

# GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

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August 1993

## Club Trip to Southern Indiana

On Thursday, July 29, five club members participated in a trek to the town of Newburgh in Southern Indiana to clean out the extensive collection of Marion Oschmann. The trip was made possible complements of club members John and Carol McDougald.

John and Carol had purchased Marion's collection and removed what they could in an earlier trip but realized there was too much for them to handle. As a result, they invited club members to go down on a second trip and help clean everything out.

One group making the trip consisting of John, Rick Soller, and Bob Stahr who met at Bob's house Thursday afternoon. John and Rick enjoyed a tour of Bob's new house and his collection of glass and porcelain. Bob also has a growing collection of catalogs and other research material.

John, Rick and Bob left Bob's house at 3:30, each driving his own car. Dinner was enjoyed in Terre Haute around 6:00 with more conversation about insulators seen on the way. By 9:30 the group was checked into a hotel room planning the next day and talking about insulators until well past 11:00.

A second group consisted of Robert Winkler and Jim Crandall. These two left later on Thursday, stayed in Terre Haute that night but still managed to get to Marion's

house before the other's.

From about 9 a.m. until nearly 3 p.m., the crew worked to move everything out of Marion's basement, divide it up and load as much as possible. Even with the three cars and Jim Crandall's van, much was still left behind.

Rick Soller gained a huge collection of strain insulators along with some classic suspensions.

Bob Stahr took home a nice multipart, lots of pin-type porcelain insulators, and some nice pins.

John brought back some neon sign insulators, foreign porcelain, and some more glass. One of his most interesting additions was a brick labeled with a saying like, "Do not spit here."

Jim Crandall took home an assortment of porcelain pin-type insulators as well as at least one suspension insulator. Jim also entertained the group with a magnificent sky blue, classic multipart purchased at the National in Denver.

Robert Winkler also ended up with several new pieces to add to his collection but he had to work pretty hard to get them.

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## Royal Oak Museum Auction

In what was perhaps one of the worst kept secrets, dozens of collectors showed up (or didn't) at the Royal Oak Museum auction on Sunday, August 15.

The auction promised to have for sale hundreds of insulators and many collectors hoped they would be the only ones in attendance. As it turned out, there were more collectors there than many swap meets. Numerous new collectors popped up and some spirited bidding and interesting trades were conducted on the grounds.

Staying for nearly the entire auction were club members Rick Soller, Dave Franz and Bob Cook. Eugene Cook, Bob's father and member de facto, was also present. Bob reports that Ray Heim, Larry Veneziano, and Lenny Veneziano also made an appearance but quickly left. Former collector Dick Schroeder was spotted in the crowd and Dave Franz enjoyed saying hello to him.

What was most enjoyable was meeting new collectors. After a box of insulators was auctioned off, it seems a heretofore unknown collector was identified. Rick Soller would introduce himself and other club members to the person and a new friend was made.

Some of the new people we met were Ron Haimbaugh of McHenry who made one of the first purchases of the day.

Lisa and Dan Gates of Delavan, Wisconsin came to the auction with their friend Betty looking for some glass insulators with ears if I remember right.

I talked to Jim Graf of Huntley and look forward to seeing him at the swap meet

Sunday Aug. 29.

Rick Chandler of Barrington bought perhaps the prettiest insulator at the auction. It was a small pyrex power piece with carnival coloring. The box he bought also had some nice blue porcelain pieces in it. Finally, we met Ron Fischer who is from Oak Park and I believe he collects antiques with his brother. Perhaps we'll get a chance to meet him.

Jeff Brockman of Crystal Lake remembers collecting insulators when he was younger and the auction gave him a chance to relive some pleasant memories. He turned out to be an active trader in the waning hours of the auction.

All of these new friends were invited to the Sunday, August 29 swap meet and will get a copy of our newsletter to encourage them to join the club or, at least, learn more about the hobby.

For those of you in the club who have been collecting for a while, I think many of these people will be at the swap meet and would be interested in seeing the range of colors and shapes associated with the hobby as well as picking up some new pieces for their beginning collection. I hope we can accommodate them.

As a final note, prices at the show seemed fairly reasonable. It seems each box of insulators had at least one very nice piece in it. The prices I heard ranged from \$7.50 to \$20 a box.

There is supposed to be several more auctions of items from the museum. The next one is tentatively planned for September 5.

SWAP MEET

What: A swap meet sponsored by the Greater Chicago Insulator Club (GCIC)

When: Sunday, August 29, 1993,  
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Where: The Warren Township Park, Shelter B.  
17801 W. Washington St., Gurnee, IL

Directions: Map Enclosed.

From the South: Take 294 north and continue north on 94. Go west on Highway 120/Belvidere road. This is the second exit about 7 miles from the Lake Forest Oasis and located at mile marker 67. Go west on 120 about 2 miles to a traffic light at Hunt Club Road and turn right (north). Go to the second stop sign (Gages Lake Road is the first stop sign) and turn left (west). Go about a mile and turn left on Almond Road. The Warren Township Park is on the right side. Turn into the park and go to the back.

From the North: Take 94 south and follow the above directions.

From the West: Find 120 and follow that in.

Attractions: Park rules prohibit liquor, beer and pets but other refreshments and company will be provided. Bring your own food. In addition, there a number of attractions within two miles. Six Flags Great America Amusement Park is a mile east. Gurnee Mills, the world's largest outlet mile is a half a mile east and a block north on Grand Ave.

More Information: Contact Rick Soller at (708) 855-9136 (H) or (708) 223-6601, ext. 2958 at the College of Lake County.



## Canadian Patents

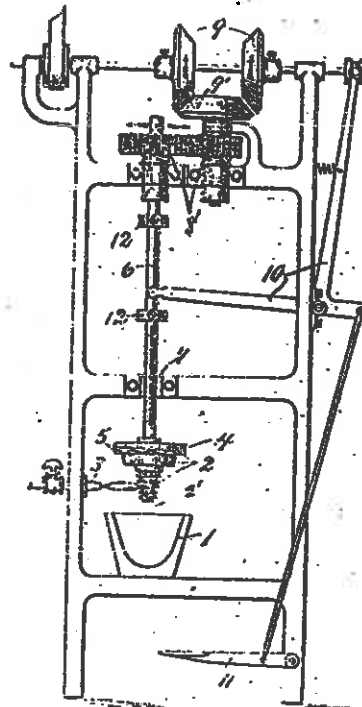
Many patentees of inventions in the United States probably also patented their invention in other countries such as Canada. Research on the extent of this phenomenon with regards to insulators has not been researched yet nor has the degree of difference, if any, between U.S. patents and their foreign counterparts.

Foreign patents may also offer other insights. They identify the technical terminology of another language which may be useful when conducting literature searches. When rights are assigned in the patent, the assignee may be a company that little was heretofore know about. And, of course, the patent itself is interesting.

One interesting patent is the one reproduced to the right from the Canadian Patent Office Record of March 1904 on page 498. The patent indicates how Fred Morton (how many of you knew his middle name) Locke made insulators at this time.

From the diagram, you can see a foot pedal which lowers the pin-hole maker into the clay. At the same time, stepping on the foot pedal turns the pin-hole maker to keep the clay from sticking and to form the threads inside the insulator. Further, to keep the clay from sticking, there is a valve on the left side of the machine which either represents an air valve which would push the clay away from the pin-hole maker or it could be a gas jet which would warm the pin-hole maker accomplishing the same purpose. (At least that's how I interpret it--Rick). Any interest in building one?

No. 85,707



85707

Fred Morton Locke, Victor, New York, U.S.A., 1st March, 1904; 6 years. Filed 6th May, 1903. Receipt No. 105,242.

*Claim.*—1. The method of manufacturing earthenware insulators, consisting in placing a cold plastic material into a suitable mould, rotating a valved die into and out of the plastic body, and opening the valve by suction and with a whirling rotary motion to admit the air through the die and against the surface formed by the die and valve, so that the material will not adhere to the die and valve when being withdrawn.

2. The method of manufacturing earthenware insulators, consisting in placing the plastic material into a suitable receptacle, rotating a heated die into and out of the plastic body, introducing a current of air through the heated die so that the heated air passes between the die and the surface which it has formed when the die begins to withdraw from said surface.

3. The method of manufacturing earthenware insulators, consisting in placing a cold plastic material into a suitable mould causing a die with a valved air passage in its advanced end to rotate in reverse directions into and out of the plastic body, whereby the valve is caused to rotate on the same axis with the die to close the air passage on entering and to open it on withdrawal from the plastic body, so that the whirling motion of the valve prevents the material from adhering to the valve and die when being withdrawn.

4. The method of manufacturing earthenware insulators, consisting in placing a plastic material into a suitable receptacle, rotating a heated die into and out of the plastic body, introducing air through the die and against the surface formed thereby as the die begins to withdraw from said surface and causing the air passage to be closed during the entrance of the die into the plastic body.

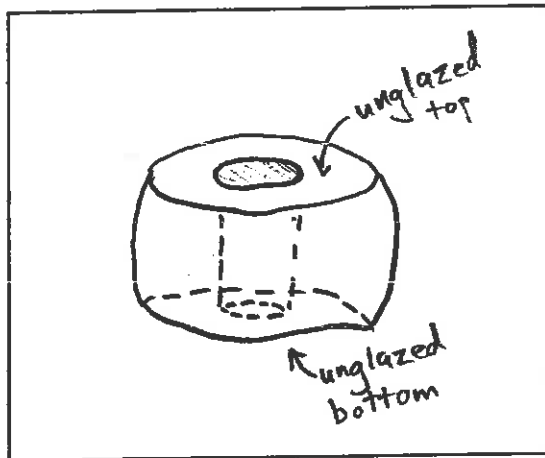
## What Is It?

Tony Holmes, a ceramics/art instructor at the College of Lake County, recently found a porcelain piece that may be an insulator and would like some help on identifying it.

The unmarked piece looks like a doughnut (see drawing below) and has a beautiful dark green glaze on the side. It is two inches thick and 3.5 inches wide. The hole through it has a 1.25 inch diameter.

There is a mold line around the girth with two mold lines evident below the girth running vertically from the base to the girth but no vertical lines above the girth.

The person who sold the item claimed it was used on the North Shore Trolley line. Does anyone know how? The piece will be at the swap meet for closer inspection.



**For Sale:** July 19, 1993 issue of Forbes magazine containing article on insulator collecting with color photos, including one of the Combination Safety with drip points. \$6 per issue. Rick Soller, 34273 Homestead Rd., Gurnee, IL 60031.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Membership in the Greater Chicago Insulator Club is \$10 per year and includes one year's subscription to the newsletter. Members may advertise free in the newsletter (small ads only). In addition, the club is involved in local get-togethers and swap meets.

Membership dues should be made payable to Bob Cook and sent to:

Bob Cook  
GCIC Treasurer  
1320 Ridge Road  
Homewood, IL 60430

All newsletter material should be sent communicated to the Secretary:

Rick Soller  
34273 Homestead Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031  
(708) 855-9136

All other correspondence should be directed to the President:

Robert Stahr  
9489 W. Oakridge Dr.  
St. John, IN 46373

## New Members

Marilyn Albers, GCIC #27  
14715 Oak Bend Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(713) 497-4146  
--(We hope Bill is feeling well)

Michael Stoecker, GCIC #28  
316 York Drive  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
(708) 223-7197  
--(He also raises an exotic kind of fish in his aquarium)