



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 49

September - October 1991

## Another excellent convention

by Win Applegate, President

The eleventh annual convention of **The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** was held in South Lake Tahoe, August 11-13, 1991 with Marge and Joe Bornino hosting.

As usual, as we gathered in the hospitality room on Sunday evening, we became aware of those who would or would not be attending. The hop to the West coast meant a heavy representation by California.

Happily, the Brights and the Hollands, who had missed one or more recent gatherings, had journeyed to Tahoe with family members.

The wedding of the year was undoubtedly Debbie Fellenz and Rick Kelly. We wish Debbie (keeping her maiden name) and Rick a long and happy marriage.

Monday was the usual set-up, trading, and buying frenzy. From the contiguously changing array of new (?) items each year, there is little reason to use the word



**Lake Tahoe is beautiful.**

"usual." It was not long into the first day when the schedule became clear and the scope of the planning effort by Marge and Joe became evident.

Bud Wolski gave a talk highlighted by

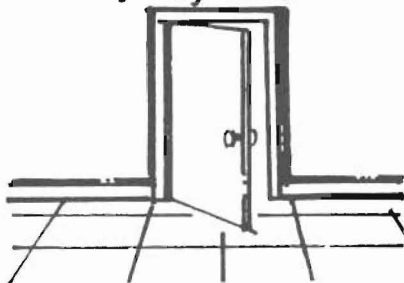
a slide presentation. Through the years, various "periods" have presented opportunities to collect and/or specialize.

Following the concept that what-is-

See Convention, page 3

## THE OPEN DOOR

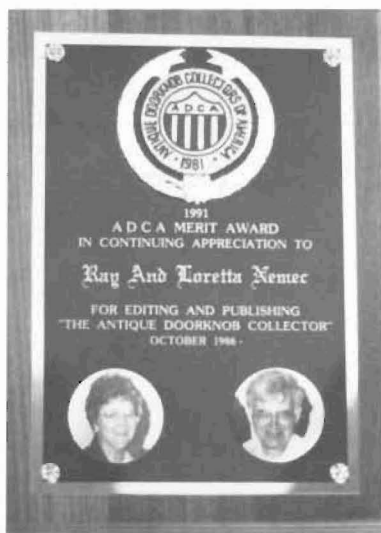
by ray nemec



The 1990 convention set a record with 52 members attending. The 1991 convention almost equaled that number. A total of 48 members were on hand at South Lake Tahoe. For total number people attending, 1991 set a record with almost 100 members and their families on hand. This broke the record of 80 set in 1990.

Members came from sixteen states. California was first with 14. The members from Missouri showed up strong and that state finished second with seven members. Twelve member attended their first convention.

Loretta and I were overwhelmed when we were presented with a beautiful plaque in recognition for our work on the newsletter. As I once wrote, it has been a labor of love. It is hard to



find a nicer group of people than the ADCA members. Maybe collecting doorknobs makes us something special.●

The theme for the 1992 convention will be on, Chicago Hardware Mfg., Co. and United States Steel Lock Co.



Presidents past & present  
Len Blumin - Win Applegate



FROM THE ARCHIVES  
WITH ARCHIVISTS  
Steve/Barb Menchhofer

Catalog copies are being offered for sale at this time. These are copies of old catalogs that have doorknobs and related hardware in them. You will find an order form included in this issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. Deadline for order is November 1, 1991. Please enclose your check or money order with your form and do not add postage as it has already been included in the cost. These copies are only offered twice a year so it will be some time before they are offered again.●



### The Doorknob Collector

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The outdoor Bar-B-Q was one of many activities attended at the 1991 ADCA convention.

## Convention

from page 1

old- was-once-new, Bud, focused on the Art Deco Period. Showing examples ranging from architecture -to-furnishings -to-hardware. Bud, suggested that the Art Deco period could provide fertile opportunities for tomorrow's collecting.

Bud (#20) and his wife Margaret were not known to some of us newer members and his talk was a reminder of the depth, knowledge and talent that exists within our club.

The display contest reflected new points of view by the Borninos. The judging/awards were completed prior to the public viewing on the last afternoon, the judging was done by an independent group, and

there were seven categories.

Off to Harvey's casino in the evening for a buffet. Prior to cutting loose with the "slots," we were treated to a talk by John Holland.

It was apropos that John, ADCA'S first president speak at the tenth anniversary convention. He chronicled the growth of the club and spoke of many of those who have guided it to the present. His message was strong: OUR PROGRESS CAN CONTINUE IF WE EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE, AND INVOLVE OUR NEW MEMBERS.

Thank you John, for your fine presentation.

For those familiar with the publications from other clubs, the ADCA

newsletter is obviously head-and-shoulders above the others. It is a "class act" due to the diligence and effort that Loretta and Ray Nemec invest as they edit our newsletter.

In recognition of their dedication and success, Len Blumin presented the Nemecs with a plaque. As we thank and recognize Loretta and Ray, we give them our fond blessings and hope that the name of the Nemecs remains synonymous with the newsletter for many years to come.

In addition to the business meeting, the officers and the Board of Directors met officially on two other occasions. In later newsletters there will be more on next year's convention in Elgin,

See page 12

### DISPLAY CONTEST AWARDS

The display contest at the 1991 ADCA Convention was expanded to seven categories from the three held in recent years.

A contest has been held annually since 1984. The idea of awarding displays was initiated by the late Vince Noe, after he attended the 1983 convention, to encourage members to develop and bring displays to the convention.

The judging was done by an independent group this year. In previous years members voted for their favorite displays.

This year's winners were:

CATEGORY	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE
Plastic/Composition	John Holland	Clifford Stroing
Wood	Len Blumin	Steve Menchhofer
Glass	Emmet Wiemer	Debbie Fellenz
Iron/Steel	Dean Campbell	Linda Smeltzer
Brass/Bronze	Nancy Sandwick	Arnie Fredrick
Ceramic/Porcelain	Arnie Fredrick	Florence Jarvis
Best Overall Artistic Display	- Alex Kunkel	



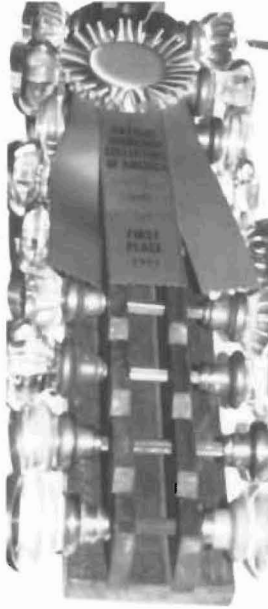
John Holland

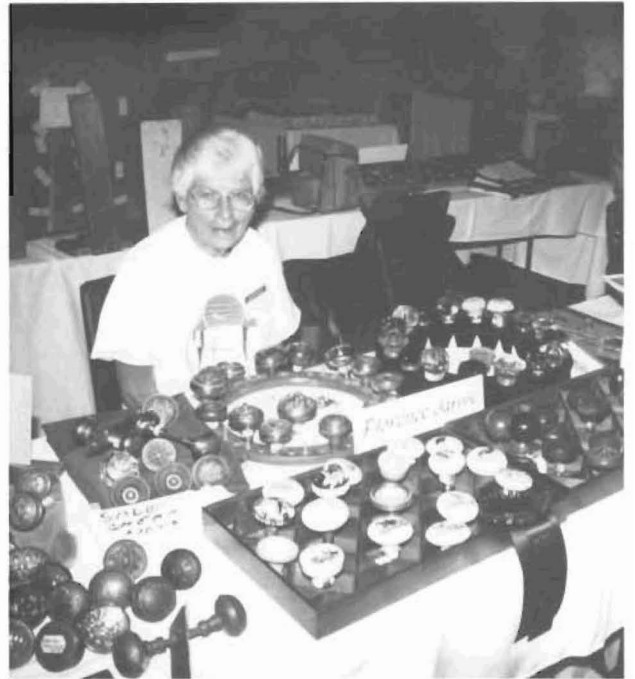


Clifford Stroing

Page 5, top row, Len Blumin, Barbara & Steve Menchhofer.  
 second row, Emmet Weimer, Linda Smeltzer.  
 bottom row, Edith & Dean Campbell.







Top row, Nancy Sandwick  
 Second row, Arnie Fredrick, Florence Jarvis  
 Bottom row, Alex Kunkel

Debbie Fellenz-Kelly  
 (sorry no picture  
 available of award)

# Letters

## Education at its best

Having collected doorknobs, mostly doubles, for approximately 20 years, my wife Janice and I went to the Lake Tahoe convention - my first - armed with three plastic buckets containing most of my collection, not knowing what to expect. As the "new kid on the block" I found that my wife and I felt very welcome and comfortable at the convention.

I learned so much in three days about the doorknobs I have cherished over the years. I thank you.

I was surrounded with members from all walks of life who were so knowledgeable in various aspects of antique hardware that I was awed and humbled by listening and learning from the others at the convention from the time we arrived to the time we left. It was a learning experience that I will remember fondly in the years ahead in my chosen hobby of doorknob collecting and a member of **THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR OF AMERICA.**

The beauty of Lake Tahoe was enhanced by the host family, Marge & Joe Bornino, who made the convention plans which included the marvelous dinner buffet at Harvey's,

the super barbecue at The Sands Motel on the second day and the great Italian food at their home on the last day of the convention. Being allowed to tour the Bornino's home was like winning a super "Jackpot Bonus". Janice and I were flabbergasted by all the displays and decorator items and will always remember the decor and the work that went into them. It truly made their home unique. It is obvious that they are dedicated, valued and proud members of **THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA.**



Dan & Janice Sheehan

**To all!**

We would like to say Thank You for making us feel welcome. We met so many nice people and saw some extraordinary doorknobs. Christopher had a great time and he

thanks everyone for giving him doorknobs. Alex and I thank everyone for making Christopher feel a part of the convention. We don't think enough can be said about the people who make up this club. They are the most warm-hearted people we ever met.

We would like to especially thank Maudie Eastwood for all her advice, extraordinary generosity and friendship over the years. We would also like to thank Len and Patti Blumin for their help over the years, Steve and Barbara Menchhofer for their trading generosity at the convention and Claude and Pat Knox for the wonderful doorknob gift.

Alex did a lot of trading and Christopher and I got a doorbell. But the highlight of the convention for us was Alex getting the Purple Ribbon.

We regret we couldn't spend more time with everyone and that we had to leave early and didn't get to tell everyone goodbye. Everyone made this convention so much fun that Alex and I are already thinking of ways to try to make the next one. We had a great time.

Lori Kunkel●

# Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

(The following regular feature is a supplement to Len's excellent book,  
VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART)

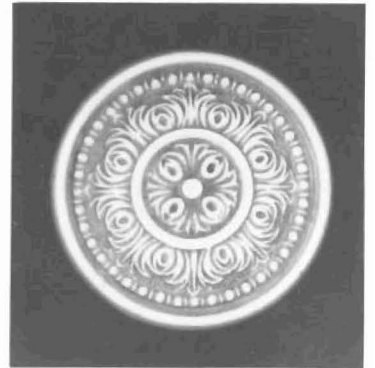
## CONCENTRIC SYMMETRY

- M-131 Well made simple design.  
M-132 Small "crank" knob. Also contains fourfold symmetry.  
M-133 Has flower bud border, like M-127.  
M-134 Chicago/Niles. Also could be eightfold.  
M-135 Vernacular. Iron. Circa 1880. Also contains a swirl.  
M-136 Cast. Fourfold center. Made in iron and bronze.

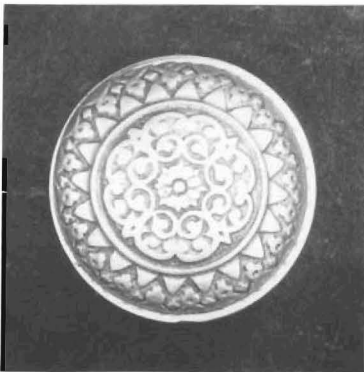
M-131



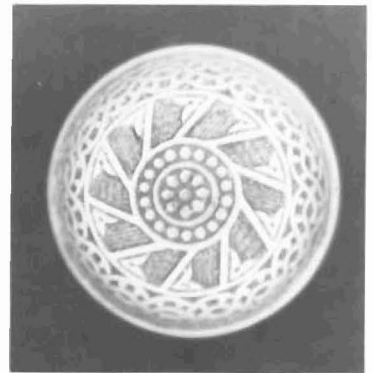
M-134



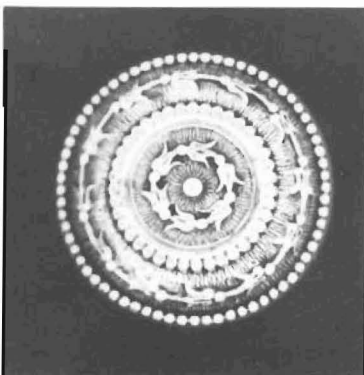
M-132



M-135



M-133



M-136





OVAL KNOBS

- N-161 Vernacular, circa 1880. Oval knobs rare in this period.  
N-162 Rococo motif was popular for oval knobs.  
N-163 Another rococo oval. "French" patterns were often oval.  
N-164 Acanthus combines with egg and dart border.  
N-165 Pretty little knob, with a french flair.  
N-166 Several variations made, including round ones.

N-161



N-164



N-162



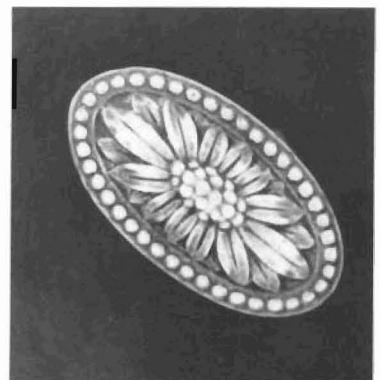
N-165



N-163



N-166



## Meet Alex Kunkel

If you want to know how the modern rancher herds cattle from his motorcycle, **ADCA** member Alex Kunkel can give you first hand information. Tending to cattle on an Idaho ranch and collecting doorknobs are important interests in Kunkel's life.

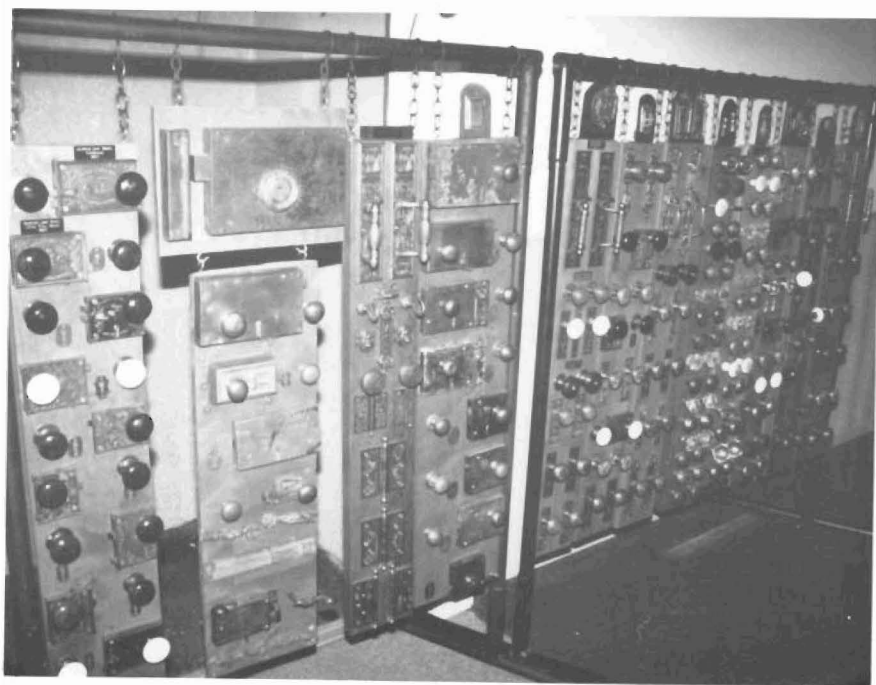
A member of **The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** since 1983, Kunkel finds it a real challenge to obtain knobs in Idaho where 10,000 acre ranches and mountains dominate rather than the an-



tique shops and flea markets of the East coast and midwest.

Trading with **ADCA** members through the mail is one of his main sources in obtaining new knobs. Partly because of the lack of local sources for doorknobs, Alex spent time in putting together the 1991 **ADCA** Convention Best Overall Artistic display.

Alex, his charming wife, Lori, and their young son, Christopher, all share in enjoying the hobby of doorknob collecting.●



# Obituary

## ADAIR STROING

Adair Stroing, the wife of longtime ADCA member Clifford Stroing, died on June 18, 1991, in Chico, California, of cancer. She was 67.

Mrs. Stroing was born on December 1, 1923, at Redding California. She married Clifford in 1943.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Stroing was survived by her daughters, Susan and Kathleen.



## Bornino's Hideaway

The following are address changes:

#87  
Bradley Widseth  
2410 Fillmore St. N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

**1992 CONVENTION AT  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS  
AUGUST 1 - 4 1992**

#208  
CDR Frederic Smith  
Commanding Officer  
EOD Mobile Unit 4  
Key West, FL  
33040-5000

## ROSTER UPDATE No. 3

The following are additions to the 1991 ADCA roster which was enclosed with the May-June 1991 issue of **The Doorknob Collector:**

#159 John F. Komar  
5240 Delor  
St. Louis, MO 63109

#262 Bill Gardner  
R. R. #2 Box 696  
Sutton Bay, MI 49682

#263  
Bill & Mary Fellenz  
439 N. Euclid  
St. Louis, MO 63108

#264 Michael L. Jones  
104 Pierce Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94117

#265 Marilyn Hunt  
7115 Creighton  
Austin, TX 78723

## ANNUAL ELECTION HELD

The annual election for members to the ADCA Board of Directors was held at the organization's annual meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 1991. Returning to the board are Win Applegate, Len Blumin, Dean Campbell, Arnie Fredrick and Maudie Eastwood.

The newly elected were Loretta Nemec, Carlos Ruiz and Dale Sponaugle. They succeed Bill Byington, Mark Davidovich and Ray Nemec.

The following officers were elected by the board:

President.....Win Applegate  
Vice President.....Dale Sponaugle  
Secretary/Treasurer.....Loretta Nemec

# The doorknob exchange

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

**FOR SALE.** Will make a walking stick from your doorknob, as pictures. \$40 includes insurance and UPS. I've made hundreds. Hardwood sticks, turned and polished. Note lengths over 35 inches. Harold Luvisch (#102), 838 Marble Way, Boca Raton, FL 33432. PH:407-338-5723.



**FOR SALE.** Benevolent Protector Order of Elks, Boston Mass., knob, excellent quality and condition, solid cast, elk head in center. \$38 includes shipping charges. Order from Liz's (#111) Antique Hardware, 3821 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92103. PH: 619-284-1075.

**FOR SALE.** Many door-knobs listed in Len Blumin's Victorian Decorative Art book

that I have in my collection are available. All in perfect condition. Please specify by number and initial. Immediate answer and price quote will be made. Fred L. Magnus (#10), 5910 Lucina Ct., Shell Point village, Ft. Myers, FL 33931. PH:813-454-5231.

**FOR SALE.** Approximate 1,000 doorknobs, plus related hardware. Florence Chelin (#33), Route 5 - 2026 S. Main Princeton, IL 61356. PH: 815-875-1896.

**WANTED.** Interested in buying figural and emblematic knobs. Please describe and quote price. Maurice Onraet, (#132), P.O. Box 605, Newtown, PA 18940.

**WANTED.** Up to 12 pair of solid bronze Mal-lory Wheeler knobs and roses (or plates) as pictured, for our Victorian home. Call/write, K.M. King, (#247) 141 Pine St., Dover, MA 02030.



H-244

**IF YOUR** passing thru San Diego, make sure to stop at Liz's Antique Hardware, 3821 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92103. An extensive inventory of over 300,000 pieces of door, furniture, window and lighting hardware dating from 1950 on back.●

Convention continued from page 3

Illinois and such topics as a traveling display for museums and libraries.

While more details on the election of officers will also follow, the fact is that Len Blumin's taking that one step back after two stints as president. Arnie Fredrick presented Len and Pattie with a clock, a fine example of Arnie's carving, as a token of the club's appreciation.

The visit to the Borninos? Marge's doorknob collection? More appropriate to speak of Marge's "collections". An eye for the collectible and a talent for creative displaying added the icing to the convention cake and a magnificent Italian luncheon with fine fellowship that concluded the eleventh annual ADCA convention in South Lake Tahoe. Congratulations Borninos for a job very well done.●