

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2 WINTER 1986

WELCOME TO THE NIA !

For many of you, this may be your first exposure to the NIA (National Insulator Association.) Under an agreement with Crown Jewels, the quarterly newsletter of the NIA, "Drip Points" will now appear as an insert in Crown Jewels rather than as a separately produced and mailed document.

By way of background, the National Insulator Association was officially founded July 7, 1973 after several years of discussions among collectors with the compelling purpose of coordinating the locations of the larger insulator shows in the country. As it evolved, a number of equally important functions began including the establishment of rules of ethical conduct within the hobby and the active promotion of insulator collecting throughout the country. By binding collectors together into a national association, many opportunities for mutual assistance and promotion of the hobby are now possible. Some of the committees authorized by the Association include Ethics (for insuring the highest possible degree of conduct at insulator shows) and Show Standards (for establishing and enforcing guidelines for show display competition). There is also an NIA Historian whose responsibility it is to gather and preserve for the future all possible historical information regarding the hobby.

You are cordially invited to join the NIA and offer your support to the successful promotion of the insulator collecting hobby. For further information about the NIA please contact any member of the Board of Directors listed at the end of this newsletter.

"Messages"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow NIA Members,

I'd like to address the problems of financing an organization like the NIA. Since its inception, the NIA has relied exclusively on membership dues as its means of income. Although some of you might think that there isn't much return for your dues, I'd like to point out where they actually go:

1. NEWSLETTER: Printing and mailing Drip Points, issued quarterly, costs the NIA more than half its annual budget. The NIA will be saving some money and increasing its exposure now that Crown Jewels is distributing Drip Points, but the newsletter is still far and away the NIA's biggest cost item.

2. TROPHIES, RIBBON, & AWARDS: The NIA provides 10 trophies, the Outstanding Service Award and Lifetime Membership Cards for each National Show, a Best of Show Trophy for each Regional, and Ribbons for any local insulator show which requests one. All are provided free of charge to hosts.

3. ADVERTISING: The NIA reimburses up to \$350 per year in paid advertising to National and Regional hosts, in an effort to keep promotion of those shows on an even keel from year to year.

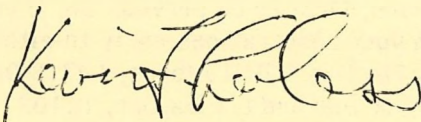
What the NIA needs is expanded funding for other important projects, especially in the area of insulator history and research. To accomplish this, I am going to make every attempt to supplement the NIA's income through sales of "Official NIA paraphernalia" like embroidered patches, name badges, pins, hats, and the like. These would all include the NIA's new logo. However, all "big plans" need money—more than I would expect from the NIA's present membership dues. We need the cooperation of every member and FORMER member to rejoin the NIA—AND to encourage other collectors to do the same. Although I haven't attempted to document it, probably less than 1/3 of the active collectors in the U.S. and Canada belong to the NIA and that is a loss for ALL OF US!

NIA Board and Committee members donate their time,energy, and money (postage, phone calls) to the NIA in an effort to advance the organization and hobby of insulator collecting. HELP US IMPROVE OUR HOBBY-GET YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN THE NIA.

I am pleased to report that the response to the proposed new NIA logo has been extremely favorable. I personally received constructive criticism from about half a dozen members and some of their ideas will be used to create the final version of the logo. The Board of Directors was unanimous in their pleasure with the new design. Howie Snyder did a superb job of art work in about 12 draft versions of the logo stretching back to last winter. On behalf of the Boards of Directors for Mike Bruner's and my administrations, my thanks and gratitude to Howie for past and future services donated.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you realize that we cannot accomplish much without your cooperation and contributions. This is still YOUR newsletter! If you have interesting articles or items to share with your friends in the hobby-PLEASE send them to Mike Guthrie! He will be very happy to include them in future issues of Drip Points.

I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 1987. Good Collecting!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Holmes". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

PRESIDENT, NIA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

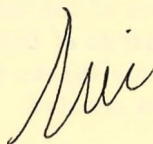
As you read this column, 1987 is just around the corner and I am still looking for show hosts for 1988. Specifically, hosts for the Eastern and Western Regionals and the National to be held in the Central Region. Even if you are just casually thinking of hosting an insulator show, drop me a note and let me be of some assistance. Within each region there are many former show hosts that I can contact and ask to provide you with information to make your show planning easier. If you have already hosted a show in the past, why not put that experience to use again? The insulator collecting hobby NEEDS YOU!

The N.I.A. Board of Directors requires some lead time to evaluate each bid and make clarifications where needed. Thus it is suggested that these bid proposals be in to me by April 1, 1987 at the latest.

In October I went to the St. Charles Insulator show and guess what? The show hosts had no trouble in selling out all their tables (approximately 40.) It is a clear indication that people want to come to these insulator shows if you will only host one.

All the very best to all of you in the coming year.

Best Regards,



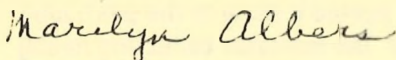
ERIC HALPIN

SECOND PAST PRESIDENT

Hello from Texas! I'd like to call your attention to two items of importance:

1. Plans for the NIA Central Regional here in Pearland (near Houston) are well under way. Show dates are June 27-28, 1987. Watch for the notices in CROWN JEWELS and DRIP POINTS. Tables will be held for insulator dealers until 6 weeks before the show at which time it is first to come, first to be served. So, if you plan to set-up, please send in your reservations early to either of the two show host couples: Marilyn & Bill Albers, 14715 Oak Bend Drive, Houston, TX 77079 or Dee and Lee Garner, 15102 Ringfield, Houston, TX 77084.

2. Jack H. Tod has called it to my attention that NIA history incorrectly identifies him as the first Chairman of the By-laws Committee. The first Chairman was actually John Hall (Ohio) and Jack was his successor. It was John who wrote the first draft of the NIA By-laws and then Jack wrote the last draft and worked to get that version finalized and adopted when the NIA was officially organized. So, the two men actually worked on this effort together and Jack would sincerely like to see that John Hall receives proper recognition.



Second Past-President

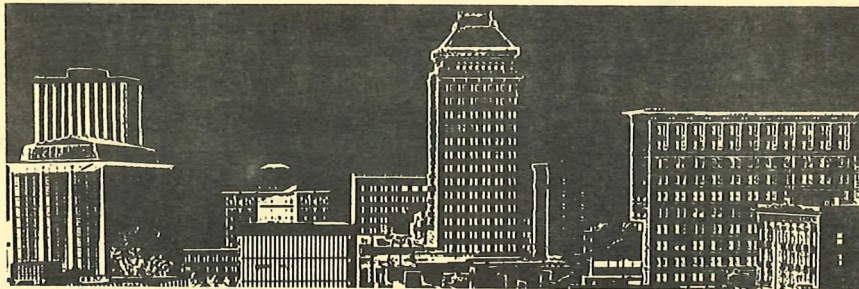
CENTRAL REGION


There has been a rebirth of a show in the Chicago area that has been missed for the last few years. The return of the Collectors' Jubilee took place on Oct 3 & 4 th at the Dunham Inn in St. Charles, Ill. This should be a familiar sounding spot to all who attended the 1985 National as this was the host facility. This time the show was held at the Dunham Inn itself and although not a large show, many good pieces were available. Among those for sale were a CD 739.2 Stovepipe (one of only 2 known), several California helmets including 2 purple and one yellow, a CD 249 No. "0" Provo, and much more. And besides all of the tables of insulators, there were also large quantities of quality lightning rod balls & arrows, and numerous other collectibles. To top it all off, on Sunday, following the insulator show, was the Kane County Flea Market.

The Collectors' Jubilee, which will hopefully become an annual event again, will be earlier next year on June 5 & 6, 1987 and will again share the spotlight with the massive Kane County Flea Market. A trip to this weekend event is well worth while. We hope to see more of you there next year.

Finally, I want to remind all of you to let me know if you have any suggestions, ideas, or even complaints. I've heard very little from the membership since taking the job of Central Region V.P. I hope this is a good sign, but remember I'm not a mind reader so please call or write.

Dennis Weber
Central Region Vice-President



FRESH  **NATIONAL '87-START PLANNING NOW !!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY

At next year's NIA National Show in Fresno, Violet Brown's term of office as NIA Western Region Vice-President will expire. In anticipation of this vacancy I would like to begin accepting recommendations and nominations for this position.

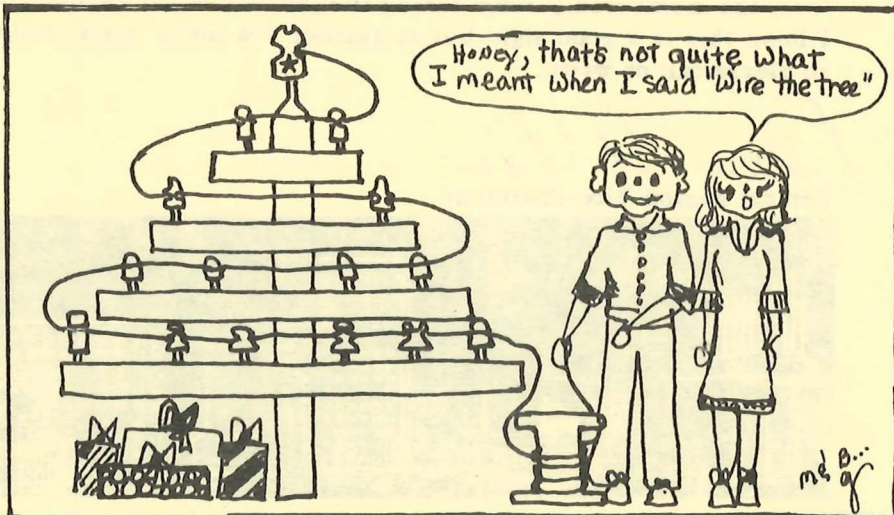
The duties of a Regional Vice-President are to take any appropriate action to promote the purposes of the NIA in his region and nationally. Regional Vice-Presidents also function in the absence of the NIA president at NIA activities. The term is 3 years and will run until the next year the National is held in the West Region.

Anyone interested in acquiring further information regarding duties and responsibilities of this office can contact me by phone or by mail. I will be glad to discuss and/or answer any questions you may have.

The position of Regional Vice-President is an important part of the NIA. To insure the continued success of our hobby I hope you will consider running or nominating someone for this leadership position.

Russ Hughes

Nominations Committee Chairman
2560 S. Urain St., Denver, CO 80219 (303) 922-7733



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE N.I.A.

"OPEN HOUSE"

by Jeff McCurly, Eastern Region Vice President

Larry and Mary Jo Emmons of Hampton, Connecticut held a super open house on October 18-19, 1986. I followed the signs down Long Crossing Road which included such helpful hints as PINCO, THOMAS, & LOCKE. Driving down this dead-end road past some very nice homes and acres of wooded land I thought I must have passed the Emmon's by accident. Well, whoever said good things come to those who wait was right. At the very end of the road I saw a mailbox supported by three huge porcelain power types and the traffic light at the start of the driveway really caught my eye, I was at the right house for sure. The seven antique street lights along the driveway, with glass insulators securing the power lines, were so neat.

The weather was cool and crystal clear and perfect for a day of visiting with friends and seeing Larry's and Mary Jo's fine collections. The lower floor of their raised ranch home is chock full of insulators, bottles, beer cans, Avon collectibles, and enamel signs. So much to see....and all are displayed nicely. Truckin' through the kitchen to get outside, I did a quick stop to view all of the fantastic carnival glass items that Mary Jo has been collecting since she was a young girl. I can't be any more specific on how old some of these items are because I would like to be invited back some day. The different bottles, vases, and dish sets are sure pretty.

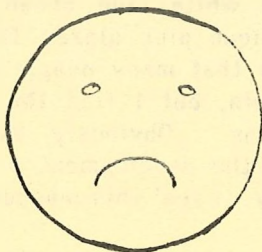
People were arriving all day on the 18th representing Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. I think that everyone would agree that the main attraction was the "shed" that Larry & Mary Jo recently built. The two story structure is supported by twelve telephone poles. The ground floor, which is a virtual museum of thousands of porcelain insulators, was built with old telephone poles cut into lumber for the walls. By the way.... Larry and Mary Jo built 95% of it themselves. The interior shelving holds insulators separated by U-number and colors in all variations of brown, white, blue, green, and yellow. And, of course, there's the unique pink glazed Thomas that still has people talking. I know that many people in this hobby do not care much for porcelain, but I find the various shapes and colors quite interesting. Obviously these porcelain units played a vital role in the development of electrical services throughout this country. I feel this museum is a great addition to the hobby.

I strongly recommend that if you are planning to travel through Connecticut you should contact the Emmons' and invite yourself over. Their dedication to the hobby and their friendliness were both very much in evidence during my visit.

"DISCOVERIES"

On page 12 of the last issue of Drip Points was an article with a proposal to record and publish the experiences of NIA members who have discovered desirable insulators still in use or on poles and crossarms. It was intended to provide some dreams and visions of the past which are no longer available to newer collectors in the hobby. If you haven't yet read this article, please do. If you did read the article and were anxiously waiting to share someone else's thrills, I have included, as follows, all of the articles which were submitted, for your enjoyment:

Yes, fellow collectors, it is sad but true. No one chose to participate in this project. Perhaps I was wrong, maybe no one really cares to know about the discovery of neat insulators. What is readily apparent, however, is that no one cares to write about it. So, I am sorry to report that there are no choice experiences to share with you in this issue.



PACKING INSULATORS by Charlie Allmon

In the fall issue of "Drip Points" I promised to give you a tip on a time and labor saving method of packing insulators. Before leaving home to attend a show or swap meet, most collectors and dealers spend time organizing their inventory and some spend a lot of time making sure each piece is individually wrapped and safely packed. Well, there is a much faster and easier method that will not endanger your jewels.

Your only stop for materials will be at a liquor store. Here you will need to acquire some empty cardboard boxes. I prefer champagne cases because the partitions are roomy and the dividers are thickly corrugated. One brand of champagne that has outstanding cases is Korbel, in the 750 ml size. Now, don't get me wrong, I am not endorsing their hooch! It may be wonderful, or it may be rot-gut, I simply have never tried it. But, I can testify to the fact that their boxes work great for packing insulators. Most likely any champagne case will do very nicely.

After acquiring your boxes, here's what to do: Roll up a double sheet of newspaper into a flattened wad approximately the size of a softball. Jam a wad into the bottom of each partition of the box. Next drop an insulator into each partition (no need to wrap them in paper.) Next, another wad of newspaper into each partition, on top of the insulator. Then, another layer of insulators and finally a last wad of newspaper on top. This way each box will hold at least two layers of insulators for a minimum of 24 pieces. If you are packing smaller units you may be able to safely pack 3-4 layers in each box.

A person can easily see how this method will speed up the process of packing and unpacking your stock. Also, think how much easier locating that one particular piece would be since each insulator does not require unwrapping and subsequent re-wrapping.

Best wishes to each and every one of you for a safe and happy holiday season !

PROMOTE YOUR HOBBY !

For every NIA member there are probably from 20-50 collectors of Insulators who have never been exposed to the organized aspects of the hobby. In addition, there are literally thousands of people who, when told of your hobby, say: "You collect WHAT?" Well, if we are ever to educate the masses as to what the hobby is all about, we must each make an effort to expose people to the various facets of insulator collecting. There are a large variety of ways to achieve this objective, limited only by ones thinking. One of the best ways is to go to the places where education commonly occurs, specifically, libraries and museums.

I recently contacted the main library branch in Fresno, Ca and asked about their criteria for displaying in the main lobby. I was told it was as easy as signing up, so I did. As pictured below, a rather comprehensive display of glass, porcelain, non-glass, non-porcelain, foreign, domestic, threaded, & threadless insulators were included along with club, NIA, book, and magazine information. It was as easy as that ! For 30 days hundreds of people per day were exposed to descriptions about and samples of dozens of different types of insulators and their history.

Why don't you try the same thing ? Contact your local library or museum or both and offer to display part of your collection to educate the public about your hobby.



1987 NATIONAL & REGIONAL SHOWS

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING 1987 DATES FOR
NIA SANCTIONED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SHOWS:

June 27-28, 1987 Central Regional
in Pearland, Texas. Show hosts are Marilyn
& Bill Albers of the Lone Star Insulator
Club and Lee & Dee Garner of the Gulf
Coast Bottle Club.

July 24-26, 1987-NATIONAL in Fresno,
California hosted by Mike & Becky Guthrie of
the NorCal Insulator Club.

Sept. 26-27, 1987 Eastern Regional in
Kulpsville, Pennsylvania. Show hosts are
Claude Wambold and Steve Bobb.

1986-1987 NIA Board of Directors

Kevin Lawless, NIA #1679 (President) 41 Crestwood Dr., Schenectady, NY 12306	518-355-5688
Eric Halpin, NIA #2768 (Executive Director) 1411 Murray Ave., Thunder Bay, Ont. P7E 5A7 Canada	807-622-7583
Michael Guthrie, NIA #3297 (Information Director) 35816 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, CA 93638	209-645-0120
Rod Krupka, NIA # 1308 (Treasurer) 2615 Echo La., Ortonville, MI 48462	313-627-6351
Violet Brown, NIA #652 (Western Region Vice-President) 7049 243rd Ave. N.E., Redmond, WA 98052	206-868-4249
Dennis Weber, NIA #1889 (Central Region Vice-President) 3609 Jackson, St. Joseph, MO 64507	816-364-1312
Jeffrey McCurdy, NIA #1054 (Eastern Region Vice-President) P.O. Box 808, Milibrook, NY 12545	914-677-9917
Michael Bruner, NIA #1482 (First Past President) 6980 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48033	313-661-2359
Marilyn Albers, NIA #541 (Second Past President) 14715 Oak Bend Dr., Houston, TX 77079	713-497-4146

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



The fiscal year for membership dues starts Apr. 1 and ends Mar.31. The current dues amounts for various membership classes are:

- \$8.00 Adult (Regular individual membership)
- \$8.00 Family (This type of membership is for one voting adult and other family members at the same address. Enclose an additional \$1.00 for each family member who wishes voting privileges.)
- \$1.00 Junior (Under 18 years of age)

Make checks payable to "National Insulator Association" and send to:
National Insulator Association, c/o Treasurer Rod Krupka
2615 Echo Lane, Ortonville, MI 48462 (313) 627-6351

Each member who is not a subscriber to the magazine "Crown Jewels of the Wire" will receive a copy of the October issue which is the subscriber directory of the names and addresses of all NIA members. Beginning with all memberships renewed or started after Dec. 1, 1986, each member household will receive, as part of their membership, a coupon good for \$2.00 off the regular subscription price of "Crown Jewels" magazine.

New members, upon payment of dues, are immediately entitled to all membership privileges. Regular and Junior members receive all NIA mailings including the quarterly newsletter, membership directory, and membership handbook. Family members do not receive duplicates of these items at the same address but do receive the membership card.

Current membership entitles the member to display and/or purchase a sales table at NIA National Conventions and permits admittance to the show on the first day of the National, which is limited to NIA members.

I (we) apply for (___) New (___) Renewal Memberships in the National Insulator Association.

_____	_____		
NAME	NIA #		
_____	_____		
STREET	PHONE		
_____	_____		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE