

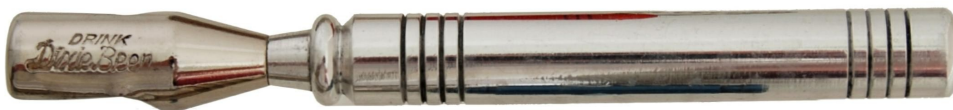
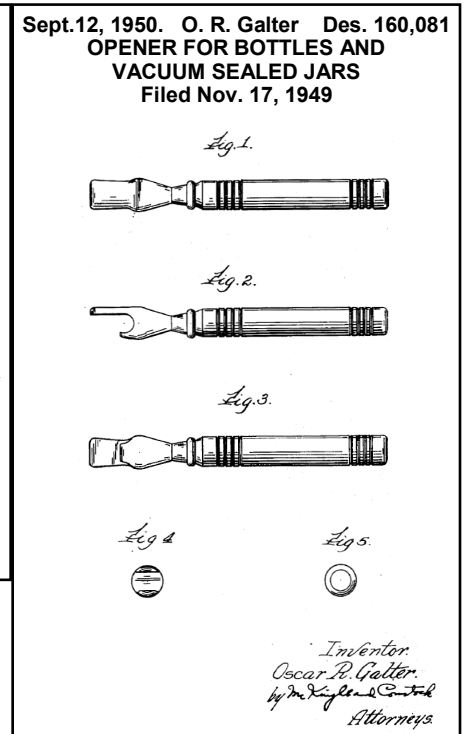
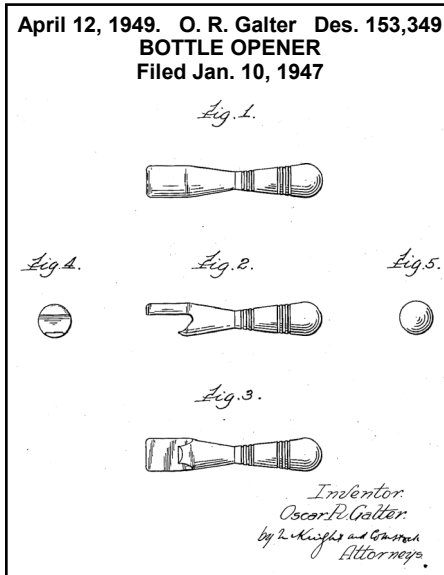
Just For Openers January-December 2026 1

War Bond Hero Oscar Galter's Two Aluminum Openers By Don Thornton

Oscar R. Galter went short (2 ½-inches) and then long (4 ¾-inches) with his aluminum bottle openers. The Chicago resident was granted Design Patent No. 153,349 on April 12, 1949 for his palm-size bottle opener. Twenty months later on September 16, 1950 he was granted Design Patent No. 160,081 for the longer version, which he said opened vacuum-sealed jars in addition to bottles. The openers that survive today are unmarked or branded DIXIE BEER.



Dixie Beer (1907-2020 with interruptions) boasted over the years in advertisements: "Way Down South – it's Dixie!" And its base in New Orleans apparently plays a role in a bit of an unsolved riddle in the background of the openers, as reported in *Just For Openers*, 1999. The guide to bottle, can and other openers said: "Supposedly local bartenders in the New Orleans area were not happy with type N-2 (Galter's first opener) because the handle is so short. To satisfy their demands, the N-88 (Galter's second opener) was developed with a much longer handle."



Both openers were believed to have been manufactured by Galter's Chicago-based Monarch Screw Machine Products Inc. Galter was a World War II veteran, a sergeant serving as a radio instructor at Sioux Falls Army Air Force Base in South Dakota from 1942 to 1945.

During his service there, he made the local newspaper, the *Argus-Leader*, on December 10, 1944. The newspaper reported Galter purchased \$25,000 in War Bonds, the "largest individual purchase of bonds by a soldier in the last three war loan drives at the Post." Galter, the newspaper said, "owned and operated two war industry plants in his home town, Chicago" and "still controls the plants which turn out huge quantities of diversified equipment for Navy, Air Corps, Ordnance and Signal Corps branches."

Asked about his purchase, Galter replied: "I think that those of us who are fortunate enough to buy large quantities of them are lucky to be able to do so. Money put in War bonds works for its investor and even more for the future of his country." Galter died in the Chicago area in 1973 at the age of 62. His obituary in the *Chicago Tribune* said he was a real estate investor and founder and owner of Monarch Screw.