



**GREATER CHICAGO
INSULATOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**
Professor Rick Soller, Editor



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Crown Point, Indiana show report

As is typical, several people contacted show hosts Arlen and Tina Rienstra to ask them what the weather would be like for the Saturday, January 29, 2022 show in Crown Point, Indiana. Of course, it would be cold at the show but the amount of snow on the roads was not something easy to answer. The day before, there was no snow in Gurnee, heavy snow 20 miles south around O'Hare airport, and clear roads the rest of the way for my trip to the show. I'm sure there was different weather conditions coming from Iowa, southern Indiana, and from the west (Ohio and Michigan).

Set-up went smoothly on Friday. Marge Frank and Tina Rienstra brought in plates, napkins, forks, spoons, and beverages and organized the area for lunch. Russ Frank, Arlen Rienstra, Josh Dondorf, and Rick Soller set up tables and chairs for dealers plus tables for the auction. Once the tables were set up, unloading of boxes for the auction and more boxes for sales tables proceeded. After about 3 hours of work, the preparation was done, and the crew could relax until the next morning.

The door to the facility was open by 7 a.m. and dealers quickly moved in and set up. Dealers included Arlen Rienstra (1 table), Bob Stahr (2 tables), Ephraim Podgorski (1 table), Cole King (1 table), Dave & Josephine Ramp (1 table), Rick Soller (1 table), Josh Dondorf (4 tables), Dave Shaw (2 tables), Mike Davis (1 table) Dale Glendenning (2 tables), Kim Borgmann (1 table), Dick Schroeder (2 table), Tom Nugent (2 tables), Russ Frank (2 tables), Gene Hawkins (1 table), Mike McLaughlin (1 table) and Jason Townsend (1 table). There was a total of 25 dealer tables.

Josh Dondorf and Mike Davis reported that they sold more bottles and jars than insulators. In fact, Josh reported he had some of the best sales he's ever had at a show. His three tables of bottles, insulators, and general antiques (e.g., a big Pepsi sign) gave buyers plenty to consider. Dave Shaw offered numerous insulators with junk and amber stripes. Dale Glendenning's table was peppered with lightning rod insulators. Russ Frank's table was the place to be for those interested in Surge insulators with side pins, commemoratives, miniatures, or brackets. Looking at Bob Stahr's table, one might think he was selling his Hemingray collection. Dick Schroeder offered a variety of small antiques, a pair of bookends using Hemingray-42s, and several Mickey Mouse insulators. Carnival-coated bottles were offered for sale by Arlen Rienstra, plus numerous colored signals. Ephraim Podgorski had insulators displayed in several ways on his table. A beautiful cobalt blue Ohio Brass U-320 quickly sold off his table.

Besides dealers listed above, lots of other collectors came through the door. Those attending included Richard Case, Justin Perault, Jennifer Alley-Fisher & Bob, Justin Perault, Roger Lucas, Mike Hauser, Dan Herron, Rich Feehan, Anthony Letnich, Matthew Payne, Doug Tomamichel, Allan Stocky, Robert Matthias, David Arcand, Tom O'Reilly, Wyatt Lambersie, Karen Douthett, Maria Federkiel, Gregg Delia, Steve McCollum, Jay Brown, and Will.

Lunch consisted of plenty of warm food to combat the frigid weather. Main courses consisted of mostaccioli, chili, and sloppy joes. Side dishes included potato chips and macaroni salad. For dessert, brownies and cookies were available. Soda pop and water helped wash everything down. No one went hungry.

The auction went well. The 121 lots provided by 9 collectors sold for \$1937, generating \$194 in commissions plus Dick Schroeder donated \$6 to bring the total up to \$200 that went to pay expenses for the show with the rest going into the club treasurer. Results can be found below.

#	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Rick Soller	Beehives	\$3	Cole King
2	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$5	Cole King
3	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$9	David Arcand
4	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$1	Ephraim Podgorski
5	Rick Soller	Box of glass	\$14	Rich Feehan
6	Rick Soller	Power glass	\$10	Rich Feehan
7	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$6	Ephraim Podgorski
8	Rick Soller	2 Lapp multiparts	\$1	Dick Schroeder
9	Rick Soller	Porcelain beehives	\$5	Cole King
10	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$7	Cole King
11	Rick Soller	Green glass suspension	\$4	Mike Hauser
12	Rick Soller	40 glass ponies	\$20	Dave Shaw
13	Rick Soller	Foreign porcelain (5)	\$7	Gregg Delia
14	Rick Soller	14 beehives	\$32	Matthew Payne
15	Rick Soller	Box of pins & brackets	\$50	Cole King
16	Rick Soller	Box of 12 glass insulators	\$30	Cole King
17	Rick Soller	2 Mexican Fence post insulator, amber Mickey Mouse commemorative	\$24	Doug Tomamichel
18	Rick Soller	Austin Wood commemorative	\$24	Gregg Delia
19	Rick Soller	Box of porcelain	\$10	Anthony Letnich
20	Rick Soller	3 bottles, 2=Edison oils	\$1	Cole King
21	Rick Soller	Porcelain guy and radio strains	\$21	Cole King
22	Rick Soller	3 ponies	\$16	Cole King
23	Rick Soller	14 porcelain insulators	\$11	Ephraim Podgorski
24	Rick Soller	6 glass CD 120s	\$15	Cole King
25	Rick Soller	2 U-188 porcelain dry spots, hi-top, spool	\$2	Mike Hauser
26	Rick Soller	5 glass insulators	\$6	Mike Hauser
27	Rick Soller	3 pin crossarm with 3 CD 101s	\$50	Cole King
28	Rick Soller	6 ponies	\$2	Mike Hauser
29	Rick Soller	7 cables	\$14	Rich Feehan
30	Rick Soller	Porcelain	\$26	Allan Stocky
31	Rick Soller	11 Beehives	\$12	Matthew Payne
32	Rick Soller	Bullet, hockey puck, signal	\$50	Doug Tomamichel
33	Rick Soller	19 glass insulators	\$37	Mike Hauser
34	Rick Soller	2 multiparts, blue JD w/chip, NN	\$6	Gregg Delia
35	Dick Schroeder	LRI, ball, vane	\$50	Cole King
36	Dick Schroeder	Glass purple stand	\$15	Matthew Payne
37	Dick Schroeder	13 LRI insulators, spool	\$10	Rick Soller
38	Dick Schroeder	Bucket truck toy	\$9	Gregg Delia
39	Dick Schroeder	Purple 102s	\$35	Matthew Payne
40	Mike Davis	Glass	\$42	Cole King
41	Gregg Delia	Kerosene jar	\$16	Cole King

		At this point, someone tried to pay the recorder and numbers got skipped		
50	Gregg Delia	Train track, bridge, rail car	\$2	Rick Soller
51	Gregg Delia	Arrestor and bracket	\$1	Justin Perault
52	Gregg Delia	Transformer plates	\$7	Rick Soller
53	Gregg Delia	5 gauges	\$5	Arlen Rienstra
54	Gregg Delia	Brackets	\$5	Richard Case
55	Gregg Delia	Brackets	\$8	David Arcand
56	Gregg Delia	Clamp top insulator, plastic w/pin	\$4	Rick Soller
57	Gregg Delia	Streetlight hood	\$1	Cole King
58	Gregg Delia	3 fuse cutouts	\$1	Roger Lucas
59	Gregg Delia	2 guy strains with wire and connectors	\$1	Richard Case
60	Gregg Delia	Suspension	\$1	Cole King
61	Gregg Delia	Spool bracket	\$12	Anthony Letnich
62	Gregg Delia	Spool brackets 2@\$11 each	\$22	Josh Dondorf
63	Gregg Delia	Spool bracket	\$11	Anthony Letnich
64	Gregg Delia	Five spool brackets	\$15	Richard Case
65	Gregg Delia	Oil switch thing looks like transformer	\$15	Justin Perault
66	Gregg Delia	Telephone sign	\$16	Karen Douthett
67	Gregg Delia	Display case	\$22	Cole King
68	Gregg Delia	6 blue 1981 OB suspensions	\$21	Roger Lucas
69	Gregg Delia	6 glass suspensions, light aqua	\$42	Mike Hauser
70	Gregg Delia	6 blue Lapp suspensions	\$15	Rick Soller
71	Gregg Delia	Platform and brace	\$1	Rick Soller
72	Gregg Delia	Line post	\$1	Roger Lucas
73	Gregg Delia	Crossarm, 3 pin, metal, 2-piece	\$85	Rick Soller
74	Gregg Delia	RY signal Co. doors	\$1	Richard Case
75	Gregg Delia	New fuse cutout	\$1	Richard Case
76	Gregg Delia	3 spools	\$3	Mike McLaughlin
77	Gregg Delia	Misc. Literature, hat	\$18	Rick Soller
78	Richard Case	Phone	\$4	Ephraim Podgorski
79	Richard Case	Porcelain lot	\$4	Ephraim Podgorski
80	Richard Case	Calendar	\$1	Cole King
81	Richard Case	Pin Ring	\$37	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
82	Richard Case	Glass Lot	\$4	Matthew Payne
83	Richard Case	Pole + Muncie pin (\$100 reserve)	n.s.	Sold later in show
84	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$1	Mike McLaughlin
85	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$5	David Arcand
86	Josh Dondorf	Bucket of bottles	\$1	Cole King
87	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles	\$6	Cole King
88	Josh Dondorf	Misc. box	\$20	Robert Mathias
89	Josh Dondorf	Box of small bottles	\$4	David Arcand
90	Josh Dondorf	Beehive, crackled	\$3	Will
91	Josh Dondorf	Hemingray #9	\$26	Kim Borgmann
92	Josh Dondorf	P.R.R.	\$5	David Arcand
93	Josh Dondorf	Box of bottles, box of insulators	\$1	Gregg Delia
94	Mike McLaughlin	10 LRIs	\$14	Steve McCollum
95	Mike McLaughlin	6 exchanges, radio entry porcelain	\$2	Richard Case
96	Mike McLaughlin	Hemingray dump stuff	\$30	Josh Dondorf
97	Mike McLaughlin	Strains, mine insulator	\$5	Cole King
98	Mike McLaughlin	Purple 121	\$21	Will
99	Mike McLaughlin	Box of Brookfields	\$21	Mike Hauser
100	Mike McLaughlin	Nail knobs	\$2	Richard Case
101	Mike McLaughlin	Pins	\$4	David Arcand

102	Mike McLaughlin	Bracket, 2 Pittsburgs	\$9	Gregg Delia
103	Mike McLaughlin	Porcelain insulators	\$35	Maria Federkiel
104	Mike McLaughlin	Box of porcelain	\$5	Cole King
105	Mike McLaughlin	Gingerbread French glass insulator	\$45	Karen Douthett
106	Mike McLaughlin	Autovalve blue Westinghouse	\$33	Greg Delia
107	Mark Gilmore	Box of 10 glass insulators	\$7	Mike Hauser
108	Dale Glendenning	Kegs and ponies	\$2	David Arcand
109	Dale Glendenning	Rack of LRIs	\$31	Gene Hawkins
110	Dale Glendenning	Bucket of LRIs	\$34	Rick Soller
111	Dale Glendenning	LRIs, purple	\$55	Gene Hawkins
112	Dale Glendenning	Box of porcelain	\$10	Ephraim Podgorski
113	Dale Glendenning	12 Signals	\$12	Cole King
114	Dale Glendenning	Box of misc.	\$19	Cole King
115	Dale Glendenning	Box of LRIs	\$26	Josh Dondorf
116	Dale Glendenning	Roosevelt's trophy and display ribbons	\$42	Rick Soller
117	Dale Glendenning	Beehives	\$37	Matthew Payne
118	Dale Glendenning	Box of misc. glass	\$25	Cole King
119	Dale Glendenning	20 kegs and ponies	\$16	Dave Shaw
120	Dale Glendenning	Box of glass, power, beehives	\$10	Dave Ramp
121	Dale Glendenning	Box of 9 amber CD 272s	\$26	Rick Soller
122	Dale Glendenning	Blue Bells, ponies, signals	\$42	Mike Hauser
123	Dale Glendenning	Trolley arm	\$17	Rick Soller
124	Dale Glendenning	B Transposition	\$12	Rich Feehan
125	Dale Glendenning	Box of misc.	\$21	Cole King
126	Dale Glendenning	Knobs and tubes	\$40	Anthony Letnich
127	Dale Glendenning	Crate of stuff	\$26	Gregg Delia
128	Dale Glendenning	Crate of stuff	\$12	Anthony Letnich
129	Dale Glendenning	2 crates	\$15	Gregg Delia
		Total	\$1937	

Below is a table comparing some past area show and swap meet auctions. The most recent auction set a record for number of bidders and value of the lots sold, although slightly fewer lots and sellers than in the past. It seems the size of the auctions has hit a plateau in terms of size and how long the auction takes (about 90 minutes).

Show	Location	Date	Lots	Sold	Sellers	Bidders
"Beat the Winter Blahs"	Crown Point, IN	2010, Jan. 25	106	\$1198	11	31
"Beat the Winter Blahs"	Crown Point, IN	2019, Jan. 26	136	\$1128	10	
Tama, Iowa swap meet	Tama, Iowa	2019 June 1	123	\$1507	8	26
GCIC swap at Nugent's	Ottawa, IL	2019 Sept.	82	\$683	8	28
Tama, Iowa swap meet	Tama, Iowa	2021, June 5	67	\$1164	8	22
GCIC swap at Nugent's	Ottawa, IL	2021, Sept. 18	123	\$1338	13	25
"Beat the Winter Blahs"	Crown Point, IN	2022, Jan. 29	121	\$1937	9	38



Two tables of auction lots from Rick Soller.

As I reflect on over 50 years of collecting and 35 years of attending shows, I make several observations that I expect others will come to realize at some point.

Collectors grow up. In 2019, some collectors may remember what Bob Fisher did to his wife, Jennifer Alley-Fisher. She carried that burden for around 9 months until the two of them met John Fisher in August. Now John can be seen with them at insulator shows running from his dad. In a few years, John will be sitting behind a sales table, looking bored, while his parents scour the show hall looking for purchases. In 20 years, he'll probably be running the club auction.

New collectors become dealers. It wasn't long ago that Cole King and Ephraim Podgorski came to their first show. They both had sales tables at the show this year. I bought a nice U-320 cobalt blue Ohio Brass from Ephraim. It didn't take long for them to accumulate enough that even a long-time collector could buy something interesting from them.

Collectors pay it forward. At the first auction Ephraim attended, he bought a bunch of crackled insulators and multipart for an outdoor display. A few months later, when I was in his neighborhood, I dropped off a bunch of free multipart and a couple crackled pieces for him. I think Cole also benefited from collectors giving him insulators at his first show. It was nice to see Ephraim with some friends at his table and for Cole to buy some insulators in the auction for a very young collector.

Collecting slows down. Riley Armstrong (who didn't make the show this year), Richard Case, and others often buy a lot in the auction and others wonder where they put it all. It seemed the younger collectors were the ones buying most of the lots in the auction and spending the most money at sales tables this year.

The usual stuff still occurs. Jason Townsend made a parking lot in the freezing cold for some of the stuff brought by Gregg Delia. That is always fun to do. Rick Soller took photographs of a couple California insulators for the amusement of collectors of those regional gems. Arlen Rienstra and Rick, during the show, dreamed up some tomfoolery about purple Whitall-Tatum insulators turning ice blue from the cold, took pictures of three insulators to prove this and posted them on Facebook. The show ended too soon. Goodbyes were shared with friends with wishes to see them at the next show.



In the far left picture, Mike McLaughlin (on the left) is conferring with Dick Schroeder.

In the center picture, Dave Shaw proudly staffs his sales table.

30-Year Anniversary of the GCIC

In October of 1992, the Greater Chicago Insulator Club was established. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the club, we're looking for ideas on how to commemorate the event.

At the May 6-7, 2022 Columbia City, Indiana show, one such event has already been discussed. In celebration of the long run of the show, the 30th anniversary of the club, and the Ft. Wayne Electrical Company that operated nearby, we're asking everyone to bring any Ft. Wayne Electrical item you might have. We already know we will have every known CD with the company name on it but would like to see lots of embossing variations and colors. Paperwork from the company is also expected as well as some other items. I hope to see a fuse cutout "suicide box" with the company name on it as well as "Wood System" items. Maybe someone has a wattmeter or ammeter to bring?

Upcoming Shows

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Platte City, Missouri

The Northwest Missouri Insulator & Bottle Show will take place at the Platte County Fairgrounds, 15730 Fairgrounds Rd., Platte City, MO, 64079, on March 19, 2022 (Saturday), from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. 95+ tables of insulators, bottles, jars, telephones, signs, lightning rod balls and other miscellaneous collectibles. Email the host for a dealer contract and/or information. Dealer set up on Friday afternoon. For information: Darryl Wagner, (816) 719-0801 or nwmoshow@dwagnerkc.com.

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Wheaton, Illinois

The Dupage Collectors Expo will be held Saturday, April 2nd, at the Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. Hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 AM. Items for sale & trade include Insulators, Lightning Rod items & Weathervanes, Telephone & Telegraph items, Bottles, Jars, etc. Info: BOB STAHR: bob@hemingray.com (630) 793-5345 and RICK SOLLER: com574@clcillinois.edu (847) 782-8602

Friday & Saturday, May 6-7, 2022

Columbia City, Indiana

The 2022 Columbia City, Indiana Collectibles Show is May 6 & 7 at the Whitley County 4H Center, 581 Squawbuck Rd, Columbia City, IN. This is one of the least expensive shows to attend or be a dealer. Show info, contact Gene Hawkins gene.hawkins@mchsi.com or Mike McLaughlin 574-377-5490 for other show info or for dealer tables. Friday dealer setup noon-2 PM Open to public at 2 PM Friday 5 PM Pizza. Friday 5:30 PM Show & Tell, where folks bring really cool stuff with special stories. Always interesting stuff comes off collector's shelves for discussion, things you won't see unless you visit them as it often isn't for sale, just special! PLEASE Bring something with a story to share with us! Saturday doors open for dealer set up at 6 AM, public at 7 AM. Saturday at 10 AM will be another auction, so clean out the closet & bring your clutter! Dealers can pack up whenever they need to do so.