# Drip Points

### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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> **FALL 2000** VOLUME 28 \* NUMBER 1 \*

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### FROM THE EDITOR

month for me as our local club (GLASS) cohosted its first show with the help of John Hovanec and our local club. the Western Reserve Insulator Club. We had a great July found my wife; our two people in attendance. ence, and we have some show in Bloomington.

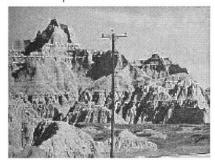
ideas about what we should and shouldn't do in the future. une was a very exciting. We really appreciate the "big names" in the hobby who made the effort to be there and show their support for

time with approximately 80 eldest children, Sam and This Seth; and myself heading out was a good learning experi- West to attend the National We

took a shortcut to get to Minnesota from Pennsylvania by traveling though Montana and South Dakota. Since, by coincidence, we have friends along this shortcut route, we decided to stop and see them as well. We traveled in 10 states total and spent time Mount Rushmore. visiting Wall Drug (of course!), and the Badlands. I must admit I

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never expected to see insula-



tors IN the Badlands! The above picture is proof they are there!

The Badlands also offered an opportunity for me to use my "Insu-picker" (See the summer issue of Drip Points). No, I did not take any insulators from the Badlands, but found my "Insu-picker" can serve double duty as a snake handler's pole when a rattle-snake unwittingly gets in the way of traffic!

One of the most enjoyable, yet frustrating, parts of the trip was traveling several hundred miles on a highway that ran parallel to a set of tracks and not being able to stop! I did make a few (very) short stops — but desired to make more. To make matters worse, in some areas



crews were in the process of tearing the poles down!

The National show was a time of great enjoyment -- it was good to renew friendships and to make new acquaintances.

Twenty-four hours after arriving home from the National I headed for northern Quebec with my dad and brother for a 10 day fishing trip. There were some nice Canadian pieces on abandoned lines, but due to road construction I was unable to get any of them. Oh well, there's always next year.

I hope to see many of you at the Corning Show and the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Washington Courthouse Show! Happy collecting!

### Lee Brewer, NIA # 6695 Information Director



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

he annual NIA Convention is always a special time of year, but this National was especially pleasing to me personally because on Friday night after the General Membership Meeting, I took over as NIA President! Those present at the meeting heard me announce the names of the Board Members and Committee Chairpersons that will be serving between now and the 2001 National. I also briefly discussed my proposed goals for the first year of my 2000 to 2002 term. On Saturday,

after the show hall closed, a meeting was held with the NIA Directors and each goal was discussed in further detail. I am pleased to report that the Board has adopted all of my goals (after some discussion and clarification). Each and every Board and Committee Chairperson has, what I think, is a new and exciting project to work on.

1. I have proposed that a plaque be issued to all previous National Show Hosts. Although we have a single plaque that is passed on from host to host each year, the NIA provides nothing to each individual host. Hosting the

National is perhaps one of the most significant contributions that an NIA member can make to the hobby. In my opinion, past show hosts should have something that they can point to with pride. I have had a discussion with Kevin Lawless (our First Past President), and we determined that approximately 50 plagues would be needed. I then checked with the company that Melanie and I ordered the awards from for the Scottsdale National. were given a rough estimate \$1,000 and of between \$1,250 (or roughly \$20 to \$25

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per award). I am asking Sandy Ellison (our Awards and Recognition Chairperson) to work with Kevin in developing that list which should include the current addresses, the number (i.e. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual), and dates of the event.

- 2. With respect to the NIA website, I have proposed that we look into aggressively promoting it. This might include listing it with a search engine. Bob Berry, our Promotion and Education Committee Chairman, will head this effort up. He will also be adding links to local clubs (whether it is to the club's web page or the individual e-mail
- address of the club president).

3. We are going to have a membership drive. Our goal is to have 200 new NIA

members by the end of the year. I am going to work together with Bill Meier, the ICON webmaster, to do our best to promote the benefits of NIA membership. There is so much more to the NIA besides early admission at the National. We set show standards, sponsor research and authentication projects, arbitrate disputes between collectors and dealers, offer insurance to show hosts for a nominal fee, subsidize advertising, publish a newsletter full of valuable information. circulate educational plays, provide awards for displays, etc. It's time that we

open up the doors, promote ourselves, and invite everyone in! To help further this goal, our new Executive Secretary, Bob Stahr, will be placing advertisements Crown Jewels, ICON, and local club newsletters promoting NIA membership benefits and soliciting new members. You can do your part as well. The NIA will gladly ship you brochures and applications that can be placed at museums, circulated at insulator and bottle shows, etc.

4. We are going to implement on-line membership renewals and sign-up. We will start off with Pay Pal and hopefully move on to Visa/MasterCard

Our goal is to

have 200 new

members ...

or Discover a c c e p - tance. Bob Berry will add this to the NIA w e b s i t e. When some-

one renews or joins the NIA for the first time, the money will be automatically deposited into the NIA bank account, and Joe Beres (our Membership Director) will be sent an e-mail notifying him of the renewal or new signup. Joe will then process the membership card in the usual fashion.

5. Dick Bowman, the Chairman of our Exploratory Museum Committee, will be reporting to the Board periodically during the upcoming year and may have some recommendations for next year's Board and General Member-

ship Meetings. Dick, as well as I, would welcome constructive feedback with respect to this project. Don't be shy; everyone has an opinion, and we certainly do not have all of the answers on this difficult task.

- 6. We are going to check into the feasibility of making Drip Points available on-line! The mechanics need to be worked out, but Bob Berry and I have discussed encrypted passwords (perhaps something easy like your NIA number but tied to your email address for verification) so that members could access Drip Points over the internet through the NIA web-This would signifipage. cantly cut down on printing and postage costs and of course would get Drip Points to members faster.
- 7. Speaking of *Drip Points*, I've spoken with Lee Brewer (our Information Director), and both he and Tammy are ready to take advantage of our reduced postage rates once we receive our non-profit status certificate back from the IRS. They are also going to pull a couple of older *Drip Points* issues and have them posted on our NIA website so that prospective members can see what *Drip Points* is all about.
- 8. Bill Rhode will be taking over my previous position as By-Laws Chairman. Last fall I completely re-wrote the NIA Handbook. Some final tweaking will be done over

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tweaking will be done over the next month or so, and then Bill and I will coordinate on printing copies of the new manual. At least a several hundred copies will be provided to Joe Beres so that he can provide them to new members when they sign-up. Current members will be able to obtain copies of the new book either by viewing it at www.nia.org or by contacting

Bill Rhode to obtain a hard copy.

This year marks the first year where Regional Vice

Presidents are charged with the responsibility of obtaining bids for the major shows in their regions, whether they be for a National or a Regional. I personally would like to see at least two, if not three bids for each major show presented to the Board for review. In 2001, the National will be held in Atlanta. I am sure that you are going to read in other areas of this issue some of the great activities that Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the members of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club have planned for next year. This promises to be a great show! In 2002, the National will be held in the Western Region. Tom Katonak, our Western Region Vice President, has already started to work on soliciting bids for that event. Tom is also working on obtaining a solid bid for the 2001 Western Regional. Our new Central Region Vice

President is Ed Peters. Ed is working on obtaining bids for the 2001 and 2002 Central Regionals. Finally, Ken Willick, our Eastern Region Vice President, will be working on obtaining a bid for the 2002 Eastern Regional.

10. Like it or not, internet auctions are here to stay. And while many people in our hobby have different opinions and even strong feelings with

... 2001 National

will be held in

Atlanta,

respect to shows versus auctions, one thing that everyone can agree on is that as an NIA member, we

subscribe to a code of higher ethical conduct. It stands to follow then that none of us would like to see people, especially uneducated novice collectors, ripped off. need only glance at some of the auctions on e-Bay to see two extremes. First, there are people out there selling items who have absolutely no idea as to what they are Second, there are people out there selling items who know exactly what they are worth. Each presents its own set of unique problems. Sometimes people in the first category are receptive to an honest communication along the lines of "You probably don't know this, but the item that you have posted is a fake. You might want to add that to your description. would be happy to talk with you about it." Other times they are not open to suggestions and tell you to mind

your own business. People in the second category are especially difficult to deal with if they are taking an otherwise common insulator and "puffing it up" to look like something rare. Without exception, those individuals are not only not interested in your opinion, but know exactly what they are doing . . .trying to rip someone off.

The NIA does not have the resources to police every item that goes up for auction, nor should it. America is still a free country and the governing rule is clearly "Caveat Emptor," or "Buyer Beware." But the NIA does have the prestige of being a strong voice for ethical and fair dealing within the hobby. I have asked Elton Gish, our Ethics Chairman, to contact many internet auction sites as he can. Elton is going to provide each site with information about the NIA. goal here is to provide the internet auction sites with a resource. If someone has a complaint, and the auction site or the injured party would like assistance in resolving it. they have a place to go.

11. Probably one of the most controversial challenges that I have presented to the Board and Committee Chairpersons is a review of the CD, M, and U numbering systems. In my opinion, they can be quite confusing to a novice collector. In fact, I myself do not understand why, for example, there are all sorts of signal (Continued on page 5)

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shapes (like HGCo., California, WGM, etc.), that all have been assigned CD#162, and yet there is the 162.1 and 162.3? Why isn't each shape then given its own point whatever? I'm not saying that the system is wrong (although it could be); I'm saying that I don't understand it, and I want to!

Yes, we as a hobby have adopted these systems. And yes, there is something to be said for the old adage "If it's not broke, don't fix it." So what am I concerned about? Well, new discoveries still occur. Prices are dramatically affected if something is assigned a new CD number. And what about the future? Twenty or thirty years from now, who should be assigning the CD, M and U numbers? Individuals or an organization? I'm willing to bet that the men and women that have dedicated untold hours of their lives to designing these systems want to see their work continue and to be enjoyed by thousands of enthusiastic collectors for years and years to come. Therefore, I am placing an enorburden mous on John McDougald, our Research and Authentication Committee Chairman. I have asked John to start a dialogue with the designers of these systems and with people that he would consider to be experts in glass, foreign and porcelain. I am also calling on the NIA's Second Past President. Rick Baldwin. Rick will be soliciting your comments. This is your hobby. What would you like to see done? In the end, I am hoping that both men will be able to report back to the Board at our next annual meeting in July with some recommendations.

- 12. Dudley Ellis is our Treasurer. Dudley's task is the simplest to explain but perhaps one of the more difficult ones to execute. Dudley has been asked to balance our budget.
- 13. One of the most fascinating aspects to our hobby is the history. Rick Soller, our Historian, has been organizing the materials handed down through the ages. The Board is presenting Rick with a new task: Scan documents of significant interest to the hobby and place them on the NIA website. And, at the same time, interface with our Exploratory Museum Committee to give them an idea as to the volume and depth of the historical material that the NIA currently possesses.

14. In case you haven't checked it out lately, the NIA has a whole new line of products. Gone are the 70's

style colors and materials. Carolyn Berry (our Products and Marketing Chairperson) has done a wonderful job of updating our product line and bringing in items that you'd be proud to wear outside of

insulator shows. So my challenge to Carolyn is to get the word out. I've asked her to contact each and every local club and ask the editors of the club newsletters if they would include a one-page advertisement from the NIA.

Speaking of modernizing. I'm hoping that by next spring we will have a mechanism in place where you can vote online for NIA officials. Jack Roach is our new Nominations Chairman. I've asked Jack to get together with Bob Berry to create a ballot that is accessible over the NIA website. As Nominations Chairman, Jack not only has to go out and find people to fill upcoming vacancies, but he is in charge of running our elections. Armed with a list of current NIA members, Jack can receive e-mailed ballots and check them against the list to make sure that the member is permitted to vote (i.e. in the case of electing the Eastern Region Vice President, only members residing in states located in the eastern region are permitted

to vote). This hopefully will encourage more people to vote, and they won't have to tear up their *Drip Points* or spend money

on a stamp.

...the NIA has a

whole new line of

products.

16. Communication is of course a key aspect to any organization. Starting now, I have asked each of the Re(Continued on page 6)

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gional Vice Presidents to contact the Presidents of the local clubs, which are located in their region, on an ongoing quarterly basis. They can do this through e-mail or by phone. I want them to convey a simple message: The NIA is here. What's going on with your club, and what can we do for you?

17. Finally, I have asked each Board Member and Committee Chairperson to report to me on a quarterly basis (10/1, 1/1, 4/1 and 7/1). I want to know what progress is being made toward achieving these goals, and how I can assist.

Welcome to the new NIA! This organization belongs to you! It exists solely so that you, the individual collector, can obtain more enjoyment out of the hobby. As President I am promoting an "open-door" policy. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to contact the Board Members and Committee Chair-Together we can persons. make the NIA bigger, better and faster. Let us hear from vou!

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** REPORT

ell, I just got back from the National Bloomington, MN, and I had a great time. Congratulations are in order to all the hosts for a wonder-Congratulations ful show. are also in order for our new NIA President Steve Marks and new Central Region VP Ed Peters. There are other NIA changes as well. I have now assumed the role of Executive Secretary which is a revised name due to our corporate status. As such, my reports from now on may become a little more formal. Check out the revised NIA Board and Committee Chairs in this issue for further changes.

It looks like we now have a solid bid for the NIA Western Regional for next year, but we are still lacking the Central Region, which I expect will be bid on soon. The NIA National show for next year will be in Atlanta, GA, hosted by the Dixie Jewels insulator

club, and headed up by Dudley and Sandra Ellis. It's sure to be a great show as well. Announcements on the Western and Central Regions should be made in the next issue; stay tuned.

Along with incorporating, it became necessary for the NIA to completely re-write our by-laws to conform. These were adopted previously. At the July NIA Board meeting, several new by-laws were adopted regarding elections.

Newly Enacted Provisions:

- 20. The Nominations Chairperson prepares a ballot which is included in the spring (March), issue of "Drip Points."
- 21. NIA Members in good standing as of February 15th in any given year in which elections are held may vote. Ballots must be returned to the Nominations Chairperson prior to May 1st.
- 22. Election ballots will be counted on May 1st so that the election results can be announced at the Annual Board of Directors and General Membership Meetings.

If you should have any questions about these, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Marks or the new By-Laws Chairman Bill Rohde. In addition to these by-laws changes, the Board has recently voted to raise NIA Family Memberships to \$12.00 and Jr. Memberships to \$5.00.

Keep watching for more changes. All the Board Members would like your input. I would especially like your ideas on possible new locations for NIA Regionals and Nationals.

### Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 **NIA Executive Secretary**



Telephone Dispatching and Accident Announcements

# FROM THE EASTERN REGION

reetings All!

I hope you've all had a great summer so far. It's hard to believe that it's almost over.

I've had the privilege to attend a couple of excellent swap meets these past few months. Claude and Arlene Wambold hosted their annual get-together the second weekend in June in Perkiomenville, PA. Although attendance was down from past years, many pieces changed hands, and a good time was had by all.

I also drove down to Wattsburg, PA (near Erie) for the first summer swap meet cohosted by the Western Reserve Insulator Club (WRIC) and the Great Lakes Insulator Association (GLASS) June 24th. It was held at the home of the Steve Gorniak family, and you couldn't ask for a more picturesque place for a get together. A beautifully landscaped yard. LARGE pond, and a grove of mature trees made for a truly relaxing and enjoyable gettogether. Collectors from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Canada brought a variety of colorful glass and porcelain. A plentiful assortment of snacks, hot dogs, and beverages kept everybody fueled for the day.

Last but not least, I loaded up the family and the van for the two-day trek to the NIA convention in Bloomington, Minnesota. The

excitement of the

show was surpassed only by the traffic in driving past Chicago!

Seriously though, the show was well-attended, and there was a very good variety of all types of insulators and related items. Threadless. color, classic porcelain, lightning rod balls and LRI's, telephone signs, books and periodicals, the list goes on and I especially enjoyed meeting and chatting with collectors from across the country. I added several new pieces to my collection, including a monster M-4348 Fred Locke (thanks to Bill Rhode!)

Hats off to Ed and Connie

Peters and the rest of the North West Region Insulator Club for all their hard work and effort in putting on the show!

By the time you read this, I will have (hopefully) attended the Capital Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club

... don't forget the

... show in Corning,

New York.

swap meet in North Blenheim, NY. If you've never attended, it's well worth the trip! I'm also

going to try to make the Yankee Polecats "On Golden Pond" swap meet at the home of Larry and Mary Jo Emmons in East Hampton, Connecticut. Hope to see some of you later this year, and don't forget the upcoming Eastern Regional show in Corning, New York. This is the first time a show has been held at the Corning Museum of Glass, and we're hoping this can build a good working relationship with the museum in the future. So, if you haven't made plans yet. please consider making the drive and attend the show!

Good Collecting!
Ken Willick, NIA # 3709
Eastern Region Vice President

# FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

ello fellow insulator collectors,

I would like to start by saying thank you to the NIA mem-

bers in the Central Region for voting me in as the new Central Vice President. This is my first time as an elected official in the NIA, and I will do my best to further our hobby. I would like to hear from the Central Region

members, especially things that you would like to see the NIA do for the hobby.

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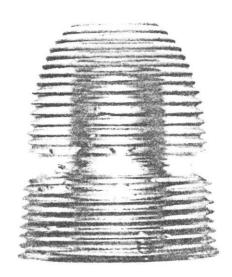
Serving as the Executive Director for the last year, and

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with the experience of hosting want to hear your ideas. Give a National. I have a lot more me a call; send me an e-mail insight than just a year ago. let me know what you think. As the Executive Director one Another thing that I suspect of my responsibilities was to inhibits people from volunteerhelp the VP's line up the Na- ing to sponsor shows, is the tional and Regional shows complaining I'm afraid to say that it is get- shows. Nobody wants to be a ting very difficult finding volun- failure, so why take a chance. teers to host these events. I can tell you this; nobody will One of the reasons is that the ever be 100% happy 100% of shows require a lot of time and the time. That's just human Because of this I am working or your club from sponsoring a on a report to make recom- show. Let's not forget what mendations to the Board on shows are about. how the shows could be I hope to hear from you soon. changed -- for example short- See you at the Washington ening the length of the shows Courthouse show. or a number of other things. This is where I need your help. Ed Peters, NIA # 6300

about some especially Nationals, nature, so don't let it stop you

I would like to hear from you, I Central Region Vice President



### FROM THE WESTERN REGION

ell, as I start my second year your representative on the NIA Board of Directors. I want to comment on how pleased I am with how things are going in the West! There have been lots of firstrate shows and gatherings this past year, and the ones I've been able to attend have been just great! I'm hopeful that this next year will equal or surpass the mark set last vear. Further, I've met lots of new folks from the western region this past year and I'm impressed with their enthusiasm for the hobby. I still need input from you: What would you like me to do for you? What are the issues you'd like to see me take on? What

are the topics I need to bring before the Board? What are your ideas to make this fine hobby even better? Send your thoughts by letter. email - or you could even call me on the phone!

I still believe that one of the "great forces" in this hobby is the network of local clubs. These are the grass roots of organization because they bring together people with like interests. This year I've seen plenty of activity from the many clubs in the West and this is gratifying. Remember, it's the clubs that sponsor the shows, and it's at the shows where you meet the people that are really behind insulator collecting, and it's at the shows where you find the really great insulator deals! (There's just nothing

like picking the pieces up and looking at them before you buy them!) So, the fact that we have doubled the number of local clubs in the last 15 years really does mean that the hobby is alive and well and growing! While we didn't have an astounding growth rate for the NIA itself this past year, we have had a large influx of people into the hobby; for example, the large increase of folks on ICON has This year, been dramatic. along with the other board members, I'm going to try to convince many of these people why it's important to join the NIA.

Another thing that has impressed me is the increase I see of young people. I met some kids at the National last

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who will carry the organization of this issue (and the next never seen such a jungle of folks. Take the kids with you of you westerners in atten- was incredibly hot and humid! to the shows, on your insulator dance, and I really enjoyed I think I like it better here... hunting excursions and to your this. I think I learned some- where you can see the poles local meetings. teachers out there, integrate with! the "insulator story" into your lesson plans. History lessons Lynda and I always use the Let me turn my attention back and science classes are ideal "National trip" to take advan- to the upcoming western opportunities.

tion...many of you have in- are not usually on "the route". Regional! We didn't have all depth knowledge about some This was the case again in the details ironed out when the aspect of insulators. You've July. We visited old friends, board met during the National, done considerable research many relatives, attended wed- but I'm hopeful that by the over the years about a particu- dings, visited several collec- time you read this, we'll have lar specialty.

knowledge. Publish it. Write a book (like some of you have already done), or at least write it up and submit it to the Crown Jewels or one of the insulator

pumped about collecting insu- just-past National Show in see why you easterners don't lators! We need more young Bloomington, MN since you'll go insulator hunting in the these are the folks hear lots about it in other parts summertime! on into the future. So, it is in- Crown Jewels as well), but I poison ivy, ticks, chiggers, cumbent on all of you to help do want to mention that I had snakes, wasps and mosquispread the word to the young the opportunity to talk to many toes - not to mention that it For you thing from everyone I spoke and actually get to the bases

The point canoe along

ling

websites for publication. You Minnesota-Canada boundary agenda. On Saturday, Sept. could even send an article to in the Boundary Waters Wil- 9th, you can attend the Third Drip Points! When I think of derness Canoe Area. all I have learned just from was just magnificent! Saw a "End of the Road" Insulator talking to some of you "old huge amount of wildlife and and Bottle Swap Meet & potheads", I continue to be caught some fine fish for our luck at Dan and Jan Spanton's amazed. Share your wealth! dinners. The downside was place in Yakima, WA. By example, one of our Cana- that I saw absolutely zero in- Dan Spanton, (509) 965-9301 dian westerners, Mark Lauck- sulators! ner, recently wrote a wonder- were mosquitoes, too!) While weekend of Sep. 16-17, the ful article for the Crown Jewels driving from Hither to Yon, we 13th Annual Antiques and Colabout how weird insulators are also checked out a few miles lectibles, Insulators and Botformed - bubbles, swirls, of populated line here and tles Sale and Swap will take snow, "leaners" and more there. We even penetrated place at the Chute Lake Re-This was just great! Did you Lee Brewer's territory over in sort in Naramata, B.C. For inall catch that? Thanks Mark!

... start thinking

about your club

hosting... the 2002

National...

month that were positively I'm not going to talk about the was away traveling! Now I Wow, I have of them!

tage of a new area - often one shows for a moment. First, we we're not familiar with - and are in the process of approv-While on the topic of educa- we visit people and places that ing a bid for the 2001 Western Share this tors, and in general had a ster- a first-class regional lined up time, for you. More details in the high next issue.

> (besides the In the meantime, we have show!) was a some nearer term events on seven-day the calendar. Time to start trip planning for them. September the has three shows on the This Annual Central Washington (Oh - and there (evenings) for details. On the northwest Pennsylvania and formation, write to Gary Reed, liberated a few jewels while he 797 Alexander Ave., Pentic-

ton, B.C., V2A INO. And on (503) 364-3226. A little bit fur- By the way, in 2002, the Nawill be another great one. day, Nov. 3-4 (call Beverly cuss it. Don't miss it! We've only got Chapman, (559) 562-3546 for ten tables left for sale. If you details. And finally there's the OK - that's it from sunny Corneed more details, and since 49er Historical Bottle Assn. rales, New Mexico. Looking I'm the host (!), call me! The 23rd Annual Show and Sale at forward to hearing from my fel-14th of Oct. takes us back to the Gold Country Fairgrounds low insulator enthusiasts here the West coast for the Fourth on Dec. 2nd. Call Pat Patocka in the west. Bi-annual Mid-Willamette Val- for more information, (916) ley Insulator Swap and Pot- 663-3681. That's quite a fall Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 luck in Salem Oregon. Call line-up, folks! Nathan Lamkey for details,

Sept. 30th, the action is here ther out on the horizon, don't tional Show returns to the in New Mexico! Yep, it's the forget the 33rd Annual Insula- Western Region. Now is the Thirteenth Annual EIC Insula- tor and Bottle Show in the Tu- time to start thinking about tor, Bottle, Barbwire and Col- lare, CA Veterans Memorial your club hosting the event. lectibles Show and Sale. This Building on Friday and Satur- Give me a call and let's dis-

Western Region Vice President

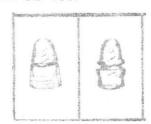
### Historian's Note

Look What You Find in the Old Books in the NIA Archives by Rick Soller

here are a number of reasons why early books in the hobby make great reading. They contain mysteries, forgotten finds, prices to drool over, and information to laugh at. Since most collectors don't have these books in their library, let me share some of my favorites.

First, there is the fun of trying to figure out what the author had drawn. For example, I have yet to figure out for sure what the white porcelain insulator "OAKI" is. The book 800 Insulators lists it as being 4" tall and 4-7/8 wide. Shown below is a picture of the insulator valued at \$35-40 way back in 1971. I suspect it may be a "LOCKE" insulator with a difficult to read incuse marking.

From the same book are the following two pictures. The one on the right is apparently a CD 159, but what is the one on the left? It looks like a CD 145, but there is no listing for such an embossing in the latest price guide. Also note that the month is spelled out in the listing on the right, but no such embossing is listed for the CD 159.



Close attention to detail often uncovers other interesting but forgotten finds. The picture below looks like a Thomas multipart until you study the dimensions. That's

when you realize that this must be an error or a salesman's sample. Since I have this piece in my collection, I know it is the latter but didn't pay close attention to this detail in the book until after I acquired the piece. Perhaps if I would have noticed these di-

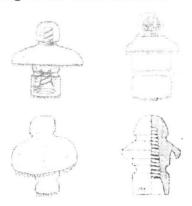
mensions sooner. I could have been on the lookout for this piece and maybe picked it up for the bargain price of \$3-5.



l'm sure collectors who bought these early books were mystified by other pictures too. Below are four drawings of the CD 196. The first is from 800 Insulators, the second from Marcy's The Antique Insulator Finder's Collector's Price Guide (1969), the third from Ed

(Continued on page 11)

ing at the same insulator.



Current day collectors tors. would probably be stunned by writes about getting offers of the prices. Marcy lists green \$35 for red insulators while the

you wonder if they were look- for 50 cents to a dollar. On the Cedar. other hand, a chocolate porce-Maydwell #20 CD 164 in milk far we've come. Marcy.

> mation is incorrect, and the report. "experts" are still trying to correct it in the minds of many Rick Soller, NIA# 2958 non-collectors and new collec- Historian For example, Lane

Lane's Insulators that are E.C.& M.'s at \$15 while Lane book 800 Insulators describes Worth Collecting (1968), and lists agua ones in the \$5-10 what seem to be San Franthe last from the McDougald's range. 800 Insulators, listed cisco wood insulators as being price guide (1999). It makes green Mickey Mouse CD 257s made of White Oak and White

> The hobby has come a lain Findlay 182 was listed as long way since the late 1960's. rare by Lane, an aqua Califor- Thanks to all those who donia CD 102 was priced at \$25- nated material to the archives 30 by 800 Insulators, and the so that we could see just how glass was listed at \$25 by cently, Jimmy Burns' donation of Ed Lane's publication pro-Of course some infor-vided the inspiration for this

### FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

he annual NIA meeting held in Bloomington, Minnesota was a wonderful event. At the business Dudley Ellis, NIA meeting. Nominations Chairman, announced the outcome of the election for NIA Central Region Vice President for the 2000-2003 term. The result of the balloting was as follows:

Ed Peters 35 votes for

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

56.5% of the return Jimmy Burns - 27 votes for 43.5% of the return

NIA Central Region Vice President Ballots mailed -198 NIA Central Region Vice President Ballots Returned = 62 for a 31% return

Congratulations to Ed!

In the upcoming elections, it is planned that voting will also be available at the NIA Home Page in lieu of the traditional ballots for those who

might choose to cast their ballot electronically. Maybe we will call this method "eballoting". More details to follow in future issues of Drip Points.

I know everyone, myself included, wish to thank Dudley for his past efforts as the Nominations Chairman and for his continued service as Treasurer of NIA

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations Chairman

\*

### **BUYER BEWARE**

ith more and more people buying insulators on eBay and other internet auction sites, it may be time to revisit a few suggestions presented in Drip Points over a year

ago. Many people are selling insulators on eBay so here are a few tips that I am familiar with specific to eBay. This is not a recommendation of eBay. I simply offer these suggestions to help you avoid a rare, yet possible, bad experience.

1) Do you know the seller? Are they known in the insulator hobby? Check the seller's "feedback" rating and view the seller's "feedback" that was left by people who have

(Continued on page 12)

cent past. If the seller has no eBay rules and terms for more services/buyandsell/ "feedback" or he has one or details. more negative feedback comments, check with knowledge- 5) If you do not know the contact and encourage the able collectors or send a mes- seller, cannot find others who other party to respond to your sage to the ICON mailing list know him, and/or he doesn't case. You can then try and asking if anyone knows this have adequate favorable settle your dispute through person. You may also wish to "feedback" comments, you SquareTrade's free Websend email to people who left may want to avoid sending based process and patentthe seller "feedback" to check him a large sum of money, pending technology. A signififurther.

- state the color and the details pages ebay com/help/ pute for a fee of \$15. on the embossing, condition, community/escrow.html. This etc. so you know exactly what service will ensure the safety Another important tip -- if you are about to bid on? If of your money and the hon-someone contacts you first not, ask the seller for clarifica- esty of the transaction and offers to sell or trade an tion BEFORE you bid! He (quarantees the seller has the insulator, you are not oblishould respond quickly and item). Frequent sellers and gated to send payment without answer all your questions to buyers on eBay will use a pay- first seeing the insulator he is
- 3) Is a picture available? credit card payments. Does it look realistic? Colors can get very distorted from 6) If you have entered into a send you the insulator first. It digital cameras and from com- transaction where the buyer or is always best, too, in these puter monitors. Don't always seller doesn't "follow up" as cases to ask other collectors if believe what you see in the expected, make several at- they know this person. The photo as the real color. Ask tempts to contact them via best advice when purchasing the seller if you have any email. If your attempts fail, it insulators from someone you doubt! Sometimes the seller is possible the person is out of do not know is "Buyer Bewill have other photographs, town or may have severe ware". Our hobby of insulator or he will be willing to take an- problems with his computer. I collectors is small and many other one for you. If the seller have seen this a couple of people know each other from did not post a picture, ask him times, and it has even hap-trading or face-to-face meetto send you one. If he did not pened to me. You can also ings at various shows. Ask post a picture in the auction obtain the seller's address and your collecting buddy about and/or cannot send you a pho- phone number at Registered the person you do not know. tograph, it may be a good idea User Information Request If he doesn't know them, he to avoid the auction.
- 4) Remember that offering an UserInformationRequest. item for sale on eBay is a binding legal action to sell and 7) Finally, if you have a dis- Happy Collecting!! that being the high bidder on pute with a seller or buyer, Elton Gish, NIA# 41 an item is a binding legal ac- eBay offers a Dispute Resolu- Ethics Chairman tion for you to carry through tion service at:

dealt with the seller in the re- with your purchase. See the http://pages.ebay.com/

2) Is the insulator described formation about Escrow Ser- necessary, a third party me-Do they adequately vices can be found at: http:// diator will help resolve the dissatisfaction. ment service such as PayPal offering.

Form:

disputeres.html. It's free to file a complaint. SquareTrade will Consider using eBay's Safe- cant number of complaints are Harbor Escrow Services. In- directly resolved in this way. If

This is especially or BillPoint which accepts true if you do not know the person. In this case, you should expect the seller to http://cgi3.ebay.com/ will have a circle of collector aw-cgi/eBayISAPI dll? friends he can ask. Know who you are dealing with!

### **PROMOTIONS & EDUCATION**

tion including the very enjoy- as well as acquire new historiable National show in Minne- cal information. Many thanks to the ning this year's show. I look org) including: forward to seeing many of you at the National in Atlanta next vear.

Early this spring I took advantage of a fantastic opportunity and met up with three other collectors (Ken Willick, Larry Novak, and Doug MacGillvary) to work with the Smithsonian Museum of American History on their insulator archives. Kevin Lawless arranged this trip but due to family illness was unable to attend. There are some fantastic pieces in their collection as well as a huge amount of historical information. The museum curator. Nance Briscoe, was exceptionally helpful and spent much time with us in the ar-

chives. Larry Novak is putting together an article so I will save further details for that. We were only able to start all the work necessary so future reetings fellow collec- trips will surely be planned. tors! We just got back This is a great opportunity for from our summer vaca- the NIA to promote insulators

show hosts Ed & Connie Pe- There have been a number of ters, Dave French, Rick Soller, changes and updates to the and Terry Kornberg for run- NIA website (http://www.nia.

- □ The Smithsonian Connection: This section links to a site put together by Larry Novak covering the insulators in the archives. Larry has already started entering excellent pictures and information.
- Insulator to list all known books, tional promotional magazines. sulators (in or out of print). Items that exist Good Collecting! in the NIA archives are Bob Berry, NIA# 1203 highlighted. know of or own an item Chairman

not listed, please let me know so I can update the record.

- 2001 National: The show packet is available on-line for next vears National in Atlanta - See you there!!
  - National Show Reports: I am attempting to have a pictorial show report of all 31 National shows. Soon to be added will be Chicago & Williamsburg.
- Is this an insulator? article selects items frequently mistaken as insulators and provides their "real" I'm looking purpose. for additional items to add - contact me with additional items.

Literature If anyone has articles or ideas List: I have attempted for the NIA website or addiprice please let me know (See Proguides, and auction motion and Education on the catalogs concering in- Board/Chairpersons list).

If you Promotion & Education

### MUSEUM UPDATE

Those of you who were at the NIA membership meeting at Bloomington have heard this. but for those who were not. here is what is happening with the NIA museum investigation committee. Obviously, there has been a ton of behind-the-scenes work, but I'll

hit the highlights.

We have developed a list of site-selection criteria which. along with other factors about individual museums, formed the basis for a fairly extensive survey of about 70 museums around the U.S. which are related to the insulator hobby. These surveys

should be completed by the end of September at which time they will be summarized. We want to glean the following information from them: How they operate (what would they do/not do again) and if they have space and/or if they would like to consider a joint venture with the insu-

(Continued on page 14)

lator hobby. ing out any alternatives at this definition of what our mu- NIA members? Right now we time, but the consensus of the seum's displays would include really would appreciate suggroup (and others) is that the and what our activities should/ gestions on related existing would be to consider a joint into more detail on finances, investigating. They may be on venture(or ventures) with an i.e. what do we think we might our list already, but we really existing museum(s) featuring need for start up expenses, have no way of knowing if they telephone, telegraph, power, annual operating expenses, aren't! So please feel free to communications (or some and, of course, where the contact myself or any commitcombination of these themes) money will come from. With tee member in this regard. rather than building (or buying) more work in these two areas ever get on our own.

we might want/need in situa- and see what comes of it. tions of both a shared facility hard copy that we could tweak we are determined to avoid a may not do it, but we'll listen!! and throw stones at that would failure and, therefore, are prostimulate us a bit.

Where are we going next?

We are not rul- First, we need to refine our What do we need from you as approach could be. Next we need to get museums that we should be

> ceeding at a very cautious Dick Bowman, NIA# 597 rate.

a stand alone unit. This ap- we will be better positioned to Last, but not least, just to disproach also guarantees far respond to opportunities we pel the misunderstanding that more visitors than we could uncover or opportunities which emerged after my last Drip may fall into our laps. We also Points article: We have spent have some major museums ZERO NIA money so far in our Some of us have also put to- we would like to approach in activities. The cost of II activigether trial balloons of what earnest when we are ready ties has gladly been absorbed by the members of the committee and others we have or (a couple of different sized) Do we see the light at the end asked to look at some museindependent units. From these of the tunnel? I'm not sure we ums for us. We are also taktrial balloons, all devised from know where the tunnel is yet, ing the approach that funding, a different approach, a com- but I do believe we will know it stocking, and operation of the posite was made and a couple when we see it. It is important museum would essentially be of sample layouts have been to understand that the concept independent of NIA funds. We Do we think that of a museum is not a 'done welcome any help you might the final result will look like our deal' by any means. We must give us and want to hear any prototypes? Not really, but we prove that it is both doable constructive suggestions or felt we needed something in and sustainable. As a group thoughts you may have. We

> Museum Exploratory Committee Chairman

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*** Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club proudly present to you the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Insulator Association Convention, Show and Sale at the Renaissance Concourse Hotel in Atlanta on July 5-8, 2001. The Convention will be the first major insulator event held in the state of Georgia. We are anxious to provide you with the best Convention ever! Please call me for a show packet. If you are Internet active, you can go to the NIA Web Page at www.nia.com and click on National Convention Information and get full show details and contracts. We welcome y'all to Georgia! Dudley & Sandy Ellis Phone: 770-957-9928 E-mail: pony102@aol.com **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*** 

### PRODUCT MARKETING

National. Minnesota quite popular. Our most re- with other collectors! cent addition to the product line is the two-toned khaki/ Get your wish-list or order your purchases..... navy embroidered, low-rise form pre-filled out for the holireceived.

I would like to encourage any represented on the order form The NIA logo'd products sold NIA member without a badge are available; just give me a EXCEPTIONALLY well at the to order one before your next call or send an email. Our attended show. Badges are newest items are proving to be an excellent way to connect New product line ideas are al-

cotton cap with adjustable days..... family members are In Support of our Hobby, self-fabric band. This debuted always looking for ideas!! I Carolyn Berry, NIA# 4336 at the National and was well will need all orders by Decem- Product Marketing ber 10th to ensure Christmas

receipt. Clothing sizes not

ways welcome!! Thanks for supporting the NIA through

Awards and Recognition Committee Report

### Awards Presented at the 31st Annual NIA Banquet

Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial Award Best Use of Threadless DOUG MACGILLVARY - Porcelain Threadless Insulators

"Best" Category Awards

Color - BOB STAHR- Shades of Amber: Hemingray Jewels Foreign - MARILYN ALBERS- Insulators from Russia and the Ukraine General - RUSS FRANK - Cleaning Glass Insulators Go-Withs - DAVID DAHLE - Watthour Meters Porcelain - RICK SOLLER - How to Identify Pittsburgh Insulators Speciality - DAVE FRENCH - CD 152: The King of CDs and the CD of Kings Junior - CURTIS ERICKSON - Why I collect Insualtors

Milholland Educational Award - DAVID DAHLE - Watthour Meters

Len Linscott Insulator Pioneer Award - MARILYN ALBERS

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award - LARRY FURO

Crown Jewels of the Wire Award -MIKE GUTHRIE'S article Fake and Altered Insulators, February 2000

Best Exhibit Using Eastern Insulators -DOUG MACGILLARY Porcelain Threadless Insulators

Best First Time Display at a National - CURTIS ERICKSON Why I Collect Insulators

Best Exhibit Using Southern California Insulators - DEAN LOMMEN

Best Exhibit Using CDs - CURTIS ERICKSON - Why I Collect Insulators

Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators - RICK SOLLER How to Identify Pittsburgh Insulators

N.R. Woodward Literary Award for Author of Best Research Article Lehigh Days Memories of a Railroad Lineman by John H. Buckholz in Crown Jewels, February and April, 1999

Lon C. Holly Memorial Award - JOHN HOVANEC, President of the Western Reserve Insulator Club

Jack Tod Memorial Award - DOUG MACGILLVARY - Threadless Porcelain Insulators

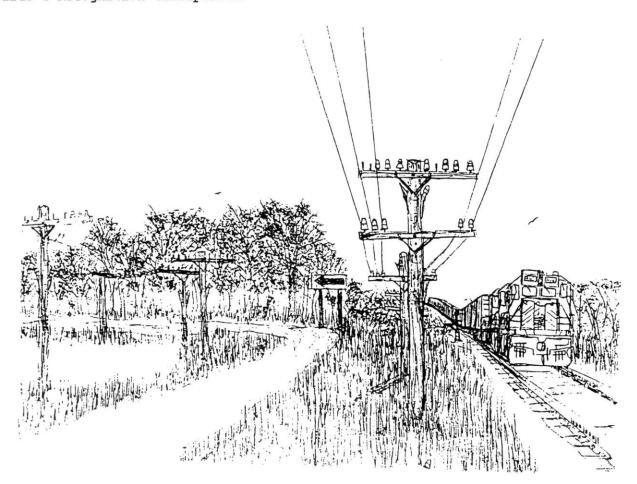
Sterling Finch Memorial Award for Dedication to the Hobby
This award was first given in 1986 and it presents a set of the McDougald
books, INSULATORS: A HISTORY AND GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN GLASS PINTYPE
INSULATORS to the local public library in the name of the Show hosts. This
year the Foxboro Branch of the Bloomington Public Library received the set of
books and the certificate went to Ed and Connie Peters

National Show Hosts Plaque - Ed and Connie Peters; David French; Terry Kornberg; Rick Soller

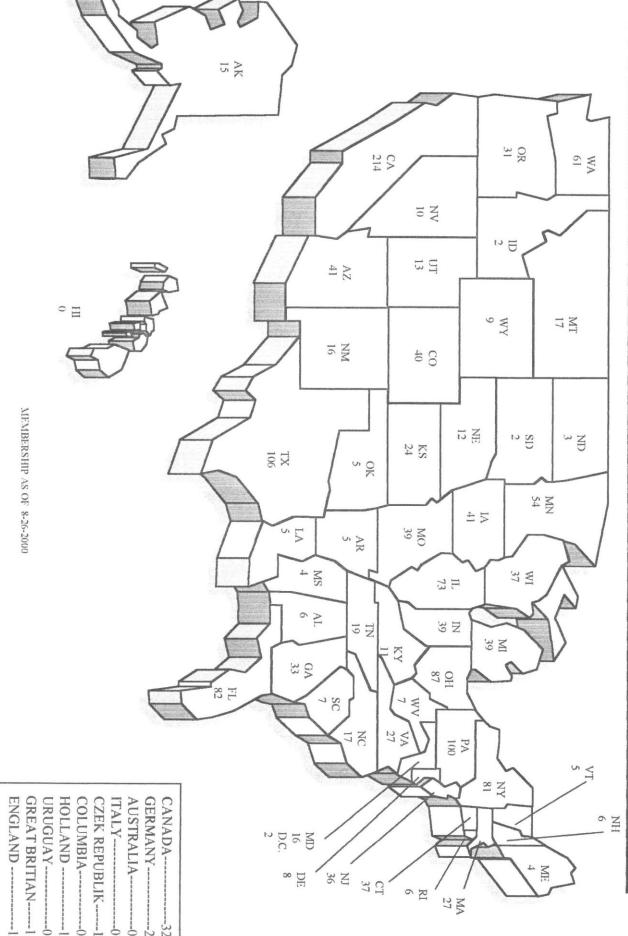
### P.S.

You might have noticed the new name for the Shows Standards Committee. There was some confusion as to what "show standards" actually was. Awards and Recognition seemed like a better way to describe the functions of our committee. IF you are having a show the place to get those NIA Award Ribbons.....Just ask.

Sandy Ellison, NIA# 6165 Awards & Recognition Chairperson



# NIA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP BY STATE AND COUNTRY



### FY 2000 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION 6/30/00

Beginning Balance-General Fund 7/1 Education & Promotion Account Beginning Balance Authentication/Ethics Account Beginning Balance		9180.34 1103.92 1196.75	
Revenues			
Donations Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income Product Sales	0.00 8827.00 959.00 1299.60 Total Revenues:	11085.60	
General Fund Expenses			
Advertising Bank Charges/Taxes Marketing Products Misc. Postage Misc. Printing Misc. Supplies Misc. Professional Services Crown Jewels Rebates Drip Points Printing Drip Points Postage Show Advertising Subsidy Show Awards Stationery Supplies Telephone Special Projects	360.00 55.00 464.92 1553.51 1140.62 1143.22 771.81 189.00 2983.33 1140.26 229.22 145.13 0.00 22.90 3355.41 Total Expenses:	13554.33	
Closing Balance, General Fund:	-	6711.61	
Education/Promotion Expenditures Education/Promotion Fund Final Balance	523.96	579.96	
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures Authentication/Ethics Account Balance	0	1196.75 8488.32	

**Total Balance on Hand** 

# 2000-2001 NIA Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Steve Marks #4951, President

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pyrex553 anot.com

**Bob Berry #1203 Promotion & Education** 

1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-2006

pyrex553 anot com

# **EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Dick Bowman #597, Museum 1253 LaBaron Circle Webster, NY 14580 716-872-4015 dickeybow and com



### Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336 Product Marketing Committee 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741 (512) 255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

# NIA LOGO Products ORDER FORM

Price Otv

Total

	Golf Shirt - pique, white cotton - 3 button tab - embroidered logo	
T-NIA LOGO	M L XL (\$27.00) 2X (\$29.00)	\$27 / \$29
Large Lage on North	*for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00	*\$3.00
	Denim Shirt Long-sleeve- Med. wt. / pre-shrunk cotton	
	Lt.indigo blue - Left buttoned pocket	
	Embroidered logo M L XL	\$32.00
( EL)	2X	\$35.00
	T-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo	
	S M L XL (blue) 2X(\$12)	\$10.00
6	L XL (Ash Gray)	\$15.00
Maria de la constanta de la co	2X 3X (Ash Gray)	\$16.00
	Sweatshirt Ash Gray - Heavyweight - Screen-printed logo	
	S M (\$16.00) L XL (\$20.00) 2X (\$.	22.00)
	**NEW** Cap Khaki/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo	\$16.00
National 12	Cap - It. gray w/ screen-printed logo	\$10.00
I BUCKLY VEGE	Mug white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo	\$7.00
Association		And the second s
	Patch light blue w/ screen-printed logo	\$4.00
	Koozie - Foam beverage holder w/ silver NIA logo:	
des	royal blue red green	\$3.00
	Decal light blue w/ logo	\$1.00
	Name Badge white badge w/ engraved blue letters, green and brown screen-printed logo	\$11.00
	Badge Bar white w/ engraved blue letters	\$4.00
Chest Size Cha	Shipping charge for Shirts, Caps & Mugs is	Subtotal
	(36-38) L (40-42) S3.20 for the first item & \$1.10 for each additional. Koozies are only \$1.00 each, if	
	ordered individually. No shipping charge for	Shipping
XL (44-46) 2:	X (48-50) 3X (52-54) Patches, Decals or Name Badges/Bars!	
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City/State/Zip	Please make	check or money order in
Telephone	U.S. funds pe	sulator Association or NIA
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27,88111	2 200 Customization failul mation (musi de a cui)	cm inta member:
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	NIA # City	
Name	NIA # City	State