

The Doorknob Collector

Number 97

September - October 1999

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Portland Convention a Great Success

by Rich Kennedy

Did we have fun? Of course! How could anyone not have enjoyed the convention. As one new member put it, "it was a trip!" Those who arrived early on Tuesday enjoyed an evening reception at Hippo Hardware. And who was the gentleman behind the counter with the straw hat, sunglasses and Hawaiian shirt? Amongst other things, he explained how Hippo Hardware got its name. It seems a metal sculpture of a hippo stood in front of the store for so long the place became known as the hippo hardware store and the name stuck. It just sounded right explained the owners. It is actually what the hippo wanted all along, but since he couldn't talk he simply stared the owners into submission.

Wednesday was tour day for the group. First stop, the Pittock Mansion. Here the tour guide looked at the group saying, "Doorknob collectors, hmm." Everything was so elegant, how pleased Georgiana and Henry Pittock must have been when they occupied their new home in 1912. It was after extensive storm damage that some concerned citizens saw its value and saved this gem from the wrecking ball in 1964. The city of Portland purchased the building and the restoration began. The mansion is simply a delight to the senses as you walk through and view among other things the beautiful curved staircase with wrought iron balustrades and rich wooden handrails. And of course, we all enjoyed the beautiful glass doorknobs.

Upon leaving the mansion, we went to Washington Park for a sumptuous box lunch. As we ate sitting under the pines and overlooking downtown Portland we also enjoyed the magnificent rose gardens. The view was unbelievable. For those of us coming from the drought plagued Northeast it was a bit of heaven.

On to Fort Vancouver, a walled fort with a long past. Here we learned of the early days. Tebo, a costumed docent, spoke of his duties as the house servant, the ladies and gentlemen of the house and what rank and privilege offered to them. Fort Vancouver's history was meticulously given as we listened to Doug Megedanz explain the process of unearthing, cleaning and cataloging these old artifacts.

Our final destination for the day was a reception at the Rejuvenation House. The Bosco-Milligan Foundation exhibit there was wondrous. Thank goodness for Ben Milligan and Jerry Bosco's vision of a collection of antique hardware and the diligent effort of many to keep this vision alive. We thank the gang at Rejuvenation House for all their hospitality and goodies even while the store was undergoing an extensive renovation.

Thursday was the official beginning of our convention with buying, selling and trading being the order of the day. However, early birds had already gotten a head start on that aspect of the convention; it is hard to hold back on a good trade



Pittock Mansion, Portland, OR

Newsletter Deadline - October 15

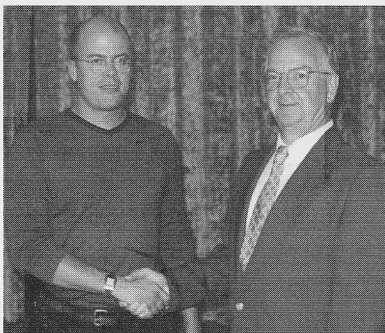
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**Portland Convention
a Great Success Cont'd**

Len Blumin's talk and slide presentation on Hardware Designed by Mallory-Wheeler was very informative and the highlight of the afternoon. The club wants to especially thank Len for stepping in on such short notice, as Art Paholke was unable to attend because of a family crisis. Our education continued with a late Friday morning presentation by George King, a hardware conservationist, informed our members on the "Pros and Cons of Refinishing and Best Methods". As we all learned, if in doubt about how to clean a piece of hardware the best approach is to do nothing.

Friday afternoon found many of us in our Victorian attire mingling with the public and doing our "show and tell". A goodly number of interested visitors came by to see the displays and enjoy the unique collections.

As we were packing our hardware in the late afternoon, it was sad to think that another convention was winding down, but the banquet was a fitting end to the day. All enjoyed the wonderful meal and fellowship and then we moved on to the business meeting where Win Applegate, our president for eight years, received a standing ovation as he handed the



Rhett Butler being welcomed as the new president of ADCA by outgoing president, Win Applegate



Pictured Left to Right: Ron Elsberry, Guinella Joslyn, Gene De Lange, Miriam De Lange, Marge Bornino, Len Blumin, and Cheryl Blam

presidential duties over to Rhett Butler. It was now time for the long-anticipated awards ceremony. Many of us again outdid ourselves with the displays. After all the ballots were counted, the winners were as follows:

Greatest Number of Schools of

Design

- De Lange - 1st place
- M. Bornino - Honorable Mention

Best School of Design Display

- De Lange - 1st place
- M. Bornino - Honorable Mention

Best Display of a Novice Collector

- Ron R. Elsberry - 1st place
- G. Joslyn - Honorable Mention

Most Creative Display

- M. Bornino - 1st place
- C. Blam - Honorable Mention

Best of Show

- De Lange - 1st place
- L. Blumin - Honorable Mention

The final morning festivities on Saturday brought us all together for an early breakfast and the auction. Bidding was furious at times with the lucky ones being the buyers. Our thanks to our auctioneer par excellence, Jackie Rode and her crew, Steve Rowe, Hilary Applegate, Marshall Berol, Bob Rodder, and the ticket keepers, Betty Madison, Cheryl Blam, and Loretta Nemec who kept it all

straight. And of course, the cash-and-carry crew, Joe Bornino and Norm Blam. And last, but never least, Win Applegate, the man behind the computer with the new printer and improved program made the final closeout a piece of cake.

Everyone had such a good time that it was decided to all meet again in Minneapolis, MN next year. See you there!

The Doorknob Collector ©



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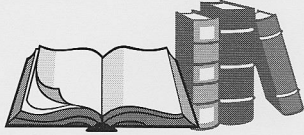
Single issue of *The Doorknob Collector* or \$5.00
Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors of ADCA or the editors.

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From the Archives

By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer



We had a wonderful time in Portland at the ADCA convention. Many members made good use of the sample catalogs we brought along. Numerous inquiries were made about the archives and several first-time convention attendees were able to see just what the ADCA archives has to offer.

Faye and Rich Kennedy donated a P.&F. Corbin 1895 catalog to the archives, Steve Rowe loaned us his copy of P.&F. Corbin 1881 catalog to copy, and Liz Gordon has offered her catalogs for us to copy at any time. Our thanks to the above mentioned. Additionally, Margaret and Bud Wolski donated a reprint 1929 Weiser Hardware Manufacturing Co. catalog

The response to the catalog offerings this year was very good. We are still in the process of filling your orders and we will ship them as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding your order, please call us at (317) 291-6043 or email us at smenchhofe@aol.com.

Contributors

We would like to thank the following people for their ideas, articles, photos and information presented in this issue.

Win Applegate
Maude Eastwood
Carol Meermans
Ray Nemec
Barb and Steve Menchhofer



Fort Vancouver Firepower

Sept - Oct 1999

New Member Policy

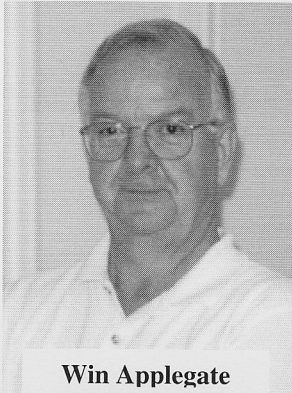
Membership in ADCA follows the current calendar year. Anyone joining between January and September is enrolled for the current year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for the current year.

New members after September 30th will be enrolled as members for the following year. They will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jan-Feb issue of the next year.

President Par Excellence

The following is a transcript of the talk given by Steve Rowe.

When I was up here a few moments ago I had the easy task of telling you about our next convention.



Win Applegate

The next words I have to share are much more difficult to express. Just how can I put into words what Win Applegate has done for the ADCA during his last eight years serving as president?

Let me start by asking the question, just what is a president? A president is a manager, an organizer, a motivator, and hopefully a friend. Win Applegate has fulfilled all of these duties as president of the ADCA and I feel fortunate and proud to also tell you he is my friend. Let me tell you how Win has impacted my time in this club.

Almost seven years ago, when I was a new member, I was placing ads in the ADCA classifieds hoping

to trade with others. I had placed several ads and I'll tell you I was simply discouraged. Then Win Applegate called. I had hoped to trade a statue of liberty knob for a "c" series hex knob. Although Win had neither knob I had actually requested, he suggested an alternative and although he did not know me, asked if it would be alright to send the knob for my inspection.

When I received the knob it was great! Win was offering a metallic compression knob and I quickly agreed. Several days later, after receiving the statue of liberty knob, Win called back and suggested that he would send me a triangular backplate for the knob he had sent at no extra cost! You can imagine my elation when the plate arrived. I had never even seen one of these beauties before and now I could call it mine! Win's trade was not only fair but extremely generous.

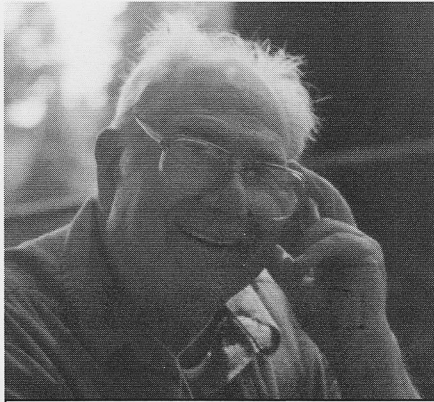
So to all of my competitors out in the audience, you now know how I became so fond of metallic compression hardware. You can all thank Win for this!

Finally, I would like to mention Win's involvement with the re-issue of *Victorian Decorative Art*. The VDA, or the blue book as we all call it, is no less than the bible of hardware. Let's face it, where would we be today without it? Win has been the major driving force behind the reissuance of this book. Countless hours have been spent with photographs, printers, proof-readers and computers!

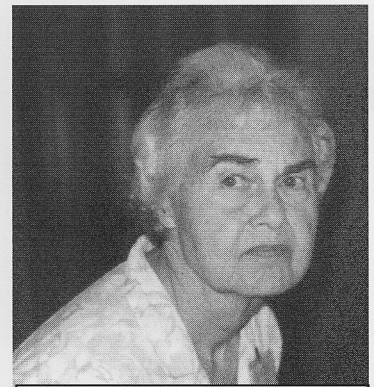
Now, couple this with the fact that Win has many other duties; he is a husband, a parent, a grandparent, and a leader in his church and you can see just how loyal he is to this club. In closing I wish to thank Win for all that he has accomplished during his years as president and also thank him for the friendship he has offered to all of those around him.



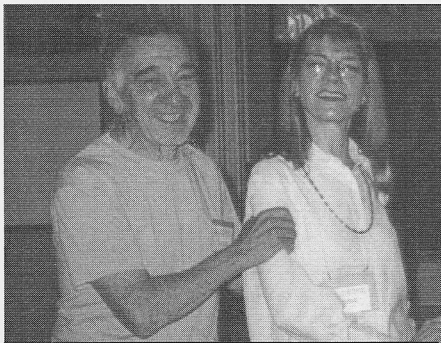
Gunilla Joslyn



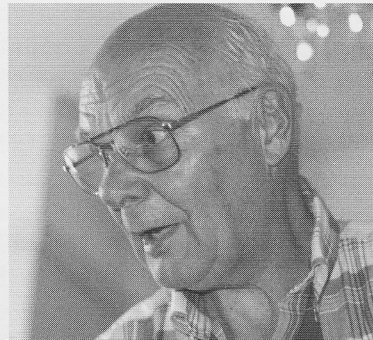
Bud Wolski



Margaret Wolski



Joe Bornino and Cathy Galbraith



Ralph Meermans



Ardythe Leaders and Barbara Menchhofer



Nancy Sandwick



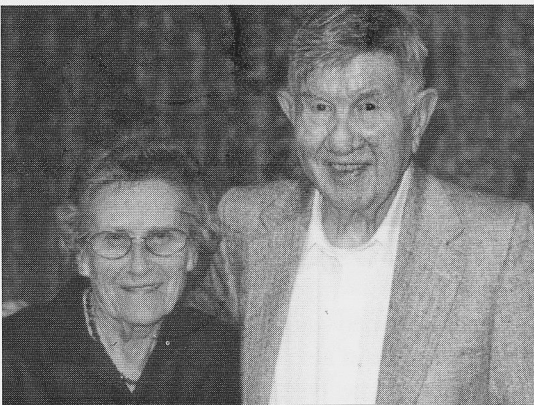
Dorothy Ann Miller



Jackie Rode



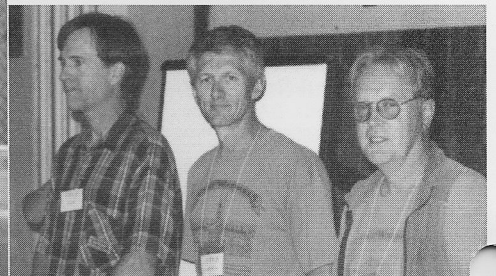
Carol Meermans and Loretta Nemeč



Maude Eastwood and John Holland



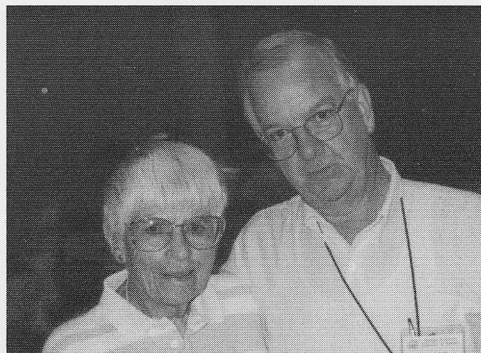
Vicki Berol



Larry Sawyer, Mark Aikens,
and Bill Murphy



Ron and Mary Elsberry



Florence Jarvis and Win Applegate



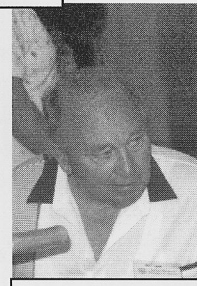
Hilary Applegate



Alan Joslyn



Marilyn Murphy and Steve Menchhofer



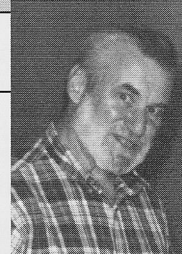
Gerald Leaders



Kathie Aikens



Carlos Ruiz, Miriam De Lange and Barb Menchhofer with Mary Roberts of Rejuvenation House standing in the rear



Len Blumin



Jennifer Lanphier and Jacqueline DuVon



Patti Blumin and James Ruiz



Roy Prange, Bill Byington, and Marshall Berol



Marge Wiemer



Bob Rodder and Steve Rowe

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the ADCA:

Ed Butterfield	Estacada, OR
Jesse and Sue Vester	Jefferson, TX
Vicki Bayha	Aurora, OR
Ted Fridholm	Stillwater, MN
Philip Conroy	Portland, ME
Debbie Henshaw	Portland, OR
Tom Joyal	Kennebunk, ME
Joan Rouzie	Portland, OR

CHANGING THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR

In the November-December issue of the newsletter, we normally put out the call for **membership renewal**. We will be doing the same this year with a **twist**. In the past we have found that the holiday season mail is a bit overwhelming for most of us. Many of our members forget to send in the renewal and it lies in a forgotten pile for many months delaying their newsletters. In addition, the front office is very busy at this time of year with a newsletter due and family obligations.

Our conventions are always held in the late summer and therefore the financial report is reported from July 1st through June 30th. It makes sense for the membership to follow the same calendar. Reports will then be on the same basis, both the membership numbers and financial.

It was decided therefore that the new membership year will begin on July 1 and run through June 30. You will see in the next newsletter that this year you will have a choice of either a 6 month or an 18 month membership. The shorter time will simply mean that you will be getting a second reminder that your membership is due for renewal a short 6 months after you

have paid your dues.

We believe this change will be better for all concerned and make putting together a complete roster a bit easier. Hopefully the renewals will not drag out over the several months that they do at this time. So, when you receive your renewal notice, send it in right away so you won't miss a single issue.

Canadian dues will unfortunately be going up because we are charged \$9.50 by the bank for the exchange rate on a membership check. The cost to Canadian members will be linked to the exchange rate at the time the notice goes out.

Tell Us About Yourself and Your Collection

Our group is far-flung (see the map on the back page) and sometimes it is hard to get to know each other. Your editors would like to extend the invitation to **new members** to send us a picture of yourself along with an article about you and your collection. How did you get interested in door hardware? How long have you been collecting? Tell us a bit about your collection; favorite knob,

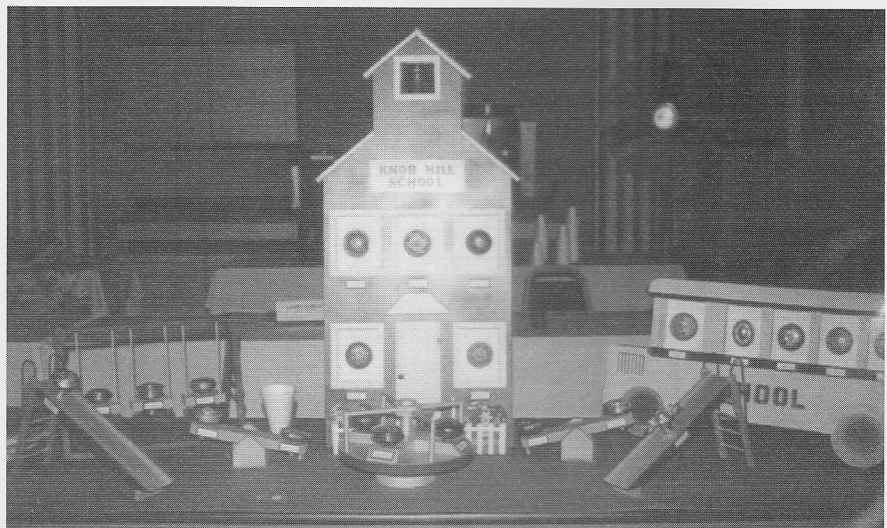
interesting story about obtaining part of your collection, etc. You may also send us pictures and let us know a bit about your family, your job, or anything else that our readers might like to know.

This really isn't a big assignment. Our members are a great group and enjoy getting to know each other at conventions and other smaller get-togethers, but this isn't always possible.

Only a limited number of our members are able to attend the conventions so this is just another avenue to get to know each other. Even the children in the family could help with this assignment. Hope to hear from you real soon, so get out that camera and a piece of paper before you put this newsletter aside and just forget.

Longer-term members are also invited to participate. If you would like to see yourself and your story in the newsletter, send us the info. Many have sent letters of regret that they are unable to attend the convention and renew old friendships. Let us hear from you also.

See the back page for the address. You may also fax or email us with your articles.



Marge Bornino thrills us with another spectacular display. At Convention 99: Schools of Design we find Knob Hill School with the bus to get us there.

Kudos to the Committee

Many thanks go out to all of those who helped make the 1999 ADCA Convention such a success. The Local Host Committee was made up of the following members:

Maudie Eastwood
Ron Elsberry; A&E Safe and Alarm
Cathy Galbraith, Bosco-Milligan Foundation
Jennifer Lanphier; Hippo Hardware
Roy Prange
Don Shreve
Linda Smeltzer
Bo Sullivan; Rejuvenation House

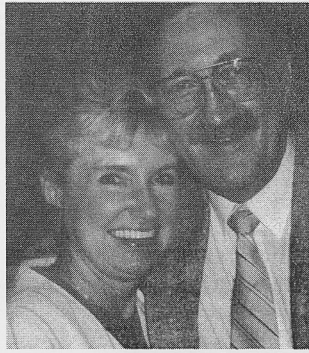
No convention just happens, it takes hours of planning and hands-on work, but many hands make light (or at least fun) work of the job. Thanks again to all who helped out not only on the committee, but also during the convention. Auctions, lectures, public receptions, etc. utilize many of our members. This is to let each of you know that your efforts are much appreciated by the club.

Thinking of Our Members

We have received a note from Art Paholke (#51) concerning his wife, Shirley. She was in a very serious auto accident and is currently in rehabilitation and is doing "Great" both in body and spirit. We are so happy to get the *good news* that things have improved since the last newsletter. We wish his family the very best and want him to know that our thoughts remain with all of them.

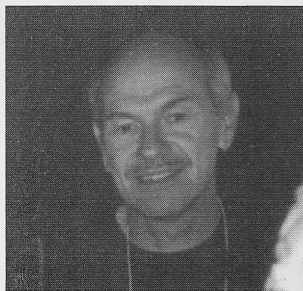
Best wishes go out to Rich Perris (#254) and his fiancée, Kelly Iwata on their upcoming marriage on October 3. Have fun in Italy, you two.

In Memoriam



Lori and Charles Mesken

Charles Mesken (#62) of Minneapolis passed away on March 26, 1999. Among the many accolades, he is described as a landlord known for his generosity and efficient management, and was obviously much loved and respected by his tenants. Chuck was an active member of the Bloomington Masonic Lodge No 320 AF&AM and was honored as a 33rd Degree Mason in 1995. But we knew him as a doorknob collector. In addition to doorknobs, he also collected antique tools, bottles, and gaslight fixtures.

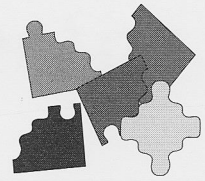


Steve Efnor

Barbara Efnor let us know that her husband, **Steve Efnor** (#47) died on March 6, 1998. He enjoyed the convention in Santa Monica and had hoped to attend another. Steve was a collector of many things, but doorknobs were one of the first things he began collecting. Barbara says he very much enjoyed his association with the ADCA.

Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate



I first met John Holland at the 1987 convention in Des Moines. After serving as the ADCA's first President in 1981, John had stepped forward, again, to serve in 1985.

As I was later to learn, the year had been tumultuous; Jim Kaiser had died in February and Maude Eastwood had ascended to the Presidency. Later in the week, Dorothy Ann Miller would be nominated and elected to lead the organization for the next year.

It is apparent, to even the casual observer, that Chlorine and John Holland are a team. Now, here they were again, stepping forward to provide stability through encouragement in a time of need. John had a compelling way about him and on more than one occasion during the convention, he had lightly held my lapel and spoken intently to me. At his first convention, an apprehensive Win Applegate was nominated and elected to the Board of Directors.

It was heart warming to again see John and Chlorine Holland as they attended the Portland convention. Dorothy Ann Miller, returning to the Board of Directors as recording secretary, joined those of us fortunate enough to have been able to make each convention.

After the election at the end of the Business Meeting, one more joined the "Past Presidents' Club" and a group photo was taken as President Rhett Butler joined John Holland, Len Blumin, Maude Eastwood, Dorothy Ann Miller and Win Applegate. Considering the ADCA's short life, that photo represents a wealth of service and dedication with a solid promise for the future. Thank you, John.

Where Do We Come From in the US and Canada?

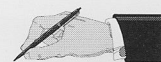


We currently have 271- active members and continue to grow. The membership changes from year to year, but we remain a strong group from across the US and Canada. The membership always grows wherever we hold a convention as can be seen by our new member listing. There are collectors out there that don't know we exist. Keep spreading the word.

Keep in Touch



Our presidents have come from many states as well. Pictured are: Win Applegate, NJ; Maude Eastwood, WA; John Holland, OR; Dorothy Ann Miller, NE; and Len Blumin, CA. Jim Kaiser lived in MN; and Arnie Fredrick lived in IA. And our new president, Rhett Butler hails from NY.



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