strong winds hold you
back
Take courage
Take comfort in the knowledge
The sun will shine again.

When dark clouds gather around
you
Take courage
Take comfort in the knowledge
The sun will shine again.

When lightning strikes and
thunder rumbles
Take courage
Take comfort in the knowledge
The sun will shine again.

The sun will shine again.
Have courage
The sun will shine again.



Time

Twisted and gnarled like a
mangrove root over time.

The torment of my mind has held
me captive for more years than I
can remember.

Time to let go
Time to unwind
Time to heal
Time to love
Time to be loved
Time to love myself

Slowly, slowly, my thoughts
unravel, leaving me with no
anger, no guilt, no hatred.

Filling me with forgiveness, hope
and contentment.

Knowing I have been true to
myself.

Spruch des Monats

Just A Child

I came home from school today,
the house is cold and bare.
I wanted you to see my picture
but there is no-one there.
You took a job because you said
that we were in a fix
Mum, I'm only six.

I came home from school today,
the house was cold and bare.
My knee was hurt, I needed love,
but there was no-one there.
So me and Joe, he's my mate,
drank beer from daddy's crate.
You came home and belted me
Mum, I'm only eight.

I came home from school today,
the house was cold and bare.
"Hey mum, I'm captain of the team,"
but there was no-one there.
So me and Joe and his friend Ron
had a smoke behind the shed.
Then we broke into the neighbour's house
Mum, I'm only ten.

I came home from school today,
the house was cold and bare.
I'm hooked on dope and really sick,
but still there's no-one there.
"Someone help me please," I cry
"I've overdosed ... is this goodbye?"
Mum, I'm only fourteen.
Mum, I'm far too young to die.

Contributed by Walter Seifert

Land Ownership

Don't we all wonder how farms become so expensive? Just read a few of the following snippets of information I read recently ... I found it very interesting.

In 1970 more than a third of all property was purchased by new farm buyers; by the mid-1990s this had fallen to 10% and now may be below 5%. With the average farm today worth more than \$3 million, it is well out of reach of many first-time farm buyers.

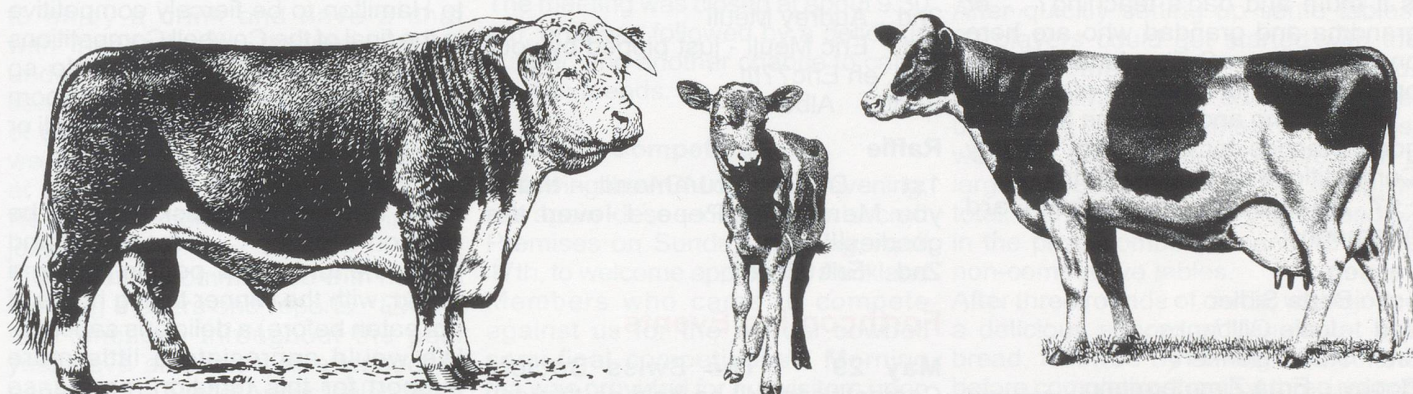
In 1993 the average farm was a small one-man unit

milking 180 cows on 75ha. By 2003 this had increased to 302 cows on 111ha. This was mainly due to the large-scale conversions to dairying in the South Island and through amalgamations.

The average farm value in 1993 was just over \$1 million compared to more than \$2.7 million in 2003. There were big increases in farm values in the early and late 1990s, with a period of stagnation in the mid 1990s. If you purchased a farm in 1997 you would have enjoyed a near doubling in the value by 2003.

Twelve cows would have bought a hectare of land in 1993, by 2003 it took more than 22 cows!

We seemed to have such a wonderful system of farmers being able to progress to farm ownership in New Zealand; has that now disappeared? At the very least it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to purchase their first farm. On the other hand farm owners' equities have increased substantially allowing them to purchase additional property with relative ease if they so wish.



Poem

Little Johnny asks his mother, "Mum, is it God who puts food on our table?"

"Yes, it is", says his mother.

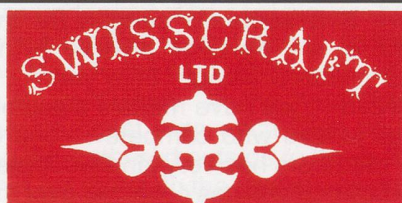
"And does Santa Claus bring us gifts at Christmas?"

"Of course", his mother replies.

"Did the stork bring me?", asks Johnny.

"It did sweetheart" his mother said.

"Then what earthly good to us is Daddy? asks the child!!!"



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