

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2 WINTER 1987

What Next, NIA Members?

The year of 1987 must truly stand out as one of the most significant in the history of the hobby for a number of reasons:

1. New NIA Logo. After much discussion and work the newly designed NIA logo has finally found its way to new decals, patches and name tags with other items under consideration. Finally we have a way to communicate to others what we are really about. As an insulator collector you should be anxious to display these items to advertise to others the hobby which you enjoy.

2. Growth of "Crown Jewels". Thanks to the tireless efforts of Carol McDougald and husband John, "Crown Jewels of the Wire" magazine has grown in popularity and circulation and has offered more features to collectors than ever before.

3. Quality of Shows. A large number of great shows were held throughout the year and all over the country. Attendance is high and interest is returning to levels seen only in the early days of the hobby.

4. Improvement in NIA management. Through the insight and leadership of President Kevin Lawless, the NIA has developed a more professional attitude including the development of a 5 year budget and the setting of some objectives for the current term to try to improve the overall quality of and participation in the insulator collecting hobby.
(continued)

(from page 1)

So, what is next in our hobby ? What can we look forward to in 1988 ?
If you review the achievements of the past year, there is one common denominator....the work of people who love this hobby. None of the aforementioned achievements would have been possible without the effort and sacrifice of a relatively small percentage of the NIA membership. With much more to do, and with two important NIA offices up for grabs next spring, it is time for each and every member of the NIA to start asking themselves, "What can I do to make the hobby I love better for me and for others ?" Be a giver to the hobby in 1988, not just a taker.

In each issue of Drip Points there are many requests from different members of the Board of Directors for people to get involved. From sponsoring/attending a show to running for office to simply writing a short story about experiences you've had discovering insulators, there is always a need for workers.....the successes of the past year are not accidental nor are they automatic. Why don't you make an effort to contribute to the insulator hobby in some way in 1988 to make it as great as 1987 ? All of those in the hobby will appreciate it.



ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

**Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you quite content that your name is on the list?**

**Do you attend the shows, and mingle with the flock?
Or do you meet in private to criticize and knock?**

**Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind who just belongs?**

**Do you help the show hosts, to do this is no trick?
Or do you leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?**

**Please come to the shows and meets and help with hand & heart,
Don't be just a member but take an active part.**

**Think this over, members, you know what's right from wrong,
Are you an Active Member, or do you just belong?**

(Adapted from unknown author)

"MESSAGES"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow NIA members,

It is very satisfying to see the number of new collectors (and re-interested "closet" collectors) who have been popping up at shows throughout the country. Every time I talk to someone from another geographic region, I hear the same thing: lots of traffic, lots of sales, lots of interest in the hobby. I have also been hearing another popular comment: "Nothing good for sale." This may be looked at in one of two ways. Either the "quality" merchandise is selling too fast (and maybe too inexpensively) or there are more finicky collectors around who won't settle for anything less than "Number A-1 Grade." I think a little of both has contributed but certainly foreign insulators, commemoratives and porcelain have become much more popular recently as a result of the escalating price of glass.

Over the past 15 months since I became NIA President, Mike Bruner has acted as Membership Committee Chairman. This was partly because I resurrected the position with rather short notice and because no one "jumped up" to take the job. John deSousa has agreed to take on the responsibilities of Membership Committee Chairman and I re-welcome him to the NIA staff... re-welcome because John was Eastern Region Vice-President from 1980-1986. John is very familiar with the NIA and its procedures and I hope we can come up with some new wrinkles to expand our membership. If you have any suggestions for the NIA regarding membership or would like to work at recruiting new and (former!) members, John and I would be pleased to hear from you. Thanks to Mike Bruner for his participation.

There has been some confusion about the new NIA window decals. This year was the first we had our newly redesigned decals. Each voting member of the NIA is entitled to one decal free of charge as part of the membership packet. After this year, each NEW voting member will receive a free decal. That is why we are selling additional decals for \$1.00 each. If you did not receive a decal with your 1987-88 NIA membership renewal, you are entitled to one. Send a self addressed stamped envelope to

John deSousa and he will be happy to see that you get one.
Canadian members send 25¢ and the envelope but no stamp.

Jackie Linscott, our new Director of Product Marketing, is the contact for official NIA embroidered patches, window decals, and name badges. See the back of this month's Drip Points for prices and ordering information. All these items are very attractive, make nice gifts, AND promote both the hobby and the NIA.

As this is my last message for 1987 I want to wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous 1988. I'LL SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE AND HOUSTON!

Good collecting!



Kevin Lawless, NIA # 1679



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

As Christmas is just around the corner, I would like to wish all of you a happy, safe holiday and the very best in the new year. This past year has been a very successful one within the insulator hobby and based on the number of both small and large shows, a renewal is certainly taking place. This can, in part, be attributed to insulator collectors coordinating shows in their areas and supporting shows whenever they can.

Many of you have thought about holding an insulator show at some time in the past. Well, why not really try and start planning one now ? The NIA will be pleased to help you in any way possible, just ask.



Eric Halpin, NIA #2768

**FROM THE WESTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT:
GREETINGS TO ALL!**

The first official act of my tenure as the Western Region Vice-President is an easy and joyous, although belated one: Thank you, Mike and Becky Guthrie, for hosting such a great N.I.A. Convention for our Western Region! Your careful planning and hard work produced the kind of show that made it easy for all of us to carry home the right kind of vibes to make this hobby zing along for years to come. Thank you again!

And now, Members of the Western Region, let me hear from you. I need to know about your clubs, your shows, your finds, your good thoughts and your problems. Please let me know what is going on in your area, so I can truly represent you.

In my own back yard I can report that the Nor-Cal Insulator Club's Show and Sale was held August 1st. What excitement there was when a woman walked in (a stranger to all of us) with a paper bag of goodies that she and her former husband had collected. The insulators that she was offering for sale were a C.D. 190/191 California, an aqua E.C.& M. Co. and a C.D. 130 Cal. Elec. Works. These were scooped up by Pat Patocka and Chuck Irwin. She also had a C.D. 201 California which was not for sale. She was aware of the value of the insulators and is still interested in collecting, so she is now a member of our Nor-Cal Insulator Club !

The Western Telegraph Research Association members are taking advantage of the good weather by participating in a series of outings in the Sierras. On the Gregory (C.D. 159) Dig, Cliff Hamby found half of one which just happened to match a half that Ron Souza had previously found. Ron graciously gave Cliff his half! Other scheduled outings include searches for Cal. Elec. Works and E.C.& M.'s

Please keep in mind that in three short years the West will host the national convention again, and it is none too early for the movers and shakers in our midst to start thinking along those lines.

Whether you are movin' and shakin' or just plain collectin', I'd like to hear from you!

Shirley Patocka

FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Hello to all NIA members!

As we approach the end of 1987, many of you are already thinking about your New Year's Resolutions, right? How about doing something different for 1988? Forget about the ordinary, mundane promises such as: "I resolve to quit smoking" or "To lose 20 pounds" or "To quit kicking my dog."

Let's do something original this year, such as: "I resolve to acquire my #1 insulator want. To attain this goal, I will:

- ± Actively write letters to other collectors and dealers
- ± Run a classified want ad in "Crown Jewels" magazine
- ± Attend at least two organized swap meets or insulator shows
- ± Sell a choice insulator to a fellow collector actively seeking it, and reinvest the sales proceeds into your number one priority"

I can foresee bigger and better things occurring in 1988 in this expanding hobby, and you should resolve now to get involved in it.

My very best to each and every one of you,



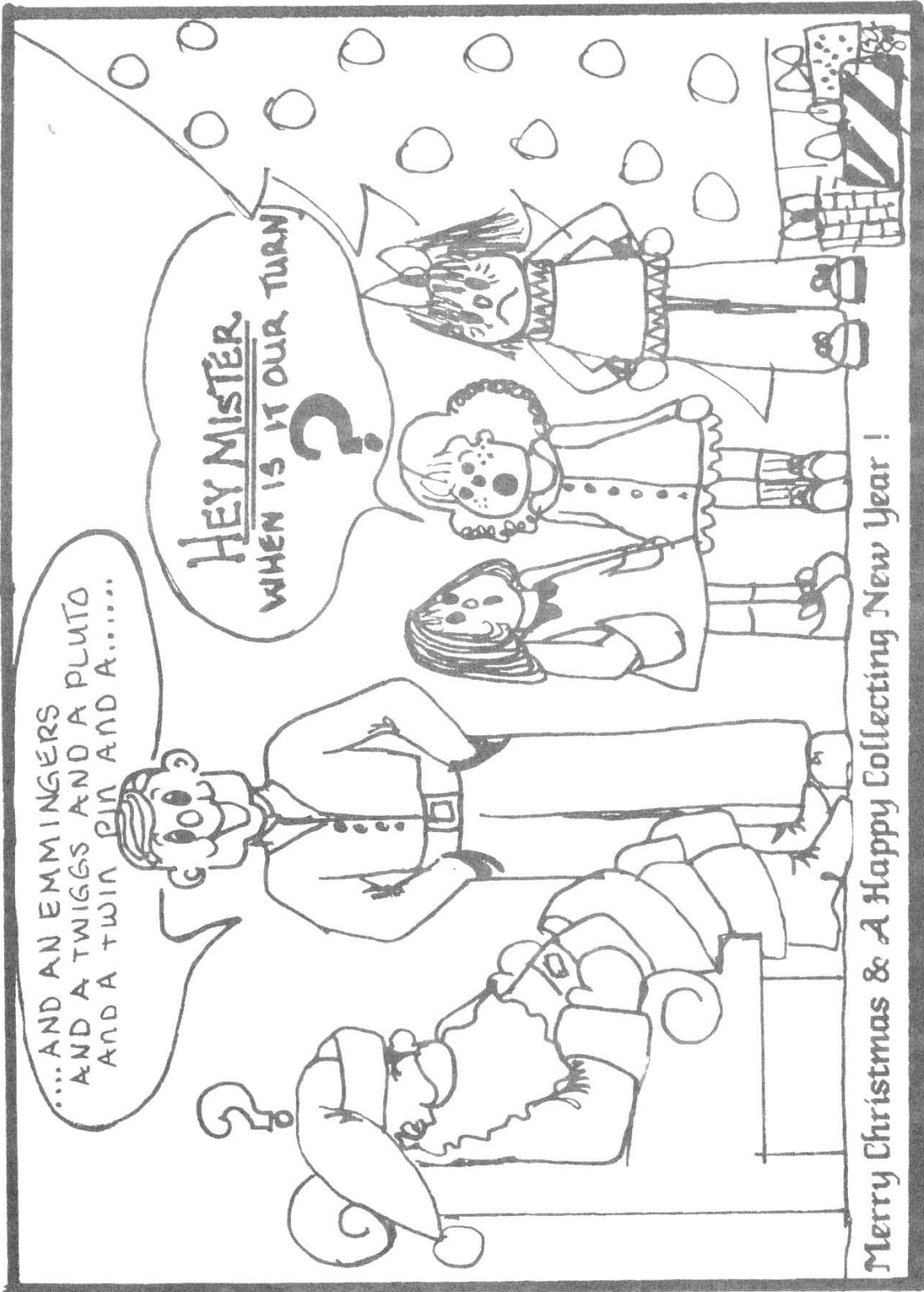
FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

I haven't heard from anyone interested in running for either NIA President or Central Region Vice-President. If you're interested in knowing the duties of these positions or in any other details of running for NIA office simply call or write.

Office holders in the NIA are an important element in the future of our hobby. Please consider participation as a member of the Board of Directors of your Association by running for office. We need to know of your intent within the next quarter so don't delay!



Russ Hughes
2560 S. Vrain St.
Denver, Co 80219



Merry Christmas & A Happy Collecting New Year !

"DISCOVERIES"

INTRODUCTION: This contribution to "Discoveries" was submitted by a new collector, Dan Kelly, of Smithton, Ill. Dan has been collecting insulators a short time having switched from bottles after being introduced to the hobby by C.J.'s Ma Bell Editor, Vic Sumner. His ambition and enthusiasm are an example to others and he provides proof that there are still good insulators to be found, the limits are only one's own level of effort. I hope that you "veteran s" of the hobby take the lead of this new collector and document your wonderful experiences so that we may continue this column in future editions, of "Drip Points"....Editor.

Here in Illinois & neighboring Missouri it seems that the few remaining open wire telephone lines are coming down all too quickly. Working fast (every weekend) my son Seth & I go "insulator hunting." Seth is four years old and gets a big kick out of it and is building a collection of his own. Our travels have taken us to Springfield, Illinois and Stanton, Mo., and all points between. With as many lines as are coming down, I realize that all too soon they will be gone. Our finds have been relatively common but the common insulators get me just as excited as a rare one if it's one I don't have yet. So far we have found several CD 145 H.G. Petticoats, many 151's, 214's, 147's, 233's, 252's etc.

One Sunday in late September I went to a line coming down in the "general vicinity" of Springfield, Illinois. After what seemed like endless walking, I turned up a some nice CD 151 H.G.'s and Brookie's', 147's, some 162's and a few CD 145 Hemingrays and Olive Green Stars (Stars are not very common in these parts). My 16 foot aluminum ladder (my means of "climbing") was getting so heavy I thought my arm was going to fall off but I was determined that I wasn't going to travel this far from home (approx. 110 miles) without finding something good. When I was just about to give up I spotted from a short distance something different than what had graced the poles for the last miles. As I got closer my heart began pounding. It was like a CD 147 but different. I got my binoculars out and confirmed my suspicions..it was a CD 150!! As I climbed to pole and reached the treasure it was found to

be embossed "Brookfield" and my 'find' for the weekend was now a reality.

In my travels every insulator I have found has been special to me, especially the different CD 145's but the Brookfield 150 is the best yet. Needless to say, the hunt goes on !!!!!!!



1988 NIA NATIONAL & REGIONAL SHOWS

Please note the following 1988 dates for NIA sanctioned regional and national shows:

MARCH 26 & 27 EASTERN REGIONAL SHOW

NASHVILLE, TN. Hosted by Sally and Cordell Smith, Jr.

APRIL 30 & MAY 1 WESTERN REGIONAL SHOW

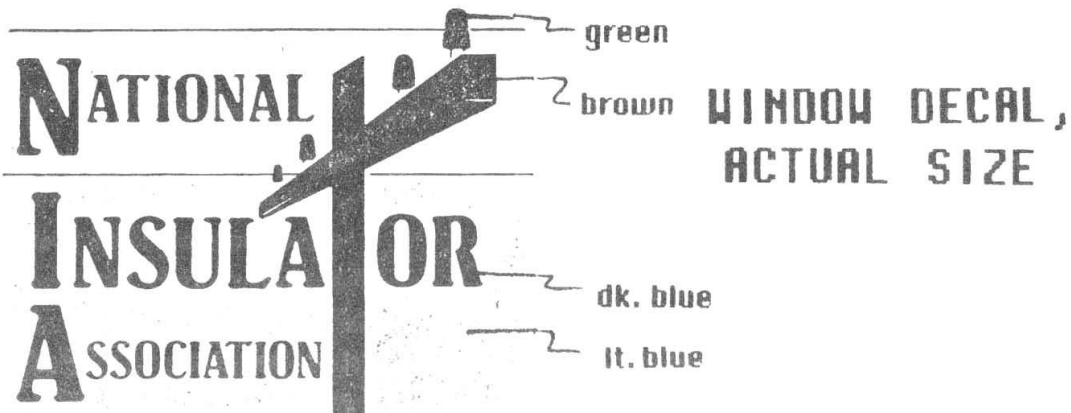
ENUMCLAW, WA. Hosted by Vi and Andy Brown.

JULY 22, 23 & 24 CENTRAL REGION NATIONAL SHOW

HOUSTON, TX. Hosted by Marilyn Albers, John Hall, and Elton Gish

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND ONE OR MORE OF THESE GREAT EVENTS!

NEW NIA PATCHES & DECALS



EMBROIDERED PATCH, ACTUAL SIZE

A sample of the NIA name tags will be included in the next Drip Points.

To order a decal (\$1.00) or patch (\$3.50) send your remittance with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the NIA Director of Marketing:

Jackie Linscott
3557 Nicklaus Dr.
Titusville, FL 32780

AT YOUR SERVICE.....

You have probably seen the below list in many past issues of Drip Points. You may have wondered why we bother to print this list. It is not done to feed the egos of members of the Board of Directors...the real purpose of the listing is to provide you with a resource through which you can express your concerns about the hobby, discuss ethical issues, get answers to questions about insulator collecting, etc., etc., etc. Members of the Board are here to help you get the most out of the insulator collecting hobby....we are AT YOUR SERVICE....use us!!!!!!!

1987-88 NIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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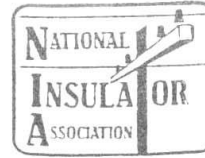
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Michael Bruner, First Past President (313) 661-2359
6980 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, Mi 48033

Marilyn Albers, Second Past President (713) 497-4146
14715 Oak Bend Dr., Houston, Tx 77079



N.I.A. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



The fiscal year for membership dues starts Apr. 1 and ends Mar. 31.
The current dues amounts for various membership classes are.

- \$8.00 Adult (Regular individual membership)
- \$8.00 Family (This type of membership is for one voting adult and other family members at the same address. Enclose an additional \$1.00 for each family member who wishes voting privileges.)
- \$4.00 Junior (Under 18 years of age)

Make checks payable to "National Insulator Association" and send to: N.I.A. c/o 2615 Echo Lane, Ortonville, MI 48462.

Each member who is not a subscriber to the magazine "Crown Jewels of the Wire" will receive a copy of the October issue which is the subscriber directory of the names and addresses of all NIA members. Each member household will receive, as part of their membership, a coupon good for \$2.00 off the regular subscription price of "Crown Jewels" magazine.

New members, upon payment of dues, are immediately entitled to all membership privileges. Members receive all NIA mailings including the quarterly newsletter, membership directory, and membership handbook. Family members do not receive duplicates of these items at the same address but will receive individual membership cards.

Current membership entitles the member to display and/or purchase a sales table at NIA National Conventions and permits admittance to the show on the first day of the National, which is limited to NIA members.

I (we) apply for (___) New (___) Renewal Memberships in the National Insulator Association.

_____			_____
NAME			NIA #
_____			_____
STREET			PHONE
_____	_____	_____	_____
CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE

Include names and NIA #'s of all family members.