A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Private and the seems to be complaining about the snow and the cold and that they can hardly wait for Spring to arrive so they can leave their homes without freezing to death: Ain't so bad here in Sunny New Mexico! We drive to the mountains for skiing in 30 minutes or so, and we play golf if the ski areas are too crowded. Better yet, we can go out hunting for glass! In fact, several of us just returned from a five day trip southwest of here tracing old telegraph lines out in the desert. Bright sun and 65° made the trip really enjoyable - especially compared to doing this mid-July! At any rate, by the time you read this, the overall weather for the country should be trending toward Spring and hopefully you thawed out Northerners ought to be able to get out and hunt soon too.

I received several letters this month and you can read them next. The bottom line seems to be that folks are just plain tired of all the negative controversy in the hobby and want to put it behind them. I'm

(Continued from page 1)

hopeful that we can continue to address the problems and get on with having fun in this great hobby!

This is a big time for the Central Region as the Vice Presidential Election is coming up shortly. Two candidates tell us about their goals later in the newsletter. And those of you in the Central Region, be sure to



vote when you receive your ballot: This is your chance to "get it your way"!

the docket, and they seem to be pretty well spread around the country; so try to attend one close to you. Be sure to read

the region reports to find out the latest.

Oh - before I forget: Thanks to all of you who sent me insulators for Christmas! Haven't been able to get 'em all catalogued yet, but I'm working on it. I especially loved the amber ones! An appreciated

editor is a happy editor!

Tom Katonak

Wow! Sure are a lot of great shows on

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 12, 1996

Dear Editor,

Just when we thought it was safe to open an insulator magazine again; when "Silica" (?!?) was starting to mercifully fade into our memories, along comes Jimmy Burns' letter in the November Rainbow Riders' Trading Post complaining about "poker games" and "cozy deals" among the "power elite" in the NIA. (Next thing you know, someone will accuse the NIA of conspiring with the Federal Government to hide insulators from other planets in Area 51 along with the UFO's!)

Enough already! All this bickering, squabbling and finger-pointing is only going to ruin the insulator collecting hobby for the rest of us if it keeps up. While I may be a relatively "quiet" collector (rarely displaying at shows, and also, I don't get to as many shows as I

would like because my job requires me to work weekends), I enjoy introducing new people to the hobby. I let the curious, the neophytes, the "I've-been-collectinginsulators-for-many-years-but-never-knew -anybody-else-did" crowd know about the NIA, Crown Jewels of the Wire, etc., because I enjoy the hobby and would like to spread the word about it. And this hobby always needs new blood. But how can I rightfully introduce new people to insulator collecting if the magazines are full of name-calling and snide remarks and this storm of infighting keeps brewing among all of us?

Is the NIA perfect? Of course not! There's no such thing as a perfect organization, whether it's a business, a religious group, a political party or an insulator club. But the NIA sponsors shows, conducts research, alerts its members to questionable people or insulators, provides education and generally ties the hobby together. All for a yearly fee that's less than the price of a (Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

movie and a large box of popcorn at the theater. I think the NIA does a great job at doing all of the above!

Are the insulators "Silica" questions fake? I dunno! I've not seen them and can't say one way or the other. The only way to answer that question is with further research, not name-calling or fingerpointing. We've seen enough of that during the Presidential campaigns, for crying out loud. Why bring it into our hobby?

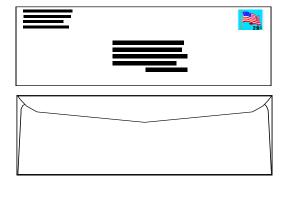
And that's what insulator collecting is! It's a hobby, not a brouhaha! A hobby is supposed to be <u>fun</u>, whether it's collecting insulators, building model cars and planes, playing the piano or observing the night sky through a telescope. But all this nonsense over the past year is really taking all the fun out of this hobby. If it keeps up, not only will it be impossible to bring "new blood" into the hobby, but many current collectors will just drift away to other pursuits and insulator collecting will slowly disappear, just like the old multi -armed poles along the railroad tracks.

At this point, I think we should all bring out the dictionary and look up the word "hobby". Perhaps this action will remind all of us that insulator collecting is a hobby and that we can make it fun again.

Happy collecting!

Sincerely,

Jim Barton, NIA #3902





February 8, 1997

Dear Editor,

In a letter to ICON a few weeks ago, Mark Lauckner observed that something like 40 dedicated people 'bring' the hobby to the other 1800 of us. That sounded a little shrill to me at first, but the more I think about it, I think he's just about right. I've asked my share of lame questions in various E-mails to the ICON list and it seems like I always get a prompt and courteous answer from one of these dedicated people. These people write the books, publish the periodicals, sponsor

the shows, serve as NIA officers, and take most of the heat when we don't like the quality of all the free work we're getting out of them. When the NIA or its leaders call upon the other 1800 of us to get more involved in our hobby, many of us without a lot of insulator knowledge ask "what can I do? I'll never have the insulator expertise some of these people have!" Well, there are probably many answers to what we can do, but I'll suggest the easiest one: Support the people who are doing the work. Subscribe to the magazines, buy the books, and 'talk up' the hobby to new collectors and share information with

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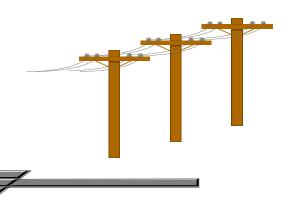
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others who show an interest in insulators. When you are at a show, make it a point to personally thank these people for their hard work. If they have a sales table and you are buying, buy what you can from them.

Well that's all the noise I plan on making today. Now that I've done all this yacking I've got to go write a check for my new subscription to *Canadian Insulator Collector*!

Happy Hunting!

Paul Alleeson, NIA #6138



February 11, 1997

To the Editor,

I am becoming a bit confused, as well as embarrassed to the turn of events in the First, let me explain. Insulator hobby. While I try to be supportive of my husband, which with his position can be rather exhausting at times. I am not and never will be a thoroughly devoted member of his hobby. However, I have shared the hobby with other individuals and was surprised when a friend of mine asked me to purchase the Insulator Books and get a Crown Jewels subscription for his father who has collected insulators for years. Since he received his first issue of Crown Jewels in December, all he has witnessed and read about is the issue of fake, altered, and unethical dealings in regards to insulators and individuals in the hobby. All this man wanted was information on the hobby and reading for his enjoyment to learn about whatever jewels he may possess. What has happened to this hobby?

No matter what hobby an individual

pursues, there will always be those who are out to profit on unsuspecting souls, merchandise that is suspect due to unknown origins, and outright fake reproductions peddled as the real thing. No one has the power to stop this from Yes we can educate, but happening. what is currently taking place has got to The hobby is becoming divided. end. are being taken, and such Sides nonsense should not even exist or be tolerated. The majority are in this hobby for their personal enjoyment and the love for the glass or porcelain treasures they collect. Politics have no place in the National organizations such as Insulator Association or any other club such as ours.

I am not stating that measures do not need to be taken to protect unethical practices. We need to monitor those that are suspect, but we need to also get the hobby back to what it is, a hobby. What message are we sending to those individuals just starting out and discovering insulators? Open an issue of the *Crown Jewels* and read the letters,

(Continued from page 4)

open an issue of *Drip Points* and read the articles, surf the INTERNET and visit ICON, subscribe to the list, and what do you constantly see and read? Nothing positive anymore. Article after article on the above. What a great message we are sending to all those individuals who might have been interested in joining the rest of the members who have spent 25 years building a foundation for a very good

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

n this issue I'd like to focus on passing along more details on the directions that the NIA is taking to address the many ethical issues that are currently facing our hobby and how some of the related activities that have been initiated are progressing. The officers of the NIA. as both fellow collectors and as your elected representatives, are genuinely concerned about the instabilities within the hobby, and we also share your frustrations and disenchantment. Whether we personally have discussions with you or unnoticeably scan the INTERNET for your postings and comments, we are listening...and we do respect your views! It's frustrating to all that immediate solutions to problems are few and far between in the real world. We are investigating and pursuing various avenues responsibly and with an open mind, and, slowly but surely, facts and pieces of puzzles will come together.

In the Winter 1996 issue, I indicated that the overall mission of the NIA's new Research and Authentication (R&A) Committee will be to maintain the ethical standards of the NIA and to sustain the hobby.

It is very sad message don't you think?

Jeannie Shimer Beres, NIA #4215

honesty and integrity of the hobby and its participants, and I summarized committee objectives. I'll add some more particulars here as space permits, but I intend to present an in-depth report on the committee's organization and activities at the 1997 General Membership Meeting in Chicago and, also, have handouts available there. In the meantime, if anyone would like a copy of the committee's "Strategy and Methodology Document," drop me a line.

Staffing for the R&A-Committee is nearing completion, and I should have a list of committee members available for dissemination shortly. Organ-

COMMITTEE MEMBER

LIST AVAILABLE

SHORTLY

izationally, the committee will consist of a "pool" of NIA members who possess pertinent knowledge. skills and/or expertise that will be needed to effectively address specific tasks and issues. As a specific task needs to be addressed, a coordinator will assemble a small team possessing the appropriate expertise from the "pool", and this team will address the specific task until its objectives are met. The overall committee will address

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

multiple tasks, often concurrently. The "pool" concept affords the availability of necessary expertise, it distributes the work load so as not to put an excessive burden of time and energy on a few people **and** it serves as a mechanism for getting many "new faces" from within the membership ranks involved in making important positive contributions to the hobby!

In the task area of supporting scientific research to assess the applicability and reliability of potential analytical methods for determining the approximate "age" of glass insulators, progress is being made, but at a slower pace than desired. Our

SURFACE WEATHERING

CHARACTERISTICS MAY

HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF

MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES

premise, which is based on previously published research results, is that appropriate studies of the surface weathering characteristics of glass insulators may have the potential of meeting our objectives, but this will -

have to be determined by extensive research. In order to assess how much credibility can be placed on anv conclusions based on such examinations. which is a primary objective, the influence of many variables has to be determined, a data base has to be established and many technical issues have to be This necessitates time. addressed! resources and commitment on the part of the investigator.

То date. one investigator at the Pennsylvania State University has performed some preliminary examinations of several insulator specimens for us. Distinct differences in weathering characteristics have been observed, but the significance of this has yet to be

determined and many more specimens need to be examined. I have recently composed and sent to the investigator for review and discussion a document identifying our desired goals and objectives for this type of scientific investigation, programmatic issues and a multitude of technical issues and concerns that I have. By the next issue, I hope to have been able to solidify the program with Penn State and be able update you on what the overall scope, expectations and tentative schedule will be.

Three other important task areas have been identified for the R&A Committee to address initially. First, the corroboration

> of newly issued and proposed insulator classification assignments will be instituted in order to be sure that an assignment consistent is with the methodology/ philosophy of the creator of the particular classification system in

question. This will be accomplished by means of a collective assessment from task team members who are knowledgeable in the specific area being addressed. There is no intention here for the NIA to make assignments nor to dictate or control assignees. Second, a team will assess existing and establish new guidelines, as deemed necessary, for the NIA's approval of the production and marketing of commemorative insulators. Third, criteria for justification to deem a specimen as "questionable" will be formulated, and protocol to institute committee action on such a specimen will be established.

To update you on the fraudulent sales (Continued on page 7)

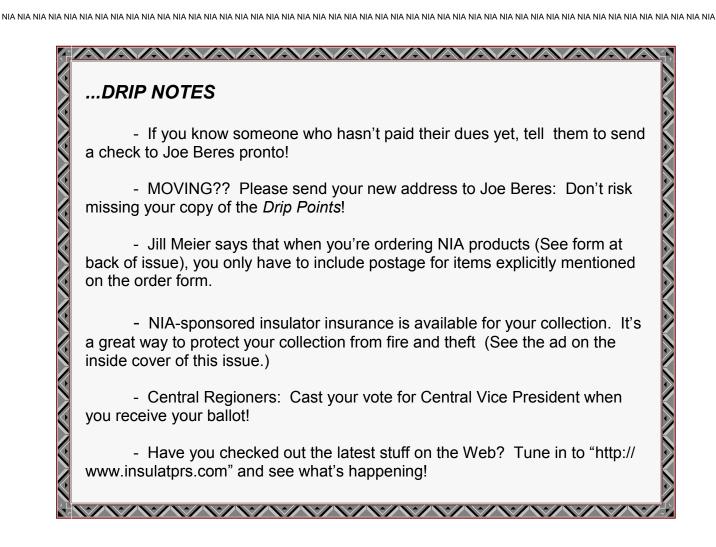
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activities that Elton discussed in his column in the Winter 1996 issue, as far as we are aware, no recent incidents have Unfortunately, some dealers occurred. took offense at the naming of specific states in Elton's warning. There was no intention to stereotype all hobbyists who reside in those states as being "unethical," and, obviously, one needs to be cautious in dealing with any unknown persons from any geographical area! Due to the specific incidences that have occurred, the states that were identified for membership awareness represent the most probable geographical areas for a recurrence of this particular problem.

Chicago Insulator Club are actively getting things in order for a great 1997 National, so start making your plans to attend! As "new blood" on the NIA Board and as representatives of the Central Region, Bob and Rick are to be commended for their demonstrated commitment to and efforts toward the promotion and betterment of our hobby, particularly within the Central Region!

As of this writing, we do not have a bid for a 1998 National within the Eastern Region! If this does not occur soon, the opportunity to host the show will be made open to any interested parties. Anyone with an interest in this activity should contact Rick Soller for an update and/or to brief him on your intentions.

Bob Stahr, Rick Soller and the Greater



FROM THE EASTERN REGION

t's SHOW TIME! During the next three months, there will be almost a dozen insulator or insulator related shows in the Eastern Region. Check your insulator magazines or visit <u>http://www.insulators.com/shows/</u> so you don't miss out! Shows are a great way to meet people, make friends, share collecting stories, and even add a few insulators to your collection!

STAMPS" IN LINNS'

STAMP NEWS!

Look for "Insulators on Stamps" on page 40 of the February 24th issue of Linns' Stamp News; the worlds largest weekly stamp news publication with a circu-

lation of over 66,000. Over a dozen stamps will be pictured in full color as well as an NIA cacheted envelope and a Reddy Kilowatt postcard! Good "press" for our hobby in a different context.

Speaking of publications, Antique Trader books (the people who *do Antique Trader Weekly* magazine) are publishing "Collecting in Cyberspace"; a "phone book" of thousands of antiques and collectibles sites on the INTERNET. The Insulators site at <u>http://www.insulators.</u> <u>com</u> is listed as one of the "top ten sites!"

Hats off to the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club; Keith Roloson (editor) and Bob Willis (publisher) put together a great newsletter with four <u>color</u> photographs! Not only that, but they have a great lineup of activities and other events planned for the coming months. Think how you can contribute and improve your local insulator club!

I guess there will be one more issue of DP before the National, otherwise I'd close with "See you at the National !!"; guess I'll have to settle for "Hope to see you at a local show!"

Bill Meier, NIA #4322 Eastern Region Vice President

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

Before long, Spring will be here and we will be very busy with all the insulator shows. Since my last report I can add at least two more to the Central Region. The complete list of Spring/Summer shows as I know it follows:

- March 29: Metroplex show, Garland, TX
- April 4 & 5: Collectors Jubilee, Wheaton, IL

- April 12: Alma Insulator Show, Alma, KS
- April 26: NWIC swap meet, Bloomington, MN
- June 6-7: NTIC show, Ithaca, OH
- July 25-27: NIA National, Chicago, IL
- Aug 30-31: TCI show, Erlanger, KY
- Plus many other bottle shows with insulator dealers at them!

Much to my surprise, on January 31st I called Paul Ickes in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on a Hemingray related question only to *(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

find fellow collectors and members of the Missouri Valley Insulator Club having a get together! Both Dennis & Jeanne Weber and Chris Hedges were over at Paul's having a good time. I'm sure they were planning the next get together at the Alma Insulator Show.

It seems that the Northwestern Insulator Club (NWIC) has been having some great times too. They also held a general membership meeting and swap on January 31st. Good times were had by all and lots of trading occurred. Plan on attending their first time ever April show.

Hopefully, you will get this in time to remind you of Ross Baird's show in Garland, TX. I have always heard of good items walking in and good trading and sales occurring at this show.

The Wheaton, IL Collectors Jubilee show will be another good one. Jim Crandall always puts on a great show with insulator and lightning rod ball collectors having approximately an equal number of tables. The sales are always good and attendance for a Friday/Saturday show is incredible.

The TCI (Telephone Collectors International) show is going to have a group of insulator collectors setting up for the first time at one of their shows. Thanks go to Alan Stastny for setting this up and promoting the hobby in the Ohio/ Kentucky area. Don't forget his spring show in June.

The Central Region is really warming up for the NIA National in Chicago. We have approximately 130 tables sold at the time of this writing. Make your plans now! Show packets are available from me. Just give me a call or drop a note in the mail.

This year the Central Region will be electing a new officer for the position of Central Region Vice President. I

WILL BE ELECTING A

THE CENTRAL REGION

NEW VICE PRESIDENT

believe I have one more report to write before voting occurs. I have enjoyed serving you and look forward to either passing the position on or serving you in the next term. Please look at the nominations section in this newsletter for further information. I urge you all to vote for the person who can best represent you. See you at the shows!

[Late breaking news: The Autumn London, OH show is a go! It is being held in early November at the fairgrounds again. Further details will be forthcoming.]

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 Central Region Vice President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

hile this article is for the Spring issue of *Drip Points*, it doesn't feel like spring here at all! In fact it snowed last night here in Denver and we can look forward to a couple more months of the same stuff. I'll probably be wishing for cooler weather though in Chicago come July!

There are several shows scheduled in the Colorado area in the upcoming months. The Triple Ridge Insulator Club (after a six month hiatus) is getting back together again and putting on some shows. One is the annual <u>Trinidad Tailgater</u> which is to be held May 17 at the Trinidad State Park.

DON'T MISS THE TRINIDAD TAILGATER

ON MAY 17TH!

This has got to be one of the best scenic areas for a show (unless you consider the show certain people put on at the beach in Cayucos, California). The clubs from New Mexico and

Colorado have hosted this show for several years and although it's a small get -together, we always have a good time. It's not uncommon for people from Texas, Kansas, and California to attend. As an added bonus, Bill Ashcraft puts on his famous BBQ!

Another show in the works is the annual TRIC get-together in June. This time, we are planning a show separate from the

bottle people and although the location isn't quite known yet, the time will be June 27-28th. The last show that we held separate from the bottle people was the summer of 1995 and it was quite a success. We hope to repeat that success this time. The club is also talking about bidding to host the NIA Western Regional in 1998.

There are a lot of shows coming up in the next few months and some are new - like Alma, Kansas on April 12th hosted by the Missouri Valley Insulator Club and a brand new one April 26th hosted by the newly formed Northwestern Region Insulator Club in Bloomington, Minnesota. I know people have said this before, but if you're close by, try planning to attend. It really helps the clubs and the hobby - not to mention having a fun time in the process!

On the topic of altered insulators and the ongoing story in that area, it's been quiet. Hopefully we've seen the last of vicious letters and accusations and counteraccusations. I don't know anything new on the topic of testing and can only continue to have people write in or list their concerns. A few have, but very few so if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to drop me a line. I'll be happy to listen.

Matt Poage, NIA #3757 Western Region Vice President

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

The winter has gone by fast here in Georgia. Our digging weather is quickly coming to an end. It's a matter of weeks before the snakes crawl out, the black berries thicken, and the kudzu vines encompass all. The National will be here before you know it.

In the winter issue of *Drip Points*, I solicited candidates for the <u>Central</u> <u>Region Vice President</u> and asked for resumes to be printed in the spring issue. Two responses for your review and consideration are printed below. If anyone else is interested in throwing their hat in the ring, please contact me by April 1,

1997 so that I will have time to get your name on the ballot.

Ballots will be mailed in late April or early May to those in the Central Region who are NIA members in good standing. If you have not paid your 1997 dues, please renew quickly.

Remember, I'll be announcing the new Central Region Vice President in the NIA business meeting at the Chicago National. See you there!

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 **Nominations Chairman**



To NIA Members Of The Central Region

My name is Jimmy Burns, and I am running for the Central Vice Presidential position of the NIA. I live in Conroe, Texas with my wife Vicky and sons James and Christopher. I am a past President of the Lone Star Insulator Club and currently serve as the Woodward Award Chairman. I have been a host of the 1994 NIA National Show and also a host of the 1996 Central Regional. I am annually one of the LSIC local show hosts every year. I collect color porcelain insulators and enjoy the research aspect of the hobby. My writings are regularly featured in *Rainbow Riders Trading Post*. My credentials for leadership are very solid.

Unfortunately in the NIA solid credentials mean nothing. Anyone who is out of favor with the leadership clique of the NIA is not given an opportunity to serve within the organization. There is a desperate need for an outsider on the NIA board. I believe that I can be that outsider and serve well. Please vote for me when you receive your ballot. I will serve all members of the NIA.

Jimmy Burns, NIA #4032

To the Central Region:

I'm Bob Stahr and I am a candidate for Central Region Vice President. Many of you may be familiar with me, but some of you only know me by my name so I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am 24 years old and live in Northwestern Indiana very near Chicago. I am currently working full time and am attending night/Saturday classes at Purdue University Calumet. I hold an Associates degree in Architectural Technology from Purdue and am working on my Bachelors in Construction Technology.

I casually collected insulators in the mid 1980s and seriously started in 1987. In 1988, I subscribed to Crown Jewels and became a member of the NIA. Over the years, my collecting interests have become more defined. As some of you know, this has evolved into my specialty of Hemingray insulators and related products.

During 1991 and 1992, I became heavily involved in insulator related research. Mainly due to the encouragement of Elton Gish, I searched the library of Iowa State University and a few others for historic articles and advertising related to insulators. Many items from my research can be seen in Elton's Fred Locke book, Marilyn Albers' foreign glass book, my column in *Crown Jewels*, *Rainbow Riders*, *Canadian Insulator Collector*, and *Old Familiar Strains*.

Some of you in the upper Midwest may also remember that I have put on insulator displays at several shows. These include the London, OH insulator show and various fruit jar and bottle shows. One reason I set up at these non-insulator shows is to educate the general public about our hobby. I usually display Hemingray insulators and Hemingray made fruit jars and bottles at these shows to show people how closely related our hobbies are. In fact, I have had a number of requests from people attending the shows for information on the hobby and I am sure that some of these people are collecting now.

I believe the backbone of many hobbies, including insulators, is in communication and friendships with other collectors. With this in mind, in 1992 I founded and became President of the Greater Chicago Insulator Club. I felt that there was a need to get Chicago-area collectors into a local organization in which we could socialize and form new friendships. With the formation of this club I have seen its membership grow to roughly 70 members and am proud to say I had a hand in helping organize the hobby here in the midwest.

For the last two years, the Greater Chicago Insulator Club has been involved in hosting a local Autumn show in conjunction with the First Chicago Bottle Club. During one of these shows, Rick Soller and I decided it was time to give something back to the hobby in the form of hosting a National. We submitted a

successful bid and the 28th National Insulator show is scheduled for July 25-27 of this year.

Following the 1996 NIA election, I was appointed to take over the remaining term of Central Region Vice President. I have always been a strong supporter of the NIA and am very happy with the direction it's taking on the serious fake and altered insulator problem. I think the best thing that the NIA can do is educate the membership on the problem and I have been trying to do this as best as I can. I would like to see the display by Dwayne Anthony at the Long Beach National on fake and altered insulators brought to more shows in our region. I'm sure some of you have encountered the irradiated fruit jars and bottles that have been appearing in our area, but many of you have not. I think the NIA needs to use Dwayne's display as part of educating the membership on these insulators and I would like this to be one of my agenda items.

Another important agenda I would like to be involved in is interpreting the questionnaire of the membership sent out by Rick Baldwin last year. Glancing at the survey, it seems that there is a problem with member renewal and concerns about the future of the hobby. I think an in-depth study of the survey is necessary and I would like to use this data to address your concerns and introduce new ideas.

Finally, the life of the NIA is dependent upon young new members. I would like to see a separate listing of all junior members in the annual directory. This could be used as an easy way to find each other and share collecting interests. I joined the NIA when I was 15, and was overwhelmed by the variety and prices of the insulators that I saw at my first show. The NIA needs to encourage these younger collectors by showing them that a very interesting collection can be put together relatively inexpensively. I would be willing to act as a sponsor to young collectors and encourage their involvement with the hobby.

I am a dedicated and energetic person who will work for the good of the hobby. I want to help educate, unify, and strengthen the hobby through positive and constructive change. Please consider voting for me for the Central Region Vice President. Thanks.

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186

FOOTNOTES FROM THE ETHICS CHAIRMAN

Most of you may remember from past reports in Drip Points that Larry Richards (Mobile, AL) has reappeared using an assumed name of "Olin P. Wentworth" (Fairhope, AL) and probably, too, the name "Cedric Fletcher" (Theodore, AL). In each case reported, a collector received a telephone call with offers of nice glass insulators at below market prices that enticed the collector to send payment. In all cases, the insulator promised was not sent and efforts to contact the seller proved fruitless until the NIA got involved. I am pleased to report that no new cases have been reported to me since last September.

However, this does not mean that we should be any less wary of unsolicited telephone calls from people we do not know. If someone unknown to you calls offering insulators for sale, it is perfectly acceptable to expect him to send the insulators on approval. Larry lives in Mobile, AL. The addresses used by his aliases were P. O. box numbers in small towns in the Mobile, AL area. In addition, we would be foolish to believe that he would never try using a P. O. box address in one of the neighboring states. P. O. boxes can be rented from such places as Mail Boxes Etc. and The Mail Box. Another twist was used by "Cedric Fletcher" whereby he gave the town as Pascagoula, AL but the Zip Code was for Theodore, AL. After a futile attempt to find Pascagoula, AL on a map, you might wrongly assume that it was a very small town, and become convinced everything was okay.

If you have any doubts, please contact me and I can check the Zip Code with my computer or try to verify that the person who contacted you is legitimate.

It is exciting indeed to report that our hobby has been relatively free of ethics complaints over the last several months. I wish you another great year of insulator fun: making new friends and enjoying old friendships, trading and hunting insulators, enjoying shows, and talking insulators.

Do it with glass but let your porcelain shine. Happy Collecting!

Elton Gish, NIA #41 Ethics Chairman

A NOTE FROM THE BY-LAWS CHAIR

he NIA Handbook has been reprinted and includes the revisions made following the 1996 changes to the By-Laws. NIA members may obtain a copy from: Joe Beres, 1315 Old Mill Path, Broadview Heights, OH 44147. For members with access to the INTERNET, you will find the revision posted at http://www.insulators.com/

John McDougald, NIA #689 By-Laws Chairman

Major Donation to Hobby Promotion Announced

he Wisconsin Insulator Collectors Club was organized on June 29, 1976. In the 1970's and early 80's, the club held four meetings per year and hosted two annual shows. As the years passed, the meetings dropped to two per year and membership dropped as members pursued other interests. The last official meeting was held April 16, 1994 with five members in attendance. As a result of the situation, the club was recently formally disbanded. At the time of the dissolution, the club treasury contained nearly \$675.00. After club official James H. Skowlund contacted all current members, it was agreed to donate the entire amount to the NIA Education and Promotion Fund to promote the hobby of insulator collecting. On behalf of the NIA and collectors everywhere, our thanks go out to the following members of the Wisconsin Insulator Collectors Club for their generous contribution: Otto Boll, Bruce Brown, Earl Flood, William & Avonda Giese, Bob Jelinski, Jim & Nancy Skowlund, Margaret Thostenson, and Rick Soller.

Mike Guthrie, NIA #3297 Treasurer

NIA MEMBERSHIP HISTORY

1997 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS		
	AS OF 2-12-97	
TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED NEW MEMBERS FOR 1996		6258 21 62
		83
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE (not paid)
MEMBERS	1087	4973
CHARTER	103	783
LIFETIME	33	10 (DEC.)
JUNIOR	20	19
CLUBS	3	9
NON U.S.MEMBERS	30	49
25 YEAR MEMBERS (SILVER)	37	0
24 YEAR MEMBERS	31	7
23 YEAR MEMBERS	15	1
23 YEAR MEMBERS 22 YEAR MEMBERS	13	1 2
21 YEAR MEMBERS	20	9
20 YEAR MEMBERS	18	4
19 YEAR MEMBERS	14	7
18 YEAR MEMBERS	25	9
17 YEAR MEMBERS	16	13
16 YEAR MEMBERS	18	15
15 YEAR MEMBERS	28	13
14 YEAR MEMBERS	33	20
13 YEAR MEMBERS	28	30
12 YEAR MEMBERS	31	35
11 YEAR MEMBERS	22	49
10 YEAR MEMBERS	44	57
9 YEAR MEMBERS	40	78
8 YEAR MEMBERS	40	78
7 YEAR MEMBERS	49	118
6 YEAR MEMBERS	45 72	171
5 YEAR MEMBERS	72	236
4 YEAR MEMBERS	95	343
3 YEAR MEMBERS	139	501
2 YEAR MEMBERS 1 YEAR MEMBERS	125 83	956 2221
DECEASED MEMDEDS ///NOW	NT)	111
DECEASED MEMBERS (KNOW		111
DOGS (NIA NUMBER ISSUED, H		4
MEMBERS ALREADY PAID FOR	K 1998	70
: NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE NO	T ASSIGNED ARE DEA	DNUMBERS
	JI ASSIGNED ARE DEA	TO MODERS.
(NEVER TO BE USED)		
NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE DO		
THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER AN A DEAD NUMBER.	D THE SECOND OR TH	IKD NUMBER BECAME

FINANCIAL STUFF GOES ON THIS PAGE

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