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News of the Colony

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

1st August Celebration:

Our 1st of August Celebration was held at the Eureka Hall on Friday, 23rd July, 1976, at 8 p.m. The hall looked very impressive with all the little flags and the posters of Switzerland. On the tables were burning candles, surrounded by rosettes, made by the lady members of the Committee. This added a certain atmosphere to the evening. Most people arrived in time so when the band, "Velvatone" started playing, shortly after 8 p.m. there was an enthusiastic crowd on the dance floor. After the President welcomed the big parties from Auckland, Taranaki and Tauranga and had given his short speech relating to the celebration, we played a tape, sent to us from the Swiss Embassy in Wellington, so that we could listen to the voice of the Bundespräsident Gnani with his special message for the Swiss people abroad. Listening to the church bells at the beginning and the end of the tape we felt for a few moments as if we were back home. Then "Velvatone" got on to the stage again and nearly everybody was dancing. The supper, which was served later in the evening, was well received, because active dancers need a rest, so did the band. Dancing continued and to our delight some "newcomers" from Taranaki had their "Schwyzerörgeli" on hand and played the real tunes which many people would call "the true 1st of August Music". And what would be such a music without some yodels? So Peter Arnold joined the group and gave his performance. The Taranaki musicians continued to play after the band had gone home well into the early hours of the morning. We should like to express our gratitude to the "Taranaki Band" for their part of the entertainment; to most of the guests it was a real surprise and very much appreciated. Alas, the end of a happy, enjoyable evening had to come and we had to part company.

Our special thanks go to the great cooks: Josy and Bert Fluhler, Ruth Waldvogel and Werner Burri. And, of course, to all the helpers, who made the evening so successful.

Notice:

Unfortunately, three candle-holders went missing. They mean quite a lot to the Club, because . . .

1. They are specially made and
2. They are a donation to the Club.

If disappearing continues at other functions, we just have to do without them. We think this would be a pity. How do you feel?

If the candle-holders should appear, please send them to: Mrs I. Fischer, Secretary, Hamilton Swiss Club, 18 Nevada Road, Hamilton.

I.F.

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Last Card Evening:

The last card evening of this season was held at the Eureka Hall on July 10, 1976, at 8 p.m. Again, the attendance was very good. But it was also a very special evening, because five big pieces of a cured pig were to be awarded to the over-all winners. But first we had to play to find out who would be the winners for the evening. When supper was served the tension was growing, but there were still more games to play. After midnight the lucky winners were announced: Mr W. Unternahrer, Mrs Arnold (Snr.), Mr L. Steiner, Mr H. Leuenberger, Mr R. Blattler.

A lady took home the booby-prize this time: Mrs H. Leuenberger.

Mr W. Risi had to work hard before he could award the winners their respective portions from the "Sauli". They were: Mr W. Unternahrer (twice lucky in one evening!), Mr L. Baggenstoss, Mr H. Leuenberger (another lucky one!), Mrs H. Staheli, Mr Schuler.

There were many happy faces and some, of course, not so happy—but you can't win them all!

Now it's all over for another year. We hope to be seeing you again when we start the next competition. In the meantime! Keep practising!

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

I.F.

1st August Celebrations:

A large and happy gathering of Christchurch Swiss and friends met at Newbury Lodge on Saturday, 31st July, to celebrate our National Day.

All enjoyed the delicious buffet dinner prepared by the Committee and afterwards we listened to the President's recorded message. Community singing of Swiss songs, a Swiss poem and dancing helped to make a "gemuetlich" atmosphere. The evening concluded with a supper of coffee and cakes.

Jass Evening, 10th July:

A dozen Jass enthusiasts had an enjoyable evening trying their skill. We didn't know there were so many versions of Jass! It is hoped to have another evening soon.

Aigle Castle Becomes Wine-Growing Museum

The castle at Aigle, which became a prison after the Vaud region had been liberated from Bernese rule, is now open again, but this time visits are purely voluntary. Set on a vine-covered hill, the castle with its defiant towers has been turned into a viticulture museum and contains the most important collection on wine-growing past and present in Switzerland. Seven rooms in the castle have so far been converted, in which implements such as hoes, billhooks and vine shears as well as back-baskets, pitchers, bottles, glasses, wine labels, etc. are on show. An outstanding item is a Lurcat tapestry illustrating the theme of wine. In the cellars are circular casks and a huge 17th century winepress. When completed, the collection will occupy 22 rooms. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.