



Just For Openers

JULY 1990
ISSUE# 47

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CONVENTION NEWS

This issue contains the pictures and report of the JFO convention held in April in Durham, N.C. The good news is that John & Pat Stanley have agreed to host the 1991 JFO Convention. It will be held on April 25, 26, 27, 1991 at a Hotel two miles from the Raleigh-Durham Airport. For those who missed the last Convention, this is another chance to see N.C. After the Convention, Dorothy and I drove over to Asheville and saw the Biltmore Estate and then drove two hundred miles through The Blue Ridge Parkway. It was a beautiful vacation.

ROSTER UPDATE

Since the last JFO, 3 of our past members have renewed their subscriptions.

John B. Osorno, 11127 Mace River Ct., Rancho Cordova, CA, 95670, 916-638-7109.
John van Amerongen, 2136 W. Shakespeare, Chicago, IL, 60647, 312-252-7819.
Kenneth F. Willing, R 3, W Bass Creek Rd., Beloit, WI, 53511, 608-752-1387.

Since the last JFO, 12 new members have joined our select group.

Richard Bueschel, 414 N. Prospect Manor, Mt. Prospect, Il. 60056
Ed Clendening, 1908 W. Pearl Ave. Rockford, Il. 61103, 815-877-5586
Richard J Gerladis, 23 Morse ave. Butler, NJ. 07405, 201-838-3089
Donald L Kohl, 1000 W. Grand Ave. Lima, OH. 45801
Norman LaMothe, 70 Pinto Lane, Novato, Ca. 94947, 415-897-4002
Tom Minne, 2505 Lake St. Kalamazoo, Mi. 49001, 616-349-8505
Brian Morin, 24 Plymouth St. Middletown, Ct. 06457
Robert Roger, 8019 Steadman St. Alexandria, Va. 22309, 360-5737
Janet Schoene, 575 Main St. N Apt 701, Roosevelt Island, NY, NY. 10044
Mark Upperco, 307 Oak Estates Dr. Orlando, Fl. 32806
Don Walker, 2294 Terrace Dr. N, Clearwater, Fl. 34625, 813-799-4253
Louis J White, 15 Cottage St. Ilion, NY., 13357

Included in this issue is a two page article, "Anybody Got An Opener" which appeared in the Spring issue of the Dodge Adventurer magazine. Reprinted by permission from Dodge Adventurer magazine. The "real" name of the author is Danny Freels.

NEW DISCOVERIES

Now is the time to send in your new types of openers for the next JFO. I only have 3 so far.

ENCLOSED IS JOE CARDONE'S AUCTION LIST. NOTICE THE CLOSING DATE.

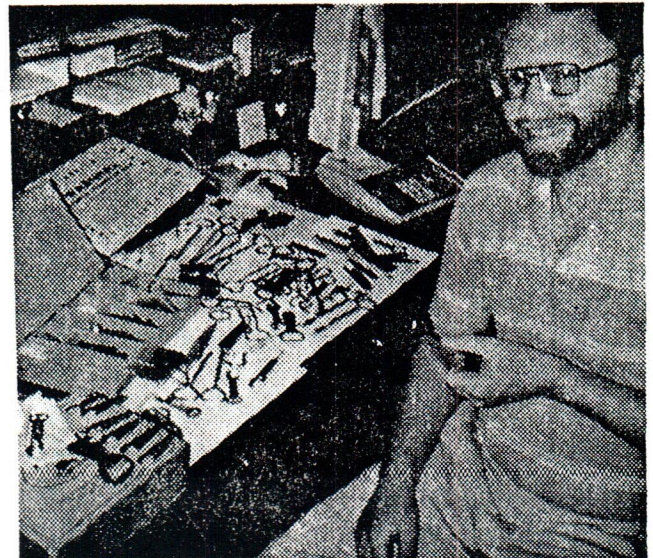
JOHN STANLEY

I HAVE BEEN COLLECTING OPENERS SINCE 1977. I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED COLLECTING ADVERTISING ITEMS IN GENERAL. MY FIRST FEW OPENERS WERE 'E' TYPES. MY INTEREST REALLY BEGIN WHEN MY MOTHER BOUGHT ME A PEG BOARD FULL OF 'E' SODA OPENERS. THIS WAS IN 1978 AND I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WHOLE WORLD COLLECTING OPENERS (JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER OPENER COLLECTOR). IN 1980 I STARTED GOING TO FLEA MARKETS AND ANTIQUE SHOWS AND MY COLLECTION REALLY STARTED GROWING. MY MAIN INTEREST AT THIS TIME WAS TRYING TO GET UNUSUAL SHAPED OPENERS AND THE 'A' TYPE FIGURALS.

FINALLY IN 1982 I BOUGHT SOME OPENERS AT A FLEA MARKET IN PENNSYLVANIA AND A GUY TOLD ME THERE WAS AN OPENER CLUB BEING RUN BY DON BULL IN TRUMBULL, CT. THE GUY DIDN'T KNOW THE STREET ADDRESS BUT I SENT DON A LETTER ANYWAY. DON SENT ME ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT 'JFO' AND THE BOOKS HE HAD PUBLISHED. I REALLY BECAME HOOKED ON COLLECTING AT THIS POINT. MY COLLECTION NOW HAD ABOUT 500 PIECES BUT I WAS AMAZED AT HOW MANY TYPES I DID NOT HAVE.

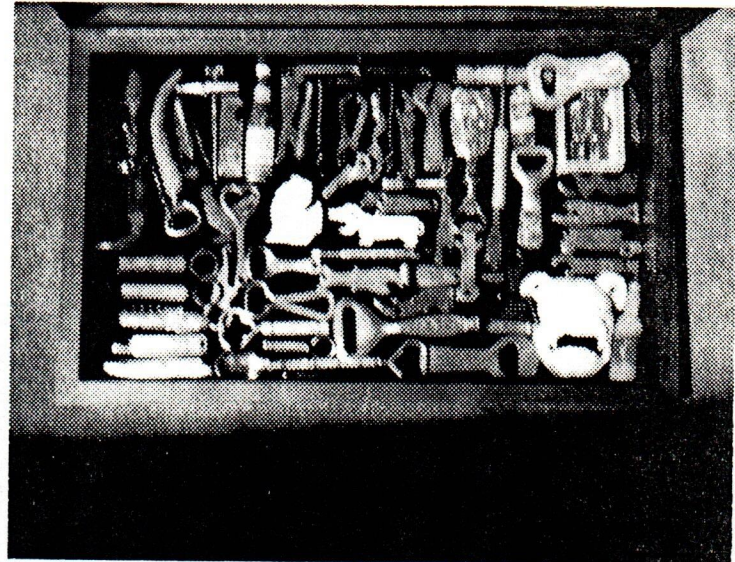
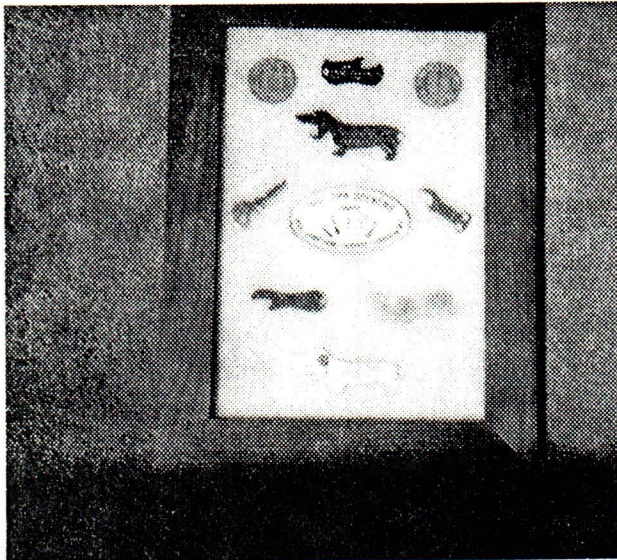
IN 1983 I ALMOST WENT TO MY FIRST CONVENTION BUT DECIDED NOT TO. IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1986 WHEN I WENT TO THE 'JFO' CONVENTION HOSTED BY ED KAYE IN FLORIDA, THAT I FOUND HOW MUCH FUN I HAD BEEN MISSING. I MET A LOT OF REALLY NICE 'JFO' MEMBERS WHO WERE A LOT OF FUN TO BE AROUND AND HAD A LOT OF GREAT OPENER STORIES. I HAVE BEEN TO EVERY CONVENTION SINCE AND I WOULDN'T MISS ONE NOW (IT'S HARD TO MISS THEM WHEN YOU'RE THE HOST).

MY COLLECTION PRESENTLY HAS ABOUT 350 OPENERS AS I HAVE TRIED TO NARROW MY INTEREST RANGE. I COLLECT MAINLY SOUTHERN U.S. AND OPENERS FROM THE HOSER-COLUMBUS, WOODEN SHOE, AND FINK BREWING COMPANIES. THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS I HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL DOING MAIL TRADING AND HAVE CORRESPONDED WITH A LOT OF NICE MEMBERS. AS MY COLLECTION HAS BECOME MORE ADVANCED I DON'T FIND MANY OPENERS THAT I NEED, BUT THE MAIN ENJOYMENT NOW COMES FROM CORRESPONDING WITH OTHER MEMBERS AND ATTENDING THE ANNUAL CONVENTION.



ADOPT A DOG

JOHN HAS THE CONVENTION OPENER FOR SALE, \$15 FOR THE OPENER PLUS \$1 POSTAGE.
(See left picture below, bottom center)



AT THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION SEVERAL MEMBERS ASKED HOW I CLEAN MY OPENERS. THE FOLLOWING STEPS ARE HOW I CLEAN MOST OF MY OPENERS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF AN OPENER IS PITTED ABOUT THE ONLY WAY TO REMOVE PITTING IS BY WIRE BRUSHING (AND THIS DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK). ALSO I DO NOT TRY TO CLEAN ANY OPENERS WITH ENAMELING USING THE ACID SOLUTION.

- 1) PREPARE A SOLUTION OF OXALIC ACID (CAN COLLECTORS USE THIS) USING ABOUT 3 TABLESPOONS OF CRYSTALS FOR 2 PINTS OF WATER. I ALSO USE A NARROW LIDDED GLASS CONTAINER SO THE OPENER WILL NOT LAY FLAT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE JAR. THE OXALIC ACID CAN BE PURCHASED AT YOUR LOCAL DRUG STORE (THEY MAY HAVE TO SPECIAL ORDER) AND THE COST IS ABOUT \$6 FOR 16 OUNCES.
- 2) DEPENDING UPON THE CONDITION I WILL SOAK AN OPENER IN THE SOLUTION FROM 30 MINUTES UP TO 4 HOURS (FOR ONE WITH A LOT OF RUST) (I CLEANED AN A-13 CAR FOR GARY DEACHMAN AT THE CONVENTION SOAKING IT FOR ABOUT 4 HOURS, IT CAME OUT SO NICE HE DIDN'T WANT TO TRADE THE OPENER TO ME).
- 3) AT END OF THE SOAKING TIME REMOVE THE OPENER FROM THE SOLUTION USING AN OLD SCREWDRIVER OR COAT HANGAR. **** PLEASE USE RUBBER GLOVES **** WHEN WORKING WITH THE ACID AS IT IS HARMFUL TO YOUR SKIN. IF YOU DO SPILL THE ACID ON YOUR SKIN, RINSE THOROUGHLY WITH WATER.
- 4) I THEN SCRUB THE OPENER WITH A SOAPY 'SOS' PAD. I DRY THE OPENER THOROUGHLY WITH PAPER TOWELS. IF THE OPENER HAS A MOVING PART, I WILL ADD SOME MACHINE OIL.

HOPEFULLY THIS METHOD WILL HELP MAKE YOUR OPENERS LOOK BETTER (BUT REMEMBER DO IT AFTER YOU HAVE TRADED FOR THE OPENER!!!).

For a reason that now escapes me, I started collecting bottle openers back in the early '70s. All I remember is that I admired one I saw in a friend's silverware drawer and she gave it to me as a present. It's about seven inches long and shaped like a shovel. The opening at the top of the shovel—V-shaped, with a handgrip across the top and a flange at the bottom—serves as the opener. Apparently the shovel was a giveaway from a Florida bank, and the best guess as to why a shovel was selected is that it was probably for a "groundbreaking" promotion.

Now it did not surprise me, as I went along, that a second use for many bottle openers over the years has been to advertise something—a particular beverage, a place, an event—that just made sense. What *did* surprise me were the shapes, looks and detail of some of the openers that I found. That's what *really* got me hooked. And for two reasons: one was the wonderful imagination of the designers; the second was that some of the styles and words on the openers were both links to the past *and* puzzles. And I found that rather intriguing.

For example, ever since I bought an opener that is shaped exactly like a woman's high-topped, high-heeled boot, not only have I wondered what "Gay-ola" tasted like, I've also wondered what-in-the-world it was! Did this stuff make you feel happy after you drank it? Was it some sort of elixir? I don't have a clue.

Same with "Wolverine Ginger Ale." Never heard of it—and I live in the "Wolverine" state! It's like what Butch Cassidy said to the Sundance Kid: "Who are those guys?"

Another favorite of mine is an opener in the shape of a mule with its mouth open. Did it come from some Democratic get-together or convention? Was it a giveaway from a feed company? There couldn't have been a beverage called "Donkey Drink," could there? Nahhh. Okay, then why a bottle opener shaped like a mule? I also have one shaped like a banjo. Another is shaped like a guitar. Another looks very much like a mermaid, with a pretty little face at the top and kind of a flipper at the bottom. Seaside Seltzer? Mermaid Mango Fruit Drink? Wrong. On one side is printed, "D.B. Robarge." On the other it says, "Heights Coffee Store." Go figure.

I also have two openers (sounds like

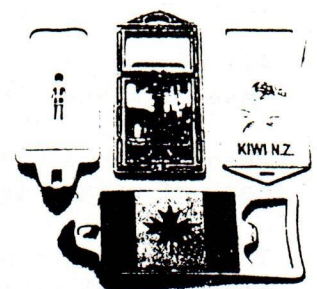
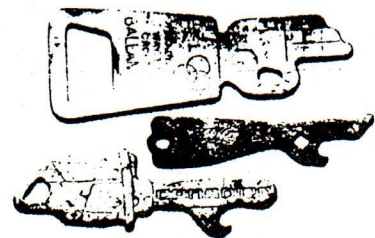
baseball cards, doesn't it? "Oh, yeah? Well, I've got two Al Kalines.") that declare "Hydrox Ginger Ale" on one side, and on the other it is suggested that you "Phone Calumet 5500." If I knew the area code, I might.

Another favorite is an opener dated 1940 that's shaped and painted to look like a Pepsi bottle. What's interesting about it is that, unlike conventional openers that you hook under the cap and lift *up*, this one lies on top of the cap, hooks on the other side, and you pull *down* to pop it off. Was there a reason for this, or did somebody just want to be different?

One of my bottle openers tells me to "Be happy with Harvard Ale or Export." (What, or get out?) Another is shaped like a forearm and hand—the index finger and thumb forming a circle—with printing that says this gesture is a "Handy way to order Ballantine's." (No, thanks. Sounds like a handy way to get slugged by some waitress.) And I have one that's shaped like a bottle but convex, with the actual opener cut out of the lower third, and printing that says, "Above All Peerless Liquid Malt Extract Contains No Alcohol." (Peerless? Or Beerless?)

From Canada I have an opener shaped like a chain saw, plus a moose figure that opens a bottle with the antlers on top of the moose's head. (Gee, who's that one from?) From Maine I have—what else—a lobster opener. From Paris, the Eiffel Tower. And from London, the Beefeater character. I have openers from New Zealand, Acapulco, Amsterdam, Aruba, Mississippi, Oregon, Renfro Valley, Reno, Buffalo, Chicago, the Costa Del Sol and (I think) Japan. I have a peacock, a bull, an elephant, a whale, a mallard, a golf club, two hammers and three brass keys. In all, I have 205 bottle openers in my collection. That may sound like a lot but it isn't. Compared to the man I read about with 2,000 openers, I'm in the minor leagues.

The point here is simply that collecting is, and should be, fun. And no way am I suggesting that it should become an obsession. I mean, it's not like I spend every waking moment looking for *bottle openers*. In fact, I've recently begun to collect old oil cans and so far have seven. Why oil cans? Oh, I don't know. I guess it's because I think they make interesting bookends. And...well...you see...I've somehow accumulated these 500 books...





PLEASE READ THIS!

For the past two years I have tried to make a special issue of Opener Trivia featuring the interesting openers that people acquired at the convention. The first year following the convention I sent letters to all

the attendees requesting that they send me a drawing or photostat of one or more of their best acquisitions. Although this worked well and most of the people responded, it turned out to be more work and time than I could afford to give.

Last year instead of sending out the letters I gave a short speech at the convention requesting that all the attendees remember to send me a drawing or photostat of their favorite acquisitions. THIS WAS A TOTAL FAILURE and when it came time to put together the article I had so few responses that I only could make up one page. Thereupon, I made a second request and in the following issue I came up with another two pages.

This year I had made up my mind that there just wasn't enough interest in this project and I wasn't going to send out letters or give a speech. I would just let it die gracefully and probably no one would remember or care. However, to my amazement a couple of you sent in photostats of your favorite acquisitions. I guess I had you better trained than I realized. I never expected anyone to remember to do this on their own without me reminding them.

Because of these two people, Ollie Hibbeler and John Stanley, I am going to give this project one more shot; however, I am going to change the format a bit. Rather than just asking the people who attended the convention to participate I would like to open it up to all of our JFO members. The next issue of Opener Trivia will be "SHOW AND TELL". If you have an opener or two in your collection, that you would like to share with us just send me a drawing or good clear photostat. It doesn't matter whether you've had the opener in your collection for years, found it just last week, or picked it up at the convention. It doesn't have to be a hard type. It can be a common E or I type. All that matters is that it is special to you.

I hope everyone cares enough to participate and that we can make this "SHOW AND TELL" issue something special for all of us.

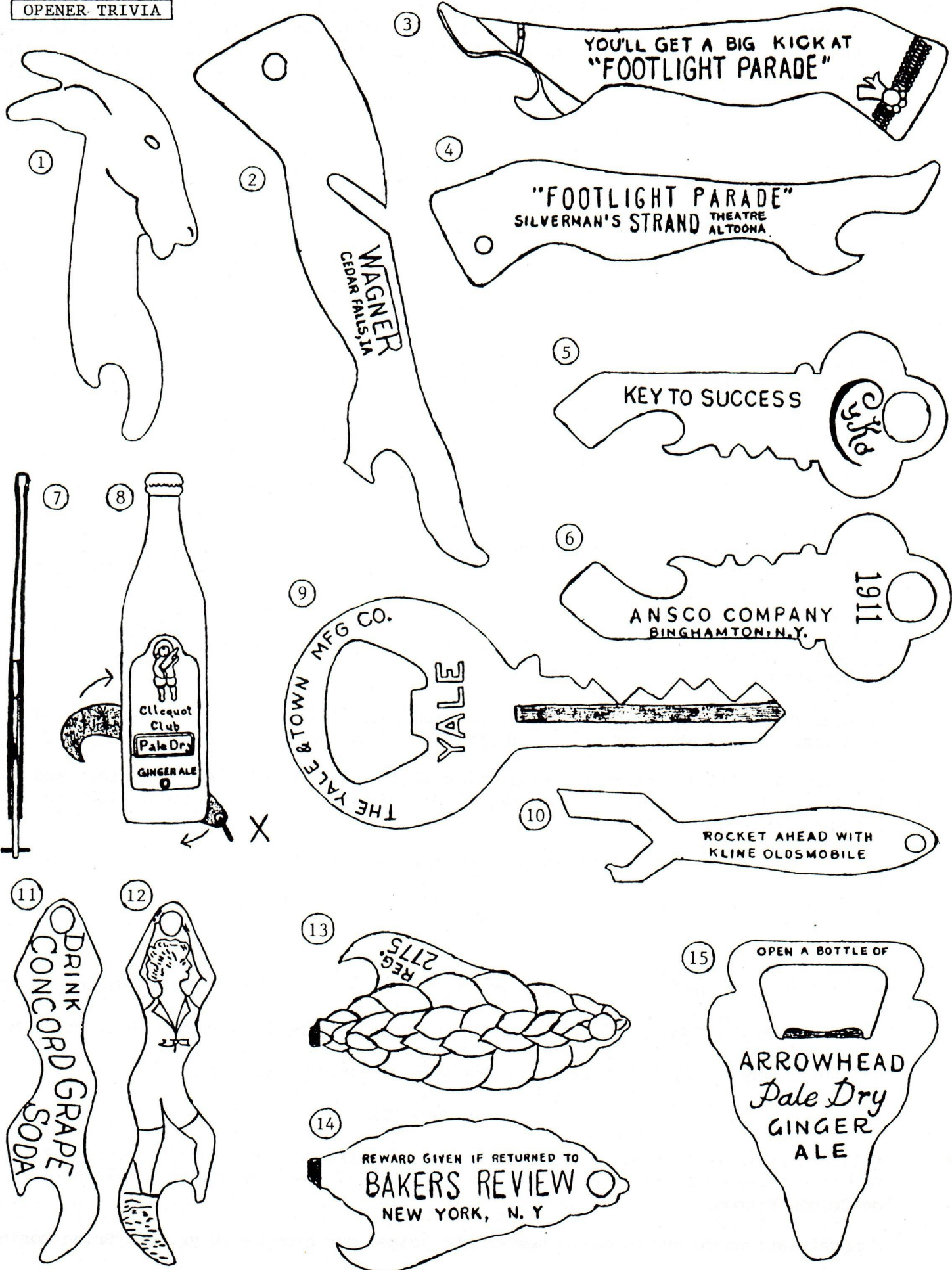
In this issue of Opener Trivia I am featuring a page of A and C type figural openers. I know some of our members are into collecting these, and I want to include something for everyone in this column. None of the figurals pictured are known to exist with beer advertising.

All of the advertising that appears on these openers is illustrated except in the case of opener ⑧ . The reverse of this opener reads: Cliquot Club Ginger Ale

When only one side of the opener is shown the reverse side is blank except in the case of opener ⑨ whose obverse and reverse sides are the same.

The most unique opener of the lot is opener ⑧ . The body of this opener is made of one piece of metal doubled over upon itself leaving a narrow space between the obverse and reverse halves (drawing ⑦ illustrates a side view of this opener). Sandwiched inside of the body is the opener. The body and the opener are held together by means of a rivet (little black circle beneath the words "GINGER ALE"). (con't. on pg. 8)

OPENER TRIVIA



(OPENER TRIVIA from pg. 6) The opener pivots on the rivet and can be folded in or out of the body. In the illustration the opener is shown folded out of the body. When the opener is folded into the body it causes the part in the lower right hand corner of the opener (marked with X) to pivot to a position at the bottom of the opener (see arrows). This part has a small metal ring by which the opener can be attached to a key ring or key chain.

John and Pat, thanks for making JFO Convention XII a huge success. See you again next year!

———— FINIS ————

CLASSIFIED ADS

ADOPT A DOG— For those who could not attend, the Convention Opener is for sale. \$15 FOR THE OPENER PLUS \$1 POSTAGE. Write to John Stanley. (See picture on page 3)

Would like to exchange trade lists, mainly interested in Southern U.S. Openers. John Stanley 605 Windsong Lane, Durham, NC 27713

My P-1-2 Anheuser-Busch and \$20.00 for a P-1-10 Highland Brewing Co. Ollie Hibbeler Jr. 298 Highline Road, Lake Ozark, MO 65049.

New collector seeks "Saloon" openers. Must have the word "Saloon" on the opener. Seriously interested. Please send photocopy and price. Rich Hartzog, PO Box 4143, Rockford, IL, 61110.

"Zang's Mini Auction": A-20-30 Bushkill, B-14-60 Seitz and F-7-1 Columbia. Openers to go to highest bidder(s), closes 8/15/90. Anthony Zanghi, 2225 Deer Trail Rd., Coopersburg, PA, 18036.

Results of Zang's last Mini Auction: No bids received. P.S. I have a N-8 Haberle and a B-44 Lembeck available for trade. Happy 4th! Tony Zanghi.

The auction #5 will contain the collection of the late Leon Beebe. Many rare and hard to come by items. Order catalog today \$8.00. Midwest Brewery Auction, 6100 Vine J53, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68505.

I'M DREAMING OF THESE OPENERS . . .

(The JFO is not responsible for any trading/selling agreements/disagreements of members.)

1) F-3-8 Storz; 2) M-19-7 Storz; 3) P-6-4 Storz. Bob Van Vactor.

1) B-18-168 Dick Bros.; 2) E-4-27 Dick Bros.; 3) H-2-152 Dick's. Ollie Hibbeler, Jr.

1) Blue Type Z-1 Cremo; 2) Red fox (type unknown); 3) Pearl Beer type H-2. Brian Morin.

1) A-9-21 Amber; 2) A-9-31 Detroit; 3) A-9-33 Rainier. Ed Kaye.

ED KAYE SEZ

Bill McKenzie wrote that perhaps the answer to Harry Horn's inquiry on Golden Ribbon Beer (last issue) is to refer to JFO #34, April 1987, page 5, Opener Trivia article on Golden Ribbon.

Congratulations to our youngest member who joined our group - 10 yr. old Brian Morin.

JFO 1990 An Unqualified Success.

By: Joseph C. Paradi

I am absolutely sure that anyone who attended the JFO Annual Meeting in Durham this April will agree that John and Pat Stanley did an outstanding job as host for the 1990 edition of this very enjoyable annual event. It seems to me that those hundred or so JFO members who do not attend JFO Annual Meetings are missing a weekend that is hard to forget. This JFO was another of those times when we all are thankful that we found this group of outstanding individuals to join.

The majority of the group consisted of the people who attend every year: Santens, Vollraths, Stahlys, Nugents, Roes, Danzigers, Biehls, Bulls, Deachman, Mackienzie, Hibbelers, Horns, Keowns our hosts the Stanleys (and I probably forgot some regulars who are now mad at me, sorry folks, old age makes me forgetful). Then of course we had Joe and Jackie Young for the second time, Tom Zruno, Dale Deckert and others. Anyway, it was great to see so many old friends again. Let me now report as I recall on the action.

I arrived Thursday afternoon and found the Hotel right away (Don and Bonnie Bull were following me from the Airport). The hospitality suite was well attended already and the munchies with the drinkables were plenty and very tasty. I especially liked the local dark beer on tap, I made several more visits to it during the weekend. Sure enough, some of the keeners (Joe Young, Herb Danziger and Lehr Roe) had beat me to the punch and spoke for several of the best Corkscrews (my special interest). But, I was able to acquire several pieces for my collection in short order so I was able to forgive my friends. Of course, the trading was really hot and heavy and it was tough to tear oneself away from the action for dinner. We finally managed late in the evening just before they closed the hotel restaurant. Naturally, more trading went on well into the night.

Friday was very busy trading all morning till just before noon when we all went to the Weeping Radish restaurant which is a brew pub. We had the tour of the place conducted by the Brewmeister. We had a very good buffet lunch, lots of beer and a good time. After returning to the Hotel, we congregated in the hospitality room and much good discussion was had. This afternoon was Auction time and right at 5 p.m. Vern Vollrath ably assisted by Gary Deachman carried the tasks admirably. Many items were sold with Dale Deckert cleaning up many wanted items. Following the Auction we all went to dinner in small groups, I went with the Danzigers and Roes to a very nice Mexican Restaurant and had a fine meal.

Saturday was "Show-Time" and an excellent show it was too. we had much action amongst the members as well as visitors who came by steadily all day. For example, Gary Deachman had a beer tray which was from a Brewery (I forgot the name) that was founded by this visitors Grand Father, so he bought the tray. The Annual Meeting was held in the afternoon with topics like due, JFO Annual meeting advances and where the next one will be held discussed. John and Pat Stanley accepted to do it again next year, what fabulous folks these two are! After all was cleaned up at the show, about 17 members went out to a fine steak house for dinner, it was excellent. Next year we are repeating there because they have an outstanding wine cellar and special tasting facilities under construction which will be ready by this time next year.

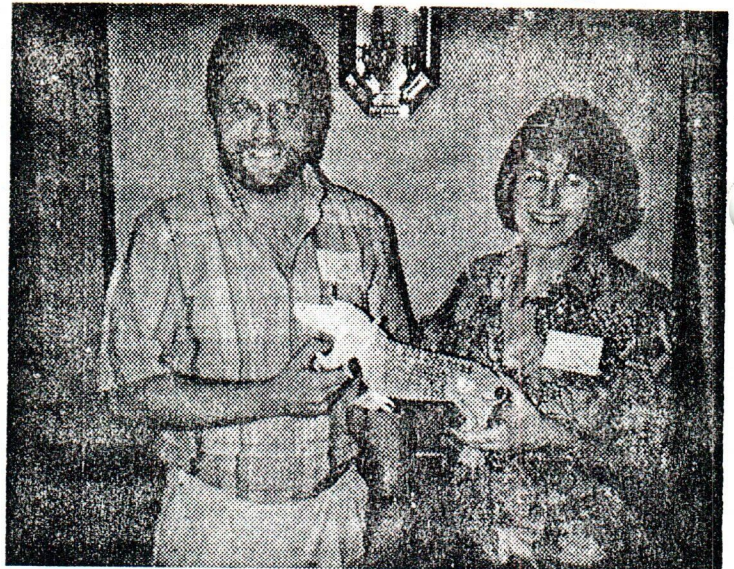
It was time to leave for another year and Saturday and Sunday most members left for home. Another super JFO is now history. See you all next year.

1 ST PLACE DISPLAY WINNER BOB STAHLY

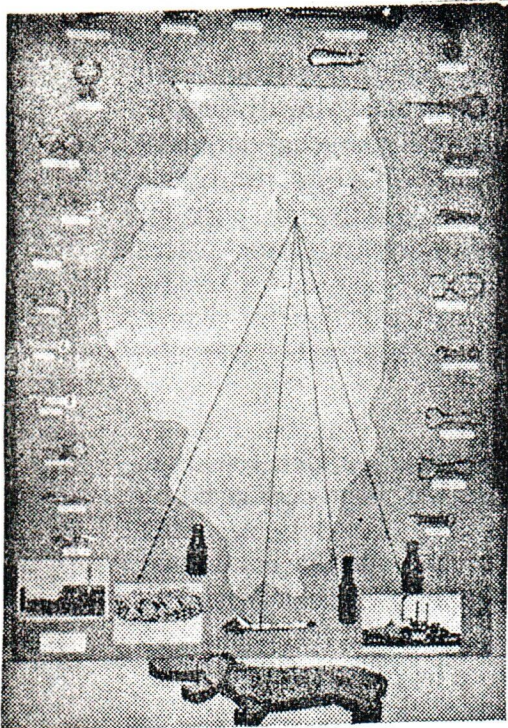


1 ST PLACE DISPLAY

2 ND PLACE DISPLAY WINNER DON BULL



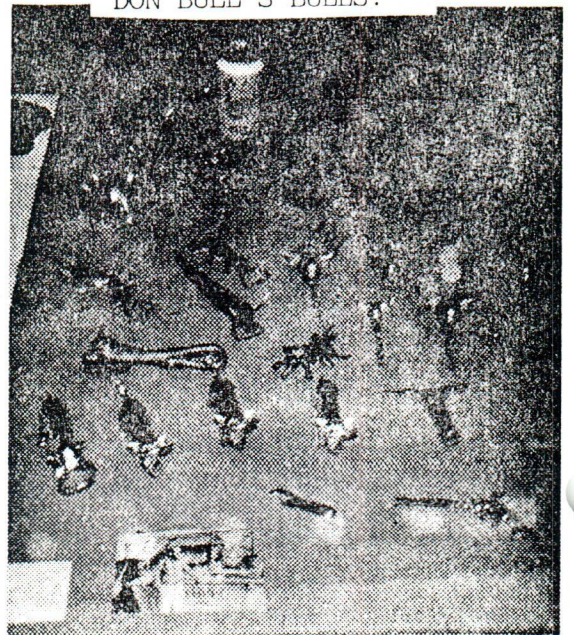
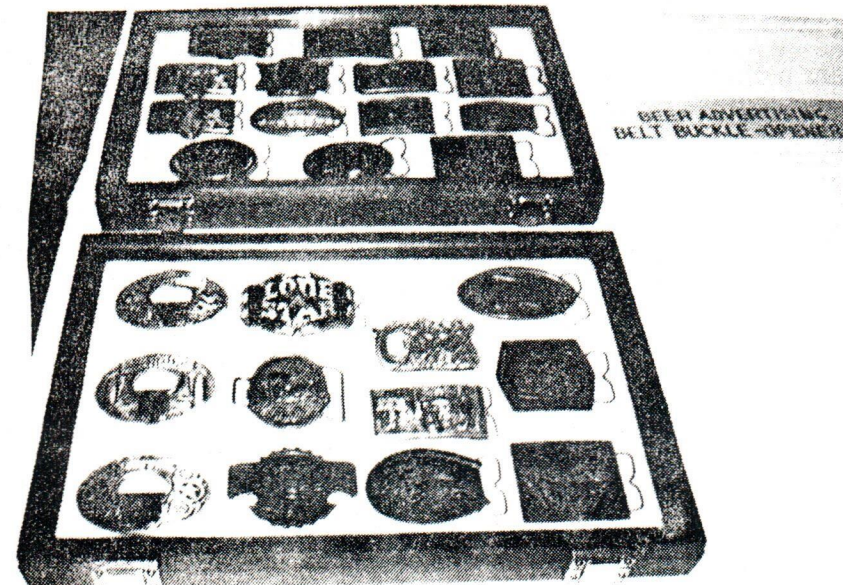
2 ND PLACE DISPLAY



3 RD PLACE DISPLAY WON BY BILL MCKIENEYE



DON BULL'S BULLS!



HOSPITALITY ROOM SCENES



TRADING IN THE ROOMS





THE BREWMASTER SMELLING THE HOPS



THE VOLLRATH'S CELEBRATING THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

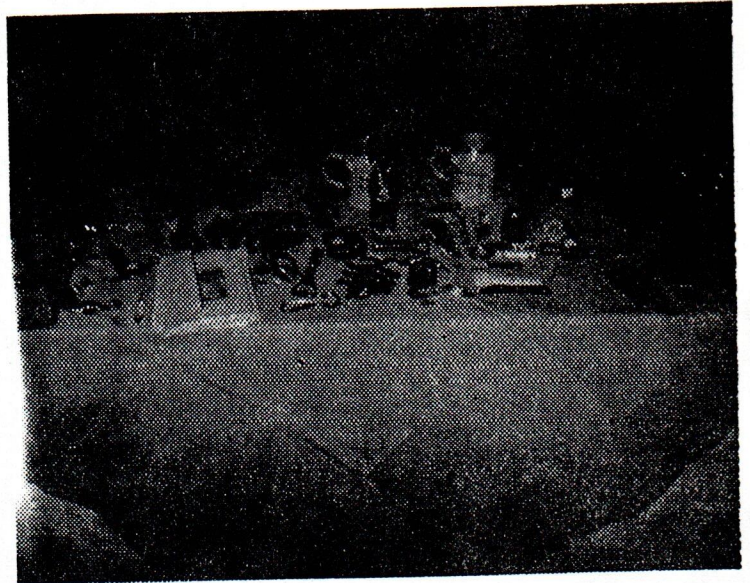
WINNING A PRIZE AT THE CONVENTION



ARE YOU SURE THATS THE RIGHT TICKET



LOU AND OLLIE WHO?



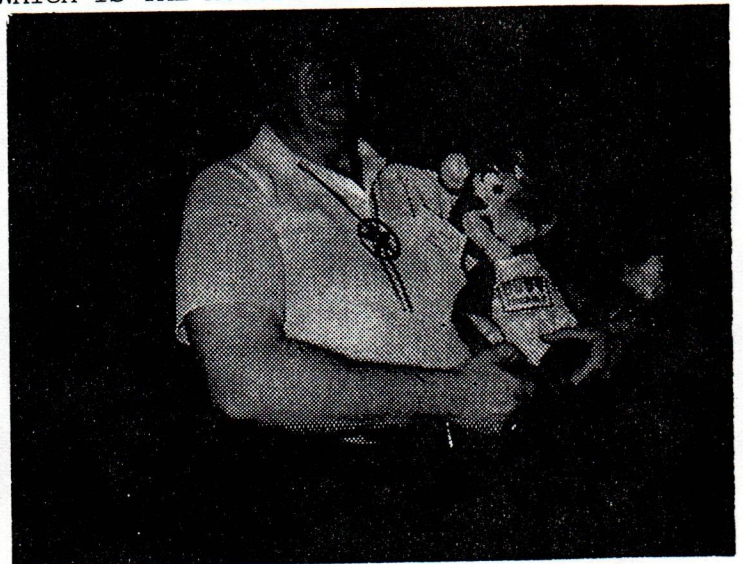
ANONYMOUS AUCTIONEER



THE BARTENDER



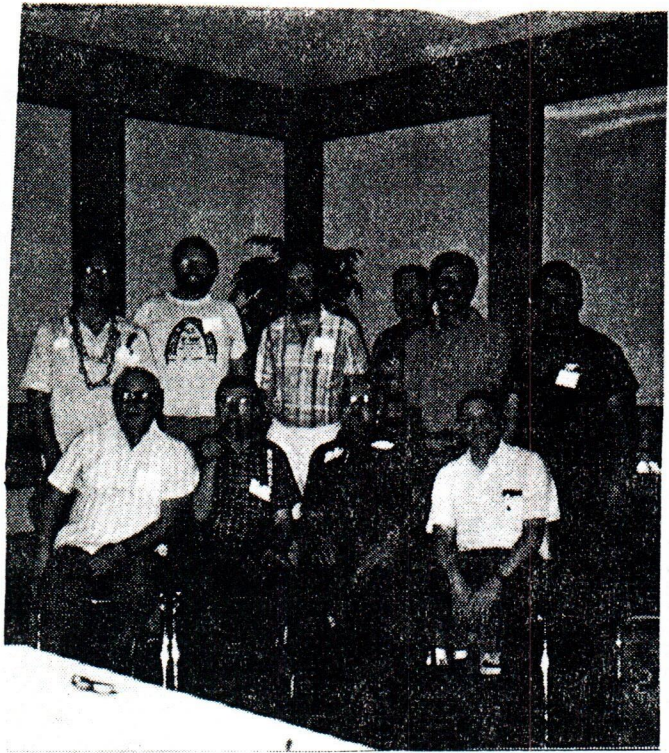
WHICH IS THE AUCTIONEER AND WHICH IS THE BEAR?



MANY OF THE WIVES ATTENDED



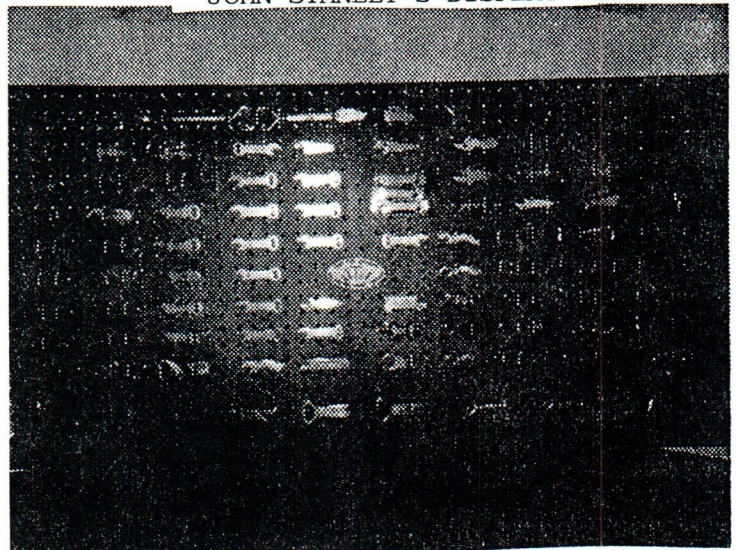
PAST CONVENTION HOSTS



AFTER THE BALL IS OVER



JOHN STANLEY'S DISPLAY



PAT SERVING HER BANANA PUDDING

THE ART JOHNSON'S AT THEIR CONVENTION TABLE

