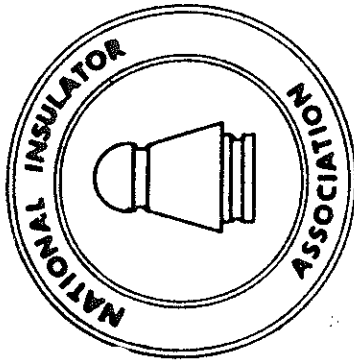


DRIP POINTS



NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
ALAN RODGERS, INFO. DIRECTOR
126 N.W. 104th Street
Miami, Florida 33150



TO: Jack Tod
3427 No. 47th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85018



DRIP POINTS

Volume IV, Number 2

Winter, 1977

DUES - \$3.00 A YEAR!

At the 1976 National Insulator Association convention, it was voted by the membership to change the NIA fiscal year to run from April 1 to March 31. This action took effect immediately, making ALL memberships to expire on March 31, 1977. Even though you may be carrying a white membership card with the June 30, 1977 expiration date, it is good only until March 31, 1977.

What will your dues buy??

1. Membership in a National organization dedicated to the encouragement of insulator collecting and dealing, protecting the interests of insulator collectors and dealers, and establishing standards and ethics by which collectors and dealers may fairly deal with one another.
2. Quarterly issues of "Drip Points" the NIA newsletter.
3. Colorful window decals of the official NIA seal for the first two members of a family.
4. Free admission to the 8th National Convention on NIA day.
5. A copy of the current NIA membership directory.
6. A vote in bringing about constructive changes in the NIA.

What does the NIA do with its money??

1. Our current membership is about 810 active collectors. This reflects active membership of over 1500 assigned membership numbers since 1973. Our active membership IS our financial support.
2. We spend approximately \$250.00 for each issue of "Drip Points".
3. We have printing costs: decals, stationery, cards, etc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 8th National Progress Report
- Reports From Officers—Editorial
- History Of The NIA

ACCEPTING DUES NOW

NOW is the time to renew or join:

Dues are:

- \$3.00 per year for the first family member.
- \$1.00 per year for each additional members of the family using the same address.

Simple enough? Families and husband and wife couples will even benefit over the old rate with this new one.

4. We have great mailing costs. The treasurer mails membership cards and there are numerous pieces of correspondence in which the officers must handle.

5. We buy trophies for the Nationals and regional shows.

THANK YOU members for your support.

--Carol McDougald, Treasurer

EDITORIAL

The question, "what can the NIA do for me," has been a recurring statement since the early days of the association. Prospective as well as current members repeatedly ask this question, what can the NIA do for me?

In the early 1970's, a need for an organization of collectors was created. Was this organization intended for social or monetary benefits? Would it benefit all collectors? Would it promote the hobby? These questions go on and on. Again, it was asked, what will the NIA do for me? Some collectors, too impatient, expected miracles to be performed over night. They were very disappointed. However, through the efforts of many hard working officers and committee people and the support of the members, much progress has been slowly accomplished.

In its fourth year of existence, much has been done. The NIA has accomplished:

- Specifications for national conventions, regionals, and other shows.
- Guide lines for grading condition of insulators.
- A standard color guide (set up by NIA President, Bob Alexander).
- Standard judging rules and forms to be used at national conventions and regionals and other shows.
- Awards to be given at various shows.
- Informative newsletter available four times per year.
- A grievance and ethics committee that works.
- A standards committee.
- A show committee.
- Historians.
- To inform the public as well as new collectors about the insulator collecting hobby.
- And ultimately, as stated by Ray Bryan, Information Director, 1974, "an organization that has national visibility...and standards and ethics that its members can take pride in."

What the future will bring is uncertain. However, with the continued membership support and hard work of the association, the NIA will grow as it has done. Many more benefits will be available in the future. It is the responsibility of every insulator collector. The present officers have many plans and ideas which need your help. The NIA needs your support and suggestions on what you would like to see your organization do. Better yet, write to the NIA President, Bob Alexander and tell him what you are going to do.

Report From The Information Director

Greetings from your information director! By now, it will be assumed that you have read well into this issue. Just a brief note into what goes into this report. Besides the hours of typing, and writing, there is the stretching of what little material is given to me. All contributions will be appreciated. After the material is typed, about \$130.00 worth of printing takes place. More hours worth of collating, folding, and stapling take place. Another \$125.00 goes for stamps to be sent to nearly 800 addresses. Enjoy reading!

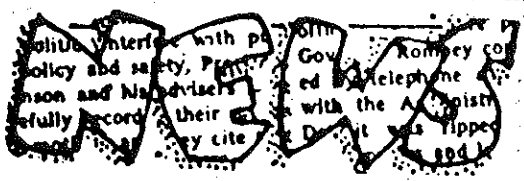
The information director has recently offered the services of the NIA to various antique and hobby periodicals.

Treasurer, Carol McDougald and myself, will be working on a slide program which will be available to organizations. Donations of slides will be appreciated.

--Alan Rodgers

Hello, members...hello from warm Miami, Florida where it is about 75 degrees. Although they tell me that it has been very cold elsewhere, (don't believe those stories about snow in Miami), insulator activity everywhere. Although slowed due to the weather, your NIA has been very busy this winter. The nominating committee is currently working to present its choice of candidates soon.

NIA President, Bob Alexander is currently printing the NIA window decals. I understand that they are very attractive and made of very high quality material. Since Bob is doing the printing, the NIA will save a nice sum of money. The NIA would like to thank Mr. William Brookfield of Norfolk, Connecticut for his donation of \$25.00. It will help to pay expenses greatly. Thanks. Also thanks to Jack Snyder, Toledo, Ohio and Addie Tasem of El Cajon, Calif., for their donations of materials for the NIA scrapbook. Also, thanks Brent Dingman (Historical Radio Services), Long Beach, Calif., for helping to promote the NIA through his radio literature.



TOTALS OF THE OPINIONS

Included with the ballot for the 1976-77 officers, (last summer), several questions were asked concerning the opinion of the general membership. The results were very interesting and many wrote in comments. The various NIA committees should take notice in some of these comments.

Opinion 1: Do you want a NIA Directory? YES: 238 NO: 32

Very few comments were expressed with this one. However, many felt that the directory was a waste of money and Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine duplicated most names. Negotiations are being held with Dora Harned to combine the directories of CJW with NIA in the future. The directory for 1977 was prepared by Carol McDougald, (sure got me out of a lot of work, thanks Carol) and printed at reduced costs by Bob Alexander. A great deal of money and effort can be saved by combining the two. What is your opinion?

Opinion 2: Do you prefer a directory published in OCT.-NOV. verses April? YES: 121 NO: 106

A very close decision but the most comments given include "doesn't really matter".

Opinion 3: Would you favor a bi-monthly newsletter? YES: 195 NO: 63

Many collectors favored this question, but your Information Director doesn't. This newsletter is enough four times per year! The budget also could not afford it. One interesting comment included: "...especially if it includes articles on collectors, collections, new finds, etc..." How about it members, I am looking for contributions.

Opinion 4: Would you prefer the NIA convention to be held at the same place each year and central point of U.S. YES: 95 NO: 170

This question raised many comments. "...Shows that are held in the same place, tend to attract the same exact collectors and displayers..." "...Doesn't need to be in the same place, but centrally located..." "...I think that Kansas would be the best place for the convention each year..." "... If the NIA convention were held in a central point I would never make it to one!..."

More comments and questions answered elsewhere in this issue. Some very interesting points will be discussed.

This final note: thank you Carol McDougald for helping with the address labels. (If you do not receive this issue, blame her.)

Membership Roster

The 1977-1978 membership roster is available due to the great efforts of Carol McDougald. Expert and quality printing was done by Bob Alexander at reduced costs. Any corrections or changes that may occur, should be noted to the information director so the notice can be given to the membership.

CONTINUATION OF OPINIONS.....

"The only way we will know how you feel is by letting us know..." The comments expressed by many members are given below with a reply to some by this information director.

"To many collectors dropping out due to the price of insulators getting out of reach, we are all not loaded with money"... (ED: you can sure say that again!) "Arrange for a page in "Crown Jewels..." (ED: this idea has been kicked around for some time now. Another comment just the opposite said, "Eliminate excessive duplication of NIA business communications in Crown Jewels, if it has already been conveyed to the membership in the NIA newsletter.") "I think various clubs and individuals should have the opportunity of hosting the NIA conventions..." "Is there a possibility to have some kind of show in Wisconsin?" "I think that Kansas would be the best place to have the convention every year..." "How about having the national show in St. Louis next year?" (The show site is not entirely up to the decision of the NIA. A private individual or organization must sponsor the national, not the NIA. The NIA only takes offers and by committee, selects the best site, with location only being a part of the overall decision. The reason why a national has never been held in St. Louis or Wisconsin, is for the simple reason, no one has ever offered.) "I believe it would be best to alternate the NIA conventions to the east every three or four years..." (ED: in 1974, the convention was held in the east; 1975 it was held in the west; 1976 it was held in the central region; and in 1977 it will be held in the east again. Simple rotation every three years.) "I would like to see a decal and/or pin of our logo made available to 'paid up' members..." (ED: NIA President Bob Alexander is currently working on printing up some quality decals for the members.) "Can not find regional map designating regions...I am in South Dakota..." "Has Mississippi been banned from the NIA...not listed in Central Region..." (ED: here is a listing of the various regions and states:

Eastern: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and MISSISSIPPI.

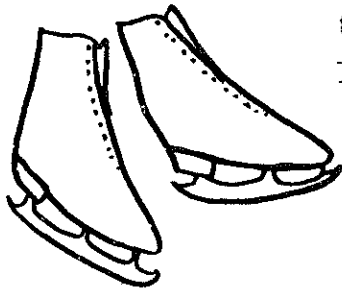
Central: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin.

Western: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Much interest was given concerning the placement of the NIA convention in a central location each year. "By moving the convention site each year, it gives everybody a chance to travel or save travel expenses". "By holding different place each year, it would attract and make possible some new faces each year..." Finally, "Keep up the good work, and more collectors than sellers..." ENOUGH SAID!!

EXTRA!

Public ice skating at the Arena next door to the NIA Convention Hall.....SO BRING YOUR ICE SKATES!!



* EXTRA.. EXTRA *

FREE! FREE! FREE! Entertaining movies for children at the Convention Hall during the public show hours provided by the Eighth National Insulator Association Show hosts, Len Linscott and Bob Alexander.

* PARENTS TAKE NOTE!.....Sitters for your children at a nominal charge are available for those NIA participants with small children and needing this service.

* REMEMBER, REMEMBER....For the Eighth National Insulator Association Convention information packets, write or phone L. L. (Len) Linscott, 3557 Nicklaus Drive, Titusville, Florida 32780 (305)-267-9170.

***Assignments of tables are being made as reservations are received.

Good news for campers! Sanlan Ranch Campground and Travel Trailer Resort...located 6 miles from the Convention Hall, Lakeland Civic Center.... is offering a special rate to NIA members attending the convention in Lakeland, July 15-17, 1977. With your NIA membership card you can stay 4 days for the price of 3 days. Also, their rates normally cover 2 persons/unit, but with the special rate, there is no additional charge for extra persons in your party. They offer the following:

- 300 Spacious Sites
- Heated Olympic Pool & Wading Pool
- Poolside Pavillion & Game Room
- City Water — Safe & Pure, Underground Electric Service — Over 200 lots with sewer and 2 dumping stations
- Recreation Room — Air Conditioned
- Convention Hall & Community Building with fully equipped kitchen — Available for Meetings, Group Parties, Square Dancing, Bingo, Movies and Church Services
- Laundry — Clean & Modern
- 5 Modern Bathhouses — Formica Vanities and Deluxe Tile Showers
- Large Tables and BBQ Grills
- Convenience Food Store — Ice and Gas Refill Stations
- Horse Stables — 24 Stalls and individual Tack Rooms — Lounge and 2 Grooming Stalls. Feed & Hay Available

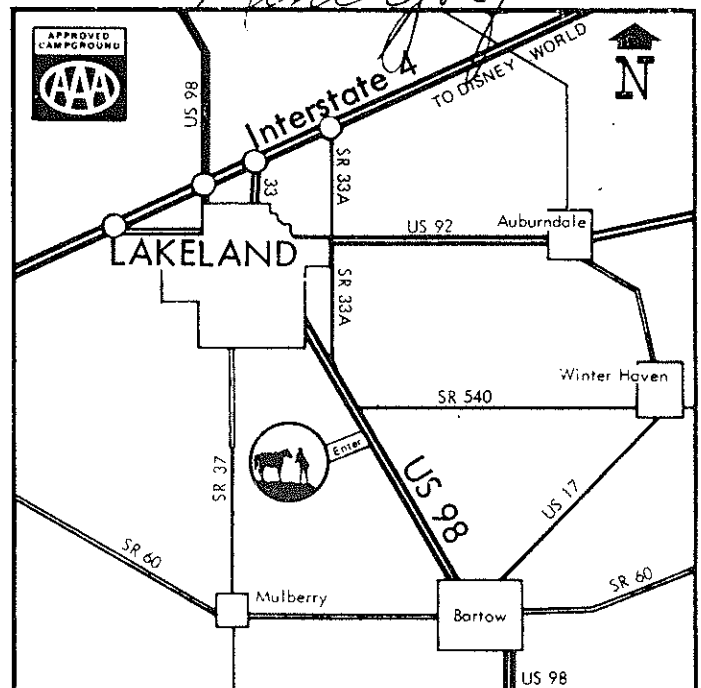
- 1300 Acres to roam
- Abundant Wildlife — Bird Watchers Paradise
- Miles of Scenic Hiking Trails, Bridle Paths and Bicycle Paths
- Private Lake with sand beach
- Fishing in private lake from bank
- Shuffleboard Courts, Horseshoe Pits
- Playground — well equipped

SCHEDULED EVENTS: • Bingo Parties • Card Parties • Pot Luck Suppers • Movies • Shuffleboard • Horseshoes • Square Dancing • Fire-side Events • Holiday Events •

FOR RESERVATIONS, WRITE OR
PHONE (813) 688-7074

Sanlan Ranch Campground

RT. 5, BOX 140, LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803



HISTORY OF THE NIA by Alan Rodgers, Historian

Insulator collecting as we know it today began in the mid 1960's when the first books were published on the subject. The popularity of insulator collecting rapidly began to take hold. New and different finds, such as the "one-of-a-kind" and "first to be seen anywhere", came regularly. The only organizations around were bottle clubs and informal get-togethers. Many collectors commonly answered the questions, "you collect what?" or "insul-whats?" from the public. These were the days of informal collecting and the "big wheeler-dealers" were few and far-between. If I had an insulator you did not have and you had an insulator that I did not have, then it was an even trade. Even if it was an E.C. & M. for a Maydwell 20 milk-glass, everyone was happy. There was something different about insulator collectors; they helped each other and welcomed each other into their homes, even if they were complete strangers. All that had to be done was to show an interest in another collectors' insulators and he sent it on approval. Insulators for the most part were cheap and easy to find, many times, just for the asking. Most linemen were anxious for some "fool" collector to haul them away. Oh yes, these were the good old days of insulator collecting.

A few of the pioneers and well known collectors should be mentioned. Mr. N. R. Woodward of Houston, Texas, had done much research into insulators long before they were considered collectibles. Mr. Woodward is the author of the C.D. - Consolidated Design numbers for identifying styles in his collection. He published his first book in 1965 and subsequent books have been a must ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Milholland began their research trips in 1968. After traveling thousands of miles each year, they have visited each state in the U.S. and Canada, too. The late Mr. Milholland published his first book in 1967, with many since.

Collectors looked forward to reading about new finds and "whatzits" by Frances Terrill. Her column titled "Insulator By-Lines" appeared monthly in the Old Bottle Magazine. She also wrote six insulator books before she retired from writing and collecting in 1974.

Another of the pioneers were Don and Dora Harned of Chico, Calif. They felt there was a need for a publication devoted entirely to insulators. "With no capital, a handful of insulator collector's names and addresses, a printer willing to take a flyer, and a borrowed typewriter, we started in a corner of our livingroom." Insulators, Crown Jewels of The Wire, was born in March, 1969. By March, 1970, when the magazine was one year old, there were 464 subscribers. This magazine is vital to insulator collecting and has grown to a circulation of over 1,500 today. Dora has once commented, "It's very rewarding to bring the collectors together...I enjoy insulator collectors -- they are the greatest people on earth."

Insulator collectors had to depend on bottle collectors and shows to meet and display. It wasn't until May 3, 1969, insulator collecting finally advanced forward when the first advertised "insulators only" swap meet was held in California. The second one, sponsored by Warren Olson, was held on July 20, 1969. This Denison, Iowa meet boasted a mere 16 collectors. Many of the first swap meets were held in back yards or parks. Fancy auditoriums or hotels just aren't the same today. Several more were scheduled in the following months.

THE FIRST NATIONAL

In late 1969, Dennis Donovan, Ms. Arlene Harris, and Mr. Dave Harris, decided to "step off the deep end" with the first so-called National

Insulator Collectors Swap Meet. It was to be held in Smith Auditorium in New Castle, Indiana, on June 20 - 21, 1970. The reports from this show were unheard of, as far as insulator collecting was concerned. There were 95 tables on two floors with 350 to 400 in attendance. Everything from one dollar apiece lightning rod balls to a case of unused glass block insulators were on sale. This, the first national paved the way for the expansion and growth of the hobby and the future National Insulator Association.

In the months following the First National, insulator collecting grew very rapidly. Insulators began to disappear from lines around the country. Many telephone and even power companies were rapidly placing their lines underground or in cables. Collectors were requisitioning insulators both legally and unfortunately illegally. Thus, the further need for a legitimate organization with a working code of ethics. There are the dark sides of insulator collecting, too. Many railroads and utilities are beginning to "crack down" on people stealing insulators and trespassing on their property. Several collectors have been electrocuted while trying to remove insulators from "hot" lines.

Prices of some insulators dropped sharply and some rose. Collectors seemed to enjoy (and they still do), the unusual colored items. "Insul-nuts" would pursue cables, then switch over, and the next "big thing" became transpositions. There were several fabulous collections of transpositions in those days.

THE SECOND NATIONAL

The Second National Show and Sale was held at the City Auditorium in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This show, sponsored by Jesse Moreland, was held on July 10-11, 1971. A total of 1,200 viewed 137 sales tables and 15 displays of insulators. A completely different kind of insulator was shown at this meet. The Frank Millers' of Tulsa, Oklahoma, commemorated the 1st and 2nd meets, (and everyone that followed) in a special glass insulator reproduction. Many suggestions were heard concerning the formation of some type of national organization. Some were convinced that a formal organization would "strangle us". Warren Olson of Denison, Iowa, noted, "the mutterings - both pro and con, were there and it was apparent that something would be done". However, nothing more was accomplished at this insulator meet.

In 1971, porcelain insulators began to receive much needed publicity through the efforts of Gerald Brown of Two Buttes, Colorado and Jack Tod of Phoenix, Arizona. Jack Tod developed "U" numbers for identifying porcelain as CD numbers are for glass. Gerald Brown lists a variety of porcelain from threadless to wiring knobs and a code system to match.

In February, 1972, the first issue of Cross Arms magazine was published. This eastern insulator collectors' magazine was edited by James Garrity of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, (now residing in Paxinos, Pennsylvania).

A real interest began to show for lightning rod balls. At the first national, many were selling for as little as \$1.00 each. Now, they were appearing more often for higher prices, but still rather difficult to obtain.

The excitement of collecting was still growing. More clubs and shows were forming each month. Insulators were still somewhat easily obtainable in many areas. Digging in the Hemingray, Muncie, Indiana, plant dump was popular with many unusual items turning up. New collectors were coming in everyday as a few of the older well known collectors were dropping out.

Coming in the spring edition...the Third National and the formation of the foundation for the National Insulator Association.