

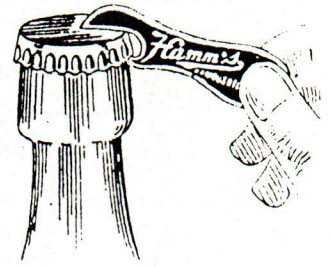
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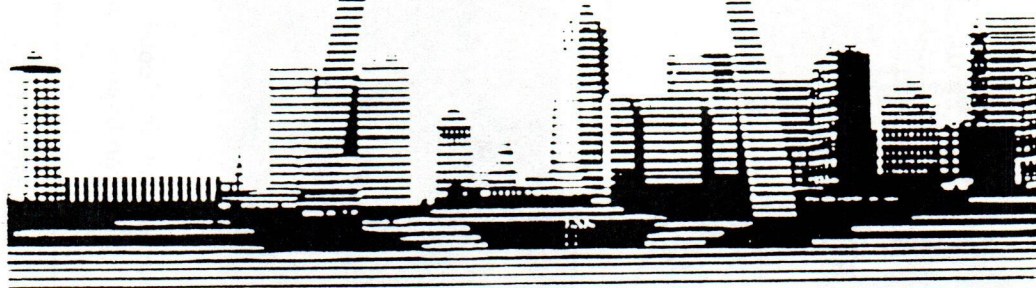
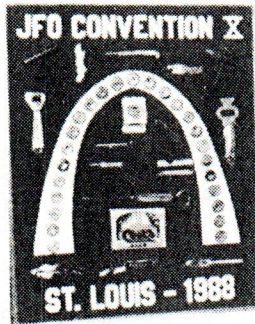
10th Year

Just For Openers



1478 ALBATROSS RD. SANIBEL ISLAND, FL 33957 (813) 472-0004

10th ANNUAL CONVENTION HUGE SUCCESS!



On each side of the Arch are pics of BILL McKENZIE'S second place award display.

In the center of the Arch is a pic of VIC KEOWN, the host who made it all happen.

Beneath the skyline is the touring group led by FIL GRAFF (right center with suspenders).

Open, shut case

Can-opener collectors to gather in St. Louis

By Nat Helms
Journal staff writer

How's this for openers: If you have a Prohibition-era bottle opener that features the coffin-bound effigy of booze-ban champion Andrew Volstead, dig that church key out of your junk drawer—it's worth \$600.

The Volstead opener is just one of the topics likely to pop up during this weekend's three-day convention of can- and bottle-opener collectors at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel at Westport Plaza. About 40 of the "openologists" are expected to turn out to show and trade their collections, which will be on public display from 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday at the hotel. Admission is \$1.

Among the thousands of openers on exhibit will be Volstead-in-a-coffin—a combination corkscrew, shot glass and bottle opener; an inch-long Miller beer can that turns into a church key at the press of a button; and a 1939 Schoer-Kohlischneider Brewery opener.

The host of the convention is Vic Keown, a 52-year-old West Overland Fire Department captain who began collecting openers nine years ago. He had been a beer-can collector, but his 1,500 cans were threatening to overrun his basement, he said.

Switching to openers was a natural.

"They don't take up much space," he said.

Today, Keown and his colleagues are among a handful of experts in the obscure world of can and bottle openers.

Before the advent of twist-off bottle tops and tab-top cans, the mundane metal marvels were



Doug Miner photo

Vic Keown, an avid collector of can openers, shows off part of his collection. Keown is hosting the can-opener convention this weekend at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel at West Port Plaza.

taken for granted. They cluttered junk drawers, disappeared under car seats and rusted to the bottom of tucked-away tackle boxes.

Brewers and bottlers stamped on their company's name and gave them away by the millions as promotional items.

Keown and other collectors have identified, scrutinized and cataloged thousands of openers,

from the venerable church key to the beautifully crafted silver and abalone-shell creations of Mexican artisans. They keep meticulous records of their finds in "Just For Openers," the professional newsletter of "openology" that sets the standards and price for every opener, and which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

For openers

April 20, 1988—West County Journal—

Continued From Page 2.

details some of the more interesting aspects of the utensil's history.

For instance, before the Coca-Cola Co. used the fresh-faced kids of today's ads, it spread its "Drink Coca-Cola" message on the in-the-buff backside of a beckoning beauty reposed across the 1913 "Early Morn" bottle opener.

Adolphus Busch, the founder of Anheuser Busch Brewing Co., used a different gimmick. He gave away ornately inscribed, silver bottle- and can-opener penknives that offered the user a scene of pastoral serenity visible through a tiny magnifying glass in the handle.

The Busch opener is worth at least \$300 today, said Keown, a man who enjoys discussing opener lore even more than opener history.

His tales are filled with archvillians like Earle Frazee, inventor of the tab-top can, and, even more infamous, Volstead, the senator who authored the Volstead Act, which took alcoholic beverages away from a generation of Americans.

From 1919, until the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, Volstead's ever-present top hat and long, slender nose were lampooned on dozens of openers.

Then there are the hard-luck stories.

Take the bottle-innovator at Burger Beer in Cincinnati, an entrepreneur who may still be crying in his beer.

This fellow planned to do away with the need

for a bottle opener—and at the same time increase the sale of Burger Beer—by molding an opener into the base of every bottle of beer he brewed. The idea was that consumers would open one bottle with the opener molded into the bottom of another.

It was a great marketing idea because "you needed to buy two beers to start drinking," Keown said.

Unfortunately, Frazee already had invented the tab-top can and it wasn't long before Burger Beer and its bottle-innovator went down the drain.

Another good idea that didn't get far was the can-handle, a can opener developed by a company in Handy Walden, N.Y.

This combination church key and can handle was supposed to grace the sides of Rheingold Extra Dry beer cans, Keown said. But, after New York police complained that the can-handle's brass-knuckle shape made it a dangerous weapon, about a half a million of them ended up as fill in the foundation of a new factory.

The can handles cost Rheingold Beer eight cents to make. Now they're worth \$10 to \$12—if you can find one, Keown said.

But it's worth looking—if for no other reason than to preserve a bit of our heritage, Keown said.

"It's about something that's just gone," he said. "That's why we collect those things and try to preserve them. It's part of history."

ED's note: I was not able to attend our 10th because of a heart attack and mild stroke. I thank all of you for the cards (the one originating at the convention was a real picker upper) and phone calls wishing me a speedy recovery. With that kind of support, I have put this issue together. The following is my rendition of the goings on as gleaned from those cards, letters and phone calls. Enjoy!

Early arrivals were greeted on Wednesday, April 20th by VIC KEOWN, his wife MARY ANN and daughter DIANE (pic below) in the hospitality room of convention headquarters, the Sheraton Plaza Hotel.



Thursday was check in day with these registrants eager to get at those elusive openers/corkscrews for their collections:

Phyllis & Dick Creuziger Racine, WI
Bob & Marge Stahly Streator, IL
Larry & Fran Biehl Calumet City, IL
Bob & Peg Nugent Hillsboro, NH
Verne & Laverne Vollrath Janesville, WI
Roy & Kazue Scanlan Midlothian, IL
Ted & Mil Striny St. Paul, MN
Bob & Peg VanVactor Stanberry, MO
John & Jay Goff Kirkwood, MO
John & Pat Stanley Durham, NC
Lyle & Marcy Lewis Hiwasse, AR
Ollie & Shirley Hibbeler Lake Ozark, MO
Fil & Robbie Graff Naperville, IL
Lehr & JoAn Roe Dundee, MI
Ray Braeuner Festus, MO
Smitty & Kay Schmidt O'Fallon, MO
Norman Jay Wheaton, IL
James Shoulter Louisville, KY
Harold & Dorothy Kogut St. Petersburg, FL
Bob Chapman St. Peters, MO
Herb & Camille Danziger Birmingham, MI
Don Bull Stamford, CT
Jim & Bev Sutherland Pontiac, IL
Harriet Waldo Rocky Mount, MO
Art & Dorothy Santen St. Louis, MO
Vic, Mary Ann & Diane Keown St. Ann, MO
Lou & Rosemary Kovarik St. Louis, MO
Joe & Jackie Young Elgin, IL
Eldon Gregg Hays, KS
Bill McKienzie Littleton, CO
Gary Deachman Aurora, CO
John & Ardea Horn New Richmond, OH
Oliver Sapington St. Louis, MO
Rosilee Emerson St. Louis, MO

Quite a turnout for old acquaintances and new friends. Each member received a "goody" bag with plenty of breweriana souvenirs donated by various members. The JFO personalized "bag" was donated by LOU KOVARIK as were a JFO 3-ring binder for the newsletters and a JFO collector card file. Plenty of room-to-room trading, buying and selling was the order of the day with visits to the hospitality room for refreshments, snacks and comradeship.

Friday April 22: The tour bus was boarded at 10 AM for FILL GRAFF'S brewery by brewery history of St. Louis. On the way to the Lemp (brewing family) Mansion for lunch, a bit of shopping was done at the legendary Cherokee St. with its 8-10 blocks of antique and junktique stores (thanks FIL for the 18" high "corkscrew" with its 16" long handle you had sent to me from there). After lunch at the Mansion, a tour of this historic building was interspersed with eerie stories of past happenings therein. The tour was terminated from there at the Anheuser-Busch brewery with its new reception center and gift store. Back to the hotel to freshen up a bit and to participate in the action of the traditional auction in the hospitality room. VERNE VOLLRATH and GARY DEACHMAN did their usual excellent job of auctioneering to the satisfaction of all.

Saturday April 23: The final day to trade, buy and sell of what was missed in the room-to-room sessions. The best way to do this was to lay it all on tables-46 of them to be exact. The public was invited to this show and approx. 100 enjoyed the goings on. The host kept hopping around seeing that all was going smoothly. The raffles seemed never ending for all the breweriana door prizes. A separate raffle was held for members who showed their membership cards. The highlight of all JFO conventions is the awarding of prizes for the best displays. Photos of the 3 winners and the honorable mention are in the picture section as well as many random shots of the convention.

From comments and thank you notes received by him, VIC states it was well worth being the host. However, he is quick to point out that the assistance given him by his wife MARY ANN, his daughter DIANE and son KEN should be given credit. Also special thanks to LOU & ROSEMARY KOVARIK, JOHN & JAY GOFF, OLLIE & SHIRLEY HIBBELER and ED KAYE for their unselfish help. See you all at next year's convention!

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Welcome to new members and renewal*:

AUSTIN Keith 3116 Risner Las Cruces, NM 88001.....505 522-5412
 BRUNNER Wm. 8773 W. Mineral Pt. Rd. Mt. Horeb, WI 53572....608 798-2793
 DULLA Greg 972 Tioga Trail Willoughby, OH 44094.....216 951-9865
 GARRISON Skip 751 Colfax Ave. Daytona Beach, FL 32014.....
 *HAITHCO Wm. RPh 3601 Doncaster Ct. U-11 Saginaw, MI 48603..517 792-8233
 P.X. of U.S.A. Inc. 4539 Centinela Av Los Angeles, CA 90066..213 822-5534
 RAPOSO Michael 326 60th St. #4 West New York, NJ 07093.....
 SAPPINGTON Oliver 8623 Commercial Blvd Pevely, MO 63070...314 479-4779
 SCHMITT Jr. Conrad 406 Eastbrook Ln. 07Fallon, MO 63366....314 272-2814
 SCHULTZ Donald ON251 Leonard St. Winfield, IL 60190.....312 668-5119
 WILLING Kenneth RT. #3 Beloit, WI 53511.....608 752-1387
 Change of address:
 DEACHMAN Gary Box 438 North Woodstock, NH 03262.....
 GROSS Donald L. 10 W. Main St. #6B Westminster, MD 21157.....

---0000---

CLASSIFIEDS.

WANTED

CLASSIFIEDS.

Openers with SODA advertising. KEITH AUSTIN 3116 Risner
 Las Cruces, NM 88001

B-18-423 Niagara Falls, B-18-60 Phoenix, c-9-27 Steins, E-8-56 Lang &
 N-22-4 Iroquois. Will buy or trade from my collection.
 MARK BARREN 6806 Bear Ridge Lockport, NY 14094-9215.


L-7, M-27, P-58, Q-3, R-5, R-7, R-9, R-10, R-11. Also any other
 Advertising Figurals (including "A" types). DONALD L. GROSS
 10 W. Main St. #6B Westminster, MD 21157-4816

COCA-COLA OPENERS. Want to buy older styles, unusual types, es-
 pecially figurals. Write! THOM THOMPSON Hunteertown Rd.
 Versailles, KY 40383

Interested in corkscrews, openers, postcards and related items from
 the Prohibition era. SKIP GARRISON 751 Colfax Ave.
 Daytona Beach, FL 32014.

TRADES

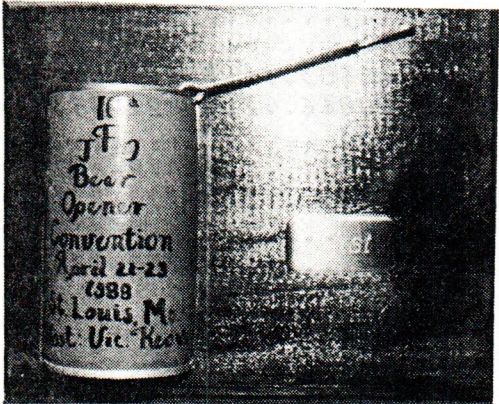
Tough types available, my F-7-1 Columbia, K-5-1 Schlitz and M-9
 Ballantine for Pennsylvania beer openers that I need.
 TONY ZANGHI RD1 Box 404F14 Coopersburg, PA 18036.



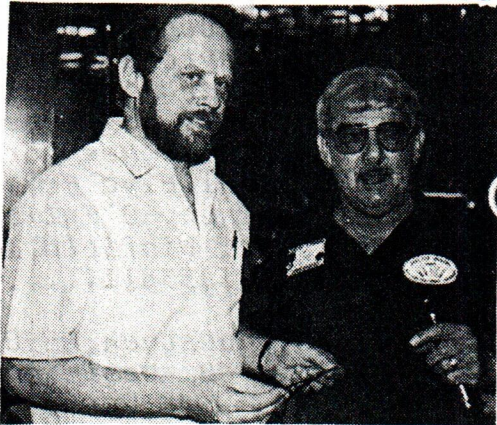
10th Annual Convention JUST FOR OPENERS



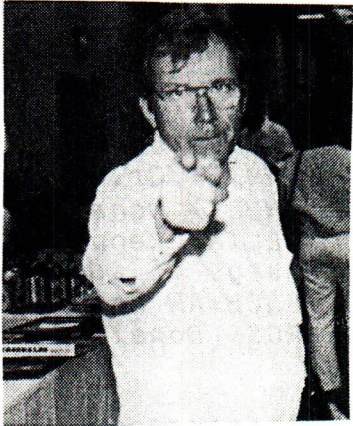
Vic Keown (at Right) presenting 1st place award to Art Santen, 2nd place to Bill McKenzie and third place to Bob VanVector.



Close-up of the award(s).



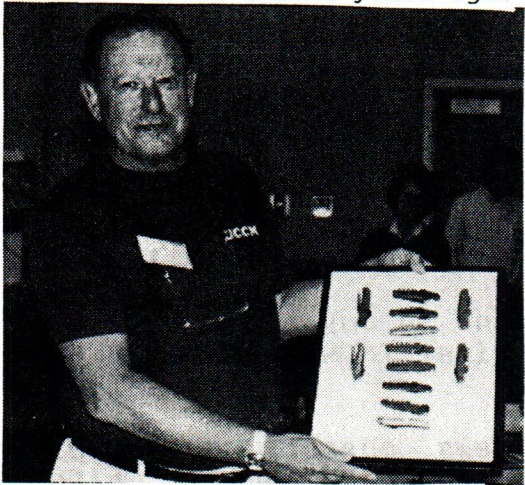
Vic presenting a letter opener to Don Bull who started JFO 10 years ago.



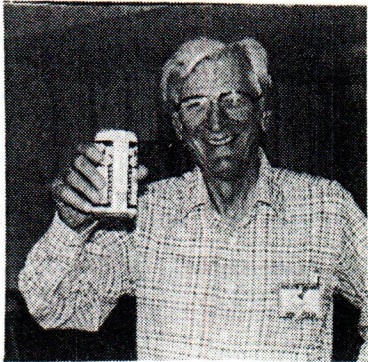
Ollie Hibbeler sez: "Where were you?"



Vic with the barrel head wall display the St. Louis club gave him for hosting the convention.

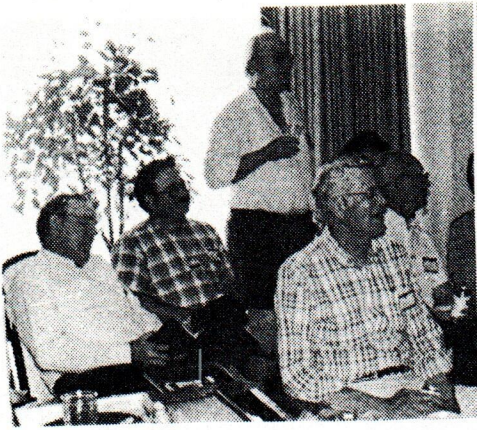


Lehr Roe with his Honorable Mention display of corkscrew/ opener knives.



John Goff sez: "This Bud WAS for you but you were not here"

ED'S Note: Thanks to VIC KEOWN and LARRY BIEHL for these and other photos in this issue. The membership appreciates your kind gestures!



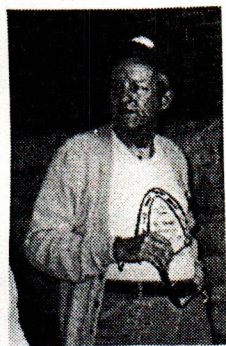
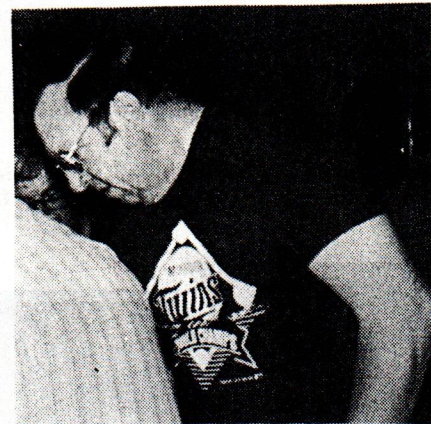
Top row: Spellbound auction participants listening to Verne Vollrath's hard sell as Herb Danziger bids \$2.00.

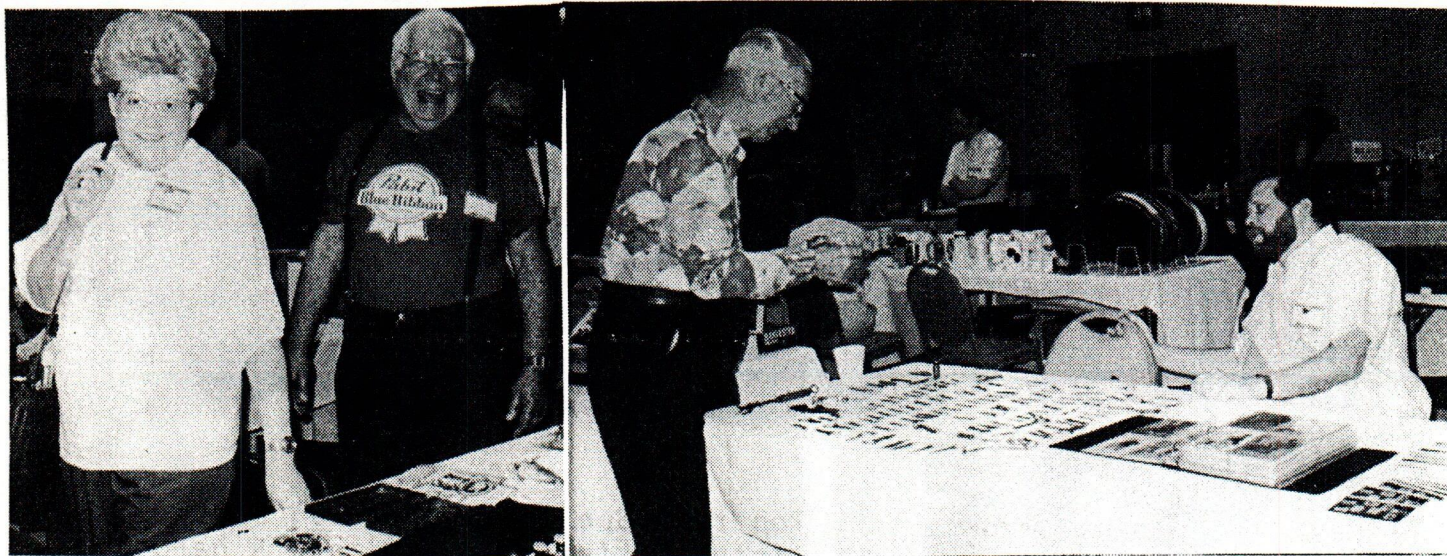


On the left: Eldon Gregg looks on while seated Ollie Hibbeler bids \$1.00.

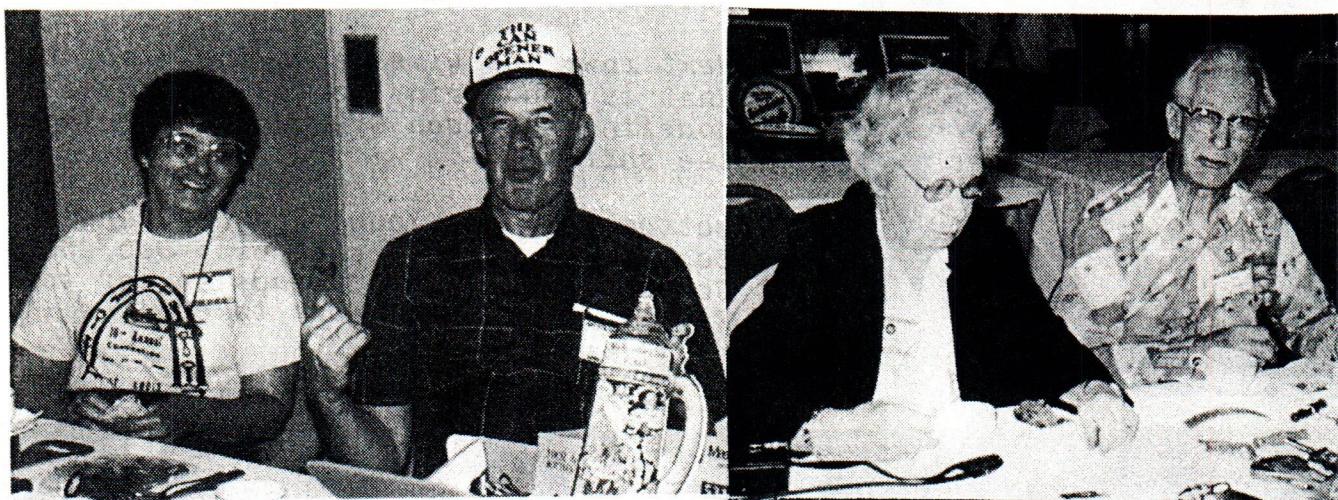
Next row: The wives enjoying "lady talk". What is Ted Striny up to? Lou Kovarik modeling an Eldon Gregg designer label tee shirt.

Bottom row: Joe Young (center) and Bob Nugent (right) chat with Bob Chapman. John Stanley (right) bends an ear to Ray Braeuner. Ken Keown takes it all in.





Left-Phyllis and Dick Creuziger enjoying the buy-sell-trade session.
Right-Bob Nugent dickers with Don Bull (seated) for a corkscrew.



Left-Jackie and Joe Young waiting for the action to start as are
Peg and Bob Nugent (right photo).



Left- Gary Deachman (on right) convinces a couple of prospects that
this is the time to buy. Center-Norman Jay offers quite a selection.
Right- Verne and Laverne Vollrath smile as Larry Biehl buys.



OPENER TRIVIA by Bill McKenzie

Many wire formed openers of varying size and shape have been classified under type E-14. This issue of Opener Trivia will attempt to define these varieties and the manufacturer's marks which appear on them.

There are several characteristics by which an E-14 type opener can be defined:

- has 3 frets in the head
- top fret can be either small or large
- head may be rounded, flat, or dipped

- middle part of handle has been flattened for the advertisement

- length varies from 87-93 mm (millimeters)

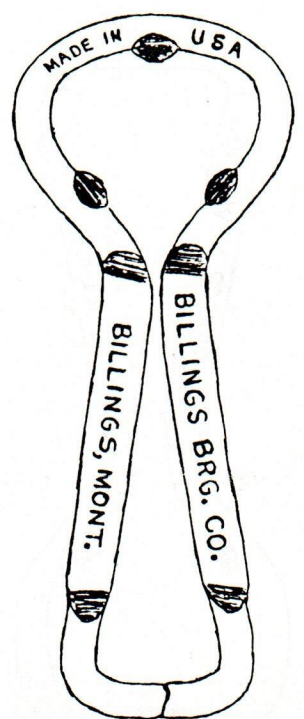
On this page and the following page are drawings of the type E-14 varieties I have been able to define. By each variety the type designation E-14 is followed by a lower case letter. As of this time I have been able to identify ten (10) easily distinguishable varieties.

After studying the varieties it is possible to make some generalities concerning the evolution of type E-14:

- all E-14's date to the post-prohibition period

E-14a

rounded head; small fret at top; 92 mm long



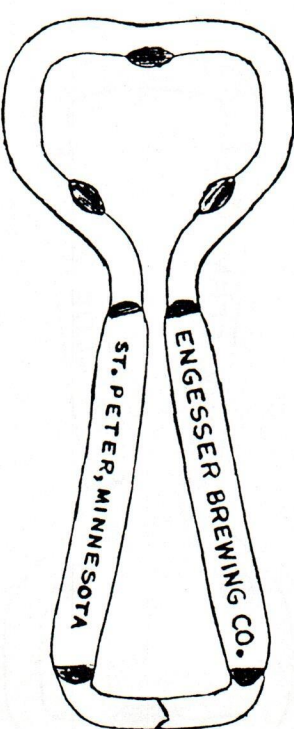
E-14b

rounded head; small fret at top; 89 mm long



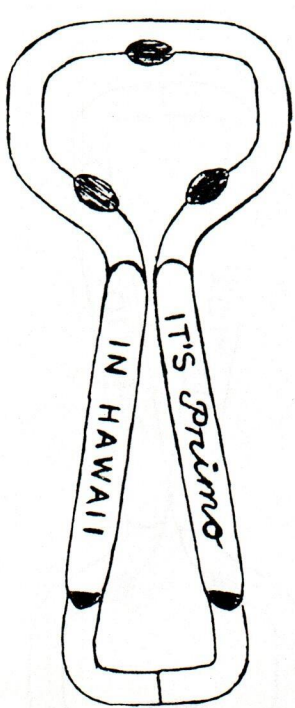
E-14c

dipped head; small fret at top; 92 mm long



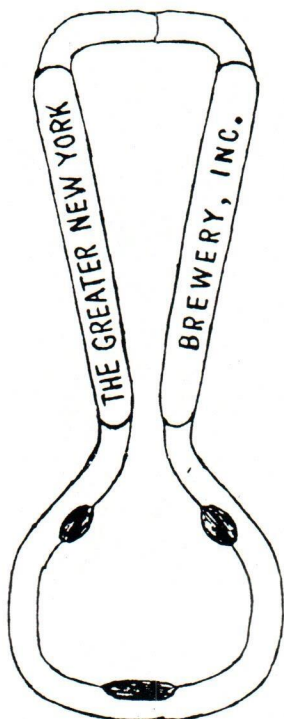
E-14d

rounded top; small fret at top; 89 mm long



VARIETIES OF TYPE E-14

VARIETIES OF TYPE E-14



E-14e ←

rounded head;
large fret at
top; 92 mm long

→ E-14f

rounded head;
large fret at
top; 93 mm long

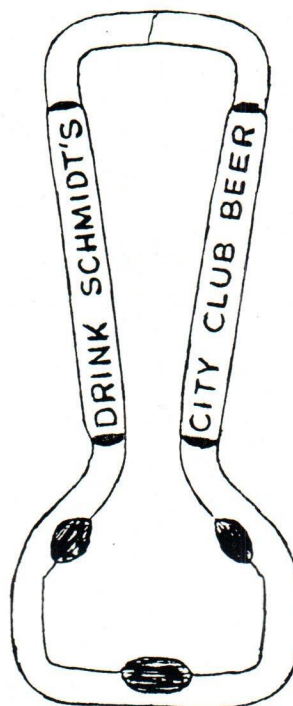


E-14g ←

dipped head;
large fret at
top; 93 mm long

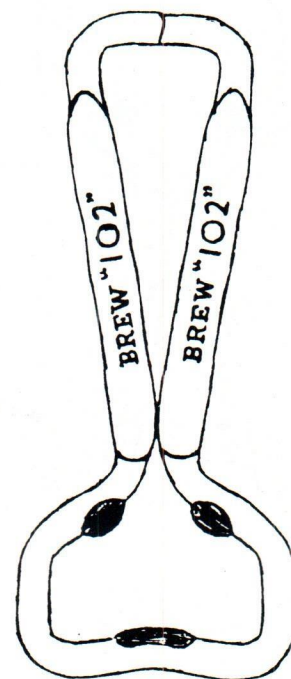
→ E-14h

dipped head;
large fret at
top; 90 mm long



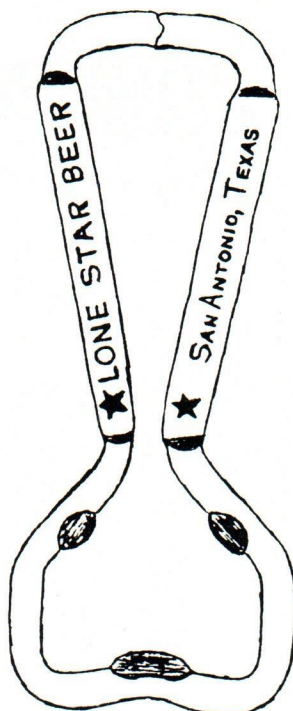
E-14i ←

flat head;
large fret at
top; 91 mm long



E-14j ←

dipped head;
large fret at
top; 87 mm long



(continued from the preceding page)

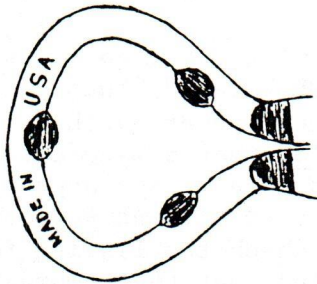
- E-14a & E-14b are probably the oldest varieties and date from the early to late thirties; at times variety E-14a has been mistakenly listed as type E-9 which is a pre-prohibition opener
- earlier openers generally have a small fret at the top of the head; the large fret was a more recent improvement
- earlier openers generally came with a round head; flat and dipped heads came later
- during the changeover period there were instances where rounded head openers came with a large fret and dipped head openers came with a small fret

A Manufacturer's Mark (hereafter to be designated by the letters MM) is a mark and/or design on an opener not part of the advertisement of the company for which the opener was made. These marks usually indicate the company which manufactured the opener, and oftentimes in the case of type E-14 include a design when wording only appears on one side of the opener.

Below are several MM that I have observed on type E-14 openers. Listed by each MM are the E-14 varieties on which that mark appears. At times an opener may have more than one MM appear on it.

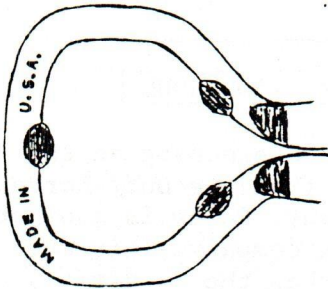
E-14 MANUFACTURER'S MARKS

MM 1



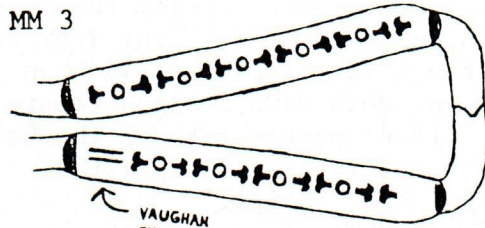
E-14a

MM 2



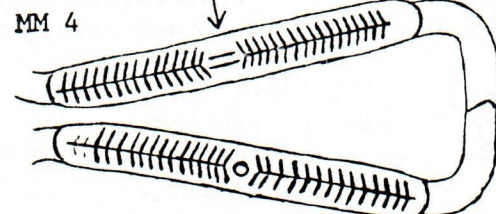
E-14b

MM 3



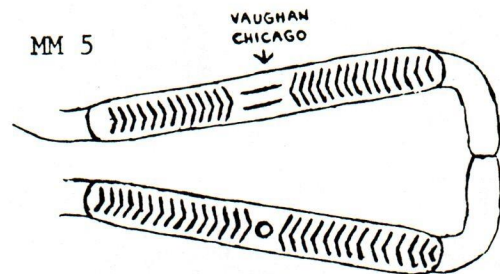
E-14c

MM 4



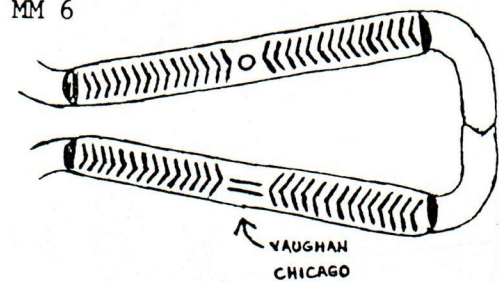
E-14c

MM 5



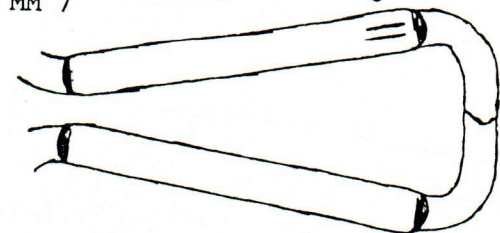
E-14f
E-14h

MM 6



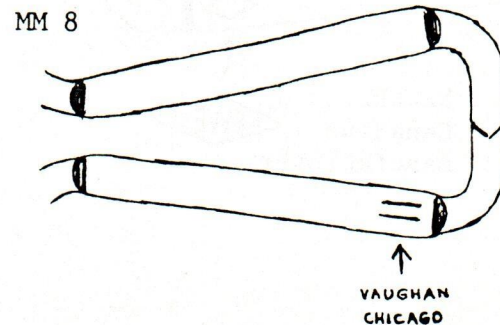
E-14h

MM 7



E-14h

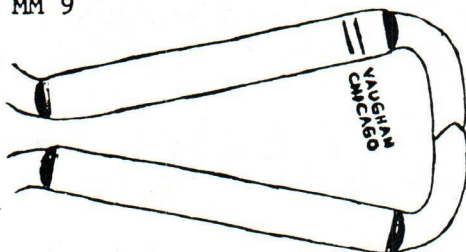
MM 8



E-14h

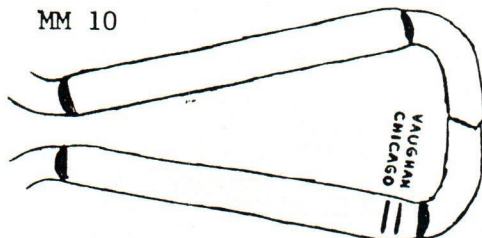
E-14 MANUFACTURER'S MARKS

MM 9



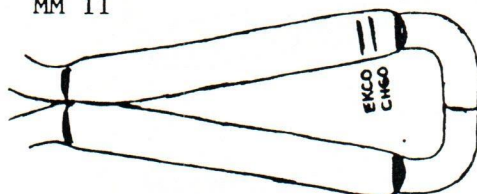
E-14h

MM 10



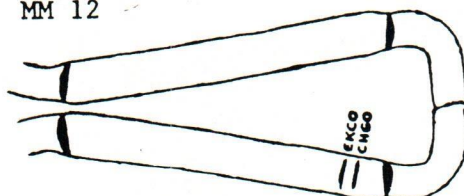
E-14h

MM 11



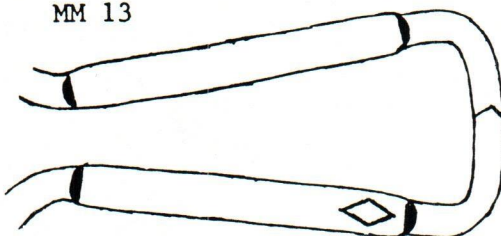
E-14j

MM 12



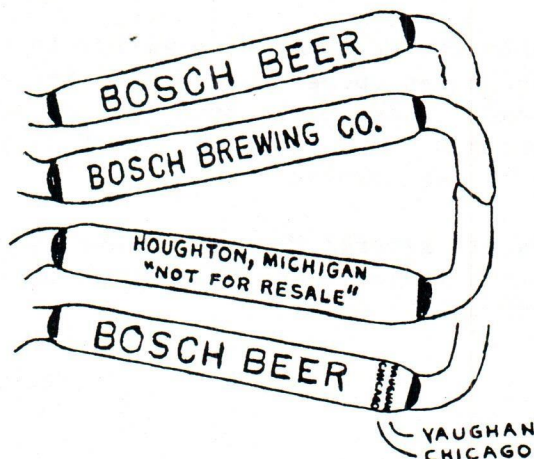
E-14j

MM 13



E-14i

Note: NEWELL is a Canadian manufacturer.

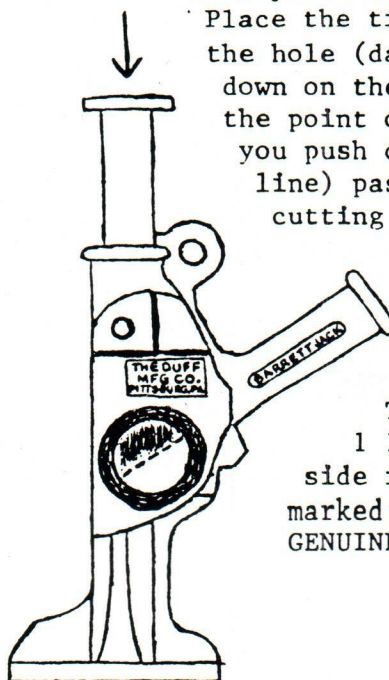


I have included the drawing above to illustrate the words "NOT FOR RESALE". These words were ordered on the opener by the BOSCH BREWING CO., and are not a manufacturer's mark. When words such as these appear on an opener they should be written as part of the listing. If you check the listing for this opener you will find that these words were not included.

OPENER TRIVIA - ADDENDUM

- Last issue featured a brochure on the jack-shaped opener from the Duff-Norton Manufacturing Company. Below is another piece from the same company. This one being a lot rarer than the opener.

This piece is a cigar tip cutter. Place the tip of the cigar in the hole (dark circle) then push down on the top of the jack at the point of the arrow. When you push down a blade (dotted line) passes through the hole cutting the tip off the cigar.



For the purpose of illustration this piece was enlarged. The actual height = 1 13/16". The reverse side is similar but is marked: BARRETT JACK DUFF GENUINE BARRETT".

OPENER TRIVIA - ADDENDUM

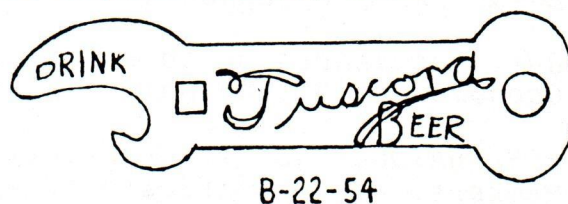
- Concerning the combination corkscrew - cigar box opener - wire breaker in the last issue Ron MacLean of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada writes:

"It is a German patent of 1890. I don't know the day or the patentee. D.R.G.M. is an abbreviation for Deutsches Reich Gebrauchsmunster which translated means German Empire registered design or utility model. It is a very rare corkscrew."

Ron also wrote:

"The yoke shaped end of the MARS opener is a champagne cork lever or pry to assist in removing a pressurized bottle cork."

- Mark Barren of Lockport, N.Y. sent these drawings in. He would like to know which breweries these openers are from. Can any of you help him identify them?



I should mention that Mark also wrote in last issue identifying the line pin - opener combination sent in by Frank Kraft and adding the following information on the Froedtert Malt Corporation:

"The March 1965 issue of Modern Brewery Age Blue Book has the Froedtert Malt Corporation on the cover. They had malt houses in Milwaukee, New York, Louisville, San Francisco and Winona."

I was unable to include Mark's information in the last issue because I had already sent the copy to Ed before I received his letter. Thanks Mark.

- Vic Keown writes:

"I have some good news that I am telling everybody about, it concerns my TROMMERS collection. I was down to needing only one the M-3/27, I only knew of two, Don Bull had one and some guy in I think New York has the other. Well about two weeks after the convention Don Bull sent me the one he had. He said he thought I would appreciate it more than he did. He has about 60 M-3's in his collection. Well let me tell you I am very happy to tell everybody what good people there are in this group. That will be my statement about the convention."

I have been very busy with my family, my job managing an athletic club, and coaching a volleyball team. I work on Opener Trivia in my spare time - a little bit here and there between issues of the newsletter. If you have sent me material which I have not acknowledged receipt of, or used in Opener Trivia, please bear with me and rest assured that I am planning to use your material and will write you back as soon as I am able.

I sincerely appreciate the interest and support you have given Opener Trivia. Without your help it would be difficult for me to do.

Bill McKeen

BILL McKIENZIE did it again with his painstaking research to bring you Opener Trivia. Why not mail him a postcard from your home town with your comments. His address is: 6360 Jellison St. Littleton, CO 80123.

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Some Classifieds are on page 5. Here are a couple more:

--WANTED--

"F" type openers with beer advertising. LARRY BIEHL
448 Crandon Calumet City, IL 60409.

--SELLING--

The 1988 souvenir convention opener/corkscrew is a replica of the
P-21-2 Griesedieck @ \$10.00 from ART SANTEN 6126 McPherson
St. Louis, MO 63112.

Official JFO pins (tie tacks) and shoulder patches. \$3.50 each PP.
ED KAYE 1478 Albatross Rd. Sanibel Island, FL 33957.

-***-

Another change of address:

LANGE Dick 309 Orem St. Mt. Shasta, CA 96067.....Phone later.....

-***-

Additional new member welcome:

BARGE Chris C9 Bunchrew Park, Bunchrew Nr Iverness Scotland UK IV36TD

-***-

Our condolences go to Clair Kling, wife of member Raymond Kling of
Oconomowoc, WI, who passed away on 3/16/88.

-***-

HERB HAYDOCK was inadvertently omitted from the list of JFO Founding
Members. His Certificate of Appreciation has been mailed to him. (See
page 1 of the April 1988 issue).

-***-

I saw this in another periodical (A.B.A. Journal?) some time ago:

.Beer Can Opener...A Handy Helper

The next time you are having a tough time opening one of those "child
proof" aspirin bottles, try this helpful hint. Line up the arrow on
the cap with the slot and, using the flat end of the opener, lift the
lid. Then use the pointed end to break the seal under the cap. Another
practical use for part of your collection!

-***-

DONALD L. GROSS writes to remind us of the term-BUYER BEWARE-"I'll
mention a couple reproductions I've run across into these past few
weeks: 1) The R-7 Hauenstein Pretzel and 2) an A-35 Gay-Ola (a soda).
The lady selling the R-7 admitted it was a reproduction when I asked.
The guy selling the A-35 told me it was from 1912. (It has the 1912
patent on it). Ironically, I have an original A-35 Gay-Ola and by
comparison, what I think is a repro lacks all the little detail lines.
I found another dealer who had the same A-35 Gay-Ola but didn't know
if it was an original. Both of the A-35's have a brown "antique" fin-
ish on them. The first dealer told me it was originally clear lacquer
but turned brown over the years. I have several near mint A type and
none of these are brown. The moral of the story here is that if a
repro is made of an obscure soda, what about some of the rarer beers?
I only collect originals and I'd hate to pay for an A-8 or A-40 only
to learn it is a repro. Is there anything that can be done to prevent
this from happening? " ED's note: I believe there is a Federal law
regarding repros. Can any member refresh my memory on this so that it
can be conveyed to all in our JFO?

-***-

THE DEADLINE FOR ME TO RECEIVE YOUR CLASSIFIEDS, NEWS etc, FOR THE
OCTOBER ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 30th.