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Obituary

Mathilda Rosa Riddick

27 April 1928 – 1 February 2020

Mathilda (known to us all as Tilly) was born on the 27th of April 1928 to Swiss immigrants Karl (Charlie) and Mathilde Rose Schuler, and had one brother Charlie. Tilly grew up in Kaponga and attended St Patricks primary school, starting at the age of five years old being unable to speak English. Tilly's parents hosted many Swiss families, and as Nana Schuler couldn't drive Tilly regularly took the visitors on drives visiting relatives and friends.

Tilly met Cyril Riddick at a local dance. They courted and eventually married and worked on the Schuler farm on Palmer Road, Kaponga. Cyril and Tilly employed many young men to assist them on the farm, and they forged wonderful relationships with many of them, which continued well after they had left their employment. Unfortunately Cyril and Tilly never had children, so when Tillys' nieces and nephews came along - Faye, Judy, Neil, Ian and John (the late Charlie and the late Doreen Schulers' children), Swiss Nana and Tilly were a major part in their lives. It helped that all three families lived within one hundred metres of each other! Tilly was always thrilled to catch up with her great and great-great nieces and nephews. Sadly Cyril passed away in 1979 creating a huge void in Tillys' life. Tilly often took her young nieces and nephews on excursions which they all remember and appreciate.

Tilly was extremely keen on jassen (swiss cards) and had a wonderful group of friends with whom she played, sometimes until the wee hours of the morning. She enjoyed coming to the Swiss Club, and attended many social functions, playing cards with her friends. With her great friend the late Josie Gillbanks, Tilly would go to housie, euchre and have a flutter on the pokies. She always bought a lotto ticket, and everyone had to be quiet when the draw came on the television. Tilly was an accomplished bowler, who competed in the Taranaki Open Fours for many years. She was a fantastic cook, and her trifle was always relished at Christmas, together with her other baking. Tilly just fitted in, and never made a fuss.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Tillys' family.

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Who are they?

Fellow readers, can anyone help identify or point Taranaki Swiss Club in right direction. It is a card, and on the back is written "Swiss sharemilkers at the Cape Egmont Lighthouse", then "courtesy Eileen Tiller" with New Zealand Memories written at the bottom. Someone thought the photo was taken in the 1920s. If anybody has any information or hints on how to find out who these gentlemen are please contact Marianne Drummond email : **littleacres@xtra.co.nz**