

The Fiberglass Montana Pins

by

Past International Director Tom Lehman

PID Tom is a long time member of the LITPC and has been one of our strongest supporters at the International level. He served as an International Director from Montana from 1992 to 1994.

When I had my “Pets and Hobbies” store, Wayne Gibson and I formed “Wayne-Tom Enterprises”. One of our many projects was making the fiberglass pins. We had a rock saw to cut the rocks and a mold that had 6 Montana shapes. At that time, all pins had to be ordered through the Club Supplies at Lions Clubs International. They couldn’t find a manufacturer so they sold us the Lions emblems to embed in the fiberglass, and allowed us to make the pins. It was a very time-consuming endeavor. There were three (3) layers of fiberglass to each pin, and we were able to produce only six (6) pins each day. We sent between 200 and 300 to Tokyo for the 1969 LCI Convention with Past District Governors Ted Witzel and Lew Arnold to trade for us. The rest of the pins that we had, Wayne and I traded for a few years both as a Club and as a State pin, depending on the label that we inserted. (You will note that the main difference between the Club pin and the State pin is the designation “Bozeman” for the Club and “Montana” for the State.)



The First Montana State Pin



**Bozeman, Montana Lions Club Pin
Made from the Same Mold Used for the State Pin**

Another highly collectible fiberglass pin was the one made by the Kalispell Lions Club in Montana. However, contrary to what was originally assumed, this pin was NOT made from the so-called “Bozeman Moulds”. The Kalispell pins were produced from moulds that were available from local hardware suppliers.



Editor’s Note. The Kalispell pin has been slightly enlarged to highlight the “dog face” Lions emblem. This type of emblem is obviously NOT sanctioned by LCI and is considered to be in violation of the registered and copyright provisions exercised by LCI. Once again, as stated in the article by PID Lehman, these pins were not made from the moulds approved by LCI and used in the production of the Montana state pins and the Bozeman Lions Club pins. The emblems in those pins were procured from LCI.

We would like to thank PDG Dave Armstrong, Montana, for the tremendous assistance that he gave to us in the development of this article. Lion Dave is arguably one of the most sincere and dedicated pin traders that we have today in the LITPC.