

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION



DRIP POINTS

Volume 14
Number 1
Fall '86



NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
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SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12306



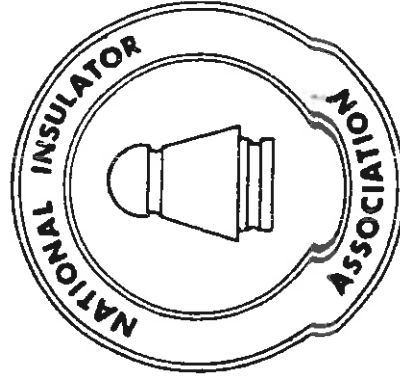
TO:



DRIP POINTS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

National Insulator Association



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IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH !!!!!

When I first accepted the appointment as NIA Information Director I gave a lot of serious thought to the direction that I felt "Drip Points" should take. I wanted to make it the best possible newsletter I could while trying to maintain the proper relationship with Crown Jewels, which I consider to be the primary publication in the hobby. The more ways I came up with to "spice-up" Drip Points the more I was aware that it would essentially constitute competition with Crown Jewels. This was not an acceptable course so I tried to decide what the appropriate role of Drip Points really is/should be. The result was that Drip Points ought to be a publication about the activities of the National Insulator Association and its individual members. Research articles, advertising, non-NIA show information, etc., etc., is most appropriately the role of Crown Jewels to cover.

With this tentative direction in mind, I discussed my concerns with Carol & John McDougald during a short stay on the way to Saratoga Springs. Carol made a suggestion which had been originally discussed last year. The suggestion involved publishing Drip Points as a part of Crown Jewels. The idea had several merits: 1) It could mean a savings to the NIA in production costs while providing a higher printing quality; 2) Drip Points and the NIA would get wider exposure within the hobby; 3) There would be no concern about competition between the two publications; and 4) Drip Points would still maintain its identity by being published as an insert with different colored paper.

The concept was presented to the Board of Directors at Saratoga Springs and after lengthy discussion of the pros and cons it was decided to combine the two publications. Crown Jewels will provide this service at no cost to the NIA. In return, the NIA will issue a coupon to every new NIA member household and every NIA household renewal which is worth \$2.00 toward the member's Crown Jewels subscription price. This offer will begin with all membership renewals after Dec. 1, 1986.

It is important for the NIA membership to know that Drip Points is the single greatest cost to the NIA. Anything which can be done to reduce cost and improve quality must be considered, therefore, the change of direction. This is the last issue of Drip Points to be printed under separate cover. The Board and I, as Information Director, hope this change will be a positive one for the hobby and we ask your support and contributions as other improvements are attempted.

Sincerely,

Mike Guthrie

"鎮世無常無常無常"

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow NIA members,

Welcome from the Empire State! I'd like to introduce myself to the membership as your new President. I am Kevin Lawless, from Schenectady, New York, and I am proud to be elected by my peers as the NIA's 10th president...that's right 10th! It doesn't seem possible, but the fact is that since the NIA's inception in 1973, Fred Griffin, Ernie Rostock, Jerry Turner, Bob Alexander, John McDougald, Len Linscott, Pat Patocka, Marilyn Fibbers, and Mike Bruner have all preceded me in that position, so you can see I'm in pretty spectacular company!

I'd like to officially welcome the NIA's new members (and some old returning friends, too) to what I hope will be a very exciting year for the hobby. First, I'd like to thank our outgoing Board members, Pat Patocka, John deSousa and Ken Stefan, for their outstanding contributions to the NIA and the hobby of insulator collecting. Also, thanks to Mike Bruner for his contributions over the past two years as NIA President. Mike will continue to contribute as Past President. At the same time, I'd like to officially welcome our new Board members, Mike Guthrie, Eric Halpin, and Jeff McCarty, who will all add new insights into the NIA. John McDougald has stepped down as Ethics Committee Chairman and has been replaced by Bob Nobbe. John will still be advising the Board, however, as By-Laws Committee Chairman.

Over the last several years, we have seen the hobby gradually expand with new collectors, new shows, and a general rekindling of interest in insulator collecting. The outpouring of collectors attending this past summer's Saratoga Springs National was very gratifying and encouraging, since the NIA has gathered quite a few new members in the process. I'd like the following to occur over the next two years: A 25% increase in NIA membership. The only way to drastically increase the number of paid members is to drastically increase the NIA's exposure. Mike Bruner has agreed to act as Membership Committee Chairman, and he will oversee a committee of NIA members who will promote the hobby and the NIA at local, regional and national shows, as well as selected bottle and other hobby shows. As part of this plan, we will be printing promotional literature shortly, as well as new membership applications for distribution at shows and to mail inquiries. Mike will need plenty of help on this project. If you would like to help promote the NIA and the hobby of insulator collecting, especially if you are a non-dealer and have some extra time to answer questions at the shows you attend, PLEASE CONTACT MIKE BRAUNER AND VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES!

RESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd)

At its meeting of July 12, 1986, the NIA Board of Directors voted to propose an increase in dues for Junior members to \$4.00 per year. The reason for the increase is to BREAK EVEN on the cost of each junior member. There are not that many junior members in the NIA at this time and we would like more junior collectors to join, but the sad fact is that each junior membership costs the NIA nearly \$4.00 per year in printing and postage costs alone. This proposal will become effective on April 1, 1987, unless 5% of the current membership writes in opposition within 60 days of the mailing date of this newsletter.

I will leave some space for the rest of the Board and Committee members to correspond with you, but I would like to conclude with this thought: You are many and I am but one. If YOU have an opinion on a topic and I ignore it for no good reason, then I am not serving this organization. However, if YOU have an opinion and DONT TELL ME, then I CANNOT serve this organization. I fully intend to act in your best interest but at the same time I do want to know what's on your mind. Expect everyone on this Board to feel the same way as I do. We are not prima donnas out for glory, we're just a little braver than most and hope we can accomplish something for our hobby. See you at the shows, especially the 1987 Central and Eastern Regionals, and the 1987 National Show and Convention (see further for show locations, dates and times.)

Good Collecting,



**KEVIN LAWLESS, NIA #1679
NIA PRESIDENT**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

As this is my first column in Drip Points, it is appropriate that I introduce myself to many of you whom I have not met before. My name is Eric Halpin and I live in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Collecting insulators has been a serious hobby for me for about ten years. I attend insulator shows as often as possible and hope to further increase my attendance in the future. I would encourage all insulator collectors to make a real effort to attend several shows this year, as the hobby really needs this support. The work and effort put out by the show host(s) and dealers can only be rewarded by a good attendance. Decent, collectable insulators continue to regularly show up at all the shows, and that's what the hobby is about.

The 1987 national and regional shows have all been announced and will be regularly advertised. I am now actively seeking show hosts for the 1988 National in the central region and eastern and western regionals. Hosting any of these shows can be a very rewarding experience. If you have any interest in being a national or regional show host, drop me a line and let's discuss it. While 1988 may seem a long way off, a good lead time is advantageous in planning a show.

When I was first approached about serving as Executive Director, I was quite apprehensive. Then after some thought I realized that this hobby has given and continues to give me so much pleasure that it is only right that I try and pay back this enjoyment, by helping the N.I.A. any way I can. Let's all try and assist the hobby in the near future. Hosting an insulator show is one big way to do this, so please give this some serious thought.

Best Regards,



ERIC HALPIN

FROM THE 2ND PAST PRESIDENT:

The Seldom Seen Display featured at the 17th National Convention in Saratoga Springs was, I think, an unchallenged success! It was mind boggling to see so many rare and unusual insulators gathered together in one place and all at the same time. Jeff McCurly and I want to thank all collectors who loaned specimens for this display. A special thanks to Len Linscott for donating his time and energy at the beginning of set-up time. It was just invaluable help.

I'd like to offer my congratulations to the new officers on the NIA Board as well as to our new committee chairmen. We have some really fine and dedicated people steering our organization! Let's give them our wholehearted support by way of letting them know when they do a good job, and offering helpful suggestions or new ideas which could make our NIA even better than it is.

FROM THE WESTERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:

For those of you who may not know, Evelyn Milholland had a stroke in mid-July. It has left her with some paralysis on the left side, mainly her arm and hand, but in spite of this she is in good spirits and is as cheerful as always. After much therapy in the hospital she was released August 20 to return to her home where she will have a live-in helper/companion. Evelyn's sister Alice will be going to her home once or twice a week to take care of the mail and book orders so if your order is a bit late, please be patient.

Not much going on in the summer months in this area in the way of shows but with September just a short time away we can start deciding which ones to attend. First will be our "mini-swap meet and tailgater" when we camp-out on Snoqualmie Pass September 13 & 14. Lots of fun and very relaxing! Then in October we're looking forward to the Bakersfield show when we plan to take lots of time to visit relatives along the way. Hope to find lots of goodies in the out of the way places.

Violet Brown

NIA LIBRARY

The NIA maintains a library of books and periodicals about insulators to preserve the history of insulator manufacture, use, and collecting for the future. Did you know that the Historian also maintains photographs of the National Shows? Please check the list in the Summer '86 Drip Points and see if you don't have a book or catalogue that you can contribute to the NIA. You may also wish to check with Historian Chris Hedges to see if he can use any show or insulator photos you might have laying around. THANKS!

FROM THE EASTERN REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

GREETINGS!

It was nice to see so many of you at Saratoga. The Seldom Seen Display kept me quite busy but I did meet a number of new people plus got to visit shortly with some good friends. It was a first class show all the way. Thanks to John, Doug, and Kevin.

Having been in this position for two months now, I am still getting my feet wet so to speak. After 15 years in the hobby, however, I would like to give it my best effort and support everyone I can. To help, I need to hear from you. Give me your ideas, concerns, questions, and yes, even your complaints. For the past year or so the insulator hobby has been going strong in the Eastern Region, as well as the entire country. I would like to see it stay that way for as long as possible. It really doesn't take much to support this hobby and here are two neat ways. I have never written a book or hosted a show, but surely appreciate the efforts of those who have. I am suggesting that you buy any insulator book that pertains to your collection. They make for great reading and reference. Attending an insulator show is the best definition of fun I can think of. I really urge all collectors to attend any show they can.

The 2nd Annual Capital District Insulator Show in Middletown, New York in mid-August was another nice get-together of dealers, collectors, and a lot of great insulators. Four sharp displays were viewed by all. Thanks to Doug Williams and Ed Myslinski and their crew for hosting such a nice show again.

I would like to offer best wishes to the Linscott's for a super show on November 7-9 in Titusville, Florida. Well that's all for now. Hope to hear from you soon.

Jeff McCurtley

FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Thanks to all of the N.I.A. members who took the time to vote in the recent election for N.I.A. President and Eastern Region Vice-President. The membership response was very good for the total number of votes cast.

Russ Hughes

FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS CHAIRMAN:

Hi everyone-I hope you are all well. Did you folks think you had heard the last from me, since I have held this appointed job for the past two years? If that's what you were assuming, boy, oh, boy - are you in for a surprise! Your newly elected president, Kevin Lawless, has asked me to serve a second term. Now, I realize you are probably kicking yourself and saying "Oh no, look what that Lawless guy has done. Why did we elect that turkey?!"

Seriously, I'd like to first say thank you to Kevin. It's an honor to be asked to do this job again, and I'll do my best to assist you with information, ribbons, trophies, and printed N.I.A. material for your future shows.

Now, let's spend a few minutes discussing the 1986 National Show held in Saratoga Springs, New York. For those of you who were unable to attend, I must say that you missed an outstanding show. In my opinion the show sponsors Kevin Lawless, John deSousa, and Doug MacGillivray did a wonderful job. All three are to be complimented for their hard work and organization.

Now the results of the display competition at the National:
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: Dee & Rosella Willett

MILKGLASS EDUCATIONAL AWARD: Jeff McCurdy, Yellow Porcelain

FRED GRIFFIN AWARD : Bob Pierce, Threadless "Old Hats"

PORCELAIN: Jeff McCurdy, Yellow Porcelain

FOREIGN: Bernard Warren, Australian Glass

GENERAL: Larry Emmons, 1930 Model "A" pick-up with insulators

COLOR: David Wiecek, variety of glass

THREADED: Charlie Angevine, Hemingray #9

SPECIALTY: Claude Wambold, Pennsylvania Insulators

GO-WITHS: Larry Larned, New England Tel & Tel Signs

LIGHTNING ROD EQUIPMENT: John deSousa

That's about all for now, but be sure to look for my column in the fall issue. At that time, I will give you a tip for saving time and labor while packing your insulators for storage or for hauling them to and from an insulator show.

My very best to all of you,

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

The Fourteenth General Meeting of the National Insulator Association was called to order at 4:40 P.M. by President Mike Bruner, who greeted the more than 115 members in attendance. Board members and committee chairmen were introduced.

The minutes of the Thirteenth General Meeting, held at St. Charles, Illinois, were read by Executive Director Kevin Lawless and approved as read.

The Treasurer, Rod Krupka, gave a report, and announced a balance of \$1,825.06, as of July 1, 1986. Both revenues and bills are outstanding.

Eastern Region Vice President John deSousa thanked all for supporting the show and the NIA.

Central Region Vice President Dennis Weber reported on the Omaha Central Regional.

In the absence of Western Region Vice President Violet Brown, Kevin Lawless relayed her message of thanks for supporting the Western Regional Show in Enumclaw, Washington, and sent apologies for being unable to attend.

First Past President Marilyn Albers thanked President Mike Bruner and the NIA Board for their work, and also thanked all of the contributors to the Seidom Seen Display.

Mike Guthrie relayed a message of thanks for the years of support from Second Past President Pat Patocka, who was unable to attend.

Historian Chris Hedges announced that he has reorganized the NIA's archives into a library format. He also reported on discovering a correlation between Pyrex and Fred M. Locke.

Ethics Committee Chairman John McDougald reported on the recent removal of membership privileges of a collector, which was previously identified in Drip Points.

Under old business, Chuck Haymond complimented the Seidom Seen Display and asked if it would be possible to organize one at a future National. Kevin Lawless addressed the problems and expense involved.

Rex Vaughn asked if the annual membership directory could be returned to March. Carol and John McDougald addressed the issue, and explained why the Directory will be published in October.

Len Linscott asked about the possible logo change, and Mike Bruner explained it was still in committee.

Jean Garrison, Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs representative, reported on the National Bottle Museum and this year's insulator exhibit. Mike Bruner thanked Kevin Lawless, as well as Tom Moulton, Phil Chouffi, John deSousa, and Phil Spozioni for their work with the insulator exhibit room. Mike Bruner also reported the

NEW N.I.R. LOGO !

availability of low cost computerized label printing to NIR members. Chris Hedges announced that he had discovered an old power line construction near Ballston Spa on Route 67.

Marilyn Albers reported on the highly professional job that Jeff McCurdy did with the Seldom Seen Display. She also announced her pleasure with N.R. Woodward's involvement in the updated Foreign Glass Insulator book, and responded that Woodward's CD numbering system and Crown Jewels are what have held the hobby together.

Grant Salzman inquired about the availability of show cases for future National shows, which Kevin Lawless answered.

Kevin Lawless announced the location of next year's shows:

The Eastern Regional will be held in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania, on September 26-27, 1987, and show hosts are Claude Wambold and Steve Bobb. Claude Wambold gave a brief description.

The Central Regional will be held in Pearland, Texas, on June 27-28, 1987, and show hosts are Lee and Dee Garner of the Gulf Coast Bottle Club and Marilyn and Bill Albers of the Lone Star Insulator Club. Marilyn Albers spoke on their behalf.

The National (Western) Show will be held in Fresno, California, on July 24-26, 1987, and show hosts are Mike and Becky Guthrie. Mike spoke on the facilities, the banquet, and the area attractions, and invited all to attend.

Upcoming local and club shows were announced by various attendees, including: Nor-Cal Insulator Club, Auburn, Ca (August 2); Capital District Insulator Club, State Hill (Middletown), NY (August 16-17); Huron Valley Insulator Club, Ann Arbor, MI (October 11); Bakersfield, CA (October 11-12); Central Ohio Show, London, OH (November 8-9); Central Florida Insulator Club, Titusville, FL (November 7-9).

In the absence of Nominations Chairman Russ Hughes, President Mike Bruner announced the election of Jeff McCurdy as Central Region Vice President and Kevin Lawless as President.

New President Kevin Lawless thanked outgoing President Mike Bruner for his contributions, and also thanked outgoing Board members John deSouza, Pat Patocka (in absentia) and Ken Stefan (in absentia) for their dedication and support. He then introduced the new Board of Directors and Committee Chairpeople (see inside covers for list of names.)

The meeting was adjourned, until July 24, 1987 in Fresno, California.

Respectfully submitted,



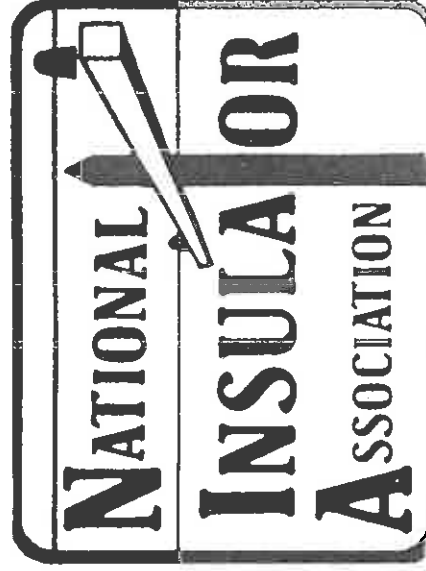
After months of drafts, redrafts, and re-redrafts the following design has been selected as the prototype of the new N.I.R. logo.

The revision process began shortly after the 1985 National Show when then-President Mike Bruner appointed a committee consisting of Howie Schneider (Chairman), Phil Chouffri, Mike Guthrie, and Scott Given. Howie prepared a set of several samples which were sent to the committee members who then provided additional input. A second set of designs was then presented to the Board of Directors at Saratoga Springs and one design was selected as the most desirable. This design was returned to Howie (who is a professional artist) who made some fine adjustments before the final prototype was produced.

This design incorporates a number of details which were felt would create a more contemporary, attractive, and identifiable logo. The inclusion of a pole, crossarm, wires, and generic insulators (beehives), will reveal what the hobby is about to those who are not familiar with insulator collecting. The logo will probably incorporate at least 4-5 colors creating a much more attractive patch, decal, etc. Letterhead and other printed material utilizing the new logo will be much more identifiable than those utilizing the original logo.

President Kevin Lawless would like your comments on the new design. If you have feelings about the new design please write Kevin and let him know. Please write if you like it as well as if you don't. The implementation of the new logo will take place as soon as possible after the feelings of the membership are known.

WELL, HERE IT IS !:



IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INSULATOR HISTORY

It is probably safe to say that many if not most collectors have never found or even seen a really decent insulator on a pole. For those of us who entered the hobby in the last 5 years especially, the cobalts, carnivals, castles, purples, etc., etc., were in boxes, barns, and on shelves long before our dreams of such items were ever conceived. I have often looked at my 'treasures' and tried to imagine where they came from and what stories they could tell if only they could talk !

Well, it is not likely that insulators will start talking at any time in the near future, so we must seek other sources for our stories. Those "sources" are you ! There are many great stories of discoveries which have already been told but I am convinced that there are MORE untold stories about where things have been found. Since the insulators can't tell their own story we must depend upon collectors to tell it for them. As I mentioned in my introductory statement, I feel that Drip Points should be a record of the activities of NIA members. I also feel that the NIA should be responsible for the recordation of as much history of insulators as possible.

PROPOSAL:

With all of this in mind, what I propose is a new feature in Drip Points to be entitled "DISCOVERIES". What it is intended to be is a permanent record, written by NIA members, of the location and circumstances of the discovery of better insulators. What I mean by 'better' is real vague but probably would have to do with pieces of scarce CD or color Diamond, for example, is not scarce but is real popular. Most collectors can only dream of how crossarms full of them must have looked but the dream can be made much better with the description by a collector of how it looked to one who HAS seen the real thing. This is really an important historical project. The longer it is delayed, the more likely that stories will disappear along with their tellers.

If you have enjoyed your discoveries and can appreciate the excitement that others can experience by sharing them with you, **PLEASE** take a little bit of time to write down your experiences and send them to Drip Points in care of the Information Director. If you should happen to have photographs to go with the stories, so much the better. My intention is to build a permanent file for future generations of insulator collectors who must rely on your efforts to enjoy dreams they can never experience themselves.

Please help with this project...for the future...and the past !



C.F.I.C.



Titusville, Florida

CENTRAL FLORIDA INSULATOR COLLECTORS' CLUB

NINTH ANNUAL

ANTIQUE SHOW & SALE

INSULATORS

LIGHTNING ROD BALLS

BOTTLES & COLLECTIBLES

(all "table top" items)



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Sun: 12 - 5 pm

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TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

Tables: \$20. each

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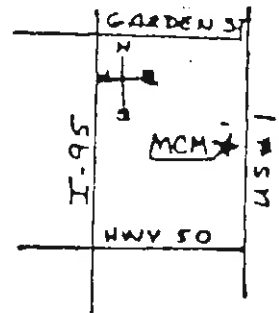
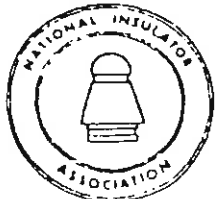
Contact:

L.L. Linscott

3557 Nicklaus Drive

Titusville, FL 32780

(305-267-9170)



1986 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

One of the highlights of the annual awards banquet at National Shows is the awarding of the NIA's Outstanding Service Award.

This year's recipients are Delaney "Dee" and Rosella Willett of Bakersfield California.

The process of selecting the recipient begins with the solicitation of nominations from one male and one female NIA member from each region of the country. The nominations are then reviewed and a selection is made based on a consensus of the NIA show committee.

About Dee Willett. Dee has been an active member of the NIA from early in its creation (NIA # 258.) During his participation in the insulator collecting hobby, Dee has distinguished himself as one of the most ambitious promoters of the hobby particularly with those outside of the hobby. Dee has written a number of articles and made countless contacts with antique publications in an ongoing effort to promote insulator collecting as a legitimate facet of antiques.

The prime source of motivation for the highly successful Bakersfield Show, Dee has been known to be up at 5:30 a.m. to distribute show fliers at various activities in the Bakersfield area. He has also been seen stapling show posters to utility poles and doing just about everything else he can to promote his show and insulator collecting. Dee celebrated his 75th birthday during last year's Western Regional Show and shows no signs of slowing down. The can be said of Dee's sweet wife Rosella. Rosella accompanies Dee to most of the shows regardless of distance.

To the Willett's, congratulations from Drip Points for your tireless service to the insulator hobby.



Dee
Willett

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.

Introduction to the 1987 National in Fresno, Ca.

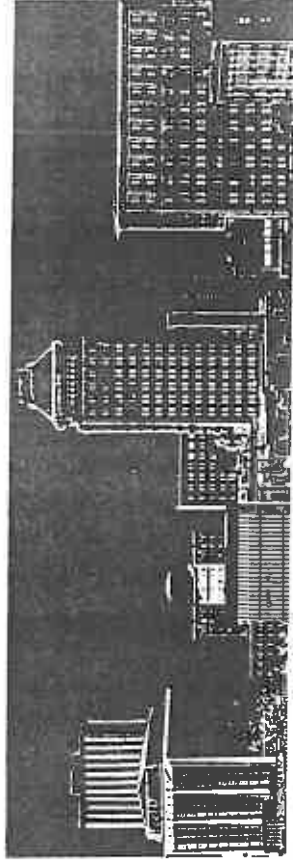
Fresno is a city of over 285,000 population and 100 sq. miles in area, located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley in Central California. Fresno County is the top agricultural producing county in the United States and has been for many years. Air service from many carriers is available with most connections originating in Los Angeles or San Francisco. San Francisco is approx. 185 miles from Fresno and Los Angeles is approx. 220 miles. It may be less expensive to rent a car in S.F. and drive to Fresno than the connecting flights so check with your travel agent.

The variety of activities near Fresno makes it an ideal point of origin for vacation. In 3 hours driving or less you can reach the central coast region which includes the towns of Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, Monterey/Carmel, and Santa Cruz. Within 2 hours you can reach Sequoia, Kings Canyon, or Yosemite National Parks. Within 4 hours are the Reno or Lake Tahoe resort/gambling casinos. And, as mentioned, San Francisco is a 3 hr. drive. Detailed descriptions of various attractions will be included in future issues of Drip Points and Crown Jewels.

The show site is the recently remodeled Hacienda Resort and Convention Center located right on State Rte. 99 in Central Fresno. Room rates are among the most reasonable in years with singles at \$37/night and doubles/triples/or quads for only \$42/night! RV parking on-site is unlimited at \$10/night which includes free room use for showers & restrooms. These prices encourage show participants to remain on-site for the duration of the show. Restaurant services are available on premises with several other fine restaurants within a short distance of the show site.

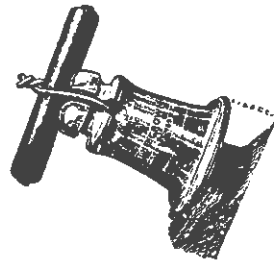
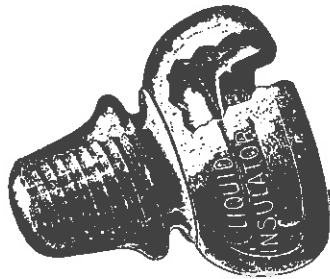
The showroom will accommodate about 130 sales and 20 display tables. It is expected that this will be a sell-out so once the show packets are distributed don't delay in reserving your space(s). Sales tables will be \$40.00 each. The banquet is tentatively planned for an outside, traditional California buffet of Santa Maria tri-tip w/barbecue sauce (steak-like roast which melts in your mouth!) with corn on the cob, tossed green, cole slaw, and potato salads, barbecue beans, rolls and butter, dessert, and coffee or tea. The price will hopefully come in at about \$14-15 but will not be firm until late January as the hotel will not guarantee menu or price more than 6-months in advance. The outside banquet is very popular in this area as a summer breeze in the early evening lowers temperatures into the low 80's making for a very pleasant night. The weather this time of year is typically in the high 90's during the day and the high 60's at night. The humidity, however, makes it all quite bearable at about 20-25%. Definitely swimming weather and the hotel has two outside pools to take advantage.

Well, that's it for now. Keep your eyes peeled for new information as it develops..... See you in FRESNO!

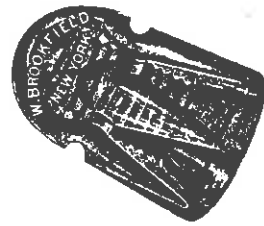
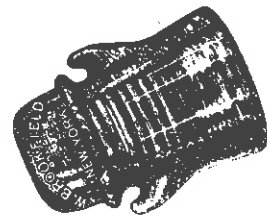


SELDOM SEEN DISPLAY - WESTERN EDITION?

The Seldom Seen Display at Saratoga was an uncompromised success and many have suggested that it be attempted again in 1987. The idea is great but the execution of the idea is the problem. As Jeff McCurdy and Marilyn Albers can attest, it is a full time job for at least 2-3 people. In addition, there is a substantial cost for the display cases themselves. So, here is the situation: At least 2 and preferably 3 people will be needed to staff the display and approximately \$500.00 will be required to construct the necessary display cases. If you are willing to volunteer to staff the display for 3 days or have some suggestions as to how to pay for the cases please submit your input to the show host for consideration. If we can get the necessary resources (human and financial) then this display will be added to the show. It would be nice to see the western flavor which was missing from the 1986 version.



'87 ?



EDITOR OR AUTHOR ?

In Ken Stefan's final column as Information Director (Drip Points--Summer '86) he mentioned a letter from one MIA member who felt that articles in Drip Points were so dry that they all seem to be the same as the issue before. In response Ken attempted to solicit contributions of material from MIA members to include in the newsletter. Almost predictably, response was disappointing. I know for a fact that when I took over as Information Director I was given no material whatsoever.

So, what's an editor to do to make an appealing publication without material? I don't know anyone who has enough experiences to make an interesting magazine drawing on only their own background. Besides, most folks get tired of hearing from the same person all of the time. The solution is apparent to me.....YOU! If you want an interesting newsletter then submit some interesting articles. If every MIA member submitted just one article, experience, discovery, etc. just once in their lifetime, Drip Points could be published for many years to come. Have you made your once in a lifetime contribution yet ???????? If not, please do. There is an entire readership waiting to share your experiences with you, so please write.

I am the editor not the author, you write, I'll edit, we'll all read and enjoy! Sounds like a winner, don't you think? I'll be waiting to hear from you soon.

Mike

SIZE SURVEY

Have you ever wondered who has the world's largest insulator collection? I sure have but it is hard to discover who has what and how much. So I thought I'd try a survey, will you help? If you would like to participate, all you need is a blank piece of paper, a pen and some time. I've had to set a few guidelines so please be careful that you review them before answering the questions. The results will be published in Crown Jewels as space permits but it would be helpful if the information was received within 4 weeks.

GUIDELINES:

A collection, for the purpose of this survey, is an identified accumulation of different items. Identified means that you have a basic idea of what you've got. Either * marks in Milholland, 3x5 index cards, computer lists, binder paper, used napkins or whatever; but some way of distinguishing the number/type of what you have. Duplicates do not count; only pieces which are different from the others in some way should be counted.

This guideline is designed to exclude the 300 boxes of who-knows-what that you've had in the barn since Aunt Martha was in grade school (that's the same Aunt Martha whose grandkids have grandkids.) You will have to be on your honor on this one. It is not valid to count boxes if the contents are not verified as different.

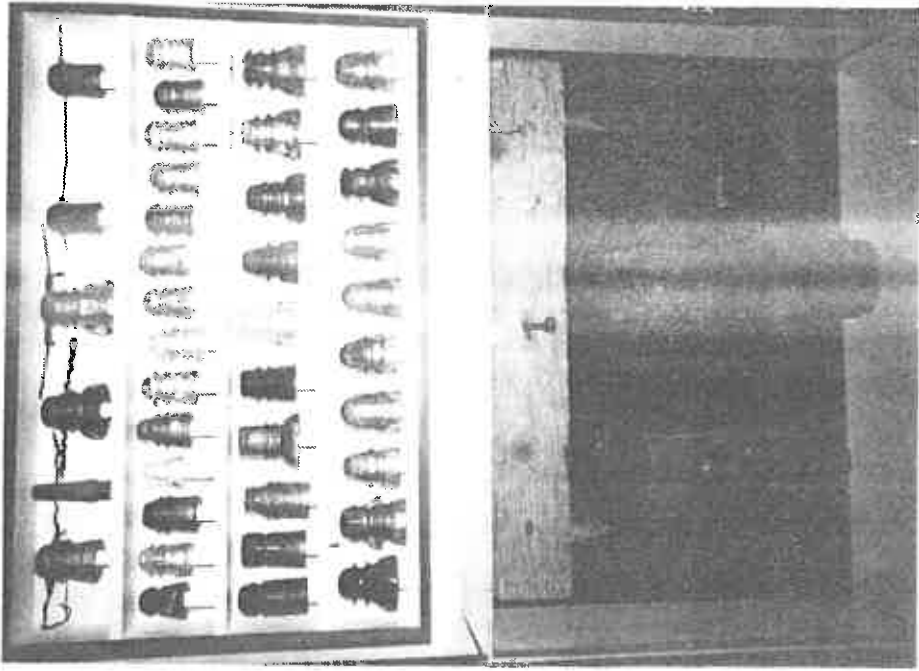
Multi-parts: If multi-part pieces were made to come apart, count each piece. If it's a cemented multi-part that you took apart or broke, it is one piece. Exception: nail nobs & cleats are counted as one piece per set.

This isn't a contest per se. It is more like a research project. As of September 13 th the largest collection submitted is 3,900 pieces so if you're larger than this, let me know. So far, about 20 responses have been received so get those pencils out and start counting!

Here goes.....just write your answers on blank paper next to the number of the question.

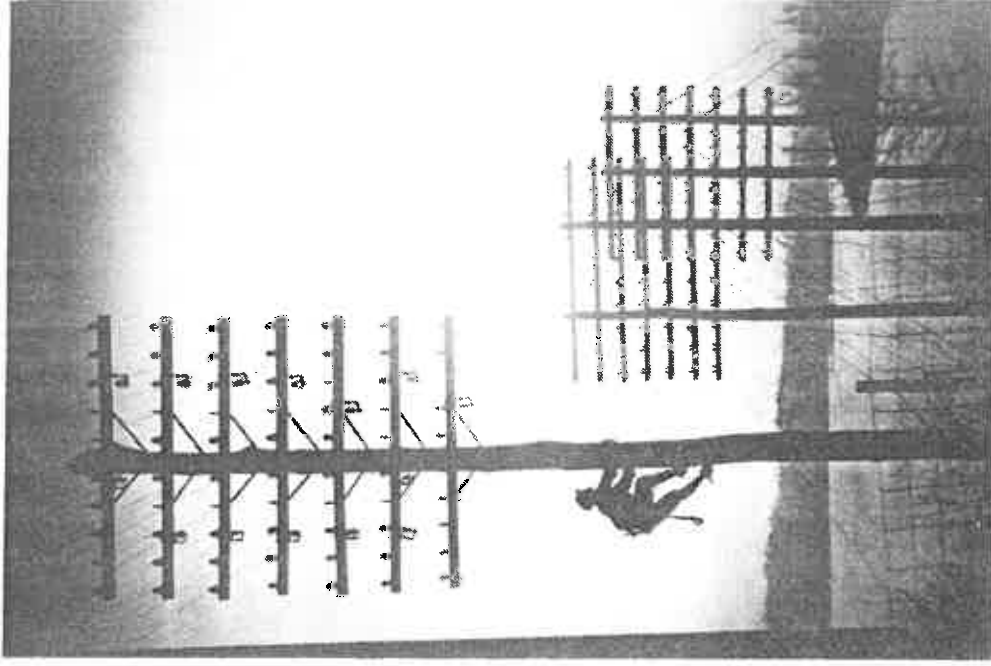
1. How many total pieces in your collection?

2. Do you have each piece catalogued (listed) somehow? How?
 3. How many pieces are glass?
 4. How many pieces are porcelain?
 5. How many different CD number do you have?
 6. How many different U numbers do you have?
 7. How many foreign (non-U.S.) pieces in glass? In porcelain?
 8. How many U.S. pieces in glass? In porcelain?
 9. How many pieces are on permanent display (No boxes, closets, cellars, attics, or barns here, folks!)
 10. How many threaded pin types?
 11. How many threadless pin types?
 12. How many radio strains?
 13. How many different manufacturer or user embossings (example: Brookfield, Dominion, A.T.&T. Co., Texcoco, Cook, Lapp, etc.,etc.) in Porcelain? In glass?
 14. How long have you been collecting?
 15. What is your biggest specialty and how many pieces in it?
 16. Do you collect mold number variations?
 17. Do you collect date code variations?
- Well, that's it! When you've finished, send your answers to Mike Guthrie, 35816 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, Ca 93638 for tabulation. Thanks for your help in this project!!!!



A Glimpse of the Smithsonian

During our trip to the National and back to California we spent five days in Washington, D.C. to visit the national museums known as the Smithsonian. Of particular interest to me, of course, were the electrical and communications sections. Insofar as the insulator displays were concerned I was quite disappointed. The above photo reflects all but one of the insulators on display. The one not pictured is a Locke/Imperial oval porcelain helmet used at Niagara Falls which is located in the electrical section. As the above photo depicts, there were 39 pieces in the upper case with 5 pieces in the lower case. On one hand there were a Pond's patent, a Lefferts, cobalt E.C.&M., and a red amber Whitall Tatum CD 155. On the other hand, there were 7 different 101/102 Brookfields in aqua. The lower case had 3 ramshorns a Hemi-151, and a glass block in the wood. The rest of the communications display was fabulous with dozens of early telegraph and telephone pieces and go withs including a piece of wire used on the original Morse line between Washington and Baltimore. I would recommend the visit to anyone interested in communications but would not make a special trip to see the insulators.



WALL MURAL FROM THE SMITHSONIAN



1985/86 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT
 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
 ROD KRUPKA, TREASURER

REVENUES:

Memberships \$ 4,321.70

Decals 1.00

Commission from Alamo Car Rental 23.80

Interest 70.43

TOTAL REVENUES \$ 4,416.93

EXPENDITURES:

Drip Points \$ 1,575.20

Donations (National Bottle Museum) 125.00

Historian Materials 80.58

Show Trophies & Awards 463.43

Advertising Reimbursement (Shows) 100.00

Nominations Committee 55.00

Membership 748.04

Refunds 22.70

Bank Charges 15.36

Administration 364.09

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 3,549.40

These figures do not reflect some outstanding bills.



ASSOCIATION TRAVEL

SUMMER 1986

REPORT

ASSOCIATION RATES NOW GUARANTEED THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1986

FULLY EQUIPPED MODEL	NATIONWIDE		FLORIDA HAWAII
	DAILY	WEEKLY	WEEKLY SPECIAL
ECONOMY	\$22.00	\$99.95	\$79.95
COMPACT	\$24.00	\$119.95	\$89.95
MIDSIZE	\$26.00	\$139.95	\$99.95
STANDARD	\$28.00	\$159.95	\$119.95
MIDSIZE WAGON	\$30.00	\$179.95	\$129.95
LUXURY	\$32.00	\$199.95	\$159.95

WHAT'S NEWS

- Alamo Rent A Car now offers a Free Upgrade in each of their Florida cities listed below. Coupon below must be presented at time of rental.
- Free Frequent Flyer Mileage**
 Now earn a 1,000 mile credit bonus in Delta Airlines Frequent Flyer Program with each rental in conjunction with a Delta flight.
- Alamo: Expanding to Meet Your Needs Nationwide.**

Alamo Rent A Car locations: Albany, Ala., Anchorage, Ariz., Atlanta, Baltimore, Bismarck, Boston, Buffalo, Butte, CA, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Drexel, El Paso, Evansville, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Worth, Fresno, Galveston, Greenville, Hawaii, Houston, Indianapolis, Jackson, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Knoxville, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Louisville, Madison, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Mobile, Montgomery, Newark, New York, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland, Raleigh, Reno, Richmond, Sacramento, St. Louis, St. Paul, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Tallahassee, Tulsa, Virginia Beach, Washington, DC, Wichita, Yonkers.

Surcharges will apply during peak periods. Car categories subject to availability. Prices guaranteed through June 1986. Fuel service charge (\$8.99 for 1/2 tank minimum), tax, rental deposit, optional Collision Damage Waiver and Personal Accident Insurance are extra. 5 day minimum for weekly rate.

RESERVATIONS:

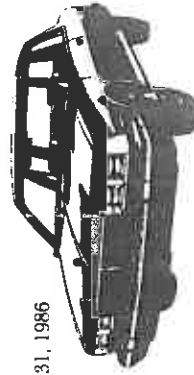
- Call Toll Free 1-800-795-3292
- Request Plan Code "BY"
- You Must Use Your Association I.D. #

FLORIDA FREE UPGRADE OFFER

- Must Be in Conjunction with Association Rates
- Minimum Rental of 3 Days
- Effective April 1 through August 31, 1986



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Present this certificate on arrival at the Alamo counter at any location. Call your Professional Travel Consultant or Alamo at 1-800-795-3292. Reserve 24 hours in advance. Be sure to use your Association I.D. Number and request Plan "BY".

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



The fiscal year for membership dues starts Apr. 1 and ends Mar. 31. The current dues amounts for various membership classes are:

- \$8.00 Adult (Regular individual membership)
- \$8.00 Family (This type of membership is for one voting adult and other family members at the same address. Enclose an additional \$1.00 for each family member who wishes voting privileges.)
- \$1.00 Junior (Under 18 years of age)

Make checks payable to "National Insulator Association" and send to:
 National Insulator Association, c/o Treasurer Rod Krupka
 2615 Echo Lane, Ortonville, MI 48462 (313) 627-6351

Each member who is not a subscriber to the magazine "Crown Jewels of the Wire" will receive a copy of the October issue which is the subscriber directory of the names and addresses of all NIA members. Beginning with all memberships renewed or started after Dec. 1, 1986, each member household will receive, as part of their membership, a coupon good for \$2.00 off the regular subscription price of "Crown Jewels" magazine.

New members, upon payment of dues, are immediately entitled to all membership privileges. Regular and Junior members receive all NIA mailings including the quarterly newsletter, membership directory, and membership handbook. Family members do not receive duplicates of these items at the same address but do receive the membership card.

Current membership entitles the member to display and/or purchase a sales table at NIA National Conventions and permits admittance to the show on the first day of the National, which is limited to NIA members.

I (we) apply for () New () Renewal Memberships in the National Insulator Association.

NAME	NIA #
STREET	PHONE
CITY	STATE
	ZIP
	DATE

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 1411 Murray Ave., Thunder Bay, Ont. P7E 5A7 Canada
- Michael Guthrie, NIA #3297 (Information Director) 209-645-0120
 35816 Bonadelle Ave., Madera, CA 93638
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- Marilyn Albers, NIA #541 (Second Past President) 713-497-4146
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- Christopher Hedges, NIA #15 (Historian) 816-753-0921
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- Russ Hughes, NIA #2859 (Nominations) 303-922-7733
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 6980 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48033
- John McDougald, NIA #698 (By-Laws) 216-235-2595
 26812 John Rd., Olmsted Township, OH 44138

These are your representatives, use them to voice your opinions, concerns, and ideas to improve your Association!!!!