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character and the limited resources of money and personnel available to the country.

Swiss foreign policy is marked by its character of permanent vigilance, coupled with the determination to test and prove again and again the value of Swiss principles of state under the ever changing problems of contemporary history.

(By courtesy of Agence Telegraphique Suisse.)

(The Federal Council's report regarding home affairs will be published in the next issue of the "Helvetia.")

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## **NEWS OF THE COLONY**

### **Auckland Swiss Club**

The Tessiner-Abend of the Auckland Swiss Club, held on 26th June, 1965, at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road, Sandringham:

At 8.10 p.m. the Continental Orchestra, "KEITH MEICHLE AND HIS CANNOTS," started to play lovely dance music. There were not yet many people present; however, at 9 p.m. you could see a long queue standing in the entrance and the treasurer and his help were very busy with selling and punching tickets. Next time they can go for a competition with bus-drivers, having so much training after this evening! All seats were taken besides two empty tables in front of the band. Twenty-five guests entered their names into our new, red-coloured guest book—that is a nice start indeed!

The decoration was absolutely marvellous and we could see that experts had had a hand in the big flower baskets sitting in the middle of all tables. And what a lot of work it must have caused to "plant" all the palm trees and ferns, so that we really felt the atmosphere of Italian Switzerland. I enjoyed particularly the corner with the barrels that served as seats and the bigger ones as tables, of course with a big bottle of "Chianti" on them!

The barmen, half hidden behind the green leaves of a tree, hurried from the cases filled with beverages, to the customers to fulfil their wishes. The "Grotto Ticinese" with the red-blue striped flag in front looked quite picturesque, and we will soon be able to see the snaps, taken by the young photographer. Many times the flash of his camera was between the dancing couples who will be able to buy the photos later on. They will make a nice souvenir.

At 10 o'clock the famous Italian singer Silvio de Pra sang and played for us on his accordeon many well known songs, and of course "Never on a Sunday" was asked for and welcomed by many people. This musical feast lasted unfortunately only half an hour and our star disappeared too quickly.

Everybody was hungry and we ate the steaming hot spaghetti Bolognese with great gusto. After the coffee and the lovely fruit tarts as dessert, we felt energetic again; the orchestra continued to play and the dance floor was very crowded. Soft waltzes, changed with twists, quicksteps and foxtrots, so that there was something for young and old—or for people in the age from 16 to 92!

A superb Italian supper was served at 1 a.m. and we realised that it was already two o'clock only when the musicians played the last tune. Once more there was a great demand for drinks at the bar—then our members and invited guests went home, but we all will keep this popular social evening in our thoughts for a long time! —M.M.

### **RUAPEHU MOUNTAIN TOUR**

After a six-hour journey from Auckland, through fog in the Waikato, we were delighted to find that the Chateau and Mounts Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngaruahoe were bathed in bright sunshine. We took our rucksacks to the New Zealand Alpine Club Hut and had a quick lunch. We were determined to make the best of the perfect weather, and so we decided to climb to the summit of the Dome which overlooks the Crater Lake of Ruapehu.

Sunday was as fine as Saturday had been. We climbed Te Heu Heu, before returning to the Top of the Bruce, and motoring back to Auckland. It is a pity that more members could not have taken advantage of this chance to polish up on their mountaineering. If the opportunity presents itself again, we hope to have more in the party. —Climber.

### **Wellington Swiss Club**

The Swiss Club, Wellington, held a Fondue Evening on Saturday, June 19, at the Brooklyn Hall. This traditional Swiss dish seemed to have a big attraction for all compatriots here, and they turned up in large numbers together with their New Zealand friends.

Thanks to the hard work of the Committee and some of the Club members and their wives, standing in the kitchen and stirring cheese like bees, and the very generous assistance given by Mr Kaspar in fixing the gas supply, all present were soon sitting around the different bowls, eating, chattering and making new friends. After everyone's hunger had been appeased, Nick started to play his accordeon and this encouraged many to have a dance. Many thanks to him and also to Mrs Schatt, who gave a few items on the piano. Both contributed much to the enjoyment of a successful evening.

The President distributed the medals and Ehrenmeldungen of the 1965 Shooting Competition and took the opportunity to in-



introduce five young men who had recently arrived. They were given a big hand by everyone. Later, a Swiss Chalet Musical Box was sold by auction, which caused much fun and laughter.

Last, but not least, a warm and friendly atmosphere was created by the gay decorations and red lights in the two rooms.

No complaints — everybody was satisfied and that is the main thing, isn't it? —G.M.

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## Obituary

### MISS ROSA BEELER

On Monday, June 21st, Miss Rosa Beeler, aged 56, of Fantham Street, Hawera, passed away after a long illness. Miss Beeler arrived in New Zealand with her parents and brother in 1913. She was born at Ibach Schwyz.

Miss Beeler farmed with her parents at Manaia and later at Hawera. She took a great interest in farming.

The father passed away in 1941 and the mother in 1956 and her brother on December 27th, 1964.

We extend to Miss Beeler's relatives our deepest sympathy in their sad loss. —J.S.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS ● ● ● ●

### Auckland Swiss Club

The first of August Celebration of the Auckland Swiss Club will be held on Saturday, 31st July, at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham Road, at 8 p.m.

We hope that nobody will miss our "Bundesfeier"—you can look forward to an enjoyable patriotic evening! A delicious Swiss supper will also be served, and we have lots of surprises ready for you and your friends. —The Committee

### Hamilton Swiss Club

A reminder to all members and friends: Our First of August will be celebrated on Sunday (1st August), at 8 p.m. in the Old Boys Rugby Hall. Special supper and entertainment. Make this your night of the year!

### Wellington Swiss Club

The Wellington Swiss Club 1st of August Celebration will be held on Saturday, 31st July.