

The Doorknob Collector

Number 100

March - April 2000

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

ONE HUNDRED ISSUES A RETROSPECT

It is very exciting to be issuing the 100th issue of The Doorknob Collector. A great deal of work goes into each and every issue and in spite of this fact the newsletter has moved along with only three sets of editors since December 1981. The first issue in the current series began with a letter from the president of the club, John Holland. It consisted of two pages and a membership form. Four members were listed as the Board of Directors; John Holland, president, Arnie Fredrick, vice president, Marjorie Wiemer, secretary treasurer, and D. O. Razor, member-at-large.

Previous to the formation of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America there were 10 sporadic attempts at producing a newsletter for those interested in antique doorknobs. The first was sent out in March 1977 to 12 people who had purchased books from Maude Eastwood. Of those 12, only three eventually joined the club. But it was a beginning and at the time most collectors thought they were the only ones who were crazy enough to collect DOORKNOBS.

As I sit here typing on this great computer, I reflect on the vast improvement over producing those very early issues. We don't have the distribution list of the last one we sent out in March 1980, but currently we mail to over 300 readers six times a year.



Lee and Jim Kaiser

this one will go to well over 150. The cost of printing and mailing has fallen on your editor. As you can see he needs help. In order to continue, we are asking that you fill in the coupon below and enclose \$1.00 for the next three issues (one year subscription)." It probably cost 10 cents to mail those early newsletters as compared to 77 cents or more today.



Faye and Rich Kennedy



Loretta and Ray Nemece

Newsletter Deadline - April 15, 2000

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The letter was typed and then edited and retyped, any further corrections made and retyped again until the final product was ready to go to a Xerox machine. Photos were taken by Rich and cut and pasted (real glue) into place. The quality of the reproduction was definitely wanting, but we did persevere. Many of the knobs were represented by drawings. We would get photographs that we could only reproduce by using "tracing paper". The drawings tried to indicate shape by shading. Today we scan and imbed the image into the document. We've come a long way, baby! To give you an example of the improvement, note the example of the same knob.



I do remember not being able to eat on the dining room table for days at a time while we were trying to get the letter ready to go. In 1977 our two daughters were 12 and 9 years old so there were other priorities. But I can truly say that we are extremely happy about what came about because of those earliest efforts. The club has flourished and each set of editors has done their part to improve the information available to the readers.

Upon the formation of the club, the job of editing the Newsletter passed to Lee and Jim Kaiser. The quality of production showed a marked improvement. In October 1982 the colored masthead appeared. We were now "going to print" and looking good. That edition was 7 pages long with

identifying pictures of knobs that were recognizable because they had been reproduced at the printers rather than at the local library Xerox. This tradition of informing our readers with useful information continues to the present.

Lee Kaiser sums up their experience as "Clip and Paste". She says, "*Rich Kennedy called, would I write a few words about the time Jim and I spent as editors of the Doorknob Collector. It's a privilege to do so for the 100th issue.*"

I took my good old time looking over the issues we had done. What grand memories, I found myself smiling and crying a little. We took the editorship at the 1982 convention held in San Francisco.

It was a time of clipping and pasting of articles and photos. We hunted old bookstores for information on Gothic, Rococo, Romanesque, Italian, and French Renaissance for school of design. Len Blumin's book on Decorative Arts was purchased for the photos, so we could put together the issues. That was until Jim got his camera.

Members showing their love of, and favorite hardware was a highlight for us, as it made for new and strong friendships. We would fold to mail, each issue. There were 43 members in 1981. How we have grown. With issue#17 we started using the large envelopes. It was a labor of love, working full time and with other interests we were late on a few issues. We had always said we would like the editorship upon retirement, but that was not meant to be.

Loretta and Ray Nemeč did a grand job as editors. Faye and Rich Kennedy carry on our work. Let's continue to support them with our knowledge, articles, and the highlights of our collecting.

See you at convention 2000 in Minneapolis."

When the baton was passed to the Nemečs in 1986, the production process was pretty much the same. The big change was a computer so they were able to begin using word processing and not have to retype complete pages over and over.

However, there was still the problem of photos. Each picture had to be marked as to the size it should be in the newsletter. Spacing had to be indicated in the copy and instructions to the printer

New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA runs from July 1 through June 30. Anyone joining between July and April is enrolled for the current membership year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for that membership year.

New members after April 30th will be enrolled as members for the following membership year and will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jul-Aug issue.

The Doorknob Collector®



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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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ONE HUNDRED ISSUES A RETROSPECT (cont'd)

were detailed as to placement and size. This is no small task. Each page was then photographed at the printers and plates were made from these full-page negatives.

Approval copies came back to the Nemecs before the final run was made. Today all the pictures are scanned and just become part of the document on the computer. The only thing we send to the printer is a disk with the document and copies of all of the fonts that are used in the issue. Now that is pretty simple by comparison.

We get letters letting us know how much the newsletter is appreciated. We wish all could join the gathering at the conventions, but we know that is not possible. We are a wide spread group and the newsletter is the glue that holds us together. Speaking of glue, we no longer have to lick the stamps thanks to the new self-sticking ones! Now that is progress.

Another Member Website

Kenneth Spahr (#402) owns Lilac Shed Antiques and is announcing a new website. Around the middle of February you can find the new site at victorianhardware.com.

This will be a page dedicated to the sale and preservation of most kinds of hardware from the Victorian era. He offers restoration services and will take in work such as knob cleaning and refinishing for people restoring homes where the condition and finish is poor, repair and restoration of bells, highlight painting, etc.

As always, Ken will try to help if someone needs a particular part i.e., knobs, roses, plates, pulls, etc. His selection is pretty good.

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.

Wanted: I need a knob with the letter "M" on it for a baby present. Please help me find one. Thanks

Debbie Fellenz, (#31)
2224 Cherokee, St.
Louis, MO 63118
(314) 776-8363

For Sale: Six Victorian glass shades, excellent condition.

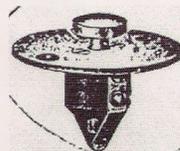
Vicky Berol (#450)
(415) 771-9899

Members on the Prowl for Hardware and Information

Rhett Butler (#292) is currently working on the restoration of an 1860's courthouse that was originally supplied with lead-filled copper hardware. I would appreciate any assistance in obtaining information regarding such hardware including photographs, catalogs cuts, historical information, ideas on who manufactured such items, location of any hardware on existing structures, actual examples of the hardware for loan or purchase, etc.

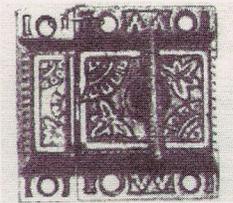
You can contact him with your information at:

ER Butler & Co
75 Spring Street
New York, NY 10012
tel 212 925-3565
fax 212 925-3305

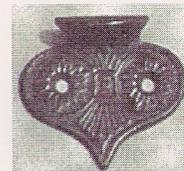


Vicky Berol (#450) is searching for several different hardware items.

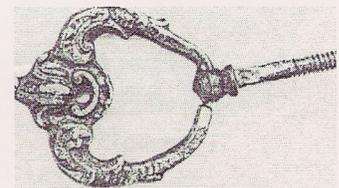
➤ Cast iron T-turn catch, 2 1/8" x 2 3/16". Need up to 6 sets. Moe's catalog (G134).



➤ Cast iron Finger lift. Need up to 8. Moe's catalog (F74)/Web Wilson's Guide pg 211



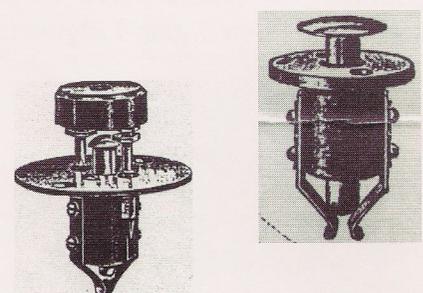
➤ Brass pull 2 3/4" x 1 1/2", need 1.



➤ Embossed strikes:

- 1 right plate (matching VDA B-125 or B-126)
- 2 left plates and 3 right plates (matching VDA H-219)
- 1 left plate (matching VDA M-107)

➤ Floor push button (3 examples below)



Take a look around and see if you can help your fellow members.

PERTHSHIRE DOORKNOBS - A DELIGHT TO THE EYE

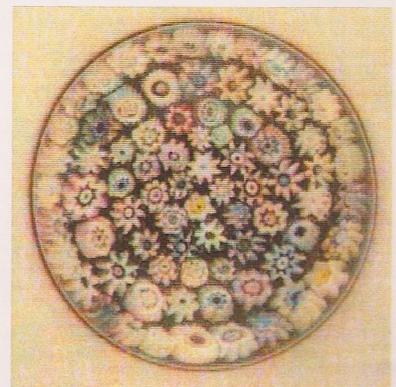
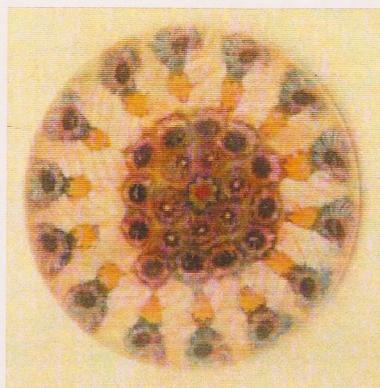
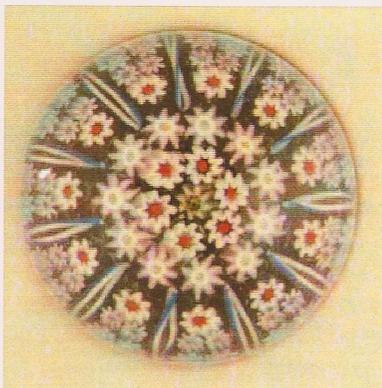
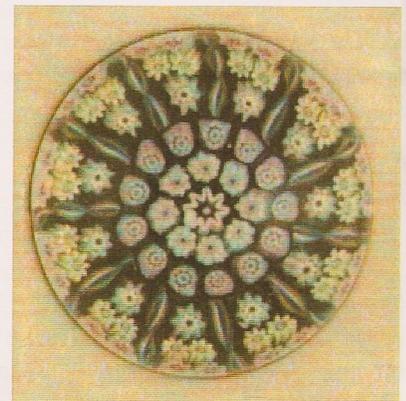
By Win Applegate

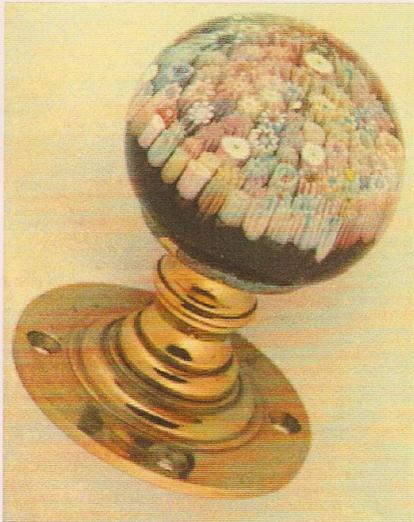
Stuart Drysdale founded **Perthshire Paperweights** in 1968. After managing Vasart and Strathern Glass Companies in Scotland in the early 1960's, Stuart was inspired by an article on paperweights in the American magazine, *Womans Day*. With several artisans he established Perthshire and eventually moved to new facilities in Crieff, Scotland. Through study and experimentation, one of his goals was to duplicate and improve upon techniques long lost since the 1800's (modern times?) of an art that goes back to the Roman Empire.



One cannot study the history of Perthshire and Drysdale without finding the name of Lawrence Selman, ADCA member #328. Larry was a featured speaker

at the Santa Monica Convention. It was probably a natural affinity that brought them together as Larry and Stuart met at a time when they were each starting their new businesses, with Selman developing his L. H. Selman Ltd., a firm that centers around many aspects of glass paperweights. Most published material on Perthshire appears to have the Selman 'stamp'. There is, however, a recent book by another author(s) that documents every paperweight product that Perthshire has ever produced.



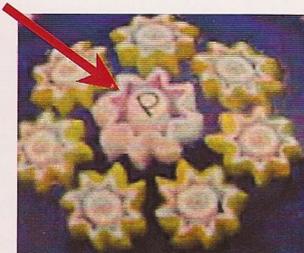
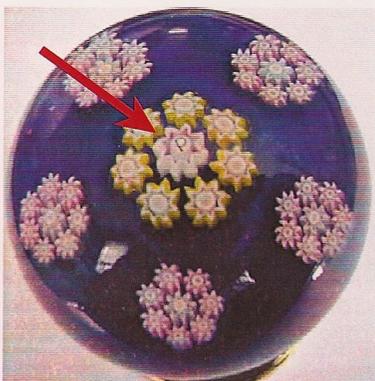


I find the paperweight making process fascinating. If you appreciate the artisan's work, beyond brass, I encourage you to delve into this fascinating area. The art of millefiori canes [the individual florets in the design] has been touched upon by Len Blumin in issue #56 of *The Doorknob Collector*. Older (pre-1900) paperweight doorknobs are a fine area to study and collect. [They are often of a somewhat simpler design than we see in the more modern knobs with a beauty all their own.] Coincidentally, after Stuart's death in 1990, I was fortunate enough to have obtained from his personal collection, several paperweight doorknobs of this earlier age.



While Perthshire has produced many paperweight-type products, they, at my last count, produce only five doorknobs - all millefiori. These are not limited editions and are "standard" with the exception that the background,

or base color may vary from run to run.



While many of the earlier knobs are not "signed", it appears that all knobs currently being produced have the "P" cane included. [Two examples are shown here with close-ups. Note the center of the design. In smaller designs you may have to look very closely to see the "P".]



If you are interested in learning more about Perthshire, may I suggest *All About Paperweights* by Lawrence H. Selman, Paperweight Press, Santa Cruz, CA 1992 and *The Art of the Paperweight PERTSHIRE* by Lawrence H. Selman with Stuart Drysdale, Paperweight Press, Santa Cruz, CA 1983.

Come to **Convention 2000** and see a whole array of beautiful knobs in color. Be sure to mark your calendar for **August 22-26**. You will be receiving a convention packet in the mail during March. Read all about the convention in Minneapolis and register to attend. Early registration will help the club!

Financial Report

Submitted by Allen Joslyn

CLUB ACCOUNT

Opening Balance	\$7,805.02
Income:	
Bookpeddler Receipts	\$1,022.25
Convention	\$8,022.84
Membership	\$8,136.25
Total	\$17,181.34
Expenses	
Bookpeddler Costs	\$403.00
Convention	\$5,601.72
Insurance	\$432.00
Honorarium	\$1,500.00
Office Supplies	\$204.49
Postage	\$1,406.65
Printing	\$2,810.15
Telephone	\$375.19
Bank Charges	\$179.89
Misc.	\$239.00
Total	(\$13,152.09)
VDA2d Publication	
Contrib. to '99 Exp.	\$9,220.00
'99 Pub. Expenses	\$9,185.93
Net	\$34.07
Closing Balance	\$11,868.34
Contributions Received in	
'99 For VDA2d Pub.Exp.	
Paid in 2000	\$18,810.00

VDA 2d FUND (For Future Updates)

'99 Sales of Book	\$5,132.50
Transfer Donation	\$3,000.00
Closing Balance	\$8,132.50

MUSEUM FUND

Balance 12/31/99	\$2,501.08
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AUCTION ACCOUNT

Opening Balance	\$4,686.52
Income	\$575.25
Closing Balance	\$5,261.77

ARCHIVES

Opening Balance	\$2,525.26
Income:	
Catalogue Orders	\$2,806.25
Expenses:	
Book Purchase	\$20.50
Printing Order Forms	\$87.01
Copying Catalogues	\$1,331.19
Office Supplies	\$30.21
UPS & USPS	\$143.15
Total Expenses	\$1,622.06
Closing Balance	\$3,709.45

Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate

One of the articles this issue is on Perthshire Doorknobs. Why would we write about a firm that has only been in the business since the 1960's?

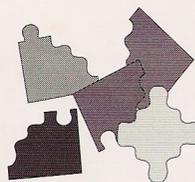
In numerous discussions over the years, members have often talked about what ornamental hardware will be collectable, say, fifty or a hundred years from now. Reflecting upon firms and their products that we currently study and attempt to preserve, Perthshire and its products possess many of the same qualities.

The firm strives for perfection ... the firm's reject rate approaches 70%! Continual research and experimentation attempts to duplicate or rediscover some of the techniques lost, over the years, in the art of making ornamental glass.

As a celebration of the One Hundredth issue of *The Doorknob Collector*, color has been added. Procedures never attempted by the editors before have made this issue quite a labor of love for the Kennedys. Rich, in real life, was a professional photographer, yet colored glass knobs presented a considerable challenge in several areas. Getting a quality product from the printer should also not be underestimated. He and Faye are to be commended for their efforts.



If our newsletter had a larger circulation, my 'Bits & Pieces' in the last issue might possibly have been considered 'yellow



journalism'. My reference to member Tom Hennessy, whom we know as the author of *Early Locks and Lockmakers of America*, and others, was not the Tom Hennessy, artist, who drew the samples of Victorian Architecture in *This Old House Magazine*.

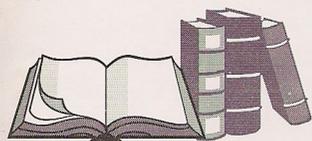
Of course, we should all know that Lock Collectors who associate together do not do so in a Lock Collectors Association, as do doorknob collectors, but belong to the Lock Museum of America in Terryville, Connecticut. For many years, Tom Hennessy has been the Museum's curator. Sorry Tom.

Convention 2000 Update

Planning for the ADCA's annual convention is underway. The Club's 20th annual convention will be held in Minneapolis, August 22-26, 2000 at the DoubleTree Hotel, located minutes from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America, the country's largest enclosed shopping center.

Members attending the convention are invited to tour three landmark historic properties in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The American Swedish Institute is a 33-room chateau styled limestone mansion with a dazzling stained glass window. The Purcell Cutts Home is an example of the Prairie School of architecture built in 1913. And the third is the James J. Hill house, an 1891 Romanesque style home of a railroad baron which cost more than \$931,000 to build at that time.

From the Archives



By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer

The ADCA is growing and some of our newer members may not know about our Archives and the Emil Miller Memorial Library. This article is mainly addressed to them. Take a few minutes, kick back, relax, and read about the history of these two important facets of our organization.

In 1981, Jim and Lee Kaiser, editors of TDC at that time, mentioned catalog lending after Charlie Wardell, another member, loaned them his catalog to copy. Later on Charlie suggested maybe it would be a better idea to trade copies of catalogs to eliminate the chance of loss or damage to the original. This information was taken from issue #1 and issue #2 of TDC. An idea had been planted. Fast forward to 1983.

In the fall of 1983 the Archives were established by the ADCA board of directors. The Archives are where all old hardware catalog copies and other records are kept. Currently the Archives houses over 75 catalog copies. Most are offered to members once or twice a year. We must save wear and tear on these copies and this is the reason they are not made available at any other time to the membership.

Emil Miller was the club's first archivist. He served in this capacity until his death in 1984. His wife, Dorothy Ann Miller, assumed the position in 1984 and held it until Alice

Chadonich was appointed in 1987. In 1989 we were asked to be co-archivists and we are currently serving in this capacity.

Directors voted to name the club library the Emil Miller Memorial Library because of Emil's dedication and past contributions to the club. Len Blumin, president, presented 4 volumes to start the new library. They include *The Antique Doorknob* and *Antique Builders' Hardware, Knobs, and Accessories* by Maud L. Eastwood, *Victorian Decorative Art* by Leonard Blumin, (donated by the authors) and *Babcock & Stowell's 1894 Catalog* donated by Len Blumin. Martin Meldahl gave his copy of *P. & F. Corbin Catalog No. 28M* to the library at the same time. The library was off to a good start.

The library is a private one, not for public use, and is administered by the archivists until such time as a permanent location can be established. It is the official library of the ADCA and is currently housed in Speedway, Indiana.

There are over 50 volumes of old hardware catalogs, books, and a few reprints in the library today. Most have been donated by members and some have been purchased by the archives. If you own a catalog you would like to donate to the Emil Miller Memorial Library, please contact us at (317) 291-6043 or e-mail smenchhofe@aol.com.

Emil Miller once wrote, "One of the many important phases of our interest is research." We should learn as much as we can about our hardware so we in turn can educate the public. Research and education are two very important factors for a collector.

The library and the archives are flourishing thanks to you, the membership. Keep it up!

"THE FIRST AUCTION"

by Len Blumin

The second annual convention of ADCA was held in San Francisco in 1982. We met over a weekend, in the spacious dining room of the Schlage Lock Co. Against the walls of the room were large cases displaying part of the valuable and historic Schlage antique lock collection.

The highlight of the first evening was to be a talk on the origins of the hardware industry in America, given by a local guest speaker of some note. As host, I began to fidget when the hour approached and the guest was nowhere to be found. (Turned out he had gotten the dates confused!). Anyway, there we were, all dressed up and no place to go. That called for some improvisation. A quick huddle, and someone suggested, "Why not hold an auction?"

"Great idea!" was the response, and the ADCA auction was born. Items quickly appeared on a table, and Len Blumin acted as auctioneer. It went over well (no computer needed in those days) and has remained a highlight of the annual convention ever since.



Jackie Rode,
ADCA's own auctioneer

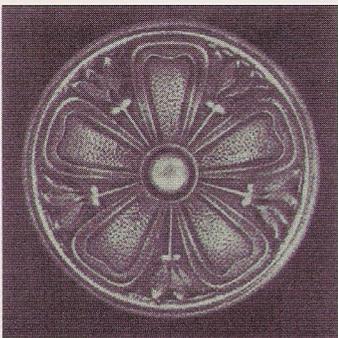
Surprise, Surprise!

By Rich Kennedy

Have you ever passed by a doorknob for sale in an antique shop? All right, it was a half a doorknob; all right, only the top dome of the doorknob. I passed this particular half a doorknob several times while browsing. With only the dome sitting there I thought how strange to sell only half a knob.

But curiosity finally got the best of me, and as the salesperson handed it to me my finger felt some roughness on the backside. Lo and behold, as I flipped it over, there on the other side was the wording as seen below. Apparently, this was a paperweight advertisement or a salesman's sample for the Vigo design by Vale and Towne. The moral of this story is, if you are ever in doubt, stop, look and be surprised.

How about your own surprises?



THE BROOKING COLLECTION "A MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES"

by Rhett Butler

Planning a trip to London anytime soon? Perhaps a visit to Charles Brooking's collection of architectural details will put you in the mood for tea. Located at the University of Greenwich, the Brooking Collection is only a half-hour from downtown London and is home to over 20,000 whole or sectioned architectural features. Perhaps most notable for ADCA members is the museums ironmongery (hardware) collection, comprised of several thousand items of door and window furniture, with over 450 doorknobs.

The Brooking Collection is a museum and study collection of period architectural features from a variety of buildings, from the very grand to the very humble. The main collections are of windows, doors, fanlights, staircase sections, firegrates, door and window ironmongery, and timber mouldings. The earliest features date from the 16th century, the latest from the 1980s. Visitors are very welcome to view a cross-section of the collections in their gallery, and also to look around an adjoining store. Alternatively, the public can request to see specific examples from the study collections.

The Collection can be visited by arrangement (telephone: 011 44 0181 331 9897) Monday - Friday 10am - 5:30pm. Visits during evening and weekend hours will be accommodated whenever possible. Entry is free of charge for individual visits to the gallery and store. You are welcome to take photographs.

For further information contact :

The Brooking Collection
The Brooking Architectural
Museum Trust
University of Greenwich
Dartford University Campus
Oakfield Lane, Dartford
Kent DA1 2SZ
011 0 181 331 8897

Contributors

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to this newsletter:

Win Applegate
Len Blumin
Maude Eastwood
Sally Hyslop
Allen Joslyn
Rhett Butler
Lee Kaiser

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who have joined the ADCA since our last newsletter.

Ed Roskelly Long Branch NJ
Margie Thom Estacada OR

Keep in Touch



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07928-0031



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