

The Pride Of Tiny Coshocton, Ohio

Harry L. Beach's Colorful Opener By Don Thornton (Pictures Collection of Gary Deachman)

News of Henry D. Beach's death at the age of 76 in 1927 made the front page of his hometown newspaper, the *Tribune*, in the small Ohio town of Coshocton. The *Tribune* said that at the time of his death, at his winter home in Miami Beach, he was president of three manufacturing plants in Coshocton, then population about 10,000.

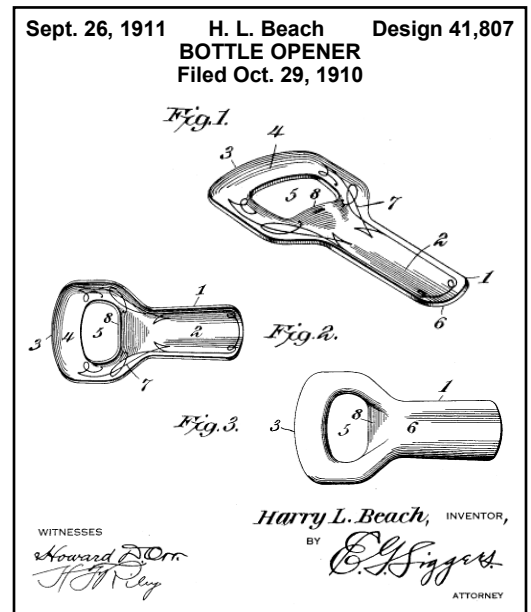
Beginning in 1901, he had founded the H.D. Beach Company, a lithographic concern, followed by the Beach Leather Company, which made advertising novelties, and the Beach Enameling Company. He was a former newspaperman, the *Tribune* said, who also served as postmaster of Coshocton.

When his son, Harry L. Beach, died at the age of 70 in 1942, the news also made the front page of the *Tribune*. Harry L. Beach was described as a "widely known Coshocton industrialist ... who started working in his father's plants as a boy." At the time of his death, also at his winter home in Miami Beach, he was president of the Beach Company, formed in 1940 when the family firms were consolidated.

In addition to his business success, the *Tribune* said Beach was "always interested in civic affairs" and "contributed liberally, but unostentatiously, to Coshocton social and philanthropic agencies."

Unfortunately, the obituary did not mention that Beach also was an inventor, with one of his creations meriting recognition in the world of collectors. Over the years, he was granted at least three patents, including an advertising thermometer, an advertising display stand and a bottle opener designed for branding.

Beach was awarded Design Patent No. 41,807 on September 26, 1911 for a small, fat and curved bottle opener perfect for colorful lithograph enamel advertising – which proved very popular with breweries. One example of the 3 ½-inch opener is marked on the front side: VOIGT'S RHEINGOLD (PIC OF MR VOIGT) E. W. VOIGT DRINKS IT. HE HAS BEEN DRINKING SINCE 1855 AND ENJOYS CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH (Below Middle). Some are also marked with the 1911 patent date. (Note: The brown Pickwick Ale and white Pickwick Stout openers pictured at the bottom left on the next page were found in large quantities in a Boston Bar in the early 1980s).



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