

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It's time for the Fall Issue already; what happened to the Summer? By the time you read this, the kids will all be back in school and - yikes! - Christmas is just around the corner again! Well, it was a great summer. Lots of glass shows, lots of reunions with old friends, and yes, making lots of new friends in the hobby.

There are some new faces in the NIA board as well. Bill Meier has been elected Eastern Regional Vice President, and David Weicek and Karen Surowiec are the new Promotion and Education Co-

Chairpersons. Welcome to all of you.

This issue really has some good stuff in it. In addition to the reports from the regions, there's an update on the fake and altered insulator research from Dwayne Anthony, and the first of a series of historical notes from the new Historian Jim Garrity. Also, don't miss Joe Beres' latest NIA membership stats - these are really interesting! And for those of you who couldn't make the Marlborough National, Ginny Way has covered the awards presented at the show.

I won't talk about the show here because

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when the McDougalds produced Volume I. We have additional copies of the show directory with this great write-up available; they are only \$4 ppd. Send your order to my address on the Board of Directors page near the end of the newsletter, and make your check out to the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club. The show even offered something for non-collectors; a "shoppers bus" to downtown Boston for people not interested in spending all Saturday at the show. I know a number of wives and kids welcomed that break!

One of the topics I try to write about as often as I can is "Computers and Insulators." This National featured two very unique displays, each integrating a computer to enhance the educational and

"THE DISPLAY 'DRIPPING WITH COLOR' BY AL & GINNY WAY...AN AWESOME MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION..."

showmanship qualities of the display. To my knowledge, this is the first time computers have been directly incorporated into a display.

The display "Dripping with Color", by Al and Ginny Way, used the computer to present an awesome multimedia presentation with Hemingray history, images of CD 162 signals, the progression of embossing found on signals, and other material. The computer-controlled sound setup rivaled your home stereo system, with separate satellite tweeters, and a subwoofer. And of course, 162 drip-pointed CD 162 insulators arranged in two backlit display cases. This display won the NIA's award for First Place Color, as well as the Milholland Educational award.

The second display, "Hemingray University" by Jill and myself, used the computer as an interactive tool to get

more specific detailed information about different "class rooms" in the University. With the mouse, you could click on a room, and see a short presentation about the insulators present and processes happening in that room. Again, of course, lots of rare, unusual and colorful Hemingray insulators filled the rooms. Our display won the NIA's award for First Place Specialty, and the Bob and Phoebe Adams award for Showmanship.

I suspect computers will continue to play more of an active role in displays in the future. Of course, they are just a "tool" to enhance the showmanship and educational quality of a display. You can't just throw a computer into a display and expect miracles. You might even see "Virtual Reality" displays in the future, which feature a computer, but no physical insulators! Let's see how the judges would handle that!

On the INTERNET, we now have over 45 insulator collectors exchanging electronic mail. I'd like to welcome Crown Jewels of the Wire (AKA John and Carol McDougald) to our list! Say "Hi" to them at "crnjewels@aol.com". Also on the INTERNET are two of the regional VP's, the Information Director, as well as contacts for several local clubs across the country. Get with it, and get on-line!

While you are on the INTERNET, be sure to check out our World Wide Web pages, which now have been visited by over 1000 sites internationally! They are at "<http://www.resilience.com/insulators>". And remember, you can always reach me at: "meier@amber8.enet.dec.com"

**Bill Meier, NIA #4322
Eastern Regional Vice President**

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

Another great National is now history, and it certainly was an enjoyable experience! The displays were fantastic, and we are starting to see high tech and multimedia being incorporated in them. Not having sophisticated resources should certainly not discourage anyone from sharing their collections and creativity, however! A lot of quality glass was available...and on the tabletops, although "sticker shock" probably held back a lot of actual sales. The hotel facilities were better than most, and the camaraderie was great. On a sad note was the realization of how many friends that the hobby had lost over the past year! Hats off to Joe Maurath, Jr. for an outstanding New England Room and to all who contributed to the display. It was great to see and meet many Central Region collectors at the show, and from all of us goes a sincere **THANK YOU** to Steve, Kevin, Bill, Jill, Doug, Joe and all of those "Yankee Polecats" for a job well done!

Over the next few months, Bill, Grant and I will be developing a membership questionnaire to be included in a future *Drip Points* issue. It will be designed to gather some statistics about our membership and to solicit your concerns, needs and opinions about the future of our organization. If you have some specific questions that you feel should be included on the questionnaire, please send your inputs to either myself or to your regional VP. During a conversation at the National concerning NIA achievement award recipients, I heard a member say "who am I to make a nomination!" Each member is an important part of our organization, and has unique knowledge, insights and

contributions to make!

Don't say "bah, humbug"...make your plans now to attend the 1995 NIA Central Regional Show on November 11-12 in London, Ohio. Steve Blair promises not to pull the wool over your eyes, so prepare yourselves for a terrific show earmarked (or tagged) by great camaraderie!

BILL, GRANT AND I
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Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication that Dick Bowman gave to the NIA during his tenure as the Eastern Region VP. Dick has some unique talents and skills which the Board will miss!

Rick Baldwin, NIA#336
Central Region Vice President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Hi again, folks. It's been another busy summer with all the shows and the fall pace is going strong. Those of you that were able to make it know that we had one of the best Nationals ever out east at Marlborough Mass. Weren't those some great displays of eastern glass?! While at the National, we also found out that Southern California is the winner for the 1996 National: Long Beach in July! The 19th through the 21st. Start making your plans now!

Also at the National, my old friend and colleague Dick Bowman passed the Eastern Region Vice Presidency reigns on to Bill Meier. Dick, I'll miss your steady hand on the rudder, ... and Bill, I look forward to working with you.

The next big Western Event is the 1995 Western Regional in Visalia California on the 9th and 10th of September. This

THE NEXT BIG ...EVENT
IS THE WESTERN
REGIONAL SHOW IN
CALIFORNIA

show will be "about to happen" even as you are reading this, so maybe a little late to do any planning. But I'll be there and I look forward to seeing all of you again. If

you need any last minute information, call Dwayne Anthony at (909) 888-6417.

And don't forget the ever-more popular 8th Annual Enchantment Insulator Club Show in Albuquerque on the 30th of September. This event gets better every year, and Tom Katonak tells me that they're expecting a table sell-out early this year. They're already looking for a larger place in '96. Anyway, Bill Ashcraft is putting on another of his fabulous

barbeque lunches and people are coming from all over the place. I'm gonna be at this show too! Tom can give you additional information at (505) 898-5592 or, if you can't reach him (he's always off traveling somewhere!), call Mike Gay at (505) 899-8755.

Finally, there's the 25th Anniversary Antiques/Collectibles Insulator Extravaganza at the Kern County Fairgrounds in Bakersfield on November 4th and 5th. This should be another good show this year. John Mantz (805) 397-9572 can give you details.

Well, I think that's enough on the show line-up: It sure is a good one. One of the best things about these shows is that I get to talk to so many of you. And right now, I'm looking for your good ideas about how to make this great hobby even better. So when you see me at one of these upcoming shows, come and tell me what you're thinking!

Thanks, and I wish you good collecting!

**Grant Salzman, NIA # 1785
Western Region Vice President**

FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

What a thrill the second half of 1995 holds for insulator enthusiasts across the country! The NIA again has teamed up with several eager show hosts --including one entire club--to offer another unforgettable assemblage of National and Regional conventions for your collecting enjoyment. I certainly hope everyone is planning to attend at least one, if not all, of these excellent shows this year. 1995 is destined to be remembered as one of the best ever for NIA shows. Be sure you're among those that can proudly say, "I was there!"

The ongoing research to document the altering effects of radiation and heat on various colors of glass insulators is progressing quite well. In fact, the radiation portion of the experimentation is now complete. After the entire project is completed, it will be assembled into an informative and educational exhibit to be debuted this September at the NIA Western Regional Show in Visalia, CA. All documented results will be released to the NIA for publication in Drip Points, and to other publications upon request.

I'd like to make one point very clear concerning this project: It was not

“THE PRIMARY INTENT [OF
THIS RESEARCH] IS TO
EDUCATE, EDUCATE
EDUCATE!”

conducted to create a state of panic in our hobby. The primary intention is to educate, educate, educate! The number of recently altered insulators infiltrating our hobby is almost nonexistent. Many years ago a small

number of altered insulators were peddled into our hobby. Most were not permanently marked as such. As a result, a handful of questionable insulators suspected of color alterations have sold for reasonably high dollar figures to unsuspecting buyers in the past few years. With documented support we can now successfully expose several of these non-authentic colors, and also provide many answers concerning other questionable colors. This will hopefully ease uncertain speculation and any possible disputes between dealers and show hosts over the authenticity of controversial insulator colors. As you know, the NIA, and all show hosts practicing good ethical standards, are now requiring all fake, altered, and reproduced insulators to be permanently marked/etched/embossed so they may be identified as such when offered for sale.

It has been noted recently that the antique bottle and fruit jar hobby is experiencing an influx of newly irradiated items. A serious effort within their circle to educate collectors of these unacceptable practices was quickly launched. Latest news reveals that the primary source for these altered items has ceased production, due mainly to the extreme pressure from agitated collectors. One major bottle show scheduled for this Fall is even advertising as the show that "will not fake it." They further state they "will not permit the sale of any reproduction bottles or fruit jars. Also prohibited are items that have been irradiated to change their color." This is the same message we want to convey within our hobby. With forehand knowledge through preventative education, all collectors, show hosts, and dealers can work in harmony to eradicate

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THE 26TH ANNUAL NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION SHOW

This years National show was held in Marlborough, Massachusetts. If you weren't there you missed it, and there was a lot to miss! There were 22 competitive displays, 15 of which were first time displayers. The New England Room had non-competitive displays from the insulator manufacturers of the area.

The following awards were presented:

Dr. Fred L. Griffin Memorial Award

Best of ThreadlessGinny & Paul Plunkett

NIA Best of Category Awards

Color.....Ginny & Al Way

Foreign..... Bernie Warren

General..... Doug MacGillvary

Go-WithsGreg Burke & Norm Collins (tied)

Porcelain..... Steve Jones

Specialty Jill & Bill Meier

Threaded Kevin Lawless

Lifetime Membership AwardElton & Kathy Gish

Milholland Educational Award..... Ginny & Al Way

N. R. Woodward Literary Award

Author of Best Research Article Mark Lauckner

Crown Jewels of the Wire Award Joe Maurath

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award Jill & Bill Meier

Capital District Insulator Club Award

Best Exhibit using Eastern Glass Ginny & Paul Plunkett

Central Florida Insulator Collectors Award

Best First Time Display at a National Norm Collins

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1995 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS

AS OF 7-30-1995

TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED		5884
NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED		21
NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED		60
NEW MEMBERS FOR 1995		254

ACTIVE

INACTIVE (not paid)

MEMBERS	1320	4390
CHARTER	133	753
LIFETIME	35	7 (DEC.)
JUNIOR	25	11
CLUBS	4	8
NON U.S.MEMBERS	53	21
23 YEAR MEMBERS	47	0
22 YEAR MEMBERS	33	0
21 YEAR MEMBERS	16	2
20 YEAR MEMBERS	18	3
19 YEAR MEMBERS	21	5
18 YEAR MEMBERS	24	2
17 YEAR MEMBERS	20	8
16 YEAR MEMBERS	30	14
15 YEAR MEMBERS	17	8
14 YEAR MEMBERS	27	14
13 YEAR MEMBERS	32	23
12 YEAR MEMBERS	36	27
11 YEAR MEMBERS	44	38
10 YEAR MEMBERS	38	48
9 YEAR MEMBERS	41	56
8 YEAR MEMBERS	57	69
7 YEAR MEMBERS	48	110
6 YEAR MEMBERS	67	133
5 YEAR MEMBERS	88	200
4 YEAR MEMBERS	86	309
3 YEAR MEMBERS	111	449
2 YEAR MEMBERS	165	876
1 YEAR MEMBERS	254	1996

MISC.

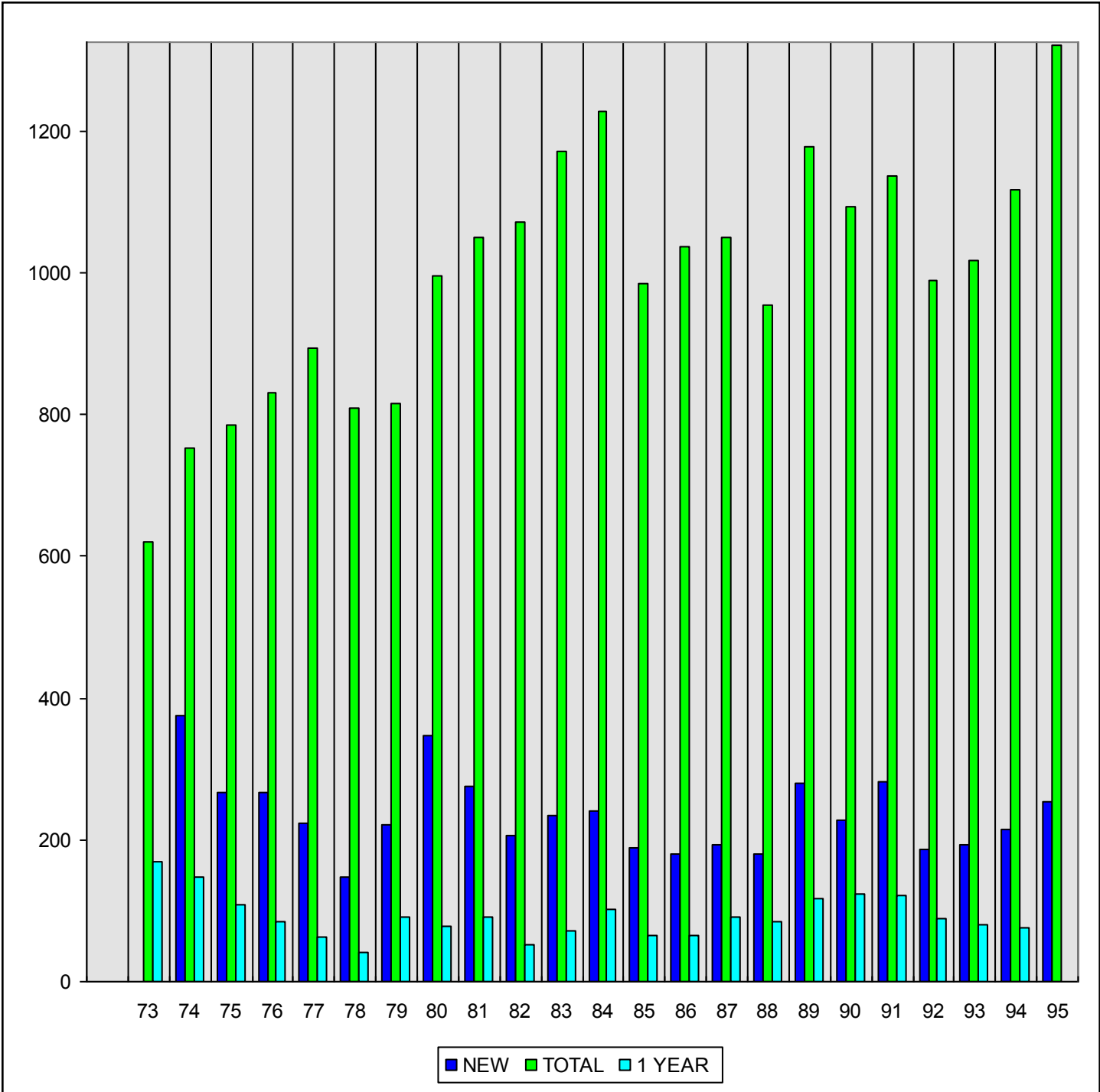
- DECEASED MEMBERS	89
- NIA NUMBER ISSUED, BUT NOT ACTIVE	4

NOTES:

- NIA NUMBERS NEVER ASSIGNED ARE "DEAD" NUMBERS (NEVER TO BE USED)
- NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE DOUBLE ISSUED: THE MEMBER WAS GIVEN THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER AND THE SECOND OR THIRD NUMBER BECAME A "DEAD" NUMBER



NIA MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



**1994-95 FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
6/30/95**

C 1 (E	Beginning Balance-General Fund	7/1/94	7288.07
	Education & Promotion Account Beginning Balance		1591.00
	Revenues		
C E (F 2 (E F (C F (E C E (E [P E (E	Donations	29.00	
	Interest	49.14	
	Membership Dues	8073.50	
	Miscellaneous Income	1.00	
	Product Sales	944.00	
		Total Revenues:	<u>9096.64</u>
	General Fund Expenses		
	Advertising	150.00	
	Bank Charges/Taxes	68.69	
	Marketing Products	1320.28	
	Misc. Postage	852.86	
	Misc. Printing	411.20	
	Misc. Supplies	81.96	
	Misc. Professional Services	0.00	
	Crown Jewels Rebates	212.50	
	Drip Points Printing	1489.05	
	Drip Points Postage	537.65	
	Show Advertising Subsidy	96.00	
	Show Awards	0.00	
	Stationery Supplies	416.26	
	Telephone	184.12	
	Special Projects	140.30	
		Total Expenses:	<u>5960.87</u>
	Closing Balance, General Fund:		<u>10423.84</u>
	Education/Promotion Expenditures		35.00
	Education & Promotion Fund Final Balance		<u>1556.00</u>
	Total Balance on Hand		<u>11944.84</u>

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1995-1996 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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