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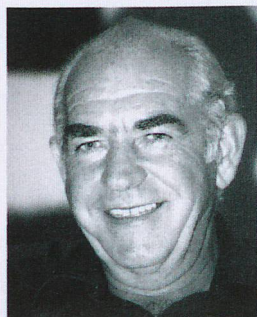
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Swiss Club News



Hans Enzler

27 January 1927 – 23 February 2018

Hans was born in Steinegg-Appenzell. The youngest of three children, with his brother and sister he grew up on his parents dairy farm. On leaving school his father sent him to different farms where he quickly learnt the modern techniques of farm machinery. Hans also helped his father on their Alp in Seealp. He was very adventurous at heart climbed every mountain in Alpstein including a first ascent of the Marwies north face in 1948. He attended many ski races with good results.

His first paid job was erecting high tension power lines which he found challenging, and enjoyed the camaraderie. Hans however had his eyes set on work in the Poultry industry. After military training in the motorbike section he started work for an important government official in the Canton of Valais. His job was to build up the poultry side of the farming operation. This he did with great success which led to a managerial position. Hans was not an academic but through his dedication in his job and the patient observation of the animals behaviour he became very knowledgeable about all matters relating to Poultry and disease control. After three years in the Valais Hans left to attend a course in Chicken-Sexing, something that was very new at the time. There were only six Graduates Swiss wide, and Hans passed with 100% accuracy, receiving the Diploma from the Swiss Poultry Board.

It was during this time that he met Sylvia at a carnival in Appenzell. He quickly knew that she was the one for him. A year later in 1953 they were married and moved to a small Poultry farm overlooking the Rhine Valley. During the chick sexing season (Jan-April) Hans travelled all over Switzerland doing contract work while Sylvia tended to the farm.

In 1957 Hans and Sylvia with their two year old son Hanspeter travelled to NZ. After a six week arduous boat journey they were pleased to move into their accommodation at Hans and Lia Fitzi's place in Hamilton (a fellow skiing colleague). In their free time the men went hunting and soon had enough venison for everybody. After a few months Hans and Sylvia moved to Auckland where he worked for a swiss engineering company as a press operator.

Before he could do any Chick-sexing he had to sit another exam for the NZ Poultry Board, and to their satisfaction he passed again with 100% accuracy. Hans got a contract for the Hawkes Bay region and served eleven farms. Word of his work ethic, punctuality and accuracy spread through the Poultry Industry and in 1961 Bromley Park, NZ's largest Poultry farm based in Tuakau offered him a contract. Hans introduced his special chick-sexing instrument and later a specialist teaching instrument which he developed. His good eyesight and endurance kept him working well after retirement age.

At the 1st August celebrations in 1958 they met Heidi and Thuri Muller and joined the Auckland Swiss Club. Keen to pursue the Swiss traditions Hans was the first Riflemaster from 1961-1971. During this time he and his fellow committee members built the small bore shooting range, acquired the Swiss farm in Kaukapakapa and with many helpers cleared part of the gorse covered land and built the 300m shooting range. He stayed involved with the club for years to come. He was well known for his sense of humour, witty jokes and many stories of adventure.

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In 1960 they built their first house in Royal Oak. Mario was born and one year later Ronny. With his friends and sons Hans enjoyed many hunting and fishing trips throughout New Zealand.

Hans and Sylvia made many trips home to Switzerland where Hanspeter and Mario now live with their families. Their four grandchildren brought them much joy. Their house was always open for guests, many from overseas. In 1986 they moved next door to their new house built by Hansueli Hess. Hans took great pleasure in developing his new garden.

In later years Hans had many operations, his sense of humour helped with his recovery. He was later well cared for at home, where he enjoyed the visits of family, friends and neighbours.

His was a life well lived which left a legacy of joy, pride and pleasure. A loving lasting memory our grateful hearts will always treasure.

Members of the Auckland Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Sylvia and family on the loss of Hans.