

# Local news : South Africa

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# LOCAL NEWS SOUTH AFRICA

Years ago, the Swiss Society Helvetia wanted to find out more about the background of the Swiss in Southern Africa. Yet lack of enthusiasm never lead to a start of this project until very recently, when once again this idea was brought to the fore.

At the present moment a small group is doing a lot of researching into the history of our country of choice and the relevant swiss involvement and already a fantastic amount of interesting information comes to light.

At this point in time we are trying to obtain information of the past and we have compiled a rough chronology which is extended daily. We are quite happy to come and visit anybody who feels he has some information for our research. We are equally happy to let anybody have a copy of the above chronology on request should this prove beneficial to its further completion.

It might interest you that this project is dealt with not only in Johannesburg but also by our sister Swiss Clubs in Southern Africa. We shall in future Bulletins to come let you have an insight into the type of information we are presently compiling in order for every Swiss to possibly adjust, add or complete details.

The ultimate goal will be a proper publication. However, nobody should expect miracles from a team of enthusiastic amateurs working on a "shoe-string" basis. Your support is therefore necessary. For any information or photo material you would like to pass on to us, contact the undersigned at Johannesburg at Tel.: (Bus.) 725-6427 or 725-3019) or the Secretary or Chairman of the Swiss Club closest to you.

F. ERNST.

## Swiss Male Choir

### CONCERT - DINNER - DANCE

JUBILEE 25 YEARS CHOIR

— Saturday, 13th May, 1978 —

CARLTON HOTEL

The booking is now open and quite a few tables have been reserved already. Therefore please hurry and book for the five star event of the year in the Big Ballroom of the Carlton Hotel - at 19.30 sharp, Saturday, 13th May, 1978.

The ticket includes:-

- 5 Course 1st class dinner.
- Dance with a top class band.
- Concert by Swiss Male Choir.
- Tombola with lots of Prizes.

This will be an unforgettable evening, bring all your friends along to the Jubilee celebration.

Tickets inclusive of Dinner:

Still only R10,00 per person.

— please book early —

For booking of your seats, please phone 43-6702 or 25-4247 or 706-4636.



GSNA  
GESELLSCHAFT SCHWEIZ.  
NATIONALSPIELE  
JOHANNESBURG  
P.O. BOX 390  
RANDBURG, 2125.  
SOUTH AFRICA.

Wir danken allen Teilnehmern am Nationalen Schwingfest von Suedafrika vom 25. Febr.

Wir moechten hier vorweg auch unsere Trainingszeiten wiederholen und zwar:

**Hornussen** immer am 1. und 3. Sonntag des Monats im Swiss Club, Halfway House, ab. 2 Uhr. jedermann herzlich willkommen  
**Schwingen** der Obmann der GSNA Christian Naef oder Bruno Spiess geben jederzeit Auskunft, Nr. 838-4865 oder 43-3811 anrufen, wir hoffen noch vor Beginn des Winters einen gedeckten Schwing-Trainingsplatz im Jan Hofmeyer Recreation Centre, Brixton zu haben. Die **Generalversammlung** der GSNA fand vor kurzem statt, und Oskar Albrecht wurde zum Praesidenten gewaehlt und Christian Naef - Schwingerobmann und Walter Luethi - Hornusserobmann. Das Jahresprogramm der GSNA und der S.A. Schwingerfederation hat folgende wichtige Anaesse fuer 1978:

25. Febr. S.A. National Schwingfest im Milner park Jhb. (hat bereits stattgefunden). Ostern voraussichtlich wieder das traditionelle GSNA Kinder-Eierauflesen im Swiss Club Halfway House.

27/28 Mai Swiss Festival, Schwingen - Steinstossen in Pietermaritzburg.

22. Juli voraussichtlich in Thoerigen BE (Schweiz) Hornussermatch: GSNA Suedafrika gegen Schweiz.

29. Juli das 1. Aug. Schwingen in Pretoria.

27. Aug. GSNA Lottomatch in Jhb.

28./29. GSNA Aelplerfest - Schwingen, Hornussen - Steinstossen es werden Besucher aus der Schweiz teilnehmen!

Wie das Programm zeigt, ist die GSNA eine sehr aktive Gesellschaft, neue Mitglieder sind jederzeit herzlich willkommen, rufen Sie eine der obigen No. an oder kommen Sie zu einem der Trainings!



SWISS MALE CHOIR.

We would like to refer to you to the special announcement regarding our jubilee 25 Years Choir — Dinner-Dance which takes place on Saturday 13th May, 78 at the Carlton Hotel, and you can be sure: **this will be your lucky day!**

**Trip to Switzerland with the Choir.**

to the Eidg. Jodlerfest in Schwyz.

Yes, the Swiss Male Choir —Johannesburg will participate in the Eidg. Jodlerfest and a Group Flight has been organised at very favourable fares.

The Travel Offices of Keizer & Gentry in Johannesburg, Tel. 833-1170 or Durban, 37-4547 have complete details and will be pleased to send them to you, give them a ring. Some of the details of the trip are as follows:-

**Wednesday, 28th June.**

Leave Johannesburg by Swissair, Flight 7,00 p.m. for Zuerich.

**Friday, 30th June.**

ca 7,00 p.m. Choir will sing the Wettkampflied "Rigisennelied" in Schwyz, at Eidg. Jodlerfest. The Choir will stay at the **Barcarola Motel in Seewen-Schwyz** during the Festival.

**Sunday, 2nd July.**

approximately 6,00 p.m. the Choir will arrive officially in Uetikon a. See ZH for a big reception and reunion with ex- S.A./ Swiss. Everybody welcome . . . tell your friends in Switzerland about it . . . .

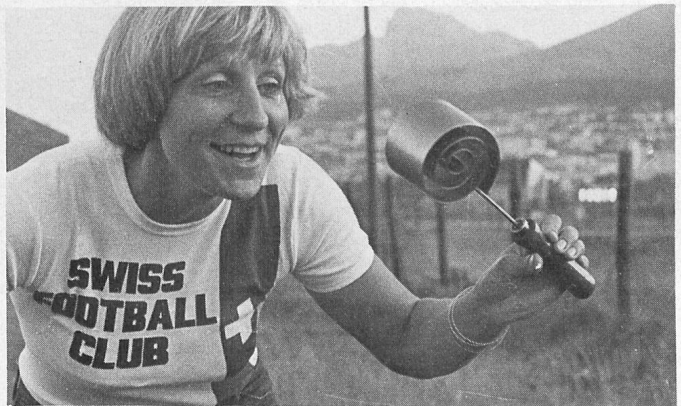
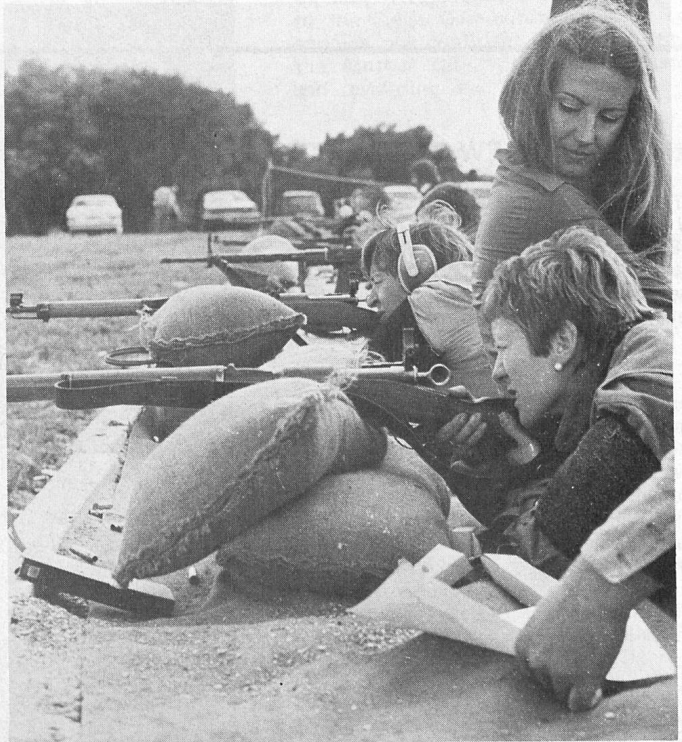
**Tuesday, 4th July.**

from 7,00 p.m. a similar "Fescht" with friends in Switzerland will take place at the Gasthof "Baeren" in Oberwil b. Bueren a.A (Bern)

And this will no doubt be a great success and renew many longstanding friendships.

In the meantime however our rehearsals take place every Thursday evening at 8,00 p.m. at C/r. Solomon / 7th Street, Sturrock Park, Johannesburg.

*Just a few of the things you can  
enjoy for R1 per month (even less when  
a couple!)*



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P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000

Please send me details of your club  
together with an application form.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# Cape Town Calling

## 55th A.G.M. - NEW COMMITTEE.

The 55th Annual General Meeting was held on the 16th February and attended by 80 members. The proceedings were finalised in record time and the members present expressed their satisfaction at the excellent growth the club has shown over the past few years.

The following were elected:-

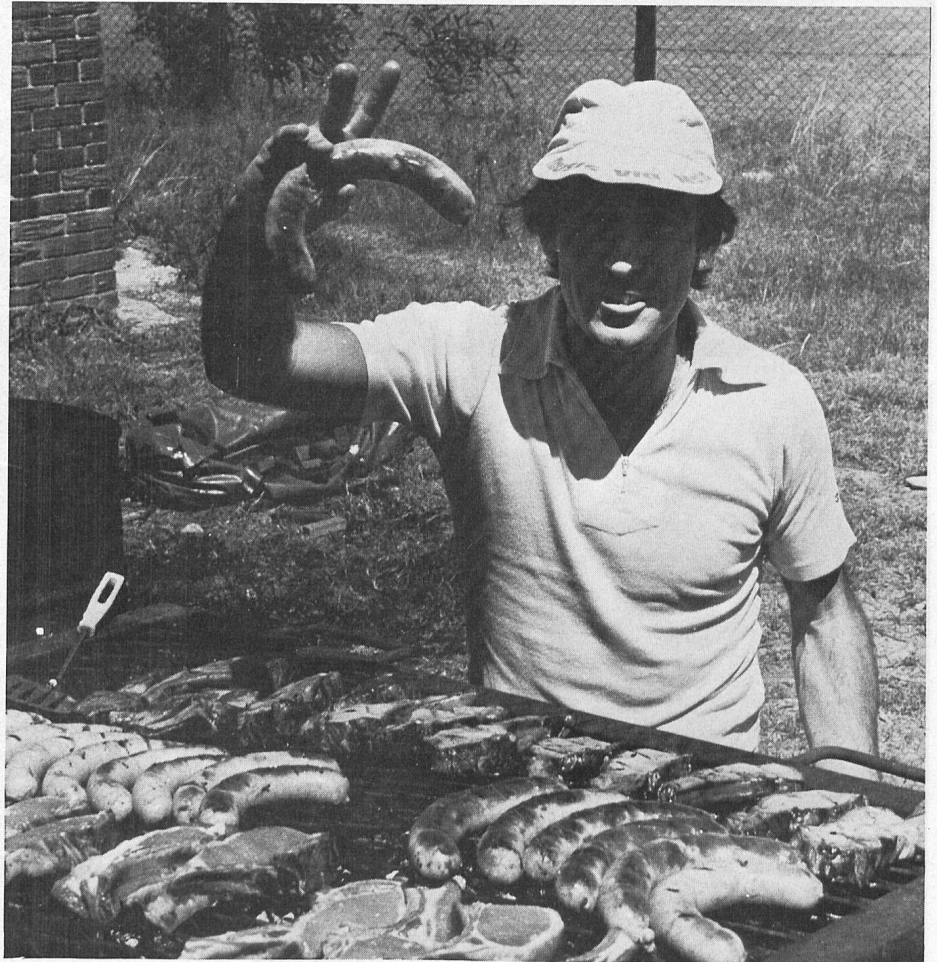
Peter Muller	-	President
John Dettling	-	Vice President
Walter Speissegger	-	Licensee
Robert Buser	-	Treasurer
Hector Dettling	-	Steward
Ursula Wildschek	-	Secretary
Albert Buser	-	Jonkershoek Ad-
Werner Dintheer	-	Marketing & Advert-
Max Sutter	-	Special Projects
Anne Gisi	-	Catering & Supplies
John Dellenbach	-	Assistant Food & Beverage

We wish the new management team every success in the year ahead.

On the recommendation of the committee, the A.G.M. decided to leave Subscriptions at their present level as follows:  
R12,00 per ordinary member  
R 3,00 per affiliate member ( husband - wife or child).

R15,00 per couple.

The committee will plan and spearhead a concerted marketing drive to enlist more members during 1978 at these truly low subscription levels.



Braaimaster Gian Mani showing off the special "Thuringer" Bratwurst at the Rietmann Cup Braai.

## PREVIEW OF MAJOR 1978 ACTIVITIES.

Much that is new is planned for 1978 the new committee of the Swiss Social and Sports Club.

For a start the committee has decided to launch a monthly "Businessman's Luncheon". This will function as a mini Swiss-South African Chamber of Commerce in Cape Town. Businessmen and their guests will meet visiting personalities from Switzerland as well as local leaders in business during the course of the year and ample opportunity for an interchange of ideas and business contracts will be afforded.

The hiking programme initiated last year, has grown from strength to strength, and some 40 persons trekked for eight hours in January over the picturesque mountains from Nuweburg to Jonkershoek. A full programme is planned for 1978, the highlight being a 3 day hike from Nuweburg to Franschoek in May.

The cantonal functions also started last year are drawing capacity crowds every month. This year, they will be varied with speciality functions at infrequent intervals. In this way a successful Swuser evening was staged during pressing time in March and it is planned to hold a Viennese evening later this year.

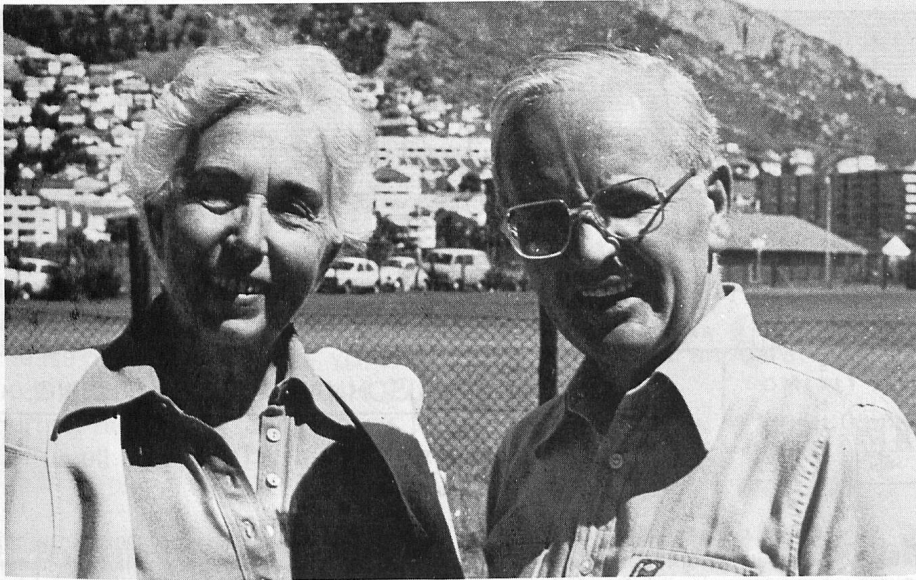
All these exciting new developments are in addition to the normal club

functions which are held regularly. One of the recent ones was the Annual Rietmann Cup at which mammoth Thuringer Bratwurst were enjoyed by all.

In addition the club is open six days a week, Tuesdays to Fridays from 6p.m. to 11p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

We invite all readers of Swiss Review when in Cape Town to drop in at the Club or if in doubt as to the programme do not hesitate to phone Ursula Wildschek (Office: 43-5917 / Home: 44-1673) or write to:

Swiss Social and Sports Club,  
P.O. Box 2279,  
Cape Town,  
8000.



## NEW CONSULAR COUPLE IN CAPE TOWN.

Since September last year, we have had a new Consular Couple in our midst. They are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Altenburger who have come to us after a few years in Bern, Switzerland.

In the short time they have been with us, they have already endeared themselves to the Swiss Community in Cape Town and we are confident that their stay in the Mother City will be both pleasant and rewarding.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Altenburger seen watching tennis at the Swiss Club courts.

## CAPE PERSONALITIES.

### Ernst and Ida Blaser.

Ernst and Ida Blaser celebrated fifty years in South Africa last year. This also meant fifty years unbroken membership of the Swiss Social and Sports Club.

On arrival in Table Bay on the 1st August 1927, they were met by Emil Klausler, the Head Porter of the Mount Nelson Hotel who was also the President of the Swiss Club. He immediately made them welcome in the city which was to be their new home.

Ernst and Ida had opted to come to the South African branch of BallyShoe Company, as they had already worked for the parental production unit at Schoenenwerd in Switzerland for a number of years, and Ernst's brother John had returned from South Africa in 1925 to tell them of the opportunities that existed in the land of gold and sunshine.

Cape Town was a much smaller place then, and prices, by today's standards were a fraction of those prevailing now. Ida recalls that one could buy the best quality table grapes at a penny per pound. Salaries of course were constructively lower too.

The Blasers enjoyed living in the country of their adoption and it was only after eight years that they returned to Switzerland on the first of several visits during the past fifty years.

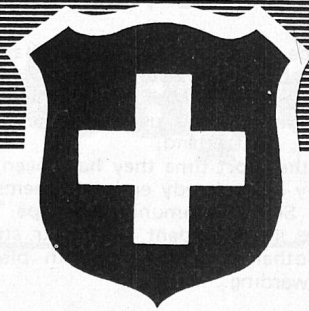
In 1951 they left the Cape Town branch of Bally Shoe Company to take over a shoe-repair business in Sea Point. During the next fifteen years they built up a thriving business with customers spread throughout the Peninsula and even further afield. In their quiet yet efficient way, everyone became not merely a customer but a friend.

In 1965 they sold their business and retired to their charming home overlooking the city in Tamboerskloof. Today, fifteen years later, both are still in good health and enjoying every minute of their retirement.

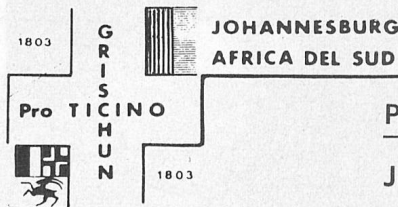


Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Blaser on the 50th Anniversary of their arrival in South Africa.





# SWISS CLUB NATAL



PRO GRISCHUNA & PRO TICINO.

Johannesburg Sud Africa.

## PAST EVENTS.

Our Berg Weekend at Sierra Ranch, Mooi River was an enjoyable outing, rather on the expensive side. The turnout could have been better but perhaps through petrol restrictions and the general economic squeeze, prevented members from taking part.

The Family Shooting where for the first time a pig on a spit was braaied, was a good afternoon's entertainment. Unfortunately again the attendance could have been higher. I read however in my minutes that the pig could have been larger and I wonder what would have happened really, if more people had turned out. This has however been rectified as, for our next family shooting, we have secured a much larger animal.

This year the weather god was good to us again in as much as we had a very fine warm day for our annual 1st August celebrations on the farm 'Helvetia' in Cato Ridge. There was a tremendous turnout of people from all over Natal and I am sure all had good fun. I know that you will all agree with me that this year's new idea of providing food during the whole day on our braai stand, was a noticeable improvement as previously a lot of newcomers were not aware that they had to bring food and refreshments.

The highlight of our activities was the draw from our ticket sale for the overseas flight to Switzerland and we would like to congratulate the following lucky winners:

- 1st Prize:** Return flight to Switzerland sponsored by Siwssair.  
F. Kuhn - Pietermaritzburg.
- 2nd Prize:** One tumble dryer sponsored by Geisers and Defy.  
J. Kulper - Empangeni.
- 3rd Prize:** Weekend for family at Cabana Beach, sponsored by Cabana Beach Hotel.  
Miss. Browne.

Als 10 da Favrer chattet lö in la pitschna sala dal Jan Smuts Holiday Inn la radunanza generala dal Pro Grischun & Pro Ticino. Quaista societá fundada dal 1973 ha pel mumaint ca 60 members, chi derivan da la part Romantscha o Tagliana da la Svizra. Nos bôt ais que da impruvar las ralaziuns da quaist trötet da gliעד cun characteristics usché famigliars. Cun assembls da tuot gener, sportifs o culturals provain nus dat inbelir la vitá da mincha di. Eir il preservar da nossa lingua materna ans mettain nus zuond a cour.

La Pro Grischuna ais üna suotsecziun da la "Lia Romantscha". La sairada al Holiday Inn cummanzet cun alch apertifs en üna grandiusa tschaina organisada tras nos ami Heinz Zimmermann chi'd aisl' architekt da quaista chadaina dat hotels usche prosperusa.

Be dalunga davo tschaina cumanzaiva il commitá cun lur sezzüda anuala. Il president signur Rocco Luvini drizet il pled ais members ed ingrazchet per il sustegnaint tras l'an passa chi portet pro ber il bun svilup da nossa organisaziun.

Il vegl commitá gniva unanicamaing

reelet, e per il signur Quadranti chi retuornet in patria gniva ellet il signur Graziano. Il signur Rocco Luvini daiva in cuorts plects üna survista da que chi gniva organisa durante l'an 1977.

Davo quaistas infuormaziuns spordschet eu sco vice president alch plects in Romantsch, suot il moto "Tanter Romantschs be Romantsch. Que chi nun ais adüna usche simpel resguardand nos trais dialetcs usché differents.

Il signur Heinz Zimmermann nuossiaiva ün grandius film ch'el avava fat sves sur da nossas activitats durante 77. Surtuot la festa da Sant Nicolaus a Limbro Park cun tuot quellas bellas vistas da nossa generaziun giuvna, chi muossa usché bain che grand avegnir cha nossa aossieta ha.

Che bun tramagl che bella saira et ün giavüsch a tuots, arevair pro la prosma radunanza. Nouve members per nossa organisaziun sun amiaivelmaing bainvgnü es déssan s'anunziar pro

The Secretary, Pro Ticino & Pro Grischun,  
P.O. Box 3364,  
JOHANNESBURG, 2000.  
Tel.: 838-5102.



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