

# *Drip Points*



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1 FALL 1991

In this issue of *DRIP POINTS*:

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As you can see, this edition of *Drip Points* is being sent under separate cover. *Drip Points* will no longer be included with *Crown Jewels* as it has in the past. With the new format, we can now include a larger number of letters and features in *Drip Points*. We encourage members of the NIA to use this forum to publish items of specific interest to members of the NIA.

Send them to:

*DRIP POINTS*  
2513 Flintridge Pl.  
Ft Collins, CO 80521

(Please send typewritten text, or a floppy disk. We'll return your disk promptly.)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Steve Watkins** - New Western Region VP
- 1992 Eastern National Hosts - **Len and Jacqueline Linscott**
- 1992 Western Regional Hosts - **Violet and Andy Brown**
- 1992 Central Regional Hosts - **Steve and Lois Blair**

## **From the President ... *Eric Halpin***

THE 22ND NATIONAL IS NOW HISTORY BUT CERTAINLY WON'T BE FORGOTTEN BY THOSE WHO ATTENDED. THE HOSTS CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PUTTING ON SUCH AN EVENT.

A FELLOW COLLECTOR SAID TO ME AWHILE BACK THAT ONE OF THE SEVERAL THINGS HE ENJOYED MOST ABOUT OUR HOBBY WAS THE SOCIAL INTERACTION THAT WE SEEM TO HAVE. ONE OF THE VERY BEST EXAMPLES OF THIS, WAS DEMONSTRATED AT THE NATIONAL BANQUET WITH OVER 170 PEOPLE JOINING IN SING-A-LONGS, SKITS, AND AN ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTFUL REMINISCING OF SOME OLD TIME INSULATOR COLLECTING STORIES. THANKS TO JERRY TURNER AND JOHN McDOUGALD FOR SHARING THOSE STORIES. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT AT ALL FUTURE BANQUETS, SUCH TALES OF THE EARLY DAYS IN THE HOBBY WILL BE REVEALED.

THE N.I.A. IS MOVING FORWARD WITH AN EXCITING LIST OF PROJECTS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE HOBBY. WE WILL DEFINITELY BE PURCHASING A NEW COMPUTER FOR THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR SO THE NEEDS AND RECORDS OF THE MEMBERSHIP CAN BE BETTER SERVICED. YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED, I HOPE, THAT THIS 'DRIP POINT' ISSUE COMES SEPARATELY AGAIN FROM 'CROWN JEWELS'. THIS CHANGE WILL ALLOW BOTH MAGAZINES TO EXPAND THEIR CONTENTS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND ENJOYMENT. JACQUELINE LINSOTT WILL BE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BOY/GIRL SCOUTS OF ADOPTING INSULATOR COLLECTING AS SOME FORM OF MERIT BADGE. THIS LATER SUBJECT COULD OPEN UP THE HOBBY TO LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG COLLECTORS. THE DEMAND FOR WHAT ARE PRESENTLY FAIRLY COMMON INSULATORS COULD BE ENORMOUS. IN MY BOOK THIS SCOUTING ISSUE IS OF TOP IMPORTANCE IF INSULATOR COLLECTING IS TO ENJOY LONG TERM SURVIVAL AND GROWTH. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, IS THAT THE NIA WILL BE ADVERTISING THE HOBBY IN A NUMBER OF NATIONAL ANTIQUE AND COLLECTOR MAGAZINES THIS YEAR. MORE DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS CAN BE GLEANED FROM THE PUBLISHED MINUTES IN THIS ISSUE AND FROM YOUR REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS.

SPEAKING OF VICE-PRESIDENTS, I WANT TO WELCOME ABOARD BOTH RICHARD BOWMAN AND MARILYN ALBERS WHO WILL BE REPRESENTING YOUR CONCERNS AND WANTS TO THE NIA BOARD. PLEASE MAKE A POINT OF CONTACTING THEM ON ANY MATTER OF INTEREST TO YOU. ALSO, FEEL FREE TO WRITE A 'LETTER TO THE EDITOR' OF THIS MAGAZINE ON ANY ISSUE OF INTEREST WITHIN OUR HOBBY. DON WILL TRY AND PUBLISH WHATEVER HE CAN FIT BETWEEN THE COVERS. THANKS TO JIMMY BURNS IN TEXAS FOR BRINGING THIS IDEA TO MY ATTENTION.

A NON COLLECTOR FRIEND OF MINE FROM SOUTHERN ONTARIO RECENTLY SENT ME A COPY OF THE 'ONTARIO FARMER', AN AGRICULTURAL MAGAZINE. FEATURED ON A LARGE, COLOR FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, WERE THREE VETERAN INSULATOR DIGGERS AND COLLECTORS, GORD, NORM AND WALLY BANKS. THEIR SMILES WERE ONLY SURPASSED BY THE ASSORTMENT OF SUPER THREADLESS ON DISPLAY. THE BANKS STILL HIT THE DITCHES SEARCHING AND FINDING THREADLESS AND EARLY THREADED INSULATORS. SO, FOR

YOU COLLECTORS THAT SAY ALL THE GOOD INSULATORS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOUND, YOU MIGHT RECONSIDER THAT IDEA. ONLY SOME OF THE EASY ONES HAVE BEEN FOUND AND REAL TREASURERS REMAIN HIDDEN ALL ACROSS THE CONTINENT. AN EXCITING, ENJOYABLE DAY OUTDOORS, AWAITS THOSE WILLING TO PUT OUT A LITTLE EFFORT. I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET THAT FIRST COLORFUL INSULATOR UNEARTHED.

ONE LAST COMMENT BEFORE I SIGN OFF. PLEASE MAKE A POINT OF SUPPORTING THE FOLKS THAT PUT ON INSULATOR AND COLLECTABLE SHOWS. THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE BY MAKING THE EFFORT AND GOING TO ANY SHOW THAT YOU REASONABLY CAN. COME AND GET A BUNCH OF FREE CAMARADERIE AND A FEW INSULATORS SOON.



**From the Executive Director**

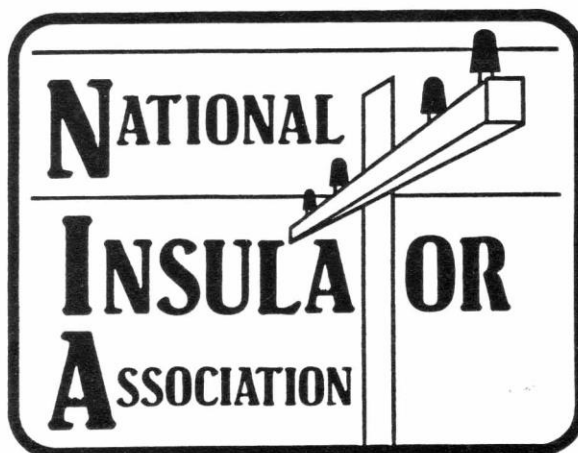
Cedar Rapids was a great National Show as I'm sure Orlando will be in June, 1992. Now is the time to be thinking seriously about submitting bids for the 1993 NIA Shows.

Bids are now being solicited for the 1993 Western National Show and Convention and for the 1993 Eastern and Central Regional Shows. Please write or call for bid packets or additional information.

**Attention Potential Western Hosts** - Please note that should a national bid not be received from the Western Region by January 1, 1992, the NIA may then open bidding to all regions for the 1993 National Show and Convention.



Bernie Warren NIA #1828



FROM THE WESTERN REGION V.P.

To Drip Points,

As the show host for Portland '91, I want to again express my thanks to the 6 hosts at this years Cedar Rapids National. I flew to Minn-St. Paul and Larry Furo from Knife River Minn. picked me up on his way south. It was a great show, and a pleasure to be able to enjoy myself.

The 5 hour board meeting on Thursday was the highlight of the show (just kidding). We did, though, achieve some very important business. The separating of Drip Points from Crown Jewels, although expensive, will be a plus. Purchasing a computer will make record keeping better. Changing the fiscal year to calendar year seems extremely practical. I have been after this for a long time. March 31 is just not a date that pops out and hist you saying - "your NIA dues are due." More like - "taxes are due in 15 days."

When learning and running my bag thru x-ray back in Minn. - St. Paul, the security guard said. "looks like insulators in your bag!" I quickly acknowledged that he was so right. "How pleased I was that he knew about insulators. We chatted for a bit and then back home to Portland.

Thanks again for a super National - see you in Orlando. Disney World - here we come!

On another note - I want to acknowledge Vi and Andy Brown for another great show in Enumclaw WA. They put on a great collectable show. The Western Regional is there next May - so plan on it!

I know this is early, but the National in '93 is again in the west. I know one person for sure is planning to bid - maybe two. Start looking - so you can contact Bernie Warren with your plans.

Thanks,



Steve Watson  
Western Region V.P.

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

As most of you know by now, I was asked by Eric Halpin to fill the remaining year of Jeff McCurdy's term (Jeff resigned in July). I thank both Eric for this opportunity and Jeff for his past five years as V.P. and for his super organization of the records which made for a smooth transition. I'm sure the next year will pass all too swiftly, but it is an ample time period for me to become assimilated, ask lots of questions that often don't get asked, beat a few drums for ideas I've harbored and certainly to decide whether this post can provide a viable and fulfilling way for me to contribute in the future.

I see my role as being a catalyst for the NIA and the hobby in general and acting as a communications expediter/clarifier/filter both within the region and between regions and the rest of the board. In addition, there is the obvious task of attending meetings and having a voice on the board. To accomplish the above and hopefully more, I need suggestions and input from people in the eastern region about how the NIA can be more effective in aiding the hobby and in return, what I and others in the region can do to promote the NIA. Not everything is always possible or within the hoped for time frame, but let's hear from you.

At the time I wrote this, the Meridan, CT regional was coming up and I have no doubt it was a real zinger. The eastern region has been noted for support of the shows. Let's continue to put forth maximum effort to attend every show you can within a reasonable driving (or even flying) distance. Every show promoter needs encouragement in the form of a good gate and in all honesty, the lack of adequate and affordable facilities in parts of the region doesn't make it easy. We have the Orlando National in our region in 1992, so in the absence of a regional, need all the club and private shows we can get to complete the menu.

Don't overlook some of the bottle shows such as York, PA; Rochester, NY; Baltimore MD; DeLand, FL; St. Pete. FL and Keene, NH just to name a few that often have a good showing of insulators.

See you at the shows, but if not, please write me about any regional goings on or good finds (they're out there; I'll vouch for it!)

Dick Bowman                      NIA #597  
Eastern Region Vice-President



FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

I am happy to be your newly elected Central Region Vice President and I want to thank John Hall, who held this position before me. He was exceptional in his support of the Western Region and to the hobby in general. He wrote and answered hundreds of letters during his three year term. Thanks, John, I'll have to peddle fast to do half as well as you did!

The Central Region can be proud of the National show held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 26-28. The untiring efforts of the three experienced show host couples and the wonderful support they had from not only their own region, but from all across the country made it the success it was. Our hats are off to you Pat and Larry Whitlock, Paul and Carol Ickes, and Dennis and Jeanne Weber!

Three shows in the Central Region are scheduled for the Fall of 1991. Hopefully, you planned to attend at least one of these. It is so important that you support the shows in your region. The show host can be the best in the world and do everything right, but if dealers and collectors don't come, that show is labeled a failure. The stigma it carries forever after is hard to shake. We hear on every side that the hobby is alive and well, so let's get out and prove it! Hope you circled these dates on your calendar: September 22 - Richmond, Illinois  
Ray & Judy Heim, Show Hosts

October 6 - Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Earnest Griffin, Show Host

November 3 - Edwardsville, Illinois  
Dale Zurliene, Show Host

No matter what state you live in, it goes without saying that you can also name your region - West, Central or East. But would you pass the test if you were asked to name the other states in your region? This information can be found in the NIA Handbooks, but if you have one, how often do you look at it? If you have an old one printed before 1984, it won't tell you that 4 of the states have since been transferred to another region. So just for the record, here is where you are:

Eastern Region: AL, CT, DE, DC, FL, GA, ME, MD, MA, MS, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WY, Canada (Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island).

Central Region: AR, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, TX, WI, Canada (Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan)

Western Region: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, Mexico (all), Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon)

Seek out and encourage new members in your region. Tell them about the NIA, CROWN JEWELS magazine, available books on insulators and shows in their area. The strength of the NIA does not come from the Board members and Committee Chairmen alone, it comes from all of you. Resolve to support the insulator activities in your region. As they say in Texas, let's "keep on keepin' on!"

Very Happy Collecting, *Marilyn*

Marilyn Albers, NIA #541  
Central Region Vice President

1990-1991 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BEGINNING BALANCE	7-1-90	\$ 6803.66
Revenues		+ 6358.40
Membership Dues	5525.00	
Interest	308.84	
Stationery Sales	73.06	
N.I.A. Sales Products	451.50	
Expenditures		- 3648.21
Drip Points	268.00	
Postage	752.79	
Telephone	283.24	
Supplies	606.86	
Awards	49.72	
Advertising	500.00	
Membership Directory	850.00	
Membership	3.10	
N.I.A Sales Products	334.50	
End Of Year Balance	6-30-91	\$ 9513.85

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

*Ross E. Huth*

ROSS E. HUTH, TREASURER

Friday, July 26, 1991

**Twenty-Second National Insulator Convention  
Minutes of Business Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

The Nineteenth General Meeting of the National Insulator Association was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Eric Halpin, who greeted the more than 85 members in attendance.

Board Members and Committee Chairpersons present were introduced by the President, including the newly appointed Eastern Region Vice-President, Dick Bowman, who will serve out the unexpired term of Jeff McCurdy. This year's National Show Hosts, Larry and Pat Whitlock, Paul and Carol Ickes and Dennis and Jeanne Weber were then introduced.

**Old Business:**

The Minutes of the Eighteenth General Meeting held in Portland, Oregon and published in "Drip Points" in the October 1990 issue of Crown Jewels were approved.

The results of the 1990 Election for Western Region Vice-President were confirmed by the President and Steve Watkins was introduced as the new Western Vice-President.

The Treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by Ross Huth. Year-end balance as of June 30, 1991 was \$9,513.85.

**New Business:**

Executive Director Bernie Warren announced the locations of the 1992 NIA shows:

The Eastern National will be held in Orlando, Florida on June 19-21, 1992. Len and Jacqueline Linscott, assisted by Chuck and Sis Haymond, are Show Hosts.

The Central Regional will be held in London, Ohio on November 7-8, 1992. Steve and Lois Blair are the Show Hosts.

The Western Regional will be held in Enumclaw, Washington on May 2-3, 1992. Andy and Violet Brown are Show Hosts.

Duane Davenport, Nominations Committee Chairman, announced the results of the recent election for Central Region Vice-President. Marilyn Albers, winner of that election, was introduced and gave a short acceptance speech.

The President shared some of the highlights of the Thursday evening Board Meeting with the membership. Major points covered included:

- 1) "Drip Points" - will be published independently of "Crown Jewels" by the NIA effective with the October issue. This should allow the NIA to expand "Drip Points" and include more informative articles. Don Reinke, Information Director, will be in charge of "Drip Points" production.
- 2) Computer purchase - the Board of Directors approved the expenditure of \$1,000-\$2,000 + to purchase a new computer for the Membership Director's use.



- 3) Membership Handbook - the existing Membership Handbook will be updated and a new Handbook published in the near future.
- 4) Promotion of the Hobby - a concerted effort to promote our Hobby, both within and outside the normal channels of advertising was discussed. Mike Guthrie, who will Chair this project for the Board, spoke on a couple of his ideas.
- 5) Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America Merit Badge Idea - Jacqueline Linscott will Chair this project and check into the feasibility of insulator collecting as a merit project for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- 6) Change in Membership Year to Calendar Year - Kevin Lawless will check into the pros and cons of changing the Membership Year from March 31 to January 1.

Kevin Lawless reminded members of the Eastern Regional to be held at Meriden, Conn. August 24-25. He introduced Doug MacGillvary, Co-Host, who gave a short report on Show preparations and particulars.

Jacqueline and Len Linscott, Show Hosts for the 1992 Eastern National at Orlando, Florida were introduced and shared some of their planning for the 1992 National Show with the members.

A member questioned whether "Drip Points" should provide rebuttal space for comments or articles that are printed. The President announced that Don Reinke will edit material to be published in "Drip Points". The President suggested that regional Vice-Presidents be involved in any misunderstandings and that members may write Don Reinke to have material published in "Drip Points".

A member questioned the size and type of computer to be purchased for the Membership Director's use. IBM P.C. versus Apple/Macintosh was discussed extensively with the membership indicating by show of hands that the great majority used IBM computers. Interested members were invited to meet with Kevin Lawless and Duane Davenport to discuss the type of computer to be purchased.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until June 19, 1992 in Orlando, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard L. Warren, #1828  
Executive Director

**REPORT ON THE AWARDS BANQUET AT THE  
22nd ANNUAL NIA CONVENTION**

If you weren't able to "Catch-22", you missed the opportunity to enjoy seeing some outstanding exhibits at the 22nd Annual NIA Convention held in Cedar Rapids, IA on July 26-28, 1991! A total of fourteen exhibits, which included three non-competitive displays, captured the attention of all and helped to educate beginning and advanced collectors alike. The NIA would like to sincerely thank all of the exhibitors who made the time and effort to promote our hobby by sharing their collections and their creativity with others. Sincere thanks is also extended to the show hosts for their efforts which were necessary to make the display portion of the show into a reality.

The three non-competitive exhibits included a beautiful display of rare and colorful glass assembled by members of the **Missouri Valley Insulator Club**, **Larry Furo's** collection of insulators which were used around the Lake Superior Basin, and a display of Denver Glass by **Mike Bliss**.

First and second place awards for the eleven competitive displays were distributed as follows:

**Junior**

1st - **Matt Whitlock**, Marion, IA

**Color**

1st - **Randal Wickersham**, DeSoto, TX

**General**

1st - **Bob Harding**, Pickerington, OH

**Lightning Rod Equipment**

1st - **Paul Ickes**, Council Bluffs, IA

**Porcelain**

1st - **Jimmy Burns**, Conroe, TX

2nd - **John Biesemier**, Moorland, IA

**Specialty**

1st - **Eric Halpin**, Thunder Bay, Ontario

2nd - **Mike Miller**, Denver, CO

**Threaded Glass**

1st - **Kenn Stobbe**, Omaha, NE

**Threadless**

1st (**Fred Griffin Memorial Award**) - **Cecil Boos**,  
Cumberland, IA

2nd - **Bob Roosevelt**, Elyria, OH

In addition to the display awards listed above, a number of special awards were also presented to exhibitors and to others for their contributions to the hobby:

**-People's Choice Award**

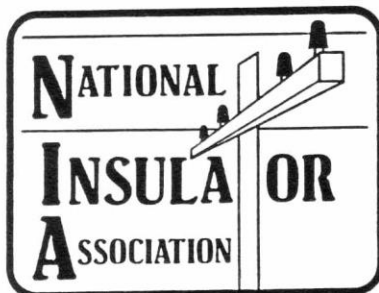
1st - **Cecil Boos**

2nd - **Paul Ickes**

- The NIA's Milholland Educational Award - Cecil Boos
- Capital District Insulator Club Award for the best use of Eastern insulators - Bob Harding
- Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award for the best use of Western insulators - Kenn Stobbe
- Central Florida Insulator Club Award for the best first time display at a National - John Biesemier
- Bob and Phoebe Adams Award for showmanship - Paul Ickes
- Crown Point Award - Paul Ickes
- Lon Holy Memorial Award to a Dedicated Collector - Nathan Holmes
- The Crown Jewels Award was presented to Larry & Pat Whitlock for their second time as National show hosts
- NIA Lifetime Membership Award - Kevin Lawless
- NIA Outstanding Service Award - Bob & Phoebe Adams
- The Cedar Rapids Public Library will be presented with copies of McDougald's glass insulator reference books in the names of the 1991 show hosts in memory of Sterling Finch, and also with copies of Tod's porcelain insulator reference books in memory of Jack Tod

Thanks again to all who helped make the show a success and to the exhibitors whose efforts lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of our hobby!

Rick Baldwin, NIA #336  
 Show Standards Committee Chairman



## IN SEARCH OF.....

### "The Lost Insulator Collector" (A Group Participation Exercise)

" I had no idea collecting insulators could be so much fun !"

How many times have you heard or even made this comment yourself ?

I can't begin to count the number of collectors who have voiced these words after experiencing "full exposure" to the hobby. By full exposure I refer to shows, "Crown Jewels" magazine, Clubs (local and the NIA), mail order, etc. Most of us can reflect back on the thrill of our first insulator show and how much more we have enjoyed the hobby since that time.

"So, what's the point, Mike ?" you may be asking. Simply this: there are hundreds if not thousands of insulator collectors who miss the joy that full exposure to the hobby has provided all who are reading this article. In order to help locate and inform this huge body of collectors, the NIA Board of Directors has authorized an advertising campaign across the U.S. and Canada.

Some of the obvious targets of this campaign are : 1) Other antique publications (e.g. Antique Trader, West Coast Peddler, etc.); 2) Trade Journals; 3) Utility Company employee newsletters; and 4) Any other ideas you may have.

We are very interested in hearing your suggestions on the following questions:

1) If you collected insulators before you discovered shows, C.J. and/or the NIA--did you read something which led to your "full exposure" to the hobby? If so, what was the publication which started it all for you ?

2) Do you read any antique periodicals other than Crown Jewels of the Wire ? If so, what are they? It would be greatly appreciated if you would send a copy or at least the mailing address of the periodical(s).

3) Do you know of any utility company or employee group newsletter which would publish either an article or an advertisement about the hobby? If so, a copy/address would be appreciated.

4) Do you know of any trade journal(s) which would publish either an article or an advertisement about the hobby? If so, a copy/address would be appreciated.

5) Do you have any other suggestions about ways of advertising the hobby which would target groups which have a high probability of containing insulator collectors ?

Please think of how much you've enjoyed your "full exposure" to the hobby. Then send your suggestions to the above questions and any other ideas you may have on reaching the "Lost Collector" to:

Mike Guthrie  
1209 W. Menlo  
Fresno Ca 93711-1477

Watch Drip Points for the results of your suggestions and for the stories of collectors we reach as a result of this project. You could really help make someone's day through your comments.

Thanks in advance !



## RESEARCH SERVICE

Are you interested in the history of the insulator hobby? What do those patent numbers mean? How can you get a copy of a patent? How can you learn more about a specific company such as Hemingray, Brookfield, Fred Locke, Imperial, etc? Now there is a research service available. I have collected a great deal of information about our hobby and want to share it with you. All you have to do is ask.

My research files include: Jack Tod's files, more than 250 original and Xerox copies of insulator catalogs, nearly 500 trade journal articles from 1879-1935, over 340 advertisements (some of the better ones have appeared in Crown Jewels and my multipart insulator book), 30 reference books about early telegraph and power transmission, copies of 1050 insulator patents, 36 design patents, plus 34 trademarks and detailed information about more than 100 early power lines.

If you want information about your specialty, or have a question or patent that you want me to research, please ask. My research library is available to you. There is a small fee to cover cost of copies, shipping, and to purchase additional materials. Copies of patents are \$1.00 each and other copies are 25 cents per page (\$1.00 minimum). All copies are sent postpaid and unfolded. If you wish to trade Xerox copies of catalogs or other information, there is no charge for the service.

The offer of this research service will be available indefinitely. I will also accept donations of research materials or purchase them if you want. I feel that the hobby should have a central research library available to everyone. Please consider this service your window to the past, and a way to preserve and share knowledge of our hobby. Direct all requests and correspondence to:

**Elton Gish (NIA #41), P.O. Box 1317, Buna, TX 77612,  
(409) 994-5662**

Special Reminder: NIA SHOW BIDS ARE DUE ON JAN 1ST



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