

News of the colony

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Hamilton Swiss Club

BARBEQUE EVENING

Due to a week of continuous rain we had to postpone our Barbeque Evening for a week, to the 18th of March. The weather on that Saturday was surprisingly pleasant. The smoke from the big log fire guided us to our President's (John Villiger) residence at Kiwitahi. Members and friends started to arrive around six o'clock and soon after we were able to taste the sizzling, juicy and tender chops, steaks and sausages cooked by our expert chefs Ernst Staheli and Joe Risi.

John's stereo provided the keen dancers with Swiss and pop music, to which the young and not so young enjoyed themselves immensely on the dance floor. Thank you Joe for bringing the heavy load all the way from Ngaruawahia. Others were happy to sit, chat and exchange news and ideas with friends.

As the hour moved on and the night became cooler we went happy on our way home, with the hope of repeating such an evening again. Thank you John and Yeolanda for that nice 'piggy'.

NEXT DAY: we held the shooting, Kegel and Steinstossen competitions at the Risi residence. Unfortunately the hunt for these nice Swiss-made sport medals was not as keen as expected, but there are still to be won the medals for "Jassen". The date for this will be announced later.

We thank very much the Villiger and Risi families for letting us use their grounds for these events. —R.E.W.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

OUR STAY IN NEW ZEALAND

After a 40-day tour through parts of the U.S.A. by air and ship we did enjoy the 75 days sojourn in New Zealand. Because brother Paul and his wife Bertha and family have set up home here for the last 32 years, this prompted us, I might say, to undertake a world tour in order to evaluate the adopted homeland of our dear brother and family.

During these 75 days we did have a chance to see the whole of New Zealand, the North as well as the South Island. We have made films and taken photographs to show our folk back home the most interesting and beautiful scenes of this country.

We don't wish now to indulge into comparisons with Switzerland E.T.C. However, there still seems to be a good chance for a young man to build up a farming career; but much more than evaluate the pros and cons of one country against another, we

want to say a big "thank you" for our unforgettable sojourn in New Zealand. A big "thank you" goes to Taranaki Swiss Social Club and its president Len Chamberlain for the friendly words of welcome at the parties to which we were invited as guests. Also a big "thank you" for the friendly hours which we enjoyed by the shorter or longer hours with other Swiss people in New Zealand.

We heartily want to reciprocate to all who ever come to Switzerland and visit us.

Margaret, Arnold and Irene Zimmerman.

Christchurch Swiss Club

WINE AND CHEESE EVENING

The stage was set for a wonderful evening and that is what it turned out to be. As one entered the room it was like stepping into another world. Candles everywhere. White ones on the long tables, and bright red ones on the table set, not just with cheese, but with little bits and pieces to nibble. It was a warm evening, so the french doors out to the river where opened and the slight breeze caught the flames of the candles and long shadows wavered across the walls. The record-player was gradually turned up and the dancing began and went on and on . . . Towards the end of the evening, as the wine was taking its course through one's bloodstream, dancing partners were mixed!!

Thanks to the people who helped make the evening so much fun. Special thanks to Mrs Moser, without whose blistered hands we would have had no cheese to taste! —J.F.

HEDY'S CORNER

The following article, which will be presented in two instalments, has specially been written for "Hedy's Corner" by Dr Ruth Speiser, barrister and solicitor, of Basel, Switzerland.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOR SWISS WOMEN ?

Our federal constitution of 1874 guarantees the cantons their territory; to the citizens privileges and freedoms, and independence of the Fatherland. These are not abstract assurances; they are reinforced by the territorial defence, this being the duty of the army. It is well known that Switzerland has no standing army but a militia system which rests on the compulsory military service of all citizens. ("Each Swiss is liable for military Service".) The territorial defence is thus the duty of **all** citizens, i.e. all male citizens. Every fit 20-year-old absolves a training course for recruits for the duration of 17 weeks and has to present himself for a great number of years for further annual military training. With a view that Switzerland is committed to a state of neutrality, an army for defence was adequate until recently. But since the