A tidbit about the Museum ---

A friend of mine just emailed a photo (see attachment) asking what this ceramic piece was. Do you know? If you have an older home, there may be some of these in your walls, attic or basement. This "knob" is part of the "knob & tube" electric wiring system used in homes of the late 1800s and up to the 1930s. If installed correctly, the system was fairly safe and usually could carry heavier loads than most wiring today. However, the system in not generally approved by the National Electric Code today.

I bring this subject up, because this is the kind of wiring that was installed in 1915 in Henry and Maude Schricker's home at 401 S. Main Street in Knox. The "knob & tube" system was the standard for the industry in 1915. In 1978, the Starke County Historical Society purchased the Schricker home and it has been used as a Museum ever since. In time, the insulation on the wires of this knob & tube system breaks down, showing bare copper wires. If this happens, the electrical system becomes unsafe and dangerous. Three years ago much of the Museum's electric system was updated to code. New wire and conduit replaced most of the old wire. New circuit breaker cabinets were installed and the old knob & tube system that remained was thoroughly inspected. Some of the old knob & tube was left in place in the basement to show what the old system looked like.

The directors of the Starke County Historical Society feel they have a responsibility to the citizens of the county to preserve the thousands of photographs and artifacts entrusted to them. Over the years, they have been keeping the Museum in good repair. I am proud of their efforts.

More photos and information about the knob & tube wiring system can be seen on ----

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Knob_and_tube_1930.jpg

