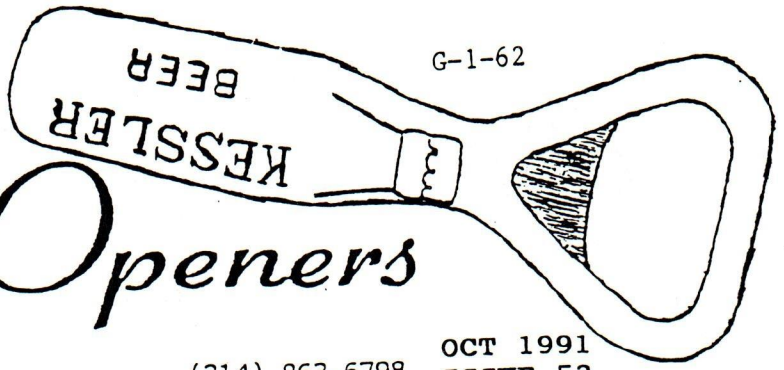


# Just For Openers



6126 McPHERSON, ST. LOUIS, MO 63112

(314) 863-6798

OCT 1991  
ISSUE 52

## RENEW YOUR JFO SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1992

It is that time of year again. Enclosed is your renewal card. Please stop reading your JFO right now and send it and a \$15.00 check to me **RIGHT NOW**. If you don't, next April you will wonder why you did not receive any JFO's.

**ED KAYE'S DEADLINE FOR THE JAN. NEW ADDITIONS LISTINGS IS NOVEMBER 1st.**

### BUY - SELL - TRADE

WANTED: From the A, Scheidt Brew. The following Openers: E-14-565, I-11-275, I-12-134, I-13-74, I-18-39, N-18-6, P-20-2, O-8-2, J-6-49. Buy or Trade.  
Ben Hoffman Box 138 Zieglerville, Pa. 19492 215-287-8243

SELL-TRADE: I have type "C" "E" "I" Openers for sale or trade \$1.00 and up. Also SOFT DRINK & MISC. Openers.

Ray Schmeisser RT. 3 Box 194E Caldwell, Tx. 77836 409-272-2008

TRADERS: A-27-1 Doelger, B-11-2 Rainer, A-8-1 Knickerbocker, A-32-1 Wooden Shoe.  
John Stanley

"ADOPT A DOG" \$15.00 each for the last two Convention Openers, or \$25.00 for both years plus \$1.00 for postage.  
John Stanley 605 Windsong Lane, Durham, NC. 27713

WANTED: I'll trade the "RANCH" for any of these Openers: A-29-20 Braddock, B-1-18 Hohen-adel, B-8-3 City Ale, B-21-122 Ortlieb, F-16-1 Wacker.  
Tony Zanghi, 2225 Deer Trail Rd. Coopersburg, Pa. 18036 215-346-8232

WANTED: I would like for any member who has a for sale or want list, to mail it to me. Dale Deckert 4087 Lake Conway wood Bl. Orlando, Fl. 32812

### AUCTION

Over 800 different Openers to be offered by Mail Auction. This was the collection of Virgil Thompson of Fresno, Ca. and contains approximately 500 Brewery Openers (many Ca.), 125 Soda Openers (40 Coca-Cola), many others: Hotel Milk, Paint, etc. 20 Corkscrews. A detail listing will be available about August 1st. Send \$3 for Postage and list to:  
Thom Thompson, 123 Shaw Ave. Versailles, KY. 40383 (606) 873-8787 (HOME)

### PAST JFO ISSUES FOR SALE

For those of you who have written to me and other new members - **GOOD NEWS**. John Stanley is reproducing all of the past JFO issues. \$35.00 Postage Incl.

**I WISH TO THANK EVERYBODY WHO BROUGHT IN NEW MEMBERS. 1991-206 MEMBERS**



This issue of Opener Trivia features the openers that were sent in for the 1991 "SHOW AND TELL". I think this year's "SHOW AND TELL" is the best one yet - certainly in numbers and probably in the overall quality of the material. I want to thank the following contributors who have made this issue a success:

DAVID CRESS (Janesville, WI)	HAROLD QUEEN (Jim Thorpe, PA)
JACK FORD (Oakland, CA)	CARL REES (Pocatello, ID)
BEN HOFFMAN (Zieglerville, PA)	DON SHERMAN (Los Angeles, CA)
ED KAYE (Sanibel Island, FL)	JOHN STANLEY (Durham, NC)
GEORGE LOHMILLER (Grand Junction, CO)	VERN VOLLRATH (Janesville, WI)

My personal thanks to each of you!!!

PLEASE READ THIS!

This year I have coded each of the drawings. Beneath the number of the drawing you will see one, two, or three dots. The meaning of the dots is explained below.

- = I drew the opener from a photostat.
- = I made the drawing from the actual opener.
- = The owner drew the opener.

I cannot guarantee the accuracy of any drawing which the owner drew or which I drew from a photostat. Oftentimes when I receive a photostat it is very difficult to make out the exact details. If the photostat is very dark I often must guess at exactly how a word appears or whether a comma or period exists. Likewise I cannot guarantee if the owner did not make an error in his drawing.

Keeping this in mind when you make a photostat of your opener it is helpful to copy it at the regular setting as well as the lighter and darker settings. Usually the lighter setting seems to produce the clearest copy, but this is not always the case. Please send me the clearest copy along with a copy of the exact wording as it appears on the opener.

As an example please refer to the drawing of opener ③ in this issue of Opener Trivia. I would write the wording on this opener as follows: LEXINGTON BRG. CO'S. DIXIE Beer (no period after "Beer"). Notice that I wrote "Beer" in both upper and lower case letters because that is how it appears on the opener. I was also careful to include all periods and commas as they appear. If there was a space between the last letter or a word or abbreviation and a period or comma I would try to show it as it appears. As an example if opener ③ would have had a space between the G of BRG and the period which follows it I would have written it BRG . rather than BRG.

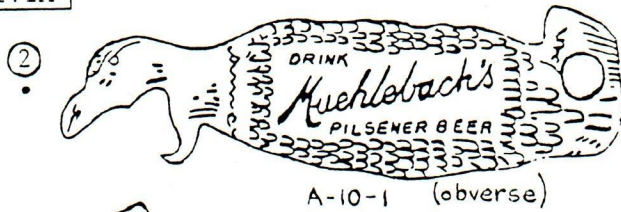
This will be a great help to me when I draw one of your openers from a photostat.

(con't. on next page)

OPENER TRIVIA



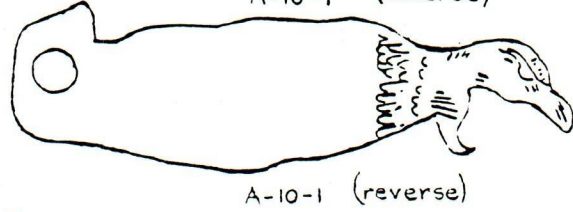
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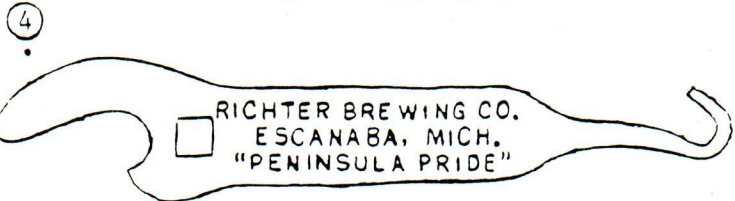
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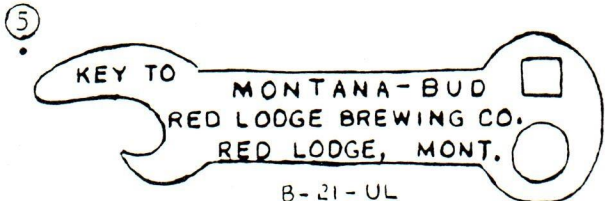
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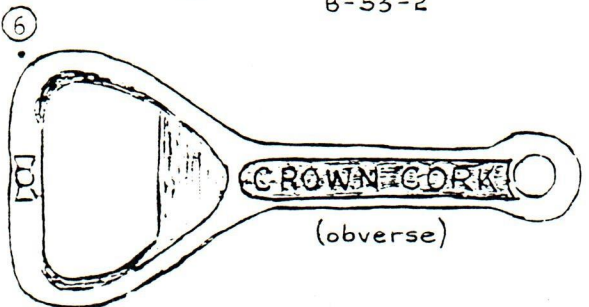
A-10-1 (reverse)



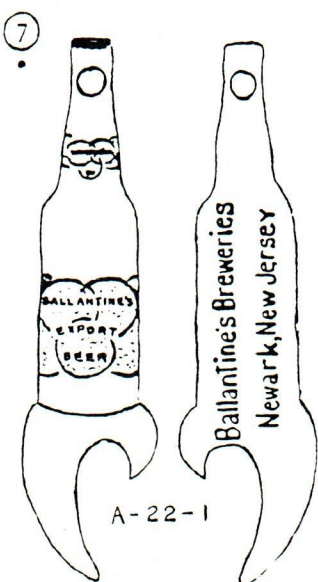
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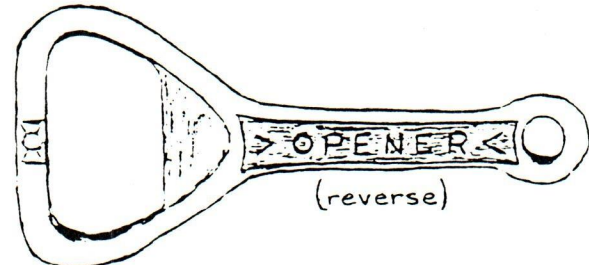
B-21-UL



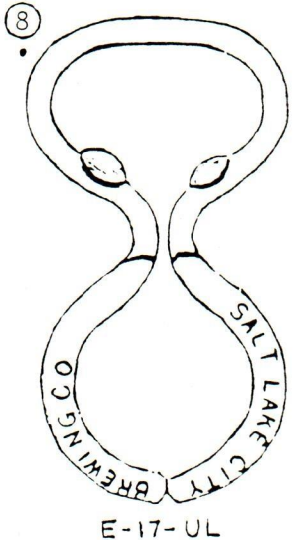
(obverse)



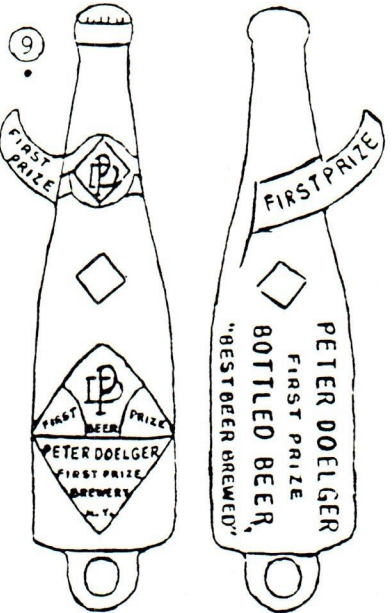
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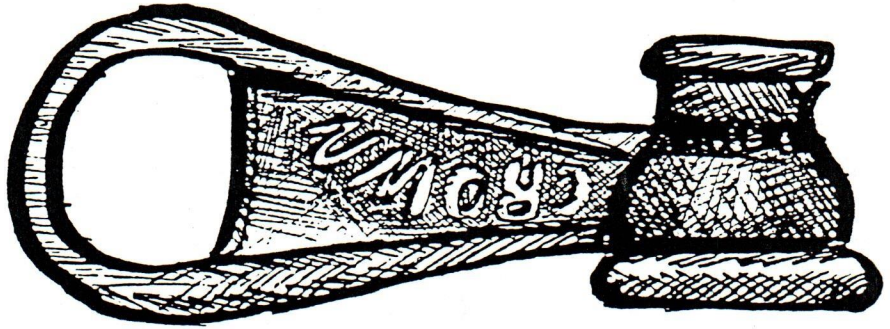
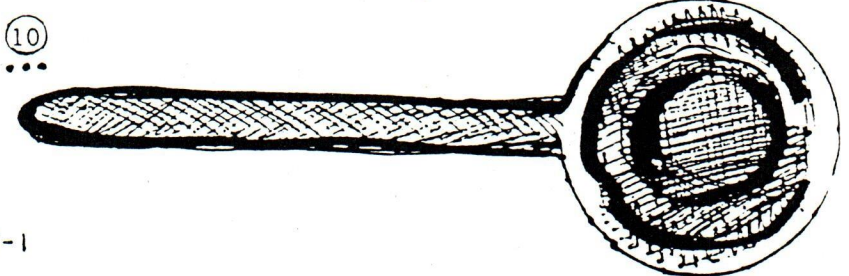
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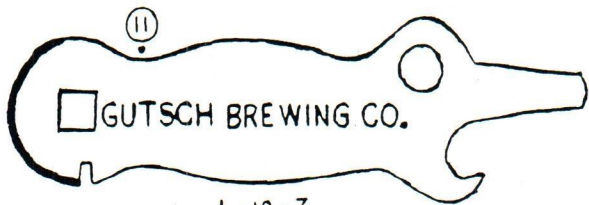


E-17-UL

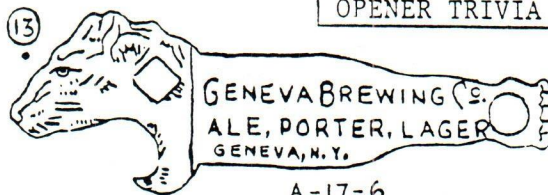


A-27-1





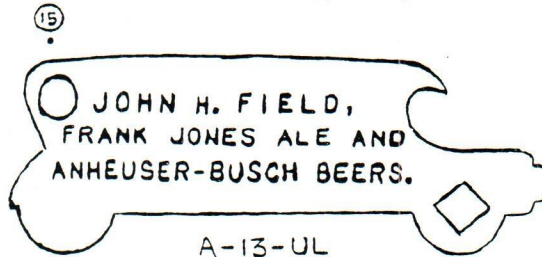
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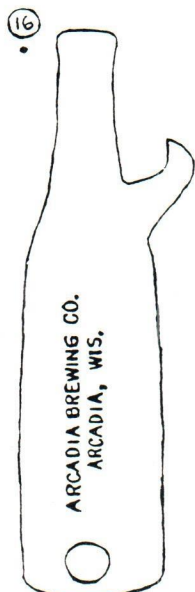
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B-44-1

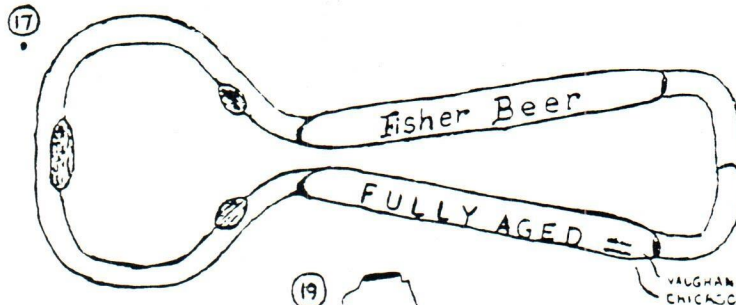


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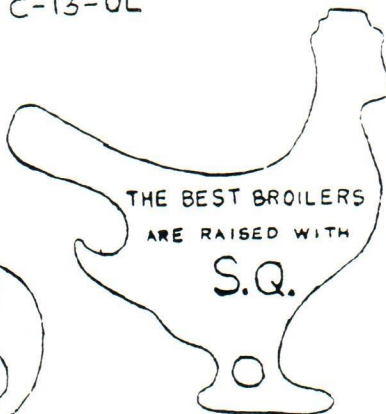


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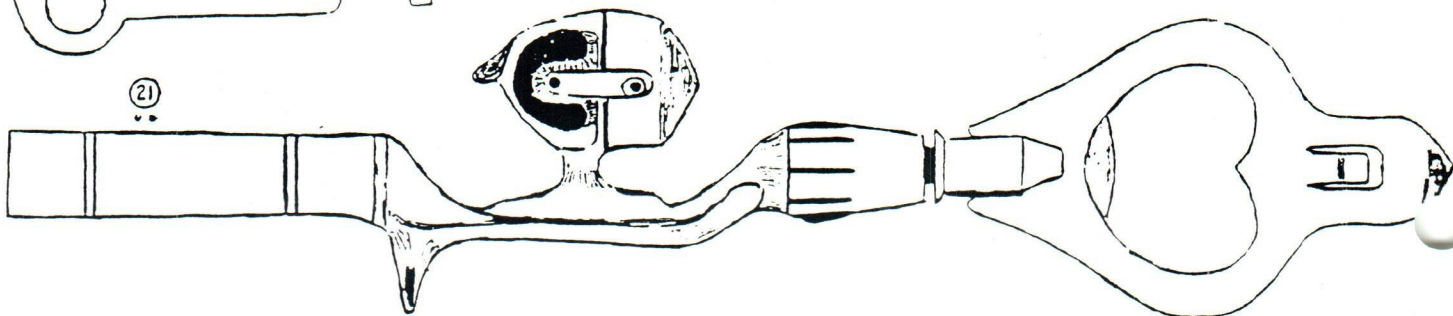
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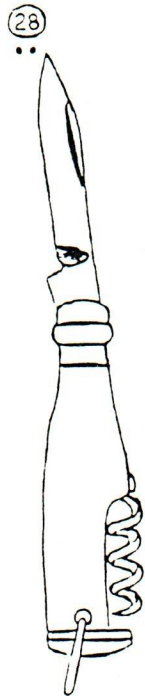
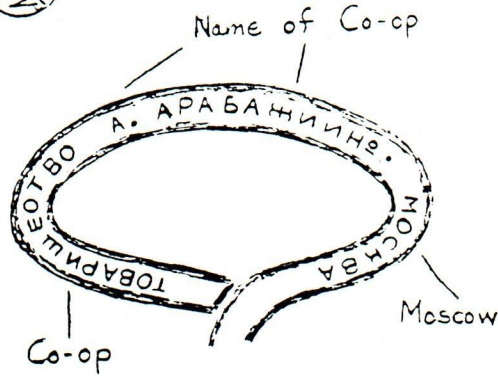
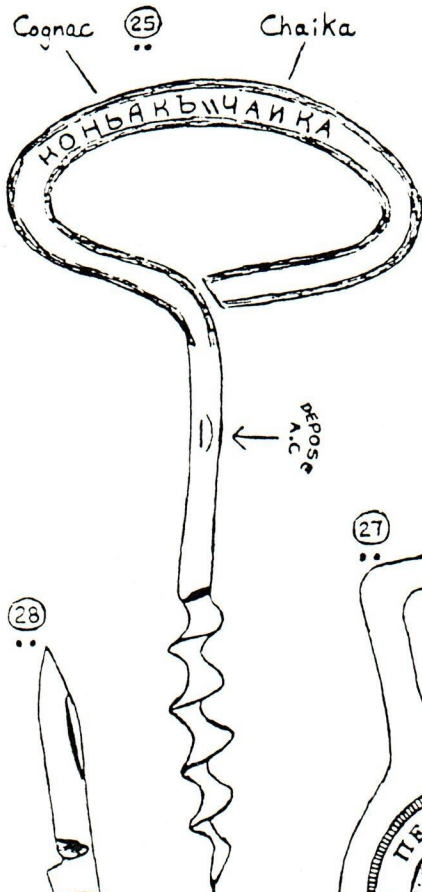
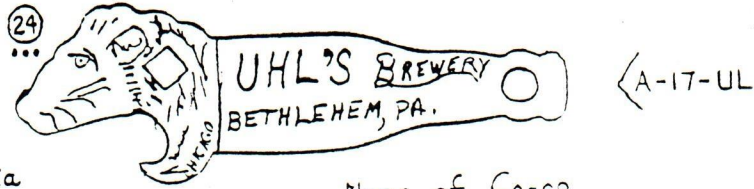
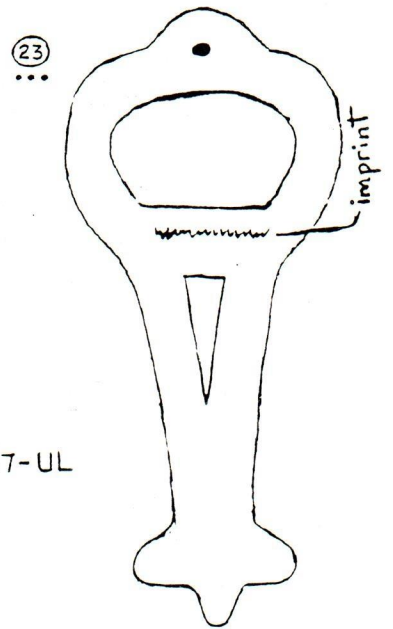
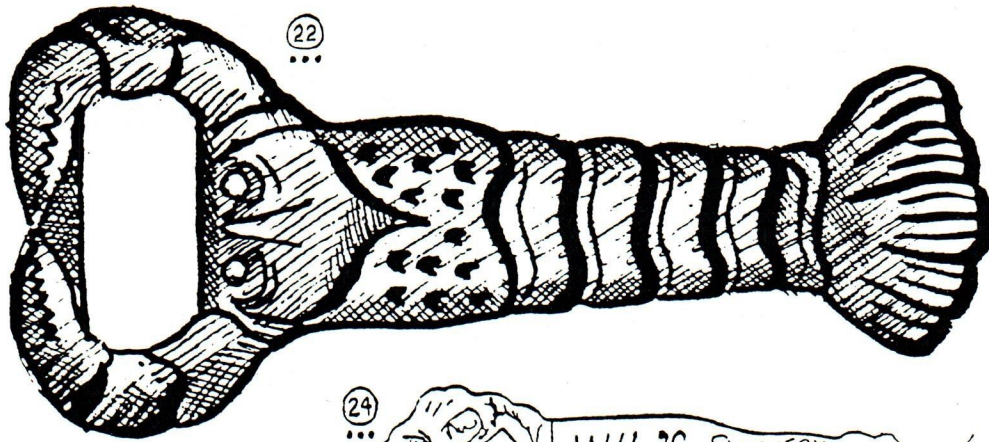
C-13-UL

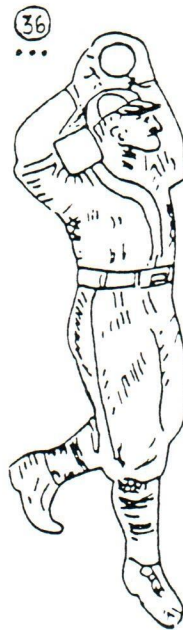
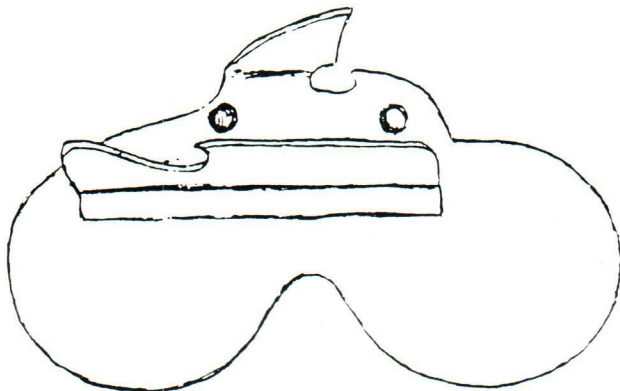
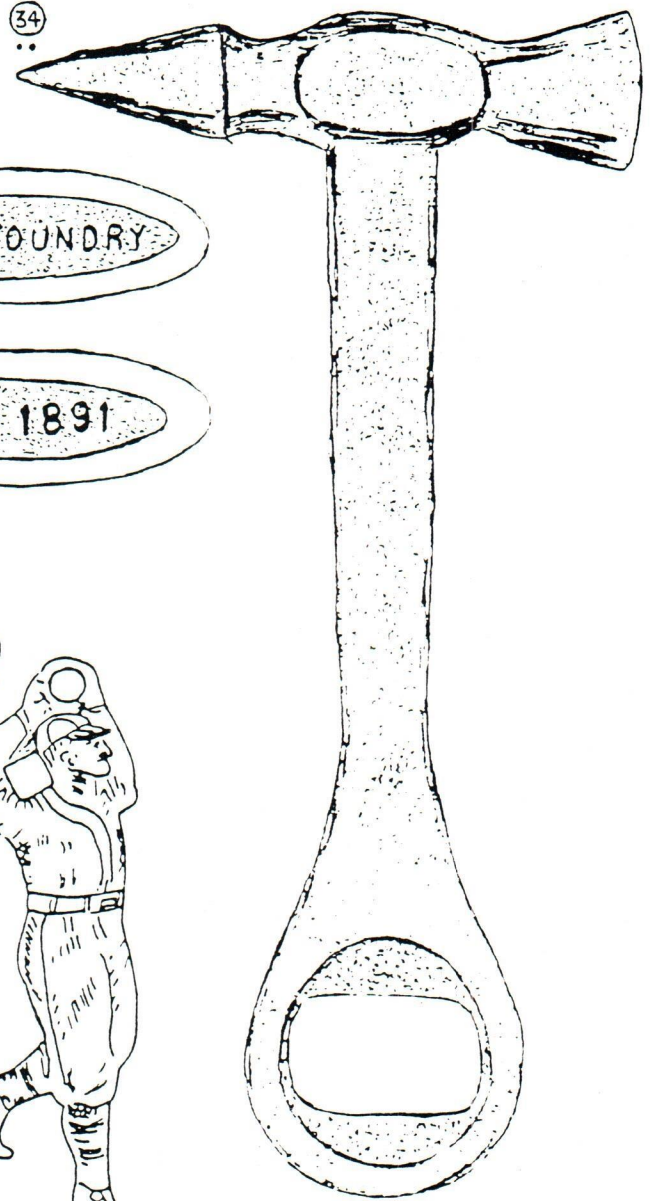
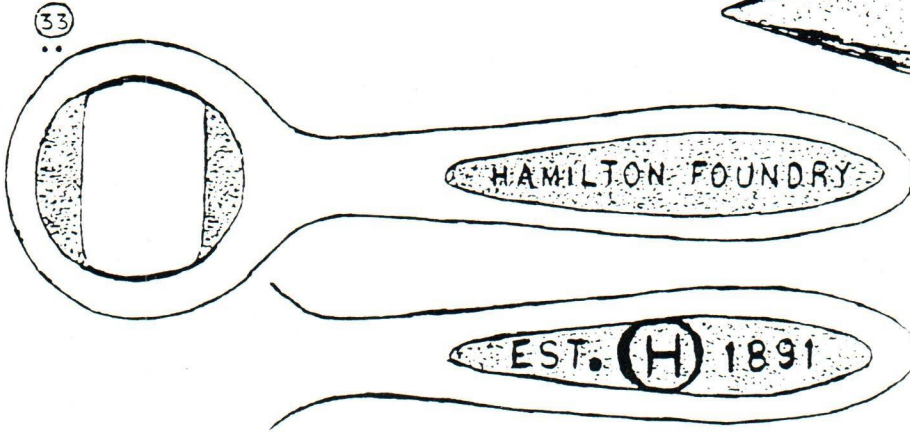
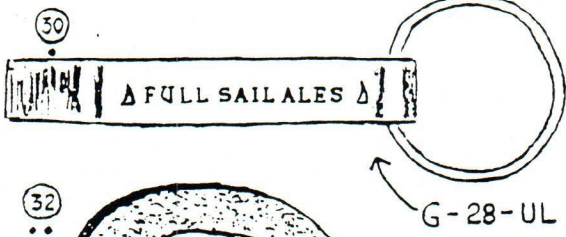


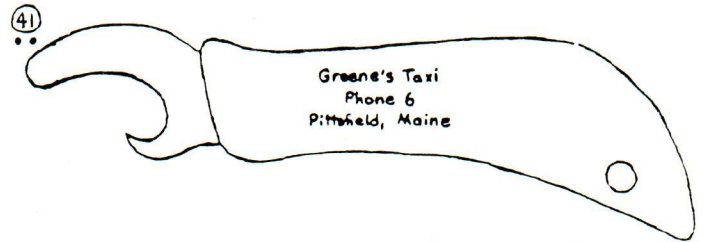
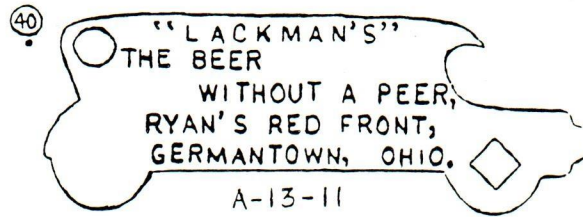
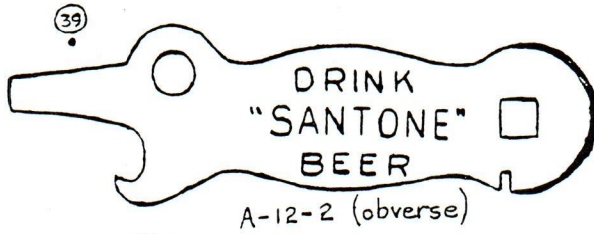
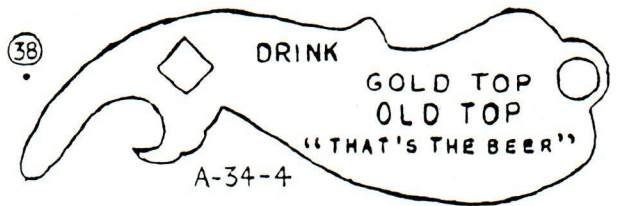
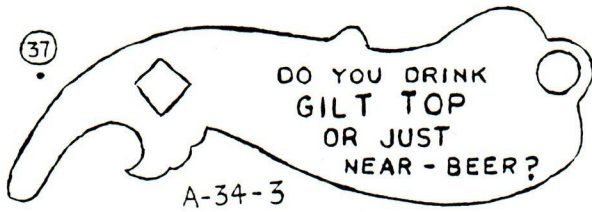
B-21-UL



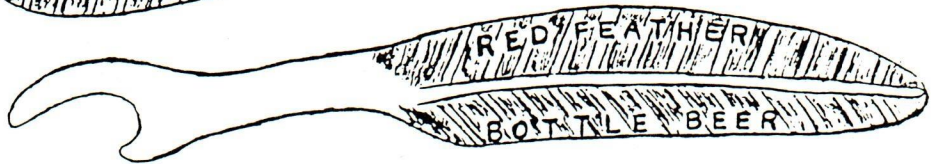
21







Note: Opener (43) (D-15-1 Red Feather) was sent in for "Show and Tell" by both John Stanley and Vern Vollrath.



ABOUT THE OPENERS

① ⑪ ④③ These are three of Vern Vollrath's favorite openers. All are extremely hard types to find any of which I would be proud to own. Vern wrote: "The D-15-1 is one I passed up because it cost too much and unknown to me my wife bought it and gave it to me for my birthday a few years ago". Vern, I already told my wife what your wife did and I just can't wait to see what I get for my next birthday.

② ③ ④ All of these openers are from the collection of John Stanley. I don't know how he came up with all these types, but there must be a law preventing anyone from selling or trading them in Colorado. ⑦ ⑨ ⑬ John wrote: "The A-19 was on my three most wanted list. The D-15-1, A-19-2, A-13-11, A-27-1, ⑭ ⑮ ⑯ A-34-4, A-29-59, and the A-10-1 were bought from Rav (Braeuner). The A-22-1, B-44-1, B-53-2, and ⑰ ⑱ ⑲ A-34-3 were traded for". Openers ③ ⑬ & ⑮ John found at this year's American Breweriana Association (ABA) Convention.

The only way I can explain John's success is that he must have been born in the Chinese Year of the Dog. How else could anyone be so dawg-gone lucky.

(con't. on pg. 8)

(5) (8) (17) Carl Rees sent in this group of super openers. If you live in the west you can appreciate how difficult it is to find openers from the Western United States. There were nowhere near the number of breweries in the west as in the east, and most of these breweries were much smaller than their eastern brothers. I would probably be safe in guessing that at the time these openers were made (opener (30) exempted) most major eastern cities had more people living in them than many western states did.

Since some of Carl's openers are unlisted I am including the following notes on them. The reverse side of opener (5), B-21-UL, is blank. The reverse side of opener (8), E-18-UL, reads: DRINK AMERICAN BEAUTY BEER (no period following BEER). The reverse of opener (18) is blank - it is from the Billings Brewing Co., Billings, Montana. Opener (30), G-28-UL, is from the Hood River Brewing Co., a microbrewery in Hood River, Oregon.

(6) (32) (33) Ed Raye's show and tell favorite is opener (36). On the reverse side it advertises: DEER BRAND BEER. SCHELL'S. NEW ULM, MINN. As many of you know Ed specializes in collecting A-9 type baseball player openers, and this was the first one he acquired in his collection. He procured it from Don Bull for a corkscrew Don didn't have.

Ed also sent in three foundry openers, numbers (32) (33) & (34). It seems many foundries made openers as gifts for their customers. I have seen several in the shape of opener (33), but haven't seen any quite like openers (32) or (34). If these two were gold you'd be rich. If they were lead you might not be able to lift them. Opener (34) isn't marked but Ed knows that it, like opener (33) was made by the Hamilton Foundry of Ohio.

Regarding opener (6) Ed sent in the following article. It is a 'D' type, but it doesn't match any of the styles catalogued. It is three inches in length, cast iron and with a centering gauge on each side. One side reads: CROWN CORK; the other side: OPENER. I surmise it is probably a prototype or early issue of Crown Cork opener distributed prior to their producing pieces with beer advertising. Perhaps this is the great grand daddy of openers, whatever! You may be familiar with this piece. A friend found it in an antique shop and gave it to me for my birthday last year. I like it, advertising or not.

Does anyone have any information on this opener?

Lastly Ed sent in opener (41). Type M-74 openers are difficult to find with or without beer advertising. This one is unusual because it has a "bakelite" handle instead of the usual "plastic" handle. Ed informs me that "bakelite" pre-dates "plastic" which would lead me to believe that this opener was one of the first of its type made.

(10) (22) (26) These beautiful drawings were done by Jack Ford.

Concerning opener (10) he wrote: "Here's an opener I got some 20 years ago (or longer). I know because at that time it cost \$5.00, but I wanted it. At that time I could get a CASE of beer for \$5.00 so it was a hard decision. It's cast iron and was used to both open and reclose a crown top with a heavy tap. I've tried it and it works".

Concerning opener (22) he wrote: "Here's another favorite amongst my beer drinking friends - cast iron (bright red paint). Although most prefer using my frog opener (illustrated in last year's "Show and Tell" - JFO#48, OCT 1990)".

Concerning opener (26) he wrote: "Here's an opener I just like because of its beauty - also the date is 1894 two years after crown caps were invented".

Jack, thanks again for sharing your talent and these outstanding openers with us.

(12) An interesting flat figural bottle most probably made by the same company that made type A-24. Notice that the shape of the bottle is different.

(19) (35) As you know Wisconsin is famous for its dairy farms, and dairy farms have chickens. The only figural chicken openers (drawing (19)) I have seen always have chicken related advertising so I assume they all must come from Wisconsin. If this sounds logical to you write David Cress (Janesville, WI) and I'm sure he has a special deal for you. JUST JOKING - - - these two chicken openers, each with different advertising on the reverse, are from Dave's collection

Along with the chicken figural openers Dave sent in an interesting combination can opener-opener from the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. When this opener was made I imagine we all joked about "10000 YEN". In 1964 10000 YEN probably only equaled \$5.00. But who's laughing now? I figured that 10000 YEN today equals around \$75.00. A very nice historical piece.

(con't. on pg.9)



(OPENER TRIVIA from pg. )

- (20) (42) Did you realize the TYPE B KEY SHAPED OPENERS in your collection are overrated? Openers (20) & (42) are the kind of key shaped openers that you should be looking for. They are scarcer and more valuable than the ordinary B-type opener. These openers can open doors of houses, padlocks on refrigerator units, and other places where beer is stored. Without these openers you couldn't even get a bottle of beer and the other openers would have no use at all.
- (21) The Japanese are now producing the Ollie Hibbeler "gone fishin'" bottle opener. This model opens either "big mouth" or "small mouth" bottles and can be purchased at your local flea market in the range of \$1.00 - \$2.00. Hook one now!
- (23) (24) Harold Queen submitted a tracing (opener (23) ) of an odd-shaped D-type cast metal opener he found. The opener is imprinted in the area indicated on the drawing, but the letters are not legible. Does anyone know anything about this opener or the reason for its peculiar shape?
- Harold also found opener (24), an unlisted A-17 lion's head figural from his home state.
- (25) (27) Opener (27) is a bimetallic Russian opener I recently found at a thrift store. In the center of the opener is a goldish-colored metal coin made of aluminium or a similar alloy. The other part of the opener appears to be made out of a harder black-colored metal. The opener was in with a group of small pins from the Soviet Union all of which were probably brought back as souvenirs of someone's visit.
- The side of the opener with the face translates "Peter's Castle - Leningrad". I assume this to mean Peter the Great's Summer Palace which is located in Leningrad. The opposite side pictures a statue of Samson holding open the jaws of a lion which has a spear (?) in its mouth. This statue is probably located somewhere on the grounds of the palace.
- Russian openers and corkscrews are not very easy to find. The only other piece I have ever come across was a corkscrew which I long since traded away. Luckily I made a drawing of it so I can still share it with you. Drawing (25) illustrates the obverse and reverse sides of that piece.
- (28) An interesting bottle-shaped knife with a small corkscrew. The knife blade is marked: Richards SHEFFIELD ENGLAND.
- (29) George Lohmiller sent in this opener in response to the "Satanet" opener that was illustrated in Opener Trivia #22 (JFO #50, APRIL 1991). The manufacturer's mark on the reverse side of George's opener reads: SEAL TITE 115 MAIDEN LANE PAT'D JULY 13, 1909 NEW YORK CITY (period after city). His opener confirms that "Satanet" was a pre-prohibition drink. George wrote: "This opener was a present from an antique dealer who had just returned from the East on a buying trip, so I have no idea of its history".
- (31) This nice M-3 type was Ben Hoffman's favorite acquisition from this year's JFO Convention.
- (44) A very nice B-31 type found by Don Sherman. Valley Brew was a product of the El Dorado Brewing Co. of Stockton, California.

———— FINIS ————

### A ST. LOUIS ARCH OPENER COLLECTOR'S MEETING



# Just for openers ...

OTTO WAHL MIXES FUN WITH PRACTICALITY IN HIS COLLECTION OF CAN AND BOTTLE OPENERS AND CORKSCREWS

**By Melissa Jaramillo**  
Features Writer

For openers, it's a pretty big collection. Nine hundred or more with nearly as many varieties — from the practical to the primitive, the colorful to the off-color, the creative to the cultural.

"I think I've probably got one of the biggest collections of openers for bottles and cans around," said Otto Wahl, holding a hula girl bottle opener from Hawaii. "I've seen others with collections of maybe only 200 or more."

Wahl, 64, started his collection of bottle, can and wine openers about 15 years ago, picking up openers at garage sales and flea markets.

The collection grew when his son, a psychologist, began to bring back openers from his travels. Soon there were openers from Holland, England, Ireland, Austria, Hawaii, Brazil, Sweden, Greece and Russia.

"Often, I do have my eyes around looking for bottle openers," Wahl said. "A lot of my friends add to it. They'll pick one up for me if they find something unusual or something I don't have. One friend just stopped in today. He found one in a flea market along Route 20 and picked it up for me."

He recalled a cruise to Bermuda last December. During dinner one evening Wahl's eyes fell on a beautiful silver corkscrew in the possession of the wine

steward. "I said, 'What a nice corkscrew' and asked if I could buy it," Wahl said. "But he said it had been a gift, his named inscribed on it. He wouldn't part with it."

In the few years since he retired — Wahl worked for the YMCA for 23 years and as personnel director for the City of Glens Falls for nine — he's been able to spend more of his time adding to his collection.

Much of his collection used to hang in the kitchen of his home at 14 Ogden St., along the wooden cupboards and down the walls.

Now they are stacked in boxes, spread across the sofa and stuck onto bulletin boards in neat rows awaiting a new display case that Wahl said will cover more than half of one wall in the family room. Special ones will be mounted individually.

Wahl has a right to be proud of his collection. Though he has duplicates of the more ordinary openers for trading purposes, there are items in his collection that create waves of nostalgia as well as a few laughs.

In the nostalgia category are the cast-iron can openers made about 100 years ago. Solid and practical, just the way great grandma liked them.

"The way things were made were just to last forever," Wahl said of the virtually indestructible openers. "Now it's 'planned obsolescence,' I think they call it. Use it up and buy a new one."

Then there are amusing items like a horse



Monty Calvert

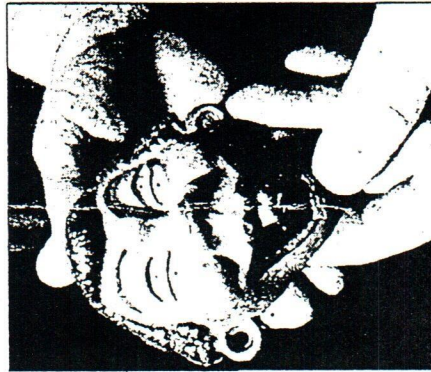
Otto Wahl shows off a portion of his sizable can and bottle opener and corkscrew collection, above. When mounted on a wall, this four-eyed opener, left, puts the bite on bottle caps.

Wahl hopes to attend for the first time and mingle with the 60 to 70 of the like-minded from all over the country.

Collecting is a personal thing, and the reasons for collecting certain objects is not always clear — even to the collector. Sometimes, however, the reasons are simple.

"I don't know any other tool that has so many variations made for a single purpose," Wahl concluded after scanning the boxes filled to overflowing with metal and wooden treasures. "There's certainly a lot of history there."

"And, you know, it's fun. You never know what you're gonna find. It's always great when you find a nice opener."



whose buckteeth open bottles, the caps dropping into a convenient feed bucket below. A woman's shapely leg, solid brass from thigh to boot heel, which pops off a cap in one stroke. And the four-eyed face that's a maniacal merging of David Letterman and Charlie McCarthy's friend and dummy, Mortimer Snerd. Once mounted on a wall, its jutting front teeth serve as bottle opener.

"That's a strange one," Wahl said, turning the goofy face over in his hand. "A friend in Washington, D.C., called and said, 'I've got

# NEW DISCOVERIES

OCT 1991

by ART SANTEN

Send New Discoveries to Art Santen. Send Additions to Ed Kaye.

If anybody has any of these N.D. with different names on them, send these Additions to Ed Kaye immediately for inclusion in the Jan. JFO.

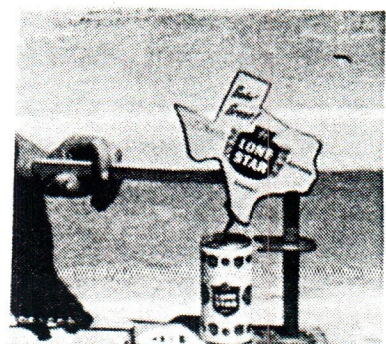
A-49 (3 1/8 X 1 1/16)	GILT TOP (B. ENNIS)
A-50 (3 X 9/16)	ARCADIA (J. STANLEY)
A-51 (2 1/16 X 15/16)	BLUE RIBBON (J. STANLEY)
A-52 (2 7/8 X 1)	B-WISE MALT J. FORD)
E-68 (2 7/8 X 7/8)	GOLD TOP (B. HOFFMAN)
C-41 (3 1/4 X 1 1/2)	LITE 6637 (A. SANTEN)
C-42 (4 3/4 X 2 1/4)	BUSCH (B. VAN VACTOR)
C-43 (3 1/2 X 1 5/8)	EMIL SICK (B. ENNIS)
D-17 (3 X 1 7/8)	ROLLING ROCK (L. BIEHL)
E-30 (3 3/8 X 1 1/2)	SALT LAKE CITY (L. BIEHL)
G-30 (3 1/4 X 2)	BUD (B. VAN VACTOR)
G-31 (4 1/6 X 2 1/6)	BUD-BUD LIGHT (V. VOLLRATH)
K-12 (12 X 13)	LONE STAR (A. SANTEN)
[K-12 in JFO-44 was deleted. It was a K-9-1]	
L-10 (8 1/4 X 1 1/2)	ALPEN BRAU (A. SANTEN)
M-91 (3 1/4 X 1 7/8)	BUDWEISER (A. SANTEN)
M-92 (3 6/8 X 2)	MICHELOBE DRY (A. SANTEN)
N-67 (5 1/2 X 1/2 Dia)	PALMYRA (L. BIEHL)
N-68 (3 1/4 X 5/8)	K.B.C. (T. ZRUNO)
N-69 (7 1/4 X 1 1/2)	STORZ [Fishing-7 uses] (B. VAN VACTOR)
O-13 (3 1/2-H; 2 3/4-W; 2 7/8-Deep)	MENDOCINO [BRONZE HAWK] (A. JOHNSON)
O-14 (3 1/2 X 1 1/4)	STORZ (B. VAN VACTOR)
O-15 (3 1/4 X 4 1/2)	BLATZ (B. HOFFMAN)

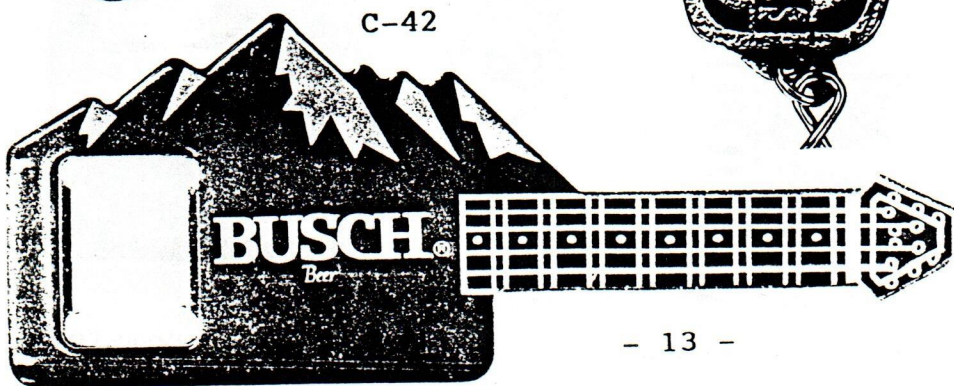
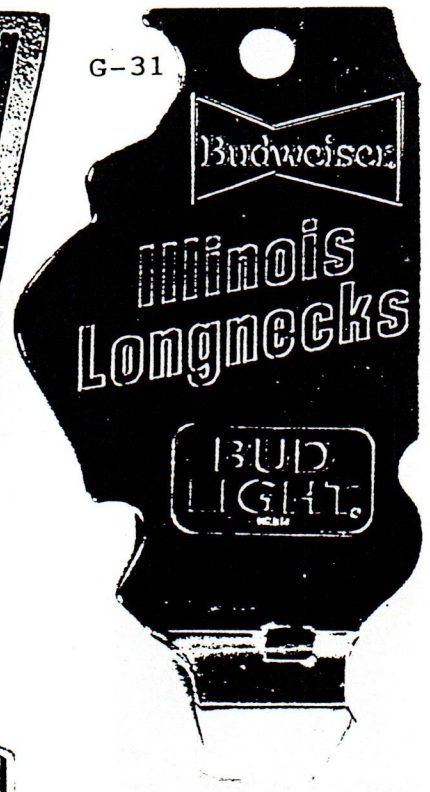
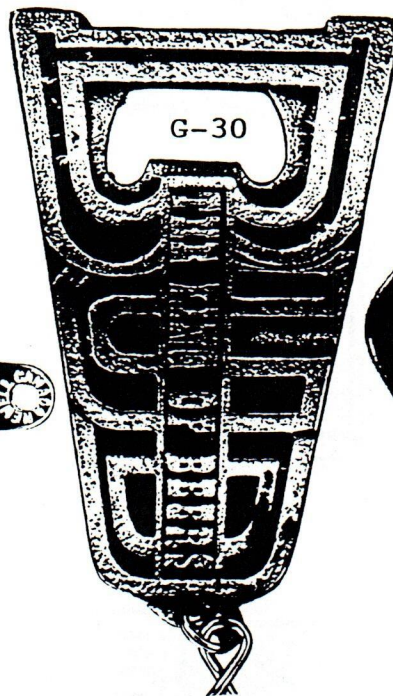
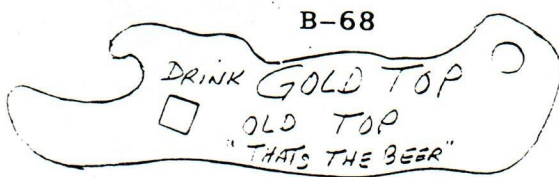
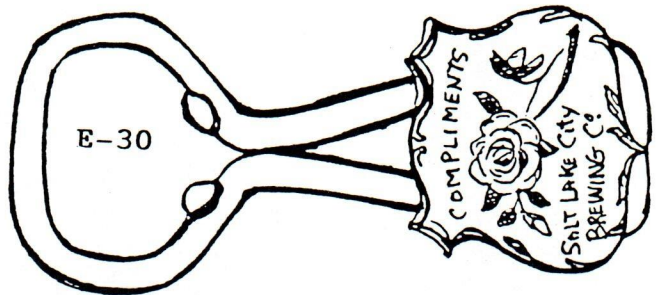
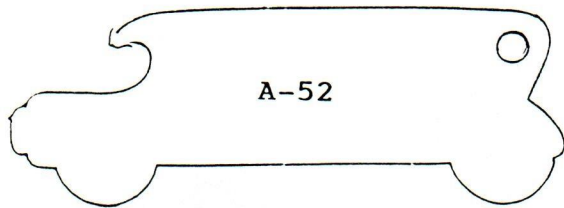
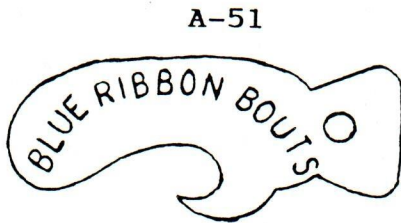
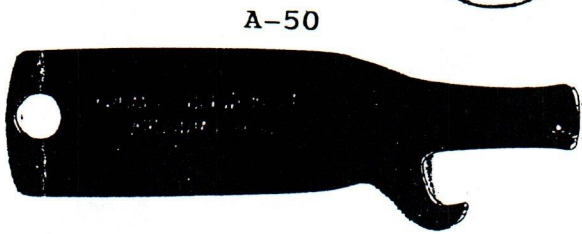
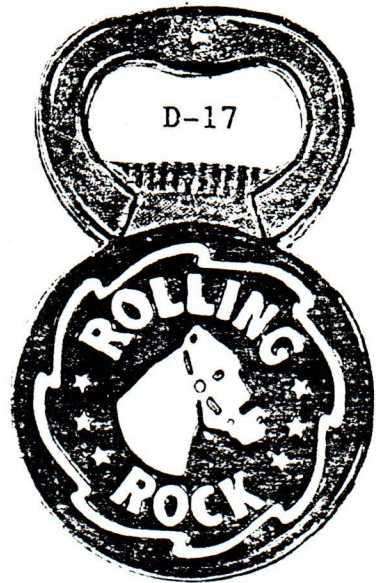
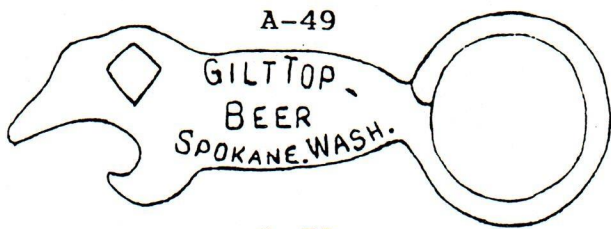
- P-95 (3 1/2 X 3 1/8) BUTTE, MALT-HOPS (B. PATTIE)
- P-96 (3 1/4 X 3/4) GUTSCH (V. VOLLRATH)
- P-97 (3 X 3 5/8) NATIONAL (A. SANTEN)
- P-98 (3 3/4 X 2 7/8) OLDENBERG (A. SANTEN)
- Q-27 (3 X 1) BUD [SURFBOARD] (A. SANTEN)
- Q-28 (3 X 1 1/2) COORS (A. SANTEN)
- Q-29 (3 1/4 X 1 1/2) COORS LIGHT [BEER CAN] (A. SANTEN)
- Q-30 (3 3/4 X 1 5/8) MILLSTREAM (A. SANTEN)
- Q-31 (2 5/8 X 1 1/4) MILLER [FOOTBALL] (A. SANTEN)
- Q-32 (2 5/8 X 1 1/4) MILLER [BASKETBALL] (A. SANTEN)
- Q-33 (2 5/8 X 1 1/2) MILLER [LABEL] (A. SANTEN)
- Q-34 (1 5/8 DIAMETER)[EAGLE IN A] RED PLASTIC TWIST OFF (A. SANTEN)
- R-13 (2 1/2 X 2 1/2 X 2 1/4 DEEP) MENDOCINO [BRONZE HAWK] (A. SANTEN)
- X-5 (3 5/8 X 1 1/2) 1990 CONVENTION [RIGHT HANDED] (J. STANLEY)
- X-6 (3 5/8 X 1 1/2) 1991 CONVENTION [LEFT HANDED] (J. STANLEY)

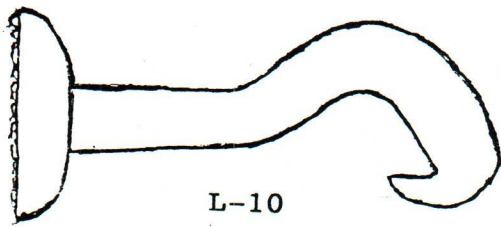
MY INTENTION IN GIVING EACH CONVENTION OPENER A NEW STYLE IS TWOFOLD: EACH OF THEM IS UNIQUE AND TO GIVE CREDIT TO ALL OF THE CONVENTION HOSTS FOR THEIR IMAGINATION AND THEIR LONG AND HARD WORK.



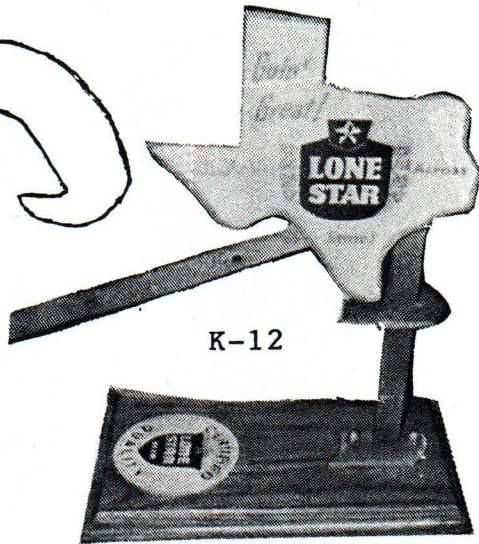
FRONT & BACK  
OF K-12



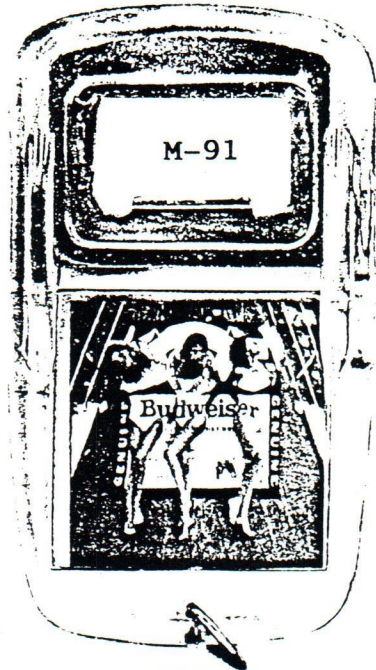




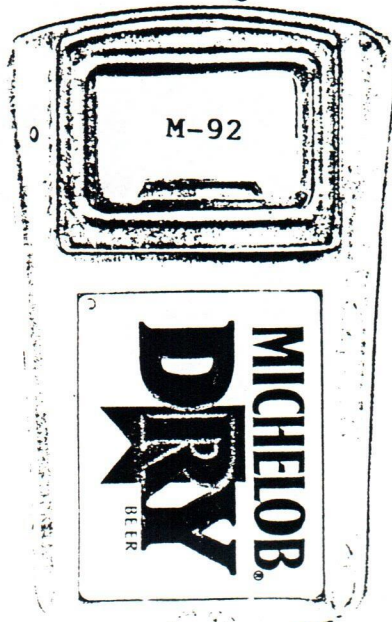
L-10



K-12



M-91



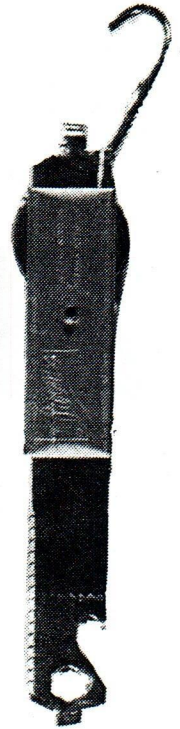
M-92



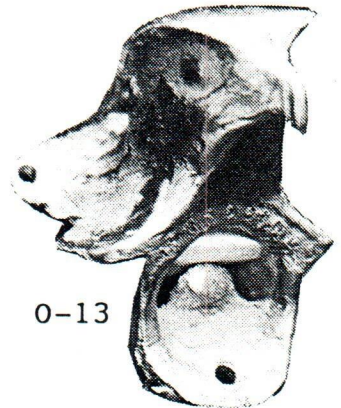
N-67



N-68



N-69

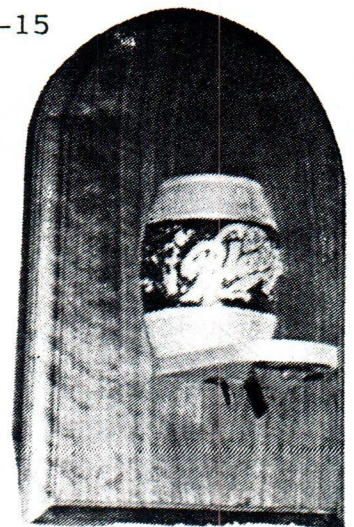


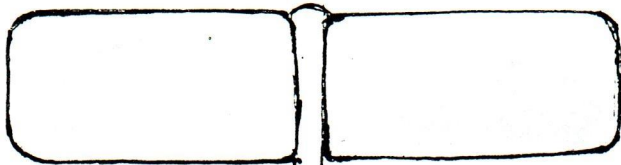
O-13

O-15

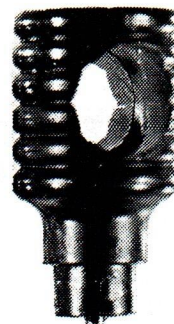


O-14





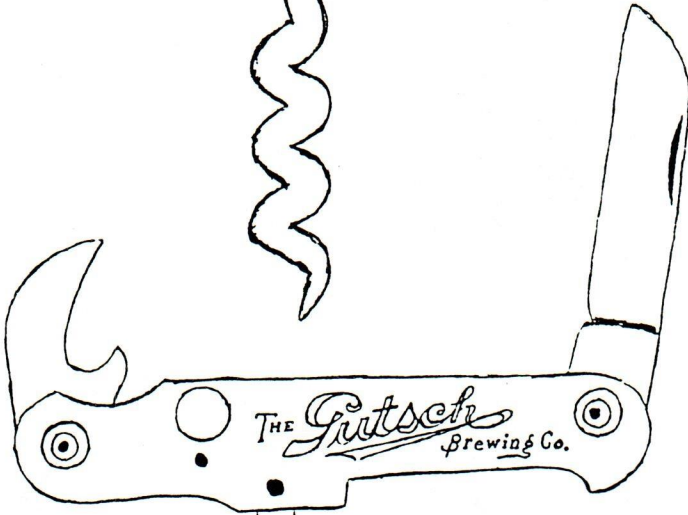
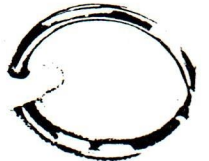
P-95



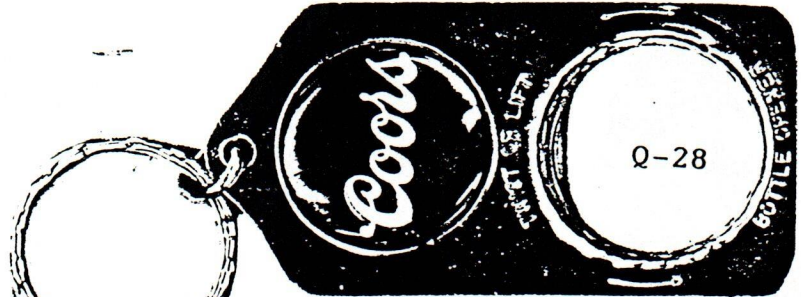
P-98



Q-27



P-96



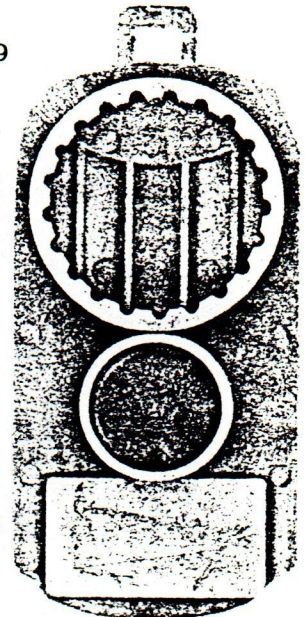
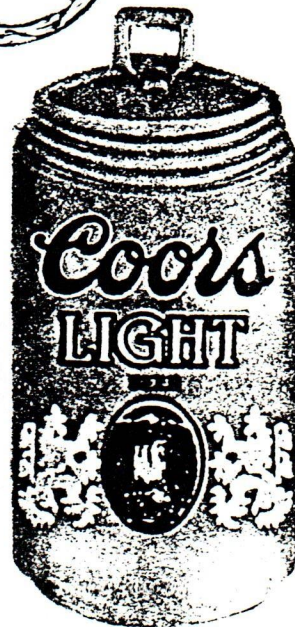
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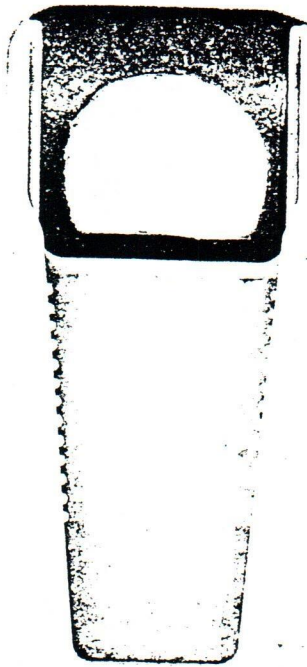
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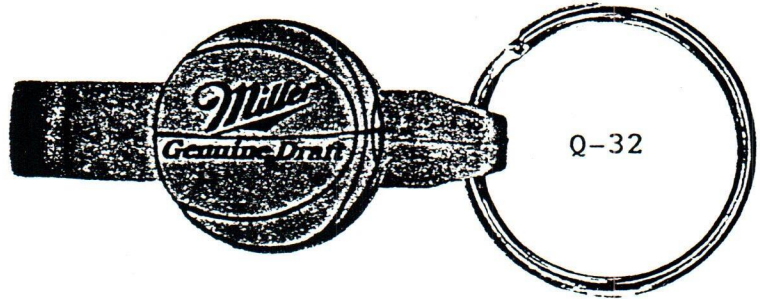
Q-29



Q-30



Q-31



Q-32



Q-33

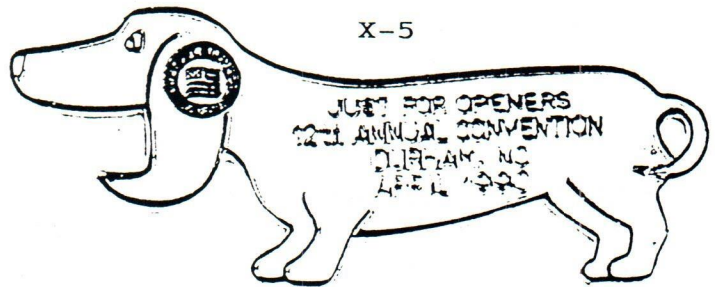
Q-34



R-13



X-5



X-6

