

Just for Openers



This is a special edition of Just for Openers. the third 1980 regular issue will be in the mail in July. Send news and discoveries now to Bull, 63 October Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611.

The Opener Convention was held at the Holiday Inn in Hazelwood, Missouri on the weekend of April 18, 1980. Ollie Hibbeler was the convention sponsor. Bob Chapman was responsible for motel reservations and transportation. Art Santen was the greeter and in charge of publicity. All three did a most commendable job and carried the event off without a snag.

On Friday, the 18th, Ollie, Bob, and Art hosted a get acquainted hospitality room where all the beer, pretzels, and chips one could want were available. The trading and drinking festivities broke up about 2:30 AM with everyone worming their way back to their rooms burdened with loads of openers and beer.

On Saturday morning the red eyed and foggy opener collectors found their way to the restaurant for breakfast and on to the meeting rooms for more trading. By noon 16 Just for Openers members had arrived and rummaged through each other's openers. 12 guests came timidly into the room at varying times, and whenever a newcomer was spotted with a cigar box under his arm, those on hand were like vultures swarming to the prey - looking for that elusive opener! There was indeed an awful lot of time spent leaning over tables looking at the thousands of openers - a lot of sore backs the next day for sure!

Displays included: Bob Chapman's type collection, Art Santen's state souvenir collection, Clayton Griggs type E openers, Phil Fouch's Michigan openers, Ollie Hibbeler's St. Louis openers, and Mr. Corkscrew (Joe Balaban) and his specialties.

A brief business meeting was held and was followed by an auction of donated openers to offset expenses. Highlights of the auction were an R-3 Iroquois Indian at \$31.00 and a pair of cast iron false teeth wall mount at \$32.00. It was agreed that Bob Chapman would sponsor the convention next year. Business?! Although Ed Kaye had made a survey before the convention and had circulated results to attendees, nothing was brought up at the meeting. Ed mailed his questionnaire to 129 Just for Openers subscribers and 79 NABA members. 57 of the 208 responded in favor of having a club, 22 responded in the negative. As over 50% did not respond, it could be concluded that the majority are happy with things the way they are. I am in complete agreement with Art Santen's summation: "Continue to use Don Bull's newsletters. Use his list as membership. No dues, no meetings, no officers. One convention a year, host club arranges for convention to pay for itself."

Three new members (subscribers) were added during the day:

John Goff, 577 Brookhaven Ct., Kirkwood, MO 63122

George McBride, 1314 N. Geyer Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Ralph Grosberg, 14 Rio Vista, St. Louis, MO 63124

Saturday evening most of the group went to Talayna's in St. Louis for dinner which was followed by an enlightening visit to Art Santen's house for a view of his collection of 5000+ all variety and type opener collection, and later to Bob Chapman's for a look at his openers, trays, cans, and a well done bar.....then back to the hospitality room 'til 3 AM. Everyone went home happy! Enjoy the photos on the following pages.....If you weren't there, you missed a great time! See you next issue.....Don Bull.....



The opeer covetio was held at the Holiday I orthwest . A ice place with oly five Ns!



Just for Openers members who attended the convention. 1st row from left: Phil Fouch, Don Bull, Art Santen, Bob Chapman. 2nd row: Clayton Griggs, Ed Kaye, Joe Balaban, Don Sherman, Ollie Hibbeler, Gene Heflin. 3rd row: William Vesper, Jerry Schele, Dennis Murphy, Glen Enloe, Verne Vollrath, Robert Stahly. What a group! The grins were a result of adding a lot of nice openers to collections - and a few beers to the belly! The super sign was made by Bob Chapman.



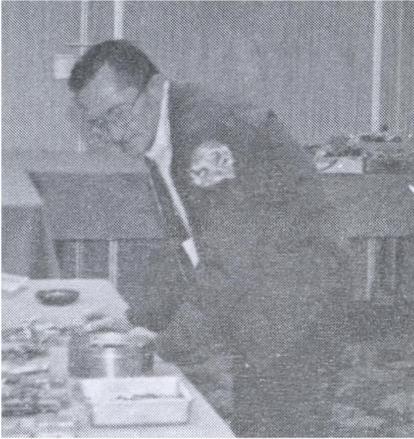
Ollie points out a drunk on a street sign opener and a man with corkscrew. Did you pose for those openers, Ollie?



Vollrath & Kaye making a deal.



Phil Fouch admires a real treasure! Was that an E-14 Hamm's or Falstaff, Phil?!



**What's in the can, Ed Kaye?
Openers or cookies?**



Jerry Schele picks through a bunch.



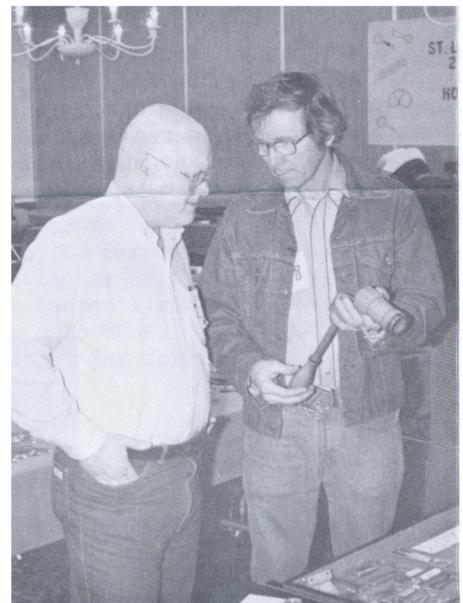
**Ollie and Art held a business meeting.
Short, to the point, and back to openers.**



**Joe Balaban spots a corkscrew
while having a beer.**



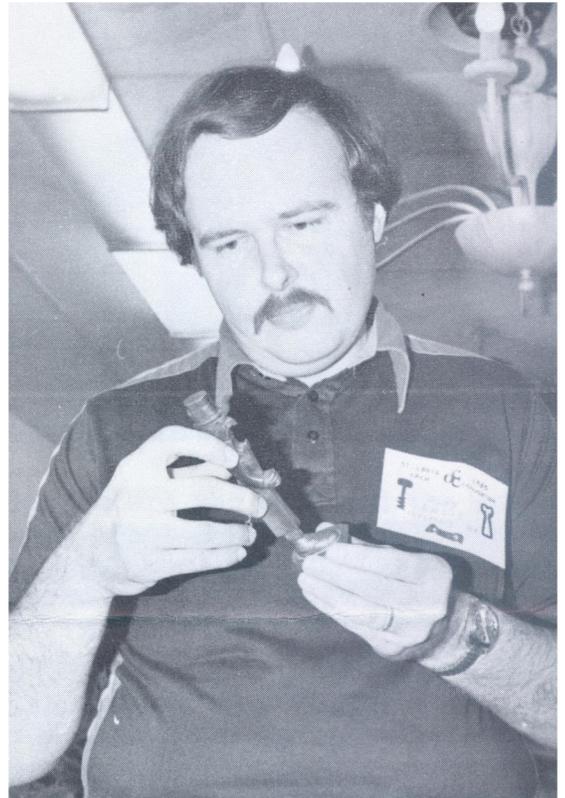
**Joe Balaban spots a corkscrew while having a smoke.
Mr. Corkscrew! What a collection of 'em he has!**



**Ollie describes the operation of
his maple corker to Gene Heflin.**



Dennis Murphy picks out a few C types getting ready for a big trade.

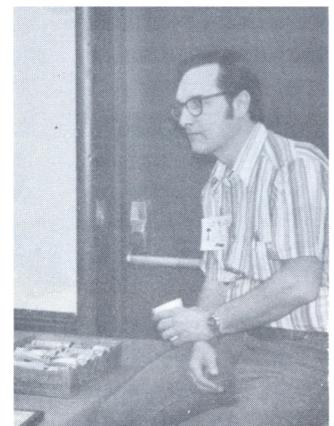


Glen Enloe studies a Mr. Sniffer (Volstead) corkscrew / cap lifter.

Art, Ollie, and Bob (below) put a lot of hours and hard work into making the convention a success. And succeed - they did! And as the Saturday trade session was growing to a close, you could see the three were really worn out. (Give 'em a beer and another box of openers to look through, and they wake right up!)



Don Sherman (left) came all the way from Los Angeles. Now that's a dedicated opener collector!



Souvenir convention openers (Type M-30) are available from Art Santen at \$2.00 each. Opener states: "St. Louis Arch Opener Club, 2nd Annual Opener Convention, April 19, 1980, St. Louis, MO., Ollie Hibbeler, Sponsor, Art Santen, 1979 Sponsor."