

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 74 (2008)
Heft: [4]

Artikel: Memories are history : emigration in the thirties [continued and end]
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943635>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 12.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Memories are History: Emigration in the Thirties (2)

Were you wondering too how the family fared in Ecuador, and how they managed to survive? Here is the end of the account.

Santo Domingo was 105 km away. Its climate is very tropical. The local Indians used to go there to get rubbermilk and gin. The gin was made from sugar cane. It would be transported by teams of mules, twenty to thirty of them. They used to graze the mules on our farm, and we would either receive money for the grazing or sometimes we would get oranges, bananas and other tropical fruit, which helped a lot. On the farm we had a few cows. We also planted potatoes and other vegetables, but during the winter months we had frosts that would ruin the crops. I don't know how we survived.

With the help from the Swiss consul, mum managed to sell the farm and make a living. We all had to help. We found employment. I started working in a fashion shop owned by a Jewish couple from Germany. They were extremely good to me. This is where I learnt to sew. My brothers started work in the local flour mill. They later went on to work on local farms. My older sister got married and had a daughter. Sadly, her husband died when their baby was six months old, so my sister had to find work, too.

In 1947, mum decided to go back to Switzerland with the four youngest children. In this same year my father died. In 1948 my sister, her daughter and I returned to Switzerland. My three brothers remained in Ecuador.

After four years in Switzerland, my two sisters and I left Switzerland, bound for new adventures in New Zealand. Three years after I arrived in New Zealand, I got married, and we started farming. We had three sons.

After 33 years in New Zealand I visited Ecuador to see my brothers. Whilst there I went to see the old farm, Los Alpes. To my surprise the property was owned by a Swiss.

Even today I don't know why my father bought the place. I think it was the biggest mistake he ever made.

We made two more trips to Ecuador and travelled through most of the country. Even though I had lived there for eleven years there was so much of the country I hadn't seen or known about. Ecuador is a very interesting country, with a climate you can only wish for: tropical midlands and the high Andes. Ecuador has plenty of mountains, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, to name just two. The country is very beautiful to look at. However, its internal political structure is corrupt, and I am informed this is still the situation today. Today it is a modern country. It has big shopping centres and motorways from end to end – vastly different from when we first arrived there, all those years ago.

 * Dank dir Mutter für mein Leben *
 * Dank dir Mutter für mein Leben, *
 * für die Lieb' und für die Müh', *
 * will mein kleines Herz dir geben *
 * und bitten dich: verlass mich nie! *

iROX the Swiss weather station brand !

 iROX 'Helvet-X'
Clock, alarm clock, weather forecast
and indoor temperature in a cool red cube!
\$69.00
incl. delivery!
(RRP \$79.00)

 iROX HBR653
Barometer, weather forecast
indoor/outdoor temp.
/humidity
temp alarm
\$149.00
incl. delivery!
(RRP \$189.00)

www.weatherstation.co.nz
phone Carlo 09 435 31 33

 **SAXON 10x25L Deluxe**
Fully multi coated optics, waterproof, fog proof.
Very clear image, very versatile binos.
\$200.00
incl. Delivery!
(RRP \$245.00)

 **SAXON 705AZ3**
great for land viewing!
fully multicoated objective
refractor, alt-azimuth mount
\$495.00
incl. Delivery!
(RRP \$595.00)

www.telescopes.net.nz

FAERNWEH? HEIMWEH? WICHTIG! GSCHAEFTSTERMIN?

Looking for a travel consultant with over 22 years of experience in the industry that will meet your needs and with whom you can communicate in (Swiss)-German, French or English?
 Looking for a travel consultant that travelled the world and can advise out of town experience knowing a lot of destinations personally?
 Looking for someone to organise your trip back to Switzerland or Europe to visit the 'rellies' as well as your holiday-, business-, group- and special event trips?

Try me!!

Daniela Suter

UNITED TRAVEL HAMILTON

275 Barton Street/PO Box 19263

HAMILTON

Ph: 07 838 1100/Tollfree: 0800 756 789

Fax: 07 834 2032

Email: daniela@uth.co.nz




United Travel