



**GREATER CHICAGO  
INSULATOR CLUB  
NEWSLETTER**  
Rick Soller, Editor



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**The Westinghouse Special No 1**

On September 2, 2021 at 7:37 p.m., Mary Ann Pike posted three pictures of a Westinghouse Special NO 1 on the Insulator Friends page of Facebook. On the same day, the primary picture of the CD 116 was posted in the Picture Poster of Insulators.info. The embossing on the insulator was previously unknown. The commentary (the first posted at 9:15 p.m. by Michael Deloia) about the insulator reflected much about the hobby.



First, there were many congratulatory wishes for Mary Ann and amazement at the find. Words like “awesome,” “wow,” “oh my,” “amazing,” and “spectacular” were a few of the first messages. Mary Ann, herself, remarked, “The results of my newspaper ad never cease to amaze me.” Several people noted Mary Ann’s hard work searching for insulators by attending auctions, pursuing leads on Facebook, and advertising. One poster referred to her previous luck at finding a mint CD 1025 a few years earlier. There seemed to be no doubt the piece was real which has occurred in the past when a previously unlisted piece surfaced.

At 10:13 p.m., Ron Jenkins raised the issue of cleaning the soot-covered insulator by stating, “That sucker needs a soaking.” Two others agreed with this sentiment but at 12:11 a.m. on September 3, Kathleen Edwards argued the other side of the coin by stating, “I would let it be. It is too cool the way she got it. It is just so tough the way it is. I vote ‘no soak.’” Others noted that the soot added to the provenance of the piece. Steve Bobb made a good point in noting that rust in the wire groove might indicate if the conductor was “iron wire, copper wire, or an insulated wire.”

By the morning of September 3, a misinterpretation of the initial post occurred. The post stated that the insulator came from “a coal mine area.” This morphed into it being found in a coal mine. Eventually this was corrected but I believe this misinterpretation will pop up again years from now. Posters encouraged Mary Ann to go back and talk to the previous owner and get as much detail about the location as possible. There must be more out there!

On ICON, Bob Berry pointed out the broader significance of the embossing. He reminded people that the Westinghouse No. 2 (CD 162), No. 3 (CD 102), No. 4 (CD 113), and No. 6 (CD 134) are known to the hobby and that Mary Ann’s find filled in a gap with what the Westinghouse (Special) No. 1 is (CD 116). Now someone needs to find the Westinghouse No. 5! Michael Green also wanted collectors to guess what CD it would be. Interesting question.

As more people read the post, they included in their post the names of other people who “needed” to see it. Dario DiMare’s name was listed since he assigns CD numbers although he later indicated that this would not be a new CD. Bob Berry got pinged, probably so he could list the insulator on the NIA web site. Don Briel got a notice so he could include the insulator in the next price guide. Many others were included in a post to draw them to the excitement.

At 11:31 a.m. on September 3, Colin Jung started a discussion of who the manufacturer might be with his first reaction being, “It looks like Brookfield-made glass, unlike other Westinghouse glass insulators.” Additional photos provided led Colin to comment that there looked like a set of concentric rings at the top of the pinhole which was “not very Elmer-ringish looking.” Someone suggested it might be Hemingray, but Bob Stahr dispelled that notion. Ross Baird noted that Westinghouse stated in their catalog that all their insulators were made in-house.

Shortly after this post, the elephant in the room was raised regarding the compensation paid to the previous owner. Roger Poole suggested the 90-year-old man should be offered a new house if the insulator is sold. Not much follow-up on this line of thought occurred.

Apparently of more interest to collectors than how much was paid for the insulator was whether it would be sold and for how much. By 2:40 p.m. on September 3, Tod Pike squelched the hopes of other collectors by indicating that Mary Ann intended to keep the piece. This didn’t stop collectors from speculating that a high enough price might wrest the piece from the Pennsylvania collectors and send it elsewhere, perhaps to Farmington, New Mexico.

In terms of the price, estimates ranged greatly. Almost exactly one day later, at 7:35 p.m. on September 3, Bob Trachimowicz asked about the value and speculated, “Five figures?” Patrick Moylan disagreed with a five-figure estimate, equating the piece to the CD 126 Star (\$2000-2500) and the CD 106 AM. TEL. & TEL. CO. (\$4000-4500). Rick Soller added to the list other embossings with only one known example: CD 102 Ness, McLaren & Bates (\$2500-3000), the CD H.G.W. (\$2500-3000), and the CD 263 General Electric (\$5000-7000).

Jim Peach felt it was “one of the best finds I can remember in the past thirty years.” The 231 comments Mary Ann’s post garnered in just a few days certainly attest to this. All this has made the hobby that much more interesting.

Postscript: I sent a copy of this article to Mary Ann Pike, and she replied, “Wow, Rick, you really take your position of historian seriously! You even record conversations about new finds. Nice summary. I just wrote up something simple for Christian [Willis and the Drip Points], I didn’t even mention the buzz on Facebook (which I must admit, was fun).”

### **Ottawa Swap Meet**

Don’t forget that the swap meet in Ottawa, Illinois will be held soon. There will be lots of insulators in the auction, and plenty of insulators on sales tables so bring lots of cash.

## **National Show Report**

Despite the Covid pandemic, the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Insulator Association (NIA) Convention was held in Farmington, New Mexico with a strong crowd of dealers, displayers, and collectors attending.

Since two officers of the club did not attend (Bob Stahr and Rick Soller) it fell to the shoulders of Russ Frank to present the club award to the display with the best use of power insulators. Tom Katonak was the winner of the beautiful piece of artwork for his display of copper-topped glass insulators. The artwork featured a utility pole in the background and a power insulator in the foreground. The picture below shows the presentation of the award at the banquet. Thanks to Richard Case for the picture.



(Russ Frank on the left and Tom Katonak on the right)

Rick Soller did not attend the national but sent a display with Riley Armstrong. The display contained pole tags in Rick's collection and earned him a displayer award consisting of a carnival Mickey Mouse insulator mounted on a section of a crossarm that was mounted to a plaque. Displayers had a choice of a variety of Mickey Mouse insulators (aqua, carnival, clear), and, luckily, Riley was able to pick one for Rick early on and get the carnival one. The picture on the next page shows Riley receiving the award.

Besides Russ Frank, Riley Armstrong, and Richard Case, other club members in attendance included Marge Frank, Cameron Case, Jason Townsend, and Gene Hawkins. Jason brought the collection of the late Robert Morawitz from Fort Madison, Iowa and sold it all at the show.

Next year's national will be in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The show will be held July 29-31, 2022. Along with the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club, the show will be hosted by Gus Stafford, Mary Ann Pike, Justin & Emily Stoudt, and Steve Gosciminski.



(Tommy Bolack on the left and Riley Armstrong on the right)

### **Upcoming Shows**

#### **Saturday, September 18, 2021**

##### **Ottawa, Illinois**

The Greater Chicago Insulator Club's annual fall swap meet will be held at the home of Tom and Mary Nugent located at 1999 N. Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350 from 9 a.m. - ?. Bring a table if you can. Free lunch. Club auction with Rick Soller taking bids. For more information or to RSVP, contact Tom at (815) 434-5157 or [tnugent@ivnet.com](mailto:tnugent@ivnet.com). Although the address is listed as 1999 Columbus Street, attendees need to turn on Alexis Street to get to this address. You cannot see the house from Columbus Street, so have to travel to the end of Alexis Street to get to the address of the swap meet. Coming from I-80, Alexis Street is one mile south on Columbus Street/U.S. 30 and is the first right turn after Reynolds Manor Dr. You will be going west when you make the turn. Tom will have signs up to make it easier to find his domicile.

#### **Saturday, October 2, 2021**

##### **River Falls, Wisconsin**

The North Western Insulator Club will host our Fall Swap Meet, Show, and Sale at a new venue for us this year. Our host will be Mike Braun and we will be at the Glen Park Pavilion, 361 West Park St in River Falls. This is a newer facility with indoor space and tables. Hours will 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. An auction to benefit our club treasury will be held around 11:30 a.m. and all are welcome to bring in merchandise for sale or to bid early and often. For more information or questions, contact Mike Braun at [mbraun61@yahoo.com](mailto:mbraun61@yahoo.com) or 651-999-9961 See you in October!

**Sunday, October 3, 2021**  
**Chelsea, Michigan**

The Huron Valley Bottle and Insulator Club annual Show, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Conference Center, 1645 Commerce Drive, Chelsea, MI. North off I-94 at M-52 exit. For more information or table reservations, contact MIKE BRUNER at [abbott4girl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abbott4girl@sbcglobal.net) or ROD KRUPKA at (248) 627-6351 or [rod.krupka@yahoo.com](mailto:rod.krupka@yahoo.com)

**Friday – Sunday, November 5-7, 2021**  
**Springfield, Ohio**

51st Mid-Ohio Insulator Show. Clark County Fairgrounds. 4401 South Charleston Pike. Exit 59 off I-70. Springfield, Ohio. Show Hours: Friday Noon - 6 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - ??? CONTACT: Curt Boster (614) 301-5125 [cboster530@att.net](mailto:cboster530@att.net)  
Visit [www.insulators.info/shows/springfield](http://www.insulators.info/shows/springfield) for more information.

**Friday – Sunday, July 29-31, 2022**  
**Gettysburg, Virginia**

Along with the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club, show hosts Gus Stafford, Mary Ann Pike, Justin & Emily Stoudt, and Steve Gosciminski invite you to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Insulator Association Convention Show, & Sale to be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. The Wyndham Gettysburg is located two short miles from the battlefield that changed the course of our Nation's history. The hotel is surrounded by countless historical sites, as well as outlet malls, antique stores, and family friendly venues for all ages. The Wyndham has a helpful concierge service to assist you in finding activities external to those offered by the National Show.

All activities for the show occur at the Wynham. The Presidential Ballroom serves as our main show hall with 8,901 square feet, while the NIA General Membership meeting and the NIA Awards Banquet take place in the 5,360 square foot Pre-Function Space. Adjacent smaller rooms facilitate the board meeting, special displays, etc. The building is air conditioned, with Wi-Fi access throughout. There is ample parking, and all loading and unloading are at ground level.

The Wyndham Gettysburg is conveniently located at the intersection US 15 & US 30 in Gettysburg near Harrisburg (36 miles), Baltimore (54 miles), Washington, DC (78 miles), and Philadelphia (118 miles). Designed with a heightened appreciation of its historic setting, Gateway Gettysburg is a wonderful shopping, dining, and entertainment complex located on a pedestrian-friendly 100-acre campus.

The Presidential Ballroom will accommodate 126 dealer tables, and 18 exhibit tables. Tables are 6" long x 30" wide. The aisles and dealer space will be 6' wide. Dealers with insulators, related go-withs, bottles, etc. are all invited. Dealer tables will be \$50 each. Optionally, electricity is available for \$25 per dealer, wired to your table. All tables come with a white tablecloth covering, at no additional charge. Staying set up until the end of the show is strongly recommended.

**Classified Ads (free for members)**

**Insulator books for sale.** \$5 each or all 6 for \$25 plus postage. Contact Rick Soller, 4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031, (847) 782-8602, Com574@clcillinois.edu.

Rare Insulators with Prices by Frances M. Terrill published in 1970, Book 1 of 6.

Scarce Insulators Priced by Frances M. Terrill published in 1970, Book 2 of 6.

Hemingray Insulators Priced by Frances M. Terrill published in 1971, Book 3 of 6.

Embossing Errors by Frances M. Terrill published in 1971, Book 4 of 6.

Choice Insulators Priced by Frances M. Terrill published in 1972, Book 5 of 6.

Porcelain Insulators Photographed & Priced by Frances M. Terrill 1972 Book 6 of 6.

Frances Terrill edited "Insulator Bylines" in the Old Bottle Magazine for years and received information from across the continent on insulators. Even though these books are 50 years old, they contain material of interest to collectors such as nicknames for insulators (some no longer used in the hobby), mysterious references (some insulators are referred to as having S.C.D.P.s or Sharp Curved Drip Points), names of collectors who gifted Frances with an insulator (possible indicator of where the insulator came from), location information, and one of the few sources mentioning "oddities" like lightning rod insulators (e.g., the "Young" LRI), ram's horns, suspensions, and radio strains. The books are approximately 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" in dimension.



Electrical Review, July 17, 1920, Vol. 27, No. 3, front cover.