



GREATER CHICAGO INSULATOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Columbia City Show Report

The Columbia City, IN Collectibles show, held on May 6-7, 2022 and hosted by Mike McLaughlin and Gene Hawkins, was a huge success in many ways. Despite a small walk-through crowd and 23 dealer tables, there were some rare insulators that changed hands, good sales, an enjoyable auction, an incredible show-and-tell session, some new, young collectors, and prices that were 50% to 75% or more less than recent online auctions.

With the war between Russia and Ukraine raging, gas prices have risen dramatically. I've lived through several spikes in gas prices as well as shortages and I know collectors will bemoan the expense of traveling to a show and forgo the activity as a result. To provide some context for future collectors reading this newsletter, gas prices six months ago were around \$3.39 per gallon in Gurnee, Illinois (north of Chicago). Two days before I left for Columbia City, I paid \$4.569 per gallon. As I traveled, I made mental notes of gas prices across Indiana since I expected prices to be lower there given that the gas tax in the state was lower. In the northwest part of the state, I noted prices were \$4.39 per gallon and dropped as I drove east. After the show, I made a side trip to Ohio to pick up some insulators I won in an auction in Urbana, Ohio and was delighted to buy gas in Kenton, Ohio for \$3.99 a gallon. As I was filling my truck up, I looked down the street to the opposite side and saw a station offering it for \$3.89 a gallon. In any case, I estimate the rising gas prices cost me about an extra \$30 to attend the show. I feel the bargains and fun I got at the show were well worth the extra expense.

Dealers at the show and the number of tables each one had listed in parentheses included Dave Shaw (2 tables), Arlen & Tina Rienstra (2), Russ & Marge Frank (3), Dave Ramp (3), Rick Soller (1), Ken Richardson (1), Andy Wadysz (1), Les Christensen (1), Jim Johnson (1), Mike McLaughlin (3), Gene Hawkins (2), Justin Stroudt (1), Kim Borgman (1), and Mark Gilmore (1). A total of 23 tables were set up for dealers. About 7 more tables were filled with lots for the Saturday mid-morning auction.

Perhaps the best part of the show was the show-and-tell session Friday evening. Since the club is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, a special theme was chosen for the session. Honoring area companies that were involved in the electrical business, collectors were asked to bring anything related to Ft. Wayne Electrical Co. The last newsletter provided history of the company, so the stage was set to see actual insulators and go-withs.

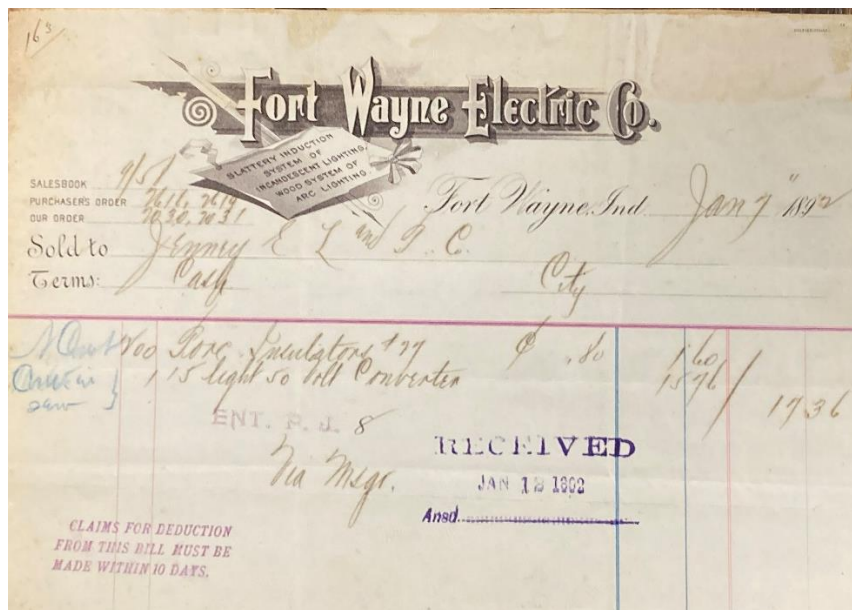
Only one insulator style carries the Ft. Wayne Electrical Co. name, and it is a CD 162. There are three embossing variations of the insulator and they come in a limited number of colors: Aqua, light aqua, blue aqua, and light green. The latest price guide values them at \$75-100 but they are hard to come by, especially the light green one. When they do show up, getting one in mint condition is a challenge. Multiple examples of the insulators were brought to the show and at least three of the four colors were represented, including a green one and an aqua one with a milk streamer.

Other Ft. Wayne items were brought by Mike McLaughlin. These included a postcard of the factory, a history of the works, a letterhead from the company, and a paperweight in the shape of one of the motors made by the company. Some of these items are shown below.

An 1848 Batchelder's insulator was shown during the Friday session. It is a metal shell with glass poured into the shell and a metal rod embedded into the glass. The rod has screw threads to secure it to a pole. On top, there are two protrusions (ears?) that have a hole in them to keep the conductor between the ears. A picture of the piece is shown below.



(Left) Ft. Wayne Electric Corp'n "Wood System" metal paperweight of a motor made by the company. (Right) Les Christensen and Arlen Rienstra looking at the Benedict insulator.



Letterhead from Fort Wayne Electric Co. indicating that 200 porcelain insulators were sold to Jenny Electric Light & Power Co. for 80 cents per 100. Mike McLaughlin brought this.

Roger Nagel brought a Pluto that was part of the former Jim Fielding collection. Roger also brought an insulator on a side pin embedded in a tree. Les Christensen showed some unusual CD 101s including a very tall example and a picture of his display of these at a past show. Justin Stroudt bragged about finding an aqua threadless CD 700 egg on the way to the show in an antique store. Ken Richardson had a beautiful CD 490 AGEE in purple that he hand-picked in Australia. Lee Brewer told a fascinating story about cobalt bottles he collects.

Gene Hawkins presented persuasive evidence that some CD 124 no name insulators attributed to King City Glass Works may have been made by Hemingray. The insulators in question have a crescent on the skirt. Some of these in Gene’s collection have a shelf at the start of the threading in the pinhole which is characteristic of Hemingray insulators. Others have a continuous curve from the skirt to the pinhole and evidence of twisting or swirling of the glass, a characteristic called “shrending” which is characteristic of K.C.G.W. insulators. Aries P. Brooke received patent 128,280 on a machine to eliminate shrending on June 25, 1872.

Some spectacular insulators changed hands at the show. One of my favorites was a composition insulator made by Gould and Watson. As one of my specialties, I have only seen one other of these insulators and it also was purchased at the Columbia City show. Another beauty was a U-274A in a teal green color made by New Lexington.



The results of the auction were surprisingly very similar to the much larger auction at the Wheaton, IL show although that auction was limited to dealers only. A comparison of the two can be found in the table below.

	Columbia City, IN	Wheaton, IL
Total sales	\$718	\$619
Number of lots	79	79
Number of sellers	8	8
# of minutes of auction	48	50
Registered bidders	22	19
Successful bidders	18	13

Results of the auction are provided below. Six eight-foot tables held the following lots:

Lot	Seller	Description	Price	Buyer
1	Mike McLaughlin	Box of glass	\$14	Arlen Rienstra
2	Mike McLaughlin	Dry spot, misc. porcelain	\$5	Al Arlic
3	Mike McLaughlin	Date nails	\$10	Dave Shaw
4	Mike McLaughlin	CD 1085 spools	\$10	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
5	Mike McLaughlin	Hemi-12 clear with amber stripe	\$12	Russ Frank
6	Mike McLaughlin	Box of CD 121s	\$8	Mike Hauser
7	Mike McLaughlin	Beehives	\$6	Al Arlic
8	Mike McLaughlin	16 Star ponies	\$9	Al Arlic
9	Mike McLaughlin	4 fake carnivals	\$40	Rick Soller
10	Mike McLaughlin	4 glass insulators, 252, 106, 121	\$22	Matt Payne
11	Mike McLaughlin	Pictures from a price guide + national	\$6	Greg Delia
12	Mike McLaughlin	NIA mug, fuse cutout	\$1	Dave Ramp
13	Mike McLaughlin	B with milk, W/T, star	\$9	Al Arlic
14	Mike McLaughlin	Brackets, pins	47	Brad Hemtit
15	Mike McLaughlin	120, cable, pony, beehive	\$30	Mark Gilmore
16	Dave Ramp	Lightning arrestor, 151	\$1	Mike Hauser
17	Dave Ramp	Wire holders, nail knobs	\$7	Brad Hemtit
18	Dave Ramp	Box of glass	\$8	Brad Hemtit
19	Dave Ramp	Glass & porcelain	\$2	Brad Hemtit
20	Dave Ramp	Box porcelain, Locke hi-tops, helmet	\$10	Brad Hemtit
21	Jim Johnson	Strains, suspension, signals	\$4	Arlen Rienstra
22	Jim Johnson	Box of 17 glass insulators	\$1	Brad Hemtit
23	Jim Johnson	Nail knobs	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fischer
24	Jim Johnson	Cutout	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fischer
25	Jim Johnson	Mix of glass & porcelain, H45 strain, wall tube	\$1	Mike Hauser
26	Jim Johnson	H.K. Porter, porcelain, glass, Jelly jar	\$1	Greg Delia
27	Jim Johnson	Box of 9s & 12s, pins	\$6	Brad Heatit
28	Russ Frank	Pretzel Jar, directory	\$18	Justin Stoudt
29	Russ Frank	Wall Seel Jar	\$10	Les Christensen
30	Russ Frank	3 jars/vases	\$11	Karen Doughtte
31	Russ Frank	Glass pie cabinet	\$26	Arlen Rienstra
32	Russ Frank	Empty boxes + crates	\$4	Kim Borgman
33	Russ Frank	2 spool brackets	\$13	Greg Delia
34	Russ Frank	Bottle stoppers, clear glass	49	Jennifer Alley-fisher
35	Russ Frank	143s + gate latch	\$6	Brad Hemtit
36	Russ Frank	160s	\$5	Monty Foust
37	Russ Frank	160s + 143	\$9	Monty Foust
38	Russ Frank	Box of glass insulators	\$17	Matt Payne
39	Russ Frank	160s + 143	\$16	Matt Payne

40	Mark Gilmore	H with bubble + suspension	\$31	Russ Frank
41	Jim Johnson	Porcelain, 4 @ \$1	\$4	Brad Hemtit
42	Jim Johnson	Arcing ring	\$14	Greg Delia
43	Rick Soller	7up case with fruit jars	\$28	Arlen Rienstra
44	Rick Soller	3 Meters	\$1	Greg Delia
45	Rick Soller	2 brown arrestors	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
46	Rick Soller	Arrestor	\$17	Greg Delia
47	Rick Soller	Fuse Cutout, GE, brown porcelain	\$1	Justin Stoudt
48	Rick Soller	Joslyn crate	\$15	Les Christensen
49	Rick Soller	BTC Crate (Lapp on side)	\$1	Greg Delia
50	Rick Soller	2 multipart, porcelain	\$1	Greg Delia
51	Jim Berg	Line posts	\$1	Greg Delia
52	Jim Berg	Box of spools	\$2	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
53	Jim Berg	Small suspension	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
54	Jim Berg	Strains, fence post, bridle wire	\$1	Brad Hemtit
55	Jim Berg	Insulator boxes, 4 @\$4	\$16	Mike McLaughlin
56	Jim Berg	Insulator boxes, 9 @ \$3	\$27	Kim Borgman
57	Jim Berg	Insulator boxes, 4 @ \$3	\$12	Les Christensen
58	Greg Delia	Insulator books	\$7	Matt Payne
59	Greg Delia	Telephone instruction books	\$22	Rick Soller
60	Greg Delia	Missouri Brick	\$5	Jennifer Alley-Fishr
61	Greg Delia	Key chains, presentational gifts	\$1	Dave Shaw
62	Greg Delia	Books	\$1	Rick Soller
63	Greg Delia	Yearbooks, silly signs	\$8	Justin Stoudt
64	Greg Delia	Box of porcelain	\$14	Al Arlic
65	Greg Delia	Line posts	\$1	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
66	Greg Delia	Civil War books	\$6	Arlen Rienstra
67	Greg Delia	Arrestor	\$1	Al Arlic
68	Greg Delia	2 brackets	\$21	Brad Hemtit
69	Greg Delia	2 brackets, OB insulators	\$10	Brad Hemtit
70	Greg Delia	Spools & brackets	\$1	Rick Soller
71	Greg Delia	Blue suspensions (2)	\$11	Dave Shaw
72	Greg Delia	Blue suspensions, 2 @ \$3 each	\$6	Brad Hemtit
73	Greg Delia	Terminal metal container	\$1	Al Arlic
74	Greg Delia	Brackets	\$10	Brad Hemtit
75	Greg Delia	Grip	\$4	Les Christensen
76	Greg Delia	2 brackets	\$1	Rick Soller
77	Greg Delia	Suspension	\$27	Mike Hauser
78	Greg Delia	2 lightning arrestors	\$2	Matt Payne
79	Greg Delia	4 lightning arrestors	\$8	Jennifer Alley-Fisher
	Total		\$718	

Upcoming Shows

Saturday, June 4, 2022

London, Ontario, Canada

The **South Western Ontario Spring Insulator Swap** will be held in the spacious back yard at the home of John and Carol DeLarge located at 1884 Aldersbrook Road, London, Ontario, Canada, North America. Set up at 9:00 a.m., trading and dealing begins at 10:30 a.m. Lunch provided at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and set up a table or browse through the grounds to view the wide variety of insulators for sale or trade. The meet will be held rain or shine. \$10 fee for those wishing to set up a table to help cover the cost of food & beverages. Please note that there will be only sufficient food & beverages available for those who RSVP. If you wish to set up, please bring your own table if at all possible as there will be only a limited number on hand. RSVP by May 28th, 2022. Contact Barrett Nicpon at (519) 670-8796 or barrett.nicpon@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP.

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Perry, Iowa

The 25th Annual **Hawkeye Insulator Swap meet** will be at a new location, the Hotel Pattee, 1112 Willis Avenue, Perry, Iowa on Saturday June 4th, 2022. Dealer load-in is at 6:30 a.m.. Doors open to the public at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:30 p.m. Tables are \$25. If you need to reserve a table or have any questions, please contact the show host Skip Lowe at (641) 751-6856 or email to sllowe@iowatelecom.net

Saturday, June 25, 2022

West Leechburg, Pennsylvania

The 22nd **Western Reserve Insulator Club's Allegheny Valley Insulator Show & Sale** will be held at the West Leechburg Fireman's Recreation Hall, 1116 Gosser St., West Leechburg, PA 15656. Show Hours 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with dealer setup at 7:30 a.m. 8' tables are \$20. Free Admission. Contact: Ron Barth at rktbarth@windstream.net or (724) 845-8439

Saturday, August 6, 2022

Berkley, Michigan

The 4th annual **Michigan Insulator Swap** meet will be at a bigger and better location. Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with dealer setup starting at 8 a.m. The swap meet location is at the Knights of Columbus, 2299 Twelve Mile Road, Berkley, Michigan 48072. The location is only 1 hour north of the Michigan/Ohio border, within walking distance to downtown Berkley and there are a few antique stores in the area. Tables are \$25 each. Free admission. Dealers, please RSVP when possible. Contact information: Curtis Erickson (248) 515-4612 crerickson1@gmail.com