

News of the colony

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feel, the specialisation of the tiny groups, and allows each individual to be counted in his own right.

The point of who should be allowed to take part in the Society Competition has arisen. All competitors in the Swiss Society Competition need to be members of that Society. I feel the subscription is not excessive, and also the member receives "Helvetia" which is our only newspaper for the Swiss Colony, and as such, a vital link between Clubs and individuals.

Funds have been received from Switzerland for Shooting Insurance and an insurance has been made for the Swiss Society covering the four ranges in Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton and Taranaki. This policy covers us all year round, so no additional insurance is needed for Club events except where non-Society members are present.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Arthur W. Muller,
Riflemaster.

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Auckland Swiss Club

THE SWISS BALL

The Mandalay Ballroom, in Newmarket, presented the really beautiful surroundings for this year's Swiss Ball held on Saturday, 13th May. A record number of guests — over 600 — was a jolly mixture of Swiss, Kiwis and a good few other nationalities and everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Soon after arriving, finding a drink and joining their friends, all was ready to listen to the Auckland Yodel Club, the Alphorns, the Cow Bells, the Swiss Orchestra and the 'Talerschwinger' — very original and most fascinating. The 'Fahnenschwinger', performed to perfection by Joe Egger, was the highlight of the evening and the applause did not stop without an encore.

All too soon was the last dance and the guests will long remember the true sound of Swiss folklore. —M.V. (a guest)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held this year at the Newmarket Club on April 22nd. Newly elected were.—

President: Mr H. Fitzi. Vice-President: Mr W. Piatti. Secretary: Miss E. Strassmann. Treasurer: Mr H. Sigrist. Treasurer: Mr H. Sigrist. Members: Miss U. Voegtli, Mrs E. Hess, Mrs M. Mosser, Mr U. Holzapfel, Mr H. Wolf and Mr H. Gamperle.

—E.S.

Hamilton Swiss Club

Calling all Boys and Girls of the Hamilton Swiss Club: Mrs J. Fluhler offered very kindly to start a Swiss Folk Dance Group with youngsters of our Club members in the 6-13 years age group. This great idea gives some of our girls and boys the chance to learn our folk dancing, which we all like to preserve. Anyone interested in this venture, please contact the secretary, Mrs R. E. Waldvogel, phone 65-744. —R.E.W.

WEDDING: WEHRLI — ARNOLD

On Saturday, May 20th, a beautiful sunny winter day, Heidi, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Arnold of Tahuna, and Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Wehrli of Switzerland, exchanged their marriage vows in St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Morrinsville. While they were signing the register, Mrs Rangi Gilgen delighted the large number of guests with her singing of "I walked in God's Garden", "The Lord is my Shepherd" and "Ave Maria".

The reception and following dance was held at the Chequers Lounge. After short speeches and cork popping, the toast was sang in English and Swiss!! During the evening the Auckland Jodel Club entertained with some well received "Jodellieder", Talerschwingen and Alphorn tunes. Everyone present enjoyed the lovely Swiss-flavoured "big day" of Heidi and Richard.

We wish the nice young couple all the best for their life together and lots of luck for their farming venture.

Wellington Swiss Club

I would like to thank most sincerely the Auckland Swiss Club for their recent hospitality towards the Wellington members of the Swiss Society and myself.—K. H. Signer, President.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club (Inc.) was held in the Kapuni Memorial Hall on Thursday, 13th April. The President, Mr L. Chamberlain, welcomed those present and reported that the Club had enjoyed another successful year, with all functions being well attended.

Election of Officers resulted.—Patroness: Mrs C. Schuler (Snr). President: Mr L. Chamberlain. Vice-President: Mr T. Napflin. Secretary: Mr R. Waldvogel. Committee: Ladies, Mesdames C. Gwerder, P. Meyer, J. Dettling; gents, Messrs P. Amstalden, D. Butler, A. Gwerder, A. Kuriger, L. Kuriger, H. Mathis, R. Dudli, E. Fuglistaller.

A lengthy and lively discussion was held on affiliation of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club to the Swiss Society of N.Z. At the end of the discussion a vote was taken, the result of which was

decisively in favour of the Club remaining as it is and not affiliating to the Swiss Society.

The Riflemaster, Mr Napflin, reported that the shooting activities of the Club had been again very successful both socially and financially. The Shooting Sub-Committee is as follows.—Riflemaster: Mr E. Fuglistaller. Members: Messrs I. Chamberlain, J. Kaiser, Z. Hospenthal, T. Napflin, H. Mathis and R. Waldvogel.
—R.W.

HEDY'S CORNER

TRUTH OR SUPERSTITION?

Traditions from the Obertoggenburg

Not all of these superstitions are solely known in that part of Switzerland; the first few quoted have found their way to the western parts of our Homeland also:

* A meteorite indicates a death at that moment. A wish, uttered at the moment of seeing a meteorite, has to become fulfilled.

* When the cat cleans itself, visitors will be arriving; if the paw goes over the right ear it indicates a male visitor, over the left a woman visitor.

* A silver watch on a silver chain is held over the object to be tested and as the watch pendulum swings, its oscillations are interpreted: to find out if a cow was pregnant, or water was to be found at a given spot, as two examples of many others.

New to me, but perhaps not to you, are the following:

* If one has enough money in one's purse when hearing the first call of the cuckoo in springtime, it means assurance that sufficient money will be available for that year. Babies must be rubbed with goat grease after their bath to strengthen them. For easing teething troubles the front paws of a mole are hung around the baby's neck. Bloat in cows is eased by putting an Elder branch between their teeth or a one cent piece is pushed into the animal's throat whilst calling on the Holy Trinity.

And, something that is also known in New Zealand and acted upon with confidence by some people:

* As a safeguard against contagious illnesses one carries an onion or garlic on one's body; for certain complaints also chestnuts. Onions for sore throats, bronchitis or catarrh: Cut up onions are heated and placed on throat, chest, or neck.

Planting by the moon and by zodiac signs is also recognised:

* Potatoes planted in Aries or Capricorn will not boil soft. Onions planted in Gemini produce many, but very small. Beans and peas will climb well when moon is waning. Carrots do better when sown during moon waning.

And finally: Carrot seed, at all costs, must be sown standing on one leg.
—From "Toggenburger Nachrichten"