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NEWS OF THE COLONY

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The 1961 Christmas Social for the Auckland Swiss Club was held on 10th December at the Professional Club, and was attended by a good muster of compatriots from the Auckland district. Entertainment for the celebrations included several cartoon films for the children which the adults enjoyed very much too. Sometime later when all the children were seated, and the lights dimmed, Santa Claus made his entrance, carrying a large sack in which he had all the usual goodies distributed at Christmas time; however, the children were the happiest when Santa invited them to participate in a lollie scramble.

At last when the general hub bub had died down, dancing occupied a good deal of the people's time, followed not long after by a hearty Christmas meal for everyone, and thus ended for the Auckland Swiss Club a very happy year for 1961.

Swiss Society Shooting Competition

Saturday & Sunday, 24th & 25th February, 1962

In regards to the Rules for this year's national Shooting Competition, please note the following changes:

1. A separate target has to be used for the two trailshots (Probeschiisse), which must be shot at the start.
2. It has come to our notice that the short ammunition is not quite as reliable in accuracy as the long. Therefore, we have decided to make the ammunition optional, namely that either short or long ammunition can be used.

Please advise rifle master Hans Oettli before 9th February, 1962, re composition of groups.

Do your best to bring together as many groups as possible to make our national Shooting Competition a real success.

HANS OETTLI,
c/o P.O.,
Whatawhata, near Hamilton.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

The annual Picnic will be held in the Te Autu Domain, Okaiawa, on Sunday, 11th February, 1962.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Our Picnic will be held at the residence of Mr and Mrs Risi, in Ngaruawahia, on Saturday, 24th February, 1962. Keep this date free—full particulars later.

No Social Evening in the Riverlea will be held in February.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

WATERWORKS WITH ELECTRONIC REMOTE CONTROL

At La Chaux-de-Fonds—one of the main centres of Swiss watchmaking production—the first plant in Switzerland to be equipped with an entirely electronic remote control system was recently put into operation, the necessary impulses being transmitted over the existing telephone lines. This plant, situated some 12½ miles outside the town, pumps the water for La Chaux-de-Fonds' main water supply and at the same time produces electricity with the surplus water. All the electrical and hydraulic machines can be started and stopped and their working supervised from the Public Utilities Office in town. This new plant enables seven mechanics out of ten to be released for other work and ensures greater reliability and speed of control; it is the fruit of close collaboration between the engineers of the La Chaux-de-Fonds public utilities and the firm of Hasler, in Berne, which specialises in telecommunications.

CONTRIBUTION TO MODERN RADIOLOGY

A beta-ray apparatus for the treatment of tumours has just been put into operation at a West Berlin hospital. This new model, known by the name of "Asklepitron," weighs 11 tons and produces an energy of 35 million electronvolts; it is the most powerful and most modern X-ray apparatus in the world and has been designed and built by the Swiss firm of Brown Boveri & Co. at Baden, from the data of a Norwegian scientist. The "Asklepitron" is the younger brother of a Betatron which was installed in a hospital in Berne a short while ago.

FROM GOLF TO THE FACTORY

Watchmakers need to be richly endowed with imagination in addition to a high sense of precision in order to be able to develop their inventive genius to the full and to apply it to all sorts of utilitarian or even frivolous uses. And just as the ordinary mortal carries the right time with him on his wrist, so the golfer is now able to carry a small counter resembling a watch, which records the number of strokes he has played. This new gadget may also be used by a billiard player, or a mechanic checking the output of a machine, as well as a statistician recording the repetition of an event. The "Domatic Score" counter looks like a wristwatch and has a dial provided with small windows in which the figures appear, with crowns for re-setting to zero and a push-button which is pressed whenever a unit is to be counted.

LAST TRAMWAY CAR

The last tramway car, under garlands of flowers recently made its round of honour through the city of Lucerne before being sent to the junk-yard.

The First Glacier Aerodrome In The World

The first glacier aerodrome in the world, which is shortly to be completed at an altitude of 10,000 feet on a glacier near the summit of the famous Diablerets mountain, hitherto reserved to hardy mountaineers, will revolutionise Alpine tourism, opening up new slopes to skiers and enabling them to ski all the year round, as well as offering a host of new excursions to tourists, both young and old, sedentary and energetic.

The glacier is an ideal landing-ground in a natural depression sheltered from the winds by the circle of peaks and walls of granite all round; its natural runways are longer even than those of the international airports of Geneva-Cointrin or Zurich-Kloten. Hermann Geiger has made over a thousand landings on this glacier, and it is here, too, that the glacier pilots do their first training. Tourists will be able to fly here in small sports or commercial planes in a matter of minutes only from nearby Montreux, Lausanne or Geneva airports.

The aerodrome will be connected to the lower levels by means of a brand-new aerial cableway rising in three sections nearly 5000 feet from the Col du Pillon to the top station just a few minutes' walk from the glacier. The 2½-mile ride will be an unforgettably beautiful experience through some of the grandest Alpine scenery. The Col du Pillon is easily accessible all the year round by road from the resort of Les Diablerets, with its excellent connections with the plain, and from Gstaad in the next valley, which will also be linked by a new aerial cableway starting from Gsteig. The first section of the new cableway rises in eight minutes from the Col du Pillon at 5080 feet to Pierres Pointes at 7220 feet, passengers travelling in comfortable four-seater cabins. The second section, using a large cabin holding thirty passengers, takes five minutes to reach the Tete aux Chamois at an altitude of 8285 feet. Both these stops are starting points for excellent ski-runs of varying degrees of difficulty and, in summer, for delightful excursions amid glorious mountain scenery. The last section takes visitors in fifty-passenger cabin to the top station at "Les Diablerets" in just under six minutes.

The aerodrome a few hundred yards away will be provided with a modern restaurant with sun-terraces and lounges for relaxing and admiring the view. An added attraction will be a fleet of polar track-vehicles taking holidaymakers to the Diablerets peak itself.

A vast number of new slopes will be opened up to experienced skiers and beginners alike, there being an almost infinite variety of runs, long and short, difficult and easy, and most of them suitable for skiing the whole year round.

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TELEVISION IN SWITZERLAND

Two thousand one hundred and forty-four new television licences were issued in Switzerland during the month of November last, bringing the total number of Tv sets in Switzerland to 176,522. On the same date, holders of Swiss radio licences numbered 1,474,649.

★ RECIPE

Easy-to-make Fruit Cake

Put into a medium-sized saucepan 1 cup mixed fruit, add sufficient water to cover fruit and boil until absorbed by fruit. Then add: 1 cup sugar, ¼lb butter, 2 tablespoons of golden syrup, 2 teaspoons lemon essence, 2 tablespoons milk, 2 eggs, ½ cup semolina. Mix all well together, lastly add 1 teaspoon baking powder and 1½ cups of flour. Pour into greased fruit cake tin. Bake at 350 deg. for about 1 hour. —R.B.

[Ladies! Recipes "with a difference" are very welcome. Do send us your favourites, continental or otherwise.]

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