A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is almost here - a fact many of you in the midwest and eastern US. sections are quite happy about I'm quite sure. Actually, this has been a winter of unpleasant dimensions for many of our fellow collectors as typified by the terrible loss of some fine glass in the Los Angeles earthquake in January. This was the kind of event we all dread because everyone in the hobby suffers when important pieces are damaged or destroyed. With better weather on the way, we all look forward the upcoming to outdoor the swapmeets. shows and the wonderful treks along old railroad tracks and telegraph right-of-ways, looking for the relics of the bygone years.

Lots of important news, this issue. First, affordable insulator insurance for NIA members is almost here. This will do a lot to take care of the worries about earthquakes, fires and the like; now, at least the loss of a collection can be compensated. See Dwayne Anthony's following note for more details.

Next, remember that we have an important election coming up this spring. We have to pick a new President, and a new Vice President for the Central Region. Ron Norton has the details in his article.

We've had an amazing response on (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

people sending in their renewals. If you know someone who has not paid their 94 dues (or any collectors out there aching to join the NIA), give them a copy of the enclosed NIA sign-up form. This is especially important because those who haven't paid their 94 dues did not receive the issue of DRIP POINTS that you are currently reading!

Back to an earlier topic, I was quite surprised at the flood of net mail I received over the INTERNET this past couple months after publishing my address in the last DP issue! I got lots of ideas from many of the folks, including several asking about setting up an "insulator group" on one of the on-line services and several others requesting that I publish a list of INET addresses in the DP. I even got my first letter to the Editor over the INTERNET (see following

We'll address some of the section)! computer issues in the future. For the I have a new address (a present. consequence of leaving my old job for "greener pastures"): You can now reach me at tomk164440@aol.com. Many of you will recognize this as an America On Line address, and indeed this is the case. If you are subscriber to AOL, you can actually attach files to your E-mail and send them to another AOL member. In an recent amazing test of this capability, Joe Beres attached a file containing the entire NIA database to a net note addressed to me and I was able to import this into my database applications with no problem!

Finally, the time is <u>now</u> to lay out your plans for the National Show in Houston. See the show flyer at the end of this issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

more, are computer-literate. Many work for companies that have already paid for access to the INTERNET. Additionally many may subscribe to services such as Prodigy and have access to shared 'bulletin boards' or other networks. I am writing to propose that, as we approach the millennium, we begin communicating wherever possible at the speed of optical channels rather than the speed of the USPS. And much less expensively than phone calls! I know that my company charges 15-20 cents per transmission of 1,000-3,000 characters.. Would you be willing to publish a list of our INTERNET IDs and names? If so, it would be great if we knew the specialties of one another, space permitting, as well. Perhaps it (Continued on page 3)

To: tomk164440@aol.com From: kroloson@alphd10.attmail.com (kroloson) Subject: Drip Points letter Date: Tuesday, January 11, 1994 at

10:40:20 pm GMT

Dear Editor:

I want to, first of all, congratulate you on the fine-looking Drip Points that you have designed and respond to your request for input via electronic 'mail'. Now that I have complimented you, I hope you will entertain a request. Over the years it has become evident that many insulator collectors, perhaps as high as 30% or

(Continued from page 2)

could begin as a part of Drip Points but later, if it became too large, it could become part of the CJ directory or some NIA publication. If we can get this going, other networks may become known to you as well. To start things off, I can be reached at: kroloson@alphd10.attmail.com

My specialties: CD101, 102 Brookfield or Canadian, 126.4, 127, 127.4, 133.x, and 252.

Thank you, Tom.

Greetings to all from the land that shakes, rattles, and rolls!

The recent major earthquake and aftershocks here in Southern California during the month of January have made things a bit unnerving for area collectors. All is well here at the Anthony residence. Thanks to all who called with their concern. Unfortunately, the quake did inflict moderate to substantial damage to several insulator collections located near and around the epicenter.

This tragic, catastrophic occurrence is a vivid warning to all collectors living in regions historically known for earthquakes and other natural disasters to take a serious look at appropriate displaying methods. Are your insulators secure enough to withstand a moderate natural catastrophe if one should occur without adequate warning? Will your shelving material provide the needed strength when subjected to severe stress? The use of dowels or insulator pins, attached to stable shelving material, is a reliable method to ensure minimal movement of 7/8" vour insulators. Clear acrylic doweling can be purchased for use in displays where transmission of back or base lighting through the insulator is critical. I have developed a successful method for displaying my collection that I

feel is reasonably earthquake resistant, at least to the point of the walls collapsing! I am more than willing to discuss and share my designs with you, so please phone me for details.

All right, so you've taken all the precautions imaginable to protect your collection, short of burying your insulators in the ground! What's your next step? It's now time to consider insurance coverage. Maybe you've already attempted to do so by requesting additional coverage for your collection through your homeowner's or renter's insurance company. A common result is denial of coverage due to the fact they won't insure antiques and collectibles, especially glass. If your company does offer additional insurance, it is often very limited in damage coverage. One prevalent hindrance is the high restrictive cost for a respectable full coverage policy.

As a member of the NIA, you will soon have the option of a customized insurance plan designed specifically for insulator collectors. After several months of inquiries and research, your NIA officers have secured a notable insurance company that is willing to provide a custom tailored insurance plan at a reasonable rate to the NIA membership. To repeat, this offer will only be available *(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3) members--another to current NIA advantage to those maintaining a current

"As a member of the NIA, you will soon have the option of a customized insurance plan designed specifically for insulator collectors"

NIA membership status. Minor details are presently being ironed out in preparation for the debut of this plan that will appear in the summer issue of Drip Points. It is highly possible the plan will be

available before then. If you're anxious for coverage, please feel free to contact me anytime for updated information.

Most of you are probably aware of the lightning rod ball reproduction issue that has built up steam the past few months. (Please refer to Dick Bowman's Eastern V.P. report in this issue of Drip Points.) Your NIA Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons are currently studying various methods for controlling problem and any such future this problems that might arise involving fake or reproduced insulators. One solution is already perfectly clear: Be responsible for educating yourself and vour fellow collectors, especially those new to our hobby. When unsure about the authenticity of an item, ask plenty of questions. Make it known you do not approve of any actions by any dealers/ collectors that are in direct conflict with the NIA Code of Ethics. Don't expect the next guy to put the finger on a fraudulent act. The responsibility to keep our hobby clean is just as much yours!

Nominations are now being accepted for 1994 NIA Lifetime Membership the Award. A new application form is now available and must be completed before submitting your nominee's name(s).

Because of the prestigiousness of this award, some degree of homework is required present the proper to qualifications of the nominee. Please contact me for a copy of the NIA Lifetime Membership Nomination form. Deadline for submissions is May 1,1994.

It appears things are shaping up well for the upcoming NIA National and Regional Shows. Be sure to make plans to attend one, or better yet, all of three shows if possible. There is sure to be a great selection of insulators offered and the displays are always earth-shattering. (OOPS--shouldn't use such adjectives around here!) Don't forget about your local shows. They need your support too!

I have received several inquiries from members involving questions concerning NIA by-laws, ethics, and guideline matters. It is apparent many of you did not request your copy of the revised (2-92) NIA Membership Handbook, released and offered on a request basis almost two years ago. This is a very valuable tool for each member to have in their possession. postcard to Drop a letter or the Membership Director, Joe Beres, for your free copy today!

As the coming spring months generate the usual increase in show activity and backvard gatherings, a sincere wish to all for the capture of that special insulator ranking highly on your want list!

Best to all.

Dwayne Anthony, NIA #3619 President, 1992-1994

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(INSERT EXECUTIVE DIR REPORT HERE)

FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

It's somewhat hard to write about what went on in the region during the late fall & early winter after being pretty-much homebound during that period, but the insulation from the hobby was not that complete. I was not able to make the Capitol District show in Albany, but the word was that there was a good turnout of dealers and merchandise, but not such a good turnout of attendees. The London Ohio show, which I did attend and in the Central Region, was excellent, but attendance was somewhat down from 1992. Jeff Atwood reported that the CFIC show in Sarasota, FL was also a bit lower plagued by than expected attendance although those who were there had a good time. These folks who promote the shows work hard and for really no reward except the satisfaction of a job well done and having served the hobby, so they really deserve the support of those in the hobby. Please make it a point to attend and, if possible, take along a new collector or a potential collector.

The spring brings a good array of shows starting with the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club show the first Saturday in March. You can double up on this weekend as the Baltimore Bottle Club holds their show on the next day nearby. The Yankee Polecat show on March 27 is always a zinger of a show - a must, and on April 24 the Rochester (NY) Bottle show will usually have a good supply of insulators available.

I can't speak to the subject of new finds, but am personally aware of a CD 726 in somewhere between medium sca and cranberry having surfaced and also a CD 316 Brookfield, no slouch of a piece, showed its face.

On the heavier side, you all have probably

read Jack Snyder's letter in the November *Crown Jewels* and the very fine response by Dwayne Anthony in the January issue concerning reproduction/phony items on sales tables at shows. This is felt to be a

serious matter by many of us and showed itself in spades at the London show. Admittedly, a majority of these are lightning items, but they are

"[Phony items are] felt to be a serious matter by many of us.."

being put on tables at our shows. We have had some problems and still do with suspect insulators and the problem likely needs addressing further. I have written to and talked to Dwayne Anthony about the NIA role in this and am aware of at least one other board member expressing strong feelings in the same manner. It is my current intention to actively support an enhanced NIA and show host role in this matter as a means of preventing what I feel are further abuses. This is not an easy issue to address in a manner that can be realistically and fairly implemented and those of us who would push in this direction need concrete support and encouragement from the membership. PLEASE; if you feel (or don't feel) that this issue deserves work and action by the NIA let me know, either by phone, letter or in person. If you favor further efforts, we need some ideas on how far we should go and how we could realistically implement whatever we do. The real answer probably lies somewhere between having someone with a Gestapo emblem roaming the show hall and passive griping. Honestly, if there is no response, perhaps there is no energy out there and we should go on to bigger and better things. I happen to think not, but without support, I may pull in my horns. As always, good collecting and hope to see you at the shows.

Dick Bowman; NIA #597 Eastern Region Vice President

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that my term as Central Region Vice-President will conclude at the 25th NIA National Show in Houston, July, 1994. The time has really flown by and I have very much enjoyed serving the

"...it looks like the *1994 NATIONAL* is going to be a sellout!"

research.

enjoyed serving the hobby in this capacity. But now I look forward to spending more time on insulator

Nominations are now being accepted for this position, and from what I understand, a couple of very qualified NIA members have already expressed their interest. Since there is no limit to the number of nominees (and I don't recall that it was ever a problem!), if you would be willing to share some of your time and talent, please let NIA Nominations Chairman Ron Norton know as soon as possible. His address is at the back of this issue. He will need a brief letter from you expressing willingness serve vour to and а description of your background in the hobby. Qualification letters from each of the candidates we have so far are included in this issue of Drip Points. The current plan is to mail separate ballots to all NIA members in the Central Region, and election returns will be announced at the Houston National in July. As a member of the NIA Board, you will not only gain close friendships, but will grow in your knowledge and appreciation of our great hobby. You will also be able to contribute your enthusiasm, offer fresh ideas, and suggest alternate solutions to any problems that may arise. Give it a try - you won't regret it!

Unfortunately, the subject of <u>unmarked</u> Lightning Rod Ball reproductions has again become a major issue. It never seems to go away completely, it just abates from time to time. These repro's are now appearing in alarming numbers at bottle and insulator shows, and the problem isn't so much that they are being offered for sale, as that they are parading as genuine articles and commanding some pretty healthy prices! And whoever is grinding these things out is laughing all the way to the bank! However, it's nearly impossible to keep these questionable items away from shows, because LRB's are a popular collectible in themselves and a "second hobby" to many insulator collectors. Thus thev are often incorporated into a dealer's sales stock. The genuine articles are welcome, they're beautiful, and a lot of happy deals have been made. But if they are repro's or have been altered in any way, and the buyer is unaware, then the dealer needs to do more than just tell him about it each piece in question should be permanently marked as "reproduction" or Then if the purchase goes "altered". through, that identifying mark protects concerned. especially evervone the unsuspecting new collector or the second (or third, etc.) purchaser down the line. Even though we wish all the altered insulators and LRB repro's would go away and never appear at shows again, we have to realize that it's "okay" to buy them, as long as nobody is being fooled and these particular items are identified in such a way that the mark cannot be erased. One dealer, when he sees an altered insulator being offered for sale, has been known to get out his engraver and go after it, just to remove any doubt.

I, and the other three show hosts for the 25th NIA National Show in Houston next July, are determined to do all we can to prevent the display or sale of altered insulators and LRB reproductions if they are unmarked. The NIA General Show Floor Rules, which deal with such deceptions, will be visibly posted throughout the sales area. There will also be several knowledgeable insulator and

(Continued from page 7)

LRB collectors in attendance, who will be on the lookout for pieces that are questionable. Dealers will be asked to remove any of these items which are not permanently marked.

On a happier note, it looks like the 1994 National is going to be a sellout! The response has been just tremendous and at the time of this writing, there are just 12 sales tables left. Where can we rent some sky hooks? We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Houston!

shows coming up in the Central Region during the spring months of 1994. Try to attend as many as you can, and please realize that your support keeps these shows going each year: Port Arthur, TX, (March 19-20), Louisville, KY, (March 20), Grapevine, TX (March 26), Carol Stream, IL (April 15-16), and Kansas City, MO (April 30). Consult *Crown Jewels of the Wire* and *The Rainbow Riders' Trading Post* for details.

Happy Collecting!

Marilyn Albers NIA #541 Central Region Vice-President 1992-1994

this show was held at the Cayucos

Veteran's Hall and was a lot of fun,

complete with a Saturday night barbecue!

In the meantime, there are several good

FROM THE WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

1993 went out with a bang, assisted by a good show at Auburn, CA. Lots of outstanding items showed up and I urge each of you to read Mike Guthrie's article in the January 1994 Crown Jewels: Fantastic!

Now that 1994 is underway, we are looking forward to the NIA National in

Houston, Texas on July 1 - 3. (You can call John Hall for more info at (713) 992-5717.) Those of you that attended the National in Houston in 1988 know that the sponsoring *Lone*

Star Insulator Club puts on a really good show. Hope you can make it.

While you are waiting for the National to come around, don't forget some other shows that will be coming up soon:

Enumclaw, WA on May 7 & 8. This is always an excellent event and fun to attend. Call Vi Brown at (206) 868-4249 for more information.

Cayucos, CA on May 20 & 21. Last year

Call Ron Norton at (805) 488-7445 for more details. Naramata, British Columbia on June 11 & 12. B.C. is really beautiful in June and if

you can, you should try to get up there for this show. You can get more information by calling Gary or Doreen Reed at (604) 493-3535.

Victorville, CA on Jun 11 & 12. Those of you who can't make the Naramata show should try Victorville on the same weekend. Gary Johnston can give

you more info (909) 783-4101. This is the 26th Annual Victorville Show!

And finally, don't forget the NIA Western Regional in Auburn, CA, August 6 & 7. Good stuff will show up and we hope you will too! Call Pat Patocka at (916) 663-3681 for more show information.

Happy Hunting!

Grant Salzman

Western Region Vice President



(FINANCIAL REPORT GOES HERE)

...DRIP NOTES

- Talk to your insulator friends about this *DRIP POINTS* Issue. If they didn't receive it, their membership has lapsed!

- Ballots will only be mailed to active (PAID) members.

- Make sure you see the article <u>GLASS: Capturing the Dance of Light</u>, in *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1993.

- Deadlines for 1995 NIA Show Bids: Eastern National - April 1, 1994 Central and Western Regionals - June 1, 1994

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIRPERSON

Well, I will keep this short and sweet. As all of you know from my last column, nominations for Central Vice President and President have been solicited. As a consequence, we now have a choice of two fine representatives for the Central Vice President and, as of this writing, one candidate for President. If there are any of you out there who might like to throw your hat in the ring for President, now is the time to do so. Contact me before the 1st of April if you are interested or if you know of any other potential candidates. Any election is more challenging with more than one person running! I do want to personally thank those of you who want to get involved in the National Insulator

Association.

Also remember, to vote in the upcoming elections, your NIA membership has to be current - *i.e.*, dues paid. Hopefully everyone has figured out that the membership renewal date has been changed to the first of the year. So, please check to be sure that you are current; we want to make this a really strong election. The ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters on May 1: Please show your support by voting.

"Campaign addresses" from the candidates follow:

Ron Norton, Nominations Committee

....FOR NIA PRESIDENT

. My name is Steve Bobb. I've been involved in insulator collecting for over 25 years. I am a Charter Member of NIA. I have held the position of NIA V.P. in 1975. I was the host for the first NIA sponsored National in 1974 at Hershey, PA. I have co-hosted the *NIA Eastern Regional* in 1985, 1987, 1990 and 1993 and will again with Claude Wambold, cohost this show in 1994. I've also hosted a local show with Claude for over 20 years.

I have worked for Bell of PA (Bell Atlantic) for 28 years. My present position is a Building Equipment Mechanic, but I think it was when I was a lineman that I really became hooked on insulator collecting. I started with a general collection that took over our house, then started specializing in early telegraph and threadless and I presently collect lightning rod insulators. I have been married for 23 years to my wife Donna, and I have two children, Jason and Amanda.

If I was to become President, I would work toward promoting the hobby. I think that in the coming years we have to provide more emphassis towards our junior collectors and strengthening our grass roots of the hobby - new collectors. Changes if needed in our bylaws should be implemented as needed and we should not be afraid of change.

In closing, I would look forward to working toward the betterment of the hobby.

Sincerely,

Steve Bobb, NIA #827

...CANDIDATES FOR THE CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Jimmy Burns

To all members of the Central Region of the NIA

I, Jimmy Burns, am running to represent you as your Central Vice President of the NIA. I live in Conroe Texas with my wife Vickey and two sons, James and Christopher. I have been collecting insulators for twenty-five of my thirtyeight years. I am active in the Lone Star Insulator Club having served as President, Vice President, currently Chairman of the N.R. Woodward Award. I also will serve as a co-host during the 1994 "Silver in Houston" National. I am a collector of color porcelain insulators and enthusiastically go to shows and enjoy talking to collectors.

But in all candor, I wanted to express my dissatisfaction with the direction that the NIA has meandered during the last few years. I see my candidacy as a positive opportunity to express my views on how the NIA can be improved. I promise if elected that I will listen to you, many of whom have expressed some of the same dissatisfaction with the NIA. These are a few of my specific views:

1. The NIA should strive first to insure it will represent the grass roots collector before being concerned with entrepreneur issues.

2. The NIA, as it has been in the past, should remain a family organization.

3. Efforts should be made not only to recruit new members, but also to retain new members and bring inactive members into active status.

Rick Baldwin

My name is Rick Baldwin, I reside in Brunswick, Ohio, and I'm seeking your support for the position of Central Region Vice-resident. I am a charter member of the NIA and have been active in the insulator collecting hobby since 1972. Presently, I'm serving in my third term as the NIA's Show standards Committee Chairman, which has given me an opportunity to develop working relationships with the NIA officers. Μv wife, Berny, and I are both active members of the Ohio Bottle Club, and I was the president of the Western New York Insulator Club for several years in the 1970's.

Along with my desire and willingness to actively carry out the duties of a regional vice-president with respect to working closely with the Board and promoting our hobby, I foresee the opportunity to personally add some new enthusiasm and ideas to our organization in order to pursue its goals, to rekindle its growth, and to make the NIA more beneficial to and more respected by its members!

Geographically, I'm in a good position to attend several major shows annually to promote our hobby, and to pursue one of my major objectives...that being to serve as an effective liaison between the NIA's administrative body and the members and collectors within the Central Region, and to respond to their concerns.

Insulator collecting is a **hobby**, and each of us have our own special reasons why we pursue a hobby, why we join an organization, and why we wish to contribute to an organization's growth. Jimmy Burns (cont')

4. The position of Second Vice President should be eliminated because you have a person elected as president and serving on the board for six years.

5. Term limitations of all Chairpersons limiting service in one position to no more than three years.

6. Either make imaginary committees real with real members or retitle current chairperson status to "director".

7. Most important of all, my view is that the membership should be surveyed to determine the direction that the membership wishes to take.

this is a general outline of my views. If elected, the issues I will concentrate on in the Quarterly Drip Points Report will not be the "slow pay, no pay" issues or the evils of misfiring postage to Canada or Greater Mongolia, but positive reports on the state of the hobby in the Central Region. Furthermore, I promise the fight for the integrity of local clubs and local shows within the Central Region without encroachment or forced sanctioning by the NIA. Most of all, I pledge to serve you in our region. when you cast a vote for me, you vote for a highly determined individual who will be dedicated to improve our great hobby.

Best in collecting,

Jimmy Burns

It's *Rick Baldwin* (cont')

the **people** who make a hobby what it is, and we all have to put some effort into maintaining its stature so that we can all share in the enjoyment.

The NIA was established for the people, and it offers a way to bring people together. Thus, the NIA must address the concerns of collectors and local clubs as the hobby goes through its ups and downs. With your support, I will do my best as your Central Region Vice-President to ensure that the NIA "keeps the hobby in the people, and the people in the hobby!"

Sincerely,

Rick Baldwin, NIA #336



USE THE FORM IN THE BACK

OF THIS ISSUE TO ORDER

NIA LOGO ITEMS!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Well, another year, and were off to a roaring start. There are 61 new members to the Association so far for1994. As of this news letter, we have 596 active members, which is over half-way to 1993 total active member count. At this rate, 1994 should see the largest membership in years. I hope this is a sign that the hobby is getting stronger. Insulator collecting is a hobby that not only preserves history, but one that sparks new found friendships of every age range. Despite the few individuals that use the hobby for their own money making scams, it is a collection of some of the most honest and caring individuals I have come across.

in California that lost part or all of their collection in the recent earthquake. I am sure this is the feeling shared by the rest of the Association.

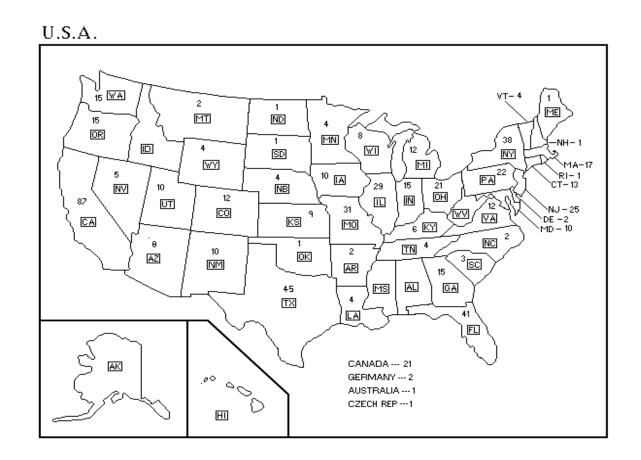
I have also supplied a map of the United States showing the membership counts for each of the States. These numbers reflect current paid members. Lets see if we can promote the hobby in the States that have low or no members.

One last request: If anyone has any information on members that have passed away, married, moved out of town or just have a question on their years of service, please let me know.

Thanks and Good Collecting

Joe Beres Membership Director

My condolences go out to the collectors



FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS COMMITTEE

From my perspective, 1993 was an outstanding year for insulator shows and for the promotion of our hobby by individuals who took the time and made the effort to share their knowledge and collections with others in the form of both competitive and non-competitive displays. I really believe that this guality exposure contributed significantly to the high number of new NIA memberships during the past calendar year! The quantity and the overall quality of displays at the Nationals and at the annual regional shows have been steadily increasing over the past few years, and more interest is being shown at the local show level also.

During 1993, a record number of eleven NIA-provided blue ribbons were "local" requested by show hosts of insulator and/or antique bottle shows. At these shows, insulator displayers have an opportunity to capture the interest of, and promote our hobby to, a large number of attendees who have previously had limited exposure to, or little interest in, insulator collecting. Obviously, this could result in some new leads or contacts for Sure, there are many the displayer. antique collectors and dealers who feel that insulators don't deserve to be at the same level of, nor compete against, quality glass bottles or other antiquities, but a little education could enlighten them with respect to the importance of our "crown jewels" in the growth of our technological society and nation!

If you're planning on hosting a show in the upcoming future, don't forget the resources which the NIA can make available to you for guidance and planning. Of particular interest to "novice" show hosts would be a terrific show advertising and promotion packet which Kevin Lawless and the Promotion and Education Committee has recently assembled. It contains very pertinent information and guidance on pre-show advertising, who to contact, sample promotion letters and formats, etc. This packet is free-for-the-asking from either Kevin or me. In order to use this material most effectively, request it early in your show planning stage! Many show hosts request a display award ribbon just a few weeks or a month before the show date, and this would be insufficient time for effective utilization of Kevin's packet.

The word is out that some great new displays are being planned for the 25th National Show and convention in Houston, so get your camera ready and prepare for a good time!

Rick Baldwin, NIA #336 Show Standards Committee



1993-1994 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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1993-1994 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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