



The youth hostel in Beerfelden was official headquarters for the weeklong conference. (Photos by Klinger, Sandbach)



Conferees go to Castle Kraehberg for informal reception given in their honor by the Count of Erbach-Fuerstenau.

Youth for International Union

By **ROBERT L. OUVERSON**

US Resident Officer, Erbach, Hesse

WHEN KARL MAYER, youth leader in Erbach county, Hesse, and members of the county's youth committee attended the opening session of the international Lorelei Youth Camp* near the Rhine town of St. Goarshausen, they were so impressed that they decided to "bring the mountain to Mahomet" and stage a similar program in their own bailiwick.

Word was spread around the Lorelei that any campers there would be welcome in Erbach county after the big international session was over. A total of 23 youth from 18 to 25 years of age — Belgian, Dutch, French and Italian — accepted. The foreign young people and their German hosts lived together for a week at the Beerfelden youth hostel, where they plunged into all kinds of discussions covering such controversial matters as German forces in a European army, the fight against

* See "Famed Lorelei Beckons Youth" in Information Bulletin, September 1951.

Young people at international youth meeting in Erbach county, Hesse, visit tire factory in neighboring Sandbach.



Communism, common youth problems, how to go about the work of promoting European unity and numerous other questions of today.

Excursions to nearby castles, a day's trip to Heidelberg, an informal meeting with the US resident officer and his wife, and a reception by state and county officials provided a lighter side to the program.

The entire project was planned, financed and carried out by the German youth themselves, without financial assistance from HICOG, and although the resident officer was an observer, there was no US participation either from a promotional or financial angle.

Participants and the local adult population as well were enthusiastic in their praise of this type of gathering as a convincing demonstration to small communities that Europeans can work and play together successfully. Plans are now being made for an international meeting in Erbach again next summer, and for a two-week session in France which youth from Erbach will attend. +END

Among highlights was visit to farming community of Airlenbach. At left, Karl-Heinz Mayer, who planned meet.

