



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

Rick Soller, editor-in chief



Volume 26, Number 7
November 2018

Ottawa, Illinois GCIC Swap Meet Report

Tom & Mary Nugent and family put on a great swap meet on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at their home in Ottawa, Illinois. The weather was a bit damp the night before but there were plenty of tents to unload under on Friday. On Saturday, there were lots of collectors to enjoy activities under the tent and the rain was not much of an issue.

Auction results are listed below. 115 lots totaling \$699.50 worth of insulators and related lots were sold, generating \$70 toward paying for swap meet expenses. There were lots of telephone equipment sold in the auction, compliments of Tom. Many of the lots sold for bargain prices.

Some noteworthy insulators showed up on dealer tables. There was a nice Westinghouse glass insulator that changed hands and Tom sold his collection of trolley wood strains and wire clamps.

Since the swap meet was held quite a ways from the previous location in Racine, Wisconsin, the mix of collectors changed noticeable. Greg North hitched a ride from Rick Soller to get to the show. A bunch of Whitlock's made it to the show since it was several hours closer to Iowa. Some of the Wisconsin and Minnesota collectors who occasionally make it to the show didn't make it this year such as Ed & Connie Peters, Colin & Karen Yennie, and Justin Perault.

Friday night was about as much fun as Saturday for some collectors. Early on, a bunch of collectors enjoyed the company of Tom in his living room and shared stories. Later on, the group toured Tom's collection in the basement and marveled at the variety and organization of his collection. In one part of the basement was an extensive of toy-sized phone company trucks. In another part of the basement, Tom had a nice selection of CD 121 A.T.& T. tolls, Pyrex pieces of all sizes, radio treated porcelain insulators, and insulators arranged by company name.

About the time I thought about ordering pizza for the Friday night group, the Nugents had already ordered it and had it spread out on the kitchen counter. Saturday morning, there was plenty of coffee, doughnuts, and other delights for early risers. Plenty of lunch food filled the garage for everyone to eat at noon.



Show host Tom Nugent next to a display in one of the many garages on this property. Tom had this garage filled with stuff for sale.

This was a great display of three crossarms filled with a variety of porcelain.

Thanks to Richard Case for the picture.

Lot	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Tom Nugent	Box of phones	\$6	Arlen Rienstra
2	Tom Nugent	Test sets	\$3	Rick Soller
3	Tom Nugent	Phones, candlestick	\$4	Shawn Pretzl
4	Tom Nugent	2 phones	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
5	Tom Nugent	Misc. bag, flashlights, test piece	\$2	Steve Mattson
6	Tom Nugent	3 framed pictures of phone images	\$6	Dick Schroeder
7	Tom Nugent	Misc. test gear, seaker	\$2	Richard Case
8	Tom Nugent	Bell bag, first aid kit	\$1	Richard Case
9	Tom Nugent	Leather tool belt	\$1	Jean
10	Tom Nugent	Box phone parts	\$1	Rick Soller
11	Tom Nugent	Ringers, VHS tape	\$4	Richard Case
12	Tom Nugent	Tub wires, phones, head gear	\$11	Richard Case
13	Mike McLaughlin	Plumbing books	\$1	Dieter Holz
14	Mike McLaughlin	Catalogs	\$3	Riley Armstrong
15	Mike McLaughlin	Catalogs	\$1	Rick Soller
16	Mike McLaughlin	Arrestors	\$1	Riley Armstrong
17	Mike McLaughlin	Pins with insulators	\$4	Steve Nugent
18	Mike McLaughlin	Pittsburgh, Ohio Brass insulators	\$14	Rick Soller
19	Mike McLaughlin	Line Material metal pin	\$1	Rick Soller
20	Mike McLaughlin	Strains	\$1	Riley Armstrong
21	Mike McLaughlin	3 MP Beehives	\$4	Rick Soller
22	Mike McLaughlin	Kegs, diamond, star, Am Tel, Hemi	\$6	Dieter Holz
23	Mike McLaughlin	4 dump pieces	\$15	Josh Dondorf
24	Mike McLaughlin	5 porcelain insulators	\$8	Riley Armstrong
25	Mike McLaughlin	Postal, Am. Tel, Lynchburg	\$6	Richard Case
26	Mike McLaughlin	Maydwell, doorknob, beehive	\$15	Josh Dondorf
27	Mike McLaughlin	Twist drop wire and clamps	\$10	Richard Case
28	Mike McLaughlin	Mickey	\$1	Eddie
29	Mike McLaughlin	6 glass, 3 porcelain, blue spool	\$5	Riley Armstrong
30	Mike McLaughlin	Cook strain and cutout fuse	\$4	Riley Armstrong
31	Dieter Holtz	6 porcelain insulators Chance, Knox	\$1	Riley Armstrong
32	Dieter Holtz	Steel pins	\$2	Rich Tillich
33	Dieter Holtz	Box of porcelain	\$1	Tom Nugent
34	Dieter Holtz	HV signs, fuse, radio strain	\$20	Riley Armstrong
35	Dieter Holtz	House knobs, arrestor	\$1	Riley Armstrong
36	Greg North	English porcelain substation piece, M.E.	\$1	Riley Armstrong
37	Greg North	Box of rubber insulators	\$2	Rick Soller
38	Rick Soller	Box of glass insulators	\$7	Russ Frank
39	Rick Soller	Hemi 40's, 9's	\$1	Dieter Holz
40	Rick Soller	Box porcelain, CPR, Thomas, Cook, Findlay	\$15	Gene Hawkins
41	Rick Soller	Whitall-Tatum #4 crate	\$1	Eddie
42	Rick Soller	Clear wood crate	0	Eddie

43	Rick Soller	Box of bottles, amber, label	\$8	Rick Soller
44	Rick Soller	Crate of glass	\$18	Deb Fowler
45	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain, IEP	\$8	Dan
46	Rick Soller	PP, Japanese spool, misc. porcelain	\$12	Dan
47	Rick Soller	E-14, CSA	\$20	Dave Ramp
48	Rick Soller	Porcelain, Ohio Brass, CN	\$1	Dan
49	Rick Soller	Porcelain, OB, Beehive	\$11	Dan
50	Rick Soller	PRR, Diamond, Maydwell, W/T	\$6	Dave Shaw
51	Rick Soller	Spool, EIV spool	\$3	Eddie
52	Rick Soller	143, B, Blue star	\$12	Dave Ramp
53	Rick Soller	145, 106, VMR	\$20	Steve Mattson
54	Rick Soller	Suspension + 6 porcelain, French fog bowl	\$5	Josh Dondorf
55	Rick Soller	Big box of insulators	\$1	Dave Shaw
56	Rick Soller	H.G.Co., Box misc. glass	\$8	Dieter Holz
57	Rick Soller	M.M. behives	\$8	Steve Mattson
58	Rick Soller	Box glass, rubber, 20	\$1	Dieter Holz
59	Rick Soller	5 commemoratives	\$27	Richard Case
60	Rick Soller	W.T. Tramps	\$1	Dieter Holz
61	Rick Soller	12 glass insulators	\$1	Eddie
62	Rick Soller	Choice of box of porcelain	\$12	Josh Dondorf
63	Rick Soller	Macomb, Thomas	\$1	Riley Armstrong
64	Rick Soller	Box of books	\$5	Dave Shaw
65	Rick Soller	Reddy Kilowatt ashtray	\$16	Kathy
66	Josh Dondorf	Empty box, Insulator company	\$3	Steve Mattson
67	Josh Dondorf	Glass block	\$1	Riley Armstrong
68	Josh Dondorf	Lauckner signals	\$9	Greg North
69	Josh Dondorf	Lauckner signals	\$21	Steve Mattson
70	Josh Dondorf	Lauckner signals	\$13	Arlen Rienstra
71	Josh Dondorf	Bottles	\$18	Dick Schroeder
72	Josh Dondorf	Strains	\$20	Les Christensen
73	Josh Dondorf	Carnival sombrero	\$8	Dick Schroeder
74	Josh Dondorf	#7 off peach	\$21	Richard Case
75	Josh Dondorf	Box of glass	\$16	Steve Mattson
76	Josh Dondorf	Crossarm	n/s	
77	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$18	Dick Schroeder
78	Josh Dondorf	OB Suspension	\$1	Rick Soller
79	Josh Dondorf	7 bottles	\$5	Arlen Rienstra
80	Dennis Seltrecht	Amber signal, blue smooth	\$18	Cole
81	Dennis Seltrecht	151s, 162s	\$1	Cole
82	Dennis Seltrecht	Beehive	\$10	Dieter Holz
83	Dennis Seltrecht	Cabletop, Jade	\$16	Cole
84		Lunch Break @ 11:50 a.m.		
85	Riley Armstrong	Club donation, suspension	\$2	Cole
86	Riley Armstrong	3 part Ohio Brass	\$1	Cole

87	Tom Nugent	W.E. test sets	\$2	Steve Mattson
88	Tom Nugent	Gas test meters	\$10	Gene Hawkins
89	Tom Nugent	Wood box test set	\$8	Josh Dondorf
90	Tom Nugent	Gas meter	\$4	Arlen Rienstra
91	Tom Nugent	Gas meter	\$3	Cole
92	Tom Nugent	Gas meter	\$1	Steve Mattson
93	Tom Nugent	Mystery meter	\$1	Steve Mattson
94	Tom Nugent	Phone cords, ATT belt buckle	\$3	Rick Soller
95	Tom Nugent	Switchboard test set	\$3	Steve Mattson
96	Tom Nugent	Cable counter	\$2	John
97	Tom Nugent	Mobile office plastic toy	\$5	Rick Soller
98	Tom Nugent	Connector tool	\$2	Rick Soller
99	Tom Nugent	Duffle bag	\$2	Arlen Rienstra
100	Tom Nugent	Crate of porcelain	\$12	Kathy
101	Tom Nugent	Choice of tote	n.s.	
102	Tom Nugent	Choice of crate	\$10	Russ Frank
103	Tom Nugent	Choice of crate	\$10	Rick Soller
104	Tom Nugent	Choice of crate	\$4	Cole
105	Tom Nugent	Choice of crate	\$4	Riley Armstrong
106	Tom Nugent	Crate	\$1	Russ Frank
107	Tom Nugent	2 crates	\$1	Russ Frank
108	Tom Nugent	4 phones	\$4	Josh Dondorf
109	Tom Nugent	Bin of phones	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
110	Tom Nugent	Bin of phones	\$1	Cole
111	Tom Nugent	Bin of phones	\$1	Kathy
112	Tom Nugent	Bin of phones	\$1	Rich Tillich
113	Tom Nugent	Bin of phones	\$1	Arlen Rienstra
114	Tom Nugent	Spool brackets	.50	Russ Frank
115	Tom Nugent	Phone	\$1	Jackie
		Total	\$699.50	

I don't think I can name all the collectors and Nugent family members that were at the swap meet. Many of the names are listed in the auction results but numerous others were there.

I had a great time. Greg North and I drove together for almost 2 hours and the time passed quickly as we talked about insulators and life. Most of my trips are solitary so it was nice to have some company besides a book on tape. When I took Greg home, I got a chance to see his collection which doubled the dose of insulators I received earlier in the day.

Upcoming Shows

Strongsville, Ohio

Saturday, January 19, 2019

Western Reserve Insulator Club's 20th Annual Winterfest / Swap Meet & Club Meeting at the Spyglass Hill Recreation Center, 13201 Compass Point Drive, Strongsville, OH 44136. Dealer Setup: 9:00am; Show Hours: 10:00am-3:00pm. Club Meeting and Lunch: 12-1:30pm. There are no admission or table charges, but space is limited, so please contact us ahead of time if you plan to set up! Info/RSVP to JOHN HOVANEK (216)392-3622, E-mail jrhovanec@ymail.com

Crown Point, Indiana

Saturday, January 26, 2019.

The 11th annual "Beat the Winter Blahs" insulator swap meet is Saturday, January 26. Note: New Location, bigger and better than ever! This is the 2nd year at Lake County Fair, 889 S. Court St., Crown Point, IN. (SE entrance) Meeting in the 4H Building which is spacious, well lighted and warm. Tables supplied at \$20 each, additional \$10 each. Lunch provided. Bring insulators or related collectibles to show and tell, sell or trade. All are welcome to experience Hoosier hospitality, plenty of space, GCIC auction, business meeting and a great new larger location. Doors open 8am - 2pm. Hosted by ARLEN and TINA RIENSTRA and the Greater Chicago Insulator Club. Located easily from I80/94 and I65. RSVP ariens@att.net or (219) 226-4975.

Wheaton, Illinois

Saturday, April 6, 2019

The Dupage Collectors Expo will be held Saturday, April 6th, at the Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois, Hours are 9:00 to 3:00. Items for sale & trade include: Insulators, Lightning Rod items & Weathervanes, Telephone & Telegraph items, Bottles, Jars, etc. Info: BOB STAHR: bob@hemingray.com (630) 793-5345 and RICK SOLLER: com574@clcillinois.edu (847) 782-8602.

Classified Ads

Thanks: I posted an ad that I was looking for a Bryant fuse cutout in the last newsletter. I also put the notice out on ICON. A few days ago, I got an email from Colin Jung that one was part of an eBay auction. I quickly entered a snipe for it and won it. I was happy Colin let me know since I haven't been scouring eBay like I used to since I've been busy at work.

A few days later, I got another notice from J. Brown about a Pass & Seymour cutout with the fuse stick. The sticks are hard to find so I put a bid on that piece although I already had the body and just needed the stick. Although I didn't win the auction, I appreciated the chance to bid on the piece and found the information on the final price useful when bidding in the future. Signed, Rick Soller.



A Visit with Joan Crandall

I had a nice, although short visit with Joan Crandall on Friday, October 19, 2018. At the Kansas City, Missouri national, Gil Hedges-Blanquez asked me if I knew where the four part, cobalt blue U-4360 no name {Pittsburg} insulator was that Jim Crandall once owned. I phoned Robert Winkler and he indicated that Joan still had it. Gil asked if I could get photographs and dimensions of it since there were only a few of these known and they seemed to have different dimensions. It took a while before I remembered to call Joan to do this and arrange a time but I finally was able to “git er done.”

I did quite a bit of planning before making the trip. I loaded up my truck with a couple white backgrounds, rulers, levels, my camera, and a plan of what I wanted to photograph and measure. Despite the planning, I left my bathroom scale on a bench near the garage door and forgot my copies of CJ that showed some of the other pictures of the piece.

I was glad Joan had the insulator in the house since it was lightly raining when I got there. The foam board I had served as a perfect backdrop and it didn't take long to measure the piece. I wish I would have brought a flexible tape measure to get the circumference since it might be easier to get that measurement than the width of the inner skirts.

Joan remembered when Jim got the piece. A man brought it over to the house and, when he got there, he asked Jim for help getting it out of his vehicle. At the time, Jim thought it was a strange request. How big was the insulator that two people were needed to move it? Once he saw it, he understood. The piece now has sentimental value and Joan fondly thinks of it as a piece of furniture. It fits nicely next to a chair in the basement where I'm sure Jim enjoyed looking at it many times.

Kenosha Insulator Company Information

Below is a clip of text in a book by John Christie Douglas published in 1877. The book is titled A Manual of Telegraph Construction: The Mechanical Elements of Electric Telegraph Engineering, 2nd ed. London: Charles Griffin and Co., p. 429

On the lines of the North-Western Company (U.S.) the **Kenosha insulator** is used. This **insulator** is in form a narrow cylinder, it is made of wood covered with a patent, so called indestructible, insulating coating; the turned cylinders are kiln-dried, then dipped in the compound, and again baked; the compound sinks into the wood, a second coating of compound is applied, and gives a glazed surface. These insulators are employed in several ways: as supporting insulators they have wooden stalks, shaped like those of the “screw-glass” insulators, and screwed in; when only a few are attached to a pole they are fixed by the stalk as the glass **insulator**; when cross-arms are used the stalks are inserted in the upper surface of the arms; as suspending insulators they are let into the under surface of the cross-arm, and fixed by pins put into the cross-arm at right angles to the **insulator** and fitting into a groove in the **insulator**.