

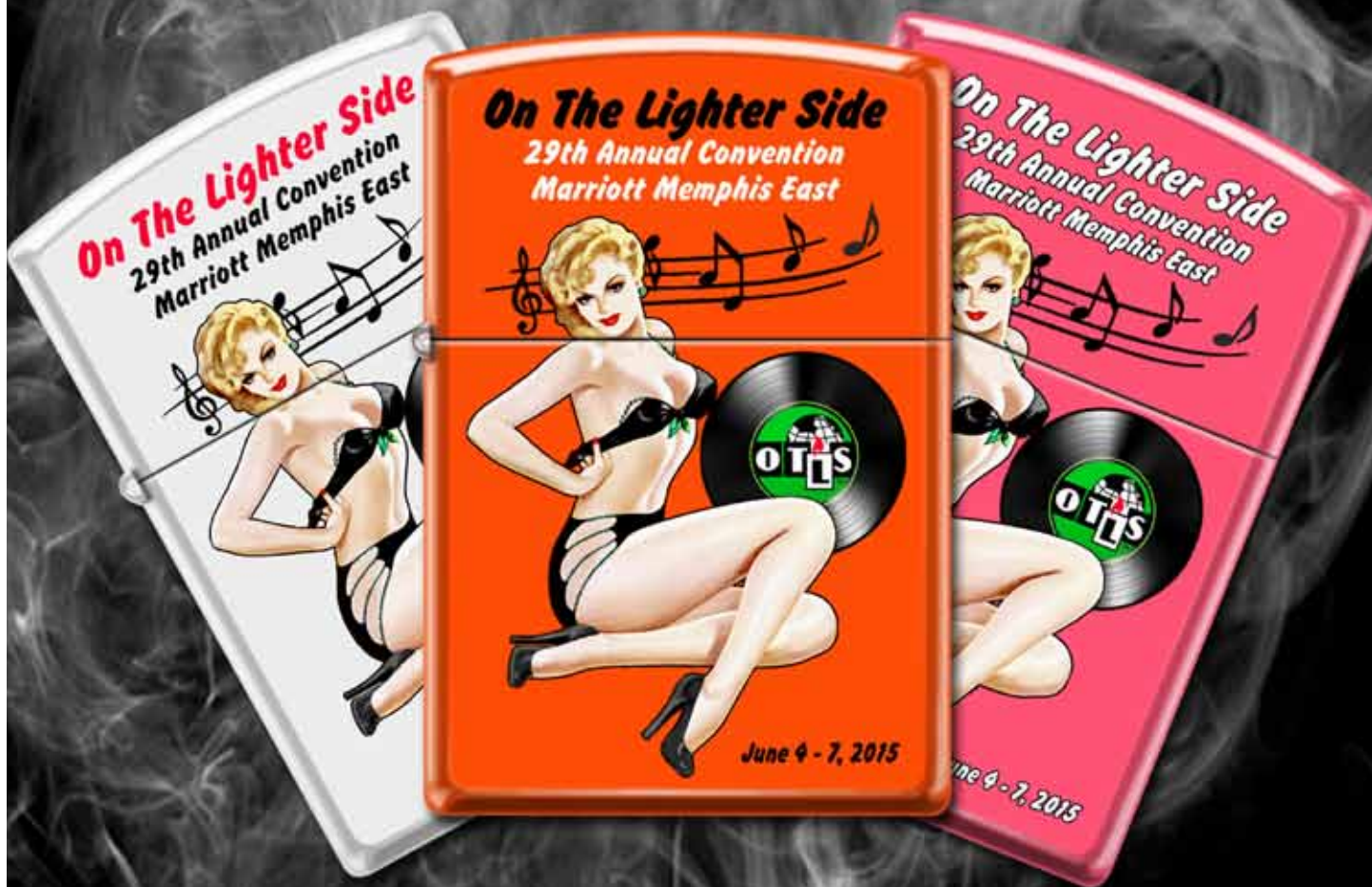


JULY 15, 2015

VOL. XXXII, NO. 4

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

CONVENTION EDITION



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**FOUNDED IN 1983 - THE LONGEST RUNNING
LIGHTER COLLECTING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!**

And Now A Word From Your Editor

Richard Weinstein

First things first, the board would like to congratulate Greg Ryman for his being awarded the



Founder's Award for his outstanding service to OTLS. Amongst many things Greg does for the club, he selflessly volunteered to contact past members in the hopes of rekindling their lighter spirit and rejoin the club. Not an easy task. We were very sorry that Greg could not attend the convention to receive this prestigious award due to surgery on his knee. (Greg, you owe me a beer for taking over your club convention duties!)

The board wants to acknowledge these members for being sponsors of the 2015 OTLS Convention; Ed Pinedo, Takashi and Kiyoko Fujii, Jerry Bryant and Family and Greg Ryman. (you owe me another beer). We also want to acknowledge Art Brooks friends, Harry and Amber Bryant who at our Saturday auction, purchased a very expensive lighter and donated it back to the club. This was much appreciated.

We had a suggestion from Bob Gamboni to create a page for members to send in photos only of their latest finds, or favorite lighter. I am all for this and appreciate hearing from other members who would like to see a section like this. Send your suggestions on this or other suggestions to Greg Ryman at gregryman872@msn.com. (Greg, I owe you 6 beers now!) Please read Bob's great article on Plastic Lighters. It is one great article that you can only find by being a member of OTLS.

Now that the kudos are out of the way, you will notice a change in the newsletter. The board with the help of Vickie Adele of Zen who designed the cover page, has decided, at least for this issue, to have it in color with the addition of the color cover page. Of course, this comes with an increased cost to the printing. (I would like to take a moment to thank our publisher, Kate Kirby of The Journal Print Shoppe in Big Sandy, Texas for doing such a great job.) So now the question is whether the membership would be willing to spend more in dues to have this format a permanent addition to the newsletter and how many of you who receive your newsletter via the internet would want to switch to hard copies due to the new platform. We have not done a cost study to see exactly what the additional dues cost would be, but assuming it would add \$10.00 additional to the yearly dues cost, what would the membership prefer? We have no problem leaving the newsletter

as is and maintaining the current prices but if you can see the value in producing this type of color copy with cover page, we need to hear from you. This is an important issue and the board needs to hear from you, the membership. Please take the 1 minute it will take to respond and let us know what you think. Please send your comments to Greg Ryman at gregryman872@msn.com. (Greg, I think we owe you a case of beer at this point)

I have included some photos from the convention in this issue. Do to space limitations, I could only include a small selection. Other photos can be found on the OTLS website.

Chairman's Message: ***Guy Nishida***

I recently returned from a vacation. Surprisingly enough, it coincided with the 29th Annual OTLS Convention. Imagine that? I can't comment on Graceland as I was too busy participating in the 10th Annual golf tournament so I'll leave that review to others. The results of the tournament are final (while not personally satisfying). Dana Baumgartner took 1st place, Don Berger placed 2nd, and Ron Eyerkuss garnered Show money. Aside from the loss of a few golf balls and Tom Jones' teeth, a grand time was had by all.

Many of us did trek to Beale Street, Home of the Blues. Wednesday evening is motorcycle heaven as blocks of curbsides were jammed with all manner of two-wheel and 3 wheel bikes with blaring exhaust notes that zoom-zoomed off the decibel chart.

I believe I exceeded my yearly BBQ quota as that is a Memphis food staple with its tasty and delightful aromas. BBQ pork, ribs, chicken, homemade pies, local brews and Tennessee sippin' whiskey were among the delicacies consumed by all.

Some went antiquing before the show officially began. Ron Eyerkuss found a clean vintage Zippo and an Evans red enameled strawberry. There are still good finds to be had with a little luck and some wear to your shoe soles.

For two days members scoured the tables of exhibitors seeking lighter treasures. As Mike Snowden brought his father's collection of approximately 1500 lighters, one did literally dig deep into boxes on the table and the floor. I believe most everyone found something to their liking and within their budget.

Vickie of ZEN had a gorgeous table of mint Zippos. She brought a welcome selection of vintage Zippos as well. I would be remiss in not proclaiming

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Chairman's Message: Guy Nishida

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what a huge asset she was to this year's show. She donated a number of quality pieces and bid on other items at our auction. To remind you, she designed our club lighter and was instrumental in getting them to us on time. She pressed Zippo to produce our limited edition sterling silver lighters quickly and successfully petitioned George Duke, owner and Chairman of the Board of Zippo to autograph the reverse side of 3 of our club lighters. If you have an interest in quality artwork and pin-ups adorning your Zippo lighters, I urge you to visit her website: <http://www.pinuplighters.com> and her club website: <http://zenlighterclub.ning.com>

John Elster brought a stunning collection of cigarette advertising Zippo lighters which he purchased from a retired executive. Prototypes and rarities were the catch-words. We were heartened by the appearance of a former member, Howard Meagle who visited and because of fond club memories, made not one, but two trips back and forth from his home to bring us lighters to auction. We thank him for his generosity and remain optimistic that he will re-join.

Saturday evening found us devouring a wide selection of buffet offerings while we congratulated Greg Ryman as this year's Founder's Award winner. As you know, Greg is a current member of the Board and works tirelessly on your behalf. But only long-time members know that Greg had served in this capacity over a decade ago. He has been a staunch supporter of the club and a broad shoulder for Judith for many years and this award was long overdue. We also contacted Judith Sanders, our beloved founder via Skype. Due to confluence of circumstances, she was unable to attend the convention. This is the 1st of the 29 that she has missed. Everyone gave her a warm greeting and she participated virtually. Judith has just moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico so if any members are within hailing distance of that city, please arrange to say hello to her (and be prepared to move furniture or at least hang-up some pictures).

Please visit the OTLS website as the last of the 3 sterling silver club Zippos and one of the club lighters personally signed by George Duke are now available for sale to members on our site. If you do not have internet capability but wish to make a purchase, please contact one of your Board members

by telephone.

I won't go into too much detail at this time but will throw out some topics with which the Board is grappling. As is traditional, next year's planned convention site is Las Vegas. The Board is considering offering a two-tiered pricing structure - - an early-bird price and a higher price for late registrants. It is imperative that we know early what the estimated attendance will be. Sadly, we learned this year that the attendance for this year's bash did not meet the forecasts or hotel commitments we guaranteed by signed contract. Consequently, it was necessary for us to pull from auction proceeds to offset the shortfall in revenue the hotel expected. As one of many trial balloons, we are floating the idea of including a club lighter to attendees as part of the registration fee.

If you are not aware, after this year Zippo will no longer be donating items to our auction. Our Saturday dinner was used as the opportunity to auction these and other items. Because we will have fewer items to auction, we are considering eliminating the dinner from our show program. Donated items would be auctioned at various times throughout the exhibit period. While the revenue the hotel received from the dinner qualified us for free exhibit space, we will do some number-crunching to determine if we can absorb the room space costs while making the registration cost (inclusive of the club lighter) equal to/less than current costs.

It's never too early to remind members that even if you do not attend, please set aside some collectible lighters for our auction. With Zippo's departure as a sponsor, it is more critical than ever that members support the club thru donations. It benefits the club as well as you because it is only thru the club & convention that we maintain a public profile for our hobby. Should you ever want to dispose of your collection, it will only have value if there are collectors. Even if you have no need to sell your lighters, no one wants their final resting place to be in a box stored unappreciated in a basement corner. Without a rejuvenated club and passionate collectors, that is where they will lay.

I believe that Mike Snowden learned that having our venue to sell his father's lighters was time better spent than painstakingly listing on-line or thru a website he created for that purpose. No shipping, no

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A Message From Your President

Art Brooks

Well, here we are in the heat of things in July. The convention is behind us and I am already looking forward to next June in Vegas. The convention in Memphis was a fun time and it certainly appeared as those in attendance had a great time. Me personally, I added about 12 new lighters to my collection. The photo is missing the convention lighter which was purchased while in Memphis.



On a closing note, the OTLS Facebook page continues to grow and there are now over 625 followers. People are constantly posting photos, asking questions and commenting on posts. If you have any comments or concerns please feel free to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net.

Chairman's Message: *(Continued from Page 3)*

Guy Nishida

no fees, no photos and no written description necessary. As many of you know, lighter values are sliding and we must reverse this trend. I'm certain that many of you have stumbled upon a box of the same mint lighters, or a pair of identical lighters and only need one for the collection. Perhaps you upgraded to a better specimen and the less pristine example is now available. I implore you to donate one of these to the club.

We continue to build a modest war chest because the cost of web designers and the upkeep is too time-consuming for the Board to handle properly.

The Board has neither the time nor the expertise. Once we locate a willing IT expert, the funds will dry-up quickly.

In that regard, I ask that you carefully read Richie's editorial and send us your comments about concerning printing the newsletter in color.

Correction: I mentioned in the last newsletter that Linda Meabon was going to spend more time traveling with her husband. I am glad to know that she continues to read our newsletter because I was informed that she is not married and she noticed my error. On that note, I want to thank her for all the digging she performed during her final full-time days at Zippo so she could send us this year's auction bounty.

Plastic Lighters...

by Bob Gamboni

I'm glad I'm a generalist when it comes to collecting lighters. I like them all! Generalists typically form sub-collections of different types of lighters. My sub-collections are many, often defined by brand names (Zippo, Scripto, Dunhill, etc.), or type of lighter (trench, liftarm, automatic, etc.). One of my favorite sub-collections are plastic lighters which, for the purpose of this article, include plastic, Bakelite, and Lucite lighters. Plastic was used to make lighters probably because it was relatively cheap, but it is an odd material to use because of its flammable character. Some collectors I know seek plastic lighters with their greatest avidity, approaching that of Zippo collectors. Personally, I've never seen a 100% plastic lighter. So, I divide plastic lighters into three groups: lighters made almost entirely of plastic, lighters made of around 50% plastic, and plastic wrapped lighters. The examples shown below are lighters I've found which represent just a scratch in the surface of what's out there.

Let's begin this show and tell with some lighters falling into the first group. Lighters in this group are especially difficult to find. Although made almost entirely of plastic, they typically have metal parts near the wick for obvious purposes. My favorites in this group are the Masonlite lighters made of Lucite. These lighters were produced in Butte, Montana back in the early 1950s. My examples are green and clear, referred to by the maker as 'Emerald' and 'Diamond', respectively. Speaking of clear Lucite, how about the Lucite lighter shown here with an advertisement for model airplane propellers. Although it has no maker's mark, I still love it. Another favorite of mine is the red and white plastic lighter marked 'Peterson K.C. MO.', a very rare lighter. The scenic white lighters have metal inserts, and are marked 'Lightning Lighter, Detroit, Mich.' Also in this group are some striker lighters. The blue striker lighter is all plastic except for its metal wand tip. Similarly, the round green striker, and the striker with the lady on the front, are both all plastic except for metal used in their wands. Also, believe it or not, some trench lighters were made of plastic. The two shown here are made of Lucite. Another lighter falling into this group is the Lektrolite lighter made of blue Bakelite, an unusual color. The 'Vanity Fair' lighter case is made of clear Lucite painted pink and blue. It has a Zippo-type insert. It's probably from the 1960s and is the only one I've seen. Similar to the Vanity Fair lighter are the two Zippo type lighters marked 'Rocket' on the bottom. The gray one in the closed position actually looks like a Zippo.



Plastic Lighters...

by Bob Gamboni

Here, I prefer to focus on hand-crafted and off-brand lighters not seen as frequently. My favorite is the hand made aluminum and yellow Lucite lighter that looks like a bird. I got this lighter years ago at an OTLS convention from an English collector with the initials RB. The orange and green plastic lighter is not maker marked and is also hand made. Five liftarm lighters shown here include one with a plastic body with a diamond shaped frame for a photo, a unique lighter I've not seen elsewhere. The other liftarms are the unmarked trench-type lighter with the red plastic body, the floral Lucite bodied liftarm, the Gem with black and white body, the liftarm made in Japan with windscreen and clear Lucite body, and the Rex liftarm with pearl colored plastic body. Two more lighters I want to show here are the Reynolds Video lighter with the maroon plastic body enclosed by an aluminum frame. It's probably called Video because on the back narrow side is a small window that allows a view into the body to check on fuel level. Also, this lighter works like an auto-rollalite; when you turn the thumb wheel, the top flips up automatically as sparks light the wick. The last lighter I want to show in this group is the Bakelite gun lighter made in Germany.



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Side by Side Ronson Banjo Differences

by Art Brooks

I am sure most of the avid rabid Ronson collectors out there know the differences between a fake and real Ronson Banjo lighter. Therefore this article is being written for those of us not so rabid collectors complete with photos showing the differences side by side. If you are looking at a fake, and do not have a real one to compare it to, you could easily be duped. Oh yes, I own a fake one and I love it as if it were a real one.

To start, the box for the fake is much larger than the real Ronson and has Ronson stamped on the outside cover and the real one has the Ronson stamp on the inside of the cover. A quick look at both sides of the lighters and they appear the same. However, a closer examination shows a totally different story. First, lets take a look at the snuffer retention screw and pin. The fake has a slotted screw head on both sides while the real one has a screw on one side and a brad looking device on the other side. The flint screw is slotted on the fake and is not on the real Banjo. The fluid filler screw on the fake has imprinted "RONSON WORLD'S FIRST AUTOMATIC LIGHTER" the real McCoy says "RONSON LIGHTER THE ART METAL WORKS NEWARK NJ". The snuffer cap itself on the fake says in two lines "RONSON Lighter PATENT Dec 31, 1918" and the real deal says in three lines "RONSON LIGHTER PT'D DEC. 31, 1918 OTHER PAT'S PD'G".

I do hope the article with the photos makes it crystal clear the differences between the two, so that you don't end up owning a fake one like mine. I guess it really doesn't matter; you will end up loving it as I do mine. Any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net.



CONVENTION PHOTOS



There Must Have Been Something In the Air

by *Ira Pilosof*

I have always found it interesting that many of the great 1920's thru 1940's lighters were produced in North Attleboro, Massachusetts. If I could have grown up at another time and place, I would have to say North Attleboro in the 1920's would be in my top five choices.

There was a time when the Massachusetts towns of Attleboro, North Attleboro and Attleboro Falls were among the most important centers of jewelry production in the United States. For most of a century, between the mid 1800s and the mid 1900s, manufacturing jewelers and silversmiths prospered there. And when vanity cases, compacts and cigarette lighters became essential fashion accessories the production of many of these decorative objects was in North Attleboro.

I came across this in a 1930 Massachusetts newspaper:

NORTH ATTLEBORO—CENTER OF JEWELRY PRODUCTION EVANS CASE COMPANY

“ Oldest among the present-day concerns of North Attleboro is D. Evans & Company, Inc., established in 1805, and with an uninterrupted industrial life of 125 years. Mr. Evans did not become identified with the concern

until 1848 and during the Civil War uncounted millions of governmental buttons were made for the United States Government. In 1916, after operating at the Falls for 111 years, the concern removed its plant to the Sommers Building .”

Evans is without a doubt the most recognizable lighter manufacturer from North Attleboro, Mass. Evans cigarette lighters , perfume atomizers, compacts and accessories were produced by the Evans Case company from 1922 until 1960. Evans ‘ liftarm lighters were first produced in 1927/28.

In another newspaper I came across this information regarding R. Blackinton and Webster Company:

R. BLACKINTON & COMPANY

The firm of R. Blackinton & Company was established in 1862, when Roswell Blackinton, Walter Ballou, and Thomas Mann formed a co partnership. The concern originally manufactured book clasps, and during the Civil War made clasps for Bibles used by the soldiers. Mr. Mann retired in

1867, and the firm continued without further change until the death of Mr. Blackinton, in 1906.

During the early years a general line of gold-plated chains and jewelry was manufactured, and for a long period the output was almost exclusively of sterling silver, including cigarette lighters.

THE WEBSTER COMPANY

George K. Webster was the founder of the present Webster Company, starting business in the old Whiting Building, where he engaged in the manufacture of plated and gold-front jewelry.

In 1898, he located in the Whitney Building, and soon outgrowing these quarters, he erected the present Webster factory, on Broadway, and centered his activities upon sterling silver goods exclusively. The concern is one of the largest of its kind in the United States, occupies in excess of 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space and approximately 300 hands are employed. The company has capital of \$175,000.

Other companies I have come to know through many years of lighter collecting are as follows:

W.G. CLARK & COMPANY

W.G. Clark was established in north Attleboro in 1881. Originally producers of jewelry, Clark eventually produced some of the most elegant and art deco lighters of the 1920's, 30's and 40's.

MARATHON COMPANY

The Marathon Company which now manufactures a range of children's and religious jewelry items as well as lockets and bracelets. Once, however, during the art deco era Marathon was a significant manufacturer of cigarette lighters and compact cases many of which are very collectible today.

The origins of the Marathon Company are associated with a German immigrant – Samuel Mauritz Einstein. He was born in the small Bavarian town of Laupheim, west of Munich, in 1872 and at just thirteen years of age he migrated to the United States – apparently, alone. He later founded the “Attleboro Chain Company”.

How the Attleboro Chain Company became the Marathon Company is interesting. A line of Marathon lockets have been created in 1909 and the logo was the word “Marathon” entwined along an

There Must Have Been Something In the Air

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by Ira Pilosof

arrow and enclosed in a black diamond. This line of lockets was the precursor to the later production of vanity and compact cases but the Marathon line was also extended to all of the Attleboro Chain Company's range and, eventually, by 1917, the brand name 'Marathon' was strong enough to replace the Attleboro Chain Company as the company name. 1918 was the year when the Marathon Company's first patent was filed. It was for a cigarette case and this would herald the Marathon Company's long involvement with smoking accessories, including cigarette lighters.

Baer & Wilde , Kum-A-Part, Swank & Carlton Automatic

Baer & Wilde was a division of the Attleboro Manufacturing Company, founded in 1897. Baer & Wilde lighters were first produced in the late 1920s using the brand name Kum-A-Part. As part of a merger to nationalize the companies sales distribution, B&W became part of a new corporation - Swank Products, Inc. The merger was a huge success and Swank became one of the leading U.S. manufacturers of men's and women's jewelry and leather goods.

In conclusion I would say an OTLS convention in North Attleboro is long overdue! Because of this area's amazing history of producing items we all love and appreciate, it seems so fitting.

Let's consider bringing back that "Must Be Something In The Air" feeling with a future show there.

Plastic Lighters...

(Continued from Page 8)

by Bob Gamboni

With regards to lighters with plastic wraps, I'll simply show a sampling of photos of lighters from my collection. Plastic wraps were probably used as a less expensive alternative to enameling. Lastly, I'd like to ask club members to look through their collections and identify plastic lighters different from the ones shown here and send photos to the Editor for show in our Newsletter.

We would all like to see them.



TCW Royal Pocket Lighter – c.1953

Source: John Cornelius

A recent find that is an elegantly manufactured lighter marketed by TCW exhibiting some unusual features. The only patent (AT187378) I located was issued to Jakob Lindauf, owner of the manufacturing company, Lindauf Precision Engineering GmbH, Vienna for an improved wick assembly designed to ensure a consistent flow of fluid and improved ease of replacement. Lindauf had a relationship with TCW, which also included the manufacturing of the Team lighter for TCW.

Features include a hand turnable flint screw, a sliding fueling cover, and a brush which fits neatly inside the bottom compartment, eliminating the need for additional tools to service the lighter. The lighter, instructions, and guarantee fit nicely into a plastic case with the TCW logo embossed on top.



Editor's Note

George Gynes' dear wife, Kathy, passed away on June 14. He was kind enough to write the following about their lives together.

"Kathy was born in Modesto, CA. We had been married 15 years, late in life, but not late for having a great time. We got a chance to travel a lot, both domestic and international. Kathy accompanied me on all my travels, both business and pleasure (lighter hunting). Over time, her interest grew in lighters. She was especially fond of the Ronson figural lighters. She also had an extensive frog collection, both yard art and smaller porcelain décor pieces.

It is difficult to sum up someone in a few words. She was totally supportive of my hobby. Often spending most of the day, when we were at a strange location either in the motor-home or the hotel room, while I was chasing lighters. In our 15 years together, we never had an argument or raised our voice against each other. I believe that our time may have been short, but it was the best time either one of us ever had."

Kathy, in addition to George, is survived by 2 children, Dori and Danny.

Our deepest sympathy to George and the family.



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REPAIRS FOR ZIPPO CAM SPRING AND TRENCH ART REPAIRS CONTACT TOM PRYLINSKI PYROTJP@TWC.COM

Letter to the Editor:

Dear OTLS Friends,

Many of you know now that I have moved. In June I moved from Texas to Albuquerque NM, to be closer to some of my family. I also still have a lot of family in Dallas, but between the traffic and the high cost of living, didn't feel I could move there.

Also due to this move, I missed my very first convention this year! I was so sorry to not be able to go, but was right in the middle of packing. I will be much closer to next year's city and promise to be there.

My new info is shown below, and all of my old info is now gone. Hope some of you will come through NM on your way to somewhere else & take the time to call me.

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