

Just  
For

# Openers



Do you know? - Apparently not: There were no responses to Del Haarberg's and E. Royal Gage's questions in issue #2. Regarding the Gutsch Brewing Company opener: Winifred Reutter reports - "Ask any old miner or cowboy - it's a beer or bean can opener. Hold the opener upright with end point on center of can and pound on round end with palm of hand to punch hole. Leaving tip in hole, lay opener down, adjust sliding point to inside can rim, press down and turn around and around." Winifred says her husband has seen old cowboys use it. She has an opener like it with a wooden handle. Similar answers were reported by Gene Appel, Andy Crowe, and Bill McKenzie.

Don Reed has come up with an interesting study of the cost of his collection of 1840 beer advertising openers. The total cost through March was \$3,613.58 and Don's purchase record looks like this:

Type of openers	Quantity Purchased			Amount spent		
	to 1977	to 3/78	to 3/79	to 1977	to 3/78	to 3/79
F,G,K,L,M,N,O,P	92	78	44	\$196.40	\$373.60	\$278.50
H - over the top	83	44	21	65.00	95.50	47.50
E - wire loops	181	193	74	128.77	398.95	199.25
I & J combo	337	154	73	211.60	230.75	134.75
M-3 retractable	22	3	2	78.75	20.00	14.00
H-8 tin bottle	8	5	1	24.75	22.50	3.00
C & D Flats	124	73	38	135.06	177.00	107.00
A & B Old flats	70	71	41	138.75	316.50	216.50
	917	621	302	\$979.28	\$1634.80	\$1000.50

The average cost for each period has gone from \$1.07 to \$2.60 to \$3.31. Has anyone else kept a record of opener purchases? Don has a very fine collection with a room in his house devoted just to the display of these openers.

If you can supply any historical information on specific openers or openers in general, copies of ads or catalog pages showing openers, black and white photos of your collection, newspaper articles, discoveries, or anything you think will be of interest to your fellow collector, please submit to Donald Bull, 63 October Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611 for issue #4 by Sept. 15, 1979.

**BUY - SELL - TRADE MART** (10/ per word - issue 4 deadline is Sept. 15, 1979)

HAVE SOME good openers for trade. Would like to exchange trade lists.

Bill McKenzie, 6360 So. Jellison St., Littleton, CO 80123

TRADE LIST exchanged. Ed Kaye, 1840 Major Drive, Golden Valley, Minn. 55422

I COLLECT any type of openers. Would like to correspond with any collector who knows anything about 1936 Ford pickups. Will help you. Jose Ancheta Jr., 1735 E. Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93905

SCHMIDT'S Q-1 (Red) \$2.25 or will trade, Dick Leon, 220 S. Atlantic, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

FOR TRADE: K-3 Rheingold can-handle. Best offer. Want Trading partners - send lists.

DaFoe, 75 Tyndale, Spotswood, NJ 08884

WANT CORKSCREWS - unusual types: ivory, sterling, brass, antique, etc.

P. Ziegelmaier, 8351 Citrus Wood Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95610



Monday April 30, 1979 ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Collector Opens Show For Fans of Openers

By YVONNE SAMUEL  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Art Santen goes on unusual hunting trips on Sundays. Instead of hunting in the forest with a rifle, he stalks flea markets, garage and rummage sales, and antique shops.

His prey - bottle, corkscrew and can openers.

Santen sponsored the first Bottle, Can and Corkscrew Openers Convention on Sunday at St. Roch's Catholic Church, 6052 Waterman Boulevard.

"This is the first trade show we have ever had," said Santen, of 6126 McPherson Avenue. "The convention is only for people interested in trading bottle, can and corkscrew openers."

During the last four years, Santen has collected 3,700 openers from all over the world.

"I became interested in collecting openers when my father-in-law four years ago gave me some old St. Louis brewery can openers," Santen said. "I then picked up different kinds of openers—shoehorns, dolls, spoons and keys—and put them in my basement on 2-foot-square boards."

After meeting with several persons who collect openers, Santen said, he decided to sponsor the first trade show convention for collectors interested in can, bottle and corkscrew openers.

But only seven persons attended the trade show, where Santen had the largest display. He had about 30 boards of openers covering an entire wall in the basement of the church.

On display were can openers of various sizes and shapes from foreign countries, including South Africa, Russia, Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Holland. One can opener was shaped like the key to Vatican City.

"I've never been to any of these countries, but usually I can find openers in antique shops and get them from people who travel, Santen said.

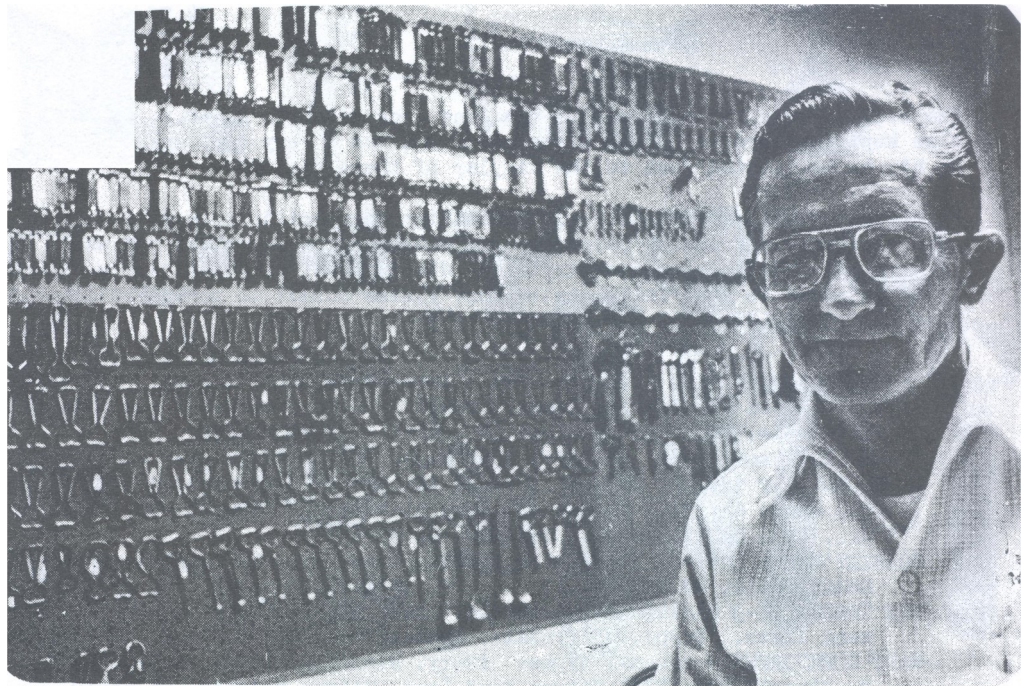
He was wearing a necklace made of openers that included a clown's head, whiskey bottle and fur. He also wore a regular bottle and can opener with a red and white handle that advertised the convention and was given out to the few visitors there.



**COLLECTORS IN THE NEWS.**  
Above: Art Santen and daughter with his collection.  
Below: Ed Kaye and his collection.

THE GOLDEN VALLEY POST

Thursday June 14, 1979



ED KAYE and his neatly arranged collection of more than 500 bottle openers and can piercers which hangs on a pegboard on a basement wall.



NEW MEMBERS

BYRNE, Tom, P.O. Box 173, E. Hanover, NJ 07936 .....	(201)	455	1227
DeANGELO, John, 279 Newport Ave., Quincy, MA 02170 .....	(617)	479	3896
DUBUC, George v., 1123 Hunter Lake Drive, Reno, Nevada 89509 .....	(702)	329	7658
FRAIETTA, Frank D., 1242 Ingham St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212 .....	(412)	231	6795
FRIES, Jon, P.O. Box 997, Nokomis, FL 33555 .....	(813)	488	9112
HIBBELER Ollie Jr., 31 Country Life Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63366 .....	(314)	272	3185
HOWARD, Dennis N., Box 45, Woodruff, WI 54568 .....	(715)	356	5468
KANE, Edmund, 90-07 84th St., Woodhaven, NY 11421 .....	(212)	296	8131
KUNTZ, Mary E., RD#4, Box 201, Kittanning, PA 16201 .....	(412)	548	2826
McKIENZIE, William L., 6360 So. Jellison St., Littleton, CO 80123	(303)	979	0987
MORROW, James, C., 1299 W. 105th St., Cleveland, OH 44102 .....			
PARMENTER, Mike, 7655 Ostrom Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406 .....		344	1428
PRESLEY, Steve, 459 La Cresta Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688 .....			
RICH, Leslie C. Jr., 5143 East Spring, Long Beach, CA 9080.....	(213)	421	9734
SANTEN, Arthur, 6126 McPherson, St. Louis, MO 63114 .....	(314)	863	6798
SCHUSTER, Phillip J., P.O. Box 1217, Atascadero, CA 93422 .....	(805)	466	0641
SHERWIN, H.S. "Monte", P.O. Box 407, Black River Falls, WI 54615 ...	(715)	284	5556
SILVERMAN, William J., 25 Braeburn Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466 ...	(312)	748	2136
VOLLRATH, Verne E., 218 S. Lexington Drive, Janesville, WI 53545 ...	(608)	752	5708
WILHELMS, Harvey L., 1530 Burkhardt Lane, Freeport, IL 61032 .....			
WILLETT, Delaney, 1930 Lucky St., Bakersfield, CA 93307 .....	(805)	327	8275
ZIEGELMAIER, Paul, 8351 Citrus Wood Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95610	(916)	726	8156

ADDRESS CHANGE

PETERS, Roger D., P.O. Box 5073, Cottonwood, CA 96022

DISCOVERIES

- A-37 "Hand Brewery" (Osborn)
- A-38 "Hamm's Preferred Stock, Hamrn, St. Paul" (Murphy)
- E-17 "American Brewing Co.," (Walling)
- F-13 "Atlas Brewing Co., Chicago" (Osborn)
- M-46 "Busch Bavarian Beer, Product of U.S.A." (Walling)
- M-47 Left: "Compliments of Arnholt-Schaefer, Philadelphia, Largest Brewery Bottlers" (Bull)  
Right: "Compliments of Crown Cork and Seal Co., Baltimore, U. S .A., Convention Souvenir" Pat'd Feb 6 '94, (Murphy). Both openers have heavy handles, and nice detail in design.
- M-48 "Bullfrog Beer" Fat' d Feb 6 '94. Bone Handle. (Bull)
- N-19 "Blatz, Milwaukee" Combination cap lifter, corkscrew, jigger, and recipes for drinks in handle. Pictured in April newsletter but not described. (Bull)
- N-20 "Birk Brothers Brewing Co., Supberb and Goldeck Beverage / Birk's Root Beer, Phone Lincoln 495" Button hook, cigar cutter, and opener. (Bull)
- P-24 "F.D. Radeke Brewing Co." Wood handle flat on front and back. (Osborn)
- N-21 "Anheuser-Busch / Budweiser Malt" For opening Malt cans. (Chapman)
- P-25 "Bergner & Engel Brew, Co, / Tannhauser" By viewing through peephole one can see the trademark of the company, (Carter)
- R-1-4 On page 4 of the April newsletter the Iroquois Indians were assigned to Category "Q". Andy Growe was the only one to point out that "Q" had been assigned in the January newsletter to the Schmidt's & Coors on page 8, At Andy's suggestion, the Indians are changed to R-1-4 and this category is for three dimensional figural openers.
- R-5 "Schlitz" Shark of aluminum, (Les Zakarin of FBOC)
- R-6 "Sprenger Brewing Co., Lancaster, PA." Brass wall mount opener. (Ashendorf)
- R-7 "Hauenstein Beer" Cast iron pretzel. Opener is in top ring, (Bull)
- Page 8. The openers on the top half (hold Horizontal) of this page are foreign beer advertising openers. The knife with the Harp on it is from Guinness.  
On the bottom half of the page are a number of interesting miscellaneous openers. Thanks to Dennis Murphy, Andy Growe, and Bob Carter for their contributions here.  
The Overbrook Co. retractable is twice as wide as the type M-3 and has a corkscrew inside. The opener to the right of the Cigar opener is a cousin of the K-3 Rheingold—it is marked "Krueger."



A-37



N-20



A-38



E-17



P-24



F-13



M-46



P-25





M-47



M-48

BULL FROG BEER



N-21



"Old Sniffer" These combination cap lifter/corkscrews are caricatures of Congressman Andrew Volstead, the author of the Prohibition Act.



Carved wood openers. Heads lift off for cap lifter. In lamppost is a corkscrew, Men are 6" tall. Lamppost is 10 1/2" high.





R-5

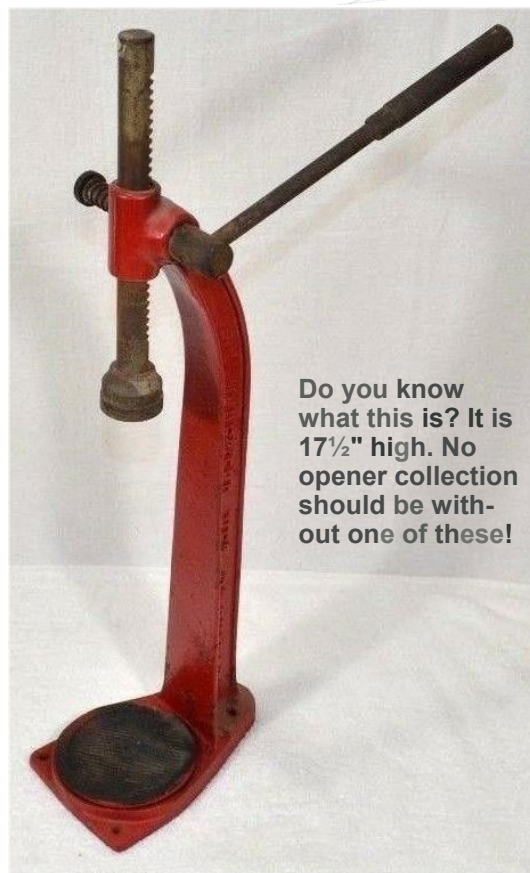


R-6



OPENER

R-7



Do you know what this is? It is 17½" high. No opener collection should be without one of these!

A brass and a painted cast iron wall mount opener as above were offered in Herb Ashendorf's 2nd auction. Herb has a lot of good openers in his auctions, if you don't already receive them, write him at 21 Montclair Road, Yonkers, NY 10710.



**AN AMERICAN ART FORM**

by  
**Michael Jordan**

It was after World War II that a novelty item, the figural bottle opener, came into its own. Although a few were made and patented before that time, this item was in its heyday circa 1950. They were made as a one dollar novelty, as a fraternity/sorority favor, and as advertising.

I have pictured four openers that have more than passing interest. Second from the left is the lamp post drunk - probably the most common opener, still in production today, and made in countless variations by a number of manufacturers. Since design patents did not hold up too well, a slight change (e.g. leg up or down; street sign versus lamp post) allowed almost anyone to produce this opener. My current information is that this was the first figural opener produced by John Wright, Inc., and, therefore, may have been the first produced by anyone. The opener on the left depicts a black boy being nipped by an alligator. The boy with the pledge paddle is an item sold by "Gadzik" - a firm in Philadelphia. Similar items were also made by L & L Favors. John Wright Co. poured the metal and did the painting for both firms. The parrot shown is the most interesting of this theme of openers. This one opens the bottle by means of a hook at the base of the stand, whereas the other figural parrot openers use their beaks as openers.

In closing, I would like to add that there is a club devoted to the collection of these openers. The Figural Bottle Opener Collectors Club was formed in Ephrata, Pennsylvania in May of 1978. The second annual convention was held May 19 and 20, 1979 in Lancaster, Pa. Anyone interested in joining may contact Bonnie Bull, Secretary, 6J October Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611 for details.



**Brass figural wall mounted opener.  
Courtesy of James Aspinwall.**



**Twelve members and their families attended the FBOC convention which was highlighted by a trade session and an auction of figural openers. Auction prices were from \$1.00 to \$35.00.**



