



Drip Points

<http://www.nia.org>

Quarterly Magazine of the National Insulator Association

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Full Color National show edition.



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Color printing of this “National Show issue” generously provided by Tommy Bolack NIA# 3756

Would you like to see future issues in full color? You or your club can sponsor the color printing! Contact NIA President Lou Hall for more information.

Lou Hall NIA# 7185, President@nia.org or (559) 435-1740

The NIA is an 501(3)(c) charitable organization. This means your donations are tax deductible



Shaun Kotlarsky

NIA # 4993

Editor

I would like to start off by saying a **BIG** thank you to all the people that contributed a research article this month! You will see these near the back of this Drip Points Good stuff. **Keep sending articles.** I want to included as many of them as I can each issue to make Drip Points not just the “Official voice of the hobby” but also have articles that have a wider appeal.

The big news for this issue is it is printed in **FULL COLOR!** Made possible by a generous donation from Tommy Bolack NIA# 3756. Thank you Tommy!

Would you like to see future issues in full color? You or your club can sponsor the color printing! Contact NIA President Lou Hall for more information.

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In this issue you will find new headers. There are 2 styles. First one is the new “wide format” photos. They have the collection in the background of the person in the photo. I thought it would be a fun way to show off some of our goodies. The other style has a photo cut in the shape of a CD 731. This is for older photos that I have on file that can’t be made in to the new larger format. Goal is to get all photos over to the first style.

Update on the All Insulators Project, I am now all caught up on the photos that have been submitted to me. If anyone has more to contribute please do. Site is coming along nicely. Check it out at <http://allinsulators.com>

Thanks also goes to Diane Tjerrild who supplied many of the photos you see throughout this issue of the National.

Shaun Kotlarsky



Wanted: Articles for Drip Points

If you have a short “Did you know?” style tidbit about an insulator please let me know. Also looking for longer articles (1/2 page to 2 pages) about an insulator related subject to spice up Drip Points! Send your submissions to newsletter@nia.org Thanks! Shaun Kotlarsky, Drip Points Editor





Lou Hall

NIA # 7185

President

It's over! All the planning, the preparation and the activity of the 2011 NIA National are folded away in memories and photographs.

Insulators are back on their shelves or boxed and ready for another show. Displays are taken apart and materials saved for future use.

Elsewhere in this issue I'm sure you will hear about the show as seen from the points of view of show hosts, dealers, exhibitors and guests. Additionally, we had a professional photographer in attendance who took pictures of the show from every imaginable perspective. She covered the show by taking over 1600 photos of the event. All her material from the show is now owned by the NIA.

I announced at the Annual General Membership meeting three decisions that were discussed and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting on Thursday. These decisions 1) add to the rules regarding the nomination of individuals for the Outstanding Service Award and the Lifetime Membership Award; 2) provide an option for renewing membership; and 3) establish a Hall of Fame.



First, the Board of Directors approved the addition of the following rule as it pertains to the nomination of members for the Lifetime Member Award. This rule states that an individual member may not nominate themselves or their spouses for this award. This rule will also apply to the nominations for the Outstanding Service Award. Also, individuals receiving the Outstanding Service Award will not be eligible to receive that award again for five (5) years.

Second, the NIA Board of Directors voted to offer its members the opportunity to "Bridge" their membership. An individual member will have the option to "Buy Back" gaps that may exist in their individual membership. These gap years would be purchased at the current membership dues rate per year for each year being bridged. The individual's total years of membership would be increased accordingly. This option applies to an individual NIA membership number only.

Third, The Board of Directors approved the establishment of a "Hall of Fame" to honor esteemed contributors to the insulator collecting hobby and to the National Insulator Association. The Hall of Fame will be managed by the guidelines that follow. These guidelines will be added to the NIA Handbook under "Exhibitor and Judging Rules" at Section 4(e).

HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION GUIDELINES

The NIA Board of Directors has the authority to honor esteemed contributors to the hobby and the NIA by inducting such individuals into the NIA "Hall of Fame."

The purpose of the NIA Hall of Fame is to recognize and preserve the historical significance of the contributions of those who have significantly advanced the invention, manufacture, application and collection of insulators upon which the hobby and the NIA is founded.

Candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame may be any past or present member of the NIA as well as other individuals who have significantly advanced the invention, manufacture, application and collection of insulators upon which the hobby is founded.

Candidates can be nominated by affiliated clubs, individual NIA members, or family members related to the candidate. Current members of the NIA Board of Directors may nominate candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. Individual members may not nominate themselves or their spouses.

The NIA Awards and Recognitions Committee will receive the submitted written applications and supporting documentation for the proposed candidate. Induction into the Hall of Fame shall be by recommendation from the Awards and Recognitions Committee. Induction into the Hall of Fame will require a vote for approval by two-thirds (7) of the members of the Board of Directors.

The numbers of inductees shall be limited to no more than three (3) members per year.

Inductees to the Hall of Fame will be announced at the annual NIA National Show Awards Banquet. Photographs and biographies of the inductees will be published in the Drip Points Newsletter, Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine, and on the "Hall of Fame" page of the NIA web site. The Association Historian will be responsible for preserving the inductee's biographical information in the NIA archives.



I hope every one of you will consider submitting names and biographical material for this recognition. I'm sure that as you are reading this, potential candidates names have popped into your mind. Please follow through. Do the research and submit the material to our Awards and Recognitions Chairman.

"President's Special Awards" were presented at the awards banquet.

In appreciation for their work in developing and making available the resource "Insulator Gazette" Glenn Drummond, Elton Gish, Bill Meier and Bob Stahr received plaques of recognition. Don and Camille Rohde were recognized for their many years of service to the Golden State Insulator Club and their well known Rohde Ranch Tailgater and BBQ. Jack Roach received a well deserved "Thank You" award for his service as Treasurer. Jack has decided to retire after 14 years of NIA service. Carolyn Berry received a well deserved "Thank You" as she retired from her position as Product Manager. She will continue serving the NIA as the NIA Commemorative Coordinator.

Which brings up another point! We are in need of a person to become our Product Manager. I have asked for volunteers for the past six months and have not received any responses. If any of you would like to become more involved in the NIA or know someone who would be a good fit for this position please let me know. Currently, boxes of shirts, caps, koozies, patches, etc. are stacked in my work space. This is not where they are supposed to be. Sales of NIA product will be suspended until we find someone to take on this important task.

Now for some really wonderful news! After the National in San Jose the Association received a financial gift from a member who asked to remain anonymous. The donor specifically requested that the donation be used to compensate our official photographer, Diane Tjerrild, for her services. I am including here the letter I received from Diane.

Dear NIA President Lou Hall, NIA Board Members, NIA Members-at-Large, and all attendees, guests of, and donors to the recent NIA National Show in San Jose, California:

Firstly, thank you for welcoming me into your world of insulators with such open arms. I enjoyed meeting you and documenting your hobby through my camera. You are a terrific group of people and it was very interesting and exciting to learn about your beautiful hobby.

You were so wonderful to work with, patiently posing, smiling, and pointing out interesting things to photograph. It really made my work as a photographer very enjoyable and exciting. Thank you!

There are a few special thank you messages I would like to make:

One is to Lou Hall who paid for my room in San Jose. Thank you so very much for covering that expense. I really appreciate it.

A second big thank you goes to Kevin W. Jacobson for downloading and burning DVDs of my images onsite so the Crown Jewels team could take them home with them the last day of the show. I really appreciate your help, not to mention also bringing out some of your extra special insulators for me to photograph. All of your help was greatly appreciated.

My third thank you goes to an unnamed philanthropist in the group. I received a call today from Lou Hall stating that an "anonymous person" associated with NIA made a generous donation specifically to me for my photography services during the NIA National Show. I am surprised, deeply touched, and humbled by the gesture. I so enjoyed documenting the people, the glass, the details, the awards, the displays, and just the overall show in general. I was simply volunteering my services and was having a great time doing so. To receive such a kind donation is really frosting on the cake! So, to you, my anonymous and generous donor, I thank you so very much for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Your amazing donation was a total surprise and appreciated more than you know. Thank you, I really appreciate your gift.

In summary, thank you again to everyone in the hobby! You share a delightful and beautiful hobby and I look forward to seeing you at future NIA events.

Sincerely,

Diane Tjerrild

Final thought! Donations will continue to play an important role in allowing the NIA to accomplish many of the goals and ambitions that exist for our membership. The NIA is a 501(c)3 public charity and as such most donations are tax deductible. Please consider adding the NIA to your list of charitable organizations. Thank you.

Lou Hall





1st Past President

The National has come and gone and my main focus right now is to make sure that the Hemingray Plaque dedication on September 4, 2011 goes off without a hitch.

So far, everything is falling into place well. In late June we approved the text of the plaque and got land owner approval to install the plaque on their property. We also got owner approval to modify some chain link fencing that would have obscured viewing of the plaque by the public. At the end of June, we hired a local fence contractor to remove some sections of the fencing and install a small section as a result of the removal. The work was accomplished in one day and it makes the front look 100% better. In early July, Roger Lucas returned to paint the two handrails at the small stairs in the "front yard" of the plant. The public will be using these stairs during the dedication ceremony.

At the time of this writing, the plaque has been fabricated and shipped to Muncie, where it is being safely stored until the big day. In the mean time, I will be making one more trip to Muncie along with Darin Cochran and Roger Lucas to install the post of the plaque. We will be digging a hole in the ground right in front of the Hemingray and Owens-Illinois office buildings, putting the post in, and surrounding it with concrete. Maybe we'll come up with an interesting insulator in the process. The plaque itself will actually go up on the morning of the dedication before the attendees arrive.



Photo by: Bob Stahr
Darin Cochran and Roger Lucas figuring out the best placement for the plaque

I have made arrangements with a neighboring business to allow attendees to park in their parking lot. The Minnetrista Cultural Center will be bringing out folding chairs, a podium, and sound system for us to use during the dedication. They will also have a display case in the lobby of their museum full of Hemingray insulators of various colors and shapes during the dedication weekend. We hope that the public will be educated about insulators and maybe we'll gain a couple collectors out of this process. The sign will be there for decades to come, so hopefully over the years we will bring several into this hobby.



Photo by: Roger Lucas

Delaware County Historical Society, and Minnetrista Cultural Center who have so far committed to attend. That's in addition to some distant Hemingray relatives, a number of collectors and a few old employees of the plant. We are anticipating a total of 30 to 40 people in attendance.

Please wish us good weather for the event. Check out the next issue of Drip Points and also Crown Jewels for pictures from the dedication. We appreciate all the help of the people who have donated funds that have made this project a success.

Bob Stahr

HEMINGRAY GLASS Co.



Brief Overview of key dates for Hemingray Glass Co.

- 1850's Hemingray started making lightning rod insulators.
- 1893 on May 2nd 1893 Hemingray is granted the patent for drip points.
- 1922 the first Hemingray 42 was made.
- 1933 Owens-Illinois buys Hemingray Glass Co.
- 1937 The 1 Billionth Hemingray glass insulator was made.
- 1952 Kimble Glass Co. takes over the Hemingray division to produce Kimble power insulators.
- 1967 The last Hemingray insulator was made.
- 1972 The Muncie, IN plant closes.

Compliments of: <http://www.hemingray.net>

Hemingray throughout the years

Photos by: *Shaun Kotlarsky* & <http://www.hemingray.net>



Western Region VP

Hi folks, first, I just want to say thanks for the opportunity to serve as your Western VP for the past year, and I truly look forward to serving again for the upcoming term. I feel like our hobby is the best of the best out there and consider it a real privilege to serve and be a part of its future in any way I can. Though most folks I speak with have positive thoughts and feelings regarding its direction, I invite all constructive ideas & criticism you might have. Only through involvement do we stand to keep our hobby the great one it is. With that said; anyone reading this who didn't make it to this years National in San Jose surely missed out on the opportunity to participate in one of the best National Shows I've been to yet. The representation of western (as well world wide) glass/porcelain, and its history were nothing short of phenomenal. If you didn't see it in one or more of the many great displays, it was probably for sale on someone's table. Western Region collectors & members from the Golden State Insulator club held nothing back to bring us all an amazing and unforgettable show. The only gripe I heard was; why didn't I take a few extra days to enjoy some of the incredible scenery this part of the country has to offer. For those of you who couldn't make it, I recommend taking a look at the August issue of CJOW and the great job that was done covering it.

Well, as yet another Drip Points Quarterly comes and goes at lightening speed, I'm reminded that our cooler nights, pumpkins turning orange and kids back at school are a sure sign that summer is coming to a close and fall is once again knocking at the door. I hope you'll all try to get out and support a few of the shows coming up this fall in your area. A couple that come to mind out here are the Enchantment Show in Albuquerque on September 23rd, the Double "D" Extravaganza in Grand Terrace, CA. on October 1st. and the Jefferson State Show on October 14th in Canyonville, OR., just to name a few. Oh..... and let's not forget that quirky little show east of the Mississippi River on November 4th (that no one can attend just once) called "The Springfield Experience". ☺

I often hear it said that time and seasons seem to pass faster and faster the older one gets. Could it be that we just keep trying to pack more and more fun and memories into the time we have?

Don't let the memory of a get together with friends and fellow collectors pass you by.

Dan Gauron





Bill Snell

NIA # 2624

Central Region VP

I'm sure you'll hear all about the terrific San Jose National elsewhere in this issue of Drip Points, so I'll just sum it up by saying how much I enjoyed the show, how much I learned about the rich history of the transcontinental telegraph, and how thankful I am that I was able to meet many West Coast collectors and add a few treasures to my collection. The show team displayed top-notch organization and this show was as smoothly-run as any I've seen!

More shows are coming up soon, and I certainly hope you'll support those in your area. Here in the Central Region, we have Racine, Wisconsin on September 10; Richfield, Ohio on September 17; Chelsea, Michigan on September 25.

Here's the big news for the Central Region: mark your calendars for June 22-24, 2012, and make plans to visit Kansas City, Missouri, for the 43rd National Show. Show hosts Darryl Wagner and Charles Brandon, along with the Missouri Valley Insulator Club, have been hard at work to make sure we have an extraordinary National Show next year. I'm so excited I can hardly wait for next summer. Kansas City has much to offer and will make a great vacation spot for even the most insulator-weary family members: an enormous variety of historical sites and museums, art galleries, recreational attractions, shopping, stunning architecture, more fountains than any city except Rome, and world-class live music of every kind – not only Kansas City's famous jazz, but symphonic, chamber, choral, rock, rap, and nearly anything else you can name. If sports are your thing, put on your Chiefs, Royals, Mavericks or Sporting KC t-shirt and you'll fit right in. And here's a hint: only a tourist would wear a Kansas Speedway t-shirt and not one supporting their favorite driver. I'll be happy to share some of my favorite area attractions if you have questions.

Even though we're looking forward to 2012, if you wish to host a National in future years, even the Central Region's turn in 2015, it's NOT all that far away, and it's NOT too early to begin the planning! Please feel free to reach out to the National Show Committee to get the process started. I know they will be delighted to hear from someone who's thinking in advance.

We're also looking for members who will step up and consider holding a NIA office. Next summer, we'll have three vacancies on the board: president, secretary, and Central Region vice-president. If you're interested or just want to learn more, please contact me.



Bill Snell





Eastern Region VP

Matt Grayson

NIA # 387

I had the good fortune of attending the National in San Jose in July, the first time in California in more than twenty years. The show hosts all deserve a hearty round of applause for an excellent show in a great location. For an Easterner, it was quite impressive to see the vast assortment of EC and Ms and other California glass at the show. It was also great to visit in person with those collectors I generally only communicate with by email. We will see if my frequent flyer miles allow me some additional Western trips next year. Next years National will be in Kansas City, another location home to many great glass and porcelain finds unique to the area, the show hosts are offering discounts for early registration, why not plan the trip now as I am doing. It should be another great National. Here in the East, we expect some competitive bids for the 2013 National, so the tradition of outstanding shows here in the East, should continue. My last report did not make it into Drip Points, so I am including most of the spring report here.

Charlie Irons, Jeff Hollis and the entire CBIC club, are known for their outstanding shows. Their show year started off well with another crowd at the Shrewsbury show in April. As always, an outstanding variety of glass and porcelain was available and the show was well attended by an enthusiastic crowd. The Eastern Regional promises to be another standout event.

I had the pleasure of attending the Natrona Heights show of the Western Reserve Insulator Club. In spite of a driving rain and the recent spike in gasoline prices, the show was well attended and good sales were reported, another great effort by the club! For the first time in quite a few years, I missed the Yankee Polecat Show due to a personal conflict, quite the disappointment. I understand the show was very well attended, and quite a few outstanding insulators changed hands. Thanks, as always to club president, John Rajpolt, for his ongoing efforts in keeping this longtime show a going affair. I also was able to see the crowd from Chicago at the Yorkville, Illinois show organized by Jason Townsend. Perhaps we should not be too critical of the rising gas prices, as James Bancroft from England made it there. I think he is an excellent example to all of us just how enjoyable a visit to an insulator show is, no matter how far it may be from our home. There is no better way to add to your collection. I seem to manage to turn up at least one unusual porcelain piece for my collection at every show, something impossible to do on ICON or Ebay. Even more impressive are the multiple piece deals that seem to be at every show, I have seen people walk out of shows this spring with dozens of pieces at 25% of book value. Try to do that on your computer!



I also attended my first Dixie Jewels Show, in North Carolina, Jim Colburn from Florida, was in attendance, along with many other collectors who traveled greater distances than myself. it was definitely worth the trip. This is certainly a great hobby, get out and support your local club and good hunting! I hope to see YOU at an upcoming show!

Matt Grayson



Michele Kotlarsky NIA # 5370

Information Director

We are making some headway with the non profit postage and I am happy to announce we have been approved! We are saving even more money by not using envelopes and getting savings from the mailing company we are now using. There was no need to buy stickers as the post office delivered the first issue without envelopes successfully. I think you will agree with me that the Drip Points is beginning to look like a magazine. We enjoyed doing the cover page in color so much that we are going to continue with that theme. Those who get the online version see it in full color!!

We are working on getting press releases ready for the upcoming Hemingray Plaque ceremony noting the NIA's involvement and we also have an ad being published in Crown Jewels for the NIA scholarship award running for 6 months.

Don't forget to attend local shows and encourage kids to collect whenever you can.



Michele Kotlarsky



Ethics Chair

David R. Wiecek NIA # 3225

I have nothing really new to report since the last issue. All my personal insulator dealings have been good and positive. I've been involved in transactions both as a buyer and a seller where insulators were shipped prior to sending or receiving payment and I am happy to report that all completed without any problems, this includes across national borders. I know I have gone on record in the past in Drip Points to discourage this however I feel the insulator collectors I deal with overall are an ethical group and I have little to worry about when it comes to honesty.

I encourage you to contact me if you have a personal matter where you believe the NIA Code of Ethics, as stated in the NIA Membership Handbook, was violated. The Code of Ethics provides a guide to the general membership for conducting their collecting and dealing activities honorably, honestly and in a manner which will present a good image of the hobby to the public.

David R. Wiecek



Membership Director



Donald Briel

NIA # 7218

What a year thus far! It has been filled with change and excitement. The first half of the year was completely focused on the new 2011 Price Guide, but we were able to slip in three insulator swap meets along the way. The Price Guide is now out and available (see www.InsulatorPriceGuide.com). All of the pre-publication orders were filled in time for collectors to have them when they went to the National (with the exception of the Canadian orders that were held up by the postal strike). Anyway, June 30th saw my retirement and the start of a whole new outlook on life without the 'daily grind'. Then came the 4th of July holiday and off to the National in San Jose the next day.

Price Guide sales at the National were brisk and collectors seemed to be well pleased with the end result. Best of all, it was a great show. Many thanks go out to the show hosts; Dave Elliottt, Colin Jung, Lou Hall, Bill Rohde, and their families. Thank you for all of the time and effort that went into that great event! A special thank you also goes out to Steve Roberts for the Sunday morning devotional that he quietly puts together for each National. What a special way to start Sunday morning. If you haven't attended one yet its time to add it to your 'must do list' for next year's National. Many thanks also go out to all of the attendees. It's the wonderful people that make this hobby so special. May the friendships continue to grow even faster than the insulator collections!

The return trip from the National gave Jeanne and I some time to relax along the way and visit a few old mining towns in Nevada. We even found a few treasures in the old town antique shops.

Well, its back to a life of retirement upon our return, but what a busy few days just catching up on NIA membership renewals and new member signups. As of this writing we are now up to 1606 active members for 2011. That is a few lower than the past couple of years, but the year is not over yet and it is still a very good showing for the hobby. 2012 will be the 40th year for the NIA and I anticipate sending out several 40 year service bars. We currently have nineteen 39 year members. What a milestone!

At this year's board meeting, the NIA Board of Directors approved allowing members to purchase missed years of service. A collector that has been active for a number of years, but missed a couple along the way for whatever reason, may now pay the current dues and have those years counted. The cost is \$12 for each year for each NIA number. Family membership rates do not apply in this case. Any member needing to know what years they have missed, and the cost to restore them, can contact me at Don.Briel@comcast.net or (435) 753-5786.



Now its time to prepare for a mini vacation in West Virginia that will include the NIA Eastern Regional show. By the time you read this the show will have passed, but as of this writing it is shaping up to be a wonderful event. Jeanne and I are looking forward to a couple of days of exploring history sites prior to the show, then the anticipated visit with so many good friends. We always hope to make several new friends with each trip as well.

What a great hobby! Thank you for supporting it the NIA and the hobby!

Donald Briel



Historian

Miles McLall

NIA # 8548

Greetings everyone! I hope that you have had a good summer so far.

First of all I want to make a correction to my last article, in which I stated that old copper wire can contain up to 10% gold mixed with the copper. It should have been 1/10% to 2/10% (one to two tenths of a percent) gold, still a significant amount of gold especially with the price per oz. over \$1,700.00!

This quarter I want to present some text from a humorous and informative book that I recently read. This book is not well known, but gives a clear view of the life of the author and countless others like him that helped to make the power delivery grid of our country the best in the world.

I hope you will get the book and enjoy it as much as I have! I found my copy somewhere east of the Mississippi (on the way to last years National) in an antique/used stuff store for about \$3.00. So try your local used book store they just might have a copy for a good price.

CLIMBING TREES CAN BE FUN... SOMETIMES

An account of the dilemmas and absurdities of keeping the electrical lines clear of fallen trees, wayward birds, errant cars, "acts of God" and human frailty.

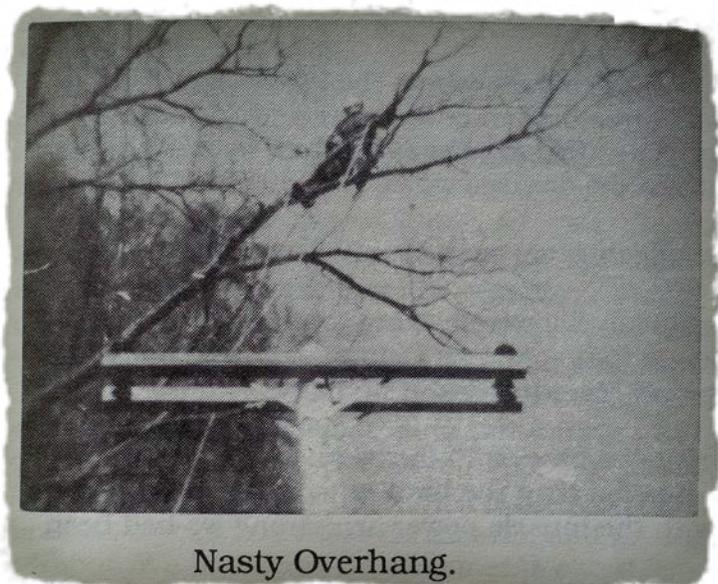
By Eugene D. Hendrickson, Copyright 1986.

CHAPTER 22 ESTIMATORS – SOME NOVEL MISTAKES

"I noticed that all too often in those early days that the estimator would rely too much on sitting at a desk and drawing straight lines on a map and not scouting the area.

One time the company installed several poles and then sent us out to cut clearance thru the trees so they could put the lines up. We trimmed what trees were in the way and then phoned PG&E and asked for a bulldozer. This caused instant consternation. "What in hell do you want with a bulldozer??" So I told them about a small hill that had suddenly sprouted between poles three and four, and to give clearance would require the removal of a few hundred yards of dirt to make a cut thru the hill. They thought I was being funny, but they did not see any humor in the situation, so a delegation came out to see, and the result was a small change in the plans. They installed a pole on top of the hill as they should have in the first place.

I did not get any brownie points, all the brains being some what provoked, and the estimator got chewed on quite considerable and more than somewhat."



Nasty Overhang.

Photo from page 21.

CHAPTER 9 THE AUDIENCE IS THE SHOW, SOMETIMES

“There were times when it was the audience that needed to be more careful, one time up at Loch Lomand we had a big dead pine tree to take down that had to be felled very carefully between power lines and buildings. We had quite a time with it. We ridged it so that we could pull it in the direction we wanted it to go. We were very careful of every thing. There was a large crowd of tourists and some were vacationers standing around watching. Everything was going according to plan. So we undercut it, checked everything carefully, and we back cut it and pulled it over. One old guy was standing there watching it; when it started to come down it looked like it was really getting personal. Trees have that habit when they are tall and leaning toward you at 100 M.P.H. He took off running and was looking back over his shoulder. It seems a man a short distance away was working on his cesspool and was taking the top off from it. This man that was running ran right head on into the cesspool. He went into it up to his arm pits. It made him most unhappy. He came climbing up out of there and there were little square pieces of paper hanging here and there. It made him so mad he couldn't say anything but, “Ding, Ding, Ding, Ding.” Anyway, he went home and changed his clothes, took a bath, then came on back to watch the rest of it. It gave us the idea that you had to be awful careful of the audience.”

The book also contains 79 other stories of the many interesting, funny, unusual and sometimes dangerous things that happened in Mr. Hendrickson's 35 years of tree trimming and line maintenance, along with 31 more photographs and 5 detailed illustrations.

Back cover. Photo by Nick King

Miles McLall



Author Eugene Hendrickson, 1980

I was born July 6, 1908, on a busted down horse ranch in Carbon County, Utah. My grandmother was the midwife. I lived mostly in a smoky mining town, Eureka, Utah. I was about eleven when we moved to Santa Ana, California, where I graduated from school. The family broke up, and I worked back and forth between Utah and California: bellhop, sheepherder, miner, auto mechanic, etc., and finally ended up in Northern California, and WWII started. I fought and fought but they drafted me anyhow, and sent me back to Utah and stuck me in a lead mine till war's end. Then my Dad and I took a vacation and I met my wife and moved to Lakeport, California in 1946; raised two kids, and began climbing trees which I have done ever since. I was transferred to Point Arena in 1968 and have been here ever since.



Treasurer

National Insulator Association
 2010-2011 financial statement
 Twelve months ending June 30, 2011

Beginning Balance – General Funds\$22,731

Revenues

Donations	\$5,000
Scholarship Fund	\$5,000
Hemingray Plaque Donations	\$2,928
Membership Dues	\$9,846
Miscellaneous Income	\$700
Product Sales	\$4,292
Commemorative Sales	\$7,343

Total Revenues\$35,109

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	\$576
Taxes and Fees and Insurance	\$1,708
Marketing Product	\$2,040
Postage - Product.....	\$891
Postage - Membership	\$1,191
Printing	\$1,574
Historian Expense	\$1,501
Petty Cash-Barnes	\$100
Crown Jewels Rebate	\$464
Drip Points	\$6,827
Show Advertising Rebate	\$500
National Show Awards	\$1,133
Commemorative Insulators	\$3,587
Web Hosting	\$289
Hemingray Plaque.....	\$2,825

Total Expenses\$25,206

Closing Balance – General Fund	\$27,531
Scholarship Fund	\$5,000
Hemingray Fund	\$103

Total Balance on Hand June 30, 2011\$32,634



Philanthropy

First, I want to congratulate Bob Stahr on a great job with the Hemingray plaque project. I know how much work is involved in this type of project and Bob did a superb job. Thank you, Bob, for that notable service to the Hemingray Company, the Hemingray family, and our hobby.

I also want to thank and congratulate Lou Hall, Dave Elliott, Colin Jung, and Bill Rohde for what I continue to read about was a sensational National. Great work guys! Wish I could have been there.

Don't we live in an exciting time? Okay, wars, unstable economy, fighting politicians, a huge deficit, a runaway climate, etc., but great opportunities are all around us. As Americans, we can try pretty much anything we like. Start a business, change careers, go back to school, whatever. Some things---like all of the above---really haven't changed that much. A little more challenging maybe...

Look at our hobby. Back in the early 70's with rampant inflation (15% to get a mortgage), "rising" gas prices and shortages, 10% unemployment---collectors were predicting the end of our hobby as we knew it. After all, the price for a mint cobalt Hemi 162 had risen to \$30!! OMG, what was the world of insulator collecting coming to? But, our hobby survived. And in my view, it looks as strong as ever. Oh, prices go up and down with the economy and always have. But I predict they'll come back---maybe not to pre-Great Recession numbers---but still solid. We all need to do our part by introducing new collectors to our hobby---young and old.

What about philanthropy? Surely, people aren't still continuing to give money away, all things considered. Well, yes they are. Look at Bob's plaque project. Over goal. In my business of nonprofit community arts (which some people still mistakenly see as a frill), we exceeded all fundraising goals from July thru June this year. And 90% of our clientele has a median household income of \$35,000.

So, philanthropy is alive and well. I would urge you to think about donating cash, collections, or anything of value that the organization could convert to cash, to the NIA. Speak with your tax advisor or legal counsel about a year-end gift for tax purposes to the NIA. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. And those donations go to support educational, historic, and other activities as approved by the NIA board. By law, individual board or committee members and advisors cannot personally benefit from the organization and its contributions.

I look forward to seeing many of you in November (4-5-6) at the incredible Springfield Experience!

Rick Jones





National Show & Advisory Panel



Steve Blair & Glen Drummond NIA # 247 & 537

The 2011 National (Western Region) has come and gone. Show hosts and a site have been selected for the 2012 National (Central Region). Now it time to turn attention to the 2013 National (Eastern Region).

It hoped that all prospective bidders have been busy searching for the ideal venue and seeking input from facilities managers during the past year. A first draft of your bid document should be submitted to the Show Advisory Panel for initial review by 1 November 2011. Please let us know if you anticipate a problem with making that first deadline. Furthermore, talk to us now, don't wait until after you send us your draft bid to ask questions.

The 2014 National will be held in the Western Region. If you have any interest in hosting the show, now is the time to begin your preliminary planning. Please contact a Panel member if you are unsure of National Show requirements. We will be delighted to discuss the bidding process with anyone expressing an interest.

It is sad to realize that no individual or club has expressed any interest in hosting 2012 Eastern and Western Regional Shows. The requirements are not overwhelming. Most any local show can qualify without undue added effort. Look at it this way: A

Regional Show is an excellent opportunity for a show host to demonstrate to the collector attendees that the hobby is more than just tables of glass and porcelain for sale. If properly planned and managed, a show will offer opportunities to enhance the camaraderie of the collector group. Provide the collector a fun time and two things will be realized: 1) they will return, and 2) they will entice other collectors to attend by word of mouth (free advertising). Collectors generally attend a given show with one prior objective in mind – to acquire a great addition to his/her collection. That goal may be achieved under most circumstances; however, the show host has attained success when the collector realizes that not only did he acquire a treasure for his collection, but he really had a great time doing it. So, Show Hosts – submit a bid for a Regional show – let's hear from you soon!



Steve Blair & Glen Drummond



Scholarship Committee

Kay Bryan

NIA # 4099

It's back to school time and another opportunity for everyone to remember our students and the cost of college! NIA can help. Publicize our Scholarship Program in your areas. Remember not everyone gets DRIP POINTS or CROWN JEWELS. We need young collectors in the organization.

Do you volunteer at your local library, school , YMCA or another Community Center? Do you know some teachers or belong to a PTA? Do you coach any teams? How about children and grand children and their friends? Spread the word. We want lots of applicants so that we can award our scholarship to a deserving student. The academic scholarship is \$1,000.00.

In addition to the Academic Scholarship there is a Vocational scholarship of \$500.00 so please remember to mention that at your meetings and shows. I will be attending the Eastern Regional show in August and will publicize the scholarship information as much as possible. There will be people there who were not able to attend the National in San Jose and may not have heard about the program.

Ads will be appearing in Drip Points and Crown Jewels for six months. An ad will run for three months in the Antique Bottle and Glass Collector's publication.

All the information and application process is on the NIA web site. The NIA scholarship information is also listed in the database of scholarshipexperts.com. This is one of the best rated sites for scholarship searches.

Please remember that we are going to need more funds to continue this program. Since NIA is a non profit organization and any donation made is tax deductible. Mention this at your meetings to remind people who may be looking for a way to recognize a fellow collector or award a member for great performance.

The committee welcomes any ideas and suggestions. Let us know how we are doing and find us a deserving candidate !

Kay Bryant



Membership Application/Renewal Form

Dues Schedule:

Regular Membership.....\$12.00
Family Membership\$12.00
Junior Membership (under 18).....\$5.00
Club or Organization\$12.00

Submit payment to:

(Payable to the NIA in U.S. funds)

Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P.O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
don.briel@comcast.net

Check appropriate class: Regular Family Junior Club/Org.

Check years of Payment: Single year Multi-year

Please Print Legibly

Name _____

NIA # (If renewal) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ (+4) _____

Country (if not U.S.) _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels DirectoryYes No

Please include my Telephone NumberYes No

Please include my Mail Address.....Yes No

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following formatPaper Electronic

(Check only one, an E-mail address is required for electronic format)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ NIA # (If renewal) _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION GLASS COMMEMORATIVES

"Now in the 42nd year of continuous production"



42nd NIA CONVENTION * 2011 San Jose, CA

"Pacific Surf"

(Sky blue with opalescent dome and base)

\$40.00 postage paid for the first commemorative
(each additional piece \$35.00 when shipped with first)
Solid pours (limited availability) - \$50.00 each

Embossed on the base of the commemorative:



Embossed on the dome of the commemorative:



History of the National Show Commemoratives: *"Collecting Our History"*

Being an enthusiastic insulator collector, Frank Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma went home from the *First National Insulator Meet* (that's what the "National" show was referred to in 1970) held in New Castle, Indiana with an idea that collectors should have something by which they could remember the national meets. After months of struggling, he managed to have an insulator mold made. Frank said it was often referred to as "Frank's Last Folly" since he retired from teaching shortly thereafter. He also said it was worth the struggle. The commemorative insulator he designed replicated the early threadless "pilgrim hat" (CD 736) and is almost 4 inches high and is 3 1/4 inches across at the base. Since 1970, the glass commemorative has marked the national show event with new embossing for the location and a new color of glass. In 1979, the project was continued by John & Carol McDougald of Sedona, AZ. John and Carol produced the yearly commemoratives through 2009 at which time they donated the production to the National Insulator Association starting with the 2010 commemorative. Many thanks to the McDougald's for 30 years of production and for allowing the NIA to take over this venture in 2010! Any profits made from the 2011 NIA Commemoratives will go to benefit the National Insulator Association, a 501(3)c.

Please remit order and payment to:

**NIA 2011 Commemorative
c/o Carolyn Berry
1010 Wren Court
Round Rock, TX 78681**

Please make checks payable to: NIA

Phone orders: (512) 255-2006

Email orders: pyrex553@aol.com

Google check-out available: see note below

Website: www.nia.org (for Google Check-out follow link from website)

If you have questions, or live outside the continental USA, please contact us by phone or email for additional postage due.

NOTICE: The 2010 regular commemoratives are also available in limited supply

Award Winning Displays at The 2011 National

Photos by: *Diane Tjervild*



**BEST OF SHOW
MILHOLLAND EDUCATION AWARD
BEST DISPLAY OF POWER LINE HARDWARE**

Lou Hall



BEST DISPLAY OF THREADLESS INSULATORS

DR. Fredrick L Griffin Memorial Award
James Doty



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

John Contreras



**BEST SPECIALTY
BEST FIRST TIME DISPLAYER AT A NATIONAL**

(Central Florida Insulator club's Award)
Jerry Buckland



BEST FOREIGN

(Marilyn Albers Memorial Award)
Rudy Gargioni



BEST OF COLOR

Bob Merzoian



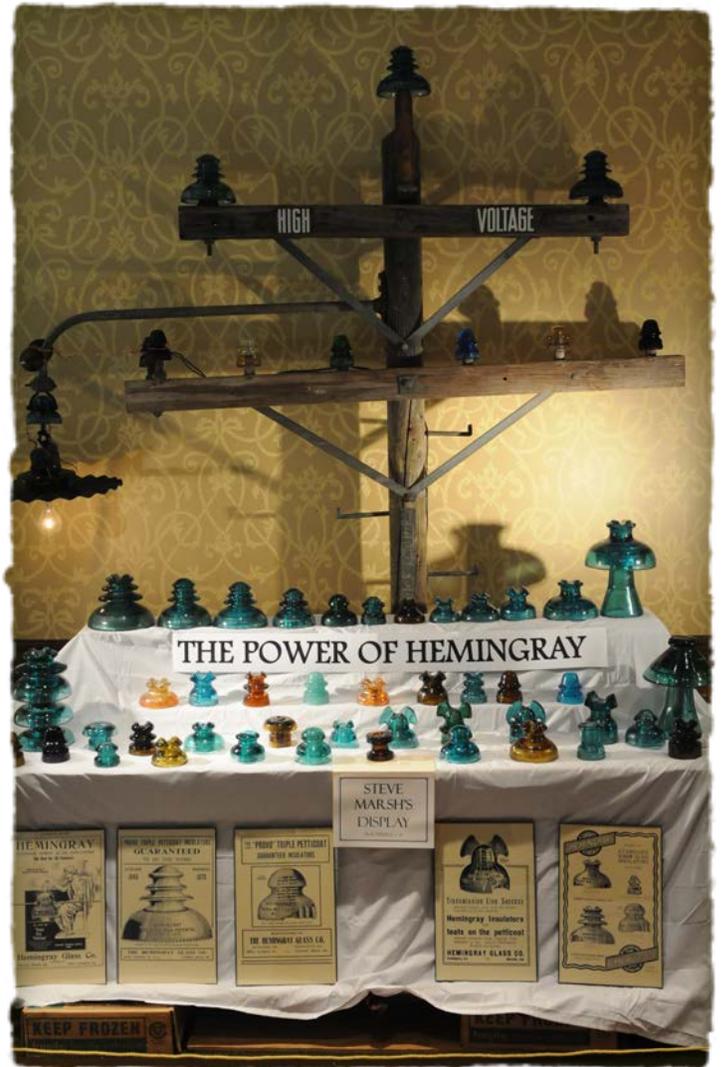
**BEST GENERAL DISPLAY
BEST USE OF CALIFORNIA GLASS**

Larry Monroe



**BEST THREADED PORCELAIN
BEST PORCELAIN**

(Jack Todd Memorial Award)
Paul Greaves & Mike Spadafora



BEST NORTH AMERICAN THREADED GLASS

(Jim Overstreet Award)
Steve Marsh



BEST DISPLAY OF POWER INSULATORS

(Greater Chicago Insulator Club Award)
Justin Martin

Columbia City, Indiana Insulator / Bottle / Collectibles Show

By Jim White, NIA #1127

Some readers may not remember the days when bottle shows were very prevalent and insulators were not so much. I cut my teeth on glass collecting in the late 1960s and bottle shows were frequent events in Central Indiana. In fact, Indianapolis used to host a depression glass / toy / bottle show that was a "never to be missed".

Columbia City in 2011 stirred my fondest memories of those days, meeting new faces and people with varied collecting interests in glass items. To say the least, the combination of insulators and bottles proved this year to help grow the show, the variety of matter for sale, some of which was directly insulator go-with worthy. Kim Borgman's show in Lebanon, Indiana, earlier in the year also combined many bottle dealers. Hopefully, both shows will continue this trend.

For those of you thrive on stats and might be swayed to attend next year:

Show hosts: Gene Hawkins & Chuck Dittmar
45 dealers representing 8 states
77 tables, mostly insulators,
Show hosts supplied 24 pizzas & 8 dozen assorted donuts,
Coffee & soft drinks, all of which were promptly consumed
15 Door prizes were drawn this year
Longest commute: Jeff Hooper, Port Angeles, Washington

Show traffic:

Friday ~ 90 walk-ins
Saturday ~ 125 walk-ins

Glass Goodies from Non-Dealers Included:

140 Jumbo in mint condition – changed hands at show
106 McLaughlin in dark yellow green
1138 Johnny Ball in light green
154 Whitall Tatum in purple
292 No embossing in bright blue (gorgeous)
132 bullet in pale green
20+ boxes of fruit jars for appraisal

Noteworthy Sales:

Jumbo noted above
Two Confederate Eggs
Four KCGWs
Eli Lilly Fish Bottle Made by Fairmount Glass
Fairmount Glass Works Quart Bottle
Several Telephone Signs
Large Drewerys Sign
263 Columbia
731 McKee
102 Southern Mass Tel. Co.



Note of appreciation to the NIA for the loan of the Altered Insulator Display.

Photo by: *Shaun Kotlarsky*

Seminar: Presented by Arlen Rienstra and Mike McLaughlin.
Seminar topic was Indiana Fruit Jar and Insulator Manufacturers.

Observations from Gene Hawkins, show co-host:

Bottle collectors & insulator collectors have some interesting differences that were observed this weekend: Bottle collectors appear pickier about bottle condition than we are for insulators, yet they seem more tolerant of "naked glass". They enjoyed the casualness of our show. Bottle shows evidently are not as fun.

Bottle collectors were amazed at the amount of efforts we insulator collectors go through to better understand company histories & insulator manufacturing processes. A bottle collector well into his 60's said after Arlen & Mikes seminar: "In my 50 years of collecting, I've never really thought about HOW they were made or even where."



Jim White

INSULATOR WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Created by DeeDee Hall

A	R	N	E	H	C	S	D	Z	W	J	H	K	A	T
G	U	D	I	G	I	A	U	C	T	I	O	N	Z	S
S	M	I	N	T	N	A	M	B	E	R	K	Z	L	O
E	T	R	A	N	S	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	V
D	B	C	V	M	U	D	W	U	P	W	T	G	X	C
B	N	O	T	E	L	E	G	R	A	P	H	O	T	I
K	I	L	C	P	A	L	B	G	T	P	O	I	F	S
Q	A	L	O	S	T	A	R	E	E	V	B	R	V	U
J	X	E	Q	P	O	N	Y	P	N	W	B	U	M	G
Y	M	C	L	F	R	M	H	G	T	Q	Y	C	B	X
D	Y	T	E	I	X	Y	A	T	E	K	Z	I	D	N
R	N	J	H	U	J	F	O	G	L	R	P	F	A	M

Find and circle the listed words in the diagram.

They run both vertically and horizontally.

Amber	Insulator	Pony
Auction	Mint	Star
Collect	Mud	Surge
Dig	NIA	Telegraph
Hobby	Patent	Transposition

THE NIA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Product Marketing Manager

The Product Marketing Manager is responsible for marketing, sales and inventory of NIA endorsed products. A background in retail sales would be beneficial. A job description is available upon request.

If this position sounds like a fit and appeals to you please contact
Lou Hall, NIA President by phone (559) 435-1740 or email: president@nia.org.

New England Glass Manufacturing Company (N.E.G.M Co) History and Mysteries

by Dante DiMidio NIA # 8849

N.E.G.M Co ,as it is embossed on eight styles on insulators (CD 102, CD 145, CD 162, CD 250, CD 251, CD 267, CD 267.5 and CD 294), was incorporated in 1898 in Concord New Hampshire. According to their articles of incorporation the company was formed to “manufacture, buy and sell glass insulators, glass conduit pipes, vault and prism glass and many and all forms and varieties of glass and glassware”(*2). The plant was located at 26 lake street Somerville, Massachusetts (*3). Although the plant is long gone its address of 26 lake street still exists. According to a 1900 insurance map of lake street, 26 lake street today and during the time of N.E.G.M Co’s existence are in fact in the same place (*4). An town home built in 2003 now occupies the plant’s former address.



N.E.G. M. Co is the only known manufacturer of the CD 294 triple petticoat and the CD 250 , a CD 251 without an inner skirt. However, most collectors know N.E.G.M Co as the company which produced the CD 267 and CD 267.5 for a section of elevated electric rail line (see photo on next page) running through Boston built around 1899 (*5). Shortly after the start of 1900 a fire broke out at the glass plant. According to the January 19th 1900 article in The Boston Daily Globe on the fire, it was likely caused by oil pipes leaking into the glass furnace and was “confined in the glass house, and that was not burned down” (*2). And now begins the mystery.

It is assumed the fire ended production at the plant especially since it was no longer listed in the Boston city directory after 1899. However, N.E.G.M Co was listed as an active corporation in the August 1907 State of New Hampshire Annual Reports (*6). Furthermore, the company was not legally dissolved until 1925 when it was listed as “inactive or delinquent” (*2). To further complicate matters a mold for a CD 251 which once belonged to N.E.G.M ended up being used in production of some Lynchburg CD 251’s. The most likely but unproven scenario behind the mold acquisition is paraphrased follows (*7):



N.E.G.M embossed CD 251’s with a round base sometimes show evidence of air vents seen on some Brookfield pieces and come in typical late Brookfield colors. They often have larger embossing than smooth base N.E.G.M Co CD251’s. Some show evidence of coming from new molds. Brookfield advertised CD 251’s in their 1912 catalogue but one with their name on it has yet to be found. During the late stages of Brookfield’s production they were known to have gotten lazy with their embossing. For example, power pieces bearing their name are on the rare side. It is quite possible Brookfield made their version of the CD251 with a new mold engraved with N.E.G.M Co’s name and also with old

N.E.G.M Co molds and just never bother to put their name on any

of them. When Brookfield closed in 1921 Lynchburg was able to acquire rights to the Brookfield-Kribbs presses and some former Brookfield molds as well (*8). Lynchburg’s mold acquisitions from Brookfield is most likely how Lynchburg ended up with an old N.E.G.M Co mold. Some N.E.G.M embossed CD 251’s have a distinct ring in the top of their pin holes which looks very much like an Elmer ring. Elmer rings, an artifact of the company’s threading process, appear on pieces made by Novelty Glass works as well as subsequent operators of the glass works in Elmer (*9). Knowles advertised CD 251’s in their 1902 catalogue but contracted out actual production to outside companies such as Novelty glass works of Elmer,NJ and Hemingray (the Knowles Cable blot out Hemingray CD252’s come to mind) (*8) It is possible Novelty made CD 251’s for Knowles from old N.E.G.M Co molds.



When did N.E.G.M stop production 1900 with the fire or after? Who made the round base N.E.G.M CD251’s? Are the Elmer rings in some N.E.G.M CD251’s really Elmer rings? How many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop? These are just a few of the things the world many never know.

Lastly, I am very interested in an aqua and blue aqua CD 251 embossed f-skirt N.E.G.M Co

r-skirt "PAT JUNE 17th 1890" without a mold line over the base. It should have what looks like an Elmer ring inside the pin hole. Feel free to contact me if you have one.

Special thanks to Paul Graves for his guidance on N.E.G.M CD251's

* References:

1. Crockery & Glass Journal July 14, 1898 vol. 48, no. 2, p.23, col 1
2. <https://www.sos.nh.gov/corporate/soskb/Filings.asp?1056044>
3. "The Boston Daily Globe" January 19, 1900 vol. 57, no. 19,p.9 col. 2
4. http://communityheritagemaps.com/middlesex_v_1_a/zoomify/middlesex_13.html
5. <http://www.insulators.info/articles/cd-267-cables.htm>
6. August 1907 State of New Hampshire Annual Report
7. http://www.insulators.info/wiki/IOTW_CD_251
8. <http://www.lynchburginsulators.com/history.asp>
9. <http://www.insulators.info/articles/startracks.htm>



Photo is from the 1898 Annual report done by the Boston wire commission.

Dante Dimido

The Dimensions of My Insulator Don't Match the Guideline Sketch:

A Bit of Background Information

by Glen Drummond NIA # 537

A question frequently overheard amongst insulator collectors – “Why doesn't my insulator, obviously a CD nnn, match the dimensions shown in either the price guide illustrations or the charts in N. R. Woodward's reference books?” The question continues – “Do I have a new find and is it deserving of a new CD number?” This brief paper will attempt to address the issues that surround those questions.

The discrepancies observed when comparing measurements taken from the insulator in hand to the dimensions shown in modern guide publications most often occur when examining insulators manufactured roughly between 1868 and 1880. Without question there are numerous dimensional anomalies to be found on insulators produced prior to and after this time period. The introduction of threaded pin cavities, circa 1868, demanded a new generation of glass presses that came with more than their fair share of start-up problems. This paper will briefly explore the significant events that occurred, and management decisions made, each and all of which had major influences on insulator production, during the five-decade period, 1825 - 1875,.

Glass Insulators are made with mechanical presses; no different than glass doorknobs or cup plates. The art of making pressed glassware was initiated with a concept patented by John P. Bakewell (Bakewell & Company, Pittsburgh) in 1825. (1) Enoch Robinson received the first patent for a mechanical press in 1827, which he used to press glass while employed at the New England Glass Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The first mechanical presses were initially used in the larger northeastern and Pittsburgh glass houses to make low-cost tumblers, fancy tableware, and glass knobs (by the hundreds of thousands per annum) to compete with expensive cut-glass ware. Is it any wonder then that the first glass insulators mimicked a bureau knob? (2)

Perusal of a sparse literature reveals a flurry of patents for improvements in glass presses occurred between 1827 and 1840; however, specifics for the patents issued prior to 1836 have been lost. (3) The number of glass manufacturers producing a variety of pressed glassware in response to public demand grew through 1836; then the country was struck hard by the 1837 Panic. Hard times were the norm nation-wide and a number of glass houses were forced to close during that economic downturn, never to re-open. The depression began to wane about 1840 and the glass industry began a slow recovery. The next 20 years produced only moderate growth in the glass industry and experimentation and development of improved equipment and techniques was severely handicapped by limited revenues.

The fledgling telegraph industry began a slow, but steady, growth in the mid-1840's as railroads and newspapers realized the importance of instant transmittal of information. Essential telegraph line construction projects created a small niche market for glass insulators. The glass houses that accepted insulator orders were producing only a relatively small number of units compared to their main product lines. At first insulator production was conducted like any other product in the company's inventory; that is, units with imperfections went into the cullet bin, rough edges were ground off, and each unit was fire polished. For the most part, early threadless insulators were well made with the exception of the glass blocks that generally have a very crude appearance.

The Civil War, beginning in 1861, took a terrible toll on the glass industry as workmen were drafted into service and production was either severally curtailed or discontinued in many places. Some glass works that were doing a marginal business prior to the war were unable to recover after the conflict because of the loss of many skilled workmen. (4).

Three events occurred immediately after the conclusion of the Civil War (1865), each having a major impact on the production of insulators. First, the glass industry was faced with replacing a large, and highly skilled, portion of its workforce. The hiring of new inexperienced employees allowed glass works management to concentrate their efforts on pressed glass production. This was significant to the industry because the “old hands” had been resistive to changes in production methods. Second, the telegraph industry entered into an era of rapid expansion with the associated demand for glass insulators. The glass industry was then faced with the need to quickly accelerate production with unskilled labor. Fortunately for the glass industry, the demand for great numbers of insulators outweighed the need for quality control. Third, soda-lime glass was introduced into the glass industry in late 1864. The new glass mix melted at a lower

temperature, presented significant cost savings in materials and fuel thus enabling the glassmakers to maintain the lead over competing materials, such as porcelain, in the market.

Another important feature of the glass manufacturing process was the introduction of soda-lime glass circa 1864. The raw materials used to make soda-lime glass were less expensive to obtain, the molten glass could be worked at a lower temperature, and cooled quicker thus significant cost savings in materials and fuel were realized by the glass manufacturers. The cost-saving features of soda-lime glass enabled the manufacturers to produce mass quantities of domestic and industrial products for the first time. (5)

Louis Cauvet, a self-employed carpenter living in New York City, received a patent for “improvement in insulators for telegraph wires” on 25 July 1865. As many know, the “improvement” was the threaded pin cavity. While the source of Cauvet’s inspiration remains a mystery, apparently interest in the concept quickly developed within the telegraph industry as savings in construction and maintenance were foreseen.

Bureau knobs with external threads had been produced very early in the development of pressed glass; however, molding of internal threads presented a significant challenge to the glass industry. Both Homer Brooke and Robert Hemingray began independent experiments with machinery, perhaps as early as 1867, to mold threads within the pin cavity enabling an insulator to be screwed onto a like-threaded wooden pin. (6) While little is known of Brooke’s early experiments and production runs, unembossed insulators, believed to be Hemingray products, have been found on telegraph lines paralleling railroads in northern and southern Ohio. No doubt these were insulators produced by the Hemingray Glass Company during their first production runs in 1869 – 1871. These insulators exhibit a quality appearance; i.e., a minimum amount of over and under pours and a fire-polished appearance indicating that time was not a particularly important factor. The initial field tests must have been highly successful because, soon thereafter, threaded insulators became the standard in new construction as well as replacements of damaged units throughout the telegraph network.

As the demand for insulators grew, the glass works were forced to add additional shops to keep up with orders. The new shops would be led by two men, presser and gatherer, lured from other companies, or the advancement of in-house employees. The five additional workers in each shop were “small help,” or children under age of about 12 years. The shop hands were paid for the number of units produced during a “turn” so it was in everyone’s best interest to work together with clock-like precision during a ten- to twelve-hour day. The imperfections generally observed on insulators pressed, shipped, and installed on lines were the consequence of the skill of the presser and gatherer. Molten glass was taken from the furnace on the end of an iron rod (punty) and brought to the pressing table. The presser would shear the appropriate amount of glass from the gather. Too little molten glass on the punty would result in what collectors call an “underpour,” an “overpour” would occur if the presser sheared an excess of glass into the mold.

Hopefully this brief review will shed some light on the questions raised in the first paragraph above: The dimensions of the insulator doesn’t match those given in the reference publications? Why not? With a bit of study, one should come to the realization that a relatively untrained workforce was being pushed to produce an unprecedented number of insulators as quickly as they could and at the same time the employees had to adapt to newly designed, and often untried, machinery and a new type of glass. There is no doubt that more than a small number of insulators that were neither pretty



CD 287.1 “normal” size and tall variation

Photo by: *Shaun Kotlarsky*

nor exact in dimensions were pushed out the door during those growth years. Fortunately, the telegraph industry was more interested in delivery than quality control.

Endnotes.

1. The New England Glass Company challenged the Bakewell patent (a method of molding glass) in a complaint filed 25 April 1829. Helen McKearin, "The Case of the Pressed Glass Knob," *The Magazine Antiques*, vol. 5, no. 2 (August 1951), pp. 118-120.
2. *Crown Jewels of the Wire*, July 1985, p. 26; A photograph of a variant of a "bureau knob" insulator may be found at the National Insulator Association website: www.nia.org/si/Objects/181409.html This insulator is held by the Smithsonian Institute. Their record states that it was in use prior to 1853 at a crossing of the Ohio River. The location of the crossing is not recorded. It is known that the line crossed the river at Wheeling, VA (now West Virginia) and again at Louisville, KY. Was this insulator made locally near the site of one of the two crossings?
3. Patent records were destroyed by fire on 15 December 1836 making glass-manufacturing research very difficult prior to that date. See: www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ahrpa/opa/kids/special/1836fire.htm Although this website is listed "for kids," it is the most comprehensive discussion of the 1836 Patent Office fire to be found.
4. Rhea M. Knittle, "Early American Glass," Garden City Publishing Co., New York, 1927, p. 265, 396.
5. Joseph D. Weeks, "Report on the Manufacture of Glass," US Department of the Interior, Census Office, Washington, DC, 1884, p. 79.
6. Robert Hemingray stated in deposition: "Hemingray does not fix the date of his invention definitely in his testimony, but says he made it before the 4th of February, 1869, in warm weather, and he thinks in July or August, 1868." *Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*, "Commissioner's Decisions, Brookfield and Hemingray vs. Brooke," vol. 4, no. 4, 22 July 1873, p. 81.

Glen Drummond



NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

NIA Academic Scholarship Fund

Is there a high school junior in your life ?

Go to <http://www.nia.org/scholarship/> for details and application

Grants will be awarded for an academic scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 for 2012. Applications must be submitted by February first.

An additional vocational scholarship in the amount of \$500 is also available. Applications must be submitted by February first.

These scholarships are to encourage the growth and public awareness of the hobby.



The "OTHER" Wooden "Shield" Insulator

by Lou Hall NIA # 7185



Gerald Brown writes in his book "Unique Collectible Insulators (Non-Glass – Non-Porcelain)", copyright 1975, about the wooden "shield and inverted glass cup more commonly known as the "Wade Insulator."



He also writes about a catalog that Penni Branham told him about. This is a CHESTER catalog, and shows where some of the Wade types may have been purchased. It also gives another name for these insulators, calling them the "SHIELD INSULATORS." What follows is most of her letter to Mr. Brown. The Wade Wooden Shield

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am enclosing a copy of the sheet from Catalogue of Telegraph Material manufactured by Charles T. & J.N. Chester, 104 Centre Street, N.Y. From your sketch to us, I would say this is the same insulator as you have. You can see that these were simply called Hard Rubber Insulators, (now commonly referred to as "Pilgrim Hats") but when you get the patent, you may find the rubber called vulcanite. I am sorry the copy is not better, but our original was also poor.

(It is interesting to note that the Chester Co. who marketed these insulators also marketed some of the most rare glass threadless insulators.)

The catalogue was originally for the year 1857, as that date is found in the front, but a letter to the reader further on is dated 1861. Perhaps the catalogue remained substantially the same for a period of years.

In this catalogue, besides rubber insulators, were available the Chester wooden shield, like the Wade. Includes a small sketch, just like the others which are now floating around. Also, a plain glass insulator, of usual design, which was a tiny sketch, and hardly came through the Xeroxing.

Incidentally, below the description of the wooden shield insulator is another item:

SHIELD INSULATOR: similar in construction to Fig. 68, but smaller; size of shield being 3 inches diameter, by 4 ½ inches high, and vulcanized gum being used in place of glass.



In a later catalog, the wooden shield insulator and the rubber insulator were no longer available. The two 1861 catalogues and the later (1873) catalogue are the only three known Chester catalogues; however, someone probably has 200 in their attic somewhere.

-- Penni Branham



The pictures included in this article are of that smaller wooden shield described and offered in the Chester Catalogue. This insulator was used on the Placerville, Humboldt & St. Joseph Telegraph Co. (1858 – 1860) in the eastern Sierra Mountains. Interestingly enough, the small, hard rubber insulators mentioned in the letter were also found on this line. The wooden shield, the vulcanized rubber insulating insert and the wooden bracket were originally



found by Keith Mulcahy and were a part of his collection. The complete assembly is now in my collection. One other wooden shield of this smaller size, in the Pat Patooka collection, was sold in a recent Ray Klingensmith auction. Are there others?



The vulcanized rubber insulator insert is 3 ½ inches tall, 1 1/8 inches in diameter at the top, and 1 5/8 inches in diameter at the bottom. The sides begin to flare out in a gentle curve 2 5/8 inches down from the top. It would be great to know how many of these pieces exist.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the Chester catalogues mentioned in the letter from Penni Branham to Gerald Brown is asked to contact me. If you can provide information about Penni Branham and her family I would also appreciate hearing from you.

Lou Hall



Trenton Field, Indiana's Contribution to the Hobby

By Jim White NIA # 1127

Whether you collect glass insulators, whimsies, bottles, pressed glass, lighting rod balls, paperweights, or some other form of glass, and some forms of porcelain, the east central portion of Indiana's geology held the energy resources that likely contributed to its production.

Oil and gas development in Indiana dates to the mid-1800s with early settlers drilling for, of all things, salt water. Salt was a critical mineral for food preservation and early agriculture. Since these were generally shallow wells, the process of drilling was most likely accomplished by a "spring pole" method.

Westward Progression

Following the news of Colonel Edmond Drake's successful well drilling in Pennsylvania in 1859, exploration moved west in to neighboring Ohio and Indiana. As early as 1862 and 1869 wells were drilled in Pulaski County (northwestern Indiana) and Vigo County (western Indiana near the Illinois line). Gas and oil were found but not really developed at that time.

In 1870 gas was discovered in a geologic feature called the Trenton Field near Eaton, Indiana (near current Muncie, Indiana). A local railroad drilled a 600 foot deep hole looking for coal. No coal was found but an odd odor came forth. Eaton residents visiting the Findlay, Ohio area smelled same odor there. They learned that the odor indicated natural gas. The well was deepened to 922 feet breaking through a shale layer into the Trenton Limestone. The test flame burned as high as ten feet.

Oil was discovered in the Trenton limestone some 1,000 feet below the northern Blackford County (north of Muncie area) in 1887. The population of Montpelier exploded and oil derricks and wooden storage tanks dotted the countryside. Production peaked in 1904 and the boom was over in 1912.

A gas boom followed that resulted in thousands of wells being drilled. This was America's first giant oil field (greater than 100 million barrels of oil). Gas was used as an economic development tool attracting numerous industries. Communities such as Kokomo, Anderson, Marion and Muncie owe their existence to this geologic feature. Additionally, this natural resource needed processed and so the Calumet region on Lake Michigan was the outgrowth of the need.

Boom Ends

But the great boom ended in the beginning of the 20th Century because energy resources were wasted and unregulated drilling practices caused a major drop in production of oil and gas. Unfortunately, much of the gas was literally burnt at the surface; sometimes just for appearances. Additionally, oil was contaminated by the fresh water in the subsurface reservoir.

If the reader is interested in a more detailed examination of the development and the downfall of the economic boom, I highly recommend you acquire a small paperback book, Images of America The Gas Boom of East Central Indiana, which provides loads of historic photos and breaks development by communities. If you like history, you will not be disappointed.

In Chapter 8 of the book; Boom Goes Bust it is observed: "The astounding growth in industry, commerce, population and size came at a price: depletion of the natural gas supply." Everyone was convinced that the supply would never end. As a result terrible waste was common. Conservation was thrown to the side. Gas was offered at flat rates and industrialists were offered free and unlimited amounts. As early as 1889 the State Geologist observed that an average of 100 million cubic feet of gas is wasted each day through uncapped wells and uncontrolled free burning at flambeaux. Efforts to conserve were ignored. By 1902 the gas pressure fell below 100 pounds and few factories could obtain gas. Wells were abandoned and many factories attracted by natural gas pulled up stakes. Some communities resembled ghost towns.

Glass Plants Abound

Another source Roadside Geology of Indiana states that: Around 1900 at least one glass factory worked in each of the following Indiana towns: Albany, Alexandria, Anderson, Converse, Daleville, Dunkirk, Elwood, Fairmount, Fowlerton, Frankton, Gas City, Gaston, Gilman, Hartford City, Ingalls, Jonesboro, Lapel, Marion, Matthews, Middletown, Millgrove, Pendleton, Redkey, Summittville, Sweetser, Upland and Yorktown. Many other towns had glass operations as well. The glass plants petered out when the gas source disappeared in 1910.

Landscape Peppered with Holes

More than 30,000 wells had been drilled in the Trenton field. These ranged from 800 to 1,100 feet deep. The Trenton Field covered about 2.5 million acres across 28 Indiana counties. The adjoining Lima Field in Ohio covered 550,000 acres.

The early wells produced only natural gas. Ohio wells began to produce oil in 1885 and wells in Indiana's Wells County yielded oil in 1889 but it was thick, black, rich in sulfur and hard to refine....crude oil, indeed. A typical Indiana well produced only 25 to 50 barrels a day with an occasional giant yielding 200-300 barrels. But the sheer size of the field attracted Standard Oil Company to build pipelines.

Manufacturing Diversity

City and rural gas companies were formed to handle the large supply of cheap fuel that attracted industries. In 1892 one account listed factories making "straw board", straw paper, wood pulp and wood paper, steel works, foundries, **plate glass, window glass, fruit jars and bottle factories**, crayon factories, fruit canning factories, excelsior mills, saw mills and flouring mills, brick and tile factories, and many other industries. Towns offered incentives such as free land or reduced gas rates in order to induce industry.

Waste

The scale of waste in the Trenton Field was between 10 to 20 times what was sold. Some gas vented continuously from small wells, some burned large torches known as flambeaux. A law was passed in 1891 to prohibit the flambeaux but not enforced until 1898. By that time the major damage had been done. Had modern techniques been employed the Field could have served the State into the 1960s.

Sources:

Oil and Gas In Indiana: A Brief Overview of the History of the Petroleum Industry in Indiana by John A. Rupp

Images of America: The Gas Boom of East Central Indiana by James Glass and David Kohrman

Roadside Geology of Indiana by Mark J. Camp and Graham T. Richardson

Jim White



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Italian Insulator collector Nora Coppo had an amazing hunt in Italy recently. Found the largest known purple insulator!

- Folembray 4375, 3 shells - 4 parts rated 75 kV
- Folembray B.B.C.C. 3 shells - 4 parts identical to 4375
- Folembray B.B.C.C 3 shells - 3 parts similar to 4375
- Fidenza 65B, 3 parts, rated 65 kV, emerald green, light green and purple/light green**
- Miva A470, 4 shells, rated 70 kV (maybe the first and only one known in the hobby!)
- Type unknown Folembray 3 shells.

