

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 3 SPRING 1987

N I A ON THE MOVE !

In this issue of Drip Points you will notice a couple of significant facts. First, of course, is the new "Look" of our logo which reflects to the public what we are really about. Read President Lawless' message as well as the article on page 9 for more information and examples of the logo.

Second, you may detect a theme in some of the comments by members of the Board of Directors and some of the Committee Chairmen. The theme is to get involved ! Get involved with sponsorship of a show....get involved with promoting the NIA to your collecting friends....get involved in spreading the word about our great hobby and fellow collectors, and get involved with sharing some of the work of making our Association grow and become and remain a viable part of Insulator Collecting.

It is a common attitude throughout our culture to "let someone else do it." If we permit ourselves to adopt this philosophy, nothing will get done and we will all suffer as a result. Each and everyone of us can contribute...by hosting shows or helping those who do...by spreading information about the hobby at bottle and antique shows... and by recruiting members for our Association to help create a strong financial and functional base.

The NIA is truly on the move....hop on the train and go with us!!!

Spike Guthrie

NIA # 3297
INFORMATION DIRECTOR

"MESSAGES"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow NIA Members,

You will immediately notice a new look for the NIA. Effective this issue, the NIA sports a brand new logo, which was previewed this past fall. It was a year and a half in the making, since the topic was introduced at the St. Charles National. Over a dozen separate logo layouts and designs were reviewed by a logo committee and by the Boards of Directors of both my administration and Mike Bruner's. At the Saratoga Springs National, we agreed on a concept for a final design, which you saw in the September Drip Points. Of all of the comments received, nearly all were very favorable and, at the same time, some of the constructive criticisms were used to come up with the final design! Many thanks to Howie Snyder for his high quality work on behalf of the NIA.

The next step we plan to take is to market the NIA, with help from our new logo. We are in the process of obtaining quotes on the following official NIA logo items, which we plan to market to the members of the insulator collecting community:

1. Embroidered patches. The embroidered patch of the old NIA logo was a very durable friend over the past twelve years, and the NIA realized some income from their sale. The probable size will be 3" x 4" and the suggested colors are:

Background: Light blue (sky colored)

Lettering: Dark blue (cobalt?)

Pole and Pins: Brown

Wire: Black

Insulators: Green (emerald?)

Border: Red

This will make a very colorful patch and a welcome addition which the NIA's members will be proud to wear!

2. Pins. This is an item which the NIA has never marketed before. At the Saratoga Springs National, pins in the size and likeness of postage stamps were being sold at reasonable prices and some clubs, like Rochester, New York's Genessee Valley Bottle Collectors Association, use membership pins in lieu of patches. We will obtain prices on approximately 1" size pins in the same colors as the patches.

3. Decals. The NIA presently gives an NIA decal with each new membership and sells additional decals at a nominal charge. These are very good promotions for the NIA and the hobby.

Other fund-raising items which we are investigating include coffee mugs, name badges, shirts, and caps. If you have any comments on what you think might be a profitable item for the NIA to market with its new logo, or would like to assist us in our future projects, I'd really like to hear from you! The success of these projects depends very heavily on your support, and that success will impact very heavily on our financial position and ability to implement future projects!

When I became NIA President last July, one of the things I re-instituted was a membership committee. While I had requested assistance from the membership on this committee, I was perhaps a little unrealistic on what we could accomplish and in what period of time. The length of time it took to finalize the NIA's new logo was more than I had expected and, without new membership applications in hand, it wasn't very likely that the NIA would be breaking down the doors at any winter shows looking for members! Now that new membership applications are being printed, we can arm a committee with these (and some informational material), and assist the hosts of insulator (and bottle) shows by providing information on insulator collecting and the NIA at local shows-and, at the same time, attempt to increase our membership! The people I have in mind for this project are collectors (non-dealers) who attend several shows a year and who enjoy working with and talking to people-especially about insulators! Exhibitors are an especially important group for this function since it will also help keep them involved during show hours. Obviously, it is going to be easier to get volunteers for the National and Regional shows than some of the local one-day bottle shows, but the bottom line is: I would like to hear from potential volunteers and the regions or states you would like to cover on behalf of the NIA membership committee. The more people we have working with us, the better off we'll all be!

Finally, it will be less than four short months until the Central Regional Show (Pearland, Texas) and another month after that until the National (Fresno)! It doesn't seem possible that a year could pass so quickly, yet it's doing just that! I hope you make your travel preparations in plenty of time ahead of these shows so you don't find yourself in a bind at the last minute. Keep these shows in your travel plans (I'll plug the Eastern Regional in the June issue of Drip Points!), because we value your attendance! See you in Pearland and Fresno!

Good collecting!



Kevin Lawless NIA #1679

FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT:

TEXAS is alive with insulator activity ! The Southeast Texas Collectors Club is having its first annual Antique Collectibles Show and Sale in Port Arthur, Texas, March 28 & 29, 1987. Sales tables at \$20.00 apiece are filling up fast, and I understand there will be quite a few insulator dealers set-up, and some fine displays, too. You won't want to miss this one! For show information, sales table contracts and display rules, contact one of the three show hosts:

Elton Gish (tables)	Floyd Boyett	Dwight Rash
3157 Dogwood Ln.	1011 Gene Dr.	Rt. 3 Box 671
Port Neches, TX 77651	Lumberton, TX 77656	Silsbee, TX 77656
(409)722-8925	(409) 755-1128	(409) 755-4078

Plus.....I'd also like to remind you again of the NIA Central Regional Show here in Pearland, TX, June 27 & 28, 1987. Show information is being mailed out as of this writing and if you would like one of these packets, please contact either:

Marilyn and Bill Albers	or	Lee and Dee Garner
14715 Oak Bend Dr.		15102 Ringfield Dr.
Houston, TX 77079		Houston, TX 77084
(713) 497-4146		(713) 859-5138

The Gulf Coast Bottle & Jar Club Show, held annually, is always a sell out. Because the Lone Star Insulator Club is joining with Gulf Coast to co-sponsor the NIA Central Regional, sales tables will be highly sought after. Thirty of the total number of these will be reserved for insulator dealers up to 6 weeks before the show, at which time all remaining sales tables will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to dealers of both insulators and other collectibles. Tables are \$ 17.00 each for the weekend. A \$10.00 deposit per table holds your reservation. Don't miss this chance to find good insulators, good bottles, and other treasures. We're the "Friendly Show" and we'll be lookin' for y'all !!!

FLASH Word just arrived that the 1987 Antique & Collectibles Show sponsored by the Austin Bottle & Insulator Club will be held April 25 & 26, 1987. Dealer set-up is Fri. the 24th from 12-8 p.m. For information contact: Gary Ingram, 7005 Chuck Wagon Trail, Austin, Tx 78749, (512)892-3381.

Marilyn Albers

Marilyn Albers NIA # 541

WESTERN REGION:

I wonder how many other collectors have had the experience we had on our way home from the Bakersfield Show: that was seeing a really hard to find insulator in a shop and not being able to buy or trade for it. There in a most interesting shop, high on a shelf in the middle of perhaps 40 insulators, sat a Gregory. It had been given to the owner years ago and he wasn't interested in parting with it or any of the others. They were well coated with dust and had been sitting there for years and will continue to do so for many more. The others were an assortment of colors, such as purple and carnival, and styles such as a "Mickey Mouse", California "cross-top", and a "Big Mouth."

The whole shop was full of treasures and most interesting for browsing. The only bad part was that so much of it wasn't for sale. A couple of signs said "Items above this shelf not for sale" while another read "These tins for display only", and two cabinets full of salesman sample stoves were "Not for Sale." I especially enjoyed the display of blue and white graniteware, including a washboard. We did buy one nice phone there but still can't help but think of that Gregory.

UPDATE ON EVELYN MILHOLLAND

We recently visited Mrs. Milholland and thought you might like to know what is happening since her stroke last summer. She has recovered very well and has therapy on her arm just once a week now. A live-in companion-helper is still with her but Evelyn takes care of her mail and book orders. The insulator collection is all packed in boxes awaiting the completion of an apartment being added to her daughter's home. This is in Tacoma just a few miles from where she now lives. Evelyn expects to move in a few months and plans to display the collection in a small house behind her daughter's home. Hopefully this will be ready in July so those traveling to the National can stay for a visit and see the collection.

Violet Brown

WESTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We are well into 1987 as you read this and the insulator hobby needs your help and needs it now. As I write this article I have not yet received any formal insulator show bids for the 1988 Eastern and Western Regionals. Please seriously consider putting on an insulator show. The hobby has given all of us so much pleasure over the years. It is essential that we each try and give it a little bit back. Hosting a show is really 'paying your dues'. On a more positive note, I've received several requests for bid forms for the 1988 and 1989 Nationals and that is good news.

Besides myself, Thunder Bay finally has another insulator collector; a young man named Doug Bayko. He has acquired a good selection of various CD's by walking the abandoned telegraph lines and working the ditches through briars and brambles. Doug hasn't made an insulator show yet but would like to in the future. Welcome to the hobby and good luck in your collecting, Doug!

Okay now, I'll be standing by my mailbox waiting for your letters on hosting a regional show.

Thanks!



Eric Halpin

FROM THE NIA HISTORIAN

Hellow out there in insulator land--where are you?

The NIA needs pictures, articles, and books we don't have in our library. If you have something you would like to donate, drop me a line with a description and I'll let you know if we can use it.

What is currently needed are obscure or out-of-print catalogs and books, older Old Bottle Magazines, colorful articles on the hobby, etc. A big thanks to Robert Winkler for donating a bound copy of "Overhead Power & Electric Railway Cantenary Construction Details". This is a very detailed account of many, many types of pole line construction, new & old--a wonderful work and something people can use as an accurate record of past detail and standards.

I have also reproduced and enlarged pictures of the '86 Seldom Seen Display from Saratoga Springs. Pictures are 8 x 10 color prints and each one has a text of description and ownership. Five photos & 40 pages of text constitute the set. You may purchase a set of photos & text for \$35.00 each (which is the cost of reproduction), post paid.

At your service,

Chris Hedges NIA # 15
NIA HISTORIAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY

In the last issue of Drip Points, Nominations were opened for the pending vacancy in the position of Western Region Vice-president of the NIA. Since that time, very little interest has been expressed in the position. In order to make sure that all interested persons have an opportunity to run for this office, the nominations are going to be extended until April 15, 1987.

If you are interested in participating on the NIA Board of Directors please write me and I will provide you with information regarding the duties and responsibilities of this position. The elections will be announced in the summer edition of Drip Points and the winner will be installed at the National Show in Fresno in July.

Please consider making a contribution to the hobby by running for office.

Thank you!

Russ Hughes



RUN FOR OFFICE
& VOTE!

Nominations Committee Chairman
2560 S. Drain St., Denver, Co 80219

(303) 922-7733

FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS CHAIRMAN:

Hi! I hope you are ready for spring because I predict it will arrive early this year. That's fine with me because spring is my favorite season. I am already looking forward to the upcoming show in Omaha. We have a lot of fun and it is always a really great show. You should make definite plans to attend. Not only will you have a great time talking insulators and shopping for great deals, but Mike Bruner has already agreed to a repeat performance playing the Lowry organ (groan!!)

Is 1987 your year to sponsor an insulator show? I hope so, because the more shows, the better! Let's think about this for a minute. Perhaps a small show would not be as big a hassle as you think. Chances are good your home would be sufficient for the first year. Successful shows are not evolved overnight. They normally begin as small, sparsely attended events and evolve over a few years, getting larger and better each year. As the years pass, more collectors will attend and you can target your advertising to attract other hobby participants such as collectors of bottles, fruit jars, marbles, advertising, signs, lightning rod equipment, baseball cards, telephones and any others you choose. Then you can enlist these collectors to bring their buddies to your next show. Consequently, your show has a very good chance of becoming an extravaganza within a few years. The amount of work you must perform to have a good show can often be reduced by delegating tasks to volunteers. Usually it is easier than expected to find other collectors willing to help shoulder the many tasks associated with putting on a successful show. I hope you will consider sponsoring a show. Granted, it will require some time and planning but you can do it, and I bet my bottom dollar you'll do a fantastic job!

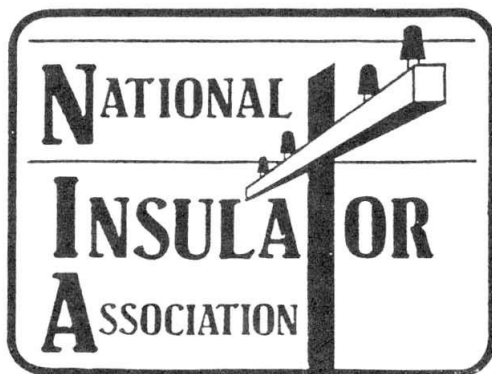
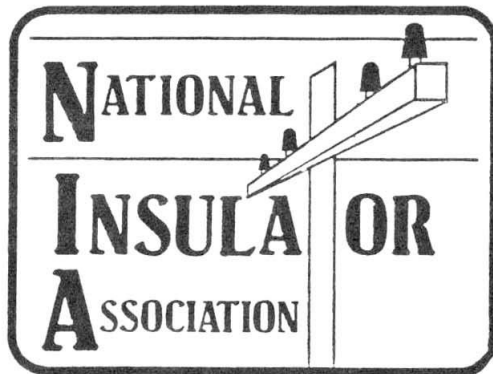
My very best to all of you,

Charlie Allmon

NEW LOGO FINALIZED !

After months of work, revisions, discussion, and re-revision, the new NIA logos are finished and have been accepted by the Board of Directors.

The example below is referred to as the "Open Pole" version which is to be used for embroidered patches and other applications where the solid pole version will not serve well.



The above "Solid Pole" version will be used on letterhead, etc. where the solid pole will not constitute a reproduction problem.

A hearty vote of thanks to all who participated in the logo design. May we all use it proudly !

"DISCOVERIES"

(Editor's Note: This is the first and only article received for this column. Thanks Jeff Kaminski of Greenfield, Mass. for your time and contribution. If you have a story of how you discovered some desirable insulators please write to the Information Director so that others may share your experiences just as we now share Jeff's.)

I grew up in the town of Ware, Ma. where there are hundreds of CD 325 Pyrex 401's in clear still in service on 22,900 volt feeder lines. In early 1985, I did a count on all the lines I knew about and came up with about 1,600 mint CD 325 Pyrex and about 150 mint CD 323 Pyrex 271's in clear. About 200 or so were taken down in October 1985 and March 1986 when new lines were put in. These are mixed in with a number of different porcelains many of which have beautiful glazes which are fascinating. This is basically how I got to be a Pyrex specialist.

My grandfather and I used to walk these lines where we found a mint, clear CD 323 when I was 8 years old. In November 1984, I saw another Pyrex 401-271 line in Orange, Ma., about 12 miles from where I live. It has been converted to a 13,800 volt distribution line and has about 200-300 combined pieces.

In December 1985 I saw a line in Cranston, R.I. that has CD 325 Pyrex in carnival. I counted 93 and many are as dark as you can imagine. I also saw hundreds of 6-inch Pyrex suspensions on 4,160 volt distribution in Providence and Cranston, R.I. There are still a few of these in the Ware, Ma. area, which is about 40 miles from Greenfield.

I received a letter from a guy telling me about CD 327's in service in Quonset Point, R.I. In November of 1986 I went down to find several hundred CD 327's in carnival. These are just awesome! I also saw about 12 CD 326 Pyrex 453's in clear, several CD 325's in clear, 3 or 4 CD 327's in clear, and a string

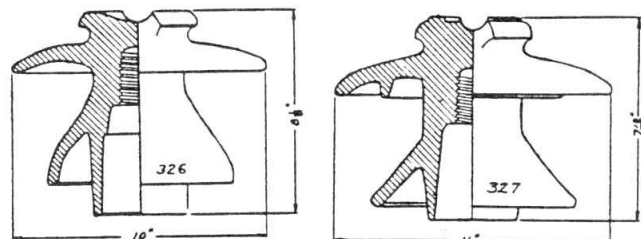
of (3) 10-inch Pyrex suspensions in clear. These are very scarce in clear. I've also heard of CD 320 Pyrex 171's and more CD 327's in service in the Rutland, Vt. area but haven't had a chance to get up there yet. It seems there are still quite a few Pyrex insulators around in service throughout the country.

I've also seen clear CD 221's in service on the Mass./N.H. border. Also have seen clear CD 219's, 252's, and aqua 295's. Just recently I saw 4 or 5 clear CD 257's and a CD 157.5 Standard in the Boston area.

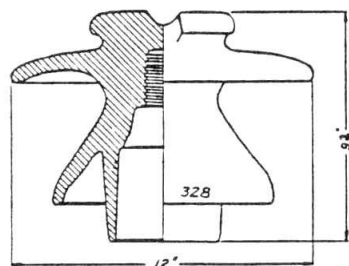
As you can see, I am very interested in seeing and learning about insulators still on lines. I'm especially interested in knowing where and what Pyrex insulators are still in use. I would really appreciate communicating with any other collectors who have any information on this subject.

I hope other readers start participating in this project. It's the sharing with other collectors that keeps this great insulator hobby alive.

Jeff Kaminski
7 Cooke St.
Greenfield, Ma 01301



CORNING
PYREX



1987 NATIONAL & REGIONAL SHOWS

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING 1987 DATES FOR
NIA SANCTIONED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SHOWS

June 27-28, 1987 Central Regional

in Pearland, Texas. Show hosts are Marilyn
& Bill Albers of the Lone Star Insulator
Club and Lee & Dee Garner of the Gulf
Coast Bottle Club.

July 24-26, 1987-NATIONAL in Fresno,

California hosted by Mike & Becky Guthrie of
the NorCal Insulator Club.

Sept. 26-27, 1987 Eastern Regional in

Kulpsville, Pennsylvania. Show hosts are
Claude Wambold and Steve Bobb.

1986-1987 NIA Board of Directors

Kevin Lawless, NIA #1679 (President) 41 Crestwood Dr., Schenectady, NY 12306	518-355-5688
Eric Halpin, NIA #2768 (Executive Director) 1411 Murray Ave., Thunder Bay, Ont. P7E 5A7 Canada	807-622-7583
Michael Guthrie, NIA #3297 (Information Director) 35816 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, CA 93638	209-645-0120
Rod Krupka, NIA # 1308 (Treasurer) 2615 Echo La., Ortonville, MI 48462	313-627-6351
Violet Brown, NIA #652 (Western Region Vice-President) 7049 243rd Ave. N.E., Redmond, WA 98052	206-868-4249
Dennis Weber, NIA #1889 (Central Region Vice-President) 3609 Jackson, St. Joseph, MO 64507	816-364-1312
Jeffrey McCurty, NIA #1054 (Eastern Region Vice-President) P.O. Box 808, Millbrook, NY 12545	914-677-9917
Michael Bruner, NIA #1482 (First Past President) 6980 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48033	313-661-2359
Marilyn Albers, NIA #541 (Second Past President) 14715 Oak Bend Dr., Houston, TX 77079	713-497-4146