



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Rick Soller, editor-in chief

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May 4-5, 2018 Columbia City, Indiana Show Report

Many swap meets or shows have just one or two activities to offer. Of course buying and selling is one of them. Sometimes an auction or looking at displays is a second option. The May 4-5, 2018 Columbia City, Indiana show offered FOUR! First there was the usual opportunity to buy and sell. Around 5 p.m. on Friday, after some pizza and pop (a nice sip and nosh), there was a chance to show and tell. Later that evening, attendees were invited to the home of Dave & Josephine Ramp to inspect their collection, a great chance to see and sit for a spell. The next day at 10:30 a.m. sharp, a club auction was held providing an opportunity for everyone to bid on and haul home several tables of insulators.

On Friday, pizza and pop was offered to those in attendance and after quenching thirsts and sating hunger, show and tell began at 5:30 p.m. Mike McLaughlin went first with a story about recovering two CD 135s from a street light in Winona Lake, Indiana with his father. His father got an aqua one and Mike kept a blue one. When his father died, Mike inherited the aqua one and keeps in memory of his dad. Mike indicated that CD 135 Chicagos were also used in Peru, Indiana and one turned up in a Fort Wayne flea market that was also from Peru.

J. Brown told the story of Joe Litchfield giving him a lead on some amber signals used on street lights. They were used in Ladoga, Indiana

Mike Davis found two fantastic insulators at bottle shows. He said it was nice being an insulator collector at these shows since you're the only one buying them. One of his finds was a CD 124.3 and the other was a milky CD 134. Walt Baumgardt reminded everyone of his interest in crown-embossed Brookfields (CREBs) and brought a CD 145 to show. He pointed out some of the hard-to-find molds to those who haven't read one of the recent books on the subject that Lee Brewer or he had compiled.

Rick Soller showed a one-of-a-kind Pittsburg porcelain piece that had a factory-made hole in the top. Rick indicated that he and Russ Frank usually took out-of-the-way detours on shows and the trip to get this insulator was Rick's most extreme and made by himself. In three days he traveled from the Chicago area to eastern Colorado to Minnesota and back to the Chicago area.

Les Christensen had some incredible CD 101 Brookfields. One had a serious underpour and one was quite a bit taller than the usual ones. These also had some great amber in them.

Shawn Kotlarsky brought a Paisley CD 134, a CD 291, and CD 121 in white milk. The CD 291 was a recent find from a digger of an electric company dump. The CD 121 was a purchase from the recent Bill & Jill Meier online auction and completed his set of white milk Hemingray insulators.

The final presenter was Gene Hawkins. He had a spool with a ledge in the center hole. He also brought several "G" embossed porcelain insulators in a variety of colors. A letter from Jack Tod was a nice go-with to the insulators since Gene had asked Tod about the meaning of the G and Jack said that it might stand for Globe Porcelain. [I always thought they were Macombs.]



(Left) Mike McLaughlin showing one of the CD 134 Chicago insulators. Gene Hawkins looks on. (Right) Les Christensen lighting up one of the CD 102s from his collection.



(Left) Gene Hawkins during his show and tell presentation. Dave Shaw looks on. (Right) Shawn Kotlarski in front of his newly acquired insulators including a Hemingray CD 291 and a CD 122 milk glass Hemingray.

The show was advertised in several ways. There were CJ ads, and Facebook postings. I included a picture of the postcard sent to area collectors in my eBay ads in support of the show. Signs on the main road leading to the show pointed to the fairground and the event.

Seventy lots of insulators and go-withs sold beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday with the last lot sold well before noon-time lunch. The 10% seller's commission on the \$750 sold generated \$75 for the club treasury, to be used later to support future club activities. There were 16 collectors who won lots and a few more bidders beyond that who went after the seven tables of insulators sold by 9 sellers. Half of the lots sold for under \$6. The most common winning bid was \$1. The most expensive lot sold for \$55 and was a CD 267.5 N.E.G.M. in blue with a big chip off one ear. The average price for all lots was \$10.97. You can build a collection quickly at those prices! Results are presented below.

#	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Mike McLaughlin	Ambers + 147	\$2	Dale Glendenning
2	Mike McLaughlin	#10, Pyrex, 171, WFG	\$15	Gerald Worms
3	Mike McLaughlin	2 porcelain, unmarked Lapp	\$4	Dave Ramp
4	Mike McLaughlin	Honey ambers	\$12	Cole King
5	Mike McLaughlin	CD 149	\$26	Gerald Worms
6	Mike McLaughlin	Green 42	\$2	Jennifer
7	Mike McLaughlin	Tramp	\$25	Gerald Worms
8	Mike McLaughlin	Hemi-25, CD 175	\$14	Mary Ann Pike
9	Mike McLaughlin	G.E. Meter	\$18	Les Christensen
10	Mike McLaughlin	Screw top	\$45	Gerald Worms
11	Mike McLaughlin	Cable top, blue CD 267.5 damaged ear	\$55	Gerald Worms
12	Russ Frank	Spools	\$7	Arlic
13	Russ Frank	B, Hemi-9, Brookfield, Sterling, #16	\$14	Berg
14	Russ Frank	Porcelain spools	\$3	Arlic
15	Dave Ramp	Box of glass	\$4	Steve Avery
16	Dave Ramp	Porcelain and glass	\$1	Cole King
17	Dave Ramp	Misc. porcelain	\$1	Jennifer
18	Dave Ramp	Misc. glass	\$3	Jennifer
19	Dave Ramp	Misc. porcelain	\$6	Arlic
20	Dave Ramp	Tub of glass	\$1	Cole King
21				
22	Rick Soller	NAJ private issue, NIA + Lauckner commemoratives	\$20	Dave Shaw
23	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, Macomb, Pittsburgs	\$2	Jennifer
24	Rick Soller	Glass, Green star, H.G. Petticoat, CD 160, BTC, #14	\$15	Steve Avery
25	Rick Soller	Glass, transposition, bullet, 126, #12, CD 143	\$30	Mary Ann Pike
26	Rick Soller	Glass, Diamond-D, Hemi-12	\$5	Cole King
27	Rick Soller	Glass, purple CD 102, Hemi Pat	\$20	Arlen Rienstra
28	Rick Soller	Glass, California, Star, Beehive, #14	\$19	Steve Avery
29	Rick Soller	Glass, 670, 125, Corkscrew	\$6	Tim
30	Rick Soller	Blue porcelain, radio strains, hardware	\$11	Jennifer
32	Rick Soller	Glass, H.K. Porter, Beehive	\$1	Cole King
33	Rick Soller	Glass, Lynchburg, 151 smooth base	\$5	Les Christensen
34	Rick Soller	Glass, purple, French, 160, Maydwell	\$35	Josh Dondorf
35	Rick Soller	BTC CAN, Hemi-19, Brookfield	\$1	Cole King
36	Rick Soller	2 tone CD 154 Hemi-42s, NATCO, frog, 7up	\$42	Shawn Kotlarsky
37	Rick Soller	Pittsburg, gray spool, Locke	\$15	Mary Ann Pike
38	Rick Soller	GE, Brookfield, California, arms	\$17	Arlen Rienstra
39	Rick Soller	Beehives, #19	\$14	Dave Shaw
40	Rick Soller	Porcelain transposition, Ohio Brass, GP	\$4	Arlic
41	Rick Soller	Foreign porcelain	\$3	Josh Dondorf
42	Rick Soller	Pyrex 271 VNM	\$7	Tim
43	Rick Soller	Pyrex 441 VNM	\$15	Tim

44	Rick Soller	Multipart	\$5	Jennifer
45	Rick Soller	Multipart	\$5	Arlic
46	Rick Soller	5 multiparts	\$1	Jennifer
47	Rick Soller	RC Cola crate, Thomas pin base	\$1	Cole King
48	Rick Soller	Porcelain	\$1	Jennifer
49	Rick Soller	7up + holder + glass	\$25	Josh Dondorf
50	Dale Glendenning	Colorful porcelain	\$4	Arlic
51	Dale Glendenning	Amber, Brookfield, Beehive	\$7	Cole King
52	Dale Glendenning	Star, 145, 151, 162	\$5	Steve Avery
53	Dale Glendenning	H.G. Petticoat, beehives	\$5	Dave Shaw
54	Dale Glendenning	Bucket, cable holders	\$10	Josh Dondorf
55	Dale Glendenning	Ponies, Brookfield, OVG, #11s	\$6	Jennifer
56	Dale Glendenning	Ponies, #20, #9, 152, signals	\$13	Berg
57	Mary Ann Pike	Transposition, cable	\$9	Jennifer
58	Mary Ann Pike	Star, PRR, 164, 147, 125	\$26	Steve Avery
59	Mary Ann Pike	154, WT, Hemingray, Transposition	\$1	Cole King
60				
61	Karen Palmowski	Tote of glass with tie wires	\$3	Jennifer
62	Karen Palmowski	Bag of insulators – 42s with tie wires	\$1	Jennifer
63	Karen Palmowski	Pins, RR spikes, glass	\$1	Berg
64	Karen Palmowski	½ of a tramp, ATT	\$7	Shawn Kotlarsky
65	Karen Palmowski	Green toll	\$14	Mary Ann Pike
66	Karen Palmowski	Am Tel, Hemi-42 dome emb.	\$6	Jay
67	Karen Palmowski	Mickey, transposition, Petticoat, pin	\$22	Steve Avery
68	Josh Dondorf	Coke Case with bottles	\$4	Russ Frank
69	Berg	Line posts (10)	\$10	Jennifer
70	Berg	5 boxes with dividers – 3 sets @ \$4 each	\$12	Les Christensen
71	Berg	5 boxes with dividers	\$4	Arlen Rienstra
72	Berg	5 boxes with dividers	\$4	Dave Shaw
		TOTAL	\$750	

Upcoming Shows

Tama, Iowa

Saturday, June 2, 2018

The 21st Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap Meet will be held on Saturday, June 2nd at the Tama Civic Center from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. The Civic Center is located at 305 Siegel St. in downtown Tama, IA, just two blocks West of Highway 63 on 3rd Street. Dealers can plan on setting up at 7:00 AM. There will be no cost to set up and lunch will be provided to those attending. This annual event tends to be fun and relaxed and draws a good variety of dealers and friends from the Midwest. We again look forward to hosting and providing you another great time in the Hawkeye State! For additional information and table reservation, please contact DAVE SHAW at (641) 484 5463 or e-mail at dashaw@mchsi.com

Mount Brydges, Ontario, Canada

Saturday, June 2, 2018

15th Annual Southwestern Ontario Insulator Meet will be held Saturday, June 2, at the home of Henry and Hilary Nicpon near Mount Brydges, Ontario. There's a \$10 charge for a table, with the fee helping to cover the cost of food and beverages. Please RSVP by May 26th if you are coming. Info: TOM IANNELLI 519-641-0098 or email: tiannelli0098@rogers.com or BARRETT NICPON 519-670-8796 or email: barrett.nicpon@gmail.com

Kansas City, Missouri

Friday, June 22 – Sunday, June 24, 2018

The 2018 National Insulator Association Convention & Show will be at the KCI Expo Center located at 11730 N. Ambassador Drive in Kansas City, Missouri 64153. The Expo center show boasts of its huge 35,000 square feet of Glass & Porcelain Insulators, Hardware, Signs, Lightning Rod Balls, Battery Jars & Rests, Lamps, Bottles, Jars and much more! 175+ Dealer & Display tables, Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (NIA Only). Open to the public on Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Dealers Wanted! For more information and/or a show packet: www.nia.org/shows/national or nwmoshow@dwagnerkc.com

Crazy Auction Prices

This is the season for insulator auctions. Bill & Jill Meier just completed one and two are ongoing as I write this newsletter (Ray Klingensmith's and the Eagle Cap Collectibles auction). These are besides the offerings on eBay, Etsy, and Facebook among other places. There have been a couple crazy auction results lately on some of these venues.

On eBay, Michelle Kotlarsky posted a CD 164 B.G.M. Co. in purple with minor damage (a flake on the inner skirt). The book value for this is \$600-700 while the ending auction price was over \$1800, three times the low-end book value.

In Bill & Jill Meier's auction, there were several notable surprises. The first I'll mention is the glass teapot that saw a final bid with buyer's premium of \$30,250. Apparently several bidders backed out of buying this piece and it was eventually sold for \$17,500 plus buyer's premium.

A U-186 "Purkey" sold for \$715. Recently one sold on ebay for about \$500. One is listed in the Klingensmith auction that is estimated to sell for \$450-550 and is currently at \$325. It will be interesting to see where it ends up.

A CD 175 aqua Hemingray-25 doorknob sold for an amazing \$275. The estimate was \$40-60 and the price guide lists them for \$50-75. Just about every collector in this area has one in their collection or on their sales table so who are the two or more people who could not find one at a lower price?

A CD 205 Brookfield with heavy amber ended at \$3630. There was enough amber to call the piece "amber" but that color is not in the price guide. The auction estimate of \$250-300 was off by a magnitude of ten. This one may be understandable given the unknown color but wow!

For \$1,018, someone bought a composition insulator marked with the Westinghouse name. It had metal around the center and the orangish composition material popping out of the top and forming the inside threads and skirts. I have several of these in my collection that I bought for under \$50. I asked Bill to contact the underbidder and offer mine for some discount price (yet outrageous price like \$800) but did not get a response.

A piece of pot metal, painted gold and shaped like a CD 152 (the king of insulators) and embossed "BROOKFIELD" sold for \$484. I have two other versions of this piece, both in red and with different embossings, all made in the 1970s by Robert Miley of Marion, Ohio for the Independent Telephone Pioneers of America chapter of the area. None were over \$100.

If you are a new collector, be careful about buying insulators before you understand what they are worth. For established collectors, maybe it's time to sell. Contact me at (847) 782-8602 or at Com574@clcollinois.edu ☺



A Polish stock certificate with lots of insulator-related graphics.