



# DRIP POINTS

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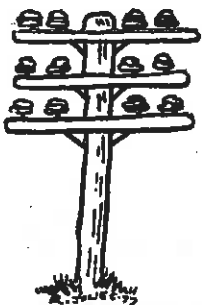
## SHOW TIME AGAIN

Time is drawing near for the 8th National Convention to be held at the Lakeland Civic Center in Lakeland, Florida. (See map next page). Show hosts, Len & Jackie Linscott and Bob Alexander report that final preparations are being made for this big event. There are a few sale and display tables left, but they are going fast. The banquet will be held at the Hilton Inn and it looks as if it may be a sell-out. Don't wait until the convention to try to get your ticket. It is an "all you can eat" buffet dinner for only \$8.25 for adults. (\$4.00 for children) Sitters will be available during the banquet. There are five major motels within a few minutes of the convention center, with the Hilton Inn, the official hotel. No camping will be available on the Civic Center grounds, but a near-by camp ground, Sanlan Ranch Campground is offering a nice discount to NIA members. It is located 6 miles south of the civic center on US 98.

This modern civic center is totally air conditioned, has a loading dock, has plenty of free parking, and is easily accessible. It is only 30 minutes from either Orlando or Tampa International Jet Ports.

A convention directory is being prepared now. Ads are available. The rates are: business card reprint, \$5.00;  $\frac{1}{4}$  page ( $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2''$ ) \$10.00;  $\frac{1}{2}$  page ( $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4''$ ), \$20.00; and full page ( $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$ ), \$40.00. All ads must be copy-ready.

SEE YOU AT THE NATIONAL....



vote for the Eastern Region Vice-President. There are two well qualified nominees here. Mark only one box. Two other items of interest are included with the ballot. These ask for your opinion on whether the NIA should adopt standards for grading the condition of insulators and the consolidation of the membership directory. Complete and return your ballot as soon as possible or bring it with you to the general NIA meeting, Friday, July 15, 7 p.m.

## THE BALLOT....

If you are a "paid-up" member, enclosed with this issue will be your general ballot for the 1977-1978 year. If you have paid your dues and did not receive one, notify the treasurer immediately. You will be voting for a new president, choosing from a list of three qualified nominees. Mark only one box. Next, the members who live in the eastern region will be voting for a vice-president. Only members who live in this area may

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS...

News from the members has been very slow this month. However, a few items of interest did come through.

The 8th commorative glass insulator by Frank Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is a beautiful light amber color and would

make a nice addition to any collection.

Received a letter from Robert Larkin, Box 345, Thorndale, Pa. It seems that he has been doing some research into the "Star" insulator. Here is another version of the story. This letter, received by Bob was from the New Albany, (Indiana), Public Library. "...Dear Mr. Larkin: We have your letter sent to the New Albany Chamber of Commerce, which was turned over to us for research. The Star Glass Company of New Albany was in existance from 1869 to 1880 and manufactured plate glass, window glass, bottles, jars and insulators, according to an article in the New Albany Tribune of December 11, 1962. They used a five-pointed star as their trade-mark. W.C. DePauw was president after 1873....About 1881, Mr. DePauw changed the name to DePauw American Plate Glass Works. There is no indication anywhere in our files or among local historians with whom we checked, that he ever used a star on his products after the name was changed....We hope this information will help you identify the insulator marked with a star...." It seems that this is another theory about the "Star" insulator.

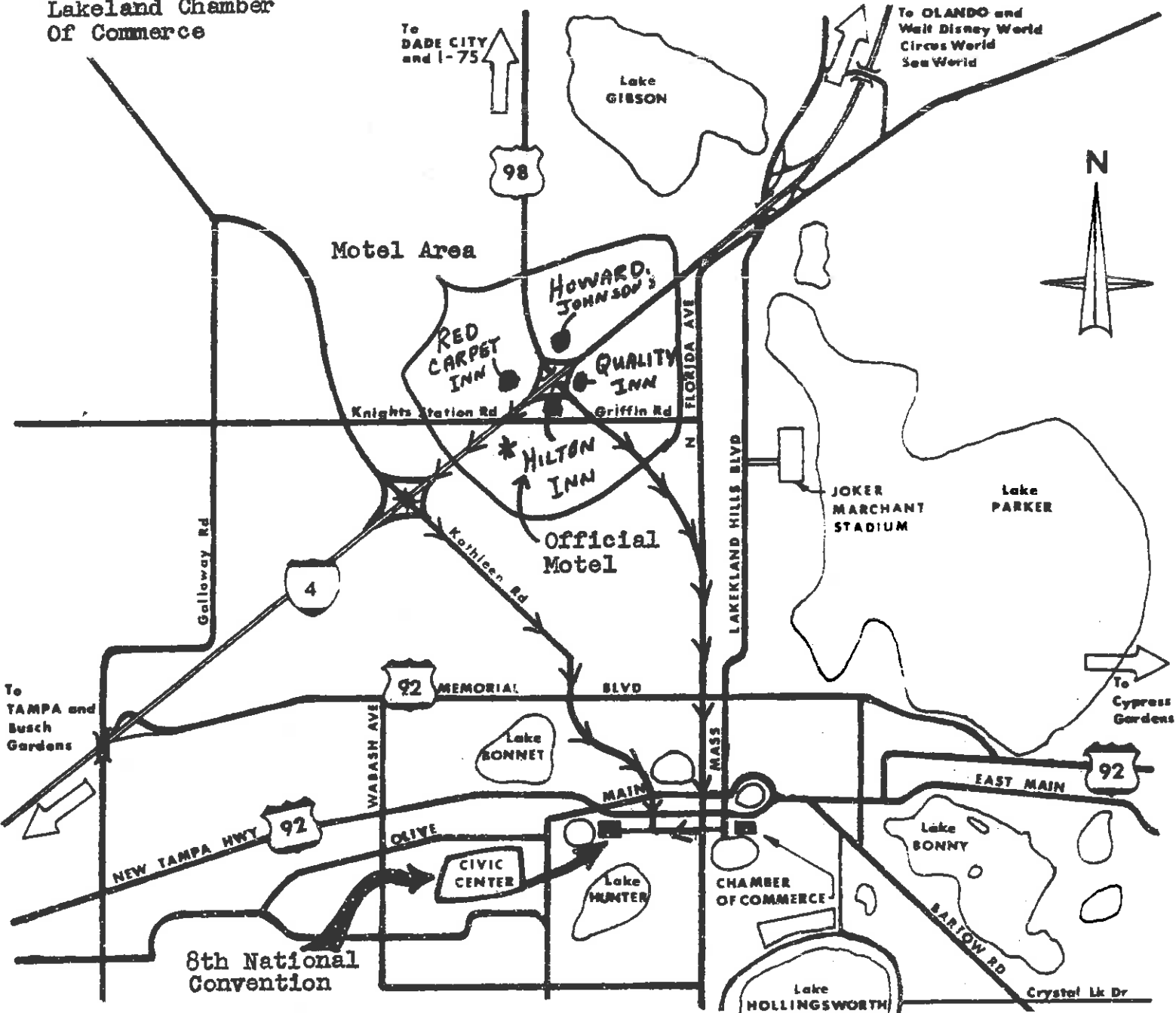
Window decals are enclosed with this issue. One for a single member or two per family are free. Additional decals are available from Carol McDougald for fifty cents each and a SASE. Thanks to Bob Alexander for the printing and we hope that you will enjoy them.

The Western Regional Insulator Show will be held in Bakersfield, California on October 15-16, 1977. Dee Willet, Bakersfield, Ca., has gone all out to make this a well prepared show. Dee Willet informs us, "our show will take place in building #2 of the Kern County Fairgrounds. This building can accommodate 200 plus tables. Bring your insulators, bottles, beer cans, barbed wire, telephones, and collectables. Sales tables (32" x 8') are \$20.00 for the two days with display tables, free. Security guard on premises and table covers furnished....I have selected the fair grounds because it has hook-ups for campers and is only 3 blocks away from motel row, with all the best motels and resturants in Kern County here. We also have a frontier museum, some of the best fishing in the state, a gold mining district only a couple hours drive away, and the largest and oldest oil field in California is located here. In October, the weather is beautiful, not hot or cold, just mild. If we work hard enough, we could make our Regional shows almost as big as our nationals....Our true desire for collecting is mainly to be able to meet new friends and visit with our old ones we have met through collecting. It is too bad that insulator collecting is not a world wide thing. If it were, I am sure our world would go much smoother. We hold and treasure our collector friends we make..." Sounds like Dee is going to have a real good show. I do hope that the western collectors will support him and the Western Regional by attending, displaying and having a sales table.

--Alan Rodgers

# LAKELAND, FLORIDA

Map Courtesy  
Lakeland Chamber  
Of Commerce



## Treasurer's Report

Members often wonder where all of the money goes when they pay for dues. Here is a brief list of the various expences for the past year:

Stamps (officer mailings): \$134.63  
 Trophies (Eastern Region): \$ 25.46  
 NIA Convention Table: \$ 35.00  
 Phone Calls: \$ 47.00  
 Decal Printing: \$195.00  
 Ethics Committee expenses: \$ 33.70

"Drip Points" (Print & Mail)  
 October (Fall) \$250.10  
 March (Winter) \$396.60  
 May (Spring) \$312.00  
 Membership Directory (Print) \$135.00  
 Membership Applications,  
 Address Labels, Rubber  
 Stamps, Membership Cards,  
 Stationery, file cards: \$97.19

Approximate Total: \$1,661.68

--Carol McDougald, Treas.

## Proposition: Condition Grading

During the past year, various comments have been heard concerning the grading of the condition of insulators. As insulators become more valuable and harder to find, the condition becomes an important price factor.

In the spring of 1974, Bob Wilson proposed a set of guidelines for determining the condition and reporting it. These guidelines were presented in the NIA ballot for 1974; but the results remain unknown to a majority of the members. We would like to bring it out again and re-propose it to the members in this ballot. The proposition follows:  
**MINT:** An insulator that would be considered as perfect if not for imperfections during manufacturer or those caused by the maker. Too much or not enough glass, mold imperfections, mold distortions, etc., all would be permitted. However, if the imperfections are extensive or would devalue the insulator, they should be noted.

**V.N.M. or Very Near Mint:** minor types of damage. B-B dings, wire cuts, one or two missing drips, slight scratches, or minor crack. Damage is so minor that insulator would still be priced close to a mint one.

**Damaged:** All others would require a description of the damage. A method is to trace the insulator outline using Milholland's book and then actually showing the size and location of damage on tracing.

The second proposition is the continuation of the NIA Membership Directory. Is it really necessary? Is it worth the cost to the members? How often do members refer to it? Is the membership directory in the Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine adequate enough? Dora Harned of Crown Jewels has offered to list the NIA membership number with the names in her directory issue. Any additional expense (though minor) will be paid by the NIA. All members will still receive their regular newsletters in the form of "Drip Points" four times per year. The cost of the last NIA Membership Directory was \$396.60 (postage only), compared to only \$102.00 postage only for regular newsletter. The printing was only \$135.00, a cut price due to the printing donation of the NIA President, Bob Alexander. Normally, it would have been around \$380.00. Is it really worth the expense? Besides, it took working nearly every evening for three weeks.

### *President's Message*

Although it was a rather uneventful year, I have enjoyed being your president. The NIA is moving along very well and with a group of very capable officers as we have had this year, my job has been simplified very much. I hope you will enjoy the decals which come to you as a service of the NIA. We hope to offer something in this nature each year to the members as well as the various other services.

I am still working on a telephone sign book which will be available to all interested in these go-withs. I must apologize to anyone who did not get a reply to their letter which was sent to me. With the large amount of mail that I have received and a 12 or 13 hour work day, I may have overlooked some. (Oh yes, Dora, I will renew my subscription to Crown Jewels as soon as I can.)

The NIA has passed another great year in 1976-77. There are many problems which we have overcome and passed. However there are many more which still lie ahead. We must overcome the communications problem. We still need to hear from you. Let us know what you would like to see the NIA do for you. Also let us hear "What you can do for the NIA". It has been a great year and good luck to everyone.

Good collecting, Bob Alexander, NIA President, 1976-77

The votes were counted from the fifth national election.... The results were: Ernie Rostock of Pendleton, Oregon was selected as the second president of the NIA. Eastern Regional Vice-President, Stephen Bobb of Norristown, Pa; due to the resignation of Dick Augustyn, Paul Houpt of Columbia City, Indiana was appointed as Central Region Vice-President. The Western Region Vice-President was Bill Kemp, El Monte, Ca. The treasurer, W. Dennis McHenry, and Information Director, Ray Bryan.

Some of the projects and problems of the coming year were discussed by the new officers. Some of these were: new NIA judging rules for shows, NIA paid ads in magazines, and work on better ways of policing our hobby.

In the July, 1974 issue of the Old Bottle Magazine, Joe Maurath Jr., of E. Weymouth, Mass., became the new insulator editor. He filled the vacancy left when Frances Terrill resigned and retired from collecting.

One addition was made to the list of officers: NIA Executive Director, Howard Banks of Merlin, Oregon.

Dieline Coleman presented plans to charter a plane to the 6th National. The plane would originate in Buffalo, with one stop in Chicago. Due to the reservation request less than the minimum required, this idea was cancelled in early 1975.

In a newsletter to the officers, Ernie Rostock commented, "In the last two years, I've noticed two real changes in our hobby. First, the wheeler dealers are now finding it impossible to buy insulators that they can resell for a profit and are changing to other more marketable items. Second, the collector is now in the real majority..."

New show rules were drawn up and presented in November. The "leg work" of this was spearheaded by committeemen Fred Griffin and Jack Tod. Jack Tod observed that things were noticeably slowing (during winter and spring, 1975) in insulator activity in the past year. This may have been due to the economy, but "I rather feel it's a normal transition from the wheeler dealer days of the hobby into a stage where active members are truly interested in collecting as a hobby". There were 715 names listed in the 1974-75 membership directory. There were over 976 different people listed over the first two years of NIA existence.

#### The Sixth National

San Diego, Calif., was the location of the 6th National Show and Sale. The El Cortez Convention Center and Hotel was the site of this important meet, held July 11 - 13, 1975. The show officially opened at 9:00, Friday morning to NIA members only. The general business meeting was held Friday evening after NIA-day. After general businesses and finances were discussed, counting of the ballots was held. Jerry Turner of Goshen, Ohio was elected president for 1975-76. Bill Galloway of Oroville, Ca., was elected vice-president of the Western Region, with Glenn Drummond of Cincinnati, Ohio, appointed as executive secretary. Remaining in office as treasurer, was Dennis McHenry. Ray Bryan retired as the information director, so at a small exclusive meeting of the newly elected officers and board, on Saturday night, Addie Tasem of El Cajon, California, was appointed to the office of information director. Public attendance was recorded at approximately 1,000 for Saturday and Sunday. The NIA exhibit was provided by Alan Rodgers.

July was the last issue published of the Cross Arms magazine. Editor James Garrity of Paxinos, Pennsylvania was forced to cease publication due to economic reasons.

The Central Regional Show and Sale was held September 27-28, 1975, at the Ramada Inn- South in St. Louis, Mo. Winter Haven, Florida was the site of the Eastern Regional Show and sale. Bob Alexander of Winter

Haven, Florida sponsored this show held November 15 - 16, 1975.

Insulator collectors were saddened by the news of the death of Marion Milholland on Friday, January 16, 1976. He pioneered insulator collecting and authored many books and price guides on the subject. The insulator collecting hobby will truly miss Marion Milholland.

In April, 1976, Dora Harned found it necessary to increase the subscription price of Insulators, Crown Jewels of the Wire. In keeping with these inflationary times, the NIA also proposed to increase the annual dues. Other NIA propositions to the general membership included an extension of the boundaries to include Canada and Mexico, and adding the "NIA -Day" to the show rules. This day was established to allow NIA members admittance to the National Convention a day early.

As summer approached, insulator collectors were anxiously looking toward Berea Ohio for the 7th National Convention.

#### The Seventh National

On Friday, August 20, insulator collectors from all over the United States and Canada began arriving at Berea, Ohio, (a suburb of Cleveland). Strosacker Hall on the campus of Baldwin-Wallace College was the site of this show and sale. The show hosts, John and Carol McDougald worked very hard for many months preparing for this show, which was a complete sell-out. A packed convention room saw hundreds of collectors and on-lookers buying, selling and trading hundreds of insulators and related items. After the NIA day on Friday, the NIA business meeting was held. After the business was discussed, the ballots were counted. Elected as NIA President was Bob Alexander, of Winter Haven, Florida. Dennis MCHenry of Bettendorf, Iowa was elected as Central Region Vice-President. Carol McDougald was appointed as treasurer, Len Linscott of Titusville, Florida, executive secretary, and Alan Rodgers of Miami, Florida, information director.

After a very busy weekend of insulator dealing collectors headed back home with their new acquisitions; not all of them insulators. Some of these were telephone signs, telephones and related equipment, and BEER CANS.

--Alan Rodgers

