



Drip Points

<http://www.nia.org>

Quarterly Magazine of the National Insulator Association

Volume 39 • No. 2 • Winter 2011

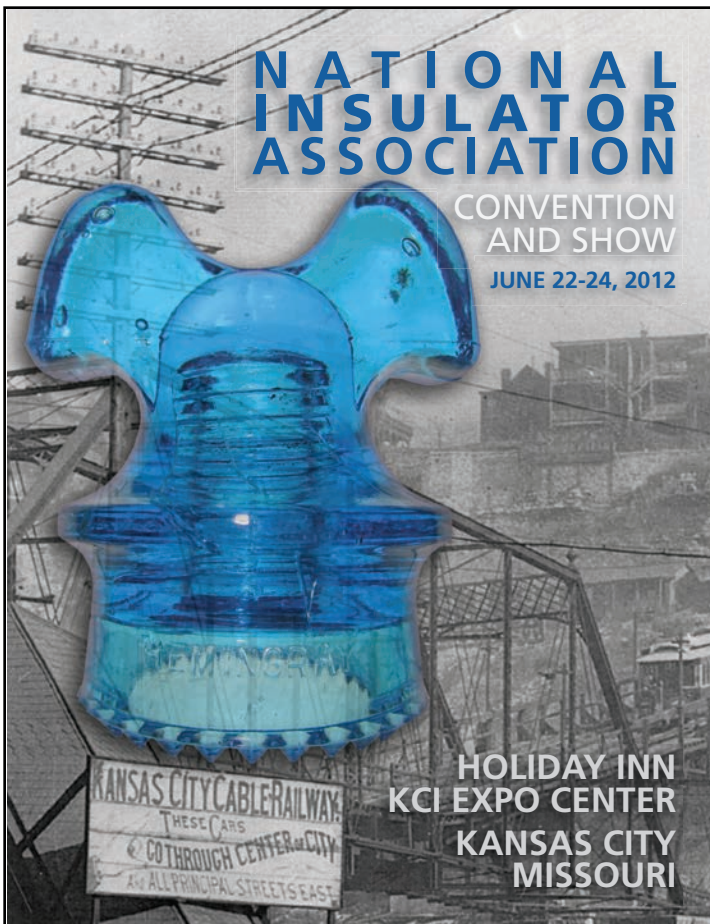


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now in Full

COOLOR



43rd Annual NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION Convention, Show & Sale

June 22-24, 2012 • HOLIDAY INN KCI EXPO CENTER
11230 N. Ambassador Drive • Kansas City, MO 64153

35,000 SQFT of Glass & Porcelain
200+ Dealer & Display tables
Raffles, Auctions, Walk-in Appraisals

Incentives for Early Registration
Drawings for **FREE** Room Nights, Tables and Banquet

FRIDAY, June 22nd
9:00am to 4:00pm NIA members only (ask about becoming a member)

SATURDAY, June 23rd
9:00am to 4:00pm General Admission

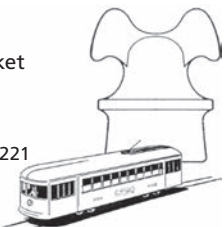
SUNDAY, June 24th
9:00am to 1:30pm General Admission

For more information and/or a Show Packet
Contact:

Darryl Wagner
PO Box 411693
Kansas City, MO 64141
kcinsulators@kcba.co
816-719-0801

Charles Brandon
13902 Bond St.
Overland Park, KS 66221
cbrandon@kc.rr.com
816-918-5126

www.nia.org or www.insulatorclubs.org/mvic



Do you want to keep Drip Points full color?

You or your club can sponsor the color printing! Contact NIA President Lou Hall for more information.
Lou Hall NIA# 7185, President@nia.org or (559) 435-1740

The NIA is an 501(3)(c) charitable organization. This means your donations are tax deductible.

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Shaun Kotlarsky

NIA # 4993

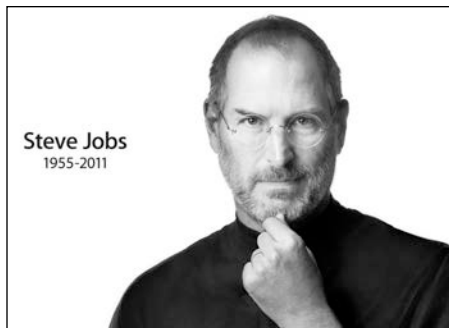
Editor

If you get the printed Drip Points you can see it is in color again! But remember, Just like PBS TV, color printing is sponsored by readers like you! As someone who demands things to be top notch if my name is associated with it, I really hope to see Drip Points continue to be all color forever. What can you do to help you ask? I am glad you asked!

You or your club can sponsor the color printing! Contact NIA President Lou Hall for more information. Lou Hall NIA# 7185, President@nia.org or (559) 435-1740

The NIA is an 501(3)(c) charitable organization. This means your donations are tax deductible.

Some sad news, the only person on this planet I can say ever inspired me and gave me a understudying of how important having a passion for what you do, passed away. This is Steve Jobs . This is insulator related in the following way, without him this magazine and many other important hobby resources would not be around, as he was a big reason there are personal computers, desktop printing, mobile smart devices etc.



Steve Jobs was a lot like Robert Hemingray or Fred M. Locke. They made a dent in the universe of their respective fields. I dedicate this issue to the memory of Steve Jobs.

“Here’s to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They’re not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo.

You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can’t do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. While some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.”

- Apple Inc.

Shaun Kotlarsky

Steve Jobs Photo complements of Apple Inc.

Wanted: Articles for Drip Points

If you have a short “Did you know?” style tidbit about an insulator please let me know. Also looking for longer articles (1/2 page to 2 pages) about an insulator related subject to spice up Drip Points! Send you submissions to newsletter@nia.org Thanks! Shaun Kotlarsky, Drip Points Editor





Lou Hall

NIA # 7185

President

The Springfield Show

I have just returned from my second excursion to the Mid-Ohio (Springfield) Show. What a great event! Steve and Lois Blair and all their happy helpers are just super hosts. I'm amazed that they have and take the time to host a pre-show as well as a post-how gathering at their home. Lois, you are special!

I arrived a day early in order to visit the several antique malls that are close by. I found and acquired a really neat old telegraph key and sounder. I had it shipped and it was waiting at home for my return. The show itself was a treasure trove of mounting pins and brackets. Some of the pieces were major pole line hardware and very heavy. And, there was no shortage of wooden cross arm pins and wooden brackets. I acquired some 40 pounds of pins and brackets to add to my collection. UPS was very happy to assist with the shipping home of these pieces.

Product Marketing

A far greater accomplishment also occurred at the Springfield Show. I am excited to share with you all that the NIA now has a new Product Marketing Manager. Tina Rienstra, NIA #8045, has agreed to take on this responsibility. We all need to say "Thank You" for her making the decision to volunteer for this task. She will be keeping the inventory of all the NIA logoed products. By the time you are reading this she will have received all of the existing products that have been stored in my office. Elsewhere in this edition you will find a list of all the products that are available along with order forms. It's the holiday season and time for gifts. It's time to order up that NIA logo shirt, cap, patch, etc. that you have been wanting. If hints haven't worked just place that order yourself.

Also, if you have ideas for new products that the NIA should be offering, please drop a note to Tina for consideration.

Drip Points

There's been quite a buzz out there about the last issue of the Drip Points "Magazine." It was a great issue being four pages larger than normal and in full color. That only happened due to a generous donation by Tommy Bolack. Thank you Tommy! As you surely have noticed by now, this issue is also printed in full color due to another generous donation. It costs approximately \$2,000.00 per issue above our normal printing costs in order to print full color. To continue to have a full color Drip Points will require additional funding. There are several methods to accomplish this. **1.** We continue to seek donations, **2.** We open the publication up to offer "member only" for fee display advertising as well as for fee classified advertisements, **3.** We increase membership dues to cover the additional cost (Should we decide to raise the membership dues, those members receiving Drip Points electronically would have their membership dues reduced.), and **4.** We do all of the above. There may be other solutions to consider as well. What do you think is the best way to improve the magazine? I would like to hear from you!

We want to make the magazine even more reader relative! You all have stories of fascinating hunting trips, thrilling finds, as well as research projects waiting to be shared with fellow members. Are you an artist, a cartoonist? Submit your work, if it's hobby oriented our newsletter editor can use it. Do you have a cool but unusual photo that could be used for a caption contest? How about a really weird use of insulators? We would love to see what you have or have seen in this fantastic hobby.



Speakers

It has come to my attention that the NIA could benefit from having a speaker's bureau. I would like to create a list of members who would be willing to speak about this hobby to other organizations. I know that many of you are good at delivering presentations and the Association is beginning to get requests for speakers. If this is something you would be interested in, I would like to hear from you.

Hall of Fame

Don't forget that the NIA now has a Hall of Fame. We need recommendations of individuals worthy of recognition for this award. Only three people are recognized each year. Please submit your recommendations including their biographies to our Awards and Recognitions Chairman, Gene Hawkins.

T'is the Season

DeeDee and I want to wish all of you in this wonderful hobby the very best of holidays. May the new year be filled with joy and happiness.

Lou Hall



Photos from Springfield Show 2011
Photos by: Shaun Kottlarsky



Dan Gauron

NIA # 8176

Western Region VP

NIA Commemoratives

The "Springfield Experience" once again proved to be worthy of its inherited title "THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH." I came home with twice as many pieces of glass and hardware than I should have reasonably expected to be able to carry on a plane, yet saw many more pieces leaving the show hall in the arms of other collectors that I'd love to be putting on my own shelf. This was my 6th visit to the land of great insulators, collectors, conversation and good times, and though sad to see it end, can't wait to see what next years show will bring. I arrived a day earlier and left a day later this year, which enabled me to attend Steve & Lois Blair's get-together the night before the show and then had a chance after the show to visit a couple of glass houses in nearby Cambridge Ohio, both of which have provided either commemoratives, miniatures or special edition pieces to our hobby.



Boyd's Annealing Oven

Our 1st stop was BOYD'S Glass, established in 1978. By pure coincidence, fourth generation glass worker John Boyd and his dad, Bernard were just nearing the end of a run of miniature HEMINGRAY CD 154 salesman samples in amber. This gave us the opportunity to see the last dozen or so of these seldom made pieces go from furnace to mold to annealing ovens. It's a very small glass house, but the 5 employees who have run the plant for many years produce quite a variety of small collectable art glass items in many different colors. They enjoy worldwide recognition for their handcrafted pieces, and tell us that sales are better than ever thanks to a new website and other advertising on the internet.



Boyd's CD 154 Mini Mold



NIA Commemorative mold

Our next stop was Mosser Glass Company, located just a few miles further down the road. They are better known for fine glass, dinnerware and specialty pieces for lamp, medical, automotive and specialty organizations (like us). This is one of the glass houses where several of our NIA Commemoratives, a few of the Insulator Show commemoratives and some special issue pieces have been made. Though much larger than Boyd, it still produces almost all of its glass products using the same principles, techniques & equipment used in small glass houses for over 100 years. Both plants take a person back in time, as you get the chance to observe and enjoy the up close and personal experience along side the gatherers, blowers, pressman & roustabouts. Seeing the gatherer pull large balls of molten glass from the furnace, positioned for the mold pressman, and worked at each station there after before becoming a finished piece and placed in the annealing oven gives me a better appreciation of the skill required to produce these finely finished pieces. Soon they'll be packed and on their way to someone's home, office, store or collectors shelf across town or maybe the other side of the world. As I looked around both plants, I couldn't help but notice a real sense of pride on the workers face's "many of whom have been there 25 plus years" as they perform their tasks in much the same way it has been done for a century or more, thus insuring each item is a truly high quality handcrafted piece.

The last room on our personal tour was the mold storage room. As I looked across this large room, filled with floor to ceiling shelves and



Mosser Mold Storage



Boyd's Mold Storage

be long before it leaves its resting spot on the shelf to be reworked and put on the line to produce the next run of National Show Commemoratives. Even though our mold hasn't produced the volume of pieces that most of the molds in this room have, you can't help but look at it get the sense that it holds as much, if not more history than most molds in this room. To me, our NIA commemoratives seen at each and every National since 1970 are much more than a simple mixture of silica, soda, lime and coloring metal compounds blended, heated to molten and molded into the shape of an insulator. They are a symbol of our organization and represent the vision, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment that many early collectors had for making this the best hobby possible for current and future insulator collectors.

Having served as Western VP for over a year now, I've heard every imaginable story, opinion of and recommendation for the NIA's role in our hobby. Since I can only speak for my short time in the hobby and even shorter time on the Board of Directors, I'll simply say that business is not as usual, and the folks I share seats with on the Board are committed to doing what's in the best interest of our hobby. If I felt they weren't, I'd get out today. Sure, most of us work, have families and lives of our own that take up most of our time, but our goals, and commitment for maintaining a healthy hobby remain true. I especially commend Lou Halls drive & determination to make our hobby great.

BTW: In case you haven't heard'; the 2012 National is in Kansas City, Mo. It will be the 3rd year that all proceeds from the sale of our hobbies NIA Commemorative will go directly into the NIA's bank account. For only the 2nd time in 42 years, these profits will not only be used to help to promote our hobby to the public, but also provide needed funds to help with things like preserving historical papers, photos and documents entrusted to us, provide educational scholarships to young folks, color printing in the Drip Points and several other ongoing projects. This coming year we have an incentive that goes far beyond owning a great piece of our history, there's also the opportunity to help make a difference within our hobby. I hope you'll all support our hobby by taking home or ordering one of the 2012 NIA commemoratives when they become available. I also hope you'll support those Show Hosts who work hard to make our Nationals possible by purchasing one of their own Special Issue Show Commemoratives. Our hobby has always been about the people in it. I hope you'll contribute on whatever level you're able, whether it is helping to put on a get-together, attending a show, mentoring a new collector, volunteering for an open position on the board or simply sharing your collecting experiences with others. There's many ways to support our hobby, just call Lou... he'll find something for you to do.

By the way, and I don't know if you noticed the 2012 Show Host Daryl Wagner in one of the Glass Plant photos. What do you suppose he's up to visiting the glass houses?

Dan Gauron



Father, Son & Darryl at Boyd's



Central Region VP

The Mid-Ohio Show is once again history and I enjoyed myself thoroughly. I'm sure you'll read about and see photos of the show elsewhere if you weren't able to attend.

I want to bring some attention to a pleasant surprise I saw in Springfield. For many years, the NIA has been involved in a number of projects, mainly focused on the hobby and things like buying/trading ethics, fake and altered insulators, Regional and National shows, etc. Those are great efforts and I appreciate the hard work behind each of those.

The NIA has an exciting new development, and it's one that gives us the opportunity to truly change a person's life forever: thanks to some generous donations, the NIA now awards a scholarship to help with educational expenses. I can't tell you how thrilled I was to see many signs in the Springfield show hall promoting the new scholarship fund, and kudos to our scholarship committee – Kay Bryant, Jeanne Weber and Bernie Warren – who made announcements on the PA system and actively engaged show attendees in conversation about the scholarship. Great work, everyone! If you or another NIA member is a student, please ask one of these folks how to apply for a scholarship. If you're not a student... please help spread the word! Please contact scholarship@nia.org for more information.



Excitement is growing about the Kansas City National next summer. Show hosts Darryl Wagner and Charles Brandon have announced a special "Family Night" event for Friday evening after the NIA general membership meeting. I can assure you it'll be a great time and our hosts know how to roll out the Midwestern hospitality. I hope you'll make plans to attend!

THE NIA NEEDS YOU!!!

The NIA will need to fill these board positions. If you are interested, or wish to nominate someone, please contact me at centralvp@nia.org or call 816-769-7455! I'll be happy to share more about what each position entails and discuss any questions you might have. Don't wait for "someone else" to step up and do it!

President – President and CEO of the organization and presides at all board meetings.

Central Region Vice-President – Assists the President, seeks hosts for meetings/shows, participates in Awards & Recognition Committee, promotes the NIA in their region.

Secretary – Keeps minutes of our board meetings, maintains the records of the corporation and roster of the directors.

Bill Snell



Eastern Region VP

Matt Grayson

NIA # 387

Another Springfield show has come and gone! What fun for us collectors in attendance. As a dealer, I had one of my best Springfield shows, the poor economy did not seem to put much of a damper on activities

this year. Thanks as always to Steve and Lois Blair, Glenn Drummond from afar, and all of the other people who help out to make this the exceptional show it always is.

The Eastern Regional in Martinsburg, back in August, was another outstanding show, collectors were present from throughout the region and well into the midwest. Sales were brisk, as was attendance by collectors. Thanks as always to the organizers, Charlie Irons, Jeff Hollis and the rest of the CBIC club. Weather, work and other activities prevented me from attending other fall shows, but I expect to make up for that in the future!

With Springfield as the notable exception, I have noticed a decline in the number of displays at a number of shows recently. I would encourage all of you to consider preparing a display for an upcoming show. It is an easy matter to see the NIA rules and guidelines at the website. I have been trying to prepare two displays a year for the shows I attend and have yet to complete a display which meets all of the NIA requirements, but little by little, I have been incorporating all of the rules into my displays. When you are starting out, do not feel overwhelmed by meeting every last rule, most shows do not have all of their display space utilized, so most hosts will be welcoming your on going efforts. If you are afraid to attempt a display because you do not think you can match the museum quality displays that appear from time to time, don't be!! I can assure you that we would all like to see what you specialize in.

Try starting by displaying your speciality, something that interests you, or the results of a dig, hunt, or research you have undertaken or had the good fortune to find. Very often displays that generate a lot of interest are not the rarest or the prettiest, but something that we (or at least some of us) have been interested in for a long time. My displays have helped fill in missing pieces for my collection, often a fellow collector will remember something that they have tucked away that they are willing to part with. At the very least, you will generate a discussion and who knows what might happen. Items that I took to the dump years ago, (large porcelain suspensions) are now quite popular. CREB beehives are an outstanding example of the rich variety and history that can be studied in a group of insulators that were ignored for years. A complete set of mold numbers are now considered a significant achievement by many Brookfield collectors. Who knows what the next area of specialization will be, perhaps the very item you specialize in.

Another area that has concerned me, is the wealth of knowledge that remains in the hands of some collectors, and has not been published for the vast number of collectors to see. We as collectors and the NIA recognize just how valuable the effort to collect and document the history of insulators is. The researchers behind the Insulator Gazette received awards at this past National. I would encourage all of you to make use of our readily available resources, ICON, Crown Jewels or the NIA website (contact the webmaster) to get your unpublished research, historical accounts or information available to all collectors. This includes oral histories. If you have a story to tell but do not know how to tell it, contact the NIA. We will figure out how to record it and get it in the hands of all collectors. They only way to effectively add to our knowledge of the hobby is to post what we know. As many early collectors, have begun to pass away, these endeavors are more urgent than ever. No matter what you choose to do, what is most important is participate! We all want to see you at shows, whether you have a table, display or just walk in, and have fun. Happy collecting!

Matt Grayson





Information Director

At the Springfield Ohio show we took up a collection to defray funeral expenses for 20 year old Andrew Elliot. I would like to extend the collection to those of you who could not make the show to contribute. Donations can be sent to me at:

Michele Kotlarsky
 147 Cherokee Rd.
 Pontiac, MI 48341-2000.

I will forward them onto our Treasurer Bill Rohde. Thank you for caring and sharing with this family at this very difficult time.

We also had a brief board meeting and it was nice to meet all of you in person.

The ladies Kay Bryant and Jaque Linscott Barnes have been busy with their educational duties. We now have an ad running in bottle and insulator magazines announcing the Scholarship grant. I have also asked my local clubs to run it for no cost. If you belong to a club or know of one, why not send them a copy of the ad, email me for a copy at michelek@mac.com or send me the name of your club and I can do the asking.



Photos from Springfield Show 2011

Photos by: Shaun Kotlarsky

Happy to report there was last minute funding so this issue of Drip Points is in full color!

I would like to express my sadness over the passing of Steve Jobs, Apple Inc. Without his insanely great products Drip Points would not exist. Thank you Steve may your vision carry on for many years to come.

Michele Kotlarsky



Photos from Springfield Show 2011

Photos by: Shaun Kotlarsky



Ethics Chair

David R. Wiecek

NIA # 3225

Springfield... WOW!!! It had been a few years since I have attended this show but WOW what a great show it was! Many thanks to all those who were instrumental in the show's organization and those who attended to make it 'The Experience' it has become known to be. I was able to meet a number of new collectors that I had previously known only by email. I added some new pieces to my collection, parted ways with others and missed out on a number as well.

Have you ever installed software on your computer and were prompted with a Terms of Use agreement? If you're like me, you likely have just scrolled to the bottom of the page and agreed to the terms without ever actually reading them. That might be fine for installing software but when bidding online it might be best to read on a bit before placing that bid.

When you bid on an auction, you enter into a binding agreement with the seller agreeing to the terms of the auction or auction site. I strongly encourage you to read the terms and conditions of the auctions you participate in. Look at a seller's return policy and feedback history for signs of problems. Do not hesitate to ask the seller questions regarding condition and request additional pictures if you see something in the image that looks suspect. Camera angles can hide or obscure damage of note. Remember that one side does not show all. It might be more work for the seller but if the piece is truly worth that extra sum you are willing to bid, isn't it better to clarify any questions you have before placing your bid? Beware of sins of omission when reading the description. The VNM – VVVNM grading system is a legacy from the early days of collecting. It is from a time when sales lists via self addressed stamped envelopes (SASE) were the norm and space was at a premium. Grading on this scale is very subjective with no definitions of what is considered acceptable at each level. I recommend requesting specifics regarding damage and wear from use in these days of email and digital photography. Marketing lingo is meant to seduce you but look beyond the hype. Make it your goal to be happy with your purchase as much as the seller's goal might be to maximize that final bid.

If you are bidding in auctions that suggest final bid estimates, use those as a guide for the approximate value range of an item. Remember that auctions of this nature are run by experienced auctioneers. If you are bidding beyond the estimate, be sure you are certain as to why you think a piece is worth more than the estimate. Consult with the price guide when bidding. Yes it is only a guide but it is helpful to establish a basis for a starting point for pricing. Make sure it possesses added factors of desirability whether it is exceptional color, character centering, condition or scarcity based on personal experience to exceed those limits.

I encourage you to contact me if you have a personal matter where you believe the NIA Code of Ethics, as stated in the NIA Membership Handbook, was violated. The Code of Ethics provides a guide to the general membership for conducting their collecting and dealing activities honorably, honestly and in a manner which will present a good image of the hobby to the public.

David R. Wiecek





Membership Director

2011 is nearing its end, but what a wonderful year it has been for Jeanne and I as it relates to insulator collecting. Since my last article we have attended the Martinsburg show, the Albuquerque show, and as of this writing just returned from the Springfield show (retirement is great ☺). All the shows have been wonderful. I can't begin to express my feeling of thanks to the many dedicated hobbyists that host these shows and the tremendous amount of work they go through to make them successful. Many thanks also go out to the collectors that attend the shows as well. They are the ones that support all of the effort the hosts put in to make each show a success.

Obviously, some of the motivation to attend the number of shows that Jeanne and I have attended this year is to sell the new Price Guide, but that really is just my excuse to get out among friends and just have a great time. I can't begin to count the number of friendships that have developed over the years. Renewing them frequently is heart warming. Yes, Price Guide sales have been going well and feedback has been very positive and supportive. But, again it is fellow collectors that make this hobby what it is, have helped make the new Price Guide successful, and provide the encouragement to keep on helping the hobby to grow. Keep the fun in the hobby.

I keep hearing comments about the insulator collecting hobby dying. From my perspective that just isn't so. Of course some collectors will lose interest in the hobby and leave, some will pass away, and others will enter the hobby for the first time. The real measure is how are the shows doing, how are the organization's (NIA & local clubs) membership levels doing, and are engaged collectors having fun? It appears that there are more shows and swap meets than ever, attendance appears to be doing well, and the excitement level never seems to diminish. I don't have numbers for local clubs, but I have recently joined two. However, I do have numbers for NIA membership. For the past 40 years membership has held steady or grown for all but a few years where there have been tiny dips. 2011 NIA membership is currently at 1614 members and nearly two thirds of those are paid through 2012 or longer already with more renewals coming in every day. The NIA has picked up 60 new members just since July 1st of this year.

To keep the hobby alive and vibrant requires just a few critical elements: 1) help the youth get interested through education, free insulators, and other support; 2) keep the hobby honest by eliminating fraud, fakes, and generally poor behavior (and I don't see much of this today); 3) support the efforts of fellow collectors through participation in shows, clubs, volunteer positions, and donations; and 4) above all, make the hobby fun for all and welcome all into it. Every time I talk with a new collector I hear them say what a friendly group of people we are. Let's keep it that way and the hobby will grow and be vibrant.

As I mentioned previously, NIA membership renewals are high and continuing. Another thing I have noticed is the increased number of members that are adding donations to their dues payments. A very special thank you goes out to each of those members for their extra support. I also have to share a comment received on a recent 2 year renewal that exemplifies the loyalty of some members. The note said "I'm taking a chance for 2 years membership - optimistic. I turned 91 years July 1, 2011." I hope we can all have that kind of optimistic attitude when we're 91. The hobby is alive and well and I thank each and every one of you for making it that way – THANK YOU!

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and hope you will find much joy in the coming New Year!

Donald Briel



Historian

Miles McLall

NIA # 8548

A Happy Fall to All!

Quite a few of you will just have returned from the Springfield show with great new additions to your collections. I hope you all had a safe trip home. I was not able to attend this year and missed seeing all of my friends and all the friends I have yet to make! But I am planning to attend next year!

This month I would like to present some information and a question:

QUESTION.....What are the known dome letters for H.G.CO. PETTICOATS in Pea Soup Green? Are there other mold letters besides "G" and "A"?



In a collection I purchased, recently, I found a Pea Soup Green (or to use the proper color name from the guide "Yellow Olive Green") CD 145 [050] H.G.CO. PETTICOAT. Nothing too unusual about that but on the dome there was a mold letter "A" (see photo below). There have been 6 or so different Pea Soup Green 145s that have been offered for sale in the last few years. I was able to determine that 4 of them had the mold letter "G" on the dome and the other two I was unable to determine if they even had a mold letter. In the past, I think I remember hearing that all of the Pea Soups were "G" Molds. Now, I know that this is not the case. This made me begin to wonder if there are other mold letters?!

If this article motivates you to check your "Domes" you can send your photos to me at : historian@nia.org

Miles McLall





Treasurer

National Insulator Association

2011 - 2012 financial statement
3 months ending Sept. 30, 2011

Beginning Balance \$ 32,634.00

Revenues

Membership Dues	\$2,064.00 *
Product Sales	\$2,071.00
Commemorative Sales	\$1,860.00
Donations	\$1,000.00
Hemingray Plaque Donations	\$270.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
Scholarship Fund	\$0.00

Total Income \$7,265.00

Expenses

Advertising	-\$370.00
Taxes, Fees & Insurance	-\$1,056.06
Marketing Product	-\$340.71
Postage Product	-\$453.93
Membership Expenses	-\$124.91
Postage Membership	-\$525.25
Printing	\$0.00
Historian Expense	-\$789.80
Crown Jewels rebate	\$0.00
Drip Points	-\$4,038.65
Show Advertising Rebate	\$0.00
National Show Awards	-\$1,135.22
Commemorative Insulators	-\$49.86
Commemorative Insulators	-\$182.46
Web Hosting	\$0.00
Hemingray Plaque	-\$25.00
Board Expenses	-\$711.35
Scholarship Expense	-\$180.00

Total Expenses (\$9,983.20)

Sub total (\$2,718.20)

Ending Balance \$ 29,915.80

* Over \$5,400 in dues deposits in Oct.
will show in 2nd quarter report.



Bill Rohde



NIA Promotions Chair

The Power of the First Amendment:

Subtitle: You Can Make a Difference

By Jim White

You might wonder from the title what the constitution has to do with our hobby. From time-to-time we hear the repeating concern of what is the future of our hobby? The population of collectors is aging and will there be new blood entering the hobby?

So how does the U.S. Constitution First Amendment have applicability to the subject? The observation of many regarding something as important as the election of our country's leadership often finds that we become passive, as we conclude that our one vote, our one voice, cannot make a difference. My analogy is that your voice, your participation, your attendance at shows are all an expression of your "Voice". Even if you cannot, or do not attend shows, your "Voice" can make a difference in advancing our hobby.

Look at the recent event involving a small nucleus of collectors who spearheaded the Hemingray Plaque idea. Support grew and the job got done. Hopefully, the project will spawn other such plaques.

I am amazed at how much one person can accomplish when committed and persistent. Every reader has experienced some news report where a youngster has tackled some unbelievable mission and been an inspiration to adults.

The task does not have to be of monumental proportions. For example,

I talk about my hobby every chance I get. It is exciting to see people's interest and desire to learn more. So the message of my article is make it your mission each month to do just one thing that promotes our hobby. Give away an insulator, mentor a youngster or adult, take someone to a show, host a tailgater, write an article, attend a show and help the host in some way, support Crown Jewels and Insulator Collectors on the Net, or find your own creative approach.

Let's agree to make this a common goal during the next year.

Jim White





Kay Bryan NIA # 4099

Scholarship Committee

The excitement is building as we await our scholarship applications. Remember the deadline to apply is February 1, 2012.

If you have not discussed this great opportunity with your club members, family and friends please do so right away. All the information and application can be found on the nia.org web site. We all need to do our part to help draw young collectors into the hobby. Adds are running the Crown Jewels as well as the Antique Bottle Collectors publications.

Many contacts were made the the Eastern Regional in Martinburg, WVA . The show was well attended and there were many discussions about the scholarship. More exposure will take place the Springfield, Ohio show in November. This is a very well attended show and the intent of your committee is to publicize the scholarship information as much as possible.

Scholarship information also appears on one of the most popular web sites scholarshipexperts.com. This site is considered the most popular site by students.

emails have been sent to various clubs and to show hosts whose show notifications appear in the Crown Jewels.

Remember that in addition to the Academic Scholarship there is a \$500 Vocational Scholarship. This can help a person who wants to change careers as well as those just starting their higher education.


In these economic times this can be a great assistance to anyone who wants to further their education.

Please help us publicize this great opportunity.

The committee welcomes your suggestions and looks forward to your help in getting the word out to as many people as possible. I have attached a copy of the guidelines for your information. Please forward them to any one who may be interested. It is also on the NIA web site.

Please feel free to contact us with your ideas!

Kay Bryant



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To switch, email Donald Briel membership@nia.org

Scholarship Application Guidelines and Instructions

Purpose:

In order to encourage growth and public awareness of the insulator hobby through collecting, dealing, and educational endeavors the National Insulator Association, Inc. (NIA) has established the NIA Scholarship Fund.

Award:

- An Academic Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00. The Academic Scholarship is renewable for one additional academic year based on the student's maintaining a "B" (3.0) average, or better, as documented through transcripts. **The student must reapply.**
- A Vocational Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. The scholarship is **not** renewable.

Qualifications for an Academic Scholarship:

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

Applicants must be in their senior year of high school or have graduated from high school. Applicants must be accepted for enrollment or enrolled in an eligible educational institution. Applicants must complete all elements of the Scholarship Application.

The student's undergraduate study may be in any academic area.

Applicants must be a candidate for a degree at an eligible educational institution and the scholarship must be used to pay qualified education expenses.

- You are a candidate for a degree if you attend a secondary school or are pursuing a degree at a college or university, or you attend an accredited educational institution that is authorized to provide a program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's or higher degree.

Applications for Academic Scholarships must be completed and received by the NIA Scholarship Committee no later than February 1st to be considered for the following academic year. Applications received that are incomplete or fail to comply with the application instructions will not be considered. Applications will not be returned to the applicant.

Qualifications for a Vocational Scholarship:

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Applicants must have graduated from high school.

Applicants must complete all applicable elements of the Scholarship Application.

Eligible candidates must be enrolled in a course of instruction leading to a career related to the generation, distribution or application of electrical energy.

Applicants must be a candidate for a degree at an eligible educational institution and the scholarship must be used to pay qualified education expenses.

- You are a candidate for a degree if you attend an accredited educational institution that is authorized to provide a program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

Applications for Vocational Scholarships must be completed and received by the NIA Scholarship Committee no later than February 1st to be considered. Applications received that are incomplete or fail to comply with the application instructions will not be considered. Applications will not be returned to the applicant.

[a] *An eligible educational institution is one that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of students in attendance at the place where it carries on its educational activities.*

[b] *Qualified education expenses are for tuition and fees required to enroll at or attend an eligible educational institution. They also include course-related expenses, such as fees, books, supplies, and equipment that are required of all students in your course of instruction.*

Hemingray Plaque Dedication September 4, 2011

by Bob Stahr

As many of you have read in the past issues of Drip Points, the NIA was planning on erecting an historical plaque at the Hemingray Glass Company factory location in Muncie, Indiana. After a successful fundraising campaign, the date was established for a dedication; September 4, 2011.

The dedication went off without a hitch, even with the threat of rain, we ended up with sunshine for the dedication. September 4th was chosen because it commemorated two things. First of all, Hemingray began their operations in Indiana on September 4, 1888 and secondly, September 4th was Labor Day weekend and we felt it appropriate to honor all those past individuals who labored there for all those years. We were able to have in attendance insulator collectors as well as members of the local community, some of whom actually worked at the Hemingray (Owens-Illinois) factory.



The crowd admired the plaque and gave their thanks to Roger Lucas, Darin Cochran and myself for all of our hard work on the plaque project. Of course, the subject also came up, when are you going to do this for Hemingray's Covington site?

Some of you at this fall's Mid-Ohio show in Springfield, OH already know the answer. We have launched a fundraising campaign for the Covington site. Thanks to Dennis Stewart from Cincinnati, OH. We had bags of shards and glass chunks that he has picked up over the years at Hemingray's old Covington factory site along the Ohio River. The NIA was offering them for sale at the show. We also received a couple Hemingray made lamps from Steve Konan of Lee's Summit, MO and a green Hemingray-19 from Dario Dimare to sell.

A number of individuals purchased these glass shards & chunks, we sold one of the lamps, and we received a few donations. We raised \$279 at the Springfield show from the sales and donations. We will be combining that with the left over money from the Muncie project. We should have about \$650 raised so far. The plaque costs for Kentucky are quite similar to that of Indiana. For a two sided plaque however, the Kentucky one is \$300 more. We have a goal of raising \$3,000 total, so we have about \$2,400 to go. This is because we may have a couple extra things that need to be done to prepare the area to erect the plaque.

The current site of the Hemingray Covington, KY factory is a high-rise hotel. We would like to place the plaque either in a landscaped planter they have out front, or in the sidewalk. There is another hotel immediately to the east, and a large convention center across the street. There will be a lot of foot traffic stopping to read this sign.

We plan on submitting our application to the State of Kentucky in March, 2012. We expect either a 2013 or 2014 dedication. If you would like to donate, please send your checks to Bob Stahr made out to the NIA.

Muncie Plaque Information:

Shaun and Michele Kotlarsky were kind enough to videotape the plaque speech and it was placed on Youtube. Shaun spent a fair amount of time trying to increase the audio, as the PA system we had wasn't working. Thanks Shaun for the hard work. If you would like a transcript of the speech, please contact me.

YouTube Video of Dedication Ceremony:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iNQTyjuE84>

All State of Indiana plaques are listed in an on-line database managed by the Indiana Historical Bureau. Although not yet listed on their website, you can check back at:

Indiana Historical Bureau:

<http://www.in.gov/history/index.htm> and click on Historical Markers

I have submitted the Hemingray plaque information to this international database of historical markers. This database lists markers all over the world.

Historical Marker Database:

<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=48393>

For those of you who geo-cache, or just want to know the exact coordinates of the plaque they are listed below.

Coordinates of Marker:

40° 10.835' N
85° 22.059' W

The Muncie Star-Press had a short article in the September 3rd issue before the dedication and did send a photographer to the dedication. Although not in their on-line version, they did run a follow up article with pictures in their September 5, 2011 issue. Thanks again to Bill Morgan for pulling in some favors with the newspaper.

I would like to thank again all of the people, clubs, and organizations who donated towards this project. We would not have been able to do this without you. I look forward to working on the next one. I hope some of you are able to contribute again.



Bob Stahr
Roger Lucas
Clarice Gordon
Dennis & Jeanne Weber
Bob & Carolyn Berry
Bill & Jill Meier
Dave & Wilma Wilson
Rick Jones
Lou Hall
Mary Ann Pike
Darrell Karlin
Tim Sakcriska
Russ & Marge Frank
David Franz
Rick Soller
Jack Foote
John Weber
Jon Bules
Milt Livesay
Dan Gauron
Leslie & Judith Christensen
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Robert Nobbe
Jim & Elisabeth Bergmann
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Chuck Dittmar
Gene Hawkins
Tom Nugent
Jamie Houdeshell
David Wiecek
Miles McLall
Dario Dimare
Dennis Donovan
Missouri Valley Insulator Club
Jack Riesselman (CD 303/310
on display at Minnetrista).



See Glenn's following article for a very brief summary of Hemingray activity in the Cincinnati / Covington area.

Gray and Hemingray:

By Glenn Drummond

The Gray and Hemingray saga began upriver in Pittsburgh back in the early 1840's. Robert Hemingray had completed his schooling, married, and was working for William Philips in the Philips Glass Works. Little is known of Ralph Gray during those early years, yet we can conjecture a very hazy connection. It is known that Robert Hemingray married Mary Carroll, sister to Susan Carroll who was the wife of Anthony Gray, brother of Ralph Gray. It is believed that Ralph and Anthony worked at one of the Birmingham glass companies (Birmingham was a community on the south side of the Monongahela River opposite Pittsburgh).

On 10 April 1845, a raging fire reduced the city of Pittsburgh to ashes. It has been estimated that the "Great Fire of 1845" consumed all of the business property, and more than 50 percent of all dwellings.¹ Robert, as well as his siblings, lost everything. Ralph fared somewhat better. Although the Monongahela River Bridge was destroyed, the Birmingham community suffered little fire damage.

Ralph and Robert apparently seized the moment to strike out on their own. Many of the large number of Pittsburgh glass companies in business prior to the fire vowed to rebuild. The huge amount of competition would have made it very difficult for Ralph and Robert to succeed in a new glass manufacturing business in Pittsburgh at that time.

Ralph and Robert journeyed downriver to the Covington, Kentucky, early in 1847 to find the place of their dreams. It is known that they found a site suitable to their needs located to the northwest of the intersection of Second Street and Madison Avenue.² Unfortunately a title search uncovered issues that made it impossible to obtain clear title to the tract at that time. Consequently, they found a workable location on Mayor's Alley, Cincinnati, that they could rent for a five-year period. They signed a lease on 5 April 1848 and immediately began construction of a furnace and all the necessary appurtenances to operate a glass works.³ An adjoining parcel of land became available in August 1850 and they quickly added it to their lease allowing them to expand their storage facilities and add a sales room.

A list of products indicates that the Gray & Hemingray Glass Works produced a great variety of domestic and commercial glassware during those early years. Foremost on the list was glassware to supply Cincinnati's rapidly expanding chemical and scientific industries as well as a variety of perfume and apothecary's glassware (1849). Two years later (1851) they had added lightning-rod and telegraph insulators to the list.⁴

Working with Mortimer Benton, ex-Mayor of Covington, Ralph and Robert were finally able to purchase the sought-after Covington property from Henry Pace, Jr. on 20 August 1852.⁵ Indications are that they immediately constructed a furnace and all the necessary appurtenant works for the new glass house. However, they maintained their facility on Hammond Street in Cincinnati to serve as the company's ware-room and business headquarters until the lease expired.

Things became a bit complicated, however, when Pace became overextended in his real estate dealing and had to sell the Hammond Street property as a result of court action. The new owners, Samuel and Sidney Clark, agreed on 1 April 1853 to rewrite the Ralph and Robert's lease, although in less favorable terms, thus allowing them to continue their operations at that location.

A favorable war-time market, good management, and a good product insured their continued success during the 1860's. Just prior to the termination of the Hammond Street lease, Ralph and Robert leased additional space in a building on Columbia Street, near the Ohio River waterfront in Cincinnati. Unfortunately the building burned in 1864. They quickly procured space in a building on Walnut Street, Cincinnati, that they maintained until 1884.

Soon thereafter, business began to go sour as the nation became panicky over the prospect of internal strife. Consequently, Ralph and Robert mortgaged their Covington property late in 1857, apparently to cover operating expenses. Business soon improved and they were able to pay-off the mortgage by mid-1860. As soon as the mortgage was paid-off, they were able to begin expanding their operation in Covington by acquiring adjacent properties and construction new facilities.

Unfortunately, Ralph Gray died in November 1863, resulting in a great dilemma for Robert Hemingray. Ralph Gray's will stipulated that, because of the great uncertainty at the time, his undivided half interest in the glass works was to be sold and the proceeds invested for the support of his widow. The thought of bringing a partner from outside the family into the management of the company was particularly unsettling to Robert. He quickly marshaled a small group of family members and a close friend to acquire Ralph's half interest thereby enabling the company to survive with little impact on company operations. Ralph's half interest was equally divided among Joseph C. Hemingray (brother), Samuel J. Hemingray (brother), Richard Evans (brother-in-law), and James L. Foley (political ally).⁶ Joseph C. Hemingray was a Leavenworth, Kansas, banker at time and it is believed he came to Covington to provide financial advice and, perhaps, capital as well. He sold his one-eighth interest to Robert and returned to Kansas in 1865

The subsequent death of Samuel J. Hemingray, in 1866, created another episode of uncertainty as well. Samuel's will was very simple and he left his undivided one-eighth interest in the glass works to his widow. She immediately sold her interest to an outsider (presumably her brother) with no experience in glass manufacturing. This problem was resolved through the purchase of the interest by Evans and Foley at some token profit to the other party.

It appears that the market for oil lamps and fruit jars expanded as the population of the old northwest grew. Robert and his management team were highly motivated to seek new manufacturing methods to keep pace with the market demands as evident in a number of patents acquired following Ralph's death.⁷

The company continued to grow following incorporation in 1870 by the Legislative Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Additional land was purchased and new building constructed to enable the company to satisfy an expanding market for glass products. Fruit jars, oil lamps, and telegraph insulators became the primary products.

A patent for threaded insulators, critical to economical construction and maintenance of telegraph lines, caught the eye of industry management in the early 1860's. Robert began experimenting with a modified glass press to produce insulators with a threaded pin cavity early in 1868 and a trial run was produced later that year. A patent for this device was issued to him on 19 December 1871. Patent "interference" issues arose with Homer Brooke and it required a decision by the Commissioner of Patents to resolve them.⁸

The Covington site offered a number of advantages from the outset, for instance easy access to the Ohio River for receipt of raw materials and shipment of finished products. However, floods, droughts,

ice, and other weather impediments sometimes overwhelmed those advantages. The company suffered severe losses as a consequence of the 1883 and 1884 floods. The factory was closed for an extended period of time during both events. In between was the record drought during the summer of 1884 when the depth of the river between Covington and Cincinnati was less than one foot. The variable flow rate of the river resulted in frequent periods when the low flow prevented the essential delivery of coal for the furnaces. Ice jams, or running ice on the river would also bring traffic to a standstill. In addition, one of the company's buildings was severely damaged by a tornado that passed along the riverfront in 1860.⁹

Many early advertisements note that Gray & Hemingray was producing lightning-rod insulators. Perhaps Gray & Hemingray may have made some of the later Spratt-style insulators. It is most likely that they made many of the Weston insulators based on glass characteristics. Large numbers of other unmarked lightning-rod insulators were used throughout the Ohio River Valley and it is possible that some of these came from the Covington works.

A reliable supply of fuel was always a concern for the company. In addition to the cessation of coal delivery due to floods and droughts, city government also contended that the deeds for tracts adjacent to the river were invalid and imposed wharfage fees on the company.

No doubt Robert Hemingray was well aware of the economy associated with the use of natural gas for glass manufacturing in Europe. He attempted to find a source of gas on company property beginning 1884. Initial test well provide sufficient gas to operate the boilers for steam engines used in the plant but were not adequate to fire the glass furnaces. A deeper well proved to be a failure and further exploration at the Covington site was abandoned.

At this same time, the natural gas reserves were being tapped in northeastern Ohio and east central Indiana. Promoters were active in attempts to lure coal-using industries with promises of free land and gas for extensive periods of time. Soon after newspaper and trade journals were reporting sightings of Hemingray representatives in various locations throughout the natural gas belt. In 1887, the company was approached by representatives of the Manufacturers Guarantee Fund Association of Muncie, Indiana, with an offer of free land and natural gas in exchange for an agreement to relocate the factory to that city. The offer, coming on the heels of devastating floods and record low-water levels in the Ohio River, was attractive enough that company officials chose to accept it. The Hemingray began to move production operations to Muncie in 1888. However, the company offices remained in Covington until about 1919.

Although Robert remained as president of the company until his death in late 1898, his eldest son, Ralph G. Hemingray was in charge of the Muncie factory operations. The youngest son, Daniel C. Hemingray, secretary-treasurer, was responsible for operation of the business office in Covington. The second son, Robert C. Hemingray, was factory superintendent at Muncie until health problems forced his retirement soon after the move to Muncie.

The Indiana gas field proved to be a fickle mistress. There were obvious indications that the "infinite" supply was beginning to play-out by about 1900. Ralph and his brothers began to look for alternatives including a return to Covington. An attempt to restart the old works was attempted during the year between 1900 and 1901. Deterioration of equipment was more extensive and the glass produced during this time was severely flawed. Consideration was given to another site in Covington, above the 1884 flood level and adjacent to a major railroad. Negotiations land price broke down and a potential return to Covington was abandoned. The furnaces in Muncie were retrofitted to burn producer gas and the Hemingray's decided to remain in Muncie.

- ¹ Fire was to haunt Robert Hemingray throughout his life-time. The 14 Main St. (Cincinnati) warehouse burned in 1864, a Covington warehouse burned in 1872, another Covington warehouse burned in 1890, the annealing house burned in 1890, and the Muncie factory totally burned in 1892, See The Insulator Gazette for details of these events..
- ² Abstract of Title, Oct 1847, M. M. Benton for Ralph Gray and Robert Hemingray, Lot no's 295 and 296, and the adjacent alley.
- ³ Lease, 5 Apr 1848, George W. Garretson to Ralph Gray and Robert Hemingray, Hamilton County Court House, Cincinnati, OH. A lot commencing at a point on the e.s. of a certain alley running from 3d St. to 4th St., between Main and Sycamore St's, known as Mayor's Alley, 150 ft. above and n. of 3d St., thence running e. at right angles 90 ft., thence w. 90 ft., to a point in the line of said Alley 23 ft n. of the place of beginning, with the brick building thereon. 5 years, \$250. per year.
- ⁴ Cist, Charles. Sketches and Statistics of Cincinnati, 1851. "All the operations alluded to are of flint glass, except insulators, which are made for lightning-rods and for telegraph lines . . ." It is possible that the insulators produced during the early years were either glass blocks (used on the Cincinnati to Louisville line) or Wade-style insulators (used on the Cleveland to Cincinnati line). A third possibility is a form of the Yandell insulator, patented in 1851. Specimens have been found in southern Indiana.
- ⁵ Warrantee Deed, Henry Pace, Jr., to Ralph Gray and Robert Hemingray, Kenton County Courthouse, Independence, Kentucky, Deed Book 19, p. 358, 20 Aug. 1852. "... those lots of land ... numbered ... as Lot no's 295 and 296 and the alley w. of Madison St., fronting 100 ft. s. on the alley n. of 2d St., thence 100 ft. wide to low-water mark ... Also, two other lots ... being fractional lots or parts of lots on 2d or New St., one being on the n.s. of said St. and fronting in part the lot Carneal sold to Drew, Goodloe & Stewart, the other opposite thereto on the s.s. of New. St. \$7,000.
- ⁶ Warranty Deed, Robert Hemingray (Ralph Gray's Executor) to Richard Evans, Sam'l J. Hemingray, James L. Foley, and Joseph C. Hemingray, Kenton County Courthouse at Covington, Kentucky, Deed Book 6, p. 482, 15 Feb. 1864. . . . \$35, 526.46
- ⁷ The reader is encouraged to peruse the on-line patent database at <http://reference.insulators.info/patents/> to view the various patents acquired by the Hemingway's.
- ⁸ Hyve, H. G. "Bea." "The Hemingray Glass Co., A Most Colorful History," 1998, p. 439. Commissioner's Decisions. Brookfield and Hemingray vs. Brooke – Interference.
- ⁹ Readers are encouraged to peruse The Insulator Gazette for details of these events.

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Electronic Media

- "Historic Pittsburgh." <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pitttext/>
- "The Insulator Gazette." <http://reference.insulators.info/publications/>



Winter 2011 www.nia.org/products

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Price Quantity Total

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Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo; some with pockets
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NEW OPTION: Pin back (free) OR Magnetic back (add \$1.00) \$13.00

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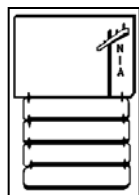
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Name Badge Engraving Information (current NIA member) Circle back style (pins are free)!!

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 Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
 Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
 Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____ Pin / Magnet
 Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
 Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
 Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____
 Club Bar: _____ (qty needed) _____

Thanks for your support of the NIA !

Contact Information:

Tina Rienstra – 6527 W. 93rd Avenue, Crown Point, IN 46307 / 219-365-7913 / tlriens@att.net



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(Payable to the NIA in U.S. funds)

Donald R. Briel
NIA Membership Director
P.O. Box 188
Providence, UT 84332
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Check appropriate class: Regular Family Junior Club/Org.

Check years of Payment: Single year Multi-year

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Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels DirectoryYes No

Please include my Telephone NumberYes No

Please include my Mail Address.....Yes No

I would like to receive Drip Points in the following formatPaper Electronic

(Check only one, an E-mail address is required for electronic format)

Additional Family Members Residing in the Same Household

Name _____ NIA # (If renewal) _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION GLASS COMMEMORATIVES

"Now in the 42nd year of continuous production"



42nd NIA CONVENTION * 2011 San Jose, CA

"Pacific Surf"

(Sky blue with opalescent dome and base)

\$40.00 postage paid for the first commemorative
(each additional piece \$35.00 when shipped with first)
Solid pours (limited availability) - \$50.00 each

Embossed on the base of the commemorative:



Embossed on the dome of the commemorative:



History of the National Show Commemoratives: *"Collecting Our History"*

Being an enthusiastic insulator collector, Frank Miller of Tulsa, Oklahoma went home from the *First National Insulator Meet* (that's what the "National" show was referred to in 1970) held in New Castle, Indiana with an idea that collectors should have something by which they could remember the national meets. After months of struggling, he managed to have an insulator mold made. Frank said it was often referred to as "Frank's Last Folly" since he retired from teaching shortly thereafter. He also said it was worth the struggle. The commemorative insulator he designed replicated the early threadless "pilgrim hat" (CD 736) and is almost 4 inches high and is 3 1/4 inches across at the base. Since 1970, the glass commemorative has marked the national show event with new embossing for the location and a new color of glass. In 1979, the project was continued by John & Carol McDougald of Sedona, AZ. John and Carol produced the yearly commemoratives through 2009 at which time they donated the production to the National Insulator Association starting with the 2010 commemorative. Many thanks to the McDougald's for 30 years of production and for allowing the NIA to take over this venture in 2010! Any profits made from the 2011 NIA Commemoratives will go to benefit the National Insulator Association, a 501(3)c.

Please remit order and payment to:

**NIA 2011 Commemorative
c/o Carolyn Berry
1010 Wren Court
Round Rock, TX 78681**

Please make checks payable to: NIA

Phone orders: (512) 255-2006

Email orders: pyrex553@aol.com

Google check-out available: see note below

Website: www.nia.org (for Google Check-out follow link from website)

If you have questions, or live outside the continental USA, please contact us by phone or email for additional postage due.

NOTICE: The 2010 regular commemoratives are also available in limited supply

CD 1040

by Thomas Palone



WHO WAS JOHN GARITY?



According to 1871 records, John Garity resided in the borough of East Birmingham Pennsylvania. In 1836, Birmingham Pennsylvania had become the nucleus of America's glass industry with nine major glass factories in operation.



By the 1870's, 31 glass houses operated in the area (see 1872 Map). It was in this year, 1872, the boroughs of Birmingham, East Birmingham, Ormsby, and South Pittsburgh, known as the south side flats, were annexed into the City of Pittsburgh. In 1876, there were approximately 76 glass factories in the neighborhoods and by 1886; Pittsburgh was manufacturing one half of the glass being used in the United States.

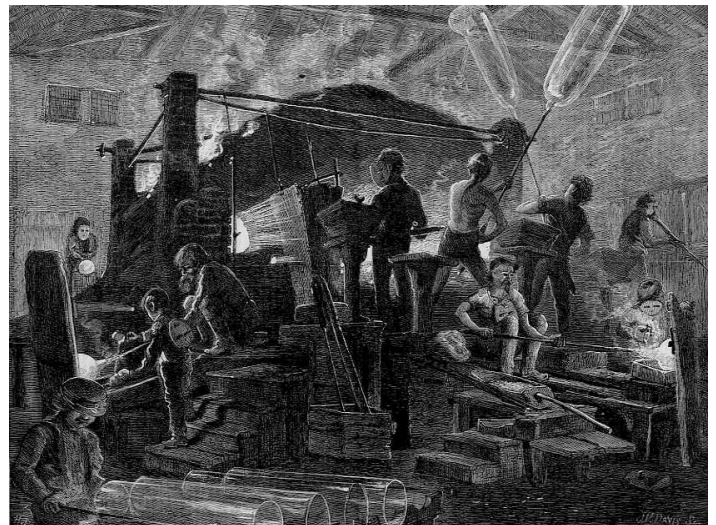
South Side Flats in Red

This specimen was acquired in the Pittsburgh area over 35 years ago. Which of these glass houses could have made this insulator, if any? How many more are there, if any? Does a spanner wrench specimen exist?

Garity's 1871 Insulator Patent was obviously known in the telegraph industry, as it was cited as a reference in other patents, such as the 1883 Joseph Lewis US Patent #276,839 who resided in England. It is also referenced multiple times in "THE TELEGRAPHER" during the 1870's.

References:

- [Wikipedia](#)
- www.davidrumsey.com
- www.livingplaces.com



**Pittsburgh Sketches
Among the Glass Workers
1871 engraving**

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOSEPH S. LEWIS, OF BIRKENHEAD, COUNTY OF CHESTER, ENGLAND.

INSULATOR FOR TELEGRAPH-WIRES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 276,839, dated May 1, 1883.

Application filed May 2, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH SLATER LEWIS, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and a resident of Birkenhead, in the

The shackles or clips B may be forged, stamped, or shaped from suitable metal, and galvanized or otherwise protected from oxidation before they are applied to use.

(HEADER FROM LEWIS PATENT)

Highlighted Reference
from page 2
Joseph Lewis Patent
279,839



electricity, and the working capacity of the line is correspondingly improved.

I am aware that the patent of Garity, No. 110,645, shows an insulator having a concentric groove in its head for the purpose of securing and holding the line-wire or conductor, and a tapering screw-threaded shank to be screwed into the telegraph-pole or other support, and I therefore make no claim to such Construction.

I claim as my invention---

1. A supporting insulator for telegraphic line-wires or other electrical conductors, provided with means for attaching it to its

(No Model.)

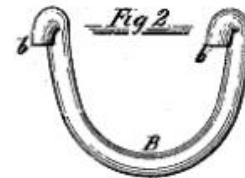
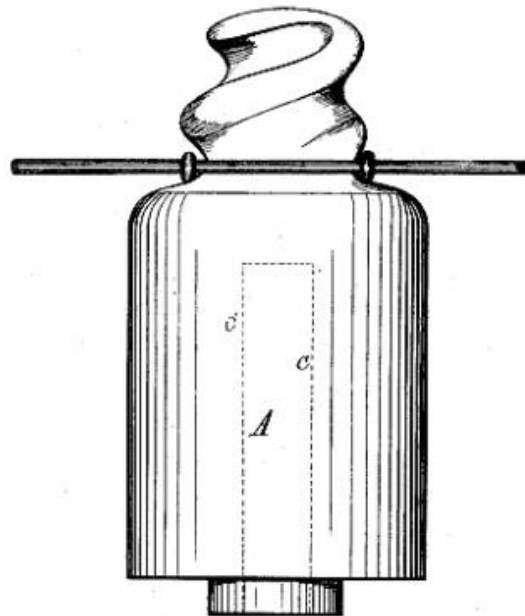
J. S. LEWIS.

INSULATOR FOR TELEGRAPH WIRES.

No. 276,839.

Patented May 1, 1883.

Fig 1.

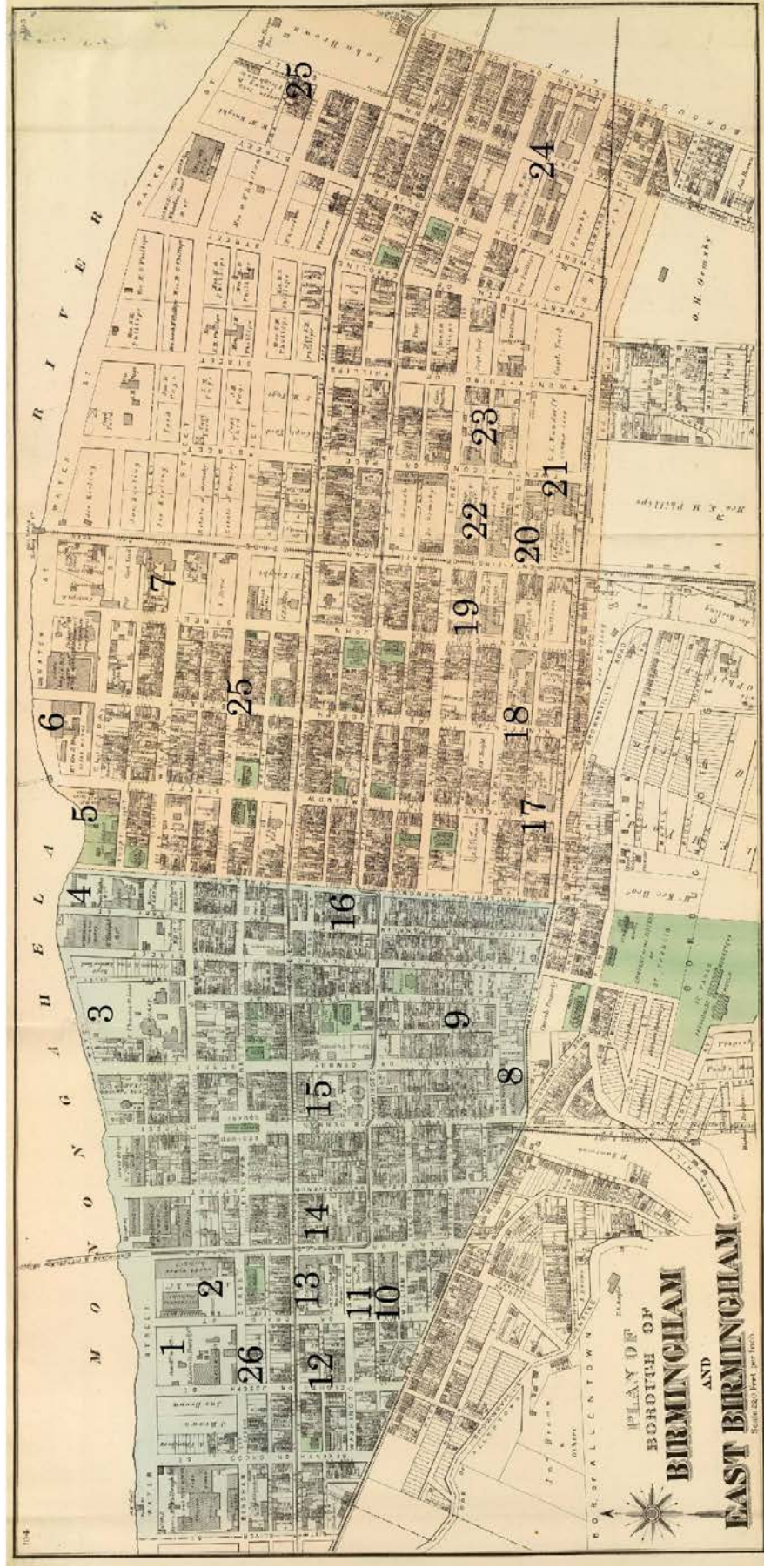


Witnesses
Miller & Earl
Charles A. Terry

Inventor
Joseph S. Lewis
By his Attorney Frank L. Phelps

1872 East Birmingham P.A. Map, Home of John Garity

- Which Glass House made this Garity Specimen?
- 24 Different Glass House Locations Shown on Map (see attached list)
- 2 properties labeled J.G. (25) Could this be John Garity Residence
- Could Glass House (1) Bakewell & Pears be linked?
- Bakewell is also the name of John Garity's Attorney?



1. Bakewell, Pears & Co. Glass Works
2. Doyle & Co. Glass Works (Location 1)
3. C. Ihmsen & Sons Glass Works
4. Bryce Walker & Co Glass Works (Location 1)
5. King, Son & Co. . Cascade Glass Works
6. McKee & Brothers Glass Works
7. Bryce Walker & Co Glass Works (Location 2)
8. A. King Glass Works
9. Plunket & Co. Glass Works (Location 1)
10. Adams & Co. Glass Works
11. Doyle & Co. Glass Works (Location 2)
12. Pittsburg Glass Manufacturing Co.
13. Whitehouse Atterbury & Co. Flint Glass Co.
14. Ripley & Co. Tremont Glass Works
15. S. McKee & Co. Glass Works
16. Crystal Glass Works
17. Plunkett & Co. Glass Works (Location 2)
18. Beck Phillips & Co. Glass Works
19. Campbell Jones & Co. Glass Works
20. Wolfe Howard & Co Excelsior Glass Works
21. Keystone Glass Works
22. Page, Zellers & Duff Glass Works
23. Melling Estep & Co. Glass Works
24. Cunninghams & Ihmsen Glass Works
25. J.G. (John Garity Residence?)

United States Patent Office.

JOHN GARITY, OF EAST BIRMINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 110,645, dated January 3, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN GLASS TELEGRAPH-INSULATORS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN GARITY, of East Birmingham, in the county of Alleghany and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Glass Telegraph-Insulator; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are side views of my improved telegraph-insulator, differing from each other only in the form of the head.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same.

The insulator is made of solid glass by being pressed in a mold having suitable cavities, in any of the ways known to the art.

The part which is to be inserted into the telegraph-pole, cross-bar, or other support for the wires, is of a tapering cylindrical form, as shown at *a*.

On this I form, at the same time and in the same way the rest is formed, a screw-thread, *a'*, of any desired slope or angle of thread.

The head *b* is grooved, as at *b'*, for convenience in attaching the telegraph wire, and is made with faces of other than circular form, as shown in fig. 1, for ease in screwing the pin *a* into the telegraph-pole or other support.

With this form of insulator-head an ordinary wrench, of form to correspond, is used. Instead of a head of polygonal form, as in fig. 1, with which a wrench is used, a head of circular form may be used, as shown in fig. 2, but in the latter case a pin or lug, *c*, should be made on the circular head *b*, so as to ad-

mit of the screwing in of the pin *a* by the use of an ordinary spanner of suitable form.

To secure the necessary strength at the base of the head, which commonly is the weakest point, I make the pin *a* with a gradual taper from the base of the head to or toward the point, any desired distance, the object being to get a larger body of glass in the head-end of the pin *a*.

A solid glass insulator of the form described I have found to possess sufficient strength at all points for practical use, while it is simple in its construction, is made at small cost, and is easily applied.

I am aware that it is not new in the manufacture of telegraph insulators to thread a pin or shank which has a uniform diameter from the point to the base of the head. Insulators so made are exceedingly liable to break where the pin or shank joins the head, and hence I have devised the form or construction of insulator shown and described as an improvement thereon.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A solid glass telegraph-insulator, having a head, *b*, grooved, and of form suitable for use with either a wrench or spanner, and having also a threaded pin, *a*, the face of which tapers from the base of the head to or toward the point, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I, the said JOHN GARITY, have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN GARITY.

Witnesses:

JOHN GLENN,
G. H. CHRISTY.

J. GARITY.
GLASS TELEGRAPH INSULATOR.

No. 110,645.

Patented Jan. 3, 1871

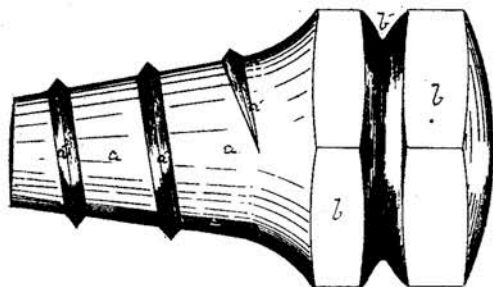


Fig. 1.

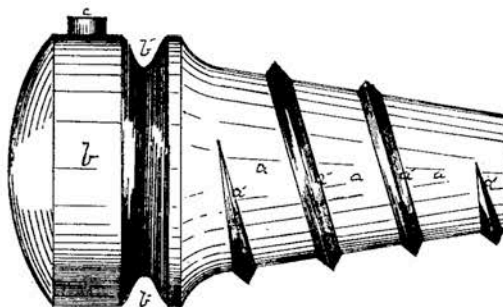


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

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Thomas Key

Inventor:

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by Bakewell, Lehnisty
his Attys.

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Springfield 2011 Show stoppers!



Elton Gish will be giving a new U Number to this one of a kind porcelain threadless.

In the collection of: Craig Richardson



A Rarely seen CD 1040 was also on display at the show!

In the collection of Dick Bowman

Photos compliments of <http://allinsulators.com>

