



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 38

November–December 1989

## Convention Report

— See page 2



1990 ADCA Convention in Connecticut

# Len Blumin's convention report



Len Blumin



Win Applegate



Ray Nemec



Julie Mann

Over 80 ADCA members gathered in Iowa City for the ninth annual convention, warmly hosted by Helen and Bill Byington.

Our sense of history was heightened by a preconvention tour of the Herbert Hoover Museum in West Branch and the Old Capitol building in Iowa City.

Thursday evening we gathered informally after dinner, renewing old friendships and forming some new ones, as we welcomed a number of first time members.

Regular activity started briskly on Friday morning, with most of the crowd gathered around the tables of Fellenz and Mueller (I wonder why!), money in hand and pulses racing with anticipation. We set up our displays and spent the day trading and visiting. The afternoon was capped with a slide presentation by yours truly and an informative discussion of Mallory Wheeler Co. by Maud Eastwood.

A fine dinner was followed by an animated presentation by Art Paholke, who urged us to hone our powers of

observation so as to better appreciate the workmanship and beauty in builders' hardware.

By Saturday morning the pace of buying and trading had slackened enough for us to wander about and appreciate the loving work that many had expended on their displays. Awards were given later for the fine efforts of Marge and Joe Bornino for the best Non-metallic display, to Dean and Edith Cambell for the best Mallory Wheeler display, and to Al and Janet Still for the best metallic, violin case and all. Congratulations to all for their well-earned prizes! Almost 50 local citizens visited during the afternoon.

Dinner Saturday featured huge slabs of the finest midwest roast beef, as a prelude to the auction.

And what an auction! Bill Causey again performed yeoman duties in handling a seemingly endless number of lots. For the first time the doggie knob (A-101) was offered (and sold). One of the highlights was a rare Mercantile

knob/lock/bell made by R & E. The auction was able to raise almost \$900 in donations for ADCA. The continued success of the auction is largely due to the efforts of Arnie Frederick, who works tirelessly for many hours, and earns our heartfelt thanks. Many others helped, including the Nemecs, Debbie Fellenz, Win Applegate and the Leaders kids.

At the annual membership meeting on Sunday we approved the purchase of a computer and elected the board of directors. Dean Cambell will join the board, replacing our hardworking president, Dorothy Ann Miller. Officers include Len Blumin, President; Win Applegate, Vice Presi-

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## The Doorknob Collector

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## Maud Eastwood writes about doorknob theft

Letter to the Editor re:  
Doorknob Theft.

I would like to respond to the sympathy expressed by many well-wishers, following the loss of a large portion of my research collection. For ADCA members who do not yet know, my collection was burglarized. The possible "baddie" we all have pushed to the back burner became a reality to me in late August. (See ANTIQUE WEEK, September 18, 1989)

Because of that happening I feel a responsibility to urge other collectors to adapt stronger preventative measures and to review their insurance coverage. Further, become familiar with law-enforcing agency's policies and practices in your area to avoid 11th hour surprises.

Why did this burglary happen? The reasons were both, avoidable and un-avoidable. Today's high doorknob prices, warranted or not, have made thievery attractive to the unprincipled. Good publicity helped to build our club and gave us credibility. Bad publicity (publicity for publicity's sake, unrestricted) released information better withheld, as: addresses, figures, etc.

To minimize thievery, beef up security. Many effective mechanisms are currently available, not all are expensive. Consider a house sitter for vacation times. Be warned by an unusual number of non-productive or "leading" phone calls, suggesting your coming and goings are



being monitored. Don't put all your knobs in one basket--consider multiple storage areas.

In the event of theft, realize the main thrust of law-enforcement duties is currently focused on drug-related problems. Doorknobs are not near the top of the priority list even when the stakes are high. Expect possible overworked deputies, set priorities, and human error to complicate the settling of your case and you won't be disappointed. Exercise patience.

I was fortunate in having the friendship of loyal and sensitive dealers. Their offers to distribute flyers and spread the work resulted in Oregon to Washington, D.C. coverage in less than a week, increasing the chances of

recovery. I can never adequately repay these acts of kindness.

In regard to insurance coverage, by all means ask for 100% coverage either under home owners or a special policy, with due regard to restrictions. Does your policy cover collections? Some do not. Does your policy cover antiques? Irreplaceables? Doorknobs are considered replaceable. My company considers knobs used for sale purposes to be a business asset and therefore subject to limitation in recovery totals. Part of the headache of completing the required insurance forms can be eliminated by grouping knobs of a kind (as cast Victorian bronze) that have a common  
(continued on page 12)

# Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

EMBLEMATIC, ETC.

- O-125 Olympic Club  
O-126 Origin not known.  
O-127 Origin not known.  
O-128 Origin not known.  
O-129 Origin not known ("LB" could be for Len Blumin - ED)  
O-130 "CB" - origin not known.

O-125



O-128



O-126



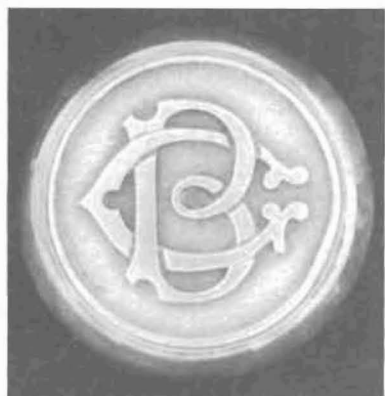
O-129



O-127



O-130





## 1989 Convention in action



Ed & Flicka Thrall



Martha & Joe Mueller



Ray & Loretta Nemec



Lois Hatch



Ray & Kae Zyc



Paul Carton



Maude Eastwood



Art Paholke



Charlie Bednar



Debbie Fellenz & Rick Kelly



Emmet & Marjorie Weimer,  
Patty & Leroy Monson



Norman Nichols



David Olafsen



Gene Moen



Bill Causey



Judy Niedenthal, Homer & Tecla Snow



Donna & Florence Chelin



Delores Fellenz



Ethladel & Fred Magnus



Mr & Mrs Kip Wendler



Charlie Wardell



Lee Kaiser



Steve Blumberg



Barbara & Steve Menchhofer



Joe & Julie Mann



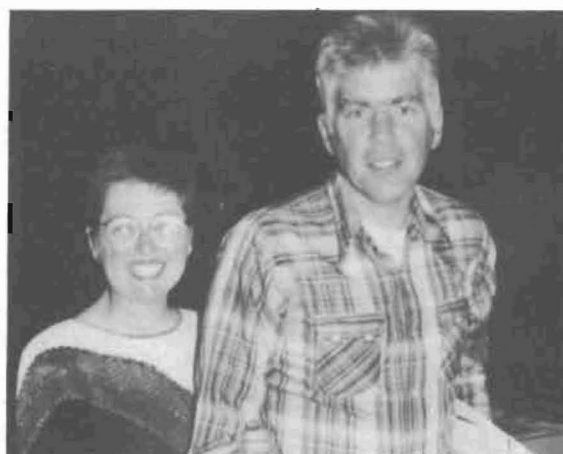
Orville & Helen Ryan



Florence Jarvis, Dorothy Miller & Alice Chadonich



Norman Blam, Jim Schmidt, Cheryl Blam  
Janice Schmidt, Jean Brown



Sharon & John Decker



Win Applegate



Phillip & Lois Warrey





Marge & Joe Bornino



Allen & Janet Still



Ted & Virginia Campbell



Lawrence & Frances Bolen



Mark Davidovich



Patty Knox



Claude Knox



Patty & Len Blumin



Bill & Helen Byington



Don & Dixie Friedman



Arnie Fredrick



Ted Canfield



Carlos Ruiz



Walter & Mildred Bright



Ardythe & Gerald Leaders

EMBLEMATIC, ETC.,  
(continued)

- O-131 "RSB" - origin not known.  
O-132 "JSL" - origin not known.  
O-133 "CS" - origin not known.  
O-134 "15E69" - (Could this be 15 East 69th Street?)  
O-135 Origin not known.  
O-136 "PH" - a hotel knob.

O-131



O-134



O-132



O-135



O-133



O-136



## THEFT..(from p3)

appraisal value, in a "lot", with a totaled value, where one-of-a-kind will be individually handled.

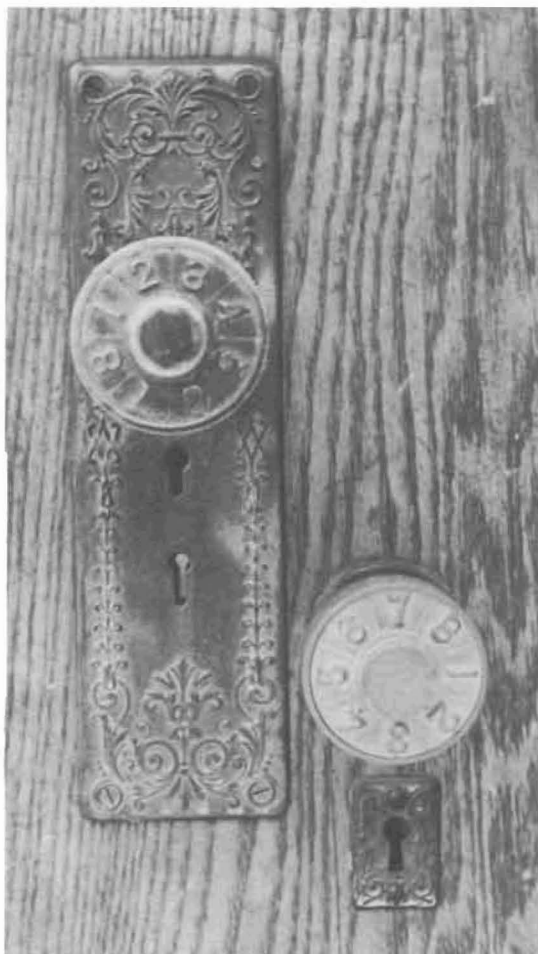
Flyers distributed following our theft estimated the following totals: 200 Victorian, cast metal knobs; 60 cast iron; 130 glass; 35 wooden; 75 emblematic and monogram; lesser numbers of all other types and related pieces such as locks and plates, handles and foreign pieces for a total of over 800. (Flyers will also be sent to collectors who express an interest. Contact Maude Eastwood through the membership list.)

Rewards are being offered for the return of the hardware, all or a portion, or for information leading to the return. Almost no duplication was involved, making the appearance of several un-alike knobs in a group highly suspicious. Offers of knobs at greatly reduced prices could indicate theft was a possibility.

Because of the theft, research on glass knobs; early, long necked brass rim-lock knobs; embossed (as opposed to cast or stamped) metal knobs; and singles or sets with unusual shank or spindle treatments has been severely crippled. It is critical that these be returned.

I thrust that the purpose of this articles has been served: to thank those who have been solicitous and helpful and to alert others to courses of action that will discourage would-be thieves.■

Maudie Eastwood



MERCANTILE  
knob/lock/bell

## CHANGES

#140 Henry S. Robinson  
19 Shackford St.  
Eastport, ME 04631.

#135 Mike Maldonado  
Change state to Maine, Zip  
number is correct.

#31 Debbie Fellenz  
Phone number changed to  
314-772-0431.

#78 A.P. Fenderson  
221 El Rio  
Modesto, Ca 95354.

#126 Richard Nichols  
1318 W. Redwood  
San Diego, CA 92103.

## Blumin....(continued p2)

dent; and Ray Nemec, Secretary/Treasurer. The Menchhofers will assume the duties of archivist, and Julie Mann will act as secretary to the board.

About 50 beautiful coffee mugs featuring the doggie knob were purchased and will be made available for others to buy in the future. This is only the first in what we hope will be a series of items offered. Suggestions should be sent to Bill Byington.

Plans are being made by the Thralls to host the 1990 convention in Conneticut, and we hope to include a visit to the Lock Museum as part of the agenda.

In closing, I would like to thank Helen and Bill Byington for a tremendous job, and for graciously opening their home for a farewell get-together, and Doroty Ann Miller for her fine leadership over the past years.■



# The Cornbelt Doorknob



by Ardythe Leaders

What's the first thing you ask for when you go into an antique shop? Three years ago we stopped at a shop and asked if they had any doorknobs. They had one they were using as a paper weight. Their son had given it to them. They would want \$37.00 for it, if they sold it, but they didn't want to sell it.

Someone had come into the son's auto shop and given it to him. Supposedly it came from a public building in Iowa and this was the only one saved.

We exchanged address and phone numbers in case they ever wanted to sell it and I put the information safely in my purse.

The more we thought about it the more we wanted it. I thought it would make a nice Christmas gift for Gerald and decided to call

them and see if they had changed their mind about selling it and wouldn't you know I could not find the information.

For Christmas I got a new billfold from Gene and in cleaning out the old one I found the phone number and address of the antique shop.

The following year we took a trip to Silver Dollar City. Gerald called upon these people once again and yes, they still had the doorknob and yes they were willing to sell it, it still was \$37.00, (by this time we would have gladly paid more for it.) The highlight of our vacation was getting the **"CORN BELT DOORKNOB."**

We would like to hear from anyone who has any information on this knob.■

## ROSTER UPDATE

#196 Blancke Alfons  
Ter Linde Hof 65 Bus 5  
8200 - Brugge - Belgium.

#197 Paul Masse  
12 Mowry St.  
Manville, R.I. 02838.

#198 Gary Pozniak  
5319 S. 73rd Ave.  
Summit, IL 60501.

#199 Sally Bober  
27 Oxbow Lane  
Summit, NJ 07901.

#200 Don Johnson/  
Connie Swaim  
RR #2 Box 380  
Knightstown, IN 46148.

#105 Cary Pasternak  
2515 Morse St.  
Houston, TX 77019.

#201 Paul S. Carton  
3016 Geyer Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63104.

#202 Helen & Orval Ryan  
P.O. Box 404  
Stronghurst, IL 61480.

#203 William & Leona Bouska  
913 Pine St.  
Yankton, SD 57078.

#205 Donald Archbold  
6115 So. Calhoun St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

#206 Newton P. Wesley  
1429 Crescent St.  
Monroe, NC 28110.





# Obituaries

## EUGENE MORRIS

Eugene Morris, a charter member of ADCA, died on August 28, 1989, in Forest City, Iowa, as a result of a stroke. He was 70 year old.

Morris, born on September 27, 1918, on a farm near Promise City, Iowa, moved to Forest City in 1949. He had been Mayor of Forest City since 1976.

Morris married Helen Eloise McCart in 1938. "Gene," as he was called by everyone, had many hobbies. In addition to collecting doorknobs, he wrote poetry and published some of his offerings in two booklets, "Random Thoughts," and "Life is Great SMILE." Morris also was an avid coin collector for many years.

In addition to his wife, Morris is survived by his son, three grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

## JIMMIE D. MEADOWS

Jimmie D. Meadows, a longtime ADCA member, died on August 4, 1989, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, of lung cancer. He was 58.

Mr. Meadows was born on June 12, 1931, at Tulsa, Oklahoma. He had been a building contractor in the Fort Smith area for many years. At one time he owned a Builders' hardware store in Fort Smith.

Meadows began collecting doorknobs about 15 years ago. He and his wife, Beverly, attended ADCA conventions in 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1988.

In addition to his wife, Jim is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

## NELS NELSON

Word has been received that Nels Nelson, a member of the Antique Doorknob Collectors since September 1986, died in September 1989 at Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was in his 80's.

## CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge.

**WANTED.** Complete sets of Dexter Glass Doorknobs with long escutcheon plates (stampings) and strikes. This is a fairly recent set, but looks good. Jerry Johnson (#161), 830 E. Southport Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

**WANTED.** Doorknob with three running deer. If interested in selling or trading, contact Ed Thrall (#53), 145 Chamberlain Road, Broad Brook, CT 06016.

**WANTED** Issues numbered 3, 4 and 7 of **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR**. Ed Sobczak (#154), 4944 So. Honore St., Chicago, IL 60609.

**WANTED** One J-305 Snowflake design. Homer Snow (#149), 732 E. Sherman St., Nashville, MI 49073-9558. Phone 507-852-9455.

**FOR SALE.** Book, Victorian Decorative Art, by Len Blumin. \$11 prepaid. ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.

## CHANGES

Effective November 11th, the area phone number for **The Doorknob Collector** and Loretta and Ray Nemec is being changed to 708. If dialing long distance, the number will be 708-357-2381.

# NEW

## Doggie Doorknob Coffee Mug



A.D.C.A.

The "Doggie" doorknob, cast in bronze, was designed by Ludwig Kreuzinger, manufactured by Russell & Erwin, and patented June 7, 1870. It is a beautiful representation of Victorian decorative hardware and a big favorite of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America.

# \$6.00

plus \$2.50 shipping

Order Form Enclosed

This mug was designed and produced for the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. ADCA was founded in Waverly, Iowa in 1981.