Drip Points

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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http://www.nia.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE

quarter of a year sure goes by fast! I hope that all of you have been able to realize an exciting time in adding to your collection over the last few months.

One of the highlights for me this winter was our visit with Mike Csorbay and Debbie Kinloch near first time to visit collectors outside

of the USA, and we had a wonderful time of "show and tell." We were also pleased to come home with their NIA membership application filled out. (They had asked us to bring one along.)

I was surprised at how many of you thought the Swap Shop idea was a good one, yet I received relatively few items to be included Hamilton, Ontario. This was our on the page. I am willing to give it one more try. This time I will open

the submissions to email. However, I ask you strictly follow the guidelines found in "The Swap Shop."

There is one other item I would like to address. There are a lot of people out there concerned about the rising prices that collectors are willing to pay for pieces (hence price increases). I have discovered an effective way to combat

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this! I am not sure what it is about these pieces of glass that make them so interesting, but I encourage those of us who are falling short of being able to pay for expensive pieces to expand our horizons by enjoying a study into the different variants we can find within most types of common insulators. As an example, Jim Sinsley has taken the task upon himself of trying to find all of the different embossing variants and

dome numbers of the CD147. He has been conducting this study for awhile now. While I was following his work, it gave me a new level of excitement whenever I was

out hunting insulators as I tended to pick up every CD147 I could find just to see if I could report something new to Jim.

Personally, I tend to favor the CD162.1 Brookfield. I have noticed differences in the mold markings and embossing that make it exciting to look for these common pieces whether in the field or at a show. To date, I have a dark teal blue one and a sage-ish green one that I find no listing for in the price guide (as far as the color goes). Because of the crudeness found in many of the Brookfield pieces, I also keep a sharp eye out for any inclusions/embossing errors/ghosting/color-changing impurities. A few of the things I have learned so far (so it seems at present) is that a (Dome) 6 is not as common of a mold number; the (Dome) 'OX' or (Dome) '00' varieties (respectively I call these the 'OX-top' and 'Double ought top' varieties) seem to have the most squared-off tops (which I like); and I have yet to see any other mold marks besides these and a '7' (I thought I had a weird 'w' somewhere, but have been unable to locate it). I have not yet had time to catalog all of my pieces as well as I would have liked but plan to in the future. My personal goal (and therefore an exciting variety to look for) is to find an

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to be exciting.

OX-top in a coffee-stain color. Although I own two of these pieces that have been classified by some of the more knowl-

edgeable people as olive amber, however I am looking for one in a coffee stain color (I am not sure whether this shade would listed as 'olive amber' or not. I feel it must exist because I have seen several CD152 Brookfields in the shade I desire, have shards of a 162.1 in this color, and since these spemiens are both Brookfield products, I speculate that, certainly, there must be a whole 162.1 out there somewhere (at least I hope)!

Another, recent, study I have engaged in (a joint effort with Chris Renaudo), is trying to compile a comprehensive listing what CD 145 Crown Embossed Brookfield varieties have been made. We all know John and Carol McDougald have done a wonderful job in listing different embossing styles, but Chris and I are anxious to know

how many different shop numbers (the large number normally seen on these pieces) are out there which correlate to the different embossing indices. So far we have found that pieces with the same shop number need not have the same embossing, and that not all shop numbers of same numeric value are from the same molds. Other facts are coming out, but this will probably all be published one way or another upon completion (?) of the study.

Why go to all of this effort? It is fun for the sake of exploration. It makes the collection of what others consider common pieces to be exciting. It breathes new life into searching the \$1.00 tables at The possibility of finding shows. something never before reported is intriguing and, the cost is low. As more and more people enter the hobby, I personally feel these things will be important. There are only so many insulators to spread around. Since people have been collecting CD145 HGCO PETTICOAT beehives according to mold numbers for years, I personally think there is value to a listing of what is available in other pieces.

When I asked one of my friends, Paul Rosenberger, why he liked to collect CD145 HGCO PETTICOAT's by mold numbers, he said something like, "Weel, since the mold number does make the piece different, you can easily justify keeping more than one of every piece!"

Happy Collecting to everyone! Lee Brewer, NIA #6695 Information Director

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

wish I could report on numerous insulator happenings since

the December issue, but the truth is that I have been more than a little preoccupied with personal matters. The most significant of which was the arrival of Samuel Michael Marks on January 27th!

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Quite an exciting time as well as a never ending stream of well wishing relatives the month after! Dad is also coming to grips with the long term effects of sleep depravation (he's an unwilling participant of a cruel experiment that his son is intent on carrying out). Kevin Lawless tells me that in the 32 year history of the NIA, that this is the first baby born to an officer of the NIA while he/she was in office! And, yes, I will confirm the rumors that under my hospital scrubs, in the delivery room. I was wearing my NIA sweatshirt! I have the picture the anesthesiologist took to prove it!

Over the past two months I have been in contact with each of the Board Members and Committee Chairpersons and am pleased to report that we are making significant progress toward achieving each of the goals that were set last summer. Here's a brief summary of my more significant discussions:

1. I have been working with By-Laws Chairman Bill Rohde on an effort to finalize and print up a new

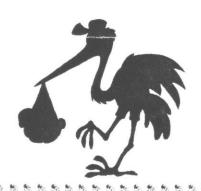
batch of NIA Handbooks. We are hoping to complete this project within the next month.

- 2. I have been in contact with the Regional VPs (Tom Katonak, Ed Peters and Ken Willick) on the topic of providing better communication between the NIA Board and the Regional and National Show
- 3. Membership Director Joe Beres and I had a discussion regarding the status of membership renewals which was subsequently brought to the Board's attention.
- 4. Past President Kevin Lawless and Awards and Recognition Chairperson Sandy Ellison and I have had a discussion regarding the development of awards for past hosts of NIA National Shows.
- 5. At my request Bob Stahr, our Executive Secretary, has commenced the process for evaluating bids for the 2002 National.
- 6. Nominations Chairperson Jack Roach and Promotion and Education Chairperson Bob Berry have been working toward the creation

of on-line voting in NIA elections. Bob has also made some great changes to our website. We are also hoping to implement a process for on-line membership renew-

Melanie, Samuel and I have made our reservations for the National in Atlanta, and I would encourage you to do the same immediately if you have not done so already. This is going to be a fantastic show that you won't want to miss! The same goes for the two Regionals which are also shaping-up to be impressive this year. Best of luck to you on your Spring insulator hunts!

Steve Marks, NIA# 4951 **NIA President**



Congratulations to Steve and Melanie!!! Welcome Samuel Marks -- the youngest member of the NIA!!!

Executive Secretary Report

t's time for the shows to start up again. In fact, just yesterday I attended our club swap meet at John & Carol McDougald's house. The calendar looks pretty busy this year. But before we get too far along, the NIA Board has to look ahead to next year already. We currently have a solid bid for the National with anticipation of another bid by the time the Board votes in April. As for the 2002 Regionals, we are still soliciting bids for the Eastern & Central. Please contact your Regional VP if you are interested in submitting a bid.

The NIA Board does not have any pending legislation or Bylaws changes since the last report I submitted. We are currently looking at reprinting the revised NIA Handbook, so if you have any issues you would like to see changed, let us know before printina.

I should be showing up at a number of shows this year including the Collectors Jubilee at Wheaton, IL; the NIA National in Atlanta, GA; the Huron Valley show in Ann Arbor, MI; the NIA Central Regional in Sandusky, OH; and the Mid Ohio show in Washington Courthouse, OH, as well as a few bottle shows & swap meets. I'll see you

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

FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

It's been a while since you've heard from me. My unfortunate car accident 3 weeks after the Bloomington National put a crimp in my schedule and slowed me down for a while. And that is why I missed the last two *Drip Points*.

Since I have been fairly inactive in the hobby over the last six months, I've been able to look at things from a different perspective. As an active participant in the hobby (setting up and displaying at 10-12 shows per year, perform-

If...you want it and

can afford it -- go ahead

and acquire it!

ing show hosting duties, various club duties in the National Insulator Association, Capital Region Antique Bottle & Insulator

Club and Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club), I have been able to observe the inner workings of the hobby at close range, and the hobby has experienced very healthy growth over the past 15 years or so. There have certainly never been so many collectors as there are now. The fact that there are more shows and swaps and

clubs is testament to that fact. The shows are also smaller than before, and that is due to the fact that there are fewer "dealers and sellers" than before, and their available merchandise is not as widespread and varied as before. There are far more "mint freaks" than before, too. What there aren't more of are insulators. They haven't been made in substantial quantities in some 50 years and the majority of the more desirable pieces are all more than 100 years old now. Since fewer and fewer new pieces are being discovered at digs and climbs, the pieces we have available are all being recy-

cled – from other collectors. That means prices will still continue to rise. As demand peaks (and, despite a dip in the economy.

there appears to be no evidence of that happening soon), prices will too. In the meantime, expect to pay dearly for the choicest insulators.

Is there a way to keep my expenditures at bay? Yes!!! Be patient!!! There are very few one of a kind pieces, and the odds are you and I

can't afford them anyway! If something comes your way, and you want it and you can afford it - go ahead and acquire it! If it seems like too much money - it probably is! It will come along later anyway, so - be patient! Be especially prudent when buying on ebay. The vast majority of insulators for sale there are being sold by insulator novices, antique dealers and the like - and they wouldn't know oxblood from brown porcelain or cobalt blue from light blue aqua. The rule of thumb is - use your head, not your heart, and you will stay out of trouble. Remember, this is a hobby!

That's all for the editorial. Thanks to all of you who sent their kind words and thoughts when I was on the shelf last fall. You will see me at the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club Show in Enfield, Connecticut in March and at the National in Atlanta in July. Until then, please remember to support your local show, your local club, your fellow collector. Enjoy our hobby!

Good collecting,

Kevin F. Lawless, NIA# 1679 First Past President

From the Eastern Region Vice President

G reetings and a Happy New Year to collectors everywhere.

As usual, I'm looking forward to springtime and a chance to get out and do some searching for insulators. I've got a few areas picked out for "expeditions" this year. If I can just find the time to go, I'll be all set.

While I'm on the subject of search-

ing for insulators, I'd like to stress the importance of keeping some sort of records. Whether you're a new collector or an "old pro," I think it's a good idea to carry some sort of small journal or notebook with you. It doesn't matter if you're out antiquing, flea marketing, walking the lines, or at a show or swap meet, a place to take notes can come in handy! Found a good piece in an antique shop? Who sold it? Where did it come from? Even if no information is available, chances are the insulator is from somewhere in that

area. Are (or were) there any telephone lines or railroads in the area? Did another similar piece come from a nearby town? By recording any information you have, no matter how slight, you will have a ready reference that may help you put 2 and 2 together even years later.

When walking the lines, you may want to check for pole date nails to determine ages of poles, types of insulators found (if any), location and miles walked, etc. You can

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birds, fishing holes, just about anything that is of interest to looking like a you.

A journal can also come in handy era might be for sketches or drawings. I have the the hardest time remembering pole Even the new spacings on the different lines I've disposables tracks, you'll have a good idea or with footnotes. where to start on other sections of picture speaks a thousand words. this line.

A quick map of an old dump or I'm just sorry I didn't keep better Good collecting, prime spot can help you find it track of my experiences in my early Ken Willick, NIA# 3709 again even years later.

also keep track of wildlife observed, sketches of just about anything can totally disappeared, it's hard for flowers, fossil beds, farm dumps, be added to your journal. If what- new collectors to visualize just what ever you draw always turns out it was like.

> 1st grade stick figure, a cam-

It's a good idea to carry some sort of small journal...with you.

been on. If you had, for example, a take a decent picture. Now, I'm not ple you've met, insulators you've page marked "Erie Railroad, Glass- advocating carrying around a photo found, memories and experiences pile, NY" with a sketch showing album, but you could reference you've had - truly a great collecpole spacing and distance from photos of importance in the margin tion! Sometimes a

> With the way our world is changing. days of collecting. So many open Eastern Region Vice President

If you're the artistic type, thumbnail wire lines have come down or just

Remember, a journal of your collecting days is something for you to add to and enjoy for the rest of your life - filled with the places you've been, peo-

I hope to see you at a show or swapmeet later this year.

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

X 7 ell, this winter is sure a far cry different than the past couple down here in the desert southwest! In fact, it's been so wintry that I gave up insulator hunting and went back to skiing! It's not as snowy as the winter of '82, when I skied up to poles on Rabbit Ears Pass in northern Colorado and picked green Am-Tels off the cross-arms, but it is pretty white in the mountains!

As just about everyone knows, if you really want to collect insulators in the wintertime, you go south. And that's just what we did this past weekend. Lynda and I drove down to the worldrenowned Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (just awesome!) last week, and continued the journey out to Yuma Arizona to attend the Yuma Tailgater. Not a cloud in the sky and the temperatures hovered in the mid-sixties! First time I've had a pair of shorts on in

three months! As I came up over the lip of the hill overlooking the tailgater site at the Yuma Territorial Prison Park, I was just astounded! The parking lot was full of cars and there were tables of glass spotted just everywhere! When I got down the hill and finally found a place to park, I got out and counted over 50 people busily "dealing glass"! Boy was I The "California impressed! Crowd" was there, and the "New Mexico contingent" too, of course. And...a great showing from Oregon's Jefferson State Insulator Club. I was impressed to meet folks from Canada and Minnesota - but they were "wintering" in Yuma, so they didn't have a long drive to get to the tailgater. I don't know what the final people count was, but I lost track. Some really great glass changed hands: I saw a CD 109.5 Harloe, amber and blue CD 106 Ericssons, and various colored E C & Ms to name a Late in the afternoon, a group of ten "find 'em in the wild"

stalwarts participated in a field trip to the old 1870s telegraph line that ran from San Diego to Phoe-Lynda Katonak found the right spot and before long we were uncovering E C & M "kitsulators" from the rocky terrain east of Yuma. No, no whole ones, but great finds none-the-less. Kudos to the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club for sponsoring the fine event!

Speaking of past events, I've had many glowing reports on the outstanding 12th Annual Emerald City Potluck and Swapmeet at the home of Win and Bonnie Trueblood. More than 60 people attended this action-packed event... and I'm sorry I couldn't make it. From what I've heard, there were some sterling trades that took place at this happening!

Well, enough about the past events. By the time you are reading this, spring will be well on its (Continued on page 6)

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way and the planning for the insulator outings in full swing. Here in the west, there are a number of great events on the docket.

March 9-10 in Chico, California: Chico Bottle & Insulator Club show at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. Call Randy Taylor, evenings, (530) 345-0519 if you need more info on this two-day event.

March 17 in Richland Washington: the 2nd Annual CBICO "its Almost Spring" Insulator Swap Meet at the home of Paul and Cheryl Ziemer. Call Paul for details, (509) 627-4570 (or email insl8rs@aol.com).

March 23-24 in Morro Bay, California: San Luis Obispo Bottle and Insulator Club's 32nd Annual Show and Sale at the Veteran's Hall. Richard Tartaglia has additional information, call (805) 543-7484.

May 4-5 is the Washington Bottle Collectors Show in Enumclaw, Washington. This new event will be held at the King County Fairground. More informa-

tion forthcoming.

June 2-3 are the dates for the 2001 NIA Western Regional Show in Medford Oregon. The

Jefferson State Insulator Club will host this premier event. (See separate write-up in this issue for details)

By the way, did you know that the <u>www.insulators.com</u> website has an updated list of all the shows?

Finally, congratulations are in order to Fred Padgett and the late Walter P. Ruedrich on getting their new book *Wood Amongst the Wires – The Temporary Solution* out on the market. This remarkable reference on the wooden San

Francisco insulators is a "must" for you insulator hobby history buffs and is the <u>second</u> serious research effort on the part of Mr.

Padgett. Thanks from all of us, Fred!

Well, that's it for the spring report. I'm

looking forward to seeing you at the shows and the hunts. Give me a call if you've got any thoughts, ideas or concerns regarding happenings in the Western Region. I'm always looking for input!

Regards,

...there are a number

of great events on the

docket.

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 Western Region Vice President

HISTORIAN'S NOTE

The Best Books in the Hobby Ithough still far from complete (hint, hint), the NIA archives contain an extensive collection of The opportunity to read these has given me the opportunity to form an opinion about the best books in the hobby. Here are my top 5 choices in order starting from the best. I'm basing my decision on readability of the book and value of the information in it. If you disagree. I know Lee Brewer would be pleased to consider your choices for the next issue of the Drip Points.

#1. Porcelain Insulators and How They Grew by Brent Mills is the kind of book every hobby wishes it had. Written by a president of the Lapp Insulator Company, Mills had personal, long-term contact with the people in the industry, access to the corporate files of Lapp, and time to write the book since he was retired when he worked on it. Most collectors probably haven't read it because it is mainly about "mud" but there is a chapter on Corning Pyrex.

#2. Fred M. Locke: A Biography by Elton N. Gish. Yike! Two porcelain books holding the top two positions! If you read Gerald Brown's history of Fred M. Locke and then read this, you'll know what I'm talking about. The research is phenomenal and the writing is well argued. Excellent photographs, interviews with relatives, references to court documents, and more were spun into an informative work that I continually consult.

#3. Dreams of Glass: The Story of William McLaughlin and His Glass Company by Fred Padgett. Another excellent work including interviews with relatives, wonderful photographs, a comprehensive listing of insulators made by McLaughlin in an easy to read writing style.

#4. Insulators: A History and Guide to North American Glass Pintype Insulators by John and Carol McDougald. I'm not referring to the price guide or Volume 2 but to Volume 1 which gives the history of the companies. I own two copies of this book (office and home copies) because you can't find this information easily anywhere else. This would be the first book I would tell a new collector to buy.

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#5. A History of the Electrical Porcelain Industry in the United States by Jack Tod. Jack was very thorough in his research and this is the best illustration of that. There were hundreds of companies making electrical porcelain and when I come across some unusual piece with any kind of marking, this is the book I read to find out something about what I have.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Historian

From the Nominations Chair

reetings from the warm Texas Hill Country. The February 1 date for indicating the desire to run for the Eastern Region Vice President has come and gone with only one applicant. Therefore, we will not be able to test out all those punched card election machines that we picked up in Florida out of a trash heap. Well maybe next year.

Seriously, thanks to Bob Berry, we do have on line voting ready for the next election. This function will reside on the NIA Home Page.

Jack Roach, NIA# 4156 Nominations Chairman

The Swap Shop

W: CD 104 1871 PAT.

T: Olive Hem. No. 19 SDP

C: Jack Snyder, NIA# 241

W:CD121 A007/Calif., smoke W:CD121 A007/Calif., steel blue

T: CD121 WGM Co royal purple

T: CD121 Canada - royal purple

C: Colin Jung, NIA# 7055

T-CD 128 Opal T-CD251 NEG

W-CD 190/191 <> Royal Purple

W-CD 190/191 <> Lt Purple

C: Larry Rogers, NIA# 7177

W: Sixth National Convention, San Diego, July 11-13, 1975, Red Amberina-Carnival

C: Clinton Arsenault, NIA#6313

W: Third National Meet, Kansas City, MO, July 1-2, 1972"Gibson" on dome, Cobalt blue carnival

C: Shelli Arsenault, NIA# 6319

W:CD143G.N.W.any purple

T: All sorts of possiblities

C: Karry Lavendoski, NIA#1431

W: 162.1 Brookfield, olive amber C: Lee Brewer, NIA# 6695

"W:' means 'wanted'

'T:' means an insulator you have up for trade - not necessarily for your wanted piece - this is just an extra piece you have to offer anyone who wants to trade. "C:' stands for "Contact" and is to be the name and NIA number of the person who submitted this entry.

Please note the following stipulations:

- 1. The definition of "entry" is when you mail me a list of either 0, 1, or 2 items for the W: category and/or 0, 1, or 2 items in the T: category.
- 2. Anyone wishing to participate must be an NIA member in good standing.
- 3. No money is to be mentioned! If the trading partners wish to have a monetary business dealing, then they can do this personally with anyone who contacts them privately.
- 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 before the next scheduled Drip Points is to be mailed (February 10, May 10, August 10, November 10).
- 6. One entry (see #1) per issue please.
- 7. Entries may be sent via e-mail or snail mail.

The Western Reserve Insulator Club cordially Invites you to The National Insulator Association 2001 Central Regional Show and Sale in Sandusky, Ohio September 8 & 9, 2001

We have negotiated a block of

rooms at the Holiday Inn of Sandusky, and special rates are available to all those that make reservations for the show. Best of all, the special rates are in place from the Tuesday prior to the show through Sunday, September 9. The special NIA Show rate is \$89.00 plus tax per room per night for single, double, triple, or quad occupancy. Please call the Holi-

day Inn of Sandusky: (419)626-6671, or 1(800)HOLIDAY to reserve with a major credit card. To receive the special group rate make your reservations prior to August 14 and specify that you are calling to reserve your rooms for the NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION 2001 CENTRAL REGIONAL.

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The award banquet will feature a 'buffet style' dinner. Cost is \$24 per person in advance, and \$10 for children between 3 and 6 years of age.

Show Hours: Saturday, 9:00AM to 4:00 PM with banquet at 7:00 PM Sunday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Make sure to check out the June issue of Drip Points for more details especially concerning other places to visit near Sandusky.

The show is being sponsored by the Western Reserve Insulator Club with your show hosts being the officers of the club: John Hovanec, Scott Stacek, and Ron Barth. Information pertaining to Dealer Table, Exhibitor Table, and Banquet Reservations are found in the Show Packet. To request a Show Packet, please contact me.

John Hovanec, NIA# 6552 Western Reserve Insulator Club, P.O. 33661, North Roylaton, OH 44133. (440) 237-2242 Email: dj4fun@now-online.com or wric@clubs.insulators.com

WESTERN REGION SHOW UPDATE

In October 1999, the Jefferson State Insulator Club was formed in Medford, Oregon. It's hard to believe that just one year later JSIC would find itself hosting the western regional show! In that same year, club membership blossomed from 10 charter members to 37 enthusiastic collectors.

Shortly after JSIC's inception, we were saddened to learn that Vi Brown would retire after many years of hosting the annual insulator show in Enumclaw. Washington. The Enumclaw show was the premier insulator event in the northwest. Collectors looked forward to it all year. While lamenting this loss at Howard Bank's 1999 southern Oregon summer swap, we did the unthinkable...we decided to submit a bid to host the NIA 2001 Western Regional, and fill the void left after Vi's well deserved and praiseworthy retirement.

Since that fateful day, a core group of JSIC club members have conspired to put together a Western Regional to be proud of. After carefully scouting the area, JSIC chose the Medford National Guard Armory for the event. This facility is tailor made for an insulator show. The huge auditorium will easily house 100 sales tables.

plus many displays. A sunny, west-facing window spans an entire wall of the building. The interior is all white...and the glass will shine! There is ample RV parking, restaurants, and two top-notch hotels all within a few hundred feet of the sales floor.

There are few finer landscapes than Southern Oregon in June. Crater Lake National Park, the California Redwoods, the Oregon coast, high desert. Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains are all within a few hours from the show. Medford is easily accessible by car via Interstate 5. Major airlines also serve the Medford International Airport, only five miles from the show. Suffice to say that we are proud and honored to host our first major show in such a beautiful part of the world.

Extensive preparation is going into this show. In the tradition of Enumclaw, insulator go-withs, antique bottles, railroadania, antique telephones, and other table-top collectibles will be welcome. We hope to make this a successful show that may become an annual event with broad appeal. We will be advertising locally, encouraging the local natives to drag insulators out of their sheds, barns, and garages for appraisal a la "Antiques Road Show." Dealers will have an opportunity to buy any "sleeper glass" that walks in the door. We also plan a fine raffle that will include two "instant collections" of California and McLaughlin insulators, an EC&M insulator, books, and more! Who knows what additional items we'll come up with between now and June?

Much credit is due to Bill Ostrander, the JSIC webmaster. To ensure that the 2001 Western Regional is a success, Bill has crafted a cutting edge website. Folks can download a customized show packet, plan a southern Oregon vacation, make hotel reservations (dealer discounts have been arranged), and even pick out a specific sales table from our online sales floor map!

For those who are not online, we have a toll-free number to call for a show packet. The Jefferson State Insulator Club is proud to host the 2001 Western Regional. We hope to see your there!

Official JSIC 2001 Western Regional Website: http://www.insulators.com/clubs/jsic/wr/

Toll-free number to request a show packet: 1-800-652-8475 access code "zero-zero"

... or write for a show packet: Howard Banks, 1560 Hugo Rd., Merlin OR 97532

Dudley and Sandy Ellis and the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club Host for your 32nd NIA Convention Show and Sale

We are moving right along with the planning of your NIA Convention for 2001, scheduled for July 5-8, 2001, at the Renaissance Concourse Hotel at the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport. Teams have been formed to plan the various activities of the show to provide you a well-organized event.

We have sold 104 sales tables. Doug Williams reports that he has contracts on 13 displays with more promised.

Glenn Drummond has developed a seminar on the Hemingray Dump using several speakers, videos, and slides.

Jacque Linscott has started developing the Show Directory.

Business card ads are \$10, half-page ads are \$30, full page \$50, and two pages for \$80.

Get your ads and money in today.

Scott Pahl is busy collecting raffle items. If you would like to donate your club's annual membership, a patch, a book, insulators, or other related items to the raffle, please contact Scott at 910-842-9194. We need you support. One of the top prizes will be a 40"x 40" insulator wall quilt.

The Hotel advises that we have a little over 100 room nights sold for the Convention so far.

Don't delay! Reservations can be made by calling the hotel's national number 1-888-391-8724 or the local number at 1-404-209-9999. Remember that they have free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. Also see www.renaissancehotels.com on the Net.

The banquet will feature a southern hickory smoked pork loin with salad and vegetables, capped off with southern pecan pie. Yum! Yum! Please go ahead and get your money into me for the banquet. The cost is \$26 for adults and \$13 for children 10 years old and younger. Special dietary needs will be met.

Delta will be the show airline. I will post the information on the NIA Web page and in the *Crown Jewels of the Wire* as soon as it is available.

I am working with Avis for special rates also.

The Atlanta Braves will be in town on Thursday night, July 5, 2001.

Decent seats cost close to \$31. I am trying to get up a group of insulator folks to go to the game.

Let me know quickly if you want me to get you tickets with the group.

The Advertising Team is busy putting together advertisement packets to send to the antique newspapers. They also are developing a special campaign to get insulators out of the farmer's barns and to the show.

For more information or a show packet contact Dudley Ellis by mail at 131 Plantation Way, Stockbridge, Georgia 30281; by phone at 770-957-9928; or by e-mail at pony102@aol.com.

Y'all come join the fun in Atlanta!!

ICON Insulator Collectors on the Net

It has been awhile since I have written here about ICON, so I decided it was time for an update! But, I felt a history lesson would be interesting too...

What is ICON?

ICON stands for Insulator Collectors On the Net, and is a registry of over 1100 member families that have an interest in insulators and have Internet access. Nearly 1000 of these people also get the daily "ICON email" — a newsletter of sorts. ICON is also associated with the web site www.insulators.com.

What ICON is NOT:

ICON is not associated with the NIA or Crown Jewels of the Wire. It is an independent entity run and privately financed by Bill and Jill Meier with contributions from ICON members.

The History of ICON:

ICON first evolved from a few collectors who had email access in the 1994 time frame. Past *Drip Points* editor Tom Katonak reported in late 1993 and early 1994 that he had received some email submissions of DP articles. In early 1994 Keith Roloson began maintaining a central list of email addresses of collectors. Near the end of 1994, Keith reported his list had 14 members. By March 1995, the list had 40 names and managing it by hand was getting to be a chore.

In March 1995, Don Lundell, another collector with computer access, offered to take over the mailing list and put it on an automated mailing list server. This was a big breakthrough because it meant

collectors could send to one address insulators@resilience.
com and have their message broadcast to all other collectors on the list. By November 1995, the list contained 100 members.

We never had a good name for the mailing list; it was just referred to as the "insulators mailing list." So in September 1995, we had a "name the list" contest, and after some furious brainstorming, the name ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net) was chosen. Bob Stahr submitted the winning name.

In August 1996, the mailing list address was changed to **insulators@lists.best.com**, and the number of subscribers grew rapidly.

In February 2000, it was recognized that some people wanted to be registered on ICON, but not be on the mailing list so this was made an option. However, over 90% of the members still stayed on the mailing list.

Finally, in March 2000, the address of the mailing list became icon@insulators.com, truly reflecting the nature of the mailing list!

In May 2000, an historic milestone was reached. The ICON mailing list topped 1000 member families, significantly exceeding the number of NIA member families. ICON was here to stay and to become a significant force in the insulator hobby!

The Insulators Web Site:

Another technology that was evolving as more collectors had internet email access was the infamous "World Wide Web" (WWW). The WWW allowed placement of text and photographs on various

computers around the world and allowed for anyone with a Web Browser to access this information.

In April 1995, Don Lundell started a basic web page about insulators at www.resilience.com/insulators -- this was the "birth" of the insulators web site. At this time, I got very excited about this new technology and took over as "Webmaster" in May 1995.

Interest in this web site was building so I knew it was appropriate that the web site have its own domain name. In January 1996, the domain insulators.com was born, and the insulators web site was permanently moved to www.insulators.com.

To this day, www.insulators.com remains the largest, most complete web site about glass and porcelain insulators on the Web. Dozens of smaller sites highlighting other people's personal collections and insulator experiences have also sprung up.

Related Web Sites:

The insulators web site contained information about the NIA and Crown Jewels of the Wire from the very start. In early 1997, Carol McDougald started www.crownjewelsofthewire.com as a web site specifically for the magazine and other related material, such as book listings and the price guide. In October 1998, the NIA information was moved to www.nia.org, and Bob Berry, the NIA's Promotion & Education chairman, took over as Webmaster.

What is on www.insulators.com?

This is a hard question! There are

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

over 1,500 pages of material on the web site. To truly appreciate it, you just have to visit www. insulators.com! Here is a list of some of my favorite material -- in no specific order:

Hundreds of color photographs of rare and colorful American and foreign glass insulators as well as porcelain insulators and other related "go-withs."

The most complete insulator and bottle show calendar anywhere; searchable by location or by date. The "Show Finder!" can answer such queries as "Find all shows in the next three months within 500 miles of me."

Books on-line, including *Modern* Practice of the Electric Telegraph - by Frank L. Pope, 1871 and the

Story of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company for use in Junior High Schools - Board of Education, Muncie, 1936.

Over a hundred "personal pages" written by collectors describing how they got started collecting, what they collect, and other information about them.

Insulators for sale – more items than eBay, in a convenient searchable format. Free posting of sales lists, and fixed prices!

The "Insulator Finder!" which matches up the wants of over 500 people with specific items on people's for sale lists and provides them with instant email notification when an item they are interested in is available for sale.

Articles, stories, research informa-

tion, and tips for the beginning or advanced collector.

The "People Finder!" will locate collectors, collections to view, or people willing to act as a mentor near you. Just specify a zip code or city and either state or province, and see who is nearby. This contains complete listings for U.S. and Canada. The "People Finder!" can also locate people by first name, last name, or email address.

The home page lists upcoming shows, as well as upcoming birth-days and anniversaries of ICON members.

For more information on ICON, visit www.insulators.com/icon. Happy surfing!
Bill Meier, NIA# 4322
Webmaster: www.insulators.com
ICON mailing list maintainer

MEMBERSHIP STATS
Information supplied by
Joe Beres, NIA# 563
Membership Director
compiled by Lee Brewer, editor

There are currently 546 families represented by membership in the NIA. The majority of the 16 foreign members are from Canada. Many renewal forms have not been returned yet which accounts for the current low number. Please note, some who formerly had family memberships have renewed as individuals whether on purpose or accidentally is not known. Please keep in mind that the first day of the National show is for members only.

We would like to give special recognition to those who have achieved "silver" status -- 25 years as members of the NIA -- this year. We would also like to recognize

those who have been members for more than 25 years. We appreciate their commitment to the hobby.

25 years

Joe Beres, Andrea De Sousa, Larry Emmons, Pat Howard, Wade Howard, Kevin Lawless, Gilbert Leacock, Milt Livesey, Claire Reindl, Bennie Rusk, Tim Wood

26 years

Bill Albers, Laura Bledsoe, Don Hostutler, Sherry Krell, Rod Krupka, Jacquie Liscott, Dennis Moeller, Bill Motisher DOUG MacGillvary

27 years

Jeannie Bridges, Elton Gish Brian Goetsch, Stan Gregory Leonard Lippens, Isabel Marques, Carol McDougald, Ginny Plunkett, Jack Riesselman, Carl Rusk, Charles Zuspan, Letha Zuspan

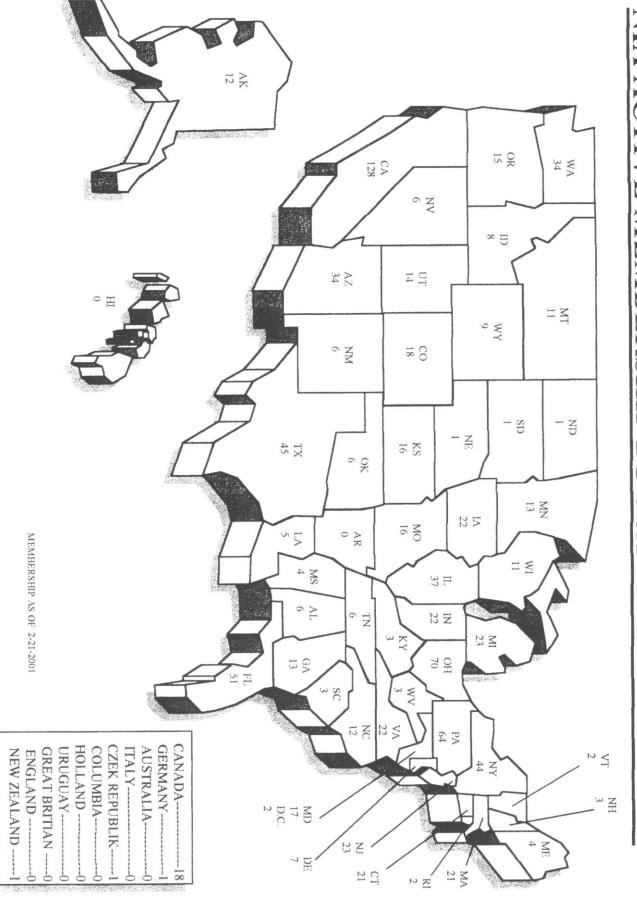
28 years

Jack Bateman, Joe Bridges,
Violet Brown, Don Bryant
George Cazakoglu, Jim Crandall, Burl Ford, Glenn Garner, Margaret Gregory, Chuck
Haymond, Jim Hinkhouse, Ruth
Kidder, Sid Marques, John
McDougald, Shirley Patocka
Skip Plunkett, Paul Plunkett
Paul Rosenberger, Carol
Rostock, Win Trueblood,
Bruce Tuley, Marilyn Turner,
Larry Whitlock

29 years

Phoebe Adams, Marilyn Albers Rick Baldwin, Errol Bond, Dick Bowman, Ray Bryan, Howard Busse, Larry Carpenter, John De Sousa, Bill Dreggors Frank Fyalka, Clarice Gordon Don Harned, Darrell Karlin, Tom Moulton, Bobbi McHenry Dennis McHenry, Clyde Patocka, Ernie Rostock, Vern Russell, Douglass Selby, Maury Tasem, Jerry Turner, Bob Williams, Lucy Wing, Rod Wing

NIA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP BY STATE AND COUNTRY 2001



NIA PRODUCTS -- SPRING SPECIALS!

NIA PRODUCTS -- NEW ADDITIONS!

After a very successful Christmas season, I am selling all overstock in order to make room our "new" to product to debut at the Atlanta National!! You may also note that our prices for shipping have gone up to along with the new USPS rates that became effective in January. I have enclosed an updated order to form in the back of this issue of Drip Points (please note, sale prices below will not be shown on the ore to sale prices below will not be sale prices. form in the back of this issue of Drip Points (please note, sale prices below will not be shown on the order form). The website www.nia.org/product.htm has been updated to reflect all "products" currently being sold by NIA Product Marketing and also contains a printable order form!

The following items will be at a reduced price, March 1st through June 1st only, so get your orders in as the sale is "while supplies last" or no later than the June deadline.

*Grey, twill cap w/screen-printed logo - \$1.00 off - sale price \$9.00

*Blue t-shirt - S, M - \$ 2.00 off - sale price \$8.00 L, XL - \$1.00 off - sale price \$9.00

*Sweatshirt - S, M - \$1.00 off - sale price \$15.00 L, XL - \$1.00 off - sale price \$19.00

*Koozie – foam beverage holder - \$.75 off - sale price \$2.25

* Price does not include postage - please see order form for details

Steal of a Deal!

I have some BLUE, Hanes beefy t-shirts in the small and medium sizes that have slight screen misalignment and will sell them at \$6.00 (includes 1st class postage).

Additions!

Due to several requests by members of our hobby, we now have size "small" in the denim shirt (noted on order form).

I have a limited number of Ash Grey, Hanes Beefy-T, medium t-shirts, with embroidered logo only on the left-front side. Price: \$18.00. If you are interested, please email or call me.

As always, I appreciate your support of this terrific hobby. The membership in the NIA makes this a truly special organization in which to serve. I wish you all an "insulator-ful" year in 2001!

> Carolyn Berry, NIA# 4336 **Product Marketing Chairman**



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

	pyrexecotement	Price	Qty	Total
	Golf Shirt - pique, white cotton - 3 button tab - embroidered logo		200 TH	
L CLOGO	M L XL (\$27.00) 2X (\$29.00)	\$27 / \$29		
Large Lage on back	*for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00	*\$3.00		
	NEW Denim Shirt - Long-sleeve or short sleeve - Med. wt.	pre-shrunk o	otton	
	Stonewash blue - Left-side pocket			
	Embroidered logo S M L XL	\$32.00		
	S/SL/S2X	\$35.00		
	T-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo			
~	S M L XL (blue) 2X (\$12)	\$10.00	****	-
() () () () () () () () () ()	LXL (Ash Grey)	\$15.00 \$16.00		
	2X 3X (Ash Grey) Sweatshirt Ash Grey - Heavyweight - Screen-printed logo	\$10.00	-	
	S M (\$16.00) L XL (\$20.00) 2X (\$22.00)			
NATIONAL PARTIES OR				
	NEW Cap Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo	\$16.00		
	Cap It. grey w/ screen-printed logo	\$10.00		
Association	Mug white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo	\$7.00		
	Patch light blue w/ screen-printed logo/red embroidered edge	\$4.00		
	Koozie Foam beverage holder w/ silver NIA logo:			
	royal blue red green	\$2.25		
	Decal light blue w/ logo/red border; for inside car window	\$1.00		
	Now Do Los white hades we enground blue letters	\$11.00		
	Name Badge white badge w/ engraved blue letters, green and brown screen-printed logo	311.00		
	Badge Bar white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position)	\$4.00		
Chest Size Ch	*Shipping charges_Shirts, Caps &	Subtotal		
S (32-34) M	(36-38) I (40-42) Mugs are \$3.95 for the first item & \$1.20 for	Chinning		
XL (44-46) 2	each additional item. Koozies are only \$1.20 each, if ordered individually. No shipping	Shipping	-	
	charge for Patches, Decals or Name Badges/Bars! *new USPS rates	Total		
Name	20000 2000	J		
Address	Tota	l enclosed	1	
City/State/Zip			-	order in
Telephone		 Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to: 		
	National Ins	National Insulator Association or NIA		
Email address	110000000000000000000000000000000000000			
*****	*********	*****	****	****
Nam	ne Badge Customization Information (must be a curr	ent NIA n	nemher	<i>(</i>)
	NIA # City			
Name	NIA # City		Sta	te
	Bar:			
	He she had af this and a form for additional had as her	ordor		

2000-2001 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2000

Beginning Balance-General Fund* Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account	10/1/00	11679.33 1000.00 1196.75		
Revenues				
Donations Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income Product Sales	0.00 1748.00 0.00 134.10 Total Revenues:	1882.10		
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 38.97 371.71 786.27 209.65 0.00 25.00 1206.94 303.18 0.00 300.00 0.00 0.00 2401.66 Total Expenses:	5857.18		
Closing Balance, General Fund: Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account Total Balance on Hand				

^{*} Adjustments made to General Fund removing \$1000.00 for Museum Exploratory Committee and adding back \$476.03 absorbing the Education and Promotion Fund.

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