

# S.C.I. GAZETTE

Saturday, September 26, 2015

## Extra Extra Extra

Last night the underworld was set on its ear with the outbreak of violence at the Embassy Suites in Florida. The mob convention brought out the worst it had to offer.

There were characters coming out of the woodwork that have not been seen in public for over a year.

It seemed the town was completely taken over by hoods and hussies.

Everything from the kingpins of crime to the lowest of crime life came together to strut through the streets of Kissimmee while the law just turned their back.

While this reporter was terrorized by the local enforcers I stood my ground and filed this report.



# S.C.I. GAZETTE

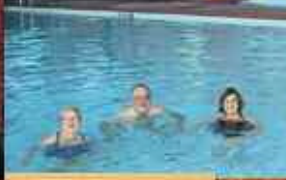
Sunday, September 27, 2015

## SPECIAL EDITION

This is a special report for the Gazette. This reporter was selected to represent the Gazette on the maiden voyage of the RMS TITANIC. As you can see from the photographs the passenger list was made up from a wide cross-section of the population, from the top of the upper class to the folks you just weren't sure about. This article will be submitted as soon as we reach the port of *(To be resumed, they are sounding some sort of silly alarm bells)*







## Stein Collectors International 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Orlando, FL

By Carolyn Estep

Wow, what another great convention SCI had in Orlando, FL. Sue Fox did one fantastic job! Three years in a row Sue provided SCI members with fun-filled stein events. The Embassy Suites have provided us with a great place for our conventions for three years: nice two room suites, made to order breakfasts, snacks & beverage receptions.

We arrived on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, to open registration early. But some of our members arrived on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. A number of them went to Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, etc. So much to do in that area.

Tours started on Wednesday. A bus went to Kennedy Space Center for the day, while another group made their way to The Holy Land.

On Thursday, we had a great commercial auction by Ron Fox. I had the pleasure of working with Sue Fox again with Sue's lovely daughter, Kelly from CA. Last year was my first time helping with the commercial auction and I enjoyed it so much that I had looked forward to being involved again this year. There were a lot of happy bidders after the auction was over.

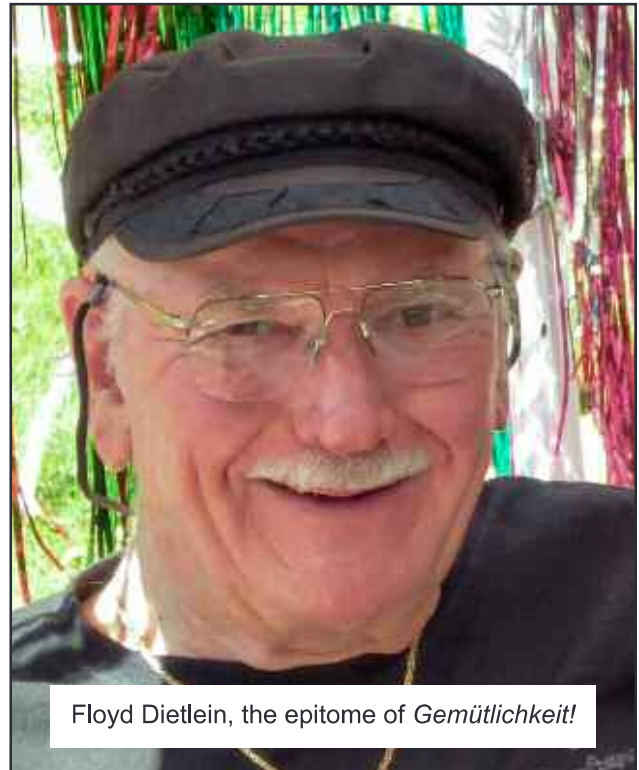
### Friday

The convention started on Friday, with Executive Board members giving their reports. We all owe these volunteers a huge "Thank you" for working on our behalf all year long, not just at the annual convention. Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our conventions. Let's make it a great year!

Presiding over the 2015 convention was "Miss Beer Stein", Charlotte (Skip) DeMars. She received a beautiful crown made from beer cans by Claire Hill. Claire has been making these beautiful crowns for SCI for many, many, many years. The Jack Lowenstein Editor's Award went to Joe Christensen for his article in Prosit; the Master Steinologist Award went to Bill Hamer; and the Jack Heimann Service Award went to Carolyn Estep (blush!). What a nice surprise and honor to receive this special award. Thanks to all who made this possible.

The multi-talented Claire Hill also makes our awards every year for us. Just look at the pictures of the awards and you can see all the thought, time and talent she puts into each one. (See the framed award certificates at the center of the preceding pages.) She makes them very special for each recipient of each award. Again, Claire has been making these for SCI for many, many years. A BIG THANK YOU TO HER!

Among the first-timers at this year's convention were Jackie Dietlein's family. The *Gemütlichkeit* Award was renamed this year to the "Floyd Dietlein *Gemütlichkeit* Award" in memory of Jackie's husband Floyd, who never met a stein collector he didn't enjoy spending time with. He is sorely missed.



Floyd Dietlein, the epitome of *Gemütlichkeit!*

Next our main-tent speaker Albert Nemeth spoke on Salzburg Austrian Faience. This presentation was recorded by SCI Librarian, Lyn Ayers, and a DVD will be available from him.

Following a delicious buffet lunch we had two speakers. John Lamb spoke on a variety of his collecting interests, and Sigi Schaich told us about his Regimental Stein Book. Albert Nemeth served as translator. Regimental collectors will definitely want to acquire this book.

Next the members stein sales room opened. Yes, another chance to get a few more steins. There was a great group of sellers and some really nice steins and go-with's for sale.

We also had the traditional afternoon tea. Among the 20 people attending we had 19 beautiful ladies and one handsome gentleman. Everyone enjoyed the tea and food. Extra food was sent to the people in the stein sales room.

That night we boarded buses and went to Capone's for a Gangster Dinner Show. Most of us dressed in our flapper outfits and gangster clothes. What a great looking group we had. The show was outstanding, the drinks and food put a smile on everyone's face.

### Saturday

On Saturday, between 7:00 am – 8:00 am Joann Ellis conducted water aerobics in the hotel pool for any attendees who were early risers. After our hotel breakfast the stein sales room opened again one more time. We then loaded on the buses to go to the Sweet Tomatoes International Restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we boarded the buses again to go to the Morse Tiffany Museum. The items in the museum are ex-



The Morse Museum in Winter Park, FL, contains exceptional examples of the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

ceptional and priceless. If you get a chance to be in this area make this a must see place to visit.

After we returned to the hotel it was time to get ready for the First Timers Meet & Greet Social. This is a time at every SCI Convention that first timers get to meet the SCI officers and convention committee. This year we had 14 new members although not all of them were able to attend.

**Sunday**

Sunday, between 7:00 am – 8:00 am Joann Ellis did water aerobics in the hotel pool again for those early risers. This is the last day of our convention. More steins for sale at the members auction. Ron Fox was again our fantastic auctioneer. He really outdid himself this year and provided us with the best entertainment we have seen at a members auction. Many happy buyers left with nice steins at great prices.

After the auction there was a session where members could ask the Executive Board members questions. This went well and left many members with a better feeling of issues to take back to their chapters.

Next back to the buses to ride to the Titanic Experience. When we arrived we were each given a White Star Line Boarding Pass which listed a person who was on the Titanic. I was Miss Berthe Mayné, a 24 year old first class passenger from Brussels, Belgium, accompanied by Mr. Quigg Baxter. Berthe had met Quigg just a few weeks before sailing on the Titanic. Quigg fell in love with Berthe and convinced her to travel to Canada with him where he promised to marry her.

We went through part of the museum to reach the dining room. We had an awesome meal and the Captain and his crew entertained us almost the entire time. There were a few presentations by Fred Ellis: Suzanne Elliott received the Floyd Dietlein *Gemütlichkeit* Award; Bruce Burner received a plaque in appreciation of his service, although his term continues as CFO until all necessary Federal paperwork is complete; Ron Fox received a plaque in appreciation for dedicating so many years of his time and talents to Prosit; Sue Fox received a plaque in appreciation for her dedicated time and talents as 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Conventions. Thank you to these SCI officers, what great jobs you have done.

The Titanic crew continued to entertain us as we went through more of the museum. After dinner we took place in a reenactment of the minutes and hours following the collision with



Above, the boarding pass for Miss Berthe Mayné provided a thumbnail biography. Below, passengers on that fateful journey gather for a photo on the Grand Staircase.



an iceberg, when it was realized that the “unsinkable” ocean liner was actually sinking. In the last room we found a memorial to the passengers and crew who were on that fateful voyage. Their names are all engraved on glass panels. One of the staff was able to tell us the fate of our alter ego, and what happened to that person later, if in fact they survived. As Berthe Mayné, I did survive and went to New York where I opened a very successful brothel and did quite well. Don’t know what happened to Quigg Baxter, the dear boy!!!

Back on the bus to the hotel. Now all that’s left is packing to leave our friends until next year.

Unfortunately, we did have to leave behind two friends from Pennsylvania, Chuck and Michelle Keiser. Michelle wound up in the hospital on Sunday diagnosed with a ruptured appendix. Following surgery she remained in the hospital until Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. and was not allowed to fly back to PA until Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Not the way she or Chuck wanted to see Florida. For the next convention she said she is going to find the location of the closest hospital first. Hope that does not happen again to any of our members.

If you missed the convention this year, all of us hope you can join us next year.

