

# **Drip Points**



#### QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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

#### In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ♦ A Note from the Editor ... Kevin Jacobson
- From the President ... Tom Katonak
- From the First Past President ... Steve Marks
- Regional Reports... Howard Banks, Ed Peters, Ken Willick
- From the Nominations Chair... Jack Roach
- From the Authentication & Classification Chair... John McDougald
- ♦ Historian Note... Rick Soller
- ♦ Note from the Secretary...Bob Stahr
- From the Awards and Recognition Committee ... Sandy Ellision
- From the Ethics Chair ... Charles Bibb
- The Early Folks...Bill Kemp
- Product Marketing ... Carolyn Berry
- ♦ Financial Report ... Dudley Ellis
- ♦ Membership Renewal Form ... Joe Beres

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone, Its that time again. I really have to say that there is some pretty important information being conveyed in this issue of the *Drip Points*.

If you don't read this one you will be missing out. We have finally put together a list of "Questionable Insulators" as defined by the NIA and included photos on our first color insert (see pages 7 & 8).

There is also some good information about the on going investigation by the US postal service into potential mail fraud as a result of the information and evidence submitted to them. See Tom Katonak and Steve Marks column's for more information.

A couple of board members also speak out regarding ICON and some of the troubles of late. See the articles from Ed Peters and Charles Bibb on this. Of course, as always, there is a lot of other great information. See the information regarding upcoming shows, *Crown Jewels* collectables, and on NIA merchandise that is available for sale.

Also, Bill Kemp (NIA #26) contributed a great list of the NIA's first fifty members that you may find interesting as I did. See "The Early Folks"

We had 43 members taking their Drip Points electronically this time. It's a great start, but it would really help if more of you singed up to the electronic edition.

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

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, it doesn't feel much like spring as I sit here and write this, but by the time you all read this, I'm hoping we're well on our way to warmer weather – and the ability to get outdoors and kick around for some insulators. My first outing will be look-

ing for old threadless telegraph insulators along the fort-to-fort line in central New Mexico on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March; wish me some luck!

On to NIA matters, the "buzz" seems to be on all the activity going on with putting a crimp in the manufacture and distribution of fake and altered insulators. As you all know by now, we have taken a stand on the authenticity of the "new style" E.C.&M.s that appeared some six years ago. We talked about this in the last issue, and Steve Marks, who heads up this particular thrust for the NIA, will have a brief update in his article.

New in this issue is our first installment of a listing of <u>questionable</u> insulators along with descriptions of these items. This terminology means that such pieces are quite possibly either imitation insulators, or altered in some fashion from

their original form - by mechanical actions (i.e. sandblasting, grinding, embossing modifications, etc.), heating, cutting and re-gluing, irradiation, dying or painting, and nonfactory carnival coating. We call these questionable, if, in the expert opinion of the NIA Board members, these things have been faked or tampered with, but we don't (vet!) have enough evidence in hand to formally charge the per-We are working on petrators. gathering the necessary evidence! While we have talked about questionable pieces for several years, we have never actually published out findings. So this is a "first" in that regard.

As you all know by now, we have taken a stand on the authenticity of the "new style" E.C.&M.s that appeared some six years ago.

Yet another first is that this issue sports the <u>first ever use of color pictures in *Drip Points!* This was made possible by the anonymous donation of an NIA member. Let me say "thanks" on behalf of the entire organization!</u>

In this edition, John McDougald, Chairman of the Authentication and Classification Committee, lists those questionable pieces in the first group, i.e., those we believe are likely to be imitation insulators. There's not very many on the list. And we just shortened the list by taking off the five styles of E.C.&M.s, which we used to consider questionable but now know to be imitations. Take note of the descriptions of these pieces and study the pictures. Knowledge is a great tool when it comes to making decisions on whether or not to buy a particular insulator.

Again, this *Drip Points* does <u>not</u> cover the prolific group of questionable items brought about by <u>altering techniques</u>. This will be in a future issue of *Drip Points*, but we are working on this group even as I write.

Now, when you go through the list of potential imitations in this issue, if you don't see something on this list that you think should be there, bring this to my or John's attention: We'll need all your supporting evidence as well, so have that ready. Also let me point out, if we uncover evidence that would indicate that a piece on the "Q-List" is

in fact *bona fide*, we will publish this information in order to "clear the record".

On to another topic dear to my heart, let me talk for a moment about the NIA shows. Things are progressing on course for the upcoming National Convention and Show in Springfield, Ohio this summer. I'm really looking forward to this event (I really love the shows!). And the planning for the San Jose Western Regional is well underway for August 2003. However, we have yet to receive any bids for shows in 2004 - regional or national. We usually have this issue pretty well decided by the beginning of April in the preceding year, but at this time, we don't have anything on the drawing boards. So if you have an idea, please pick up the phone and call your regional VP - or call me if he's not home!

I think that's it for the spring issue. I'm looking forward to seeing you in person at the upcoming events. Best in collecting,

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 NIA President

# FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



You may recall from my last column that the NIA Board has formed the opinion and belief, that the J, K, L, M and N mold style EC&Ms are "Imitation Insulators." "Imitation Insulators," as defined in the "NIA Code of Ethics," are ones

that purport to be, but in fact are <u>not</u>, original insulators. This category includes, but is not limited to, reproductions, copies, replicas, or counterfeits of original insulators. Identification of the J, K, L, M and N mold style EC&Ms were detailed in a color in-

sert in the January issue of "Crown Jewels of the Wire" magazine.

I also noted in that column that the NIA was working with the Office of the United States Postal Inspectors on this matter. The Postal Inspectors are conducting an investigation and so far have compiled damage claims from numerous victims in excess of \$100,000. As soon as we have further information on the status of their inves-

tigation, we will share it with the general membership. I ask for your continued patience, and promise you that once the preliminary work has been completed on the criminal investigation, that the evidence which led to the NIA Board forming its opinion and belief regarding the J, K, L, M and N mold style EC&Ms, will be released to the general membership.

In the meantime, the NIA Board has determined that the J, K, L, M and N mold style imitation EC&Ms, are "objectionable to the best interests of the hobby." "Objectionable to the best interests of the hobby" includes, but is not limited to, any action or item which is likely to cause financial damage and/or loss, ill will, or injury to collectors or organizations involved in the collecting of insulators and related items. For exam-

The Postal Inspectors are conducting an investigation and so far have compiled damage claims from numerous victims in excess of \$100,000. As soon as we have further information on the status of their investigation, we will share it with the general membership.

ple, a false or misleading representation of fact likely to cause confusion, and/or the possibility of the use of an insulator to commit fraud (either by the issuing party or through a subsequent party).

Although my last several "Drip Point" columns have been focused on serious matters (i.e. NIA rule changes, the matter of fakes, etc.), I did want everyone to know that I am still having fun! Melanie, Sam

and I attended the Albuquerque show and had a great time. Also, by the time you read this we will have attended the Yuma show hosted by our own Grand Canyon State Insulator Club. I will also be attending the National in Ohio and hope to get to the Western Regional this year in San Jose.

Speaking of shows, we do not have a bid in yet for the 2004 National, which is slated to be in the Eastern Region that year. I am hoping that someone or some club from that region will apply soon. If not, then the NIA, pursuant to its by-laws, will open-up the bidding for the 2004 National to the other That could mean two regions. back-to-back Nationals in those regions! The 2003 National is already going to be in the Central Region this year. And if the 2004 National were to be held in the

Western Region, it would be back-to-back because the 2005 National is slated to be in that region that year! So come on you Easterners! Brush off the snow, search out some locations and get a bid in!

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 NIA First Past President

### In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of longtime collector and strong supporter of the National Insulator Association, **Grant Salzman**, on Sunday morning, the 9th of February, 2003. Grant was a friend to everyone in the hobby, and those of you that knew him personally will remember him most for his wonderful stories of insulator collecting in times past. He also had a passion for collecting the CD 143 Canadian beehives and was the hobby's recognized expert in this arena. Grant also had a most memorable flair for presenting the Nor Cal Club award at many of the past national shows and his distinguished resonant voice would fill the hall as the audience hung onto every word. He was a man of great stature and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

- Tom Katonak

# FROM THE WESTERN EGION



Out our way....

If you live in the West, or plan on traveling to the West, there are some great shows in the works you should plan on attending this year.

Allow me to mention just three in this article. First, a tradition has passed on. For decades an annual show has been held in Enumclaw, Washington in the spring. After it was canceled this year, supporters rallied to keep the spirit

of the event alive. Now, the Washington Bottle Collector's Association Bottle and Insulator Show will be held April 11 & 12 at

A must-attend show will

be the NIA's Western

Regional Show and Sale,

hosted this year by the

**NorCal Insulator Club** 

August 8-10 in San Jose,

California.

the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Chehalis, WA. For information, call Win Trueblood at 360-491-1285.

A must-

attend show will be the NIA's Western Regional Show and Sale, hosted this year by the NorCal Insulator Club August 8-10 in San Jose, California. This will be the largest insulator event of the year west of the Rocky Mountains. For details, call Bill Rohde at 530-473-2461. Email: mud-man@colusanet.com

In the fall, a new event promises to light up the Pacific Northwest. In 2001, the Jefferson State Insulator Club hosted the Western Regional Show in Medford, Oregon. Now, JSIC club members have teamed up with the Siskiyou Antique Bottle Collectors Association

to initiate a c o m b i n e d event sure to draw a substantial turnout of dealers and collectors. The show will be held at Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville.

Oregon... a town famous for hosting some of the first bottle and insulator shows back in the 1960's.

For information contact Scott Morrell at 541-608-1043. Email: nslater@medford.net

Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region Vice President

# FROM THE CENTRAL REGION



Greetings Fellow Collectors, One of he nicest things about belonging to an insulator club is the opportunity to see fellow

collectors insulators and their displays. Craig and Michael Harders of Winona, MN sponsored the last insulator meeting/swap meet that the NorthWestern Insulator Club had. They have put together an outdoor insulator display that really shows insulators in the best light possible. It's amazing to me

the different ways that collectors have found to display their prizes.

Club meetings and swap meets help make the long northern winters a little more tolerable. It's a great time to get together and swap insulator fables, buy or trade insulators and snack out.

Another nice thing about clubs is that you're a lot less likely to bump into a "clique" that sometimes pervades larger shows. I've attended bottle club and model railroading meetings in the past where not a single person said a word to me. It was almost like I wasn't even there. If you don't know anyone, it can be very hard to break the ice.

That's what's nice about the insulator club meetings I've attended. The groups are much smaller, so if someone new shows up, people seem to go out of their way to make you feel welcome. So if you have a club that's local to you, give it a try it's a great way to really get to know other collectors. Another thing, NEVER be intimidated by another collectors collection. Just about everyone started out with a Hemingray 9 or 42, and collected over many years to get to where they are. I know. Everybody starts small.

Another important function that clubs serve is hosting insulator shows. Whether they are the Na-

The problem is that good or bad, LCON has almost become a "police force" for E-Bay, with members hammering some unknowing persons about selling fakes. We should always give the seller the benefit of the doubt; they truthfully do not always know they have fakes.

tional, a Regional or a local shows, almost all shows are sponsored by clubs.

One more thing I would like to touch on here of a slightly different nature, but related. Internet communications are a wonderful thing. E-mail, E-Bay, ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net), personal insulator websites, the NIA website have all added greatly to the hobby. Insulators that would have been lost to the hobby and thrown out as junk have instead been recirculated back into the hobby.

The Internet together with almost any collectable is a really good thing; it helps inform people so that they know what is collectable. The down side is that people have a tendency to forget that there is another person on the other end of a flaming e-mail. It amazes me what some people will send in an e-mail to a large public forum, but would never dare say to someone face-to-face. We've all seen this and it isn't pretty sometimes. Understand that some of the people in the audience are new to the hobby and ICON may be their first contact to our hobby.

Another thing that I've seen is ICON members going after people that have altered insulators listed on E-Bay. We all know that altered insulators are a bane to our hobby. No one should knowingly

profit from fake or altered insulators. The problem is that good or bad, ICON has almost become a "police force" for E-Bay, with members hammering some unknowing persons about selling fakes. We should always give the seller the benefit of the doubt; they truthfully do not always know they have fakes.

Whether you realize it or not, everyone in this small and unique hobby is an ambassador of this hobby. (I know this sounds a little preachy.)

Thanks, and happy collecting.

Ed Peters, NIA #6300 Central Region Vice President

# FROM THE EASTERN REGION



Spring Greetings from the Eastern Regional V.P.

The Springfield National

seems to be shaping up real

well, with over 150 tables

now spoken for. If you've

never attended a National

this will be a good one to

shoot for, as it may well turn

out to be the biggest show

Hello everyone. At least

hope Spring is on the way. It's been bitter cold the past few weeks here in Up-NY, state with no end in sight. The only things that warm my heart

(besides my family and a cup of coffee!) are some of the great shows coming up in the next month or so. I missed out on the annual "Winterfest" sponsored by

on record.

the Western Reserve Insulator Club this past January. Even though it's a small show, I heard attendance was excellent, with lots of insulators and stories changing hands. Steve Blair even left the sheep alone long enough to make the trip up to Cleveland. The Springfield National seems to be shaping up real well, with over 150 tables now spoken for. If you've never attended a National this will be a good one to shoot for, as it may well turn out to be the biggest show on record.

Also coming up on March 1st will be the Maryland Line, MD insulator show, sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club.

Another well attended show if you get the chance to go.

March 29<sup>th</sup>
will find me
again attending the Tarentum, PA
Spring Show
and Sale,
again hosted
by those West-

ern Reserve guys. Man, they sure do like their insulators!

The Yankee Polecats will

be holding their show on April 6 in Enfield CT. This is a long running and well-attended show, and one well worth the travel time. I've seen all kinds of rare and interesting pieces come through the doors in the many years I've attended this show. Even porcelain!

Let's not forget the Canadians! The Ottawa Valley Insulator Collectors will host their 5th Annual get together on April 19 at the fairgrounds in Perth, Ontario. I'm sure a wide variety of colorful pieces will be available for sale or trade.

There are several other bottle shows and swap meets coming up, but I just want to give everybody a heads up and encourage you to attend your local shows and swap meets. Good luck in your insulator endeavors in 2003!

Ken Willick, NIA #3709 Eastern Region Vice President

willienest sponsored by

# FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



Spring has sprung in South Texas. A new year of insulator collecting is under way. It is time for an election for NIA Central Region Vice President. This is the last call for additional candidates. If anyone in the Central Region wants to serve the NIA, please contact me and let me know. If we have a contested election, a ballot will be included in the next DRIP POINTS as well as your personal

security code. We will also again have the electronic ballot option.

See you at a show somewhere.

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations Chairman

# Authentication & Classification Committee



Over the past several years, the NIA has been active in dealing with the issues of imitation and altered insulators. In many cases, we have reason to suspect that a given item may be an imitation or an altered piece, but the proof is not (yet) in hand. These items we have labeled as "questionable insulators". The NIA Handbook dis-

cusses this category at the bottom of page 19:

While the NIA Code of Ethics requires Imitation and Altered Insulators to be plainly marked "reproduction" and "fake" respectively, it does not require Questionable Insulators (those which may not be Original Insulators), to be permanently marked. The goal of this rule is to cause a prospective purchaser to easily recognize that an item is a reproduction or fake, or to cause them to question its authenticity. Insulators of guestionable authenticity should be represented with candor. If not, a show host can require a participant to remove the item from a display or sales table.

The NIA Board of Directors has classified the following as "questionable insulators" and provides pictures and descriptions

below to help NIA members identify these items if they are offered for sale or trade. This notification is designed to make NIA members aware of the concerns that the NIA Board has regarding these pieces, and the NIA Board recommends that NIA members exercise due caution in any transactions involving these pieces. Note that this list deals only with potential imitation pieces; questionable items produced by alteration will be covered in a future *Drip Points*.

If you have any questions about any of the above information, please contact any member of the NIA Board or myself, John McDougald, chairman of the NIA Authentication and Classification Committee.

John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification Committee



1. CD 120 C.E.W. – These questionable insulators appeared in the early 1990's. They have been found in a wide variety of spectacular colors, not before known to the insulator hobby. However, some pieces were also produced in colors similar to known legitimate CD 120 C.E.W.'s, such as the aqua one pictured.



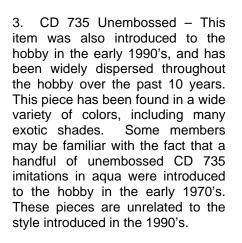
"Sierra" Glass Blocks



"S.F." Glass Blocks

2. Glass Blocks – Two different styles of glass blocks have been classified as questionable insulators. The first has become known as the Sierra glass block, designated as such based on the purported location that they were found. They are unembossed and have been found in several colors, including cobalt blue and various shades of green and aqua. These were introduced to the hobby in 1996, and the purported discovery was documented in a *Crown Jewels of the Wire* article in that year. The second style is known as the San Francisco (or S.F.) block and was introduced to the hobby in 2000. This piece is embossed with the S.F. Glass Co. name and has been found in aqua.







6. CD 738 Unembossed – The following piece was purported to have been dug near Zanesville, Ohio and became known in the hobby in 2001. To date, only one specimen of this piece is known in the hobby and is pictured here.



4. CD 133.4 Unembossed "West Virginia bullets" – This piece was introduced to the hobby in the late 1980's and has been found in three unusual colors: purple, cobalt blue and teal aqua. Some additional pieces have been found in aqua and clear, but they are much less common. Chards of these pieces have been located on a railroad line in Virginia, but the NIA has determined that these pieces should be classified as questionable.



7. Mexican Threadless – Dozens of these pieces were introduced to the hobby in 2001 and were originally described as "Mexican threadless insulators". To date, no evidence has been provided to the NIA to indicate that these pieces were ever used in the traditional sense of an insulator. They have been found in a variety of colors, and have been classified as a questionable insulators, even though it is not a replica of a known glass insulator style.





5. CD 731 Tillotson – This new style of CD 731 Tillotson appeared in the hobby around 2000, and has surfaced in a range of unusual colors, including blackglass and various shades of blue and green. These pieces are distinguished from the well established legitimate CD 731 Tillotsons because they have a higher, more pointed dome and a slightly different embossing style on the (arc) Tillotson embossing.

#### FROM THE HISTORIAN



## Crown Jewels of the Wire Collectibles

by Rick Soller, Historian

Thanks to Glen McAdam of Los Angeles, CA for the inspiration for this article. Glen has sent the NIA archives several historical items over the years but in January of this year he sent a mimeographed letter from Dora Harned, the first editor of Insula-

tors: Crown Jewels of the Wire, introducing collectors to the magazine. This got methinking about other Crown Jewel collectables. Some of

these are in the NIA archives and some in my personal collection. Feel free to send missing items and enjoy pictures of this on the NIA web site.

The green flyer sent by Glen indicates that by sending \$4 to "Mrs. Harned," a collector could receive a one year subscription to "the first national journal for INSULATOR COLLECTORS alone." Areas covered included poetry and humor,

amusing experiences told by the collectors, the foreign market, tips on cleaning, club notes, and much more. Dora also argued that "We need to share our information, form clubs and become a closer knit circle as our nearest relatives, the Bottle Collectors, have done." I think this is a sentiment still held by collectors. A few years later, this form was revised and printed on pink paper but with the same basic sentiment.

When the McDougald's took over the magazine, the form shrank, was printed on buff colored paper, listed more specific columns carried in the magazine and now claimed to be "the only internationally circulated magazine devoted exclusively to insulator collecting...." Show were still listed for free and columns included Ma Bell's Place, Telephone Almanac, Walking the Lines, New Finds and Patent Office.

At some point, the McDougalds were making extra copies of the *CJ* to give away but ran out of covers so they just put on covers from other issues that were extras. This explains why I have an August 1997 *CJ* with the cover of the July 1997 issue.

When the McDougalds moved to Illinois, I was lucky enough to live close enough that I could visit every once in a while. Often I ended up with some interesting *CJ* collectibles as a result. These usually illustrated how the magazine was made. For example, I have a large sheet with color covers for four different issues indicating that the lead time for some parts of the magazine was over four months. There are also color covers in

which only one color has been applied showing how one color is applied over another until the final multiple color cover is created. At some point, the McDougalds were making extra copies of the *CJ* to give away but ran out of covers so they just put on covers from other issues that were extras. This explains why I have an August 1997 *CJ* with the cover of the July 1997 issue.

Other collectibles include an auto litter bag, coupons for free ads, business cards, pens and lots of stationery. Over the years, a variety of envelopes have been used to send mail from the *Crown Jewels*. In the 1980s and 1990s, these envelopes showed a line of poles with four insulators disappearing into the horizon. After this came the current logo with a diamond in the center and the words "Crown Jewels" over it. It will be interesting to see what collectibles the new editors produce.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Historian

#### FROM THE SECRETARY



Anyone looking to host an NIA sponsored Regional or National contact me immediately!

The deadline of April 1st is fast approaching and I have not received the typical requests for bid forms to host a show. If you have thought about hosting a show, and aren't sure, give me a call; maybe someone else near you is too. The upcoming 2004 National is to be in the Eastern region, but if no bids are officially received by the deadline, the NIA will open bidding to all regions. Therefore, if you are a member of another region who is thinking about hosting, don't rule it

out for 2004.

This years shows are right on schedule. The National show in Springfield, OH, is basically sold

The upcoming 2004

National is to be in the

Eastern region, but if no bids

are officially received by the

deadline, the NIA will open

bidding to all regions.

out. Check with the show hosts for availability; think they have а waiting list. It promises be to а great show

in a centralized location for people in the Midwest as well as the entire East Coast. The Western Regional show in San Jose, CA as of this writing has 13 sales tables left and will have 24 displays. This show is not until August, so you better get your reservations in soon!

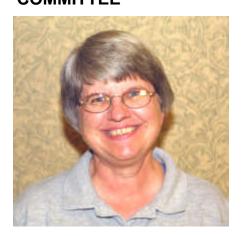
The Research and Authentication Committee is continuing in it's efforts to expose all fake and altered insulators. I know it sounds like I have said this in previous issues, but they are really working on this. As with any investigation, informa-

tion must be kept confidential so as not to jeopardize the investigation. We hope that all NIA members understand this and will be

patient with us. The end result is what we are striving to attain. News in this issue and future ones will definitely be worth reading.

Robert B. Stahr, NIA #4186 NIA Secretary

# FROM THE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE



The 2002 Central Regional was

held in Hudson Ohio last fall and reported several excellent displays. Jill and Bill Meier won the NIA Best of Show Award for their "Got Milk?" display. Actually the full title of the display was "Got Milk? – a Sample from the Hemingray Dairy". The insulators were underlit to really highlight the milk in each one.

The Central Florida joint insulator and antique show was held in Maitland in January 2003. James Colburn won the NIA ribbon for his display of American made CD 121 tolls. There were insulators from various companies and with

different embossings. There were 5-7 AM TEL & TEL CO variations, some Brookfields, a WFG CO plus others.

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Chair, Awards & Recognition Committee

#### FROM THE ETHICS CHAIR



I think most insulator collectors, these days, would agree that ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net) has become an important part of our hobby. The daily discourse to be had there with hundreds of fellow collectors, plus instant access to a wealth of information makes it a valuable resource. I, for one, wouldn't want to be without it. Checking my ICON email is the first thing I do when I go online, and the last thing I do before disconnecting.

Sadly, however, I find myself enjoving the experience less and less lately, as more and more of us seem to be suffering from a disturbing loss of civility. Why is that? What transforms some collectors into malcontents when they sit down behind their keyboards? I don't know if it is the semianonymity of Internet communications, or the assumed safety afforded by distance, but clearly, some dehumanizing mechanism is at work. Some of the hurtful statements I've read recently on ICON would never have been made face- to-face.

So, what's the solution to this problem? While I generally loathe

censorship, I do, however, see the need for some limitations – etiquette, if you will. Webmaster, Bill Meier, has posted a thorough set of guidelines for the use of ICON, and everyone should read and understand them before posting to the list.

Sadly, however, I find

myself enjoying the experience

less and less lately, as more

and more of us seem to be

suffering from a disturbing loss

of civility. Why is that?

In a nutshell, the thoughtful I C O N e r should vet his posts by applying two screening considera-

tions: (1) Don't say anything on ICON that you wouldn't say, in person, to another collector, and (2) Don't say anything you wouldn't want your mother or your children to hear. Both are good tests for civility. I'd like to suggest a few others.

Before you hit the "send" button, ask yourself these four questions about that zinger you're about to fire off to more than a thousand other users: (1) Is your post the truth? Remember, many ICONers are new collectors; don't be guilty of spreading disinformation, propagating rumors, or passing off speculation as fact. And, accusations, founded or not, about the activities of other collectors should never be made on ICON. What is the intent of your post? Asking or answering an insulator query is probably the need Bill sought most to fill when he first set up the mailing list. But, if your post will do little, other than fan the flames of a growing controversy, consider holding off. (3) How will your post affect the other members of the list? Name-calling, rudeness, and intolerance have driven some collectors off ICON

altogether. Address others in the manner you would like to be spoken to, and you won't be part of the problem. (4) What does your post have to do with insulator collecting? We are a very diverse group of individuals brought together by a common interest. All

ICONers collect insulators, but some on the list might not share your fascination for lefthanded monkey

wrenches. Most of us have many other interests, but try to keep your posts topical.

On several occasions, I have seriously considered un-subscribing from ICON due to the combative antics of a vocal few, but ICON is just too important an asset to give up. So, I'd rather light a candle than curse the darkness. Let your ICON behavior be a shining example to others, too.

Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 Ethics Chairman

# THE EARLY FOLKS By Bill Kemp NIA #26

When I first entered the hobby their were no rules for shows. We had mainly bottle shows with a small mix of insulators. Later we had insulator shows at school gyms and whatever building could be rented affordably.

Their was a need for some uniformity in the hobby. On July 7, 1973 at Hutchinson, Kansas the NIA was established. I was there. The show was sponsored by Tom Wolfe and George Phillips. It was a great show with about 150 tables. Don and Dora Harned and Jim Garrity had tables there. Some of the Big names in our hobby were their such as Gerald and Esta Brown, Warren Olson, Rod Wing, Dick Augustyn, Ernie Rostock, N.R Woodward, Larry Veneziano, and many more. What a show we had!

Below you will find listed the first 50 members who joined the NIA. Some are deceased and some no longer active in the hobby. Myself, I dropped out in the late 70's, but I recently started again. Prices have really taken off from those early days.

Did you know any of the pioneers of our hobby?

#### NIA: THE FIRST FIFTY

1.	Warren Olson	Denison, IA	(Kansas)
2A.	Ernie Rostock	Pendleton, OR	
3.	Larry Harmon	Wentzville, MO	
4D.	Frederick Griffin	Palatka, FL	
5A.	Rod Wing	Garden City, MI	
6N.	Charles Wm. Henry	Bakersfield, CA	
7.	Stephen Freedman	Wallingford, CT	(Florida)
8A.	Lucy Wing `	Garden City, MI	
9D.	Ted Fedderson	Denison, IA	
10.	Al Leslie	Hutchinson, KS	
11.	Mary Leslie	Hutchinson, KS	
12D.	James Branstetter	Eureka, KS	
13D.	Jack Tod	Phoenix, AZ	
14D.	Bessie Branstetter	Eureka, KS	
15A.	Chris Hedges	Kansas City, MO	
16.	Jesse Moreland	Colorado Springs, CC	)
17.	Wilma Moreland	Colorado Springs, CC	
18D.	Rip West	Kingman, AZ	
19.	Richard Daugherty	Las Vegas, NV	
20.	Ed Hutchens	Salem, MO	
21.	Rodger M Shepherd	Springfield, OH	
22.	# NEVĖR ISS	. •	
23D.	Forrest Jones	New Carlisle, OH	
24N.	Henry Lyon	Springfield,OH	
25.	Robert Howard	Casper, WY	

(continued next page)

Legend:

A following the letter indicates still collecting.

D following the letter indicates Deceased

N following the letter indicates No Longer Collects
(city and/or state) means moved new location.

26A. 27D. 28D. 29A. 30. 31A. 32A.	William Kemp J. Paul Kelly Nell Kelly Maury G. Tasem Addie Tasem Donald Fabbi Barbara Fabbi	South El Monte,CA South Bend, IN South Bend, IN El Cajon, CA El Cajon, CA Las Vegas, NV Las Vegas, NV	
33A. 34A. 35A. 36D 37. 38D. 39D. 40.	Roberta McHenry W Dennis McHenry Lawrence Carpenter Robert W Brown Merwyn Valentine Marion Milholland Evelyn Milholland Robert Gilbert	Bettendorf, IA Bettendorf, IA Cheyenne, WY Casper, WY Hastings, NB Sequin, WA Sequin, WA Frankfort, KY	(Estes Park, CO) (Estes Park, CO)
41A. 42N. 43. 44. 45A	Elton Gish Lynda Gish Don Magnuson Jim Garrity Vernon Russell	Port Neches, TX Port Neches, TX Alliance, NB Paxinos, PA Galion, OH	(Buna, TX)
46. 47A. 48D. 49. 50.	Marlin Glascow Don Harned Dora Harned Delmer Hybertson Eugene Burger	Ormond Beach, FL Chico, CA Chico, CA Centerville, SD Indianapolis, IN	(Tennessee)

#### Legend:

A following the letter indicates still collecting.

D following the letter indicates Deceased

N following the letter indicates No Longer Collects

#### ...DRIP NOTES

- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available for information on some of the available companies contact:

  Kevin Jacobson (NIA Information Director) at 602-564-0851 or kwjacob@uswest.net
- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Tom Katonak and tell him what you're good at!
- Moving? Send change of address to Joe Beres (and save us the cost of resending your copy of *Drip Points*. *Each returned Drip Points costs the NIA \$0.85 plus the cost of printing it in the first place*).



#### Stock reduction specials

----- Blue t-shirt - \$9.00 -- Gray Cap - \$9.00 - Koozie - \$2.00 ---

### New items on board for the O"HI"O National! Embroidered Birch Gray Sweatshirt

Same style/color as the screen-printed sweatshirts, but with the embroidered logo on the left front without a large logo on the back.

We have new colors and styles for our men's polo shirts and new ladies denim and polo style shirts for a limited time offer!

Men's golf/polo (short sleeve) shirts, (M-XL) \$38.00 == (2X, 3X) \$42.00:

- 1. <u>Arnold Palmer</u> **Cream with herringbone navy/taupe** knit band on collar and cuffs. Side vents at the bottom sides. Nice fine cotton pique! This style has a 3-button tab front and the NIA logo on left front. <u>No pocket</u>. Very sharp!
- 2. <u>Cross Creek</u> **Putty** (**beige**) **with herringbone putty/black** knit band on collar and cuffs. Side vents at bottom sides. Nice waffle cotton pique! This style has a 3-button tab front and the NIA logo on left front. <u>No pocket</u>.
- 3. Outer Banks **Taupe with herringbone black/taupe** knit band on collar, side vents at bottom sides and a drop tail. Cotton pique fabric. This style has a 2-button tab, reinforced pocket with NIA logo above it.
- 4. <u>Ultra-Club</u> **Oatmeal with navy/natural** knit band on collar and cuffs. Side vents at bottom sides and a drop tail. Cotton pique fabric. This style has a 2 button front tab and the NIA logo on front side. <u>No pocket</u>.

<u>Ladies denim "sleeveless" shirt</u>. Nice quality stonewashed blue denim. The embroidered NIA logo on the left of button front. I would call this a "tuck in style" shirt. <u>Sells for \$32.00</u>.

<u>Ladies white cotton pique polo, "sleeveless" with a navy blue knit band collar</u> by Ultra Club. The embroidered NIA logo on the left of button front placket. There are 6 buttons on the front tab and side vents at the bottom sides. <u>Sells for \$35.00</u>.

<u>Ladies golf/polo short sleeve shirt</u> by Outer Banks. This new design is in **butter yellow with a black/ royal blue** trim knit band collar and cuffs. The embroidered NIA logo is on the left of button front placket. There are 4 buttons on the front tab and side vents at the bottom sides. Very nice! Sells for \$38.00.

### Please refer to the Spring Order Form, on the last page.

As always, please call or email me with any questions.



Carolyn Berry
NIA#4336
Product Marketing Chairman



### From the Treasurer

#### 2002-2003 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2002

**Dudley Ellis**, NIA #5085 **Treasurer** 

Beginning Balance-General Fund 10/1/200 Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account	9594.01 972.01 2196.75
Revenues	
Donations Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income Product Sales	0.00 2831.00 25.00 464.25 Total Revenues: 3320.25
General Fund Expenses	
Advertising Bank Charges/Taxes Marketing Products Misc. Postage Misc. Printing Misc. Supplies Misc. Professional Services Crown Jewels Rebates Drip Points Printing Drip Points Postage Show Advertising Subsidy Show Awards Stationery Supplies Telephone Special Projects Education Disp Postage	559.95 0.00 1110.04 145.78 8.39 86.35 0.00 70.00 1351.04 664.91 500.00 305.48 0.00 0.00 0.00 94.09 Total Expenses: 4896.03
Closing Balance, General Fund: Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures Museum Exploratory Committee Balance Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures Authentication/Ethics Account Balance Total Balance on Hand January 1, 2003	0.00 972.01 0.00 2196.75 11186.99

#### 2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 President 1024 Camino de Lucia Corrales, NM 87048 505-898-5592 tkatonak@comcast.net

Ken Willick, NIA #3709 Eastern Region VP 7349 Seneca Avenue Lima, NY 14485 585-624-3007 limaporc@yahoo.com

**Ed Peters**, NIA #6300 **Central Region VP** 5424 Dufferin Drive Savage, MN 55378 952-447-2422 edpeters@wamnet.com

Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region VP 1560 Hugo Road Merlin, OR. 97532 541-479-8348 hbanks@grantspass.com

**Dudley Ellis,** NIA #5085 **Treasurer** 131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281 770-957-9928 pony102@bellsouth.net

**Bob Stahr,** NIA #4186 **Executive Secretary** 515 Carriage Drive, 2D West Chicago, IL 60185 630-231-4171 bob@hemingray.com

Joe Beres, NIA #563 Membership Director 1315 Old Mill Path Broadview Heights, OH 44147 440-526-3478 jjjb@aol.com

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 Information Director 1102 West Aster Drive Phoenix, AZ 85029-2808 602-564-0815 kwjacob@uswest.net

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 First Past President 3655 W. Anthem Way, Suite A-109 Anthem, AZ 85086 623-551-1305 anthempostnet@earthlink.net

**Kevin Lawless,** NIA #1679 **Second Past President** 3363 Guilderland Avenue Schenectady, NY 12306 518-357-2333 kflbostons@aol.com

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 Ethics P.O. Box 1 Inverness, MS 38753-0001 662-265-5134 zedkay@deltaland.nett

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian 4086 Blackstone Avenue Gurnee, IL 60031 847-782-8602 com574@clc.cc.il.us

Bill Rohde, NIA #1219 By-Laws
Post Office Box 1008 Williams, CA 95987
530-473-2461
mudman@colusanet.com

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations 8 Tremont Trace Wimberly, TX 78676 512-847-7302 jackroach@email.msn.com

John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification

5N941 Ravine Drive St. Charles, IL 60175 630-513-1544 cpamcd@aol.com

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Awards & Recognition 11825 Lanceshire Circle Oklahoma City, OK 73162 405-721-6578 diamonds4me@worldnet.att.net

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

<u>2003 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM</u> (If this issue was addressed to you, then your dues are paid.)

	Submit: (In U.S.funds) To: (Payable to the NIA)  Note New Dues Schedule!  Pagallar Mambarahia		NIA 1 1315 Broad E-MA	. Beres Membership I Old Mill Path dview Hts., Ol AIL: JJJB@A	1 hio 4414				
	Regular MembershipFamily Membership		\$ 12.0	00					
	Junior Membership (under 18) Club or Organization		\$ 12.0	00					
	appropriate Class)	Regul	ar	_ Family	Jun	or	Club/Org		
Check	Years of Payment)	Single	year_		Mu	tti-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 An	nual NL	A/Crov	vn Jewels Dir	rectory	Yes		No	
Please include my Telephone Number			er			Yes		No	
	Please include my E-Mail A	ddress				Yes		No	
	I Would like to Receive Drip Feck Only One Choice) (Need					Paper_	Electro	onic	
	<u>Addit</u>	ional Fa	mily M	<u>lembers</u>			<b>N.</b> 11 ( <b>T.</b> 13)		
<u>Name</u>							Nia# (If ]	Renewal)	
								_	
								_	
3								_	
4								_	
Signed									
Date			Amo	unt Enclosed	\$				



### Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336 Product Marketing Committee 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741 (512) 255-2006 pyrex553@ aol.com

### **NIA - Spring ORDER FORM**

Cross Creek - M_ L_XL_ Outer Banks - M_ L_XL_ Ultra Club - M_ L_XL_ EW* Women's L_XL_ (other 'Sleeveless- white/navy pique (\$35) or benim Shirt (all sizes orderable) EW* Women's stonewash blue - sleevelen's - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton store	\$38) 2X	(\$42) (\$42) (\$42) (\$42) (\$42) (y pique (\$38)			
Cross Creek - M_ L_XL_ Outer Banks - M_ L_XL_ Ultra Club - M_ L_XL	(\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X women sizes orderable *\$\frac{S}{S}\$ - butter yellow/nav	(\$42) (\$42) (\$42) (\$42) ) y pique (\$38)			
. Outer Banks - M LXL( . Ultra Club - M LXL( . Ultra Club - M LXL( . Ultra Club - M LXL( . VEW* Women's L XL (other of the content of the co	\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X (\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X women sizes orderable *S/S - butter yellow/nav eless L XL (\$32)	(\$42) (\$42) (\$42) ) y pique (\$38)			
Ultra Club - M_ L_XL	(\$38) 2X (\$42) 3X <b>women sizes orderable</b> * <u>S/S</u> - butter yellow/navy <b>eless</b> L XL (\$32)	(\$42) ) y pique (\$38)			
EW* Women's L XL (other of Sleeveless- white/navy pique (\$35) or Denim Shirt (all sizes orderable)  EW* Women's stonewash blue sleevelen's med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton stone Embroidered logo S	women sizes orderable  *S/S - butter yellow/nav  eless L _ XL _ (\$32)	) y pique (\$38)			
"Sleeveless- white/navy pique (\$35) or benim Shirt (all sizes orderable) "EW* Women's stonewash blue - sleevelen's - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton store Embroidered logo S	* <u>S/S</u> - butter yellow/navy	y pique (\$38)			
tenim Shirt (all sizes orderable)  **EW* Women's stonewash blue - sleeved  **Index - stonewash blue - sleeved  **Index - stonewash blue - sleeved  **Embroidered logo S	eless_L XL (\$32)				
Women's stonewash blue - sleeve Men's - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton ston Embroidered logo					
<b>1en's</b> - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton stor Embroidered logo S					
Embroidered logo S	newash blue left-side p	,			
_		ocket			
_	M L XL				
		\$35.00			
-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weig	ght - Screen-printed logo				
S M L XL	(blue)	\$10.00			less \$1/shirt =
	-	•			-
					-
		\$3.00			
					less \$1/ shirt =
	,	X 3X (\$30)			200 q . / 3iiii t —
<del>-</del>	_				less \$1/cap = _
		4.0.00			_ less \$.50/mug
Coozie™ The original Koozie™ fits an	y standard beer or soda o	can;			
ilver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue_	red green	\$2.25			_less \$.25/item=
light blue w/ logo- red bord	er; for inside car window	\$1.00			
ame Badge white badge engraved w/	blue letters - screen-print	ted logo			
epoxy pinback, bev	eled edges (fill in form l	below) \$11.00			
sadge Bar white w/ engraved blu	e letters (ie. NIA positio	on) \$4.00			
Men's	s Size Chart:	Su	btotal	_	
<u>t:</u> S (32-34) M (36-3	38) L (40-42) XL (44-46	) IIC	Dagtaga		
8) XL (40-42)		' U.S.	Postage	-	
2A (40	50) 3A (32-34)	Total I	Enclosed	d L	
				_	
	**U.S. Postage: \$5	.00 for the first item	& \$1.50 for e	ach additi	onal item ordered.
,					
or monev order in U.S. fund	s payable to: <b>Na</b>	tional Insul	itor Ass	ociati	on or NIA
<i></i>	*******	******	****	***	******
Radge Engraving Inform	ation (must he	a current NI	A mom	her!)	
Bauge Englaving Intolin	ation (musi ve	u carrent M	A memi	<i>yei:</i> )	
NIA # _	City			State	e
NIA#	City			State	e
	•				
					-
	LXL	XL(\$15) or 2X 3X(\$16) Birch gray screen- IA Lapel Pin - etched/enamel; NIA logo  weatshirt Heavy weight - Birch gray - Screen-printed logo S M(\$16.00) L XL(\$20.00)  EW! **Embroidered logo(front only) M L XL(\$25) 2  mbroidered Cap Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo ap Lt. Grey, screen-printed logo lug 10 oz white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo atch light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered oozie <sup>TM</sup> The original Koozie <sup>TM</sup> fits any standard beer or soda of the standard beer or soda	XL	XL	LXL(\$15) or 2X3X(\$16) Birch gray screen-printed  IA Lapel Pin - etched/enamet; NIA logo  S M(\$16.00) LXL(\$20.00)  EW! **Embroidered logo(front only) ML XL(\$25) 2X3X(\$30)  mbroidered Cap Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo  \$16.00