Drip Points

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is with a humble apology I address all of you in the NIA. The reason this issue is late sits upon my shoulders. At the time when I was working to compile this issue, several situations, beyond my control, did not allow me to meet the deadline. When I finally was able to get things in order, this wonder of modern technology from which I compose Drip Points decided it wanted a further delay and consumed portions of the newsletter. It took me awhile of trying to re-

cover the literary work this monster had satisfied its appetite with — to no avail.

Looking back, I have to wonder though if this has not been a simple delay in order to allow a comment from the NIA on the current tragedy which faced/is facing America. I know that all of you were moved, as was I, at the image of the burning towers and Pentagon building. Insulators have been very far from my mind this last week. I have responded here and there to e-mails concern-

ing the hobby out of obligation and out of a desire to keep a sense of normalcy; however, this tragedy is something which fa transcends our wonderful little pole crystals.

It has amazed me at how the U.S has united under President Bush It has not amazed me how some of the issues deemed so essentia to life/politics/personal desires have shriveled to appear ridiculous and petty in light of the events which transpired or

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(ironically) 9-11. Let us as Americans return to the proud, patriotic land we once were — the current response of our nation implies that patriotism has been hiding in the hearts of us all. This horrible (can there be enough force behind this simple word?), sobering 'slap in the face' has helped us all take a second look at what are the truly

We, as the NIA,

feel this loss of our

American brothers

and sisters deeply.

important issues in this life.

Personally, I am thankful we have a leader which has asked for a National day of

prayer to be observed and that by doing so, America, by being a nation on her knees, will be brought back in touch with her roots from which she sprang into such a great nation. I am thankful other nations, such as Great Britain, have responded with such strong support (flying the Union Jack at half mast is something foreign to their culture and originally had no meaning to them — but they willingly put their national symbol of pride to half mast to respect our dead). I know our wonderful neighbors to the North are thinking

of us — as testified by the huge numbers of our Canadian brothers and sisters joined together for the memorial service in Ottawa. I believe the world may again be witnessing the awakening

of the 'sleeping giant'. Let us all pray that this time our leaders will not ignore the issues but have the wisdom to take a strike back that will inflict a mortal wound at the

evil which has assigned so cheap a value to the lives of the innocents who perished.

I know the people which compose this hobby are solid in character. I therefore feel confident in saying that we, as the NIA, feel this loss of our American brothers and sisters deeply. I know, to any of you who have had a family member wronged by this act, that the rest of us offer our condolences.

May God bless America. May we do all we can to keep this blessing, and may the next issue of Drip Points be one which has allowed us to look back and say we have become a stronger, better people because of this event.

Lee Brewer, NIA #6695 NIA Information Director

Message From The President

will start off by congratulating Dudley and Sandra Ellis, and the members of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club, for putting on a great National in Atlanta! It was Sam's first show (he just turned 1/2 as I am writing this), and he really enjoyed himself! He saw great displays, many of which were put on by first timers and/or juniors! He was particularly impressed with the facility and the service. As this was his first plane ride, getting to see the planes take off and land at night from his room was fun. But by far the best part was meeting many of his extended family members for the first time!

1. Dad had to do quite a bit of work at this show but was still able to thoroughly enjoy himself and add a few pieces to the collection.

The NIA Board met for four hours on the Thursday prior to "NIA day." I want to briefly report to the membership what was discussed and accomplished at that meeting and then report on some significant personnel changes that I made during the show, and some changes that will be made over the course of the coming year.

- 2. Our Treasurer, Dudley Ellis, reported on our financial situation, and together with the Board reviewed this year's upcoming budget. Dudley's report will follow in this issue of "Drip Points."
- 3. Dick Bowman gave his final recommendations to the Board as the Chairman of the Exploratory Museum Committee. I want to publicly express my sincere appreciation for the efforts that Dick put forth in this position. It is very diffi-

cult to get a project like this off the ground with volunteers, and there were literally dozens of directions to explore (freestanding independent facility, traveling exhibits, shared space, location, funding, donations, etc.). The time that Dick put into this and the completeness of his report have set a course for the Board. In summary, the Board has decided to pursue shared space with an existing well-established museum. new chairperson of the committee, along with existing committee members, will create a short list of facilities to check-out. Then, the Chairperson will recruit volunteers to visit each of these facilities and report its findings back to the committee.

4. Joe Beres, our Membership Director, reported on the status of

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our membership. It continues to thrive, and there has been a proliferation of local clubs over the past couple of years.

- 5. Promotion and Education, as well as Product Marketing is going well according to those Department's respective Chairpersons, Bob and Carolyn Berry. Many additions have been made to the NIA's website and I would encourage you to visit it if you haven't lately.
- 6. Bill Rohde, our By-Laws Chairman completed the printing of the new NIA manual. Copies are available upon request to either Bill or Joe Beres. Also, the new handbook can be viewed on the NIA's website.
- 7. The NIA's Secretary, Bob Stahr, presented the last meeting's minutes, which were approved. This will be Bob's last year on the Board. Bob has served as Central Region VP and Secretary and will be greatly missed.
- 8. Our Historian, Rick Soller, indicated that he is continuing his work with cataloging the NIA's accumulated materials and reported on his plan to continue to obtain items as they become available.
- 9. Pinch-hitting for Sandy Ellison, our Awards & Recognition Chairperson, I reported that the awards for the past hosts of the NIA's National Conventions were completed and ready to be distributed. This is a new award that will be given out each year at each National. Sandy worked hard on these and deserves most of the credit. Kevin Lawless also helped by providing historical knowledge

as to who hosted what show and when, and I had some input on the design (the fun part). It was my pleasure to present Dudley and Sandra with the first such of these awards during the Saturday night banquet. On Sunday at the Convention, I went around and distributed most of the plaques. Sandy is mailing the remaining ones from her home. The large NIA plague that was started more than 30 years ago will continue to be passed down for about another three years until all of the space on it is taken-up. At that time it will go into the NIA's archives.

Speaking of awards, at the banquet it was my pleasure to present Steve and Donna Bobb as well as Bill and Jill Meier with Lifetime Memberships for their cumulative meritorious service to the NIA and the hobby in general.

- 10. The Board unanimously agreed to add the Historian as a member of the Awards & Recognition Committee. It is hoped that this will assist that Committee's evaluation of nominees for Lifetime Membership and Outstanding Service.
- 11. There was a discussion on modification for bid submissions for hosting a National. It has been noted that some facilities are requiring deposits well in advance of actual events. As such, the Board would like to entertain bids as soon as they are received. Many of the Board Members are also concerned with rising hotel costs, costs to hosts for putting on shows, etc. Also, the Board wants to emphasize that bids can be held in more than one facility, etc. More on this topic in future "Drip Points."
- 12. Regional reports were given by Tom Katonak (Western Region VP), and Ed Peters (Central Region VP). Tom reported that club activity in the Western Region is HOT, and the recent Western Regional was REALLY HOT! Ed indicated that we are in need of bids for the Central Regional for 2002. We are also in need of a bid for the 2002 Eastern Regional. The Board then had a discussion on Regionals. With the exception of the Western Region, bids for these events have not been forthcoming. Some believe that it is the proliferation of local clubs. Activity in the hobby is certainly at a high level, if not an all time high level. Look at the show calendars, and see that there are insulator events almost every week of the year. In the past the Board has gone out and done some "arm-twisting" to encourage people to host Regionals or convert their local events into NIA sponsored Regional events. The Board has decided to change its philosophy in this regard. The Board wants to encourage people to submit bids for Regionals, but we will handle this in much the same way that the Board handles requests for local events to be sanctioned by the NIA. In other words, we will take on more of a passive role then an active one.
- 12. John McDougald, our Research & Authentication Committee Chairperson, reported on the continuing work and investigation into questionable insulators, and the future of numerical assignments to various types of insulators. This is a slow and methodical process, and I want to publicly thank John for his work on these matters. Much progress has been made over the past few months,

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and some definitive measures will be taken over the next few months.

Personnel Matters: After many. many years as the NIA Ethics Committee Chairperson, Elton Gish has offered his resignation citing personal goals he needs to devote more time to, including insulator reference work of course! Elton has been wonderful to work with and has often inserted himself into difficult situations on behalf of the NIA in order to mediate disputes between collectors. The whole hobby owes him a debt of gratitude for this. I have selected Charles Bibb to replace Elton. Charles, like Elton, has an impeccable reputation within the hobby for his honesty and fair dealings. Elton will be transferring his files to

Charles and will get him up to speed on outstanding open matters quickly.

With Dick Bowman completing his two-year stint, I have decided to consolidate the duties of the Exploratory Museum Committee under the NIA's Historian's position. It's my personal belief that the NIA's Historian needs to become active in the pursuit of any museum, and this follows my general philosophy that the NIA Historian position needs to become more visible and take on a greater role in the NIA's dealings, since history, in essence, is much of what this hobby is all about. That means that Rick Soller will be heading this effort up. I will be encouraging Rick to act quickly on the investigative work that is ahead of him, so that we can soon resolve the question as to whether or not the hobby can support a museum and if there is a facility that would be willing to take us in.

At the next National, which in case you haven't heard yet, will be in Fort Collins, Colorado during the week of July 4th, my term as NIA President will be coming to an I will still have four more years on the Board as an NIA Past President. Also, Tom Katonak's three-year term as Western Region Vice-President will be coming to an end. So, our Nominations Chairperson, Jack Roach has his work cut-out for him. If you, or someone you know might be interested in these positions, please contact Jack.

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 NIA President

What a Bright Idea!!!

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You or your club could host a Regional Show in 2002 or 2003. Now is the time to begin planning.

Contact your regional vice president or any board member for more details. If you live in the central region and are feeling really ambitious now is the time to begin thinking about hosting the 2003 National Show.

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FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

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I saw some of you at Atlanta, but not enough of you! Yes, I know, it was 4th of July weekend. Yes, I know, it was near an airport and it was expensive to stay at the host site. Yes, I know, there were a lot of others who didn't go, either. But, you know what? It was OUR National Convention and there were a whole lot of nice folks that WERE there, too! Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club deserve a big round of applause for hosting

a wonderful National, with virtually no problems and finding a nice hall and hotel to hold it in! A special mention should be made of the many wonderful displays on hand, lots of newcomers and lots of great educational material. That means there will only be about NINE MORE MONTHS until the 2002 National rolls around (as you read this!) and I hope you start thinking about making your plans NOW!

The Capital Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club held their 3rd Annual Summer Swap Meet

("The Big Top Swap") in North Blenheim, New York on July 28 under warm sunny skies. Attendance was a bit down, but dealers were, for the most part, happy! This swap has grown rapidly. The first swap, in 1999, drew 42 tables under sunny skies. Last year, 53 tables were manned in the pouring rain (the tent leaked a bit). This year, 60 tables of goodies were laid out and plans are already underway for the 2002 event! Insulator collectors Doug MacGillvary, Dick Bowman, Ken Willick, Mickey & Ellie Dutcher.

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Grant Barnes, George Toften, Corky Miller, Jack Harynuk, Butch Kirk, Kevin Lawless, Jeff Katchko,

Chip McElwee, David Sztramski, Gary Scott, Bill & Jill Meier and Dennis O'Connell were all spotted here.

That means there will only be about 9 more months until the next National.

My recent article about lack of interest in Regional Shows (Medford, Oregon's success notwithstanding) drew - a lack of interest. It received one

note. It produced no interest in anyone hosting or inquiring about hosting a Regional for 2002 (or 2003, either). That's a shame, but

still not surprising. That being said, I am going to challenge you all into FINDING good qualified show sites for a Central Regional in 2002 - and an Eastern Re-

gional for 2002 - AND a Western Regional and an Eastern Regional for 2003, too! If you have questions or need some coaxing or help, contact your Regional Vice President (Western - Tom Katonak; Central - Ed Peters; Eastern - Ken Willick). OR contact Executive Secretary Bob Stahr. OR contact ME. I've hosted both Regionals and Nationals and would be happy to offer my help. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED! (AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOW, TOO!)

Good collecting, Kevin F. Lawless, NIA #1679 First Past President

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

Greetings from the Eastern Regional V.P.!

I hope everyone had a good summer, and the antique shops, flea markets, and diggin's have been productive. I had the opportunity to attend a few swap meets and one bottle/insulator show in the last month or two.

Lee and Tammy Brewer hosted a get-together in Wattsburg, PA on June 23rd. Unfortunately, due to a rainy day, the event had to be moved indoors. Luckily, Lee had room for all at the school where he is principal, and Lee and Tammy did a tremendous amount of work shuffling tables, chairs and food from the outdoor site to the school. I had a great time, but I think at-

tendance was down from last year.

John DeLarge hosted a backyard swap meet on July 21st in Wasauga Beach, Ontario (about an hour north of Toronto). The event was well attended, with a lot of buying, selling and trading going on. I traded for several nice colored porcelain and picked up a couple of Brookfields I didn't have.

Lastly, on July 28th, I attended the Capital Region Bottle & Insulator Club summer show at the New York State Power Authority grounds in Gilboa, NY, located in the Catskill region of central New York. The Power Authority offers the use of their grounds and a large circus-type tent free of charge to the club in this most picturesque part of New York. The

event was well attended, the weather was perfect, and my family and I enjoyed several additional days in the area.

We also took time to visit long-time collector Butch Kirk and his family. While the kids romped and played in the creek out back, I had fun talking insulators and viewing many of the great pieces in Butch's collection. It's this type of vacation that makes me appreciate the friends I've made and the enjoyment I get from this hobby. I hope to see some of you at one of the great shows coming up this fall.

Good Collecting!

Ken Willick, NIA #3709

Eastern Region Vice President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Well, as I start my third and final year as your Western Region representative on the NIA Board of Directors, I want to again note how pleased I am with how things are going out here in the

West! There have been lots of top-rate shows and gatherings this past year, and the ones I've been able to attend have been just wonderful! I'm hopeful that this next year will equal or surpass the mark set this past year. 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.

Lynda and I have seen quite a bit of "insulator activity this past quarter – and it's been great! Toward

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the end of May, we boarded AM-TRAK's Southwest Chief westbound for California and the start of our five-week journey to Alaska. We wanted to take "the last of America's great passenger trains" before it too fades into the history of the railroading glory days. As many of you know, each year Congress threatens to cut the AM-TRAK subsidy and this would force it into bankruptcy. It was so close this year that our travel agent warned us that she would not be able to guarantee our reservations! At any rate, in California we switched trains to the northbound Coast Starlight, and after another two days of magnificent scenery, including countless miles of glass-covered poles (yes, the good locations are now in the memory of my trusty GPS receiver which I never go anywhere without!), we arrived in Klamath Falls, Oregon on the setup day for the

NIA Western Regional Show in Medford. A couple hour drive west brought us to the show itself and the start of one of the best Western Regionals I've had the opportunity to

Don't forget to spread the word about insulator collecting to the kids. Remember that it's the youth that will carry on this great hobby after all of us are gone.

attend. The JSIC put forth a tremendous effort to make this show a premier event, and all their work paid off. The armory hall was large and well lighted - mostly with natural light - and the tables were all filled with really great glass. What was really impressive was the number of insulators that "walked in" on Saturday! This and the fine "walk-through" buyer traffic were the result of the extensive advertising done by the show in advance of the committee event. I had to restrain my

"acquisition activities" since I didn't want to have to carry a bunch of stuff around the country for the next month, but I still managed to find a few choice pieces! When all was said and done, everyone was in agreement that the Medford Show would go down as one of the best! Thanks again JSIC and all the folks up there in the Pacific Northwest that made it happen!

Lynda and I continued our drive north, stopping in Portland to visit old friends (and Powell's bookstore of course!) before catching a flight to Anchorage on the 4th of June. Though it was dark when we left Portland at 11pm, the sun rose in the west as we flew north and it was just dusk when we landed at Anchorage. It was a special treat to stay with our old friends Bernie and Madeline Warren in their new place overlooking the city to the west. In fact, their guestroom had a magnificent view

of Mt. McKinley looming out of the clouds some 150 miles to the north. Even more impressive was see in general Bernie's col-

lection again (even though he only had 17 of his 50-plus lighted cases "up and operational"!). Bernie likely has the best collection of French insulators in the world, though his holdings of Australian and South American glass would be competitive for a similar nomination. So it took several evenings to go through the whole Pretty spectacular! We also had the good fortune to view several other collections in Alaska and we interspersed this activity in with a trip up the Haul Road to

Prudoe Bay, a few days up in the far north at Barrow, and some sea-kayaking and Halibut fishing out in the Kodiak Archipelago. We did see a few insulators "out in the wilds", but nothing that I deemed worth climbing for, so I had to settle for the various trades I had made with the Alaskan collectors.

The airplane got us back to New Mexico in just enough time to pack up clean clothes and fresh insulators - and board another plane for At'-lanta Georgia and the start of another great National convention. I won't go into detail here on the show since there will be a great spread in the next Crown Jewels, but I do want to congratulate Dudley and Sandy Ellis (along with the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club) for a absolutely outstanding job on pulling off the 32nd Annual Show! The highlight of our trip to the South was the rare opportunity to visit Dudley and Sandy in their home near Stockbridge, just south of Atlanta. Over the period of a few days, they showed us what "Southern hospitality" was about and we also learned a whole bunch about the culture, history and geography of "Gee-Oh'-ja". AND, I got to finally browse Dudley's immense collection of Diamond ponies: Wow what a rush! Even more amazing, I managed to trade him out of a couple pieces!

We finally got back home on the 11th of July, and my bride said "I've had it for traveling, can we stay home for a change?! (Talk about needing some "attitude adjustment"!) So I've been cool and stayed closer to home (mostly!) for the past month.

Some time ago I made the comment that one of the "great forces"

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in this hobby is the extensive network of local clubs. These are the building blocks of the organization because they bring together the people with like interests. This year I've seen an increase in the activity from the many clubs in the west and this is gratifying. Just remember, it's the local clubs that sponsor the shows. And it's the shows where you meet the people that are really behind insulator col-And it's at the shows lecting. 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! As further evidence of the growth, I think Bill Meier told me that the ICON membership is now up to 1700 people!

Let me turn my attention back to the upcoming western shows for a moment. First, you probably all know by now that the 33rd NIA Convention and Show will be held on western soil next July in the beautiful Colorado town of Ft. Collins. Ft. Collins is on the edge of the Front Range of the Rockies and just north of the Denver. You don't want to miss this one folks! This will be a show to "write home to mom about"! Show organizer and host Mike Bliss has already done a massive amount of work on the show and we are to be treated to an amazing event!

In the meantime, we have some nearer term events on the calendar. Time to start planning for them. September has three shows on the agenda, but the first of these, the Merzoian Brothers' Porterville CA Tailgater on Sep 1st

will be history by the time you read this. On Saturday Sep. 8th, you can attend the Fourth Annual Central Washington "End of the Road" Insulator and Bottle Swap Meet & potluck at Dan and Jan Spanton's place in Yakima, WA. Call Dan Spanton, (509) 965-9301 for details. And on Sep. 29th, the action is here in New Mexico! Yep, it's the Fourteenth Annual EIC Insulator, Bottle, Barbwire and Collectibles Show and Sale. This will be another great one. Don't miss it! We've only got ten tables left for sale. If you need more details. and since I'm the host (!), call me! The 13th of Oct. takes us back to the West Coast for the Fifth Mid-Willamette Valley Insulator Swap and Potluck in Salem Oregon. Call Nathan Lamkey for details, (503) 364-3226. A little bit further out on the horizon, don't forget the 49er Historical Bottle Assn. 24th Annual Show and Sale at the Gold Country Fairgrounds on Dec. 1st. Call Pat Patocka for more information, (916) 663-3681. That's quite a fall line-up, folks!

By the way, do you have any ideas for shows here in the West for 2002 and 2003? Would you or your club be interested in hosting a show? Give me a call and let's discuss it.

Don't forget to spread the word about insulator collecting to the kids. Remember that it's the youth that will carry on this great hobby after all of us are gone. When's the last time you took a young person to a show? Or had a couple over to look at your collection? I met some great kids at the National last month – several of them had fine exhibits. When I talked to them, I was impressed that some adult had taken the effort to get them motivated – and they had

done a really good job because these kids were pumped! How about taking the kids with you on your next insulator hunt? Remember, in only a few more years, there won't be any insulators in the air! Now is the time!

Finally, 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!

OK – that's it from sunny Corrales, New Mexico. Looking forward to hearing from my fellow insulator enthusiasts here in the west.

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 Western Region Vice President



Business Cards from Insulator Collectors

With the help of junior NIA member, Clay Bledsoe, several business cards from insulator collectors were added to the archives during the National show. Clay helped me go from table to table, asking dealers if we could add their business card to the recently created album containing them. About 40 cards were added altogether.

Ruth Kidder of Punta Gorda, Florida went the most out of her way to get her card into the archives. She promised to send one after the national and followed through shortly afterwards.

The album containing the cards was available at the entrance of the show and several people seemed to enjoy looking through it. Several collectors have different versions of their card. A few cards like the one for Bob and Phoebe Adams have some humor

on their card (e.g., one telephone pole saying to another, "I guess you meet a lot of High strung people in your line of work."). Other collectibles are mentioned such as marbles, bell paper weights, bottles, coins, barbed wire, Coleman lanterns, telephones, lineman's tools, porcelain signs, yard-sticks, nail aprons, ice picks, match book covers, Dayton Area milk bottls and fruit jars. And, of course, a variety of insulators are pictured.

Some of the cards are true business cards. Usually I spend so much time talking about insulators with other collectors that I forget to ask them what they do for a living. Based on cards in the album, however, John Biesemier is an electrical contractor, Steve Blair is qualified for Alpaca shearing, Edward Holland is the Director of Planning and Development for the Orange Water & Sewer Authority and Dennis Weber is a Communications Technical for Southwestern Bell.

Overall there is a lot of variety in the cards. There are cards from past and present officers of the NIA (e.g., former historian Chris Hedges). Some cards have been updated with mailing labels (e.g., both Colburns). A few have new area codes, phone numbers or addresses penned in (such as Rod Krupka's new area code One is transparent (L.L. 810). Linscott). One has a 3-D appearance (Larry and Mary Beth Veneziano). There's a card from the Insulator King (Rick Bentlel), one from the Insulator Man (Doug MacGillvary), and one from the Ponyman (Dudley Ellis). You can also find company names like Line Jewels, Open Wire Insulator Services, Bishop Enterprises, G & M Sales, D & E Collectibles, Hoosier Insulators, CGI Insulators, Northeast Insulators, Crown Jewels,, and Jerilyn Crafts & Gifts.

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

It is time to begin thinking about the 2002 election of NIA President and Western Region Vice President. In the next issue of Drip Points, I will call for nominations.

If anyone desires to run for one of these positions, it's not too early to start talking about. If anyone wants to call me, please feel free to do so.

Ken Willick was re-elected to the Eastern Region Vice President at the 2001 National held in Atlanta in July.

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations Chair

The Swap Shop

♣ W: CD 112, California, smoke ♣ W: CD160, California, plum

T: CD 162, McLaughlin, RDP apple green

T: CD 155, RYT [020], SB green

C: Colin Jung, NIA #7055

W: Third Nat'l Meet, Kansas City, MO July 11-12, 1972 (circular markings on the top of dome and Joe MC) Cobalt blue carnival

C: Clinton Arsenault, NIA #6313

W: Insulator Figural Bottle in carnival glass

C: Shelli Arssenault, NIA #6319

'W:' means wanted. T:' means trade. "C:' stands for "Contact" and is your name and NIA number.

- 1. Entries may consist of 1 or 2 items in each the W: and the T: listings
- 2. You must be a member in good standing of the NIA.
- 3. No money is to be mentioned!
 4. Entrants realize *Drip Points* is just the medium for making a contact and therefore assume full responsibility for the outcome of any/all exchanges they participate in. The NIA can in no way be held responsible for adverse situations which might arise from the use of the NIA SWAPSHOP
- 5.. Entries are to be in on the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- 6. Entries may be sent by e-mail or snail mail.

FROM THE ETHICS CHAIR

have held the job of Ethics Chairman since 1987. I have some activities that are taking up much of my time, so It is time to pass the job to someone new. The new Ethics Chairman will be Charles Bibb. He is very capable and willing to tackle the task. Fortunately there are few ethics problems to deal with. I will continue to work to resolve outstanding issues with John Williams.

We have a great group of collectors in the hobby who deal with

each other with reason and fairness. But there is an occasional problem. Most ethics issues over the years have been rather minor with only a couple of difficult cases. Communication is very important. If you do not know who you are dealing with, ask a friend if they know the person. If someone calls you offering to sell or trade an insulator, you should expect to receive the insulator before sending payment. Never send money or insulators to someone you do not know. We often do this with auctions such as Ebay but at least Ebay offers help in settling these

rare disputes. Just use common sense and try to find out who you are dealing with before sending them money. Naturally, face-to-face trades are the best kind.

The job of ethics chairman has been interesting. It is rewarding when problems can be resolved. I wish all of you "Happy Collecting", and hope to see many of you at a show. I usually make the National and will be at the "roving London" show in November.

Elton Gish, NIA #41 Ethics Chairman

Where Would You Put an Insulator Museum?

great deal of thanks goes to Dick Bowman for his terrific work on the Museum Committee. Dick stepped down at the National and I was asked to take his place. This project is a huge undertaking and Dick got it off to an excellent start.

Currently the committee is focusing on three areas. What would an NIA museum look like? How would it be financed? What museum could we partner with? It is this last question that I would like to comment on.

If the NIA does not create a standalone museum because of finances or a desire to start small, partnering with another museum makes a lot of sense. Even if the NIA does not want to partner with another museum, the criteria used to select a partner would be very similar to the criteria used to select a site for a stand-alone museum. What then should the NIA look for in an affiliated museum? Should the museum be located nearest the greatest number of collectors; in a place that collectors can get to easily by train, car, or plane; near an existing or former insulator plant (e.g., Muncie, Denver, LeRoy); or close to some place of significance to the hobby (e.g., New Castle, Indiana or London, Ohio)? Ideally the answer to this would be yes but there is no single spot that fits each of these requirements.

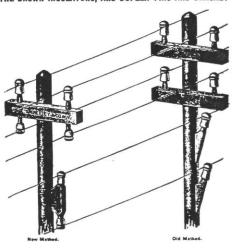
There are also a variety of types of museums the NIA could affiliate with. These museums might focus on the telegraph, the telephone. electricity, or railroads. could deal with linemen, be owned by a for-profit corporation or be run by a Telephone Pioneers of America chapter. They could be affiliated with a professional organization such as the American Ceramic Society or the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). They might be a museum devoted to technology, glass, ceramics, or general his-

The Museum Committee is con-

sidering a large number of possibilities and considering a variety of factors in investigating this idea.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958
Museum Committee Chairman

THE BROWN INSULATORS, AND DUPLEX PINS AND BRACKET



PRODUCT MARKETING

NIA Product Marketing sold a record \$1700 worth of product at the Atlanta National! Our newest items again, proved to be quite popular. The short-sleeve, embroidered, blue denim shirt debuted in Atlanta and was well received! Clothing sizes, not represented on the order form, are always available by special order. See the NIA website for details: www.nia.org

Thanks to all who supported the NIA with their purchases at the 32nd National. As always I appreciate your positive feedback! In Support of our Insulator Hobby, Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336

2001 NIA Awards

At the Western Regional in Medford, Oregon this spring, Bill Ostrander won the People's Choice Award. The winning display featured a wide variety of power insulators complete with Danger High Voltage Keep Away" signs. 2001 Atlanta National NIA AWARDS

Dr. Fredrick Griffin Memorial Award – Best Use of Threadless - Doug MacGillvary "Insulators of the Confederacy"

Porcelain - Rick Soller "Porcelain Spools"

Specialty - Jim Frustieri "Brookfield - Purple, Gray,

SCA"

Foreign - Keith Roloson

General - Kathleen Edwards "Men of High Voltage"

Go-Withs - Steve Schingler "A Marriage of Glass"

Threaded - Scott Pahl "Variety is the spice of life & Insulators are so SPICEYYY!"

Tightning Rod Equipment - Glenn Drummond

Junior - Clay Bledsoe "Researching the Road of Colors

Milholland Educational Award - Kathleen Edwards

National Show Host Plague - Dudley and Sandy Ellis

NIA Lifetime Membership Award - Steve and Donna Bobb; Bill and Jill Meier Club/Individual Awards

CFIC Best First Time Display at a National - Kathleen Edwards

DJIC Best Use of Threaded CDs in memory of Jim Overstreet - Ben Kelley

GCIC Best Use of Power Insulators - Kathleen Edwards

CRABSinc. Best Use of Eastern Glass - Kathleen Edwards

LSIC N.R. Woodward Literary Award for Author of Best Research Article - Jimmy Burns

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award - Glenn Drummond Den Linscott Insulator Pioneer Award - Kevin Lawless

Crown Jewels of the Wire "Best Article of the Year" Award - Roger Lucas

Lon C. Holy Memorial Award by Larry and Mary Beth Veneziano - Jackie Shaver

Jack Tod Memorial Award for Best Porcelain Display - Rick Soller

People's Choice (vote of those attending) - Doug MacGillvary

A special Thank You to Carol McDougald for taking great photos of the winning displays for the award certificates and supplying this list of winners.

I have several of the Show Host Awards that have NOT been sent because I don't have a current address.

IF you know the address for the following people, PLEASE send it to me. I have 2 Show Host plaques for Steve Wat-

w kins......And one each for: Dennis Donovan, Host of the 1st National Show in New Castle, Indiana in 1970

Jesse Moreland, NIA # 16, Si Pellow, Host of the 3rd National Show, Kansas City, 1972,

George Phillips, Host of the 4th National Show, Hutchinson, 1973, Thomas Wolfe NIA # 89,

Addie Tasem NIA #30, Keith Ornbaum NIA #635 Mike Sovereign NIA #1548, Frank Edgar NIA #3651

Jeff and Theresa Powers NIA # 3691 & # 3692, Steve Jones, NIA # 5426

Thanks for your help in getting these Show Host plaques

to the folks who have hosted a national show.

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Awards and Recognition Committee

FISCAL YEAR 2001 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION 6/30/01

Begin Balance General Fund 7/1/00 Education & Promotion Account Beginning Balance* Authentication/Ethics Account Beginning Balance		6711.61 579.96 1196.75
Revenues		
Donations** Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income Product Sales	1500.00 9851.00 2680.50 2459.00	
	Total Revenues:	16490.50
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	213.80 0.00 1702.70 1427.28 831.23 423.94 794.40 182.00 3486.14 1072.08 0.00 469.20 0.00 13.30 2812.62	
	Total Expenses:	13428.69
Closing Balance, General Fund:		8853.38
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditure Museum Exploratory Committee Blance	27.99	972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures Authentication/Ethics Account Balance	0	1696.75
Total Balance on Hand		11522.14

^{*} Education & Promotion Account was absorbed into General Fund during second quarter.

^{** \$1000} started Museum ExploratoryCommittee Fund and \$500 went to Authentication/Ethics Account



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 Oty

40			Titee	Qty Total
	Golf Shirt – pique, white cotton - 3			
NIA LOGO Large Logo on back		\$27.00) 2X (\$29.00)	\$27 / \$29	
on back	*for custom pocketed shirt or	r special size add \$3.00 for each	*\$3.00	
	NEW Denim Shirt Long	g-sleeve or short sleeve - Med. w	t. pre-shrunk co	otton
	Stonewash blue - Le	ft-side pocket		
八壓山	Embroidered logo	S M L XL	\$32.00	
	S/S L/S	2X	\$35.00	
	T-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heav			
	S M L XI		\$10.00	
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	2X 3X (Ash Sweatshirt Ash Grey - Heavyweig		\$16.00	
		L XL (\$20.00) 2X (\$2	2.00)	
National 11	Embroidered Cap Stone/Navy, 1 Cap Lt. Grey, screen-printed		\$16.00 \$10.00	
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A SSOCIATION	Mug white ceramic w/ screen		\$7.00	
	Patch light blue w/ screen-prir	nted logo/red embroidered edge	\$4.00	
	Koozie Foam beverage holder w	v/ silver NIA logo :		
		olue red green	\$2.25	
		porder; for inside car window	\$1.00	
Ĺ <u>, L</u> ,			110000000000000000000000000000000000000	
		engraved blue letters, own screen-printed logo	\$11.00	
		1	\$4.00	
	Bauge Bai willie w/ eligiav	red blue letters (ie. NIA position)	_	
Chest Size Chart: S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42) *Shipping charges: Shirts, Caps & Mugs are \$3.95 for the first item & \$1.20 for each additional item. Koozies are only \$1.20		Subtotal		
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Name	Badge Customization Info	crmation (must be a curr		State

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