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Monthly Publication of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Charge d'affaires and Mrs. Walter Sollberger together with the members of the Staff of the Embassy of Switzerland and their families wish all compatriots in New Zealand a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mother Theresa (above) was on her way today from her adopted home in the slums of Calcutta to Oslo, where she will pick up this year's Nobel peace prize on December 10 for her dedication to the world's poor.

The Yugoslavian-born Roman Catholic nun said she hoped to meet Pope John Paul II during a two-day stopover in Rome. But no appointment has been set yet, she said before her departure from Calcutta's Dum Dum airport.

Mother Theresa arrives in Oslo on Saturday to accept the nearly \$200,000 gold medal and diploma.

She plans to donate the prize money for food, housing and medical care for the poor.

She will attend the award ceremony on Monday night and will deliver her Nobel lecture next Tuesday, but she has asked that the traditional \$6000 dinner be cancelled.

Even a simple meal of sea food salad, reindeer steak and ice cream would have been too much for the woman who devoted her life to the poor of Calcutta slums. She asked that the money saved on the dinner be given to the poor instead.

Courtesy Waikato Times

Dear Readers of Helvetia,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As it will be difficult for me to attend to all the personal mail please accept this as my message instead.

A donation of \$10 will be made by me to the Assisi Home, Matangi, Hamilton. I hope all my friends will follow.

Walter Risi.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The traditional Family Christmas Party took place on Sunday 2nd December up on our Farm Kaukapakapa. It was a beautiful, warm day for it, and most of us got sunburnt. We all would like to thank Santa. He was the highlight for many children. He talked to the kiddies and rewarded every child with a nice bag full of goodies. Barbecued sausages were available for lunch, as well as coffee and sweets. A hot day makes you thirsty, but there were plenty of drinks, who saved that problem. The children got invited to compete in a few running competitions, throwing rings and darts competitions. I think a special thank you should go to the musicians Marlis, Ursula and Dani as well as Margrit, Toni and Adolf. They all surprised us, with bringing along three accordions and two guitars and mouthorgans. They played the whole afternoon, lovely Swiss songs and everybody enjoyed to listen and sing to the music. It was a nice social gathering for the kids and parents. A special thank you to Mrs Wuthrich, who kindly offered and baked all the Lebkuchli and biscuits for the kiddies bags. It was a shame that not more people attended this beautiful day. The committee would like to express to all its Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hopes to see you all on the Picnic, 24th February 1980.

On Sunday 18th November, a group of 22 people met each other for a trip into the Waitakeres. From the Symonds Street Carpark we drove with a few cars to Piha. The President Mr Reinhard and his wife, both experienced trampers, had chosen a nice, easy tramp for approx 3 hours walking in the beautiful bush. The weather was pleasant to walk to, not too hot, as it was overcast. We were called attention to many different native plants. After lunch we passed the lovely Kitekite Falls and came back to the cars approx 3 p.m. It was a nice day and everybody enjoyed the walking, as it was not too difficult but suitable for young and old.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB SUB-COMMITTEE FOR RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

Recruiting new members for the Swiss Club — Why is it so difficult?

The question was asked, and a sub-committee of the Wellington Swiss Club set about to find out (Helvetia, May 1979). We sent a comprehensive questionnaire to everybody of the Swiss community in the Wellington area, members of

the Swiss Club as well as non-members. Returned answers should indicate - and a detailed analysis to this effect will be submitted to the Club Committee - what people expect from the Swiss Club, and how it might have to change its activities and attitude to keep itself alive.

Some highlights; a third of all people approached sent back replies - of which nearly double as many were from non-members rather than members; they mainly came from young people, too. Answers and comments show that a large majority is interested, indeed, in the Swiss Club, but many are not too happy with its present set-up. They resent a certain tight inhospitable atmosphere towards newcomers (old-fashioned Swiss provincialism?) and would like more open friendliness and equal contact opportunities for everybody, including friends and associates from the host country. The impression that older Club members - some of whom founding members of the Swiss Club - seem to have turned into a ruling clique (Vereinsdirigismus), does obviously incite opposition particularly in the younger generation. To have a real chance to meet other Swiss abroad is one theme that recurs in over half of the replies. Also, a wish to see some of the Club monies occasionally spent for charitable purposes is expressed by many. It is interesting to note too, that many are not satisfied with the traditional social evenings merely culminating in culinary activities; they want some cultural background once in a while, an informative talk perhaps on actualities in Switzerland, Swiss - N.Z. relations etc. (Wouldn't this be something for Swiss Embassy staff to look into, thus doing a greater service to the Swiss colony and beyond - in a way as is done e.g. by the French?)

One thing that certainly should and could be remedied easily: over half of the non-members who returned the questionnaire, declared they had never officially been made aware of the Swiss Club, or been invited to join! One did not know it existed - well, we have 8 new members so far, as a result of our approach.

And more even, there are plenty of good suggestions how to make Club activities more appealing to a greater number of Swiss compatriots. To all those who took care to fill in the questionnaire, we are most grateful indeed.

H.R. Katz.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY IN DUNEDIN

Following last year's successful celebration of August 1, Swiss folk in and around Dunedin again gathered with their families and friends to commemorate the national day of their homeland. Thirty-three guests enjoyed good food and good fellowship in the Rose Suite of the City Hotel, where the chef, Mr Pierre Pasquier, formerly of Geneva, prepared a buffet of regional dishes, from ragout de veau to sauerkraut and cream pastries. By popular demand he emerged from his kitchen at the end to receive the congratulations of the guests.

With a background of folk music, a touch of national costume, worn by Mrs Elizabeth Gamperle, and Swiss flags on the table, the evening was opened by Mr Peter Gibson whose wife, Monica, comes from Bern. Out of town guests included Mrs Marcelle Garden of Millers Flat, her husband, Pat and brother-in-law Neil, of Alexandra, together with Mr and Mrs Walter Stahel of Becks, Central Otago. The newest arrival was Mr Peter Hoffman, who had hitch-hiked all the way from Auckland after an overland

journey from Switzerland through Turkey, Afganistan, India, Burma and Australia - arriving just in time for the occasion!

Thanks go to Mr Bert Looser for organizing the event; born in New Zealand of Swiss parents, his father came from near St. Gallen. Yes, Otago really is becoming the Switzerland of the South!

Anne Coombs

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

It is with the deepest regret that the Embassy has to inform the members of the Swiss Community in New Zealand that among the victims of the tragic DC-10 crash on Mt. Erebus in Antarctica on the 28th November 1979, there were three of our compatriots, namely:

BUERGI Heinze, 1946 (Auckland)

LOCHER Urs, 1950 (Auckland)

MEIER Jurg, 1956 (Wellington)

The Charge d'affaires and Staff of the Embassy, also in the name of the members of the Swiss Community in New Zealand wish to express their deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends who are mourning the loss of our fellow countrymen.

OBITUARY

Albert Schuler who passed away at Hawera on October 25th came from Kanton Schwyz, Switzerland.

Mr and Mrs A. Schuler were married in Switzerland in 1937 and a week after the marriage went to South America. Unable to find work he returned to his homeland again. A year later in 1939 they came to N.Z. with a group of 20 young Swiss, to begin a life of working on Dairy Farms, working at Okato, Okaiawa and Manaia before purchasing his own farm at Otakeho.

Mr Schuler, was a very keen card player and was also a good shooter coming together with perhaps 15 to 20 other Friends for a shoot before the Taranaki Swiss Shooting Club was formed.

15 years ago he was gored by a bull leaving him partly disabled but he suffered very bravely.

Unfortunately 2 of his 4 children predeceased him. To his wife and family and grandchildren we offer our deepest sympathy.

L.K.

OBITUARY

With a sad heart I received the news of the sudden death of a very dear friend, Charlie Camenzind of Putaruru on the 17th October 1979.

Charlie was born of a family of two boys and two girls but unfortunately lost his parents at a very early age, consequently the children were brought up by foster-parents and relatives. Charlie had the good fortune to be apprenticed as a good tradesman painter in the Ct. Aargau. Charlie always spoke well of his boss which gave him a good start of his future life. After working on many jobs here and there he eventually came up to Goldau. The Depression was still on and jobs scarce and money even less, when I got to know him at the time and asking him to come and stay with my parents who had a Hotel-Restaurant

doing painting jobs here and there. End of the Thirties Frank Ehrler from Taranaki arrived home for a holiday and spoke in glowing tones about New Zealand and so in 1939 a group of six of us left for "God's own". Arriving at Auckland Wharf my uncles, Albert Schicker, Hawera, and August Schicker of Putaruru picked us up and that night at our reception at August Schicker's place Charlie got asked by Dolfie Mathis to come and work at his farm. Later Charlie did a lot of contract painting around the Putaruru district and was well known as an excellent tradesman. About that time Charlie kept company and courted one of Anton Steiner's (Lichfield) girls, the lovely blond Ettie and they married in December 1940. The marriage was blessed with three nice boys and two girls. 1976 Charlie eventually made his first trip to his beloved Switzerland and after having lost all contacts with his brother and sisters he managed to locate them and what a happy reunion it was. His great passion in life was bowling and all his friends of the Putaruru Club paid their last respect by a guard of honour at the church entrance in their all white. Charlie will be sadly missed by all his friends here and in Switzerland. To his wife and family I am offering my deepest sympathy, from his long time colleague.

Louis Mueller.

For Members of the Solidarity Fund

WHAT TO DO AT THE AGE OF 65?

Basically **nothing will change** with regard to your membership of the Fund. The Constitution does not provide for an age limit (as for instance the AVS). Nevertheless, you have a choice of **three possibilities**:

1. **Continuation** of your membership at the same conditions as hitherto.
2. For members with annual savings deposits; provided you have been a member for at least 15 years, you may send in an application **to discontinue your annual payments**. Your entitlements will remain secure at the present level, i.e.

- a. lumpsum compensation of losing your livelihood due to political events.
- b. at all times; the right to have your savings repaid (the amount as on the day you stop payments). This right to repayment is transferred to your heirs in case of death.

3. Withdrawal from your contract, getting a **repayment** of your savings deposits as they stand on the day of withdrawal.

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR SWISS ABROAD, Gutenbergstrasse 6, 3011 Berne, Switzerland.

JOSY'S CORNER

'Consider the lilies how they grow. They toil not, they spin not, and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.'

Here at the place where the old year ends.

Here is the place to make amends. Dropping old grudges - and casting aside - Grievancies, feinds and foolish pride. Here where the untrodden path begins - asking forgiveness for our sins. Here at the point where the new ways start. Here let us pause to search the heart. Here let a quite prayer be said - as we face the year that lies ahead.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Josy.

27th November, 1979

SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND

Resultate und Ranglisten

NATIONALLIGA A

Basel - Lugano 7:0 (4:0)
 La Chaux-de-Fonds - Luzern 0:1 (0:0)
 Chiasso - St Gallen 3:0 (0:0)
 Grasshoppers - Zurich (0:0)
 Lausanne - Chenois 4:0 (1:0)
 Servette - Sion 2:3 (1:0)
 Young Boys - Xamax 3:2 (2:1)

1. Grasshoppers	13	9	2	2	34: 9	20
2. Zurich	13	8	3	2	35:19	19
3. Servette	13	7	3	3	34:15	17
4. Basel	13	6	5	2	23: 9	17
5. Sion	13	5	5	3	22:19	15
6. Luzern	13	7	1	5	20:21	15
7. Chiasso	13	3	6	4	16:23	12
8. St. Gallen	13	3	5	5	22:22	11
9. Young Boys	13	5	1	7	21:27	11
10. La Chaux-de-Fonds	13	3	5	5	14:25	11
11. Xamax	15	5		8	13:23	10
12. Chenois	13	2	5	6	17:23	9
13. Lausanne	13	3	3	7	13:21	9
14. Lugano	13	1	4	8	11:39	6

NATIONALLIGA B

Aarau - Fribourg 7:1 (2:0)
 Baden - Vevey 1:1 (1:1)
 Bellinzona - Nordstern 0:0
 Biel - Bern 0:2 (0:0)
 Kriens - Grenchen 3:1 (0:1)
 Winterthur - Frauenfeld 4:2 (0:1)
 Raron - Wettingen 1:0 (1:0)

1. Bellinzona	12	5	7		17: 7	17
2. Nordstern	12	6	5	1	23:15	17
3. Aarau	12	6	4	2	29:15	16
4. Fribourg	12	7	1	4	19:14	15
5. Frauenfeld	12	4	6	2	15:13	14
6. Bern	12	5	4	3	20:21	14
7. Winterthur	12	5	3	4	23:18	13
8. Vevey	12	3	4	5	18:19	10
9. Wettingen	12	2	5	5	18:18	9
10. Grenchen	12	2	5	5	19:23	9
11. Kriens	12	3	3	6	16:23	9
12. Raron	12	3	3	6	9:21	9
13. Biel	12		8	4	6:14	8
14. Baden	12	3	2	7	16:27	8

TO THE HAPPY PARENTS OF NEW-BORN BABY!

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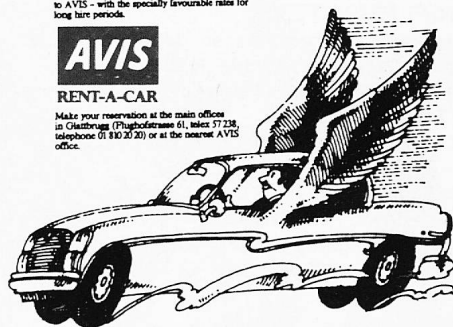
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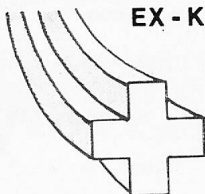
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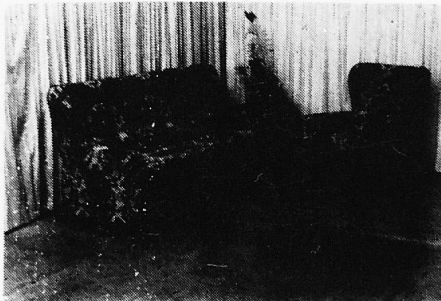
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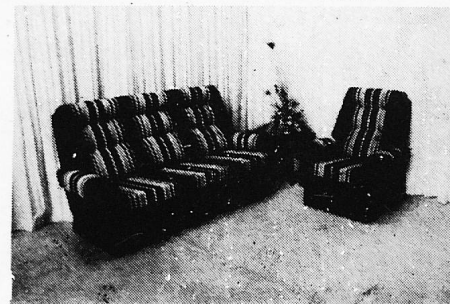
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