

WELLWARD TOOL COMPANY BOTTLE *De Capper*

By John Eblen

This O-508 wall opener came up for auction on eBay this past April 2024. It identified this style opener as being made by the Wellward Tool Company, Inc. of Detroit Michigan. This was an awesome discovery. Finally, after many years of searching, coming across the manufacturers name to a style opener that not very much information was known about it until now. A search on the web about any information related to the “Wellward Tool Company, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan”, yielded a couple of non- bottle opener patents both issued early 1950’s with the



name Rudyard K. Wellman as the inventor. We probably can attribute this design to him as well. One can only guess if the patent application for it was declined or one was even submitted, either way it did not stop Wellward Tool from producing them. Simply by placing PAT. PEND. on openers gave manufacturers wiggle-room from patent infringement long enough to sell a few. It was not uncommon, back in those days, (1900-1950’s) to have tool companies, metal fabrication, or casting companies making their own designed bottle openers. They also made bottle opener designs submitted to them from outside entities to produce as well. This was the designer “heyday” era for creative thinking towards wall mounted stationary openers on how many ways to open a bottle differently from all the rest out there and maybe getting your idea patented or in this case, maybe not.

Logo used in
1940-1950



Previously only two other variations were known to be in this same style. They also were embossed with either **Drink Pepsi-Cola** or **Nesbitts**. We can look at the embossed Pepsi logo on the right and compare it to the documented referenced logo pictured above to estimate its date of manufacture. It's around the 1940s-1950's timeframe.



With PAT. PEND. stamped across the top these soda openers have no other markings, front or back, offering any clue on who manufactured them. Now we know the Wellward Tool Company.

The two above are not overly rare, but they are getting hard to find (HTF) just the same.

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By John Eblen (Continued)

