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Adolf Fidel Hardegger

6 September 1929 – 13 March 2015

Adolf, the eldest son of Adolf and Maria Josepha, was born in Weiler Gasenzen, near Gams, canton St Gallen. They were a farming family. At the age of seven Adolf lost his mother when she died giving birth. His father remarried and added seven further siblings to the existing four.

Adolf remained true to this parents' trade and attended the Agriculture and Nursery College. Until emigrating he helped mostly at home, and had spent one summer in the mountains and working as a farmhand in the Berner Oberland. In 1955, at the age of 25, Adolf took the big step and immigrated to New Zealand. His first job was on a sheep farm near Kurow and he remained in the South Island for four years before returning for six month to Switzerland in 1960. During this time he met Agnes Kiser whom he married on 1st October 1960. At the end of October they returned to New Zealand together, and in 1961 Adolf and Agnes bought their first herd of 75 dairy cows and took on their first sharemilking job in Hawera. After their three year contract had expired they moved to a bigger farm at Warea where they were blessed with their nine children. Together with Agnes, he continued farming and doing what he loved until he retired at 70.

In his retirement he thoroughly enjoyed his huge interest and love of pigs, bees and fruit trees. But most of all he always had time for his family, grandchildren and friends.

Sadly after Adolf's health deteriorated in the last two years, he passed away peacefully on the 13th of March. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 54 years, Agnes, and their nine children and families, and their 25 grandchildren. MD

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to both families



Laura Anna Hiestand

28 October 1915 – 8 April 2015

Laura, the 5th child of 9, was born in Riverlea, before the family moved to their own small farm at Hurleyville, inland from Patea. Laura remembered having a very happy childhood, helping with the housework and farm work. She experienced the introduction of electricity, the radio, telephone, milking machines and washing machines. Laura finished school at 15 to take her turn working on the farm and then worked for several families. She met Dominik (Don) and they were married in 1943. They worked on Laura's brother's farm before going sharemilking at Pihama for 11 years. They were blessed with seven children in nine years, with Laura still managing a huge vegetable garden and orchard, milking morning and night, baking Swiss treats and making Swiss sausages. In 1958 Don and Laura purchased their own farm on the Auroa Road, Awatuna.

Laura was actively involved with the Women's Institute where she particularly enjoyed arts and crafts. She devoted many years to the Taranaki Swiss Club committee where, together with two of her sisters Clara and Josie, she spent many hours toiling in the kitchen. Thank you for your loyalty and dedication to our Club as well as supporting Don as he worked tirelessly to help build our Club house; we really appreciated your hard work and commitment.

Don and Laura travelled to Switzerland many times; a special highlight was cherry picking at the Styger homestead in Steinerberg where Laura's mother had been raised. These travels led to Don and Laura hosting many Swiss relatives and friends, a pastime they thoroughly enjoyed.

As Don's health deteriorated, they moved to Maida Vale Retirement Village, where Laura resided until her death. MD

Ein Appenzeller...

Ein Appenzeller namens Minder,
Der hatte schlecht erzogene Kinder,
Den Minder störte dies mitnichten.
Er sprach, der Lehrer soll es richten,
die Schule ist ja ganzheitlich,
sie darf nicht nur am Rand Zeit sich
für Anstand und Manieren lassen
und hat sozial sich anzupassen,
um jedem Kind vor allen Dingen
den guten Anstand beizubringen.
Trotz allem blieb im Anstandsfach
der Minder-Kinder Leistung schwach,
und Minders unerzogene Flegel
belasteten den Nervenpegel
des Lehrers hart bis an den Rand,
jedoch der Vater Minder fand,
das sei wohl besser als zu schwänzen
und setzte auch dem Lehrer Grenzen,
und wenn noch Anstandslücken blieben,
so schicke man in Top-Betrieben
das Kader heut zu Seminaren
für Anstand und Sozialgebaren.
Man lerne dort das Partyleben,
und sich vom Tische zu erheben,
wenn eine Dame einmal müsse,
wie man die Hand von Frauen küsse,
zu gähnen mit geschlossenem Mund,
und in gepflegter Tafelrunde
das Nasengrübeln zu vermeiden,
sich nadelstreifenschwarz zu kleiden,
die Hände aus dem Sack zu lassen,
das Fräulein nicht am Po zu fassen,
und was man so das Kader lehrt,
den Minders blieb all dies verwehrt,
sie kamen zu des Vaters Hader
nicht bis hinauf ins Firmenkader,
und zwar trotz Low-und Hightech-Stärke
ausschliesslich wegen dem Vermerke
im Personalabteilungs-Bogen:
„Schlecht erzogen“.

Contributed by Edith Hess –
Poem by Eugen Auer from his book
„Ein Appenzeller namens...“