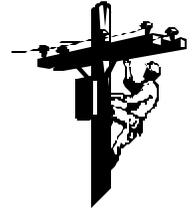




# Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>



**In this issue of *Drip Points*:**

- ◆ A Note from the Editor ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ From the President ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ Regional Reports... *Mike Green WVP, Larry Novak EVP*
- ◆ From the Historian ... *Rick Soller*
- ◆ From the Awards and Recognition Chair ... *Lou Hall*
- ◆ From the Nominations Chair... *Jacqueline Linscott Barnes*
- ◆ From the Membership Director ... *Donald Briel*
- ◆ From the Promotions Chair .... *Bob Merzoian*
- ◆ Financial Report ... *Jack Roach*
- ◆ From the Marketing Chair ... *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ Product Marketing Order Form ... *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ Membership Renewal Form ... *Donald Briel / Joe Beres*

**Available via e-mail**



**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**



Winter is here and it's time for insulator hunting here in the Desert Southwest. Being from one of the hot parts of Arizona does have some good things about it. Many folks believe that all of Arizona is all desert and all hot, all of the time, well, it isn't so. As I write this, the temperature is on it's way to 77 Degrees (25C for our international members.) and a humidity of

just 15%. There are no bugs, snakes, ticks, or other bad things to speak of. Weeds aren't much of a problem either in an area that gets 7 inches (17.8 cm) of rain a year. The sun is shining brightly and I'm ready to get out and start hiking the lines. There is 45 miles of newly abandoned line nearby and it's calling my name. Maybe next weekend .... The *Drip Points* comes first.

As Christmas and Hanukkah are close upon us, don't forget to check out the NIA promotional items that make great gifts. There are Polo shirts, Denim long and short sleeve shirts, Caps, Glass Mugs, Coffee Cups, T-Shirts, Car Decals, NIA Engraved Badges and much more. More information and an order form can be seen on pages 14 and 15 of the *Drip Points*.

Also please be sure to read about our new membership director. Joe Beres is stepping down after almost 13 years of service as the Membership Director. Donald Briel of Providence, UT will be taking over for Joe. Don has a contribution to the *Drip Points* in this edition as well as Lou Hall the new Awards and Recognition Chair. This is the first posting these gentlemen have made to the *Drip Points* since I have been publishing it. See what Don and Lou have to say.

I would like to extend my thanks to both of them for stepping up to help out with the NIA.

Take care and good hunting.

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720  
Information Director**









**FROM THE HISTORIAN**  
**A Halloween Horror Story**



It is Halloween as I write this story, a story about the most horrible day that a collector could live through, if they had the strength, and although this story happened to someone else, be warned that it could happen to you!

The torment began the night before the biggest show of the year. Angus planned to leave at 9 a.m., after rush hour, to get to the show location well before 5 p.m. for dealer set-up. He had already talked to a couple collectors about what they were bringing and salivated at the prospects. His posting on the Internet surely would entice other dealers to bring items in his specialty too. With a fat checking account from a month of overtime, he was ready for a great time.

The alarm didn't even have to go off to get Angus up early on that fateful day. He was out of the shower and sitting at the breakfast table way ahead of schedule when his wife, Beverly, popped a surprise on him. She had decided to go too. She figured while Angus was at the show, she could visit her sister who lived nearby.

Because she was never one to participate in his hobby, Angus was a bit anxious to have her along but decided it might be a good idea to share some time with her on the way to the show since

he was not going to see her much that weekend otherwise. If only she could quickly get packed and ready, it would not be a big deal. That was not how Angus' luck would run on this trip. By the time they left, it was already 9:40 and Angus still needed to stop at the bank.

"Why didn't you go while I was getting ready?" was Beverly's comment.

Angus just had to grunt and fume. He didn't want to make her feel rushed, then angry by doing that and kept believing she would be ready at any moment. After all, didn't she know how important getting to the show was?!

At the bank, she tried to help by suggesting he use the drive-by ATM rather than parking and going into the lobby where he would have to wait in line. Now Angus had to admit something to his wife he would rather not.

"I need more money than I can get from the ATM," he said.

The inevitable, "Why?" and subsequent argument about money followed. Angus ends up with cash, but much less than intended. At least he still has the checkbook, he thinks.

The drive to the show becomes long and painful. Construction delays force Angus further behind schedule. "So much for antiquing along the way," he thinks. Added pit stops make reaching the show when it opens even more unlikely.

Trying to make up some time, Angus gets stopped for speeding and it will be a couple hours into dealer set-up before he gets there. Throughout the trip he is still justifying to his wife why he spends so much on insulators, why they take up so much space, and why he devotes so much time on them. Unvoiced but definitely on his mind is what is going on at the show while he is not there.

When Angus finally walks into the show, he is met by two smiling collectors who wonder if he misunderstood when the show began, if he forgot to wind his watch, did his home exist in a different time zone, and, in general, express

**The torment began the night before the biggest show of the year. Angus planned to leave at 9 a.m., after rush hour, to get to the show location well before 5 p.m. for dealer set-up.**

amazement that he would be late for the biggest show of the year. The two collectors sympathetically shake their heads at Angus' misfortunes that day but only make it worse as they revel in telling what he missed so far at the show.

One of these collectors, Nagul, is a long-time rival of Angus with the same collecting interests. When Angus wasn't there at the start of dealer set-up, one dealer who brought a piece because it was on Angus' want list worried that he wasn't coming so found Nagul to sell it to him. A couple other dealers had set out pieces they brought because they saw Angus' Internet posting and Nagul was able to get these too, at a pretty good price as it turns out. It was hard for Angus not to drool over the pile sitting there on Nagul's table.





2006

AUSTIN, TEXAS

37<sup>th</sup> NIA Annual Show and Convention

July 7 – 9, 2006

- 120 sales tables – 28 Displays
- Raffles – Appraisals – Silent Auction - Seminars
- 11,000 sq ft show hall

### 2006 Show Itinerary

*Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Dealer Unloading & Exhibitor Set-up*

*Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>*

*“NIA Members Only Day”*

*NIA General Membership Meeting*

*Sunset “Bat Watching” Riverboat Cruise*

*Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>*

*General Admission (\$3, kids under 12 free)*

*Awards Dinner Banquet*

*Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>*

*General Admission*

Dear Collectors and Friends:

We are very pleased and honored to be your show hosts for the 37<sup>th</sup> National. This will be the first show ever in the Central Texas area. We are very pleased with the assistance the Lone Star Insulator Club members have offered. We are working diligently to ensure you have a great national. Response has been excellent in the first two months of sales. We have 20 sales tables, and only 6 exhibit spaces remaining. Table availability will be filled from a waiting list on a first come, first serve basis, once tables are sold out.

**We hope you will consider joining us at the 37<sup>th</sup> show!**

Respectfully, Your 2006 Show Co-Hosts,  
Bob, Carolyn, Jack & Jim

**Hotel information:** We will be holding this event at the Doubletree Hotel Austin. The hotel offers many amenities to make your convention stay a pleasant one. Easy access to major highways, many restaurants and attractions. You can reserve your rooms now!!

To make your hotel reservations, call the Doubletree @ (800) 347-0330 or online @ [www.doubletreeaustin.com](http://www.doubletreeaustin.com) with convention code “NIA” for the National Insulator Association blocked room rate.

For additional details please contact one of your show hosts, or go online to the following website location:  
<http://www.nia.org/shows/national>

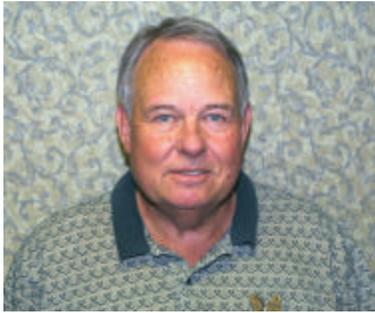


**Bob Berry / Carolyn Berry** – NIA # 1203 / 4336 - (512) 255-2006 - [pyrex553@aol.com](mailto:pyrex553@aol.com)  
**Jack Roach** – NIA # 4156 - (512) 847-7302 - [jackroach@email.msn.com](mailto:jackroach@email.msn.com)  
**Jim Bates** – NIA # 3287 - (512) 259-0376 - [batesjimjr@aol.com](mailto:batesjimjr@aol.com)









**From the Treasurer**

**Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Treasurer**

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
FIRST QUARTER 2006**

<b>Beginning Balance-General Fund</b>	<b>7/1/2005</b>	<b>\$ 12,413.39</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee</b>		<b>\$ 972.01</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account</b>		<b>\$ 2,296.75</b>

**Revenues**

Donations		
Membership Dues		<b>\$ 507.00</b>
Miscellaneous Income		<b>\$ 150.00</b>
Product Sales		<b>\$ 1,393.50</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,050.50</b>

**General Fund Expenses**

Advertising		<b>\$ 53.30</b>
Bank Charges, Taxes, Fees		
Marketing Products		<b>\$ 1,767.18</b>
Misc. Postage		<b>\$ 558.19</b>
Misc. Printing		<b>\$ 831.07</b>
Misc. Supplies		
Misc. Professional Services		
Crown Jewels Rebates		
Drip Points Printing		
Drip Points Postage		
Show Advertising Subsidy		<b>\$ 500.00</b>
Show Awards		
Stationery Supplies		
Telephone		
Special Projects		
Educational Disp Postage		<b>\$ 140.14</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,849.88</b>

<b>Closing Balance, General Fund</b>		<b>\$ 10,614.40</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Balance</b>		<b>\$ 972.01</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Balance</b>		<b>\$ 2,296.75</b>
<b>Total Balance on Hand</b>	<b>9/30/2005</b>	<b>\$ 13,883.16</b>

**2006 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 NIA President**  
131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281  
770-957-9928  
pony102@bellsouth.net

**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 First Past President**  
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tkatonak@comcast.net

**Steve Marks, NIA #4951 Second Past President**  
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stevemelsam@comcast.net

**Larry Novak, NIA #5889 Eastern Region VP**  
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**Ed Peters, NIA #6300 Central Region VP**  
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**Mike Green, NIA #3175 Western Region VP**  
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kwjacob@icsaero.com

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**Donald Briel, NIA #7218 Membership Director**  
P.O. Box 188, Providence, UT 84332  
435-753-5786  
Don.Briel@comcast.net

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Lou Hall, NIA #7185 Awards and Recognition**  
363 West Stuart Ave. Fresno, CA. 93704-1544  
559-435-1740  
louhall@pacbell.net

**Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 Ethics**  
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662-265-5134  
zedkay@bellsouth.net

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4086 Blackstone Avenue Gurnee, IL 60031  
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com574@clc.cc.il.us

**Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 By-Laws**  
515 Carriage Drive, 2D West Chicago, IL 60185  
630-231-4171  
bob@hemingray.com

**Jacqueline Linscott Barnes, NIA #1380 Nominations**  
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**Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336 Product Marketing**  
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512-255-2006  
pyrex553@aol.com

**Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education**  
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512-255-2006  
pyrex553@aol.com

**Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions**  
1080 N. Scenic Drive  
Porterville, CA 93257-1637  
559-781-6319  
bobmerzoian@mac.com

# NIA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

## \* Holiday Gift Ideas \* 2005

\*\*\*\*\*

**Not sure what gift to give your hobbyist?  
Maybe we can help !**

**Take a look at our list of ideas:**

- Embroidered Polo/Golf Shirts
- Embroidered Denim Long Sleeved Shirts
- Embroidered Denim Short Sleeved Shirts
- Screen-printed & Embroidered T-shirts
- Screen-printed & Embroidered Sweatshirts
  - Embroidered Baseball Style Caps
  - 13 oz. Glass Mugs or Coffee Mugs
    - Embroidered Patches
    - Foam Drink Koozies
  - Enameled Hat/Lapel Pins
  - Car Decals
- NIA Engraved Badges and Club Bars.

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See the last page of this Drip Points for latest order form!  
Please visit the NIA website: [WWW.NIA.ORG/products](http://WWW.NIA.ORG/products) for color photos and an order form.

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We have an assortment of “new” items since the Fall Drip Points. We now have Cardinal Red & Light Steel T-shirts and Sweatshirts. In addition we have in stock, zippered, hooded, Lt. Steel sweatshirts!

A variety of polo shirts for men and women are kept on hand. Please give me a call with your size /color preference.



Carolyn Berry  
Product Marketing Committee  
NIA#4336

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

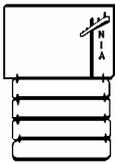


# WINTER 2005

www.nia.org/products



NIA LOGO  
Large Logo on back



**Men's Golf / Polo Shirts\*** embroidered logo; some with pockets

\*Please call or email me for **NEW** color/sizes/styles available: \$32 - \$41

Golf/Polo – putty / black with pocket (\$41)

**\*Ladies' shirts** – embroidered logo; **NEW** sizes/colors/styles!

Golf/Polo – white with navy/white collar/sleeve. (\$38)

**Denim Shirt** – (\*ladies order comparable men's size, see below)

Heavy-wt., pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue -- left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ \$32.00

\*S/Sleeve \_\_\_ \*L/Sleeve \_\_\_ 2X \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_ \$35.00

**T-Shirt** -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Ash gray - Screen-printed logo (front & back)

**SPECIAL PRICE!!** 2X \_\_\_ (\$12)

Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!

M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ 2X \_\_\_ (\$20) L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ 2X \_\_\_ (\$22 w/-pocket)

**NEW COLORS !!** Stonewashed Green / **Cardinal Red** / Lt. Steel; embroidered

M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ (\$20) 2X \_\_\_ (\$22)

**Sweatshirts** -- Heavy weight – Ash gray – screen-printed logo (front/back)

**NEW PRICE!!** S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ (\$10) L \_\_\_ (\$15.00) **Only a few left!!**

**NEW COLOR !!** Cardinal Red or Ash Gray -- Embroidered logo-

M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ (\$25) 2X \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_ (\$30)

**Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front zipper** - Embroidered logo - ash gray

L / XL (\$35) \_\_\_ 2X (\$40) \_\_\_

**Embroidered Cap** – Stone/ Navy or Khaki / Green, low-rise, embroidered logo ( \$16)

**Embroidered Denim Cap** – blue denim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00

13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo \$7.00

**Ceramic Mug** – 10 oz. - white ceramic coffee mug w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00

**Patch** -- embroidered logo / red embroidered edge \$4.00

**Koozie™** -- The original insulating **Koozie™** fits any standard beer / soda can !!

Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue \_\_\_ red \_\_\_ green \_\_\_ \$2.25

**NIA Hat/Lapel Pin** – enamel tack pin with NIA logo \$5.00

**NIA Decal** – logo- red border; for inside car window \$1.00

**NIA Name Badge** -- white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo epoxy pin back, beveled edges (**fill in form below**) \$12.00

**Badge Bar** – white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.00

Price Qty Total

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Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Postage \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Men's Size Chart:**  
S (32-34) M (36-38)  
L (40-42) XL (44-46)  
2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

**\* Ladies Size Chart:**  
S (28-30) M (32-34)  
L (36-38) XL (40-42)

**\*All sizes/colors of shirts are orderable\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*U.S. Postage: \$5.50** for the first item & **\$1.50** for each additional item ordered. **Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/ Bars are \$0.50 per item.** **\*\*for non-US postage, AK & HI and Koozies, please contact me for an exact postage**

Thanks for your support!

*Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable*

**Name Badge Engraving Information**

*(must be a current NIA member!)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Club Bar: \_\_\_\_\_ Use the back of this order form for add'l badge/bar orders

**2006 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM**

Submit: **(In U.S.funds) To:**

**(Payable to the NIA)**

**Donald R. Briel  
NIA Membership Director  
P.O. Box 188  
Providence, UT 84332  
E-MAIL: don.briel@comcast.net**

**Note New Dues Schedule!**

Regular Membership----- \$ 12.00  
Family Membership----- \$ 12.00  
Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00  
Club or Organization----- \$ 12.00

(Check appropriate Class)      Regular\_\_\_\_\_ Family\_\_\_\_\_ Junior\_\_\_\_\_ Club/Org.\_\_\_\_\_

(Check Years of Payment)      Single year\_\_\_\_\_ Multi-year\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**NIA # (If Renewal)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State/Province** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip/Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_ (+4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Country (If Non U.S.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory      **Yes**\_\_\_\_\_      **No**\_\_\_\_\_

Please include my Telephone Number      **Yes**\_\_\_\_\_      **No**\_\_\_\_\_

Please include my E-Mail Address      **Yes**\_\_\_\_\_      **No**\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format.      **Paper**\_\_\_\_\_      **Electronic**\_\_\_\_\_

**(Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)**

**Additional Family Members**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nia# (If Renewal)** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER



Volume 13, Number 8

November 18, 2005

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## Racine, Wisconsin Swap Meet

Randy Wesner's 5th annual swap meet on Sept. 10, 2005 was a wonderful, fast-moving time. The swap started at 11:00 a.m., lunch was at noon, and a charity auction was held in mid-afternoon. Before you knew it, it was over.

The auction raised \$315 for the Katrina Hurricane victims. The money was donated through Bob Stahr's company which matched the contribution so \$730 went to the victims as a result. Items sold, donors, purchasers, and hammer price are listed below. No actual hammer was used in the auction.

Russ Frank had numerous tables set up at the show filled with a variety of insulators and high voltage signs. There was a nice set of commemoratives from the Springfield, OH show as well as a full set of the tall CD 102 WGS pony insulators.

It was good to see Colin and Karen Yennie for the second year in a row. They came all the way from Oronoco, Minnesota the night before the swap meet and stayed at a local hotel. Colin brought and sold to Rick Soller about 360 aqua insulators that will end up in Tommy Bolack's pile in New Mexico. He also had several CD 226's embossed No. 115 in aqua that he was selling for a reasonable price. Karen went shopping for a while after the start of the show so we suspect that she spent whatever Colin made at the show. Racine has some great outlet malls nearby so we can't blame her.

Mark Grimek, another distant attendee, had some rare insulators on his table. It was unfortunate that most of them had damage. A CD 126.4 with a lot of milky snot was my favorite piece on his table but his asking price around \$600 was too much for me given the big crack in the skirt. I did end up getting from him a CD 293 light purple Locke with a chip off the ear. The \$100 he wanted for the piece seemed fair given the damage and that the book price was \$150-175 but the fact that he was willing to trade for something on my table sealed the deal. Mark drove all the way from Onalaska, Wisconsin (near the Minnesota border at LaCrosse, WI) in the morning, arriving about 11 a.m.

Ray Heim, Linda and Lindsey Kartye had an array of high quality, colorful pieces as usual. Lindsey was an active participant in the auction but did not end up getting anything in it.

Arlen Rienstra came with Tina and had a variety of interesting items on their table. Since Arlen does electrical work, he had a number of old house wiring insulators including receptacles and wall tubes. He also had a number of CD 302 "Muncie" type insulators that he had just picked up in a collection.

Tim Haraf's sales table seems to be getting more and more insulators on it every time we see it. I think he must be really searching the lines and having luck finding insulators. He also had some of his custom, insulator T-shirts for sale there. This is the

first time I've seen these. One of them garnered some spirited bidding in the auction, selling for more than the normal \$15 the shirts go for. The examples brought to the swap meet by Tim had five blue insulators on the front and four larger insulators on the back in various colors. These can be customized and a flyer with details is included in this newsletter.

Rick Soller recently bought a large collection of Holly City miniatures and was selling them individually. About half of them ended up being sold by the end of the swap meet. He also had about four tables of other glass and porcelain ranging from \$5 for a box of 60 porcelain pieces to pieces in the \$100-200 range. A large tick-shaped brown porcelain multipart sat on his table but Rick was happy to see that sell to Richard Case. Just what doesn't Richard collect?

Bob Stahr made it to the swap meet this year. Bob was glad the swap meet was only on Saturday since he was heading to a bottle show on Sunday.

### **How Don Flashed the "S.O.S."**

By Mabel M. Davis

Electrical Experimenter

July 1919, p. 236, 275.

Donald Johnson's mother says she feels sure the careless nursemaid they had when "Don" was a baby must have mixed an electro-lytic solution with the milk he was fed. She cannot believe that otherwise any boy could be so permeated with electricity. He could not have caught it from his family as he was an only child, and his mother could not tell a fuse-plug from a dry battery, and his father's abilities in electrical matters were all confined to paying the electric light bill on time each month.

It was different with Don's chum Will Merton. He was the youngest of a large family, all of whom were wound up and went by electricity, and that was their

sole motive power.

The story of all the weird and wonderful inventions and imitations of inventions that were produced by these two boys in Don's "Lab" would fill a book. One worth while and early accomplishment was the mastery by both boys of the International Morse code and they often flashed or tapt out signals to each other from various points in the neighborhood.

One evening near dusk "Don" was hurrying home from favorite resort, the dumping grounds of the Ajax Electrical Company's factory. He heard a faint mewling that seemed to come from overhead and looking up he finally located a cat at the very top of a nearby electric light pole. The nine-lived feline was crying pitifully and Don's sympathies were touched. Being a senior in high school, Donald was rather ashamed of showing any fondness for cats. But he glanced this way and that and not a soul was in sight. So he made a jump and a scramble, hoping to shinny up to the first spikes on the pole. He did not make it and realized for the first time how heavily he was loaded. In the pockets of his mackinaw, he only had a piece of zinc rod, a large magnet for a telephone magneto, some brass rod, copper tubing, a pocketful of assorted screws, bolts, nuts, washers, another pocketful of lengths of iron core wire, and nearly a pound of miscellaneous binding posts. So he cast his treasures from him—coat and all and went to the rescue.

After a hard scramble he gained the spikes and climbed quickly up. Standing on the lowest cross-arm he tried to persuade "Pussy" to come down within reach, but she was suspicious of the proffered help and remained fast at her post. He gained the next arm and his persuasiveness brought her down a little way. He reached for her but she backed out to the end of the arm, over his head. Donald followed along to the end of his cross-arm when horrors, his foot slipt

and he started to fall. Donald never could tell just how it all happened, but he suddenly found himself with his two feet on the cross-arm below and the peg of the arm above hooked thru the belt of Norfolk coat. In falling his foot had struck the glass, broken it, released the wire, and, as his body slid by the peg it had hooked him. Luckily, his belt had held until his feet found the arm below and relieved the strain a little. He was in a very awkward and uncomfortable position. He tried cautiously to squirm about and get the belt off the hook, tho he was very much afraid that if he succeeded he might not be able to hold on to the cross-arm without the support of the stout peg under his belt.

Fortunately his belt was securely buckled in front, not buttoned. He twisted and tried to turn, finally fingering his belt to see if he could unbuckle it in case he got up his courage to try it. But that question was not to be put up to him to decide as the buckle had slipped around to the back and with all his squirmings he could not get it within reach of his fingers.

He rested with one arm over the cross-arm, his feet very insecurely placed on the cross-arm below, and the pole too far away to reach. He tried a few yells for help but they cracked in delivery, so he gave that up.

Another factory recently built on a side street had caused the electric lighting company to put up a transformer for that neighborhood. "Don" and "Will" had watched and assisted at the installation of that transformer. The cat had chosen to ascend the very pole that held the transformer. As it began to get dark, "Don" noticed the humming of the transformer increasing. He could see Will Merton's house away down the street. Their lights appeared and "Don" could imagine the family all gathered about the supper-table.

The transformer was humming louder now. An idea suddenly came to

Donald. After a terrific squirm he succeeded in getting the fingers of his free hand on the chain of his wire-cutters which, out of school hours, he always carried attached to his person. With the wire-cutters clasped firmly in his right hand he reached for the secondary lead of the transformer which hung in a loop over his head. He knew that it was safe enough to tackle that wire without gloves, as it carried only 110 volts. It was hard work and took a long time, but the trusty wire-cutters did the trick. There was a blinding flash and the loop was cut. Donald could see that the Merton's house and others nearby were dark. He grasped one wire in his right hand, then by touching this to the other, which hung loose, he caused a short flash of light in all the houses, then followed this by two long flashes, which was his chum's private wireless call. He repeated this carefully, then flashed out:

— · — · — — — — — — · · — — — — —  
— — — — — · — — — — — · "Come pole."

In five minutes Will Merton was dancing excitedly about on the sidewalk below "Don," yelling to his brothers to ring the extension ladder. Other neighbors were gathering and demanding of "Don" why he was up there. "Don" glanced about and saw no sign of the cat he had come to rescue. When the wire flashed the cat had acquired a little common sense and gone down the way it came up. So that embarrassing element of the situation was, thank Heaven, eliminated. At the next call, "Donald Johnson, what are you doing up there?" Don replied, "Fixing the transformer. Bring up my supper, will you?"

Donald's father took his place at the bottom of the ladder, steadying it while Will Merton's older brother climbed up, unhooked "Don," and helped him get a place on the ladder. At the bottom he was besieged with questions but evaded them all. Will picked up Don's loaded coat and the hungry, shivering "S.O.S." man was glad to

slip into it. All he said was: “let’s get out of this before the company’s trouble man gets here to splice that wire.”

When he got home he confest rather shamefacedly to his father and mother and Will Merton, that he went up the pole to rescue “A cat!”

“But I’ve learned my lesson. No more ‘cat rescue’ work for me. Of all the ungrateful creatures, that beast is the limit.”

Donald’s parents had to admit that this was an occasion where a practical knowledge of electricity was of some use. Several of the neighbors grumbled at being in the dark for an hour, but as soon as the lights flashed on again they forgave Donald for the inconvenience.

### **Commentary on “How Don Flashed the SOS” or “Why Don Should Have Died”**

As I first read this story, I enjoyed the creativity of how Don flashed the SOS but felt sure the story never could have happened in real life.

First, I have yet to meet a cat that climbed up a utility pole. Perhaps if one was chased by a dog, it might, but I believe the tendency of the feline would be to turn, hiss, and get big. Cats also would be unlikely to let themselves get into such a position in the first place.

On the second concern I had about the story, I checked my facts with club member and former Commonwealth Edison lineman Jim Crandall. Jim chuckled at the summary of the story I gave him and made an interesting historical point that a house drop might not pull too much electricity in 1919 since few homes had refrigerators at the time. Most homes used electricity only for lighting back then.

However, Jim indicated that Don would certainly need insulator gloves when

cutting the 110 volt line. In addition, each time Don touched the two wires to “tap out” his Morse code, it would create a dangerous arc. No wonder the cat was scared.

The Electrical Experimenter is no longer published. Only about seven years of it were published. Perhaps one of its readers enjoyed this story and tried to duplicate the feat, resulting in some tragedy that got the magazine sued and shut down.

Finding copies of this periodical is a difficult search. I became aware of it when an issue was sold on eBay that contained an ad for Electrose insulators. I didn’t pursue the lot too strongly because I figured I could get a photocopy from some library. Since then I’ve found that few libraries carry it. The Ohio State University library was one of them and I managed to search through every page of the three volumes they owned without finding an Electrose ad. I’ll need to search elsewhere for the other volumes.

I almost did not get to do even this research since the magazine had to be brought from storage to the main library. My 9 a.m. request was not in time for the 10 a.m. delivery so I thought I would have to wait until 3 p.m. to see the volumes. This was on the Friday of the Springfield, Ohio show and I knew that if I waited until 3 p.m. and took a couple hours to look through the volumes, it would be late before I got to the show. I resigned myself to not getting to do this research that day and tool solace in the book sale going on in the library that day. After buying two boxes of books for \$5 and heading to my truck with them, a woman at the checkout desk told me that my volumes from storage were there. Luckily my request made the 10 a.m. delivery window. In the future, there will be some more morsels of fun from this journal.

## Racine, Wisconsin Auction results

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Colin Yennie	CD 226 No. 115, aqua, VNM-\$20 Reserve, Book value \$40-50	Russ Frank	25.00
Randy Wesner	CD 145 [Star], green	Carol	8.00
Rick Soller	2 boxes of porcelain (75+ pieces) Elaine apparently mistakenly left these behind in the back of Randy's garage	Elaine Corriera	4.00
Mark Corriera	CD 154 McLaughlin, blue gray \$15-20 book value	Steve McCollum	20.00
Rick Soller	Box of 24 \$1-5 insulators	Mark Grimek	22.00
Bob Stahr	CD 164 McLaughlin, green \$15 reserve, \$25-35 book value	Colin Yennie	26.00
Arlen Rienstra	CD 162 Whittall-Tatum, pink	Mark Grimek	9.50
Arlen Rienstra	CD 302 Muncie, aqua	Mark Grimek	15.00
Tim Haraf	Tee shirt with insulator pictures \$8 reserve, \$15 retail value	Ruth Wesner	21.00
Ray Heim	Green Hemingray-42	Arlen Rienstra	4.00
Tim Haraf	Hemingray-43	Jay Case	5.00
Rick Soller	6 tops/bottoms to CD 190/191	Jay Case	7.00
Rick Soller	Box of 20 insulators, \$1-10	Mark Grimek	40.00
Rick Soller	Box of 11 insulators, \$5	Colin Yennie	27.00
Russ Frank	Miley Liberty Bell Finely crafted in Marion, OH with A picture of Alexander Graham Bell on one side of the stand and a picture of George Washington molded on the other. An insulator was used as the bell. Wood base.	Tina Rienstra	15.00
Randy Wesner	Necklace, hand crafted by Randy \$20 retail value	Tina Rienstra	7.00
Mark Grimek	Ukrainian porcelain, neck chip	Jay	5.00
Ray Heim	CD 106 Hemingray-9, jade	Randy Wesner	7.00
Mark Grimek	CD 102 purple diamond	Russ Frank	20.00
Tim Haraf	7 Crown Jewel magazines	Elaine Corriera	7.00
Russ Frank	White porcelain radio strains	Jay	4.00
Russ Frank	3 High Voltage signs	Arlen	7.00
Mark & Elaine	CD 145 yellow green with Wood base. Hand made by Mark	Tim Haraf	30.00