

DESERT STEINERS' SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Desert Steiners, held on 9th April, was hosted by Spencer and Peggy Wessling at the Monte Vista Park in Mesa, Arizona. The members began gathering around 11:00A and soon filled a table with steins for the regular "show and tell" that would follow later in the afternoon.



Around noon, it was time to enjoy a terrific spread consisting of ham, beans, potato salads, a sauerkraut casserole and a large assortment of desserts. After lunch, a friend of the Wessling's, Martha Rumann, talked about living in Germany during the last years of World War II. It was a most interesting talk that was very well received by the Steiners.



This was followed by a business meeting, during which the subject of S.C.I. was again discussed. Joe Heater was selected to be our delegate to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. The members again addressed the issue of S.C.I. Conventions. It was unanimously decided to have our representatives at the annual meeting, vote against consideration of a convention in Vienna, Austria due to the expense associated with such a convention and the expected limited attendance. Also, Desert Steiners unanimously decided to have our representatives at the annual meeting support an effort to discontinue future S.C.I. National Conventions in favor of several

mini-conventions to be held around the country. The Desert Steiners believe national and international conventions are way too expensive, especially for younger prospective members that S.C.I. is trying to attract.



After the business meeting, Spencer Wessling showed three regimental beer steins that he had recently added to his collection. This was followed by Ron Heiligenstein who talked about helmet finials on regimental steins, showing four examples from his collection. Finally, Leon

Wood had several steins to show from his collection and sought help to identify some scenes on two of those he brought.

Next October the meeting will be in Tucson at the recently completed home of Joe and Sandra Heater. Joe's outstanding collection of over 300 Mettlach and character steins will be displayed in a new room that was designed just for that purpose. This meeting will be a special event- something members and guests will not want to miss. The specific date of the October meeting will be made available shortly.

Ron Heiligenstein
Chapter Reporter