Drip Points

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Yes, it's the Winter Issue already! Seems like I just did the Winter Issue! No - that was a year ago already! Wow! Does time pass this quickly for all of you?

Hopefully, you will have received and digested this issue before you have to get down to serious final Christmas shopping. If it's not too late, don't forget, your friendly Drip Points editor collects bullets, blobs and Canadian glass!!

This was a banner year for the insulator hobby: Some of the greatest shows, displays and finds ever occurred in 1995. And it was yet another milestone this month for the ICON (Insulator Collectors on the Net) Club: Don Lundell, SYSCON for the ICON server tells me that we are now over 100 members strong! More on the INTERNET and the WEB in Bill Meier's article.

Don't for get to pay your NIA dues for 1996 if you haven't done so by now. Joe

(Continued from page 1)

Beres stands at the ready to receive your checks and send out the new membership cards.

There's lots of interesting stuff in this issue! Be sure to read John McDougald's update on the Bullet find, and the latest from each of the Regions. Also, if you have ideas on how to market the hobby, take note of David Wiecek's article and send your thoughts to him.

Personally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each of you the best ever of Holiday Seasons!

Keep those cards and letters coming!

Tom Katonak



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Halloween has just passed by us with all of its ghosts and goblins and other scary creatures. Speaking of which, a couple of scary things come to mind relating to insulators and collecting. Imagine insulators becoming so expensive that people would have to take out loans just to

"WE NEED YOUR

INVOLVEMENT IN

HOSTING SHOWS"

buy them. Of course I'm not talking Hemingray - 42s or something similar, but rare pieces like Twin-Pins, Hound-Dogs or Tea-Pots. I can't believe the prices and how they have

climbed over the last 20 years. Where will it end? I just hope we don't price ourselves out of the collector's market.

Then imagine no one hosting shows! So far, we as an organization have been very fortunate to have caring people willing to go that extra mile for what it takes to put on local, regional and national shows. As more people become involved in collecting insulators they naturally become involved with people with similar interests. Whether it's splinter groups or NIA sanctioned

clubs, we as an organization need your involvement toward hosting these events. You cannot expect the same individuals to go on indefinitely hosting shows, without new people learning the ropes on what it takes. My message is, **get involved!** Your Executive Director can help by furnishing information for Regional and National Shows.

Finally I hope with the holidays just around the corner, everyone rejoices in the company of family or good friends and that we all look forward to a prosperous New Year.

Good Collecting,

Stephen E. Bobb, NIA #827 President



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

September 12, 1995

I read with excitement and enthusiasm the idea of making an introductory video introducing the hobby of insulator collecting. I have been making insulator videos of my collection, trade list, collecting outings, shows, old power stations, etc. now for six years. I have encouraged other collectors here in Canada to film their collections and exchange tapes with others. The idea was slow to catch on, but now there are numerous insulator tapes moving around in the Canadian postal service.

As the producer of the Canadian Insulator Collector magazine, I hear the same complaint from the numerous new collectors: The access to information in the hobby is a slow and gradual process, and much of it is by word-of-mouth from 'seasoned' collectors. There is a wealth of information in the hobby about each type of insulator; where they were used, amazing stories of how they were acquired. This wealth of hear-say information is not available from the books new collectors buy when joining the hobby.

I would very much like to see a video library started within the NIA. A video library of shows, specialty collections, public and private displays, etc., would be a valuable resource to have in the hobby for present and future collectors. It could include the following:

- a video record of each show, including displays and presentations.
- narrated tours of specialty collections by the 'experts' and specialty enthusiasts.

- compilation videos of various footage contributed from club swap meets, digging outings, historical material.
- "Bea-Lines" type visits and interviews with collectors.

Many important events have already taken place in the hobby. Twenty-six Nationals, the Hemingray, Pittsburgh and other dump digs, the Confederate egg dig, the McMicking cache, the Collins line, the EC&M line, and many other wild discoveries like the Castles and NEGM straight-sides. Any of the these events would be important to have documented on video.

I don't have the time or funds to travel across the country to go to a National, and I'm sure I'm like most collectors. This year I asked several people, and actually found someone to video-tape the National for me! I am very curious about what a big show like that is like, having never experienced one in my 22 years of collecting.

Consumer-level video equipment has been available now for over ten years. Just think about what kind of resource library we could have had by now if we started gathering footage of shows, etc. in 1985! Let's start it right away! I suggest the NIA form a video library committee, and although I can't travel around to shows, I'll be glad to be a committee member! I have video production do titling, equipment, and effects. duplication, color packaging, etc. aboard!

Yours.

Mark Lauckner

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

Insulator collectors in the east are still "recovering" from the National show in July. (I know some of the show hosts still are!). Clearly, that was the biggest show that New Englanders will see for some time to come! It may not be remembered as the "best" National in the hobby, but it certainly was a darn good one! The advertising we did for the National is still producing mail, and "Mailroom Central", as we dubbed our house during the months before the 1995 National, is still receiving a lot of requests for information about insulators and insulator clubs.

Jim Frustieri hosted a small show in Kulpsville, PA, which we attended. For us, it was a nice "treat" to actually have enough time to look at the insulators for sale, and talk to collectors, and relax a little! Jim's show was also the first ever insulator show to be promoted on our World Wide Web Glass Insulator pages!

The Yankee Pole Cats had their annual late summer swap and BBQ at the home of Larry and Mary Jo Emmons. As always, Larry and Mary Jo were great hosts, and everyone attending had a great time.

John Graham reports that the Orlando Bottle and Insulator show was a success! A number of insulator dealers were present, and some nice pieces, such as several of the early cast iron insulators, and a nice wood covered Wade were present.

After a little coaxing and phone calls, I was able to contact all the insulator clubs in the country. The summary information I gathered about each club is printed in the Crown Jewels / NIA subscribers directory and available on our World Wide Web pages. My first NIA project completed!

The second NIA project I am working on is improving the judging rules and process used at NIA shows. When this is complete (target date is before next year's National), the NIA will have a standardized judging sheet, consistent metrics for judging displays at the regional and national level, and advice and guidance for show hosts and judges how to be "better prepared" for judging. I do not expect to change the fundamental judging criteria and point assignment as currently defined in the NIA handbook, as I do not believe this to be the

major problem. How the judges interpret and apply those criteria is the major focus of this effort. I believe this work will address the concerns of a number of people in the NIA

"ICON IS THE FASTEST GROWING INSULATOR CLUB IN THE WORLD!"

of people in the NIA, including myself, about the "NIA judging rules". Expect an update in the Spring issue of Drip Points.

Here is a trivia question: What is the fastest growing insulator club in the world? Answer: ICON - Insulator Collectors On the Net. This club was just started this year, from a small electronic mailing list in the Spring. In September, we just voted on a name. The winning name ICON was proposed by Bob Stahr. By the time you will read this issue of Drip Points, we will be the largest insulator club, with over 100 members! The club even has members from Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. We all share two things: access to the INTERNET and electronic mail, and an interest in insulators! Who can join? Anyone with access to the INTERNET, be it from your company at work, your school or university, or one of the large on-line service providers such as America On-Line or Prodigy.

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To me, the INTERNET and the World Wide Web have tremendous potential for insulator collectors and even non-collectors. ICON hosts a World Wide Web Glass Insulators page; if you or someone you know has access to the Web, be sure and have them check out our location (URL):

http://www.resilience.com/insulators

I know the computer holds great potential for many things, and I want to promote its use within the hobby and by the NIA board; teaching people how to use their computer to do things they never dreamed of, accessing information they never knew existed. To help me with my goal I asked Carol McDougald, editor of Crown Jewels of the Wire, what she thought of a semi-

monthly column "Insulators and Computers." She loved the idea, and I look forward to being the editor of that column. Look for "Insulators and Computers" to appear in Crown Jewels in January 1996! The column will also be available on-line on our Web pages. Find out more about the technology and how it relates to the insulator hobby, and join us as we move into the twenty first century! See you all in cyberspace! And, at every insulator show Jill and I can make it to!

Bill Meier, NIA #4322 Eastern Regional Vice President







...DRIP NOTES

- NIA-sponsored insulator insurance is available for your collection. It's getting great reviews from the many NIA members taking advantage of the service. (See the ad on the inside cover of this issue.)
- Mark your vacation calendars now for the Long Beach National: July 19-21, 1996. Don't miss this one!
- If you know someone who would make a good officer in the NIA, call Ron Norton and let him know!
- MOVING?? Please send your new address to Joe Beres: Don't risk missing your copy of the *Drip Points*!
 - Don't forget to pay your 1996 Dues!

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FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

I hope that everyone has had an opportunity to attend at least one show this Fall; the reports are that there have been some good ones! The Lone Star Insulator Club show held in Houston in September appeared to have had a good turnout and brisk selling and trading. The Lone Star Lines monthly newsletter has also taken on a great look due to the efforts of editor Spencer Howard and his word processing software. The Huron Valley Bottle and Insulator Club's Fall show was also successful with significant insulator and lightning rod ball activity. Alan Stastny also held another one of his popular swap meets at the end of August for the National Trails Insulator Club.

On October 29th, the <u>Greater Chicago</u> <u>Insulator Club</u> held their first formal show in conjunction with the First Chicago Bottle Club show in Rosemont, IL. The location and facilities are great there, and I hope that the <u>GCIC</u> will be able to continue the relationship that they are establishing, as both clubs are benefiting from it. On November 11-12th, collectors and dealers from all over the country converged on London, Ohio for the NIA Central Regional/25th Mid-Ohio Insulator show. Look for reports on these two shows in the next issue of *Drip Points*.

For some other news, Rick Soller helped

to educate attendees at the Lake County (Illinois) Fair about our hobby with his insulator display entries, and he managed to take home a few ribbons in the process. Rick Baldwin enlightened over 70 members of the Ohio Bottle Club this summer with

a lecture and presentation on lightning rod insulators and the history and technology

of lightning protection systems. Word is that a wood-covered Wade was "surfaced" by two scuba divers exploring the St. Clair River. I recently appraised for its owner a mint, blue CD 731 McKee that was acquired for "lunch money" in a Northeastern Ohio junk shop. The thrills of discovery are still out there!

Being a periodic displayer and judge at various bottle, antique and insulator shows, and having served as the NIA Show Standards Chairman, I'd like to give some inputs here relative to some recent concerns from members about displays and the ways in which they are judged. First, the NIA has an established judging fairness that affords consistency to all displayers when it is understood and implemented by the members of the judging teams. system is strictly used at all NIA national shows and at most NIA regional shows, although it is not a stringent regulation at the later. The NIA offers guidelines and criteria on judging to local show hosts, but it does not dictate nor demand that they be strictly adhered to at the local show level of competition, and in my opinion, this is the way it should be. I too have felt the disappointment and frustration in the past from what I felt to be inequitable judging, but we should not be micromanaging all of the shows and dictating to the show hosts how to run their local shows.

At the NIA shows, creativity and educational value are by far viewed as the most important judging criteria, and this is embodied within the NIA scoring system. Rarity by itself should

not assure the winning of a top award at a NIA show that is using the NIA judging

MOST IMPORTANT
JUDGING CRITERIA"

"CREATIVITY AND EDUCA-

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system! Personally, when I'm judging a display, I do not necessarily equate rarity with monetary value, either; rarity should be relative to the theme of the display and/or the category in which the display is entered! As a beginning collector and possessing only relatively common colored glass, I entered my first display at the Berea. Ohio National and won several top awards besides the Milholland Educational Award. On the use of light boxes, they are very effective at enhancing one's presentation, but they don't "make" the display by themselves; their impact on the overall display is reflected in the "showmanship" judging criteria score at NIA shows.

Onto the subject of "purpled" and/or "irradiated" glass: "Dr. Rick" would like to make a few comments regarding detection and safety. Most (>99%) of the altered insulators and bottles out there are safe to handle...they are not radioactive and a Geiger counter cannot be used to ascertain that they have unscrupulously been altered or color-enhanced. Atoms of every element in the glass are composed of a nucleus and a surrounding "shell" of electrons. and these two basic components are different for every element. The color that our eyes perceive a glass object to be is a result of the interaction of visible light with the electrons associated with the atoms present in the glass. Most "irradiated" glass has been exposed to a strong source of "ionizing" radiation (e.g., a medical or industrial X-ray unit, a highintensity ultraviolet lamp or a source of gamma-rays) which interacts with and alters the electron environments of the atoms present, and this sometimes results in a different perceived color of the object. This exposure does not make the glass "hot" or radioactive because the radiation does not interact with the nuclei of the

atoms present.

Other sources of ionizing radiation could be nuclear reactors, particle accelerators or what are called neutron generators. These devices could be found at most academic institutions, although access to their use would be limited and tightly-controlled. A glass object being irradiated by the ionizing radiation from these types of sources would simultaneously be subjected to bombardment by neutrons or other types of particles which would interact with the nuclei and cause the object to be radioactive!

Thus, if a Geiger counter indicates that a suspicious colored insulator or bottle is "hot", the chances are that it indeed had been irradiated by one of these sources to alter its color (but remember that most altered pieces are not radioactive!). The "hot" insulator or bottle could also be dangerous to the health of you and your family, depending upon its level of radioactivity. If in doubt, it should be analyzed by those with the expertise to do so, and it should be disposed of in a safe and responsible manner! Note that some early glass (for example, "vaseline glass," "uranium glass" and some yellow-green "depression glass") was naturally colored with uranium or thorium salts and, thus, will exhibit a low level of radioactivity.

In the next issue of *Drip Points*, I'd like to address some hazards, which may not be immediately obvious, and precautions that should be taken when using some of the chemicals that are routinely used to clean insulators and bottles. If you have any specific concerns or questions along this line, drop me a line so that "Dr. Rick" can try to address them in the next issue!

Rick Baldwin, NIA #336 Central Region Vice President



FROM THE WESTERN REGION

There's snow in the north and rain in the south, and here we are in the winter time waiting for spring and the enjoyment of getting out and about!

First of all, I wanted to apologize for my inability to attend the Enchantment Insulator Club's Show this past September and November's big Bakersfield show. I really missed all of the nice folks that I usually see and hopefully I'll be able to see them in '96.

The NIA National was a really excellent show in Massachusetts and I wanted to report that the displays were outstanding. especially those that won trophies awarded by Western Region clubs. The Southern (California) Central and Counties Insulator Club gave their award to Kevin Lawless of New York for the best exhibit usina southern California insulators. The Triple Ridge Insulator Club and the Northern California Insulator Club both gave their trophies (for best exhibit using Denver glass, and for the best display using western insulators, respectively) to Mike Issler of New Jersey. Congratulations to Kevin and Mike for their excellent displays.

I also wanted to talk with all of you about some serious issues that have come up regarding new insulator discoveries. It was just one year ago that I told you about some glass blocks that had been discovered in California. since then there have been some additional finds, including some EC&M's (CD 123) that were skirt embossed, a few embossed threadless CD 735's, and some C.E.W. ponies (CD 120) in unusual colors.

All these new finds are very exciting, but a

lot of controversy has developed as to whether or not these items are legitimate. Discussions have been heated, and even hostile. In consideration of what is best for the hobby, I thought that it might be a good idea to list some things to consider if you hear of some new discovery.

1. Don't be too quick to ment. Some people in the hobby will always be suspicious and will brand something as being a fake without any proof or reasonable suspicion.

pass judg-

"DON'T BE TOO QUICK

TO PASS JUDGMENT"

reasonable suspicion. Others will claim that it's legitimate without any substantiation, especially if they have a financial interest in the discovery. Be cautious.

- 2. What is the reputation of those who made the discovery?
- 3. How does the item look? If it's supposed to be old, does it look old? Examine it carefully.
- 4. How did the discovery come about? What was the story? Is it reasonable?

And last, I urge you all to avoid personal animosity. Personally, I feel that all of these recent discoveries are legitimate, but I know that there are others whom I admire and respect who have doubts.

Finally, don't forget the regular shows that will be coming up in the near future: the Chico Show in March, Enumclaw and Cayucos in May, Denver and Namarata B.C. in June, and the 1996 NIA National in Long Beach in July. See you there!

Grant Salzman, NIA #1785 Western Region Vice President

Visitation to the Dig Site of the CD 133.4 Bullets Report to the NIA Board of Directors

by John A. McDougald

On June 4, 1995, I drove to Cleveland, Ohio where I met Mike Bruner and together we drove to the dig site of the CD 133.4 bullets. We arrived late Sunday afternoon and took advantage of the daylight to walk several sections of the line where both whole bullets and shards had been found. In the course of about two hours of climbing, poking and scratching, we did not find any remnants of the bullets. However, we did locate a small piece of a CD 737 Lefferts. A find of this nature wouldn't have been significant considering our objective except for one thing. One of the criticisms that has been raised about the bullets has been the clean, shiny surface of the insulators. This piece of Lefferts, which has undoubtedly been lying on the ground for over 100 years is as clean, bright and shiny as any insulator I have ever owned. True, it is only a shard, but it is a nice one. In case you were wondering how I know it's from a Lefferts, I was lucky enough to find the piece with "LE" embossed on it. I felt that this find lent credence to the theory that the ground in that part of the world was less acidic than elsewhere, allowing glass to remain in contact with the ground's surface without being etched.

Early Sunday evening, Mike and I met Doug MacGillvary and together, we looked at another two sections of the line. Once again, we came up empty-handed. Since the light was fading, we quit for the evening. Monday morning, we were at it again, and during the course of the day Monday, we walked four more sections of the line. In all, counting the walks on both days, I estimate that we covered about six miles of the line in the 25-mile section where the bullets have been found. We found shards in only one section, a section where both Mike and Doug have found pieces before. Over roughly a 3/4-mile section, we found four pieces: one teal and three cobalt. The largest piece was the teal -- maybe 1/12 of an insulator, a piece from above the wire groove with both exterior surface and threading. The largest cobalt piece was about half the size of the teal piece. The other two cobalt pieces were quite small.

The dig site in part parallels a railroad right-of-way, and the two small shards were found embedded in the ground where some grading work had been done (within the last year or so I would guess) along the right-of-way. Probably the only thing that even caused us to see them was the fact that it was a sunny day and the light caught them just right as we were walking by. The two larger pieces were found where the old pole line ran, some distance away from the right-of-way and on the side of a hill which was somewhat difficult to negotiate. Those two pieces were about 1/2 mile apart, both lying on top of the ground, both partially obscured by leaves and pine needles. One was found at the base of a pole, the other wasn't near any significant landmark.

The two pieces that we found on the hill reminded me of one of the locations I walked with the west coast diggers in British Columbia. We covered a well traveled section of

the old Cariboo line (part of the Collins Line feeder), and even after twenty or so trips to this location, we were still able to find pieces of cobalt Cal Electrics and miscellaneous threadless. The explanation -- rain and the general movement down the hill. Visits at six month intervals resulted in additional shards being unearthed naturally, only then becoming visible to the careful observer. Is it possible that the same process would explain why additional pieces keep turning up at each subsequent visit to the site? It's possible.

Unfortunately, after spending two days at the site, I am in no better position to proclaim the legitimacy of the bullets than I was before the visit. However, I will say this: I believe that old glass could sit in this location for a very long time without showing the signs of sickness that most of us would expect. I also kept careful track of the locations where we found shards and the locations where Mike and Doug have found shards on previous excursions. I find it almost inconceivable that someone or several people in collaboration with one another would have "seeded" a line in such a way that would result in the dispersion of pieces over the wide and rather remote locations that these pieces have been found.

One thing that I cannot comment on is how old is the glass. Assuming that there is no collusion, could the insulators still be relatively new? I think I can come up with a story that answers that question with "yes" and still cover all of the facts that I believe to be true. I won't speculate on that at this time. Bottom line -- I found nothing that indicated that the bullets are fakes; I didn't go with the expectation that I could prove that they are legitimate, and I can't; I believe the glass could be old but I don't know for sure; I do not believe that anyone seeded the line.

If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me.



FROM THE PROMOTION &

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

We officially began the project of producing a video on the subject of insulator collecting four months ago. Since then, we have received an enthusiastic response from the readership to our first "Drip Points" article. We were even mailed a video of a collection and the Marble Collector's Society of America's "Guide to the Hobby of Marble Collecting". We have incorporated your input and the feedback from several members of the board into our final draft of the outline. Thank you all for your input.

We have found basically two different ways to approach the video. One is a very "insulator-centric" approach where the insulators are the show. In this approach, the script is simply read by a narrator to describe the insulator on the screen. Historical facts are merely Although very descriptive, we feel that this approach is too bland and perhaps advanced for the intended audience. The approach we plan combines insulators on display with interviews, show footage, old film clips, photo stills and insulators at work in their natural habitat. We even hope to incorporate background music.

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This approach is technically far more difficult and will require in-depth video production skills. However, we feel the end-product will be more appealing. Many challenges lie ahead as we con-tinue towards this goal. From what we have

"MANY CHALLENGES

LIE AHEAD"

seen from the Marble Collector's Society of America, it is likely that more videos covering advanced topics

could follow in a series.

Hopefully, some of you will have seen some of the content we put together in Microsoft Powerpoint, a presentation software package, that Bill Meier presented at the London Ohio show. During the Winter months to follow, we will be busy writing the script and planning the production.

As always, your ideas on how to best put the video together are appreciated. We want to know about common problems to avoid as well. For instance, amateur video can make the viewer nauseous. Not because of the content but by the way the camera moves and bobs around. I am sure others have experienced this phenomena. Let's make this leap into the world of video as interesting and entertaining as we can using the skills and tools at our disposal. Stay tuned to future issues of *Drip Points* to hear how the project is going.

Seasons Greetings to all the best in collecting in 1996.

David R. Wiecek, NIA #3225 Promo. & Education Co-Chairperson



FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIRMAN

It sure has been a heck of a year. The National was just sensational, and the Western Regional had some great displays. I hear that the Eastern Regional was a great show as well. The hobby seems to me to be as strong as ever and growing stronger. I sure hope that all of you had as wonderful a year as Patti and I did.

Well, down to business! As of July, 1996, Steve Bobb, our NIA President, will be finished with his term of office. Steve has done an excellent job. Also, Grant Salzman's term as Vice President of the Western Region is coming to a close. Thanks, Steve and Grant! Both of these positions will be filled at the next National, in Long Beach in 1996. If you know of anyone who you think would be a good candidate for either position, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. If you would like to run for either position yourself, please send me a short resume. Resumes should get to me no later than March 15th. Please get involved to keep the NIA going strong.

Have safe and happy holidays.

Thanks.

Ron Norton, NIA #5150 Nominations Chairman





TWENTY- SIXTH NATIONAL SHOW MARLBORO, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



On Friday, the Fourteenth of July, 1995 at 5:05 p.m., President Steve Bobb called the Twenty-Fourth General meeting of the NIA to order and welcomed the more than one hundred members who attended. Board Members and Committee Chairpersons were introduced by President Steve Bobb.

OLD BUSINESS;

- 1. President Bobb made a motion to approve the minutes of the Twenty-Third General meeting held in Houston, Texas and it was approved.
- 2. The Treasurers report was given by Mike Guthrie.

NEW BUSINESS;

- 1. Executive Director Claude A. Wambold announced the dates and locations of the 1996 NIA shows. He also introduced the show hosts who were there and each gave a short presentation.
- The 27th National Show and Convention will be held in Long Beach, CA. Show hosts are Dwayne Anthony and Dave Hall. Dates are July 19-21.
- -The Central Regional will be held in Houston, TX. Show hosts are Elton Gish and John Hall. Dates are Sept. 7 & 8th.
- -The Eastern Regional will be held in Kulpsville, PA. Dates are Sept. 28 -29. Show host is James Frustieri.
- 2. Mike Guthrie spoke on NIA finances and outlined how the NIA intends to help future show hosts financially.
- 3. Bill Meier was installed as new Eastern Vice President and gave a short acceptance speech.
- 4. Grant Salzman spoke on how good it was to work with Dick Bowman as Vice President.
- 5. Dick Bowman spoke about Dave Hall and Bill Meier.
- 6. President Steve Bobb read the names of fellow collectors who passed on the previous year.
- 7. President Steve Bobb announced that Kevin Lawless has submitted his resignation as Promotions Director and that we are looking for someone to fill the position.
- 8. President Steve Bobb announced that the NIA will be sending a survey to all members to be filled out and returned.

The meeting was then opened for comments from the membership. Len Linscott noted Ev Bowmans' contributions to the hobby. Marilyn Albers introduced Warren & Fay Forster from Australia

and Marc Schmitz-Lehanne from Germany. Bill Meier talked on the New England room display and history and urged all who had not seen it to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claude A. Wambold, NIA #1717

A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCT MARKETING DEPARTMENT

There is still a little time left to place your holiday orders, but not much! I haven't exactly been swamped by orders, so I hope you aren't all waiting until the last minute; order today! An order form is included in this issue for your convenience.

There has been a significant change in the way we handle those little bars that hang from your NIA name badge. From now on, the NIA will automatically send bars to members who assume an NIA position or

earn an award such as Lifetime Member or Outstanding Service. We will also continue to handle bars such as "10 Year Member" this way. Bars for previously held positions will be handled on an individual basis.

May you enjoy peace and happiness during this holiday season and in the New Year!

Happy Collecting,

Jill Meier, NIA #4323

Product Marketing Chairperson

A NOTE FROM SHOW STANDARDS

During this past year, I've heard a great deal of talk concerning changing the NIA judging rules. No changes have ever been made since they have been written. Maybe its time to a look and consider revising them. The complaint that I have heard the most was that rarity is given too high a point value. Perhaps by lowering the rarity point value, it will give the person without 'deep pockets' who hasn't been in the hobby for years a better shot at winning. Rarity is also the most difficult element to judge since no one judge can

be an expert in all the aspects of the hobby. In addition, by adding the points taken away from the rarity category to the originality section, it would make it harder for people to display the same thing over and over and still win.

We are soliciting input from the membership, so If anyone has any suggestions or would like a copy of the current judging rules please write or call me. We hope to have resolution on this issue before the next National show.

Ginny Way, NIA #5183 Show Standards Chairperson



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Another year comes to an end, and what a great one it has been. The NIA had it's largest Membership year ever. At a Membership total of 1358, with 254 new members, that's very impressive. On behalf of the NIA governing board, I would like to thank all of the members that have shown their support over the past years and welcome to those who are new to the hobby with hopes that they will be members for many years to come.

As of now, we have 311 members for 1996 that includes 11 new members. This is also the Year that NIA # 6000 will be issued. Who will that be?

The NIA over the past years has proven to be a corner-stone to the hobby with it's involvement in shows, education, ethics &

"THE NIA HAS PROVEN TO BE

A CORNERSTONE TO THE HOBBY"

standards and the recently established insurance policy for the members of

the hobby. It's hard to say where the hobby would be if it were not for the NIA or the many local clubs and shows that have brought people together over the years. The contributions made by many

individuals must also not go unrecognized as being part of the "glue" that keeps the whole hobby alive.

A note on the dark side, at every National show, Friday is NIA day. After going through my records I have found that, on an average, 87 Members per year are only members for that particular year. Wanting to gain access to NIA day at a national should not be the only reason for becoming a member. Everyone's support is needed to preserve the hobby so it does not become, like the days of the open wire, a thing of the past. One can always find fault in anything, if they really try, but on the whole the NIA is an asset to the preservation of the hobby

That's my opinion, what's yours? E-Mail me if you like. My Address is ijib@AOL.COM

Once again, thanks to all of You that have supported the hobby over the years and hopes that this year will be a good year for all. Remember Santa is coming!!

Good Collecting

Joe J. Beres, NIA #563 Membership Director



NIA ETHICS WARNING !!

by Elton Gish, NIA Ethics Chairman

The NIA Board has decided to publish the name of Larry Richards in an effort to prevent other NIA members from becoming involved in insulator sales fraud. There have been six people affected with the first incident occurring in October 1994 and the last incident occurring in April 1995. In each case, Larry would call the collector and offer one or more nice glass insulators at an attractively low price. Each person sent full payment for the insulators and received nothing in return. In addition, he was nearly impossible to contact by telephone and he would not return messages or answer letters of inquiry. The first five packages were supposedly "lost" by UPS. The total amount involved in the six cases was about \$4000. Through efforts of the NIA Ethics Chairman, Larry made payments and totally repaid five of the six collectors; however, he still owes one collector \$800 after ten months of sporadic payments.

Larry was warned in May 1995 that another similar complaint would lead to further action by the NIA. Another incident was reported in November 1995 concerning the order of two insulators of \$225 which were never received. This was the result of Larry responding to an advertisement in Crown Jewels of the Wire. Even though Larry is now making regular payments to one collector, we cannot tolerate a continuation of these situations. The potential for additional incidents and losses by our members is too great.

The NIA is left with no choice but to warn all of our members against entering into 🛭 transactions with Larry and to revoke all rights granted him as a current or future NIA member. Below is Larry's name, addresses, and terminated NIA number: It is regrettable that such a well-known and long-time member must be expelled from our organization.

LARRY RICHARDS, NIA #509

4031 Airport Blvd, #63 or 1367 Goodman Ave.
Mobile, AL 36608 Mobile, AL 36605





1995-96 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION FIRST QUARTER ENDING 9/30/95

Beginning Balance-General Fund **Education & Promotion Account**

7/1/95

10388.84 1556.00

Revenues

0.00 **Donations** 0.00 Interest Membership Dues 696.00 Miscellaneous Income 0.00 709.00 **Product Sales**

Total Revenues:

1405.00

General Fund Expenses

0.00 Advertising 0.00 Bank Charges/Taxes Marketing Products 736.00 106.91 Misc. Postage Misc. Printing 1.70 Misc. Supplies 34.45 Misc. Professional Services 0.00 32.00 Crown Jewels Rebates **Drip Points Printing** 643.87 **Drip Points Postage** 262.27 Show Advertising Subsidy 575.93 Show Awards 9.01 159.13 Stationery Supplies 29.33 Telephone 84.82 Special Projects

Total Expenses:

2675.42

Closing Balance, General Fund: **Education & Promotion Fund Balance** 9118.42 1556.00

Total Balance on Hand

10674.42



rev112695

1995-1996 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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1994-1995 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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Jill Meier, NIA # 4323 Product Marketing Committee 103 Canterbury Court Carlisle, MA 01741-1860 (508) 369-0208

NIA LOGO ITEM ORDER FORM

	Quantity			Price	Amount
NIA LOGO			light blue, 100% cotton	\$13.00	
			se note: \$1.00 extra for XXLg)	\$14.00	
on back	73	Sweatshirts	gray, medium-weight, 50/50		
Zw	7	Sm Med	i Lg XLg	\$20.00	
NEW NEW	72	XXLg (Plea	se note: \$2.00 extra for XXLg)	\$22.00	
		NIA Caps	gray with 5-color logo	\$10.00	
		NIA Mugs	white with 5-color logo	\$8.00	
		Patches	light blue w/ 5-color logo $(3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ")	\$4.00	
Norman 12th INSULA DR		Decals	light blue w/ 3-color logo $(2" \times 1^{3}/4")$	\$1.00	
		Name Badges	white with blue letters, green and brown logo	\$11.00	
				Subtotal	
NATIONAL INSULA OR ASSOCIATION		Please add \$3.00 for the first T-shirt, sweatshirt, cap or mug and \$1.00 for each additional one of these items Total			
	and \$1.00				
		(Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to National Insulator Association)			
	Name				
	A 11				
	City/State/Zip				
	Telephone No.				
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *					
Name Badge Customization Information					
Please complete the relevant information below. Use the back of this order form for additional badges.					
Name			NIA #		
City			State		