

Hemingray Corner is a new feature where I answer questions and talk about one of my favorite topics: the Hemingray Glass Company! Have a Hemingray question? Contact me!

For the first issue, I'm going to focus on the granddaddy of the 510-series power insulators manufactured by Hemingray: the CD 301.5 Hemingray-515.

Manufactured between 1939 and 1940, the Hemingray-515 was an experimental style that likely never saw service. Hemingray catalogs of that time period feature the Hemingray 510 (CD 168), 511 (CD 231.2), 512 (CD 230/230.1), 513 (CD 232/232.2), and 514 (CD 238/238.1). But it stops there—no 515 to be found. Yet, over the years (most in the 1970's) several specimens have been dug from the Hemingray Dump in Muncie, Indiana.



**ABOVE:** A CLEAR CD 301.5 SHARD DUG FROM THE HEMINGRAY DUMP IN 2006. PHOTO CREDIT: DARIN COCHRAN

Sporting a triple petticoat, measuring 7 1/4" wide (slightly bigger than a 7" CD 301 Muncie Type), and weighing in at 4 lbs. 4 oz., the 515 was clearly meant for primary power distribution.

Why was this an experimental style and not produced in more numbers? We may never know. It's possible that Hemingray was experimenting with a replacement for the Muncie Type which

they seemingly discontinued in the 1920's. Or, perhaps by 1940 the voltage range these were designed for was better suited for porcelain insulators and was cost prohibitive to produce?

What we do know is these are known to come in two colors (clear and honey amber), come in two pinhole sizes (1" and 1- 3/8") and come in three EINs:



[010] (F-Skirt) HEMINGRAY-515 (R-Skirt) MADE IN U.S.A. / 1-9. {1 3/8" pinhole} SB - Clear

[020] (F-Skirt) HEMINGRAY-515 / 9 (R-Skirt) MADE IN U.S.A. / 1 {1 3/8" pinhole} SB - Honey Amber

[030] (F-Skirt) HEMINGRAY-515 / 9 (R-Skirt) MADE IN U.S.A. / 1 {1" pinhole} SB - Honey Amber

Note that all of the 3 known embossings above, only have one mold number ("1"), and come in two distinct molds. Clear specimens have a "1-9."

date code on the rear skirt (indicating a 1940 manufacturing date), and honey amber specimens all have a "9" date code on the front skirt, indicating a manufacturing date of 1939, and a "1" on the rear skirt.

I first found out about the CD 301.5 while perusing the McDougald's Insulator book as a fledgling Hemingray collector in 1991. I thought it was so cool, and knew I wanted one some day. Back then the price guide value was a very modest \$300-350, but still way too much for a 10 year old to afford.

In 1998, I received my first CD 301.5 from Bill Meier. It's a [020] in specimen condition reglued from two pieces and missing the back third, but it's cool to see a cross section of the triple petticoat. Then, in 2017 I was fortunate to pick up the [010] in Clear, which as it turns out happens to be the exact insulator pictured in the McDougald book I used to admire as a kid. It definitely has the look of a dug piece, and does not show any signs of use.

This prompted me to start a "census", trying to determine exactly how many of these are known to the hobby. Based on responses from several collectors, I believe there are around 10 known: 3-4 clear and 5-6 amber. Of the amber pieces, the [030] 1" pinhole variety is the least common—I know of one specimen to date. The value has risen considerably since the



1991 price guide value of \$300-350, and over the past 8 years or so the value has leveled off at \$2500-3000. Only time will tell if more are unearthed from the Hemingray Dump, but until then the few that are circulating in the hobby will remain sought after by CD, power and Hemingray specialists alike. ▲

**OPPOSITE PAGE, CENTER:** [010] EMBOSSING IN HONEY AMBER. PHOTO CREDIT: BILL MEIER

**LEFT:** [030] EMBOSSING WITH 1" PINHOLE. NOTE THE DARKER AMBER COLORING. PHOTO CREDIT: RON YUHAS

**LEFT, BELOW:** [020] EMBOSSING, REUNITED WITH ITS PICTURE IN THE MCDUGALD'S INSULATOR BOOK.

