



DRIP POINTS

JERRY L. TURNER
President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Our coming national show is going to be one of the greatest ever! The McDougaulds are doing a fantastic job of promoting the show and have come up with inovations like a side trip to an art gallery of insulatordom and a narrative of the insulator story complete with pictures.

Special thanks to Rick Jones of the art department of Sinclair College Dayton, Ohio, Rick designed the cover for our handbook, a membership poster, and is organizing a poster contest at the College (posters will be used to advertize National Show) and currently is working on an insulator color chart, something the hobby has needed for some time.

We still need to hear from our Canadian neighbors. The Postal strike has, I am sure, delayed responses. We need an Eastern and Western representatives to be our eyes and ears fro our northernmost members.

It appears that none of the insurance companies thus far contacted have any interest in providing N.I.A. members a special insurance policy on a nation-wide basis. We would welcome any information from you on a carrier that wants our business before we write off this idea.

After a lot of careful consideration and discussion with
(1) Regional Postal and Internal Revenue Service personnel and
(2) other hobbists who have also explored this problem, Glenn and I have reached the conclusion that the problems associated with Incorporation of the NIA in not worth the few advantages. We recommend that incorporation not be considered further at this time.

It was pointed out to us that most nation wide clubs or similar organizations that incorporate have a permanent, salaried Executive Secretary who is bonded and carries the legal responsibilities. Without going into a lot of detail, we were shown and convinced that the incoming officers would be faced with a mountain of paperwork, a treasury breaking expense, and an urge to kill whoever created their problem. As Addie Tasem pointed out in a recent letter published in Crown Jewels, the expense and paperwork necessary to incorporate a local intra-state club is minimal but it dosen't dcuble with a national situation, it EXPLODES.

Keep those cards and letters rolling in and may all of you find that special insulator you've been chasing in '76.

I wish you would mention that each members membership expires on June 30th and no matter what time of the year they join (up to April 1st) they will get all of the news letters for the year. After April 1st, they will get the last of the current year and all of the next years.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S NOTES....

Sometime in 1972 I realized that wife Sandra had managed to involve me in the hobby beyond the point of no return. While she remains serious collector, I enjoy the history the hobby represents, writing when I have the time, and generally the people involved. I have served as Secretary, Ohio Valley Insulator Club and write an infrequent column for the Tri-State Trader called "High on the Wires". We have two daughters, one involved in the hobby with her own collection. I am a hydraulic engineer (Dam Engineer) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This represents my "other Interests" as I truly enjoy my profession.

My goal in fulfilling the obligations of the Executive Director is to help Jerry make this a successful year for the N.I.A.

Glenn Drummond....

FROM THE BICENTENIAL STATE....

An insulator collector for over 4½ years, I started just like most people did—curiosity. Being a lineman for Bell of Penna. for a little over nine years, I have seen quite a few but I never really gave it a thought until one day my Grandfather picked one up along the road near his farm. In asking me about them I told him I had seen plenty of them, but was never really interested. So curiosity got the best of me, and I dove head first into collecting. My specialty is old telegraph insulators as I am fascinated in their different styles plus the history behind them.

I have been married for 5 years to my wife, Donna, and we have a son, Jason.

Ever since I have been elected Vice President of the Eastern Region at the National in Hershey in 1974, I have come across a multitude of problems. They range from the running of local shows to discussion over NIA rules. I think the biggest headache we have to straighten out is why rules are made up and put into effect. The NIA is a young and growing organization, as we continue to grow and add to our membership, we want our hobby to grow and mature also. So why not set high ideals....

Stephen E. Bobb....

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ETHICS....

First, let me say that the By-laws are CLEAR in regard to ethics. We voted on and adopted them last year in Hershey (1974). Obviously, here is where we must start. It is not our intent to crucify anyone or any group but we must take a stand against those few who will give us all a bad name. The old story about one rotten apple is true and if we don't police ourselves we shall all be considered thieves or crooks of one sort or another.

We invite anyone, NIA member or not, to write us his gripe. Note, I said write so that we are on proper grounds. We shall do our best to mediate a dispute or recommend action to the Executive Board for those cases where no agreement can be made. We are looking for hard facts, however, on someone who does not live up to an agreement or someone who proves to be a "rip-off".

We do not intend to get into the fine points of grading insulators. There is always room for a variance of opinion here and we do not have the facilities to handle this. We also are not going to get into the middle of a hassle about the fact that someone put Endust on an insulator and sold it. My personal feelings are that if we can't act like adults and convey those intentions to the youngsters nothing the NIA can do will help.

It is our committee's intention to call a spade a spade and if we find that circumstances exist where someone should be brought to the attention of the Executive Board we will do it! It is our

feeling that if the Executive Board sees fit to convey our recommendations through one of many methods, it can do nothing but encourage membership in NIA. To do our job we need the help of the membership-I can't stress this too much!

Tom Moulton....

NOTICE OF A CHANGE....

Do to a change in work situation, Dick Alumbaugh had to resign as By-law Chairman. Jerry Turner has appointed Charlie Mercer 133 Glenn Dr., Ballwin, Mo. 63011. He has compiled the By-laws so the Handbook could be completed. If you have any questions or any ideas concerning the by-laws, please write directly to Charlie.

AMENDMENT TO N.I.A. BY-LAWS....

Article II, Section 4 of the By-laws now reads as follows:

The NIA Board of Directors shall institute and maintain suitable procedures for reviewing and screening membership applications prior to final processing to minimize the necessity of later suspensions, revocations or expulsions.

Article VII (Amendments) of the By-laws reads as follows:

These By-laws may be amended by the membership at any annual meeting or through special mail ballot by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all votes cast, providing a copy of the proposed change is made available to each member in advance, either directly by mail or by timely advance notice in the official publication.

It is proposed to amend the By-laws by deleting the first mentioned Article II, Section 4 shown above. This was at the annual meeting in San Diego moved, seconded and voted unanimously by the membership present. In compliance with Article VII shown above, this requires an opportunity for a vote of the entire membership with advance notice (mail ballot); and thus, if less than one-third of the current membership advise in writing the NIA office that they oppose this amendment, it shall be adopted. Letters of opposition must be received by the NIA office within 30 days from the mailing date of this NIA Newsletter.

Jerry Turner, Box 6651 Gaynor Rd., Goshen, Oh. 45122

Background.

Note that the NIA membership forms are headed "MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION". The intent was that, like many other clubs and national associations, new members be routinely voted into the organization. The mechanics for any national association is that the list of new applicants be published monthly in the official organ each month. If no objections to any applicant were received in writing by the NIA office within 30 days, all would be automatically granted membership, and notice to this effect would appear in the next month's publication.

If an objection were received on any applicant, the NIA would investigate and attempt to resolve any problems involved. If successful, the applicant would be granted a membership. If not, membership not granted.

The NIA in its formulative beginning has been hampered in instituting this simple and desirable procedure because of the lack of a monthly official organ. The quarterly Newsletter would cause an undue delay in publishing the list of new applicants and the subsequent notice that all applicants in the preceding issue had been granted membership.

We have thus been unable to live up to this By-laws requirement to this time, and the Board felt it was best to amend the By-laws rather than simply not abide by them. The Section could be reinstated into the By-laws at a future time when we might have a monthly official organ which would make it possible to adopt this procedure.

The Board's recommendation for this amendment was also based on the fact that to this date the NIA office has not received one written complaint by an NIA member directed against any other member!

REGIONAL N.I.A. SHOWS....

Attention collectors everywhere....Your Regional area is in need of an N.I.A. Sanction Show. Anyone in the Eastern or Western Regions may apply for 1976 Regional Show. To date we have one bid for the 8th NIA Convention in 1977. You have all the information now at hand and may obtain more help from your Executive Board members. Shows keep all collectors interested in the hobby, and well planned shows do well for everyone.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORMED....

It's time to be thinking for candidates for the upcoming year. Two offices will be open, President and Central Vice President. You may know of someone who would like to run or maybe you would like to give your ideas a try. To do this, a committee has been formed to get at least two candidates per office. The President can reside in any region, however, the Central Vice President MUST reside in the Central area. Think about it and mail NOW your choice to Lew Hohn, 96 Birchwood Dr., Rochester, NY 14623. Also serving on this committee are Jack Synder, Joe Maurath, Len Linscott.

N.A.T.Co. MEANS NORTH AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY....

I found it very strange that no one in any book that I could find on insulators had ever told us what NATCO means. Only John Tibbetts in his early book took a guess that it might be American Telephone Company. I'm sure most everyone that thought about it was sure that it couldn't be Telegraph because somewhere in the insulator literature I've seen that a North American Telegraph Company was merged into Western Union in 1856. But the NATCO insulators have the 1893 drip point patent date on them, which would place NATCO much later.

So I started asking questions. Finally had an answer from Paul McManus. He told me that most of the NATCO glass was found along the SOO Line Railroad in Wisconsin and Minnesota. I knew from my other love, railroads, that quite often a separate telegraph company was incorporated to build a line along the railroad to carry public messages. I tried to find a reference to NATCO in books on the SOO Line to no avail. Finally, I was in the Colorado Railroad Museum (Golden, Colorado) and asked Bob Richardson for help. He found a reference to North American Telegraph Company in Poor's Manual-Industrial Section for the year 1909. The Company was incorporated in 1886 to operate a line between Chicago and



Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota. This almost clinched the relationship between NATCO and SOO for me, but there was no map showing locations so I couldn't be positive.

This Fall when I set up at Paul's meet in Minneapolis, I took an extra day and visited the Minnesota Historical Society and the Secretary of the State's Office. At the Historical Society, I was able to tie the two companies together, so I'm sure of what the initials mean. At the Secretary's Office I learned the recent history of the company. It was affiliated with the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company throughout its existence and was not dissolved until November 17, 1943. I can't be sure, but I assume that Postal took over the lines at that time. I still have a little more searching to do to get all the facts. But at least one mystery is solved. And now I can see why my porcelain insulators marked SOO and NATCO are identical in shape (beehive), color (brown) and lettering style (letters in an arc on top of crown). One other interesting thing is that NATCO cobalts have also been found in Nebraska and Kentucky. I guess that when Hemingray filled the order for NATCO and had some left over, they were sold to the first purchaser who wanted that style insulator. I also think it a bit ironic that a Postal affiliate would order insulators that were cataloged as "Western Union Double Petticoat" style.

by Dennis McHenry, Treasurer....

FROM THE 7th N.I.A. CONVENTION....

The biggest show of the Year is coming up fast, so don't be left out. To assure a good select table by John McDougald, it NOW the time to order your table as in a few months he will not have the time to pick out the House Best Select Tables. Here is a sales table contract

1. Convention activities will be held on the Campus of Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, O.
2. Sales activities will be held in Strosacker Hall.
3. Attached is a copy of the N.I.A. General Floor Rules. All rules will be in effect for this show. Signing the contract indicates your willingness to comply with these rules. If for any reason you do not comply with N.I.A. rules, the N.I.A. or show host may revoke your contract or ask you to leave the show.
4. Table electrical needs must not exceed 200 watts. Electricity is limited and will be filled on a first-come basis. You must order your electricity at the time you place your table reservation.
5. All sales tables must contain insulators or related items: lightning rod equipment, pole nails, any form of insulators (wiring, radio, fence, etc.), any magazine or book publishers and dealers connected with insulator or related items, or items associated with power or communication pole line or terminal equipment.
6. Table prices: 8 foot X 30" covered table for 3 days: \$35.00
6 foot x 30" covered table for 3 days: \$28.00
7. To reserve your table you must pay for the rental IN FULL.
8. The show host, the N.I.A. and Baldwin-Wallace College are not responsible for any theft or damages.

7th N.I.A. Convention
The McDougalds
4592 Andorra Drive
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Fourth Mississippi Valley Insulator Swap Meet, 1st & 2nd of May 1976, at the Holiday Inn, Bettendorf, Iowa. For more information contact Dennis McHenry, Trexend, Rt.1, Bettendorf, IA 52722 Phone 319/355-2069.

FROM THE INFORMATION DIRECTOR....

¡Feliz Navida y prospero año nuevo! That's Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Spanish. I guess now you know what class I have been taking in College. It's been a busy year here for us. Mail keeps coming in from Convention facilities all over the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to have our next Convention in their city. The pictures are really Great, and maybe one day we'll be big enough and wealthy enough to fly all over the world. Well, I can dream, can I?

This newsletter is an update on problems the Executive Board has tried to iron out. We have so many problems (because we are a young organization) and now with YOUR help, keen eyes, vast wisdom and knowledge, we can work TOGETHER to put the N.I.A. on its feet. I must apologise now for any and all typing errors as I am a person not a Secretary. However, I put errors in our club newsletter to see if the members are reading the paper. So you never know, I may test you.

At present, we have 2 more newsletters to come before the Convention. The next issue will have the names of the candidates for President and Central Vice President. I hope that each candidate will write something about themselves so you the Voters will have some background on them. The Directory will also be coming out. If you do NOT want your name printed, or if you'd like to have your speciality and/or phone number (don't forget area codes) added with your name, SEND ME the information plus your NIA number on a post card on or before March 10th, 1976. The next issue will be sent out about April 1st. The final newsletter will be the ballot and any by-law changes, and should be out the end of June. There will be a mail address on it for those not able to attend. In my own opinion, some unions I know have you put your name and address on the envelope so you can be recorded as voted but then open the envelope and put them aside and the ballot unfolded goes into a barrel. Maybe if we did this, more members would vote, only once, and would be more official. Well, it's my opinion and your ideas are welcome. Send them to Lew Hohn, 96 Birchwood Dr., Rochester, NY 14623.

My special thanks for a most OUTSTANDING article by Dennis McHenry. I'm sure many of us had the same questions and may or may not have read up on it. I'm looking for articles like this from our members as sharing of knowledge will make OUR hobby grow. Please send them typed if possible to me before March 10th for the April issue or it will appear in June's.

SPECIAL NOTE....

The original plans for a Charter Flight out of Los Angeles was cancelled due to NO response. It has been recommended by American Airlines that small charter type flights can be arranged at a special rate on regular scheduled flights. However, this arrangement must be done at least 2-2½ months before departure day. Talk the idea up at various shows and meetings and see if you and a few more collectors can get together for a mini charter flight. Call American Airlines or contact your area Travel Agency for more information and assistance.

See you in April and at the Convention.
We have our table, how about YOU?

Addie Losen