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Tree planting in Leeds

For the Yorkshire Swiss just across the Pennines the month of December, 1973 was marked by two functions somewhat different from ordinary Club activities but still very much connected with the Colony's life.

As it was the express wish of our immediate past President Prof. J. P. Inebnit to use part of the gift from his compatriots in commemoration of his retirement from the Yorkshire Swiss Club Presidency in a tree-planting ceremony, such a function was organised for the 1st December, 1973.

It was a glorious, crisp and sunny morning, snow covered the countryside when members of the Swiss Club and Friends gathered at the Golden Acre Park just outside Leeds. Mr. Knight, the Leeds Corporation Parks Superintendent met the group at 10.30 a.m. just inside the gate, Prof. Inebnit of course being the center key man of this gathering. Along with him and his daughter Collette came a man from Switzerland who is "the man

of the tree 1973". The group walked to the plot of land in the Park where the holes for 6 red chestnut trees were carefully prepared. The man of the tree from Switzerland then read a letter written by the person who was the "man of the tree" 50 years ago; in it he expressed that in the troubled world the tree symbolises stability, security and steadiness. Prof. Inebnit then put the first shovel of soil into the hole in which the first of the 6 trees stood, assisted by 2 Park attendants.

A little "Robin" stole the show and became part of the ceremony. The group moved on to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and finally to the 6th tree and everyone present had a chance to put a few shovels full of soil into the holes and stamping the soil firmly down so that the little trees would be secure. Eventually also Mr. Richard Mueller and his wife arrived and he was able to take a few pictures for the posterity. The party then headed towards the house of the Park Superintendent for some refreshments and thus ended a most impressive function.

Xmas-Time in Manchester

On Saturday the 8th December, 1973 once more our traditional Xmas-Party for Children took place at the Midland Hotel in Manchester, always a great attraction for our youngsters as well as for many adult members, the only truly yearly family-affair in our Club's activities.

Everything started at 3 p.m. and was attended by over 50 children and as many grown-ups. After the greeting's were over we sat down to a very good tea, the children becoming very lively when the crackers appeared. Our Consul-General and Mrs. Born honoured us with their presence but had to leave early for another appointment. Mr. Peter Senn, our President, directed the proceedings — everything went smoothly, it was well arranged and there was no dull moment. After tea we proceeded to the small ballroom where an enormous Xmas-tree was welcoming the party and the children entered whilst a pianist played "Stille Nacht ..." and carried on with all our traditional carols.

Once everybody was settled down a knock announced the arrival of Father Christmas, who made quite sure that all the children were good and would be so until next Xmas. Several children recited and others sang little songs for him and he treated them with lovely bags of sweets and chocolates. As he had a lot more work to do, he left with 3 cheers and a lot of goodwill from all. Now came the distribution of presents, gifts from many generous members and friends, handed out by Mrs. T. Bolliger and Mrs. M. Themans to the eager and happy children. The party went on with the children playing with their new toys, admiring them amongst themselves and their parents. This happy evening ended with a great game with heaps of multicoloured balloons and as the candles started to burn low we knew that it was time for us to leave for home.

Let us conclude with a thought for those members of the Committee, also on this occasion led by Mrs. M. Themans and other willing helpers, who with sheer hard work and much imagination made sure that we would all have a lovely afternoon long to be remembered.

M.T.

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