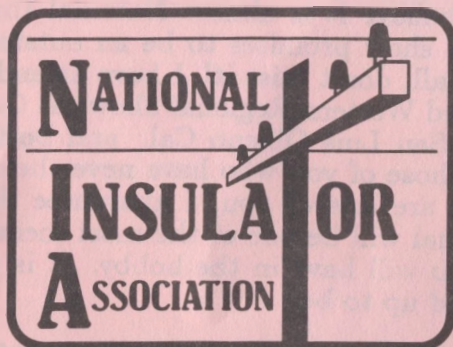


DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 16 NUMBER 4 SUMMER 1989

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Your NIA Memberships!
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"MESSAGES"

• FROM THE PRESIDENT

Newsbriefs from the NIA,

Can you believe it is almost National time already!? This years show promises to be an outstanding experience for all, don't miss it! I have attended both the Central and Western Regional Shows at Cedar Rapids, Iowa and San Luis Obispo Cal. and both were great fun. For those of you who have never been to a show, and there are lots of you, I guarantee that going to the National will be one of the most memorable experiences you will have in the hobby. It is definitely all it's cracked up to be.

I am happy to report that an article on fake and altered insulators has recently been printed in the following antique journals:

Collectors News & The Antique Reporter
Antique Week
The Antique Trader
The American Collector's Journal

The NIA would like to thank the above for their support of our hobby and its integrity!

It is with great sadness that we continue to hear of the passing of many long time NIA members and friends. We wish the families of all of our departed collector friends our condolences.

I don't know if there is any connection between these losses and my recent actions but after over a year of sitting on my desk I finally had my will executed by my attorney. One of the major questions which came up was what to do with my nearly 10,000 insulators when I pass on? (sometime about the year 2050 in case you had your eyes on something!!!!) I instructed my wife

on how to sell my collection and made special provision that 10% of the proceeds of the sale be donated to the NIA. Some may say that this is crazy but let's look at the scenario.... Of the many activities I have indulged in over 38 plus years, I have gained more satisfaction, had more fun, and met more friends through the insulator collecting hobby than anything else. As a result of what the hobby has given me, I want to do something to help collectors in the future enjoy the hobby which has given so much joy. I can think of no better way than to help the NIA prosper, thus the donation of my time and energy now and some bucks later. A small return for so much pleasure. Anyone else out there agree? Any donation to the NIA in any form would be one of the best possible ways to return your appreciation for the hobby. Something to think about.....

I've heard a lot of reports lately of collectors all over the country out shaking the bushes for old collectors, collections, and abandoned treasures and you know what ????? Its working !!!!! There's quite a bit of new material in circulation and those who have spent the effort have been well rewarded. Keep it up ya'all!

Well, 'nuff for now...hope to see you at Allentown or on the way to and from. Please plan to attend the NIA annual business meeting on Friday night of the National and see what's in store for the next year.

Until next time....

Mike Guthrie

"NIA REPORT CARD"

During the past membership year your dues have contributed to the following activities in support of the hobby. we thought you might like to know how your dues are used and what the NIA does for its membership.

- **Show Promotion:** The NIA provided several hundred dollars in advertising subsidies to help advertise and promote the regional and national shows. If you attended one of these shows last year, you shared an exciting experience.
- **Awards:** The NIA provided many plaques and ribbons for local, regional and national shows to encourage collectors to display their treasures. This feature of a show is a unique opportunity for collectors to see the best items from others' collections which they would never see otherwise.
- **Position Paper:** The NIA published a position paper on fake and altered insulators to help collectors recognize such items rather than to purchase them with the belief that they are authentic. Articles and photos on the subject of fake and altered insulators have been sent to 10 national antique publications for the purpose of educating the collecting public at large on the subject.
- **Member Service:** The NIA has intervened on behalf of many collectors who had problems with business dealings with other collectors. Nearly all such cases were successfully resolved.
- **International Promotion:** The NIA has provided extensive historical data and photographs (courtesy of Crown Jewels) for an extensive article recently published in a prominent German collectors magazine. This promotion of the hobby in a previously untapped part

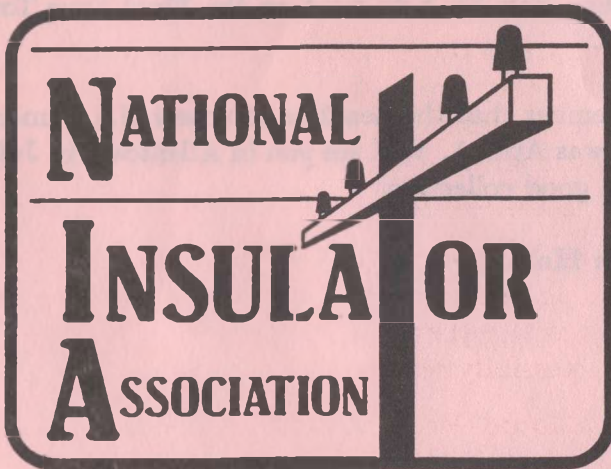
of the world could prove to be one of the most significant expansions of the hobby in our history.

- **Coming Attractions:** In the next year we will be working on:
 - The creation of a Show Host's Handbook
 - The issuance of 10 and 15 year NIA membership badges
 - Development of Multiple year NIA memberships
 - Continued promotion of our hobby worldwide

Your dues and support make all of this possible, thank you on behalf of the hobby and the entire Board of Directors!

Mike Guthrie
NIA President, 1988-90

P.S. Have all of you renewed your NIA membership yet ?????



• **FROM THE CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT**

(See special "Discoveries" article by John Hall)

This is a good opportunity to thank Larry and Pat Whitlock for hosting the Central Regional Show held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 11 & 12. The show was a huge success, thanks to the dedication of the host and hostess.

Many rare insulators found new homes. A CD 176 Mushroom went home with Butch Haltman. Several beautiful green CD 140 Jumbo's went with Dan Wagner. CD 133 Dec. patent in a beautiful peacock went with Cecil Boos, and even a CD 790 teapot made its way into my collection. Mike Swanson brought to the show a CD 126 Brookfield in amber which is believed to be the only one known.

There was a good turnout, collectors came from as far as Canada, Alaska and the Gulf Coast.

By the way, next time you run into Larry Veneziano ask him how his bets went on the Final Four Tournament.

Remember that the deadline to renew N.I.A. membership was April 1. Will see you in Allentown in July, till then, good collecting.

John Hall

• **FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT**

(Jeff submitted this article by *Phoebe Adams* about the Central Florida Insulator Collectors Club)

*THE CENTRAL FLORIDA INSULATOR
COLLECTORS CLUB*

The Central Florida Insulator Collectors Club was founded in September, 1975 and has successfully continued its activities since that time.

The annual show and sale for this club is held at the Miracle City Mall in Titusville, Florida during the month of November. This year (1989) will be the twelfth annual show. The show attracts bottle and insulator dealers from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Alaska, and Canada. Many collectors from around the country are attracted to the show as this is the home of the Kennedy Space Center and the launch pad into outer space.

There are many club activities and projects that are a source of pride among club members such as: CFIC Newsnotes, a monthly newsletter written, edited, produced and distributed by Bob and Phoebe Adams of Miami. This publication contains show calendars and information, birthdays, want ads, meeting reports, borrowed articles from other sources and miscellaneous articles of interest to the 123 members.

Another project is the presentation of an annual award to the best first-time displayer at a National Show.

Community services, such as Project Graduation, receive financial support from the club and, of course, the Sunshine Fund for all members and their families.

One of the best liked activities and most popular is

the outing in Deland, Florida at the home of Bill and Jo Dreggors. This great get-together is held on the Saturday evening of the M-T Bottle Club Show and Sale in March. The menu at this dinner meeting includes venison, smoked steamboat round, as prepared by master chef Bill, and Jo's famous rice dressing, plus all of the goodies brought in by club members. The usual attendance at this club meeting is around 30 to 40 enthusiastic members who thoroughly enjoy the food, fellowship and fun. Election of officers is held at this meeting, although we have had the same officers for over ten years!!!

The club membership began with insulator collectors from around the state of Florida and has spread to *fifteen* states, Canada, and the United States Coast Guard.

Club officers are Chuck Haymond, President; Sis (Sylvia) Haymond, Treasurer; Bob Adams, Secretary; Phoebe Adams, Newsletter; and Len and Jackie Linscott, Show Chairpersons.

Further information about the club may be obtained by writing to: CFIC Newsnotes, 707 N. E. 113th Street, Miami, FL 33161.

(Thank you Phoebe for sharing this great write-up about your club!)

Jeff McCurty

• FROM THE 1ST PAST PRESIDENT

"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

It's easy to dismiss the notion that the hobby has "hit its peak". Prices are high, shows are pretty successful, there are more collectors and interest in insulators and lightning rod equipment than ever before. There is a definite change in our hobby's scope. No longer is it a pure "hobby". It is now being infiltrated by - GASP! - investors!

Just as coins and stamps and baseball cards and comic books are hoarded by speculators, so are insulators. On the surface, it would seem that the "greedy dealers" (of which I am a member) are profiting the most - after all, they are the ones who buy low and sell higher and higher and the "poor collector" is left holding the empty wallet. Do you know what? The same argument has been presented since the hobby's inception - in fact, since the dawn of mankind's invention of the barter system of trade!

The fact is that the collectors (yes, I'm one of those, too!) have been the ones who have benefitted MOST by the addition of investors in our hobby. On paper, all of our collections have escalated to the point where they are worth more by TODAY'S dollar than they were when they were acquired. Ten years ago, you would be hard-pressed to find ANY insulator which would hold its value over a period of several years.

I took 15 years to drive the retail value of a cobalt blue Hemingray-19 from \$25 to \$100. \$100 seems like a lot of money for such a piece, especially to the collectors who remember paying \$25 for them in 1974, but if the average inflation rate over those 15 years was 10% (and the 1970's was absolutely RIFE with double-digit

inflation), then your \$25 (1974 dollars) would be worth a little more than \$104 now. I'm not suggesting that our overall inflation rates average that high, but use it as an example of the change in monetary value. I'm sure you wouldn't expect to pay \$6 a night at a Motel 6 anymore, or \$4,000 for a new Chevy Caprice, either. What I am saying is that insulators have finally caught up with other market values!

It would be foolish of me to suggest that all is well with the hobby with the new phenomena of "insulator price inflation". Unfortunately, with high prices comes more jealousy, as bigger egos clash with bigger pocket-books, both with collectors AND with dealers. This is to be expected. It does NOT mean that such pettiness should be tolerated, however, even when you or I are at fault!

Everyone has a particular niche in the hobby, some are a larger scope than others, whether due to income, time availability, or commitment and interest level. It is up to each individual to CHOOSE what level they participate in, but it is up to ALL OF US to encourage the individuals to expand their scope, whether it be with a new area of collection, working within a local club, hosting a show or swap meet, giving a civic presentation about our hobby or even working with the NIA.

In the overview of our hobby, there are better things still to come - more exciting new finds, new friends to meet, new shows to attend, new collections to see, more information to share. Regardless of the "subjective market values" of the insulators, there are always ways to increase your enjoyment of our hobby. That's where we go from here. See you in Allentown!

Good collecting,
Kevin Lawless NIA #1679

"DISCOVERIES"

• On The Trail with N.R. Woodward by John Hall

To me it's a great thrill to listen to Woody's (N.R. Woodward) account of his adventures in insulator collecting.

As a child he started collecting in Western Oregon, but in 1951 he started collecting seriously while living in San Antonio, Texas. He has walked hundreds of miles of railroad tracks in Texas. Many of the insulators which were quite common when he started collecting, are now considered rare. Possibly you may recognize the following lines that he has hunted.

The Old Postal Telegraph Line which ran from Seattle, Washington to Los Angeles, California was a collector's dream. Woody found that there were insulators made by many different manufacturers and different CD's. Some examples: CD 154 McLaughlin in emerald green, light green and various other shades; 154 Whitall Tatum No. 1 in purple; 154 Maydwell in straw and Lynchburg 44; CD 145 California and Postal in sea and purple; and CD 210 Postal in aqua; occasionally Denvers in all colors, and other goodies.

On another expedition, while on a passenger train from Chicago to St. Paul, Minnesota he noted some peacock insulators. He went back later to find the CD 151 N.A.T.Co. in the beautiful peacock blue. Most of these were along the Mississippi Rover on the border of Minnesota and Wisconsin. This R.R. track was the old Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Line, presently known as the Burlington Northern.

In Los Angeles on the L.A. transit line, Woody removed CD 263 Hemingray Columbia and CD 259 Oakman & Brookfields. He mentioned that truck loads of these

were removed and destroyed.

While living in Portland, Woody removed CD 289 Lockes, CD 283 Hemingray No. 1 Provo and V.G. Converse from the Portland General Electric Line all in Aqua.

In Cincinnati, Ohio he found the CD 269 Jumbo's and Oakman Manufacture Jumbo, in aqua and Lt. blue.

It would be impossible to list all the areas Woody has hunted. He even went as far as England to hunt. If you live in the vicinity of the above mentioned places, you might find a jewel, perhaps in a flea market, antique store or a farmer's old barn, being used as a door stop or paper weight.

NIA MEMBERSHIP ALERT

Over the past few months a number of incidents have been brought to the attention of the NIA involving Mr. Bob Crofts of Ford, KS. Mr. Crofts has ordered insulators from several other collectors and has either paid for the orders very slowly, failed to pay for them at all, or has written a check which was dishonored by his bank. Despite repeated attempts by the NIA to resolve the cases of non-payment, Mr. Crofts has not responded to correct the problems. The NIA provides this information to protect its members and friends from further losses caused by this individual.