

# Just For Openers January-December 2025 1

## Competing Combo Coincidence

Openers by W. E. Harrison & C. W. Halsey By Don Thorton

It's an awesome patent coincidence worthy of JFO documentation. It happened in December of 1929 in Indiana. Two inventors, one living in Union City and the other in Evansville, were granted very similar patents for bottle openers, not ordinary bottle openers – these were made to fit on ice picks.



Dec 10, 1929. W. E. HARRISON 1,739,457  
Bottle Opener  
Filed Nov. 4, 1927

Dec 31, 1929. C. W. HALSEY 1,741,294  
Bottle Cap Lifter  
Filed Oct. 15, 1928

FIG. 1.

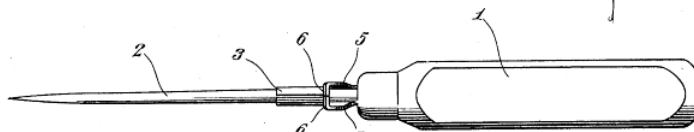
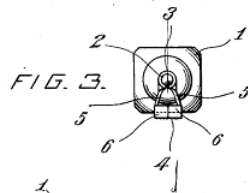
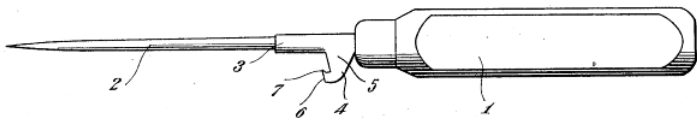
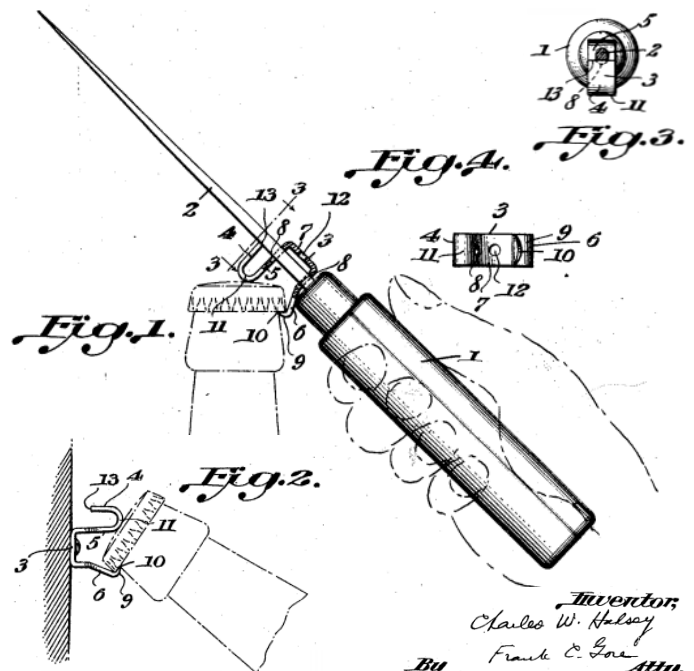


FIG. B.

Inventor:  
WILLIAM E. HARRISON  
Edgar M. Kitchin  
His Attorney.



Inventor:  
Charles W. Halsey  
By Frank C. Gore

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## **Competing Combo Coincidence**

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First up was William E. Harrison of Union City. He was granted Patent No. 1,739,457 on December 10, 1929 for a “bottle opener” that “contemplates the utilization of ... an ice-pick as an operating handle or carrier.”

Next in line was Charles W. Halsey of Evansville whose Patent No. 1,741,294 dated December 31, 1929 was for a “bottle cap lifter” for an “improved combination” with an ice pick.



Harrison said his invention was basically “a jaw designed and especially well adapted for removing caps of the crimped type from bottles, the formation of the parts being such as to insure against slipping...” He said it was “shaped to the form of a sleeve adapted to snugly surround a supporting rod, side portions of the sheet metal being extended edgewise and formed into a hook.” As far as can be determined, it was Harrison’s only invention.

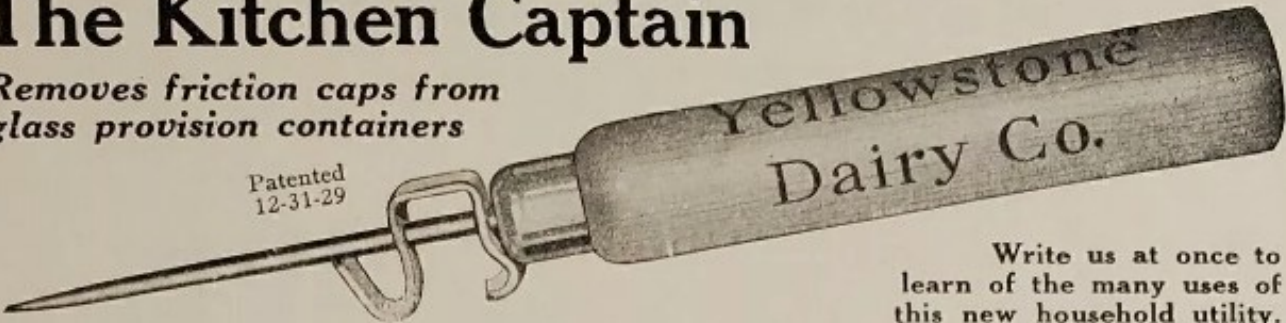
Halsey’s invention, which he named “The Kitchen Captain,” was a bit more complicated. He said his device could, in addition to being fitted to an ice pick, be screwed or nailed to a wall “if it is desired to permanently fasten” it “where caps are frequently removed from bottles as, for instance at a soft drink counter.”

Halsey was awarded several patents over the years. He incorporated the Halsey Manufacturing Company in Indi-

## **The Kitchen Captain**

*Removes friction caps from glass provision containers*

Patented 12-31-29



Write us at once to learn of the many uses of this new household utility.

Samples and prices to legitimate jobbers and quantity buyers

### **HALSEY MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

415 So. Bedford Avenue      EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

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ana in 1923 with capital of \$10,000 “to manufacture advertising novelties.” The corporation was dissolved in 1942.

His obituary in the *Evansville Courier and Press* on December 28, 1944 said he died at the age of 79 and “had operated a small manufacturing business in his home since 1901, specializing in ice tools and advertising novelties.”

One of Halsey’s other inventions also utilized an ice pick. He was granted Patent No. 1,618,530 on February 22, 1927 for a “can opening attachment for ice picks.” He said the object of his invention was “to provide simple and efficient means which may be readily attached to an ordinary ice pick ... to sever the head of a can and to permit the free use of the ice pick with the device attached thereto.”

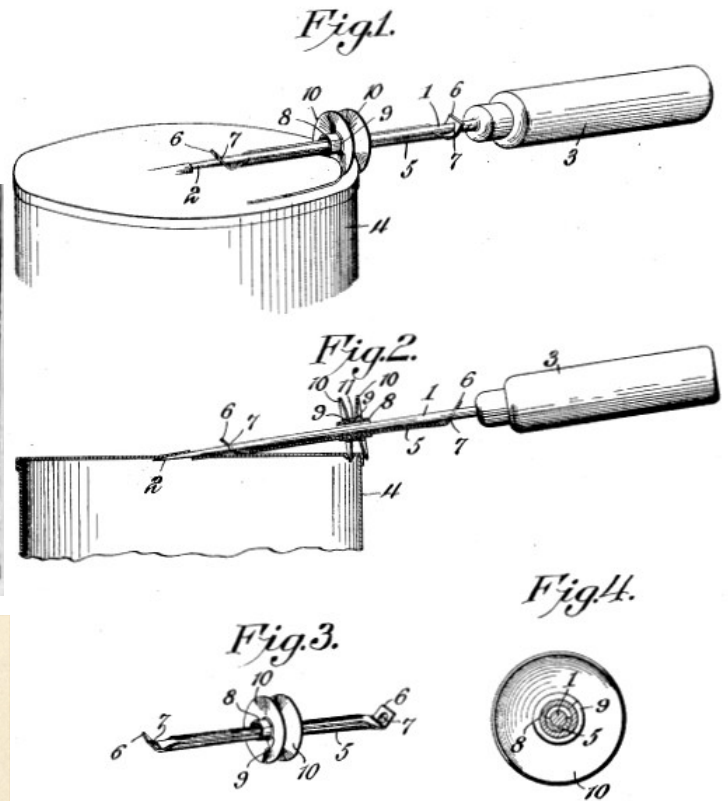
The *Evansville Courier and Press* on March 3, 1927 reported the granting of the patent and said

**Granted Patent On Can Opener**  
 Charles W. Halsey, 313 Bray avenue, has been granted a patent on a can opening attachment for ice picks. Manufacture of the product will be started soon by the Halsey Manufacturing company. A similar can opening attachment without the ice pick is now being manufactured by the concern.

“manufacture of the product will be started soon by the Halsey Manufacturing company.” It was manufactured and has turned up over the years. The example shown with a label for a Massachusetts Company.



Feb. 22, 1927. C. W. HALSEY 1,618,530  
 CAN OPENING ATTACHMENT FOR ICE PICKS  
 Filed Nov. 10, 1925



Witnesses  
 Chas. L. McDonald  
 Howard D. Orr.  
 Charles W. Halsey  
 E. J. Sigler  
 Attorney

