



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 73

September - October 1995

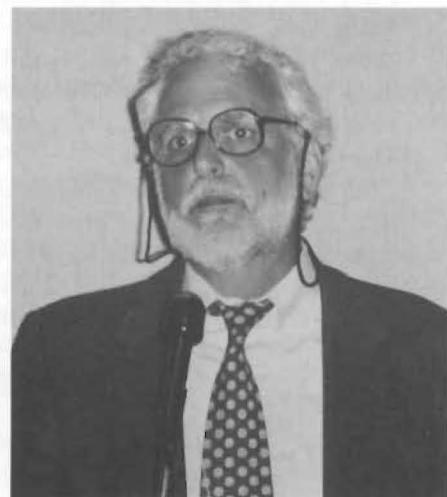
## First Time Conventioneers

Top row left to right

Rich Zillman-George Jurach-Terri Hartman

2nd row -Steve Efnor, Marti & Larry Selman

Not photographed Robert Verre

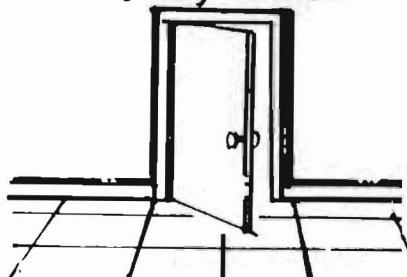


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## **THE OPEN DOOR**

by ray nemec



After attending 14 doorknob conventions traveling either by auto or airplane, Loretta and I decided to try Amtrak. A train stop right here in Naperville was a persuading reason. Also, in 1993 we had traveled by train from Anchorage to Fairbanks, Alaska, and enjoyed it very much.

Now, after having traveled over 4,600 miles and having slept four nights and having been served 13 meals, we can honestly say we enjoyed it. Yes, we would take Amtrak again on some future trip.

We met many interesting people. There were teachers, writers, students, entertainers, retirees, ... ....people from all walks of life. There was even a man who said his mother has a lot of ornate door-knobs. No, she did not want to sell them but we sent off a brochure about ADCA and a sample copy of **The Doorknob Collector**.

The trip was a pleasure, no doubt, because we had a most enjoyable time at the 1995 ADCA convention. A big thanks to Liz Gordon and Terri Hartman who made it all happen.

### Museum show on October 7, 1995

The 23rd annual Lock Collectors Show, sponsored by the Lock Museum of America of Terryville, Connecticut, will be held on October 7, 1995, at the Radisson Inn in Bristol, Connecticut. In addition to the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. show there will be a cocktail hour and dinner that evening.

For more information, contact Tom Hennessy at the Lock Museum (P.O. Box 104, Terryville, CT 06786-0104. Phone and fax 203/589-6359).

## **Meet Your Board of Directors**

Each issue **The Doorknob Collector** will feature the pictures of one or two ADCA members who are on the Board of Directors. In this issue we present the two newest members of the board.



**Linda Smeltzer**

Linda Smeltzer has been a member of ADCA since February 1988. She and her husband, David, attended their first convention at Lake Tahoe in 1991. They have been regulars ever since except for 1993. The Smeltzers live at Lake Oswego, Oregon. Linda was elected to a two year term on the Board of Directors August 16, 1995.



**Stephen Rowe**

Steve Rowe has been a member of ADCA since February 1992. He and his wife, Tracy Anne, make their home in Clovis, California. Steve has attended the 1994 and 1995 conventions. He was elected to a two year term on the ADCA Board of Director August 16, 1995.

## **Len Blumin steps down**

Len Blumin is stepping down as a member of the ADCA Board of Directors after having served 12 of the past 14 years. His tenure on the board is the second longest, exceeded only by Maud Eastwood, who was awarded a permanent board position when the club was founded.

Blumin served as Vice President in 1982-83, President 1983-85, Board member 1985-86, Vice President 1987-89, President 1989-91 and Board member 1991-95.

Other commitments, including the Presidency of another organization, led to Len's decision not to seek renomination to the board.

### **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Board of Directors 1995/1997**

President.....	Win Applegate #110
Vice President.....	Dale Sponaugle #85
Sec/Treasurer.....	Raymond Nemec #350
Board Members.....	Norman Blam #176 Maud Eastwood #2 Rich Kennedy #238 Stephen Rowe #287 Linda Smeltzer #136

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Founded in September 1981, the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America is a non-profit organization devoted to those interested in collecting and preservation of Antique Doorknobs and related hardware.

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

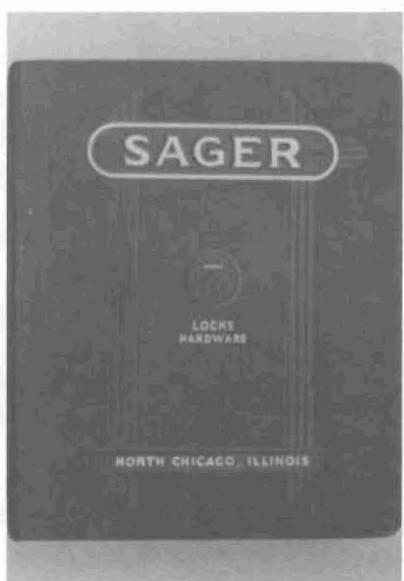
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# From Niles to Sager

## The Story of the Chicago Hardware Company

by Raymond J. Nemec

(Continued from July/August 1995 issue 72 of The Doorknob Collector.)



(Photo courtesy Maud Eastwood)

### XII

The year of 1907 saw some changes at the Chicago Hardware Company's facility in North Chicago, Illinois. H. W. Prichard remained as the plant superintendent, a position he had held for ten years. Now, however, his directives came from Lockport, Illinois.

The original Chicago Hardware Company had been the exclusive manufacturers of the Niles screwless spindle self adjusting knobs and locks. Charles W. Sager phased this line out and went with the more conventional locksets. There is no evidence of any Niles hardware advertisements after Sager took control of the North Chicago facility.

A 1912 Sanborn Insurance Map (see page 4) shows the detailed location of most of the North Chicago operations. Less than 20 years old,

the plant was far more efficient than the older Barrows' Lockport building.

The Sager family was well established in Lockport by 1907, with children Mabel and Charlie attending local schools. In 1909 another daughter Jean, was born. By 1913, Mabel was attending the Rockford Seminary (in Rockford, Illinois).

Lockport was changing. Once regarded as the city where Will County's more influential and wealthy families lived, by 1913, it was becoming to what today would be called a blue collar community.

Charles W. Sager ran both the Barrows Lock Company and the Chicago Hardware Company from his office at the Barrows Plant. Sager made the decision to move his family to Waukegan, on the shore of Lake Michigan, and take a more active day to day roll in the operation of the North Chicago plant. It was also time to discard the Chicago Hardware Company name.

The Sager family moved to Waukegan on July 1, 1913, and Charles continued as President of both companies but now from offices in North Chicago.

### XIII

Charles W. Sager had gained a respected position in the builders hardware industry. Thus, on November 8, 1913, the stockholders of Chicago Hardware Company, a West Virginia Corporation, honored their leader by changing the corporate name to The Sager Lock Company. Sager was the President and Treasurer. David B. Gann was

Vice President and Georgie E. Kerr was Secretary.

Sager's daughter, Mabel, married Hosmer Leland Murphy in 1917. Murphy would eventually succeed his father-in-law in the operation of the North Chicago site. Son Charles H. Sager graduated from the Waukegan Community High School in 1920, where he was active in the Engineering, French and Boys Glee Clubs, plus being on the yearbook staff and served a year as class President.



Charles H. Sager (above) was the son of Charles W. Sager. Photo is his graduation picture from the Waukegan High School's 1920 yearbook.

(Photo courtesy of the Waukegan Historical Society)

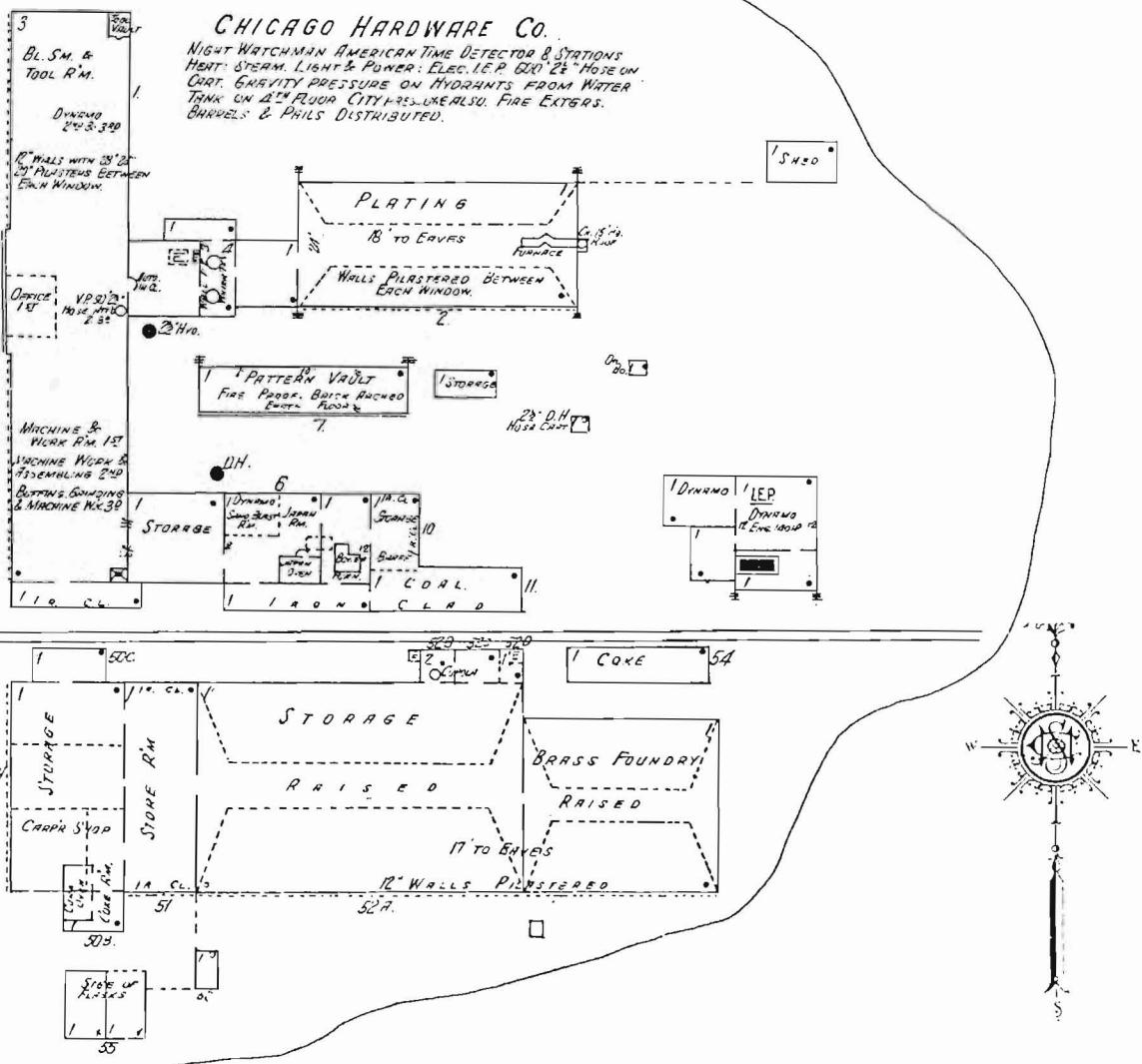
The Sager Lock Company, on March 29, 1920, voted to increase the capitol stock from 3,000 to 5,000 shares of \$100 per value and increase the number of directors from three to five. It was amended on July 1, 1920 to be altered to

# Sanborn Insurance Map

#27

1912

22nd Street



The Sanborn Insurance Map (above) shows the physical layout of the Chicago Hardware Company in 1912. The site had been developed in 1895.  
(Map courtesy of the Waukegan Historical Society)

5000 shares of no par value stock. 4,500 shares were sold, 500 shares were held in the company's treasury.

Three years later, on August 22, 1923, the Sager Lock Company, a West Virginia corporation, filed to change the name again. This time they went back to the original

name, "Western Hardware Company."

While this may seem confusing there was a very simple explanation. The stock holders decided to incorporate in Illinois and on August 28, 1923, Lois L. Emmerson, Illinois' Secretary of State signed the certificate making

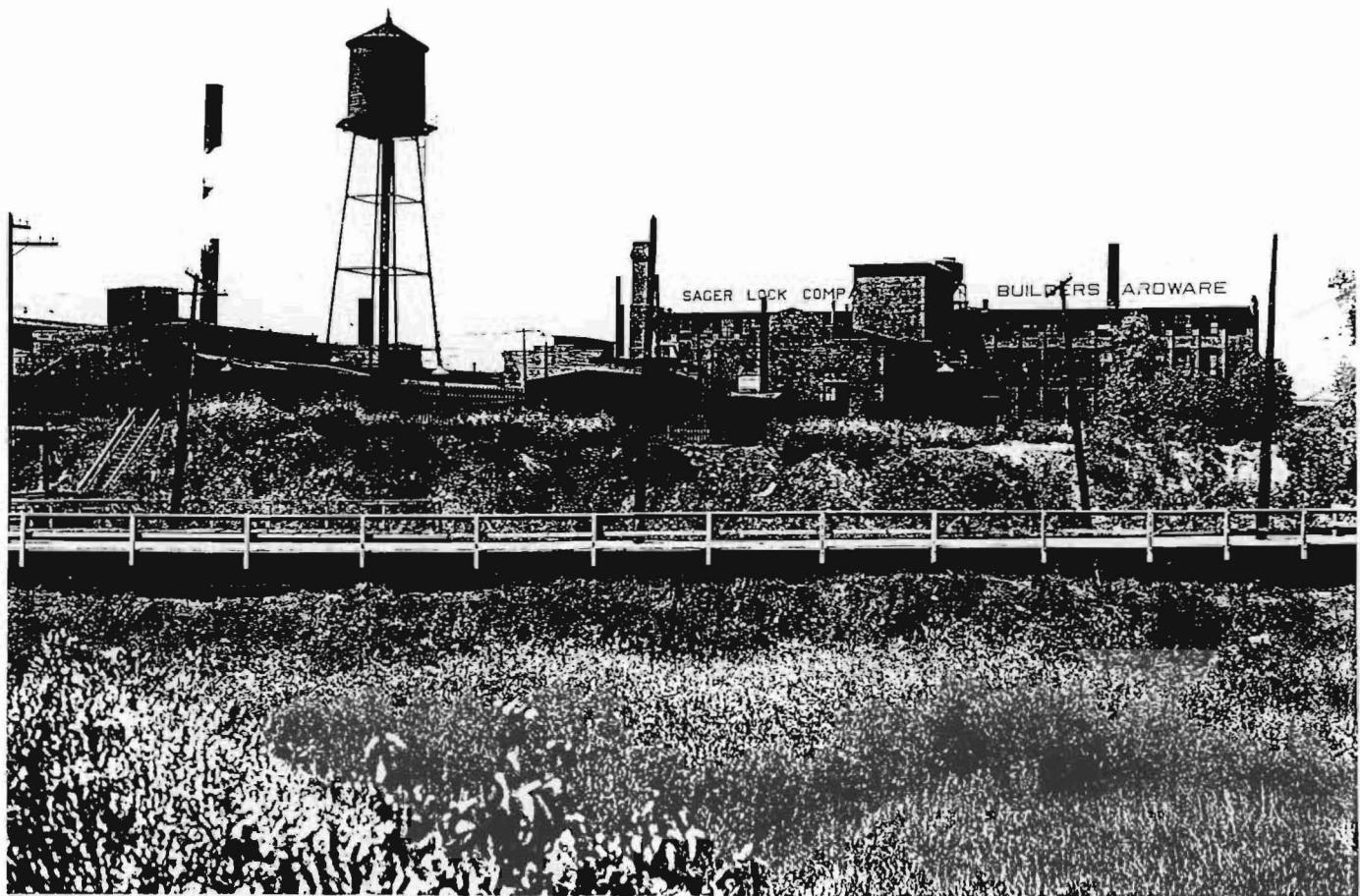
Sager Lock Company a corporation under the laws of Illinois. Charles W. Sager, David B. Gann, F. K. Fitch, Fred H. Fellows and Georgie Kerr Gann were elected to the first board of directors.

On August 30, 1923, according to a certificate filed with Illinois' Secretary of State, Western

Hardware Company, the West Virginia Company, was appraised at \$947,609.00. Sager Lock Company, an Illinois Corporation, issued and paid three thousand shares of preferred stock valued at \$300,000.00,

three thousand shares of common stock valued at \$347,609.00 and \$300,000.00 in cash to the owners of the four thousand five hundred shares of Western Hardware for all of Western's assets. (From Niles to

Sager, The story of the Chicago Hardware Company by Raymond J. Nemec, will be concluded in the next issue of **The Doorknob Collector.**)

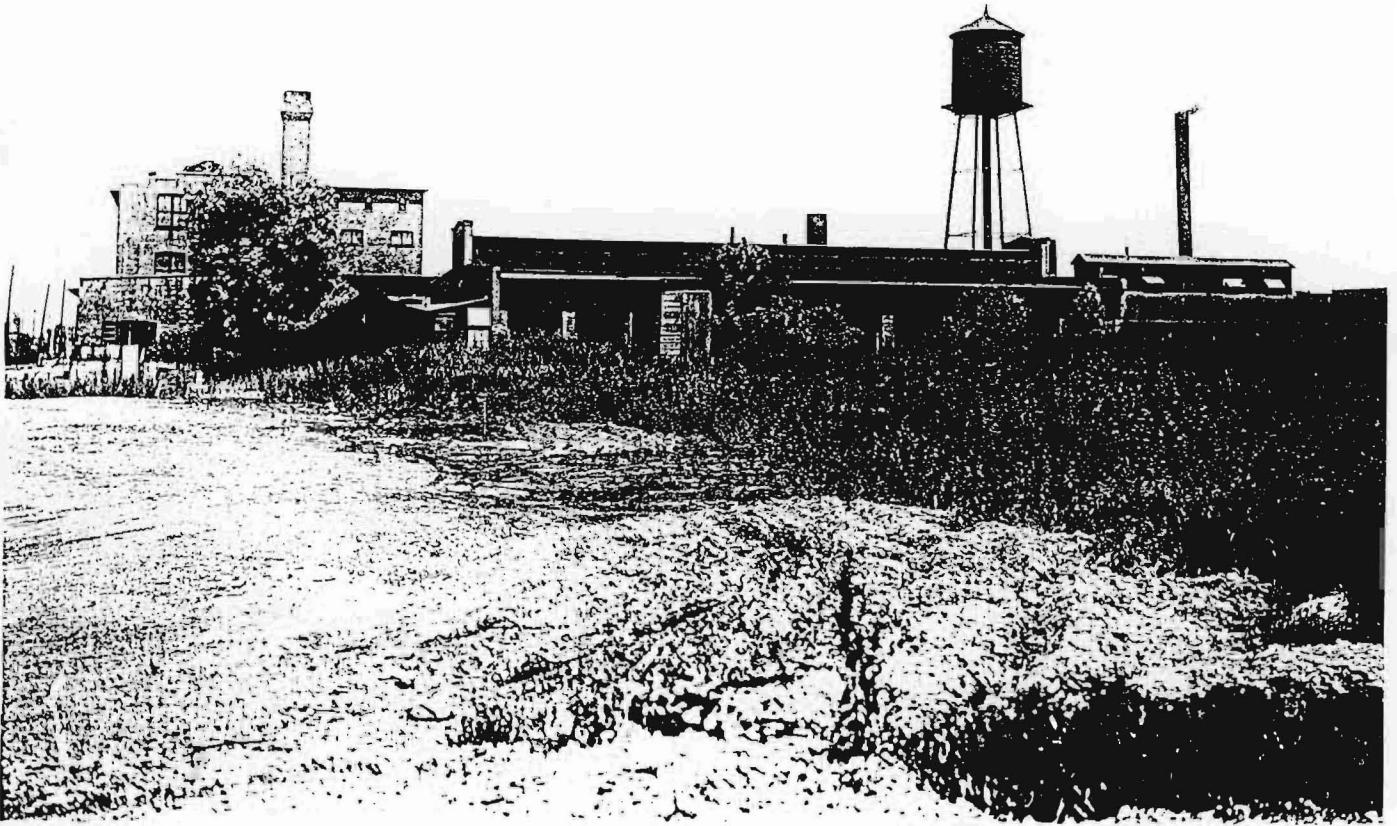


Looking west at the Sager Lock Company at North Chicago, Illinois, in 1923. The facility had been built in 1895 by the Chicago Hardware Manufacturing Company. The Chicago, North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad is in the foreground. (Photo courtesy of Waukegan Historical Society).



CHICAGO

HINGE PLATES.



Looking north at the Sager Lock Company's manufacturing site at North Chicago, Illinois, in 1923.  
(Photo courtesy of Waukegan Historical Society)

### Niles family tree traced back almost 400 years.

Virginia Niles Taylor, the great-grand daughter of Smith Niles who was Milton C. Niles' older brother has supplies us with some of the early Niles lineage she found recently in the Seattle (Washington) public library.

John Niles was born probably in England about 1603. He died at Braintree, Massachusetts, February 8, 1694. He married Jane Reed of Braintree probably in 1636.

Their second child, first son, also named John, was born March 4, 1639 at Braintree. He died September 7, 1683, at New

Shoreham, Rhode Island. He and his wife, Abigail, had two sons. The second son, Ambrose, was born November 28, 1683 at New Shoreham. He died March 17, 1725. He married Mary Brockway Mott and they had four children.

Ambrose's oldest son, Benjamin, was born about 1720 in Lyme, Connecticut. He died in 1763 at Groton, Connecticut. Benjamin, a Baptist Minister at Groton, married Lucy Sill in 1743. She died about 1764. They had six children. The youngest was named Thomas.

Thomas, a soldier of the American

Revolution, was born at Groton Connecticut on July 2, 1760. He died at Spencertown, New York, December 25, 1844. He married Rhoda Phelps on March 17, 1788. Rhoda was born September 27, 1765. They had nine children.

The third child of Thomas and Rhoda was named Milton. He was born at Spencertown probably in 1790. As related in our story on Chicago Hardware, Milton would marry Theodotia Cleveland and they would have two sons, Smith and Milton Cleveland.●

## Niles Knobs

A supplement to Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs by Len Blumin

**M-134**

**Niles No. 9.** Originally shown in issue No. 49 (Sep-Oct 1991). Talanta Design, shown in 1895 Chicago Hardware Manufacturing Company Catalog. Diameter 2-1/4 inches. Weight 8.0 ounces.

**M-143**

**Niles No. 10.** Thistle Design. Page 126, 1895 Chicago Hardware Manufacturing Company Catalog. Diameter 2-5/16 inches. Weight 8.75 ounces.

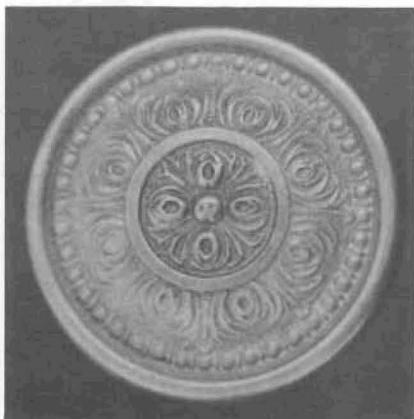
**M-144**

**Niles No. 11.** Listed as 463 Design, Page 108, Chicago Hardware Manufacturing Company Catalog 1895. Can be described as a Rope Design. Diameter 2-1/4 inches. Weight 9.0 ounces.

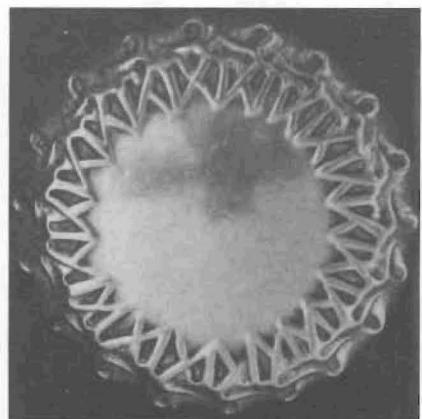
**M-145**

**Niles No. 12.** Two knobs were checked. Steel knob shown, Diameter 2-5/16 inches. Weight 7.4 ounces. Not shown brass knob Diameter 2-1/2 inches. Weight 7.6 ounces.

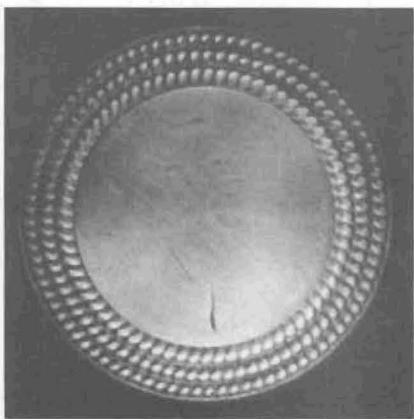
**M-134**



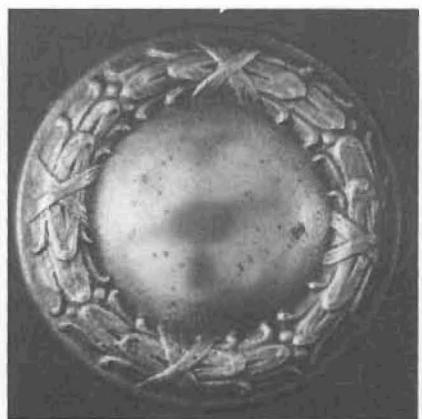
**M-143**



**M-144**



**M-145**



## Glass with class in Santa Monica

by Win Applegate

many back to his shop on Saturday after the convention closed down.

**Advance Aluminum and Brass Foundry**, the home of Felix Peano's **Door of Life**, is operated by Mike Welther. Demonstrations of sand (Tennessee) mold making, explanations of differences between red brass and yellow brass, and the cleaning and polishing of castings made our visit very interesting.

A point in passing is that two of our members, Rhett Butler (New York) and Richard Perris (California) are both in the business of producing knobs and related hardware. In conventions to come we expect to hear presentations from them both.

The former home of Charles Fletcher Lummis is now occupied and maintained by the Historical Society of Southern California. Lummis, a contemporary of Teddy Roosevelt, has a biography (suggested by Len Blumin) that rivaled Paul Bunyon's. An interesting afternoon was spent viewing the home and grounds and trying to assimilate the accomplishments of a man who slept less than three hours a night.

The climax of Tuesday was a champagne reception at Liz's Antique Hardware Shop. While sipping champagne, etc., the conventioneers perused and sometimes purchased from her very large inventory of hardware.

The convention proper started on Wednesday morning with its usual controlled mayhem of setting-up, checking out what others brought, and of course, buying and selling. This last activity continued until Saturday night.

The theme this year was, glass. Superb glass! It was difficult to vote during the display contest as there was so much fine, and sometimes rare, glass displayed in unique ways.

Our organization's charter includes the educational aspect and the **ADCA** conventions usually



Liz Gordon receives award for hosting 1995 ADCA convention.

**W**ith a champagne reception and a penthouse ballroom for our meeting location, Liz Gordon and Terri Hartman guided the **ADCA's** fifteenth annual convention through a well-planned four days of tours and events.

Fine weather and a hotel location within walking distance of the Pacific Ocean helped provide an excellent setting for the event that reflected the obvious significant effort invested.

A full day of touring started early on Tuesday as the bus stopped at Bud Wolski's **Manchester Sash & Hardware Company**. Wolski, who was to play a continuing role throughout the convention, has a significant inventory of knobs and related hardware. Any relatively new collector could get a "good leg up" on their collection from the Manchester Sash & Hardware Company . . . Bud's generous nature towards a fledgling member, will certainly help. This treasure trove, his private museum, plus his collection of catalogues drew



Terri Hartman explaining some of the sights during the bus tour.

His anecdotes about people in show business and society on the West Coast was punctuated by cut glass knobs from the William Randolph Hearst Estate and Marion Davies' bedroom door.



Bud Wolski

If his talk had a closure (no pun intended) it was an 8x8 hinge from the Texas State Capital. Also available for viewing were videos of Bud being interviewed for a local TV show.

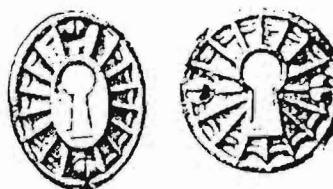
At the Thursday evening dinner, Lawrence Selman spoke on paperweights. This is Larry's vocation and avocation. The author of numerous books and the key person in the auctioning of paperweights, he presented an enlightening talk on their history from the original brief period (1845-1860) of manufacture in France to the current resurgence of the modern era. His description of current pricing of those original weights would make any collector's mouth water . . . talk about leaving an inheritance for your children!

Through Lawrence's generosity, a number of his books on paper weights were made available as door prizes.

The concluding event again was the auction. Always a high point, this year was no exception as some fine knobs appeared.

Key persons in the ADCA that are often overlooked for their work behind the scenes at the convention

are Ray and Loretta Nemec. Deeply involved in the planning with the hosts, most of the eventual typing and packaging of material falls on their shoulders. To them both, a fine "Thank You."•



Gateshead design

### Identifying doorknobs

This is the ninth of a series which cross-references the number appearing in Lionel Moes 1984 catalog with those assigned by Leonard Blumin.

Moes Enterprises

Len Blumin's

Catalog	Victorian Decorative Art
A-125	K203
A-126	H-214
A-127	N/A
A-128	L-109
A-129	H-220a
A-130	E-115
A-131	H-404
A-132	H-111
A-133	H-418
A-134	N/A
A-135	F-228
A-136	J-301
A-137	N/A
A-138	K-105
A-139	N/A
A-140	H-214

(Compiled by Edward Sobczak)



Gateshead Design L-119 found in Yale catalog for 1929, also in oval style.

## Gateshead, a Yale & Towne Design

by Maud Eastwood

The "Gateshead" design was introduced to the builders' hardware trade in August 1914 by the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co. This new member of the Yale family of designs was identified as blueprint N2377A.

The fan motif was featured and classified as Adams "Style." (At this time, Adams, as of the well-known Adams brothers, English artists, was not recognized as a school of architecture, as it later became.) The Adams brothers practiced after 1760 and until around 1784.

The fanlight over English doors (and Colonial style doors) also featured the radiating lines later employed in the Gateshead design. This motif has also been called the sunrise motif.

Other companies, at the time Gateshead was introduced, had yet to produce a like design though they would follow in the early 1920's. Russwin's "Carlton" was somewhat on the order and also their 1923 "Calman", but Corbin's "Fitzroy" was the closest to duplication.

Fitzroy can be found on page 547 of the 1932 Edition of Corbin's catalog no. 27 and Len Blumin's *Victorian Decorative Art*, page L-7, number L-119.

Gateshead was available in natural finish, unlacquered; natural metal, oil rubbed; or any gold finish, in 1914. In this year, 19 pieces of hardware were offered in this design, in circa 1937, eleven pieces in cast brass or bronze, with choices of finish.

This pleasing, uncluttered design goes well with the types of housing of the 1920's and is proper with Colonial architecture.

•



Gene & Miriam DeLange  
(Photo by L. Bolen)

## DeLanges to host '96 convention

The 1996 ADCA annual convention will be held in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area. Gene and Miriam DeLange will be hosts. They will be looking for ideas and help from their many ADCA friends in Michigan.

Grand Rapids set a Class A Minor League Baseball team attendance record for one season in 1995. ADCA hopes to set an attendance record in Grand Rapids in 1996. •



Steve Rowe, received two awards, one for "best of show" and the other for "best display of metallic doorknobs".



Menchhofer's award winning collection

## Paperweight author speaks

by Maud Eastwood

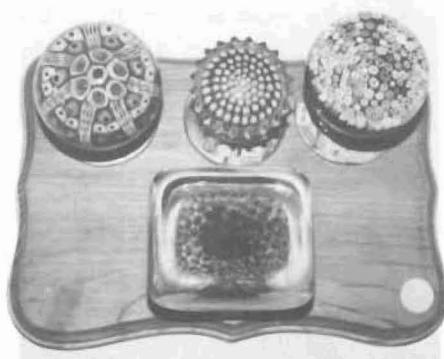
Lawrence Selman, national and international paperweight authority, was the main speaker at the ADCA's annual convention banquet at Santa Monica in August. ADCA was fortunate that Mr. Selman was able to attend this year's convention.

An important and well-known speaker, Selman found a rapt and appreciative audience.

Mr. Selman operates a three-fold business under the name L. H. Selman Ltd. in Santa Cruz, California. Under this name he publishes his own and other's books. (no less than 30 are found on his current list, as well as five videos), conducts auctions and deals in paperweights.

His auctions have included the famous Paul Jokelson collection. Within the last three years he founded the International Paperweight Society -- the second major paperweight group -- with a current membership of 800.

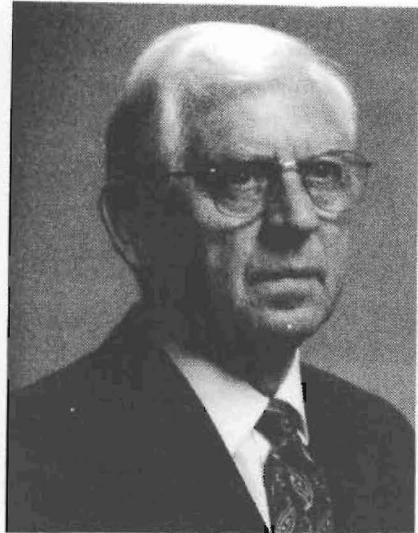
The paperweight doorknob collection of our own Steve Menchhofer caught Mr. Selman's critical eye and he termed it among the best he had seen. Thank you, Mr. Selman for an illuminating and "weighty" evening. •



Florence Jarvis' award winning theme glass display

## Eulogy to a Friend

by Maud Eastwood



**Arnold A. Fredrick**

ADCA members were saddened by the news of the death of fellow member Arnie Fredrick, as revealed in the July-August issue of our newsletter. Our editor covered the specifics of Arnie's passing and his collecting. I feel constrained to pay Arnie a personal tribute.

Arnie's passing was a shock to all of us who mourn his untimely passing on June 27th, and particularly those members of our founding days who were not aware of his potentially life threatening disease. Even Arnie was not aware of its presence at the August, 1994 convention.

My first encounter with Arnie was in the Spring of 1981, by telephone. I was in Oregon, he in Waverly, Iowa. I was seated by the breakfast table when the phone rang. An unfamiliar voice identified itself as belonging to Arnie Fredrick of Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Company and inquired if I (having authored the first book on antique doorknobs) would consent to fly, all expenses paid, to Waverly, Iowa, and speak to a group of people, interested in old doorknobs, who would consider the possibility of starting a club. Of course, I accepted the invitation.

Arnie Fredrick became my friend. I am reminded of a saying: "If we

develop even one truly thick-and-thin friend in our lifetime, we are indeed fortunate." Through Arnie Fredrick I was made fortunate. I do not take myself too seriously and Arnie made me feel special. He was never critical, but was kind and built confidence.

He secretly managed to get my face on a doorknob, in the form of a laser carving on a wooden knob, the likeness based on photos loaned by my family.

Arnie was well aware of my several faults. Without censure, and in few words, he would settle sticky situations my "over-concerned" nature seemed to breed.

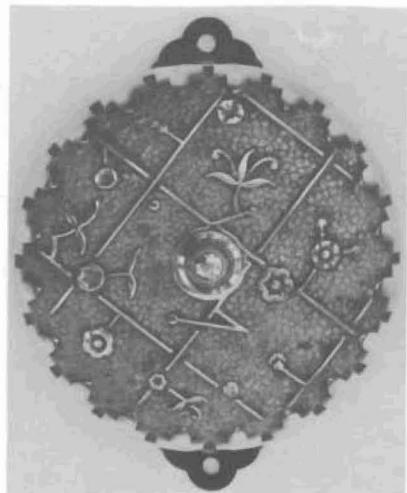
That he was engaged in outside interest beyond his Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance position, ADCA, and woodworking--besides his family--never occurred to me. Not until I read his obituary. His civil, social, community, and church involvement had led to his recognition, on a national level, as a leading citizen of the country.

Arnie also served extensively in the investment field, directing, at one point, the nationwide investment program for Lutheran Mutual Life Insurance Company. In addition, he was an investment and real estate consultant to private industry, governmental subdivisions, and academic institutions. "Our" Arnie? Incredible. When did he execute all those wood carvings? The clock faces, mirror backs, and boxes he put in the auction for the benefit of the club? He seemed so unhurried.

I know, I know, we are all born gifted with certain aptitudes and with different "drives." What we do to develop or stifle those aptitudes is up to us, individually. My friend, Arnie, maximized his God-given gifts to the benefit of his fellow man and our doorknob club.

A large volume best seller could be written on the considerable impact made by ADCA in its fourteen

year existence. This, through the newsletter and in countless situations involving restoration helps, reproduction hardware advising, identifying hardware, media productions, research, articles, shows, and extensive research. These examples only scratch the surface. Arnie's place and influence in bringing this about will not be forgotten. •



**Ekado design doorbell by Sargent**

### To the members of ADCA

Win Applegate, on behalf of the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**, expressed beautifully the love and affection the members felt for Arnie. Thank you for this tribute and for sharing in the sorrow of his death. We appreciated the lovely bouquet of flowers sent in Arnie's memory. Your thoughtful gesture was such an honor.

Arnie was proud to be a founder and member of ADCA. His affiliation with each one of you was so meaningful to him. Your consistent support, tireless efforts and unwavering loyalty were a vital part of his membership. Your expressions of concern, praise and love comforted him greatly during his illness. Your words of sympathy and compassion comfort us now.

**Tedi Fredrick and family**

## Five attended all conventions

Five members who attended the first convention in 1981 have not missed any of the annual events. Pictured are the five members. First row, (l to r) Maud Eastwood, Loretta Nemec and Florence Jarvis. Second row, Ray Nemec and Len Blumin.

(Photo courtesy L. Bolen)

↔



## Convention by numbers

The 1995 ADCA convention in Santa Monica, California, was the fifteenth annual meeting of members. The convention has been held in nine states. A total of 920 members have been registered. This averages 61.3 members per convention. The largest attendance was in 1993 at Gaithersburg, Virginia, where 83 registered. The smallest was in San Francisco in 1982 when 32 people were registered.

The 1995 convention, with 56 registrations, was the ninth largest. It was the smallest since 1987 when 52 members made the convention at West Des Moines, Iowa.

Following is a year-by-year attendance record with the convention site:

1981	Waverly, IA	34
1982	San Francisco, CA	32
1983	Naperville, IL	50
1984	Waverly, IA	54
1985	St. Louis, MO	51
1986	Minneapolis, MN	60
1987	West Des Moines, IA	52
1988	Indianapolis, IN	65
1989	Iowa City, IA	71
1990	East Windsor, CT	78
1991	South Lake Tahoe, CA	76
1992	Elgin, IL	76
1993	Gaithersburg, MD	83
1994	Milwaukee, WI	80
1995	Santa Monica, CA	56

The 1996 convention, scheduled for Grand Rapids, Michigan, will bring ADCA's annual event to the tenth different state and it is hoped we will pass the 1,000 mark in total attendance.♦

## AUCTION



**ITEM:** Door Knocker (see above)  
5-1/2" wide, 11" high, weight  
approximately 4 pounds. Either cast  
bronze or brass.

**Description:** Three gargoyles, two  
with claws extended at the tip. Their  
tails curled 3/4 of the way down. The  
head bends down on what appears to  
be the head of a bearded devil with  
horns.

**Rules:** Starting bid \$50.00. Bidding  
ends October 10, 1995. Please mail  
your written bid with your name,  
address, telephone number and  
amount to:

Ray Zyc (#23)  
1042 Milton Avenue  
Janesville, WI 53545.

## The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

**For Sale:** 160 pair (320 individual) brass doorknobs includes 63 pair of B-215 (Roanoke), 2 pair F-230 (Mantua). Many others (including B-117, B-201, E-102, F-223 etc). Please write for inventory list. Best offer takes all.

Don Trimper (#429)  
05756 M66  
Charlevoix, MI 49720  
PH: 616-547-5527.

**Wanted:** Slide Bell Pull.  
Richard Wise (#269)  
814 Bangs Street  
Aurora, IL 60505  
PH: 708-898-8377

**Wanted:** 11 (or as many as possible)  
3-1/2" brass hinges. 5-knuckle, 3-screws,  
ball finials marked Chicago on the back.  
For restoration of an old Lodge. I am also looking for a set of  
eight Eastlake drawer pulls.

Pat Liban (#389)  
3511 Hwy D  
West Bend, WI 53095  
PH: 414-338-4096

### Deadline

All ads, material and articles for the November-December 1995 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by October 15, 1995.