

Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org http://www.nia.org

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Well, this will be my last *Drip Points* newsletter as your Information Director. Starting at the Friday evening NIA general membership meeting, I will take over as your next NIA president. I will try to live up to your expectations, but I know they are set pretty high af-

ter the job Dudley has done these past two years, and Tom Katonak before him. Fortunately, I will have both of these folks still on the board to help me along. We will be gaining a new Central Region VP as well at that time, Ross Baird will step up to help out in that position when Ed Peters steps down. I would like to thank Ed for all he has done for the NIA and our hobby.

I recently received a very nice letter from Doug and "Pinky" Selby thanking me for my service to the NIA as Information Director. The letter was very nice, and a first of it's kind, that I had received. In addition to thanking me, they also included a poem Ode to the Telephone Pole (see page 7) written by a retired Los Angeles Police Detective that they had met early

this year. I asked, and received permission, to reprint the letter and the poem. These follow my column. One reason they listed for writing the letter was my last photo. I have changed a bit in the past year as many of you may have noticed.

Available via e-mail

A year ago this past March 8th, I had Bariatric Surgery for weight reduction. This was not a decision I entered into lightly, but after 40 years of being over weight and after 20 years of trying to do something about it, I finally found a solution. Ed and Connie Peters also did the same thing about six or eight months before I did and were a significant part of my inspiration.

There is one thing for certain, you will lose weight after Bariatric Sur-

gery! All told, I have lost close to 200 Lbs. I weighed in at 370 before the procedure and 171-173 now.

I lost 90 lbs in the first 12 weeks. Many folks have inquired about my health and the difference in my appearance. Some of you who haven't seen me since the San Jose National, may be a bit shocked. The difference is dramatic. The most common question I get is "How do you feel". The answer is always "Great". Many folks can't lift 200 lbs, I carried it around

everywhere I went. When I lost it, it went away quickly enough to be very noticeable. My diet is limited now, but I don't get hungry, and don't crave things like I used to. I really don't feel deprived in any way.

My life certainly has changed for the better. If I had known what to expect, I would have done this much sooner. My health is excellent now, and I have apparently not done any lasting damage to myself during all of those overweight years. I hope to see all of you at this years Austin National, and I hope you enjoy the letter and Poem sent by Doug and "Pinky" as much as I did.

By the way, Doug and Pinky will celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary on June 23rd this year. We wish them well.

Best regards,

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 **Information Director**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Kevin, (and a happy hello to Cheryl.)

It finally happened! Our thoughts about *Drip Points* and the dedicated individuals who take time in their busy lives to write information for the advantage and betterment of the members of the N.I.A. The intentions are to let every responsible person know how much we appreciate their labors, is always in our thoughts. Somehow, it doesn't get written or spoken to the proper people. Each time *Drip Points* is read, we say, "lets write a note and tell'em that these articles were informative and enjoyable". Days go by—its never done—until now. Determination set in!

Kevin - what prompted the letter? Your photo. (An excellent addition to the newsletter by the way). Your last photo - no I say, "this cannot be the same fella!" Quick dig up the back issues - a remarkable change - Hope you're OK!!

Doug and I have been long-time N.I.A. members. Regretfully, not as active as we desire. Age and physical problems keep us both grounded. So, no more dream trips! That's another reason *Drip Points* continue to stimulate our interest in insulators. Every time a trip or hunt is mentioned or new discoveries are written about, this adds to our incentives to dust the old collection or talk to others about insulators. Sooooo - each time the officers get discouraged when another issue needs to get ready (I know it comes too fast at times) to go "out the door" (your quote) tell them, members like us, <u>Need & Do</u> appreciate & enjoy your efforts. Thank you - Bunches.

First of this year, we met a <u>new friend</u>. (a retired detective, city of Los Angles, Ca.) In our conversation one time, he brought up the subject "those things on the telephone poles". He was surprised we even knew what he was talking about - You mean insulators? Yes, he had some from Gold Country (Ca.) - Highway 49 - from a relatives property. Our next meeting, he brought a poem "Ode to the Telephone Pole", which <u>He</u> composed. I asked his permission to send it to you & *Drip Points*. (Personally hoping you could use it in a future D.P. issue). The subject is so appropriate to our collectors. Enjoy "The Ode". We did!

Yeh!, Finally we got a letter written - "Out the door" & in the mail. Keep creating incentives - Appreciate everyone's dedication!

Bless Y'all - with our Gratitude Doug NIA #195 & "Pinky" NIA 2229 Selby. 10308 Sala Place Sun valley, California. 91352-3644

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope you are getting as excited as I am about the upcoming National in Austin, Texas. The hosts, Bob and Carolyn Berry, Jack Roach and Jim Bates have planned an extraordinary show. The anticipation of finding that special insulator for my collection, seeing my hobby friends, sharing insulator stories and enjoying the ambiance is, for me, like waiting on Christmas morning to get that new fishing reel. Do not miss this show!

Where have the last two years gone? I can't believe that I will be turning the Presidential gavel over to Kevin Jacobson at this year's NIA Annual General Membership Meeting in Austin. As I look back I notice that I was not able to accomplish all the things that I set out to do when I took this position two years ago; however, I am pleased with the committees' accomplishments. I sincerely thank the Committee Chairs, Bob and Carolyn Berry, Rick Soller, Bob Stahr, Bob Merzoian, Lou Hall, Charles Bibb, Jacque Linscott Barnes and John McDougald for their efforts on behalf of all members. Their work and that of their committee members is truly a work of love for our hobby. Please keep in mind that what they do for us is all

volunteer work. Most have full time employment to support their families and they are juggling responsibilities to find quality time to share with them. Special thanks to my fellow Board Members, Steve Marks, Tom Katonak, Glenn Drummond, Jack Roach, Kevin Jacobson, Don Briel, Ed Peters,

Larry Novak, and Mike Green for their support and hard work. I often depended heavily on each one for support and direction to help resolve several difficult situations during the last two

years. They all have made my job a lot easier.

I invite each of you to the NIA Annual Membership Meeting in the Austin Room of the Doubletree Hotel on Friday, July 7, 2006 from 4:30 pm until 5:30 pm. You will hear reports from each of your Board Members and Committee Chairs about their year's accomplishments and future goals. I will pass the gavel to President Elect, Kevin Jacobson. Kevin will present the new slate of Board Members and Committee Chairs and briefly share his goals with you. Additionally, the location of the 2007 National will be announced and you will hear from the hosts for that show.

The NIA's Altered Insulator Display has gone international for the first time that I can remember. Dwayne Anthony, member of the Authentication and Classification Committee and curator of our Altered Insulator display, modified the display for Canadian use. Dwayne shipped the display to Rick Soller who took it across the border to the Ottawa Valley Insula-

tor Collectors Show at the request of the show's host Robin Plewes of Ontario, Canada. Robin also provided NIA material and NIA Membership Applications to the show attendees. Big thanks to all three of you for making this happen.

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By the time you read this I hope to have seen many of at the vou Mansfield Antiaue **Bottle** Show in Ohio and the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's spring swap

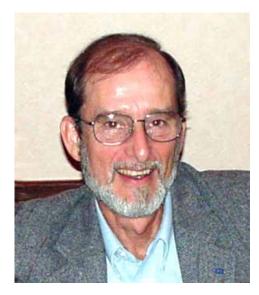
meet in Mountain Home, North Carolina. Please be reminded to support your local shows, to take a child on an insulator hunt or to a show and to tell someone about your hobby.

Many years ago when I was young and spirited. I made some parting comments during my reenlistment talk with the "Old Man". He quickly made it known to me that, "This man's service has been around for more than one hundred years and when you leave it will keep on going." So it is with the NIA. When I step down I leave the NIA in the very capable hands of incoming President Kevin Jacobson and your new Board and Committee Chairs. Please provide Kevin and his team the support you have provided me.

Sandy and I hope to see y'all at the National in Austin.

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 **NIA President**

FROM THE FIRST PAST **PRESIDENT**



Hello once again to all my hobby friends and NIA supporters.

"Summer" came early to New Mexico – it's been in the mid-80s most of May and it's been great weather for hunting insulators out in the boonies. We haven't found the "mother lode" just yet, but it has been fun just getting out into the desert to look around. sure just how long this "outdoor freedom" is going to last since we are in a severe drought and the Governments are already shutting down many of the National forests because of extreme fire danger.

Well, it turns out that this is also perfect weather for garage sales. Coincidentally, for several years my bride has been bugging me to get rid of some of our unused or seldom-used belongings (which she refers to as "junk") via the "garage sale process". This spring, she got the garage sale urge again, and conned me into participating; she promised that she would accompany me to THE BIG SHOW in Austin if I would cooperate. While I was dreading the drill, it seemed like a reasonable way to free up space for more in-So, we literally spent sulators! weeks going through mountains of stuff – sorting it into various boxes: the "keep boxes", the "eBay boxes", "the throwaway boxes" and the garages sales boxes. It was really incredible finding all these things we hadn't seen in 30 years - and this of course provoked many "interesting" discussions -Lynda: "you're going to

throw out all our old love letters to each other? - No Way!" Tom: "Well, when's the you time read them?" Finally, we had two

of our rooms filled with huge boxes all prepped for the garage

By now, Lynda had the entire neighborhood organized and this was fast becoming an event worthy of media attention! This was to be a three-day extravaganza!

Friday, the first day of the event, dawned clear and cold - it was 39 deg. at sunrise. Again I asked Lynda, "who in the world would come to a garage sale on Friday? People have to work on Fridays, don't they?" Grumbling to myself, I headed off at 7:00 am to put out these huge outlandish Day-Glo orange signs along the roads leading to our section of the village. These signs would supposedly attract all manner of humanity back to our respective garages. I had the task of staking out the north end of the village - and it was 7:45 by the time I got back home. (I was in no real hurry the opening time listed in the newspaper was 8:00 am - so I had a few minutes to spare...I thought.) Well, when I turned onto my street, I could not believe my

eves! I could not get near my house for all the cars choking the street and driveway! And as I got close to the house, I could see that poor Lynda was overwhelmed...people were throwing money at her! (It wasn't eight o'clock vet! What's wrong with these people? Can't they read the newspaper?)

I immediately jumped into the fray

Then it hits

me...insulators!

Would these idiots buy

insulators?

and tried to accommodate the opening rush. The problem we didn't was. have all the stuff out vet, so I started lugging

more boxes out to add to the This just intensified the

mess. frenzy! You could almost hear the mob chanting "MORE", MORE", MORE"!

Finally, by 11:00 am, the action subsided just enough for me to wolf down a donut and a cup of coffee before being besieged by more people with inane questions about this or that - "are you sure this works?", "does this tag say 10 dollars or 10 cents?", "will you hold this out for me, I have to go down to the ATM machine and get some money"...

I look around - mounds of stuff are gone from the ten tables we had out on the driveway. I'm estimating a thousand people have come and gone. (It's Friday! Don't people have jobs anymore?)

Then it hits me...insulators! Would these idiots buy insulators? So I race off to the shop where I keep my stash of one-dollar "giveaway-to-kids-insulators". I load up the dolly with a crate of about 25 pieces and trundle them back to the driveway. As I'm setting them

up on a big box top, a lady comes up and says...you guessed it..."what are those things for?" As I start giving her a short history on the roll of insulators fuelling the industrial revolution in North America, another lady comes up, picks up four pieces and shoves four one-dollar bills in my hand! By 1:00 pm, all the insulators are gone! So I go out to the shop for another load. This batch lasts till 3:00 pm before I have to repeat Meanwhile, three the process. people have become really interested in these things. They want to know more – where can they get colored ones, how many collectors are there, "are there insulator shows?"... So, maybe I've captured some new collectors here!

Well, to make a long story short, I sold over a hundred pieces by the time the sale was over! (There's lots of shows I don't sell a hundred insulators!) My "kid stock" for the next EIC show has been sorely depleted!

OK, so what "moral" do we take

away from all this? Well, I submit that there are more ways out there to enjoy insulators than just your classic shows and hunts. For no extra effort, you too can be the talk of your neighborhood: Organize a garage sale and create some new collectors in your town!

...Looking forward to seeing you in Austin!

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 NIA First Past President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION



I can hardly wait to pack my bags and head for Austin. Going to a National Show is a very exciting experience every collector should have at least once. Although there are many great shows across the country, nothing quite matches the thrill of the National. Months of planning have gone into every detail. The people, the displays, the banquet, and a hall full of great glass all add up to insulator heaven. As you arrive at the hotel you begin to see the faces of friends from all around the country. Sharing smiles and laughs with people you haven't seen for a long time is the best part. I have been lucky enough to attend sev-

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enough to attend several

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eral Nationals and I feel the same excitement everv time. It is a tradition filled event that truly defines our hobby. ľ never forget my first National at Ta-

coma, Washington in 1984. I was lucky enough to tie the show in with an incredible climb of Mt. Rainier. Between twenty four hours on the mountain and three days at the show I was totally exhausted but it was worth every minute. Perhaps this year I'll climb a big flight of stairs at the hotel and have a beer to commemorate that wonderful memory.

If you have never had the chance to attend I urge you to make the effort. The planning and expense can make getting to a National difficult but if you can pull it all together you won't be disappointed. Consider tying the National into a family vacation. The host cities

almost always have a lot to offer in the way of great attractions and

historic sites.
With a little patience the National might also end up relatively close and you don't want to pass up that opportunity. For those of you heading to Austin I wish

you a safe journey and look forward to seeing you there.

Good Luck Collecting,

Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region Vice President

FROM THE EASTERN REGION



Here in the D.C. area we had a very mild winter with hardly any snow to speak of. I think it was this way over much of the East coast so it should have been a good winter for those of you who get out to search and dig along the old lines. Spring is here now and the bugs are coming back along with the brambles and other vegetation that makes walking in the wild more of a chore.

We had our first two shows of the year - the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's Maryland Line show and the Yankee Polecat spring show and both were great successes again this year.

Although it will be past when you read this, on May 20, Dixie Jewels Insulator Club is having their spring swap meet in Mountain Home, N.C.

On June 10th, Claude Wambold will be hosting his 33rd insulator and bottle show at his home. This is a great informal get together with insulators, good friends and hot dogs over the grill. A new show this year will take place in Wilmington, Del on June 18th. It will be held at the Railroad Station of the Wilmington and Western Steam Tourist Railroad and is hosted by David Ludlow. In addition to the insulators there will be two steam trains running in what should be a fun,

I'm also excited

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free.

day for everyone. Yankee The Polecat club will another have swap meet on July 22 in Milford, Mass. and the Chesapeake club Bay have their 6th annual Martinsburg. W.Va. show on August 12.

Nolan Ryan. I'm also excited about the bat cruise where we'll see over 1 million bats take off to at dusk to help keep the Austin waterfront insect free. Oh, yes,

and then there'll be all those insulators and displays to ogle during the day! It should be a great week. This will be my tenth consecutive National and I've enjoyed every one. You will, too, so try to get to Austin this year. I'm happy to report that there will be a National in the Eastern Region in 2007 but you'll have to wait until this year's National to get the details.

> My wife and I were planning drive Austin and see the sites Kentucky, Tennessee Arkansas way the well as clean out all the good insulators

and

(as

antique

shops) but I think we've decided to fly to either Dallas or Houston instead and concentrate on seeing the eastern part of Texas. I think we'll save the road trip for a few years and after my wife retires we might hit the road with an RV. In any case, I hope to see you at the National and at some of the Eastern Region's shows this year. Have a safe trip wherever you're going.

the

Larry Novak, NIA #5889 **Eastern Region Vice President**

I'm looking forward to the NIA National in Austin in July. Austin doesn't have a major league baseball team but the hosts have managed to get a group of tickets to the local AAA minor league team, the Round Rock Express, affiliated with the Houston Astros. If we're lucky, maybe we'll get to see baseball legend and co-owner

...DRIP NOTES

It's not too late to attend the 37th NIA Annual Show and Convention. The show will be in AUSTIN, TEXAS July 7 – 9, 2006.

More information follows on page 8, or for all the details on-line, go to:

http://www.nia.org/shows/national/

AWARDS & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE CHAIR



The Awards and Recognitions Committee has completed its task of soliciting and gathering nominations for the NIA Outstanding Service Award and the Lifetime Member Award. Two nominations were received, reviewed by the committee and forwarded to the President. I am hopeful that in future years our members will be more active in submitting nominations for these awards. In fact, as the new year of club activities, shows and tailgaters continues, take a moment to consider the contributions our fellow members make to our hobby.

The committee is currently working on a proposal to be submitted

to the NIA Board of Directors. The recommendations will address exhibitor rules and procedures, awards and presentation procedures, selection of judging panels, and exhibit scoring procedures.

I am looking forward to participating in the 37th Annual Show and Convention at Austin, Texas, July 7-9. Be sure to stop and say "Howdy" to the Pin Man.

Lou Hall, NIA # 7186 Awards and Recognition Chair

ODE TO THE TELEPHONE POLE

The telephone linemen came one day

And setup lines and poles along our way,

All too soon their poles were grey and weathered And too, the lines to them tethered

At first the were unsightly—disturbing, Even angered some—outward feelings curbing.

But, in time, they were forgotten

All those ugly poles and sagging lines begotten.

'Tis their service that now means to us so much And those ringing telephones to keep in touch

It's those darn poles and sagging wire

And unwanted calls, that raise our ire

But to weigh their good against their bad— Well, to do without would be so sad

So, let us give our thanks to those who strew Those unsightly things across our view.

'Cause now they're important and that's the clue— They keep us in touch with family and good friends, like you

The very thought of all this just starts me singing-But you'll just have to excuse me now— My telephone is ringing

Composed by Carl W. Rogers Saturday, July 20th, 2000 at home, North Hollywood, Ca.



2006



AUSTIN, TEXAS

37th NIA Annual Show and Convention July 7 – 9, 2006

■120 sales tables – 28 Displays
Raffles – Appraisals – Silent Auction - Seminars
■11,000 sq ft show hall

2006 Show Itinerary

Thursday, July 6th

Dealer Unloading & Exhibitor Set-up

Friday, July 7th

"NIA Members Only Day"

NIA General Membership Meeting

Sunset "Bat Watching" Riverboat Cruise

Saturday, July 8th

General Admission (\$3, kids under 12 free)

Awards Dinner Banquet

Sunday, July 9th

General Admission

Dear Collectors and Friends:

We are very pleased and honored to be your show hosts for the 37th National. This will be the first show ever in the Central Texas area. We are very pleased with the assistance the Lone Star Insulator Club members have offered. We are working diligently to ensure you have a great national. Response has been excellent in the first two months of sales. We have 20 sales tables, and only 6 exhibit spaces remaining. Table availability will be filled from a waiting list on a first come, first serve basis, once tables are sold out.

We hope you will consider joining us at the 37th show!

Respectfully, Your 2006 Show Co-Hosts, Bob, Carolyn, Jack & Jim

Hotel information: We will be holding this event at the Doubletree Hotel Austin. The hotel offers many amenities to make your convention stay a pleasant one. Easy access to major highways, many restaurants and attractions. You can reserve your rooms now!!

To make your hotel reservations, call the Doubletree @ (800) 347-0330 or online @ www.doubletreeaustin.com with convention code "NIA" for the National Insulator Association blocked room rate.

For additional details please contact one of your show hosts, or go online to the following website location:

http://www.nia.org/shows/national

FROM THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE and Historian



The Future of the Insulator Hobby By Rick Soller

The best book on general collecting I've read in the past 20 years is Harry L. Rinker's 2005 book "How to Think Like a Collector." One of the most notable parts is his page 70 list of six indicators that indicate the decline of a particular collectible. In the following paragraphs, I discuss each of these plus add a few.

- 1. Has the average age of people in the hobby exceeded 55? The hobby hasn't hit this threshold yet.
- 2. Have prices been stable for 10 or more years? Related to this is the frequency by which price guides are issued. An examination of Milholland and McDougalds price guides show prices are still going up.
- 3. Has coverage in general price guides decreased by half or have insulators been placed in a more general category? Kovel's Antique and Collectible Price Guide has consistently featured insulators in its guide and the amount of coverage has been stable.
- 4. Have collector clubs disbanded and not been heard from? Numerous insulator clubs have folded over the years: Eastern Insulator Club, Capital District Insulator Club (merged into Capi-

tal Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club or CRAB Inc.), Ohio Valley Insulator Club, and Wisconsin Insulator Club. There also used to be an insulator club around St. Louis, Missouri and I believe one in California that no longer exists. Clubs with minimal activity (e.g., no newsletter, no meetings, no turnover in officers, or few swap meets) include the

Missouri Valley Insulator Club, and the National Trails Insulator Club. On the other hand, clubs that have

sprung up since the mid-1990s include the Greater Chicago Insulator Club, the North Western Insulator Club, the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club, the Western Reserve Insulator Club, GLASS, the Grand Canyon State Insulator Club, the Prairie State Insulator Club, and the Jefferson State Insulator Club.

- 5. Do insulators no longer regularly appear for auction or in the booths of dealers at antiques shows? Interestingly enough, there has been a big increase in the number of auctions for insulators. For a long time, Ray Klingensmith offered the only auction catalog of insulators (except for a 1988 catalog by Duane Dav-In 1995, Dwayne Anenport). thony ran his first insulator auction. From 1998-2002, Ross Baird ran four catalog auctions. recently, Mike Green started running a catalog. On the Internet, eBay offers a steady stream of about a thousand insulators. More that are listed on than www.insulators.com. Web sites like the insulator store and Grampa Mac's Emporium carry additional offerings.
- 6. Is a museum the only place to see examples of insulators? No.

I will add a few other indicators to the list.

7. Is more or less being published about insulators? Consider, for a moment, the number of insulator publications that no longer exist. These include Cross Arms Magazine, Rainbow Riders, Old Familiar Strains, and Canadian Insulator Collector. In addition, Old Bottle

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Magazine
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insulators for
a while is no
longer published. Antique Glass

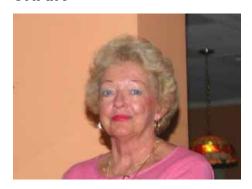
and Bottle Collector once had occasional articles on insulators but does not now. The first twelve issues of Canadian Bottle and Stoneware Collector contained an article on

insulators but none can be found in later issues. Recently, Power Line Explorer Journal has had trouble getting submissions.

Are price guides issued frequently? Currently, the McDougalds publish a new price guide about every 4 years. The same cannot be said for other sectors of the hobby. Only one price guide has ever been issued for foreign glass insulators and none for foreign porcelain insulators. The last porcelain pintype price quide came out in 1995 and the last price guide on multi-parts came out in 1990. A recent value guide on a Compact Disk contains relative values on radio strains. Some information on composition insulators can be found in the 1975 book by Gerald Brown while no price guides exist for suspensions, wall tubes, aerial spacers, fuse cutouts, lightning rod insulators, or porcelain spools.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Museum Committee Chair

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Dear NIA Members,

I want to thank Kevin Jacobson and Ross Baird for stepping up and running for the respective offices of NIA President and Central Region Vice-President.

Because they were running for the elective offices unopposed, there are no ballots to count. They both will do a great job and they should be thanked for this. It's member-collectors like them who keep our

organization and hobby thriving and moving forward.

I also thank my committee members for their support. I look forward to working with them next year.

See y'al in Austin,

Renewals will need to

be mailed at least 10 days

prior to the NIA National

for me to receive them and

credit the member as being

current allowing them to

enter the show on NIA day.

Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA#1380 Nominations Chairman

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



How time flies! We're into May and less than two months from the NIA National in Austin. Several annual shows have already come and gone. If you are involved in hosting a show, I have newly printed NIA brochures available for handout at no cost to you. Just email me at:

<u>Don.Briel@Camcast.net</u> and let me know how many you need and where to send them. Be sure to give me enough time to get them to you prior to the show.

As an NIA member, please help promote the NIA organization to fellow collectors. If you would like a brochure sent to a friend, just let me know. If need a few to distrib-

ute, I can provide them. Keeping the membership interested and growing is an ideal way to keep

the hobby alive and well.

Last year ended with 1605 active NIA members. We are currently at 1370 active members for 2006 with renewals and

new applications arriving daily. If you know of fellow collectors that haven't renewed their membership, they are not receiving this Drip Points and therefore not reading this reminder. Please remind them that there is still time to keep their membership current and support the insulator collecting hobby. Membership renewal/new member application forms are available in this issue of 'Drip Points', in 'Crown Jewels of the Wire' and on line at www.NIA.org. Renewals will need to be mailed at least 10 days prior to the NIA National for me to receive them and credit the member as being current allowing them to enter the show on NIA day. I will

be unavailable the week prior to the show. Dues remain at \$12 per year for an individual or family

membership. Family memberships may include family members living at the same address as the primary member.

A new, more formal membership renewal

response has recently been initiated. In addition to returning new membership cards upon renewal, we are now also returning a thank you letter with full membership information. This should help keep members better informed while allowing members to review and correct any data.

Have a fun and safe season of insulator collecting!

Don Briel, NIA #7218 **Membership Director**

FROM THE PROMOTIONS CHAIR



Spring finally sprang...for about a week. Now summer seems to have arrived which means lots of fun ahead for we hobbyists. Good weather brings out buyers, sellers, explorers, and collectors. I remember some of my best hunts were in the dead of summer. Makes me sweat just to think about the glass and the sun. But on to the topic...

Austin isn't far off. I think it'll be a real blast. The closest I've been was a trip to Houston. I look for-

ward to the mountains of glass, procelain, and smiling faces of we collectors and our customers. I'm sure you will have several opportunities to chat with fledgling collectors and just curious folk. I enjoy enlightening these people. The goal, besides being courteous, of course, is to, perhaps, reel one or two into our hobby. Lord knows we could use new blood and, in particular, youth. I tend to zero in on kids...I manage to give away as many pieces to children as possible. It's delightful to see the surprise expressions grow into big smiles.

In light of the fluctuating national economy, it will be interesting to see how sales of glass and attendance to shows and tailgaters go. This means it's even more important to promote the hobby (and, thus, our own self-interest). Without a dynamic customer base, it seems that interest may wane. We must be our own and our hobby's best "cheerleader". It's time we reunite and refocus our energy and enthusiasm so that our little niche in the collectibles world survives this current storm and

thrives in spite of it. Keep spreading the word.

Final thought. I've been asked to do a seminar, of sorts, at the National. The presentation will focus on the making of my DVD documentary (I promise it will be relatively short). It was released last year and, thankfully, well-received. I think you might find the paths I took to produce it interesting. And if you don't know about the DVD, I will have copies at my table. I hope some of you might wish to attend, otherwise it'll be just me, the lonely guy, in an empty room.

P.S. I'm in the process of making a short version of the documentary for N.I.A. promotional use. It will also be available for clubs as well.

Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions Chairman

...DRIP NOTES

Did you know that the Drip Points is available electronically? Did you know that roughly 20% of your fellow NIA members and their families get the *Drip Points* Electronically via e-mail? Taking the *Drip Points* electronically has many benefits including:

- Saves printing and mailing costs of the newsletter (\$1.50 a copy per person) enabling the NIA to help fund research and other beneficial activities to the hobby without having to raise dues.
- You get a color issue, and now with each electronic copy sent, will be attached one club newsletter from a participating club from around the country. You get to see various club newsletters in addition to your DP at no additional cost.
- Get your copy earlier, the electronic copy goes out before the mailed copy.
- Your copy doesn't degrade or wear out and is easily backed up on your computer. Also, the NIA is placing the back issues of the electronic versions on the NIA web site for all to see and retrieve (after the issues are 1 year old).

NIA logo Items

INSULA OR	Collector Hat / Lapel Pin (1" X 1.25")	 Four color, etched enamel on 20-gauge metal with nickel plating Clear epoxy finish! Hard steel post back. \$5.00
	Hanes Beefy-T Quality Shirts Gray with screenprinted logo or Ash Gray, Green, Cardinal Red with Embroidered Logo	*Screenprinted only- \$10 – 2X / gray – logo on front and back! • All sizes available in embroidered styles • Seafoam Green, Cardinal Red, Ash Gray • (M, L, XL, 2X) - \$20/\$22 * Some available with pockets (Call for details)
	Quality Golf Shirts* - embroidered logo (detail link) * call for shirt styles and colors available.	 All sizes available; M, L, XL, 2X in stock \$38.00 2X and above add additional \$3.00 Pockets add additional \$3.00
	Quality Blue Denim long or short sleeve shirt (with embroidered logo over pocket)	 \$32.00 for (S, M, L, XL) \$35.00 for (2X, 3X)
ASSERTED OR	Sweatshirts (over head style)	 Ash Gray, heavy-weight, 50/50 cotton blend; Screen printed (Large logo on back as well) S, M only - \$8.00 GREAT FOR KIDS!! Embroidered (Front logo only) – Ash Gray or Cardinal Red M, L, XL - \$25.00 2X / 3X = \$30.00
B	Hooded Sweatshirt	 Heavy weight, Ash Gray, Embroidered front logo with zipper front, ribbed cuffs, drawstring hood with rivets, front warmer pocket M. L, XL = \$35.00 2X, 3X = \$40.00
	Caps	 Stone/Navy, Denim, Khaki/Green with embroidered logo; self-fabric adjustment strap \$16.00
	Mugs - Glass or Ceramic	 Coffee mug with 4-color logo on both sides! \$7.00 13oz. glass mug with etched logo! \$7.00
NATIONAL INSULA OR ASSOCIATION	Patches	 Light blue with embroidered 5-color logo (3 1/2" x 2 3/4") \$4.00
NATIONAL INSULA OR ASSOCIATION	Decals (Inside Window)	 Light blue with 4-color logo (2 1/2" x 2") Inside window application \$1.00
CAROLYN BERRY N.I.A. # 4336 Round Rock, TX A Cone Star restants Clab	Engraved Name Badges & Bars	 \$12.00 (Note: You must be an NIA member to order a name badge) Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery Local Club Bars(ie. LSIC, WRIC) Include rings to attach to badge
NATIONAL DE NATION	"Koozie"	 Foam beverage holder; "insulator" with NIA logo Screen-printed in metallic silver on both sides Choice of: Red, Hunter Green, or Royal Blue



From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer

2005 - 2006 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Beginning Balance-General Fund 7/1/04 JULY 1, 2005 Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account				
Revenues Donations				
Membership Dues	5852			
Miscellaneous Income	518			
Product Sales	2563			
	Total Revenues	8933		
General Fund Expenses				
Advertising	53			
Bank Charges, Taxes Fees and In				
Marketing Products	3100			
Misc. Postage	1237			
Misc. Printing	667			
Misc. Supplies	849			
Misc. Professional Services				
Crown Jewels Rebates	486			
Drip Points Printing	2022			
Drip Points Postage	823			
Show Advertising Subsidy	716			
Show Awards				
Stationery Supplies Telephone				
Special Projects	394			
Educational Disp Postage	140			
Eddodional Biop I cottage				
٦	Total Expenses	11237		
Closing Balance, General Fund		10109		
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures				
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance				
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures				
Authentication/Ethics Account Ba	2297			
Total Balance on Hand June 30, 2	:005	13378		

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Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA #1380 Nominations

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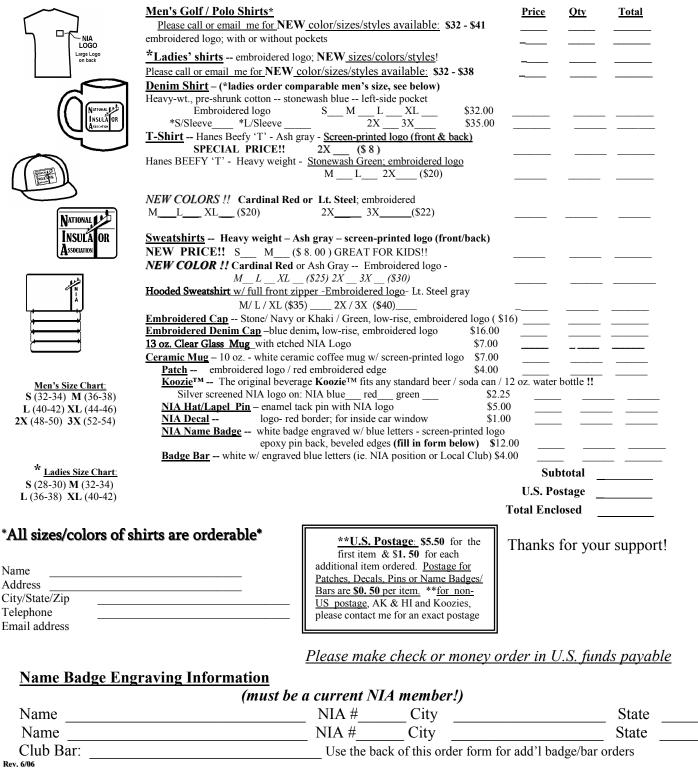
Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336 Product Marketing 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions 1080 N. Scenic Drive Porterville, CA 93257-1637 559-781-6319 bobmerzoian@mac.com



SUMMER 2006 www.nia.org/products



Donald R. Briel

NIA Membership Director

2006 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

Submit: (In U.S.funds) To:

(Payable to the NIA)

P.O. Box 188 Providence, UT 84332 E-MAIL: don.briel@comcast.net Note New Dues Schedule! Regular Membership-----\$ 12.00 Family Membership-----\$ 12.00 Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00 Club or Organization-----\$ 12.00 _____ Regular____ Family____ Junior____ (Check appropriate Class) Club/Org.____ Single year____ (Check Years of Payment) Multi-year Please Print Name ____ NIA # (If Renewal) Address _____ City State/Province Zip/Postal Code _____(+4) ____ Country (If Non U.S.) Telephone Number E-Mail Address Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory Yes No____ Please include my Telephone Number Yes____ No____ Please include my E-Mail Address Yes No Paper____ Electronic____ **Note:** I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. (Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic) **Additional Family Members** Name Nia# (If Renewal) 4._____ Date Amount Enclosed \$



THE EIC ECHO

The Official Newsletter of the *Enchantment Insulator Club*Acting Editors: Tom/Dorothy Jones (505) 876-4011, Hootowl@cia-g.com
P.O. Box 110, Prewitt, NM 87045

Volume 7, Issue 1 Feb 20, 2003

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MACHINE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fortunately I composed most of this before the Columbia disaster on Saturday...otherwise I doubt I could have focused on my objective. Our astronauts realize and accept the huge risk they take in their endeavors, yet soar aloft anyway, and will continue their missions in the future...as their brave predecessors have in this and previous decades. We will find the root cause of this tragedy and continue our exploration of space.

Spring is coming...no doubt to any of us who witnessed & enjoyed today's howling southwest winds across this part of the country! Not much of a winter occurred in New Mexico AGAIN this year and there is little snow-pack in our mountains. This forebodes dry rivers, forest fires, and wildlife (i.e. bears, cougars, and others) wandering populated areas for food later this year. The situation is likely no different in Arizona, Utah, and southern Colorado. So for those of you out in the boonies looking for the elusive jewels or whatever, let's be careful with the flames, stogies, barbecues, et cetera!

We're planning the next EIC-TRIC tailgater for May 17, and the top venue is now Canon City, Colorado. Exact details are still in planning. This is a little further than usual for NM/AZ members, but the site will be fantastic, with many other attractions, such as a rail trip through the Royal Gorge that crosses under the famous bridge 1,000 feet above the river (keep an eye out for colored Denvers here!). We're negotiating a group deal with the railroad and will let you know of progress.

The Yuma, AZ Tailgater is coming up on February 22nd, so consider going to this event; many California & Arizona-based collectors are also planning to participate. I don't know if I'll be there as I just took delivery of a new 4x4 truck & this will put the hurt on my finances for awhile. Anyway, Tom Katonak – who has been to all the Yuma TGs says this is a great event!

We're still planning on a field trip to the vicinity of Ft Craig in the mid-March timeframe, and we'll be discussing this at the next EIC meeting. As reported last issue, Ft Craig is located along the Rio Grande near the south end of Bosque del Apache, and the old fort-to-fort tele-

graph line passed here or nearby. We may find something interesting, and intend to get the bottle folks involved also.

The next EIC meeting will be held at the residence of Tom & Lynda Katonak on Saturday, March 1st, beginning at 11 AM. The address is 1024 Camino de Lucia, Corrales, NM, phone (505) 898-5592. See the maps for directions. Bring your extras for sale & trade, plus anything else you may have for show & tell.

Also, a big THANK YOU to Valerie Meyers & Tom K. for contributing an article to this issue of EIC ECHO.

Thanks & hope to see you all at The Katonak's on March 1st!

Mike Gay



Mike, the Prez, and other members contemplating some sales/trades at the last EIC meeting held at Jim Garcia's house.





Join over 1000 collectors worldwide www.insulators.com Email: info@insulators.com

EARLY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE DESERT SOUTHWEST

By Tom Katonak

Previous articles in the *EIC ECHO* have dealt with the telegraph and with the telephone, but we've yet to have a piece that ties all the associated history together. I attempt to do just this in this note.

First, why do we care about the early communication systems in New Mexico and Arizona? Well, aside from the fact that we live here, there is also the added attraction that the electronic communication systems used <u>insulators</u> as one of the primary elements. Ahhhh... insulators, you say? Now I <u>am</u> interested!

OK, so what communication systems are we dealing with here? Back in the 1850s, we had to rely on the US Mail. This was really ponderous! And, unlike Wyoming, we didn't have the Pony Express to speed the mail up. Fortunately, by the 1860s, New Mexico entered the telegraph age, and now what used to take days previously could be accomplished in a matter of minutes. And by the turn of the century, New Mexicans began to enjoy communication via the spoken word, i.e. the telephone, as well. Since the USPD (back in "the old days", the Post Office was an actual department of the Federal Government) didn't give a hoot about insulators, we will ignore them in the following discussion.

Today, we will explore a little of the history of the telegraph, the telephone and the heliograph and their impact on the States of New Mexico and Arizona.

First, let's investigate the telegraph. We all know that Samuel F. B. Morse developed this electromagnetic device in 1844. By the early 1850s, the telegraph was in widespread use over much of eastern United States. In the mid-'50s, the first trans-continental telegraph line was stretched from St. Louis to Kansas City, to Omaha, and on to California, bringing service to San Francisco in 1861.

Denver finally got connected in 1863, but only because its residents shelled out \$35,000 from their own pockets to bring wire from the main line, which had by-passed the town well to the north. (I think that even as I write this, charter club member Bill Ashcraft is detailing some of the early history of the telegraph lines in Wyoming.)

In 1866, several enterprising Denverites formed the United States & Mexico Telegraph Company and laid plans to build a line across Colorado and New Mexico and down into Chihuahua Mexico. During the first winter of this endeavor, they got the wire as far south as

Trinidad Colorado. Once into northeast New Mexico, the poles followed the route of the old Santa Fe Trail and the line got to Santa Fe in July of 1868. Noted historian and newspaper columnist Marc Simmons reported in the *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican* on the 25th of August in 1991 that:

"The wire was strung into Santa Fe along the main road entering from the southeast – the Santa Fe Trail. But such was the novelty of long-distance wire that local townsfolk called the thoroughfare "Telegraph Street" for a number of years afterward".

In 1873, Congress appropriated \$50,000 to build a military telegraph line from San Diego into Arizona as an aid in conducting war against the Apaches. The work started at San Diego on August 23, 1873, and reached Tucson in just a little over three months. The line was carried eastward from Yuma through Phoenix and Tucson to Fort Bowie, not far from the New Mexico border.

In 1875, Lt. Frederick Phelps, with a troop of 30 soldiers and five mule wagons loaded with coils of wire began stringing the military line south down the Rio Grande Valley toward Fort Craig. After reaching Fort Craig, the line continued through Forts McRae, Selden, Cummings, and Bayard, and linked up with the Arizona sections at Fort Bowie. Albuquerque sent it's first telegraphic message through this network to San Francisco on Feb 12 1876.

While the telegraph system was primarily for military purposes, civilian messages were accepted. This policy was a great boon to the commercial interests of the territory. Goods could be ordered from wholesale houses in San Francisco much faster than by stage-coach. Also, the rates charged by the military were much lower than those charged by commercial telegraph companies. Some companies, in order to insure privacy, employed their own codes for their business messages.

By the time the Southern Pacific Railroad (and the associated Western Union commercial telegraph) reached Yuma in 1877, there were about one thousand miles of line in operation in Arizona. When commercial telegraph service became available as part of the rapidly expanding railroads, the military lines were abandoned. For example, we note that when the Union Pacific and Central Pacific lines joined at Promontory Summit, Utah on May 10, 1869, all the telegraph traffic shifted to this transcontinental corridor. Similarly, when the AT&SF came through New Mexico in 1879 and 1880, we have documented evidence that the telegraph traffic reverted to the parallel Western Union lines virtually immediately.

And this was also the case with the Southern Pacific Railroad on its route through southern Arizona. By 1882, there were only 532 miles of the Arizona military system still in use. So in just a few years, all telegraph communication was commercial. Through the research of a number of dedicated historians, we now know the types of insulators used along all these early telegraph lines...and untold numbers of these artifacts remain buried in the shifting sands of the region.

While telegraph networks were a marvel indeed, this was only the beginning of sophisticated electronic communications – and it wasn't long before voice connectivity took center stage. At the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876, Alexander Graham Bell showed off his new invention: The telephone.

The first telephone lines in New Mexico were installed by private individuals who connected their homes and business or outlying camps on vast ranches with this new invention. The first telephone company with an exchange was launched at Las Vegas in 1881 and was headed by Miguel Otero Sr. and several partners associated with the huge mercantile company in the same city. The next year, Otero expanded the service to some thirty-plus local subscribers. 1883 saw the first local phone service in El Paso, and by 1894, Santa Fe had local phone service as well.

I believe it was in 1904 that the Colorado Telephone and Telegraph Company ran the first long-line open wire service from Denver down to Las Vegas, New Mexico. As reported by the *Daily Rocky Mountain News*, this long distance line was extended to Santa Fe and Albuquerque by the fall of 1905. By 1910 or so, all the major long-lines were in place throughout New Mexico and one may still see vestiges of these lines, a few poles scattered here-and-there, even today. An interesting aspect of the early New Mexico lines was that virtually all the insulators used on the lines were products of the now famous Denver companies operating out of the Valverde Glass Works – R. Good, Western Flint Glass Company, and the Western Glass Manufacturing Company.

Let me conclude this article with a brief note about a seldom-discussed communication system, the heliograph. Even though there are no insulators associated with this system, it is still a fascinating chapter in the annals of Desert Southwest communications.

The heliograph was a device that, by the use of mirrors, could direct a beam of rays from the sun in any desired direction. By interrupting the beam with a shutter, messages could be sent with the device, using the dots and dashes of the Morse code.

Invented by British army officer Henry Mance in 1865, the US Army began experimenting with the heliograph at Fort Myer, Virginia in 1877. Other experiments were subsequently carried out in Montana, Oregon and Arizona. Now the telegraph required a fixed installation of poles and wire that was subject to interruption by storms or unfriendly Indians; but the heliograph was simple and very mobile. On the other hand, it could not be used at night or during bad weather. Intermediate stations were required, as the flash could not be read at distances much over forty miles (although under especially fine conditions, communication was accomplished up to 100 miles). And in dangerous country, extra guards had to be provided for the two operators at each station.

When General Nelson A. Miles succeeded General George Crook in command of the Department of Arizona and New Mexico in 1886, he requested the best instruments and operators that could be provided. A heliograph network would provide a faster means of communication with troops in the field than the usual combination of telegraph and mounted courier. In addition, the stations could observe and report any movements in a large area.

By August 1886, an extensive network had been set up. The Arizona Division was comprised of 14 stations manned by 65 soldiers. The New Mexico Division had 13 stations manned by 29 men (and another 9 ancillary stations). The major heliograph installations in New Mexico were located at the forts Stanton, McRae, Cummings and Bayard. This communication network proved instrumental in the intense war with the Apaches. Following the surrender of Geronimo in early September 1886, the major part of the system was dismantled. However, it was still used to a lesser extent until replaced by the telephone in the early 1900s.

Well, there we have the brief look at the development of the early communication systems in the Desert Southwest. The next step is to pull out the old maps and determine just exactly where to look for the long-buried insulators that made the telegraph and telephone networks viable.



Talkin' insulators... yeah, sure.



Mike's "ox-blood" is as close to red as they ever get !!



Checking out the backyard goodies.



Tom K selecting his chicken parts from the assortment of goodies that Jim provided at the

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Tom/Dorothy Jones

Another year gone by !! Unbelievable !! But what a year... our first "National", our first issue as Editors of ECHO, our first full year of "retirement" and most importantly, our first grandDAUGHTER! We have a grandson that we love dearly but this is the first girl child in two generations. After years and years of rotten little boys, a little charmer that melts her Grandpa's heart.

People have waxed eloquent over the Columbia mishap so we'll leave that subject where it belongs, within each person's heart.

The last EIC meeting was successful in both subject and object. The subject being the meeting proper and the object being Jim's fantastic Barbque sauce!! Plenty of food and afterwards an ample supply of glass for Xmas presents. Yes, Dorothy got her traditional addition to her collection. This year -an amber Mexican with extra-long drips.



D's newest addition – thx Mike!



Jim's backyard stash.



Meeting? Meeting? I thought we were here to eat lunch!

THE CARLSBAD LINEMAN

By Valerie Meyers

I have known Jim Wynn for many years. He is an old man that has been a top horseman and cowboy locally. I knew that as a young man in the '50's he worked as a cowboy for the huge Matador and LA ranches. I never thought of him in connection with insulators until someone mentioned that Jim was a retired lineman and so I asked if he would talk to me about that. It was a most interesting interview and I learned about a whole new chapter of Jim Wynn's life.

In 1956 Jim Wynn started working for SPS here in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He would retire 40 years later in 1996 after having done some of SPS's most exciting and dangerous work.

For the first three months he read meters and then started on a line crew. It took four years of apprentice work to become a journeyman lineman. He worked only the power lines--never the telephone lines. Common voltages for these lines were 69,000 and 115,000 volts and they were usually worked "hot". They would only kill the power for things like changing out a transformer.

Jim remembers back in 1965 when the phone company here in Carlsbad got their first bucket truck. Before that all work was done by climbing the poles. Jim said that often they spent 8 hours a day up on the poles and only came down to eat lunch. Calluses would form on the hips of the men where the harness came around and connected to the D rings. Another thing that has passed out of use now is the "hotstick". In the accompanying picture, you can see Jim and his crew working a 75-foot pole with the hotsticks back in 1961. Jim is the top man in the photo. Jim showed me these long poles with metal attachments on the ends that served as 'hands' for the crews as they worked on the hot wires. Men that were skilled with these sticks could do almost anything with them that the human hand could do. Jim has a very old hotstick made of wood, but the ones he used were mostly made of fiberglass.

He never worked much with glass insulators; mostly he worked with porcelain. He can look at a power line and tell how much voltage it's carrying at a glance by the type of porcelain on it. His only contact with glass insulators was to take down some of the old glass lines from time-to-time. Some of the most unusual insulators he remembers were old porcelain insulators in the shape of a donut that were made in two pieces and held to-

gether with wire. These were on a line that they took down that carried power into Soldier Springs up in the Guadalupe Mountains.

The last three years before he retired Jim was on the "barehand" crew. Only three men in the state of New Mexico did "barehand" and there were two crews that he knew of in west Texas. In the early 80's the Lubbock crew had a fatal accident. After that, SPS had a barehand school that was required for anyone doing that type of work. Whenever they needed him, Jim took time off his regular work to teach this barehand school.



"Hot Stick" crew in 1961—Jim is the uppermost person.

Barehand involved working the high voltage lines (up to 230,000 volts) literally with your bare hands. You were not grounded and so could work on the lines with the same impunity that a bird can sit on them. However, if you became grounded it meant instant death. The men worked in buckets that had a stainless steel liner and they worked barefoot or with carbon soled shoes standing on a metal grid and never used gloves of any kind. They worked in teams of two men in two buckets joined by a copper wire. This kind of work had to be done in

absolutely dry conditions--there was a siren on the boom of the bucket truck that warned of any moisture and they stopped immediately if it went off. Obviously, lightning anywhere in the area also contraindicated this kind of work.

Jim never got "burnt" in all those years. The only time he was ever injured involved a time he was going hand-over-hand on a guy wire between two poles. He was weighted down with all his lineman equipment and his gloves began rolling and slipping and he fell 30 feet onto rocky ground breaking both heels when he landed. In forty years that is an amazing record. However, working with high voltage lines still does not make him an expert at all things electrical. His wife laughed and told me that if Jim had to do some of the wiring around the house he would be lost.

So I have a new perspective on an old friend. "Lineman" means a great deal more to me than it did yesterday!

WHAZJ7 ?????

Any Guesses on what the following items might be, please email Tom Jones at hootowl@cia-g.com

Patricia Brown discovered the following item in a dig last year.



I found the next item in a little shop in Indiana.







NOTICE:

Due to the dunning of dues over the next duodecimo, all dues are due! Whether you're a Duke in your Duchy or a dubious dude, do your duty and don't be a dufus—remit your ducats before doomsday, to our treasurer:

Tom Katonak 1024 Camino de Lucia Corrales NM 87048



Valerie and Linda checking out the goodies. for Xmas gifts?

Ramblings of a Go-With. Tom Jones

With apologies to What's-his-name....

You may be an *Insulector* if:

You think a CD Player is another *Insulector*.

The eye color on your driver's license is Hemingray blue.

You're invited to church to see the ICONs and you look for a computer.

You look for flea bites and spider webs.

Your **two** children don't realize that you have a **three bedroom** house.

You don't picture Disneyland when someone says "Mickey Mouse".

You know Crown Jewels aren't worn.

Buying presents is more a matter of money than thought.

You don't think honey when someone says "beehive".

(If you understood ALL of the above..... GET HELP !!)



FIELD TRIP ON MARCH 15TH!

We've been talking about this upcoming field trip now for several months, so here are a few more details to wet your appetite!

In an article elsewhere in this newsletter, I outline a bit of the history of the fort-to-fort military telegraph in New Mexico. We note that this 1870s telegraph line ran from Fort Union up in northeast NM near Watrous, through Santa Fe and Albuquerque and down to Ft. Craig near what is now Bosque del Apache. Continuing south, the line ran though Ft. McRae and on to Ft. Selden, near Radium Springs in southern NM.

A number of us have spent many days searching for remnants of the old line over the past three decades – and a few nice threadless glass pieces have been recovered. (I'll chronicle the history at the upcoming meeting)

Thanks to early surveyor and mapmaker George M. Wheeler, we have some outstanding records of the precise location of the telegraph line through this territory. However, for much of the distance, e.g. from Socorro north to the Rio Grande Pueblos north of Albuquerque, all traces of the line have been lost due to the intense farming and urbanization that has taken place in the Rio Grande valley over the past 125 years. On the other hand, there are vast sections of this tract that have seen little disturbance over time, and only nature itself has

erased the evidence of the telegraph.

The focus of the upcoming field trip on March 15th will be the section from just north of Ft. Craig to just north of Ft. Selden. Of some interest is the news that due to the sinking levels of Elephant Butte Lake (now the lowest it's been in 30 years!), Ft. McRae has "emerged" out of the water! I plan to scout this section prior to the next EIC meeting to hone in on the area(s) we will concentrate on. So plan on getting the details of the trip at the next meeting.

The general plan will be to rendezvous at a point in south central NM – Socorro possibly – about 9:00am on Saturday, March 15th. We will then caravan by car to the search area to the south. It is a possibility that we will continue the search on Sunday the 16th – particularly if we find something exciting. You'll need to be prepared for some desert hiking, as we'll likely be out in the "boonies" for several hours. You'll need food...and lots of water.

If anyone would like to accompany Duane Davenport and I on our exploratory trip the last week in February, give me a call.

One noteworthy item: The forts mentioned above are National Sites of one sort or another, so there can be no collecting of artifacts (that means insulators!) at these locations. But it is fair game to look for clues at these locations.

-Tom Katonak

If you haven't already done so, please pay this year's dues to Treasurer Tom K.!!

EIC "HOT SHEET"

Deals that are hotter than Green Chili Ice Cream!

FOR SALE:

I have a number of fine **insulators from the Ukraine and Mexico** for sale, including some magnificent colored pieces. This is <u>primo</u> stuff!
You won't find these pieces anywhere else – including eBay!

WANTED:

Any strange variant of **MEXICAN** or **OVG insulators**. Strange colors, misshapes or anything else unusual.

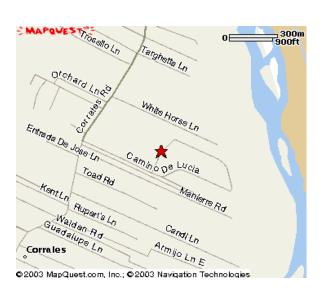
Tom Katonak, (505) 898-5592, Email: "tkatonak@Comcast.net"

Enchantment Insulator Club



P.O. Box 110 Prewitt, NM 87045

TO





THE EIC ECHO V7 #1

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