

Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's Swap Meet a Big Success

By Bill Baab

TOCCOA, Ga. – Nearly two dozen collector-dealers offered a wide array of “jewels of the wire,” some from Dixie, others from elsewhere, at the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's Swap Meet in Mitchell Allen Memorial Hall in the old Toccoa Railroad Depot on August 20.

The renovated depot, no longer

in service, offered a comfortable air-conditioned venue and also houses the Currahee Military Museum. On display in the latter are many artifacts detailing the lives and experiences of the men who trained for combat missions at Camp Toccoa, made famous by the hit Steve Spielberg and Tom Hanks HBO miniseries “Band of Brothers.”

Jim Colburn has been an insulator collector for many years, making the long haul from Greenacres in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area. (Photo by Bea Baab)



Dixie Jewels Insulator Club President Bill Haley, of Chattanooga, Tenn., sold egg baskets he makes, in addition to insulators. (Photos by Bea Babb)

Dealers like Jim Colburn, a longtime insulator collector, made the long trek to Toccoa from Green Acres near West Palm Beach, Fla. Bill Haley, president of the Dixie club, came down from Chattanooga, Tenn., along with John Henderson, while Dudley Ellis drove over from Stockbridge, Ga.

This writer, a bottle collector, was intrigued by the sizes, shapes and colors of a wide variety of insulators. Colors ranged from aquamarine to emerald green to lime green to reds to cobalt to carnival glass.

The only insulator I have at home is a New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., example and one just like it at the show listed for \$38. Wow! My personal philosophy in collecting antique glass is to learn as much as I can, so I joined the Dixie Jewels and the National Insulator Association so I can benefit from the information to be gleaned from their newsletters.

One of the more unusual items **Veteran Insulator collector Keith Roloson, of Cumming, GA., shows off a threadless insulator manufactured by the Southern Porcelain Company of Kaolin, Near Bath, S.C. He is a past President of the National Insulator Association. (Photo by Bea Baab)**



was a wishbone-shaped metal bracket holding three ceramic insulators made by the Thomas Company in East Liverpool, Ohio. It was brought in by the father-son team of Larry and Jeff Kraemer, of Easley, S.C.

Ellis' setup included a back-lit

display case in which were several threadless insulators costing in the four figures. Ellis purchased some of them from an Augusta collector years ago.

A familiar shape caught my eye in the display of Keith Roloson, of Cumming, Ga. It was a Civil War era Southern Porcelain Co., insulator from Kaolin

near Bath, S.C., just across the Savannah River from Augusta where I reside.

Haley said the club boasts of 75 to 80 active members. Anyone interested in joining the group should send a check for \$10 annual membership to club treasurer Cal Baker, 230 Carriage Summit Way, Hendersonville, NC 28791.

Larry (left) and Jeff Kraemer, Easley, S.C., check out a "wishbone" brackets that contained three huge ceramic insulators made by the Thomas Company of Liverpool, Ohio. They hauled the bracket to the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club's swap meet in Toccoa, Ga., Aug. 20. (Photo by Bea Baab)



Dudley Ellis, of Stockbridge, Ga., shows off his back-lit display case featuring threadless insulators, some of which were dug in Augusta, Ga. The Laefferts (3rd and 5th from the left, top shelf) were among those found in The Garden City. (Photo by Bea Baab)



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