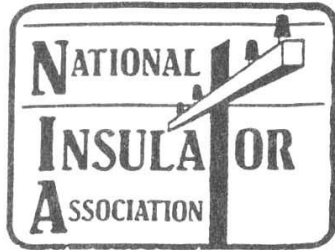


# DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2 WINTER 1990

In this issue of "DRIP POINTS":

- "MESSAGES" from Board members
  - From the President  
... *Eric Halpin*
  - From the Executive Director  
... *Bernie Warren*
  - "Good Time to Prepare Displays"  
... *Don Reinke*
- Nominations now accepted for Central Region V-P. Contact: Duane Davenport
- SUBMIT BIDS FOR 1992 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHOWS Contact: Bernie Warren

If you have items of interest to N.I.A. members,  
send them to: *DRIP POINTS* c/o Don Reinke  
2513 Flintridge Pl., Ft Collins, CO 80521

## ● FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NIA Members,

Several months ago, two letters were forwarded to me for comment as the president of the N.I.A. After reading these letters, I realized that there was some confusion about the ownership or source of material that appears in *Drip Points*, which I will try and clarify here.

*Drip Points* is published by the N.I.A. on a quarterly basis each year. The N.I.A. and its officers are solely responsible for its content. Its inclusion as a supplement of *Crown Jewels of the Wire* is done as a business agreement between the N.I.A. and *Crown Jewels*. Letters of comment (preferably short and to the point) from members and non-members alike are encouraged by the N.I.A., and can be forwarded to Don Reinke, the N.I.A.'s information director. Many of you have ideas or suggestions and your input is always welcome. If you send a copy of your letter also to your region's vice-president or myself you can be guaranteed of a prompt reply.

There was a wonderful lineup of insulator shows over the past several months. Hopefully you were able to attend at least one show. The hosts, the dealers and your fellow collectors all depend on your support.

On a closing note, I wish to announce that the Central region N.I.A. Vice-President's position is open for election in early 1991. If you are interested in having a greater voice in the direction and operation of the N.I.A, this is an ideal opportunity. The vice-presidents play a key role within the hobby. So if you want to be more involved or know someone who may be, let me know and I will pass the information on to the nominations committee.

It is hard to believe that Christmas and 1991 are just around the corner. May I wish to all of you, the very best of the season and coming new year.

Best Regards,  
**Eric Halpin**  
NIA #2768

● **1990/91 1st QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

BEGINNING BALANCE: (7-1-90)           \$ 6,803.66

REVENUES:                               \$ 1,683.13

Dues                                   1,269.00

Interest                               99.13

Product Sales                       315.00

EXPENDITURES:                       \$ 1,998.12

Drip Points                           98.00

Postage                               91.07

Telephone                           13.32

Supplies                              319.24

Show Awards                         33.72

Nat.Show Hosts Adv 500.00

Memb. Directory                   850.00

Membership                         92.77

BALANCE:       (9-30-90)           \$ 6,488.67

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Ross E. Huth**, Treasurer

## ● FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Holiday greetings from a winter wonderland. This is our thirtieth winter in Alaska and we are always assured of a **very** white Christmas, One that we often wish we could share with our far southern friends.

The importance of our support for and attendance at all of our insulator shows was stressed in the last issue of *Drip Points*. I would now like to mention another avenue of participation for the insulator collector, especially those who are unable to travel great distances to insulator shows. The small, local, antique bottle club and collectibles shows offer this opportunity. Madeline and I have had the pleasure of participating in nine such shows the last three years. We found ourselves to be the only collectors with full tables of insulators at eight of those shows. (Bob and Phoebe Adams participated in the Charleston, S.C. show we attended.)

The positive comments and the interest our tables of insulators elicited from the public were very rewarding. I encourage you to participate in one or more of those small, local shows. You will enjoy it and be an ambassador for our great hobby at the same time.

Bids are still being solicited for the 1992 national and regional shows. Please write or call for a bid packet. Also, please note that should a national bid not be received by January 1, 1991, the NIA may then open bidding to all regions for the NIA National Convention.

**Bernie Warren**

NIA #1828

## ● FROM THE INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Time to get ready ... for the next show. How many times have you said "I need to put together a display for the show at [insert your favorite site]"? It's not too early to begin to prepare for next year's lineup of shows. Just a few tips:

### – Pick a theme

Many of us have a specialty so this step can seem like an easy one, but it is an important starting point that should get its share of time. There is some merit to displaying the world's BIGGEST Hemingray 42 collection or a display of the two RAREST insulators made by the Acme insulator company, but don't stop there. Look through show reports in past issues of *Crown Jewels* for ideas. Try to come up with a theme for your display that collectors will find interesting or informative. An example might be to show the variations in molds, colors, and/or embossings found in the Hemingray 42 line. The 42 is not the most exciting insulator by itself, but one could build a very informative display around it. But if you can't think of a creative theme ... DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU FROM BUILDING A DISPLAY! Often, a theme will come to mind as you are putting the display together. Sometimes the display itself is enough.

### – Make a Sketch

Draw a simple sketch of what you think the display will look like. Identify specific insulators or go-withs that you would like to have in your display, including items you DON'T ALREADY HAVE. Try to envision how much space you will need and what kind of "support" materials you will use, ie. binders, poster board, stands, and lighting. This estimate will be important if you are transporting your display in your trunk ... or will need to hitch a ride with someone who owns a van. Some sturdy, yet lightweight

and transportable, stands can be made from cardboard. Again, look at some of the past displays in *Crown Jewels* or talk to someone who has done a display to get some ideas.

– **Advertise Early**

What if you have a great idea for a display but don't have any of the insulators? Put an ad in *Crown Jewels*. Let everyone know that you are putting together a specialty collection for a show and see if you can round up the characters for your show. Give yourself some time ... advertise NOW for next summer's shows. If you don't get an immediate response, or you need more time, you can plan for a display at some future date. Another fun way to collect the pieces you need is by ATTENDING SHOWS this year and talking to dealers and other collectors about the insulators you are looking for.

– **Do Some Research**

Show awards are based on a combination criteria, such as the use of color, the rarity of the insulators themselves, and the educational content of the display. Use insulator references such as the McDougald's *Insulators - A History and Guide to North American Glass Pintype Insulators Volumes 1 and 2* as a starting point. In some cases, just presenting a story about how you put together the collection you are displaying can be very informative to new collectors. Information about the mechanics of producing insulators would be a fantastic display, ie. the operation of a typical glass plant, or an insulator mold and press. True, some of the "old-timers" probably know a lot of that information already ... but each show has a large number of novice collectors and general public who know very little. The NIA is very deliberate about giving special recognition to "first time" exhibitors and encouraging education at all levels.

Some questions you can tackle are: Who made the insulators you are displaying?, Where?, When?, Where were they used?, Who used them?, Who installed them?, Who were some of the people involved in the production?, Where did the raw materials come from?, What colors were made?, What kind of equipment was used (tank, presses, molds)?, What is unique about them?, Why were they made in this particular shape?, ... and use your imagination to double this list ...

### **Don't Put It Off!**

Take some time to put together a design for a display this week. Pick one night each week or some time on the weekend to work on your display. Make a commitment by reserving a table at a show.

Above all, if you have some concerns about; 1. The competition is too tough, 2. I'm afraid of what might happen to my insulators, 3. I don't have a way to get to a show, 4. All of the above ... call or write to an N.I.A. board member or some collectors in your local area (check the directory issue). These are people who have probably displayed before and can put to rest some of your concerns, and there are often people in your area that are going to shows with extra space in their vehicles who could help you transport your display.

The finest collection in the world is many times more enjoyable when you can share it with someone. GIVE IT A TRY!

**Don Reinke**

Information Director



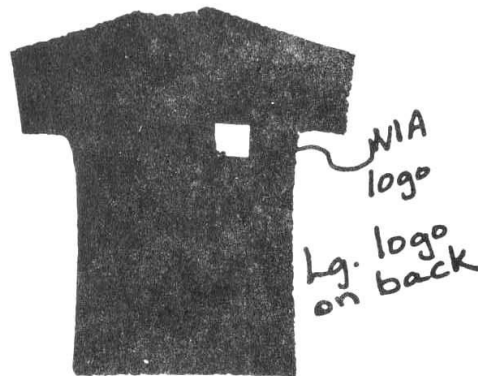
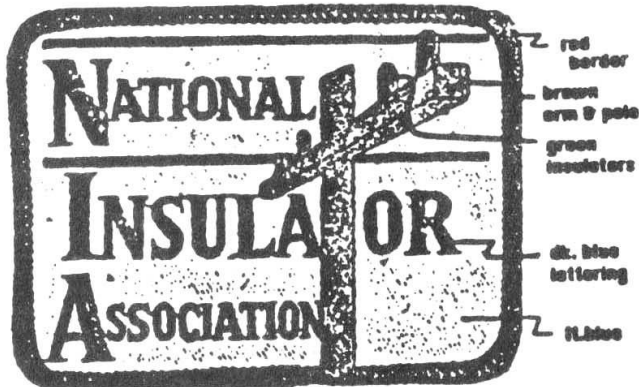
**NIA Coffee Mug**  
 Only \$8.00 including postage  
 and insurance.

**50/50 Cotton-Poly T-Shirt**

lt. blue      Sizes: S, M, L, XL

\$12.00 each (includes postage/handling)

Make check Payable to National Insulator Assn.  
 and send to Jackie Linscott



**Embroidered Patch or Window Decal**

To order 2" x 1 3/4" decal (\$1.00) or 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" patch (\$3.50) or send your check payable to National Insulator Association along with a SASE to the NIA Director of Marketing:

JACKIE LINSKOTT, 3557 Nicklaus Dr., Titusville, FL 32780