

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION



DRIP POINTS

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SUMMER '81



NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 326
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6-11-81

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NIA Members,

This issue of 'Drip Points' will be the last for this Presidential year and it brings us around to voting time for the positions of President and Western Region Vice-President in addition to a couple of important proposed By-Law changes which are explained on the enclosed ballot. I hope that all the current voting members will take a little amount of their time, study the candidates and issues, and mail their completed ballots in the pre-addressed envelope provided. The ballots will be counted at the National Convention in Sacramento and the results announced at the General Membership meeting on Friday night.

This past year as your President has been quite an experience for me! Quite hectic at times, frustrating in some regards, but, overall, a totally enjoyable experience. Disappointing to me has been the lack of enthusiasm in regards to sponsoring the National show and even more so where the Regional Shows are concerned. I look over the calendar of events and see some shows are greatly successful year after year and yet none of the show hosts apply for sanctioning as a Regional. It's a simple thing to do, and I'm sure the additional NIA publicity would help increase participation and attendance, in turn making it even a greater show. How about it, 'Show Hosts' ---- let's see some action on your part! Hopefully at Sacramento, I'll be able to announce the date and site of the 1982 National and the Central and Eastern Regionals for later on this year--- don't disappoint me!

I would like to express my appreciation and personal thanks to all the NIA members I've heard from; the Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen and members for their support

(con't)

and guidance; and my wife Shirley (your NIA Treasurer) for her understanding, hard work and perseverance, all of which helped me immeasurably during this past year as NIA President.

As a parting shot, I want to again remind you to get your dues in immediately if you haven't done so. We want everyone to have the opportunity of voting and coming to our National Convention on Friday which is NIA membership day.

Hope to see you in Sacramento where we will have the promise of a great show with good sales, lots of 'goodies' for your collections and, most of all, beautiful fellowship!

Pat Patocka NIA#140

FROM THE TREASURER

Hello, again, to all of you out there in Waxahachie, Shingle Springs, 100 Mile House, Baraboo, Meshoppen, Painted Post, Bailieboro, Mossyrock, Perkiomenville and all the rest of the world! Geographically speaking, this has been a very interesting year!

Renewals are rolling right along -- let's hit the 100% mark by the end of this month. You can tell if you have forgotten because those of you who have been slow to renew did not receive a ballot with this issue of 'Drip Points'. However- there is still time if you hurry and get your check in the mail! As soon as I receive your dues, I will get your ballot to you in time to vote.

And remember, if you are bringing your family on Friday to Supershow XII in Sacramento, I'll need the names ahead of time to get membership cards to you before then.

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It has been a great year ... I have enjoyed your notes and, even if our correspondence has been brief, I have felt the bond of friendship that makes our organization great!

We hope to see you in Sacramento in July!

Shirley

FROM THE INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Dear members,

I've been informed by Grant Salzman that less than 20 sales tables are left to be sold at the National. This means that you must make your reservations now if you expect to get a sales table! And don't forget that the table fee is now at \$45.00 per table.

Motel reservations at the host hotel - The El Rancho, should be made as soon as possible. The hotel is at this time still holding some rooms at the special NIA Convention rate, so there is still an opportunity to cash in on the savings you will get by asking for the special NIA Convention package. You can call the hotel at (916) 371-6731.

I received a letter in the mail from Mr. Don Fabbi, NIA Ethics Committee Chairman. His letter states.....

"An increasing number of utility company signs have been reproduced and sold to collectors.

In particular, one supplier has A.T.&T. porcelain blue and white signs available with mounting holes, at an approximate cost of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

Since these are reproductions, collectors should know that they do exist.

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This alert is advisory in nature and is not intended to improperly reflect on the character or ethics of the dealers."

To Mr. Fabbi's letter I might add that even the most informed of collectors would say that these are beautiful reproductions of a rare Bell System sign. You can spot the repro from the authentic sign by checking the thickness of the porcelain. The reproductions are made of wafer thin porcelain, and hence are quite a bit lighter than what an original sign would be. The mounting holes are different from the original too.

In closing, I would like to say that it's been my pleasure to serve as Information Director another year, and I'll do my best to keep bringing you our organizations news in the year ahead. I'm looking forward to seeing the entire gang in Sacramento!

ONWARD TO THE NATIONAL!

My BEST!

Michael Bruner

(The following letters are from the candidates for the office of Western Region Vice-President. -3 year term of office)

FROM GRANT SALZMAN...

I am 48 years old, and a budget analyst for the state of California. I became interested in insulators in 1977 as a hobby that I could share with my youngest sons. In 1979 I began collecting CD 143's , and I also collect Lightning Rod Balls.

In 1979 at the Denver National I was appointed Executive Director , and in 1980 re-appointed to that position.

I feel that the NIA should play a strong part in revitalizing our hobby and helping to make our shows more financially successful. As Western Region VP I would pledge myself to this goal and toward giving all of you fair representation.

Grant Salzman

NIA # 1785

FROM ROSS E HUTH

I live with my wife, Shirley, and our fourth child, Lisa, in Atascadero, California. I have been associated with Pacific Telephone Co. for 38 years, and at the present time I am a maintenance splicer in San Luis Obispo.

I have been collecting glass insulators for about 10 years and I find it a very facinating hobby. My specialty is the 'Two Piece Transposition', and California's.

I feel that our hobby needs an organization such as the NIA, and that our association has done much to promote interest and activity among our members.

However, I also feel that there is much more that can be done, and I would really like an Opportunity to try to be of some help. Our members feel that their ideas are important, and I feel that the NIA should be willing to listen to it's members, and by considering their contributions, we can become a much more united group of collectors.

Thank you for listening to my viewpoint, and I hope that you will consider me as your choice for Western Region VP.

Sincerely ,

Ross e Huth NIA#901

* * * * *

FROM VIOLET BROWN

My husband and I began collecting insulators in 1969 when a friend we were hunting with came out of a canyon with his pockets bulging with insulators. They were Hemingray 44's. He said there was an old line at the bottom and insulators all over the ground. A while later our daughter and son-in-law (who are also collectors) went with us and we carried out all we could find- chipped ones and all! At the time they looked great to us. Now we have a shed full, and one room has been turned into an insulator room.

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For the past 8 years we have hosted the insulator show in our area and have watched it grow from 10 tables at a grange hall to 75 tables at a fairgrounds. Last year we hosted the Western Regional Show, and we plan on having it again soon. In addition we do 7 or 8 antique shows a year which is fun and sometimes leads us to a good insulator, and it gives us a chance to meet some interesting people.

I have displayed insulators several times at our local library, appeared on television (which showed our insulator room), and our collection was featured in the Sunday Pictorial of the Seattle Times last year. These generated quite a few phone calls pertaining to insulators.

I am the present Membership Chairman of the NIA, and am also a charter member of the NIA. In the past I've tried to promote insulators as a fun, interesting, and worthwhile hobby, and I will certainly continue to do all I can in the future.

I solicit your vote for the position of Western Region VP.

Violet Brown
NIA # 652

HISTORY OF THE NIA CONTINUED - By Carolyn Theesen NIA Historian

THE 10th National, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, DENVER, CO July 20-22

1979

Friday, July 20th was the big day for members, being NIA Day. The show host, Mike Bliss, indicated there were 76 sales tables and 30 display tables.. Approximately 200 members attended the Friday night General Membership Meeting. President Len Linscott opened the meeting and all reports were given. Officers and Committee Chairmen for the year wre as follows.... Len Linscott; President -- Eastern Region VP; Alan Rodgers ---- Central Region VP; Leslie Ellicot --- Western Region VP; Pat Patocka

Treasurer; Jackie Linscott --- Information Director; Michael Bruner --- Executive Director; Grant Salzman --- By-Laws; Jack Tod --- Ethics Chairman; Don Fabbi --- Membership Chairman; Bob & Phoebe Adams --- Show Chairman; Bill Dreggors Historian; Carolyn Theesen.

At the Saturday night Banquet the Outstanding Service Award was presented to Mr. & Mrs. Frank Miller of Tulsa , OK.

At this National there were seven people attending that had never missed a NIA National. They were....

Gerald & Esta Brown, Rodney Wing, Dora & Don Earned, Margaret & Frank Miller. These people were to be called 'The Lucky Seven'.

A new book by Gerald Brown, was given its first showing at the National. "The Story of Gerald & Esta Browns Insulator Collecting" - Certainly a credit to our hobby.

Annual Membership dues were set at \$6.00 per adult or family living at the same address. \$1.00 for each family member that wishes a proxy ballot. \$1.00 for Junior Memberships.

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The 11th National, Herkimer CO. Fairgrounds, Herkimer, NY July 11-13
1 9 8 0

Friday, July 11th was NIA Day for members only. Our show hosts - Grant Barnes & Bill Bennett said that there were 70 sales tables, and 26 display tables. The Friday night General Membership Meeting was attended by over 175 people, and was brought to order by NIA President Len Linscott. He announced the new NIA President as being Pat Patocka of Penryn, CA., and the new Eastern Region VP as John DeSousa of East Granby, CT. Jackie Linscott gave the Treasurers report- 700 paid-up members and 35 new members from the Show itself.

The announcement was made that the 1981 National would be in Sacramento, CA. Grant Salzman would be the show host.

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Two very special awards which were given were the Lifetime Membership received by Gerald & Esta Brown, and the Outstanding Service award received by Carolyn Theesen.

A first time event was a display of threadless glass that was owned by about 27 different collectors. Ray Klingensmith and Skip Plunkett were the organizers of the display.

John & Carol McDougald had the National Commemerative insulators made by the Mosser Glass Co. Inc., Cambridge, OH., which consisted of 288 Blue Milk Glass.

To be recorded in NIA HISTORY - The loss of two very dedicated collectors this past year/ NIA first President, Dr. Fredrick Griffin, and Francis Terrell, Author of several books on insulators and editor of By-Lines, which was in Old Bottle Magazine for several years.

Yours,
Carolyn Theesen
NIA # 1590

TO BE CONTINUED.....

FROM THE SHOW CHAIRMAN

As of June, 1981, I have sent out 27 NIA display ribbons to show hosts requesting them. This is Fantastical However- another 6 could have gone home with displayers had I known in time to send them. Show hosts, PLEASE, let me know well in advance if you need a ribbon.

An NIA ribbon comes to you free of charge, and some hard working displayer is entitled to one if he has put up a quality display.

Anyway- I do want you to know that I am Bragging, rather than complaining. In the meantime, a great big THANK YOU is due to the 27 show hosts who requested ribbons!

p.s. * COME TO SACRAMENTO!
* VOTE!

Marilyn Albers
NIA # 541

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