



GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 12, Number 5

May 1, 2004

In Memory of Paul Rosenberger, Sr.

We're saddened to report the death of **Paul Rosenberger, Sr.** on Friday, April 2, 2004 during the Wheaton Show.

Paul was GCIC member #24, indicating his long-time membership in the club. He was also a 31 year member of the National Insulator Association, holding NIA #957. In the May 1988 Crown Jewels, a profile by **Clarice Gordon** (H.G. "Bea" Hyve) indicates that he started collecting the first week of April 1968. He will be remembered as one of the great CD 145 collectors.

At the show, I had the chance to talk to Paul about CD 145 H.G.Co./Petticoat insulators. We discussed the different letters found on the insulators and the difficult colors they are found in such as the milk glass one. I wish I had more time to learn from him.

A few years ago, several members of the club got a chance to see his collection. It was very impressive to see them all lined up by letter and color. Just recently, Paul got to enjoy new shelves that were built to show the insulators off even better.

The Rosenbergers hold a unique distinction in being one of the few, if not the only family with three generations of collectors: Paul, Sr., Paul, Jr., and John.

(From the online edition of the Courier News).

Paul E. Rosenberger, 82, of Elgin passed away Friday, April 2, 2004 at Central DuPage Hospital, Winfield. He was born

April 26, 1921 in Elgin, the son of John and Pauline Hoffman Rosenberger. He had been a resident of Elgin all of his life. He was employed by the Shakeproof Division of Illinois Tool Works for 38 years before retiring. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army with the 745th Tank Battalion.

Surviving are his wife, **Clara Wunderlich Rosenberger**, whom he married on September 25, 1948; a daughter, **Paula Rosenberger** of Elgin; a son, **Paul L. Rosenberger** of Elgin; and two grandchildren, **Tana and John Rosenberger** of Elgin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers and sisters.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at Laird Funeral Home with Rev. Martin Balzer officiating. Burial was in Bluff City Cemetery, Elgin. Memorials may be given to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Wheaton Show Report

The April 2-3 Wheaton, Illinois Collector's Jubilee show offered collectors a wonderful mix of experiences tempered only by the death of **Paul Rosenberger, Sr.** after his fall at the show.

A show record 80 sales tables filled with insulators, lightning rod balls, and general collectibles greeted attendees. This was the second year that the show was able to fill the attached second building partly due to the Greater Chicago Insulator Club's commitment to purchasing display tables.

There were also a record number of competitive displays (11) and two noncompetitive displays. Dealers were given ballots to vote for the NIA and Crown Jewels Display award. As a testament to the quality of the displays, all of them received votes.

Before the show, this newsletter published a call for collectors to bring their King City Glass Works (KCGW) insulators to the show. The request was repeated on the Internet and several collectors responded.

Arlen Rienstra of Indiana brought his lighted display case plus information on the company and took home the NIA ribbon for best of show. Arlen has displayed every (both) year the club has sponsored displays at the show.

Gene Hawkins (Indiana) and **Jack Roach** (Texas) each brought his extensive collection of KCGWs and displayed them. **Rick Soller** (Illinois) brought a small lot and set them up too and **Mike McLaughlin** (Indiana) brought a sizeable grouping to allow the experts to look through although these did not get displayed for the general public to see.

Some interesting questions were raised during the examination of all the specimens. Were the darker colors characteristic of a particular style of insulator? Could one CD made by KCGW been made from a converted mold used to make another CD? Do most KCGWs have damage? Why were some styles made when the demand for them seemed to be on the wane? Why is the KCGW embossing blotted out on some insulators? Why don't the colors more closely match Hemingray colors (different sand?, from where?)?

Jason Townsend won the Crown Jewels of the Wire ribbon for his display of porcelain. Some of the great pieces in his collection were the two blue helmets, a canary yellow Swiss insulator, an underarm

piece, odd colored spools, and a "submarine" insulator. This was the first time Jason has displayed at the show.

Marge Frank had a great, informative display of Greek insulators with a nice narrative on how these related to her heritage. The white insulators were smartly displayed on a black tablecloth. Risers of different heights spread under the tablecloth and at a carefully crafted spacing created a pleasing display. Some pictures of the insulators in the rough, information on the markings (e.g., OTE) and several variations in the marking were included.

Little did Marge realize that **Russ** was expected to do the display at the show but when pressured to do this, he simply turned to his wife and said something like, "They want you to do a display at the show." Somehow Russ got away with that and we're glad, not because it is nice that husbands get away with stuff, but because we all enjoyed the display much more than we probably would have if Russ put together something ☺. The Franks have displayed both years now.

Bob Stahr displayed Hemingray spools. There were a surprising variety of them including a purplish milk glass one. Just when you thought Bob would run out of different Hemingray display ideas, he thinks of a new theme. Bob was one of the displayers last year.

Alan Hohnhorst (Ohio) also had a surprising display. It's well known that Alan collects porcelain uniparts and multiparts but his display this year showcased his collection of porcelain streetlight heads. The displayed insulators were all porcelain and all green. One was a beautiful shade of turquoise. He even had some of the hardware that went with them. This was Alan's second year of displaying.

Rick Soller (Illinois) hoped to win the Crown Point award for best display of lighting protection related items. His

display case contained numerous colors and styles of lightning rod insulators including several Otis “wiggle-top” LRIs, two Salamander styles, a couple Stebbins, numerous side-tabs, and several spools. All were “correctly” positioned with the wider part on top as they would have been used. Rick is also a two-timer, display-wise, that is.

Winning the Crown Point award was **Dan Fisher** (Wisconsin) with his display of new old stock lightning items. His display included lightning rod balls (LRBs), points, and directionals.

Tom DuBourdieu put together an interesting and apropos display of insulators found along the Wheaton Prairie Path. The display was timely because the club sponsored a hunt along this trail on both Friday and Saturday after the show. The display was interesting because of the variety of insulators identified in the display. Some of the insulators included pieces of CD 160 Brookfields, pieces of a CD 196 H.G. Co., Jeffrey-Dewitt blue uniparts, Fred M. Locke pin bases, Ohio Brass multipart with a 1956 sandblasted marking, and a Victor multipart.

Two noncompetitive displays were set-up at the show. Both dealt with fake and altered collectibles.

Eileen Kelly and **Rod Krupka** combined to display fake and altered lightning rod balls. The display drew a lot of long study by numerous collectors.

The National Insulator Association loaned the club the fake and altered display of insulators. Thanks to Marge Frank for setting this up as well as her own display.

Post-Show Hunt

Several club members participated in the club hunt along the Wheaton Prairie Path on Saturday after the show.

One group including **Ray Heim** and **Tom DuBourdieu** searched the local rail line and found some crossarms on the

ground. One notable find was a purple CD 154 Whitall-Tatum.

A larger group searched two sections of the Prairie Path. This group included **Marge Frank, Russ Frank, Rick Soller**, and if I remember correctly, **Tim Haraf** and his father.

This group brought back some Ohio Brass third rail insulators, the front of an H.G. Co. CD 196 transposition insulator in a light aqua, pieces of CD 160s, some pin bases with the #1-2 marked of PAT'D MAR. 13. 1893 / FRED M. LOCKE, metal pins, a couple soda bottles, animal bones, and crossarm braces. The patent date on the pin base is an error since patent #493,434 was actually issued March 14, 1893.

The searching was rugged in places. The group had to climb some very tall and steep hills to get to where the poles used to be located. Then they had to work through a thin animal trail, sometimes fighting the thicket.

Everyone had a great time.

Classified Ads

Insulator Boxes for Sale. Contact:

Jason Townsend
PO Box 521
Newark, IL 60541.
(630) 667-3357.
Jtins76@aol.com

Insulator Boxes for Sale. Contact:

Andy Polivka & Sandia Harrison
165 Saddle Brook Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523.
(630) 960-5036. Sandia@fpeinc.com.

Insulator-related ashtrays wanted. I'm a serious collector of these and will pay a good price for ones I do not have.

Rick Soller
4086 Blackstone Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031,
Com574@clcillinois.edu or (847) 782-8602.

Gurnee Bottle Show Report

You didn't miss much at the May Gurnee, IL bottle show held at the Holiday Inn on Grand Avenue near Gurnee Mills and Great America.

Rick Soller and **Ray Heim** made it to the show this year. There were four collectors last year.

About 30 tables were filled by dealers which is way down from a couple years ago when there were probably about 60 tables and at least one insulator dealer (Jim Crandall). Attendance was very low too with about 6 people waiting for the doors to open at 9 a.m. and a few more coming later.

There were a few insulators at the show but these were generally common and overpriced. I saw a CD 121 A.T.&T at twice the book value. I gave the dealer a realistic estimate and he asked if I wanted the piece at that price but it was still too much for me.

Another dealer had a box of about 24 common aqua insulators with damage. He had dug them in a dump. I offered a nominal amount, thinking I would send them to Tommy Bolak but the dealer wanted much more. He did end up selling about 7 of them for \$3 each to someone although I did not see to whom.

The only piece I bought was a small, brown, porcelain strain embossed PAT PENDING / NO 500. It had a nice glazed chip but several other chips and at \$6 seemed too much but the dealer said he dug it in a privy in Princeton, IL and was willing to take \$5. I thought the local connection was worth that so I bought it.

The hotel room is very expensive so I doubt they will hold the show there next year.

Upcoming Events

June 4 & 5, 2004

10th Annual Hog Roast
Friday 5 p.m. Hog Roast
Friday 6:30 p.m. Banjo Connection
Saturday 8 a.m.-2 pm. swap meet
For information, contact

Alan Stastny

6010 N. Montgomery County Line Rd. W.
Union, OH 45322
(937) 836-4691

June 5, 2004

7th Annual Hawkeye State Insulator Swap
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toledo Heights Park, Toledo, Iowa
For information, contact

Tom Murphy (641) 484-6870 or

Dave Shaw (641) 484-5463.

July 23-25, 2004

35th NIA Annual Show, Sale & Convention
Clarion Hotel & Conference Center

300 Tarentum Bridge Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

For information, contact John Hovanec
(440) 237-2242

wric@clubs.insulators.com

August 29, 2004 (Sunday)

9th Annual Tristate Insulator Show

1476 Hine Road
Ross, OH 45013

Contact: **Alan Hohnhorst**

(513) 892-3720