

ON THE LIGHTER Side

June/July, 1988

Vol. V, No. 6/7

CONVENTION ISSUE

The Convention was GREAT! I am changing the format a little in this issue to cover as much as possible of the events from the 1988 OTLS Convention.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

The following members attended the Convention, which was held in Erie, Pa.: Tom Prylinski, Tom Zimmer, Peter Cavanagh, Ken Luke, John Grawe, James (Corky) Horner, Richard Rotman, Louis Long, Eddie Dektor, Bob Beyers, Sophie (for Robt.) Meddaugh, Ray Smizer, Jerry Agan, Leo Turini, John Krones, Paul Rowan, Jay Meddaugh, Jack Albertson, Warren Gerber and Judith Sanders.

Our President, Tom Prylinski, did most of the planning for this convention, and did a WONDERFUL job - THANKS TOM! Also thanks to our Vice President, Tom Zimmer, for his assistance in the planning and help during the convention.

Friday morning we all caught a bus to go on a tour of the Zippo facilities. The first part of the tour was through the plant where the actual lighters are made - the tour guides showed us through the complete making of a lighter. If you could see the first piece of (flat) metal and then watch it all come together you would be fascinated! The only problem any of the Zippo guides had was keeping (OTLS Members) us from filling our pockets with extra parts!

The next part of the tour was to the downtown Zippo offices - this probably is the building you are more familiar with - with the GIANT ZIPPO on top of the building. We were welcomed here by Michael Schuler, President of Zippo, and William Jones, V.P. & Advertising Manager. Mr. Schuler presented each of us with a Zippo

lighter, especially made for our Club, showing the date of the visit and a picture of the building.

While we were there, Bill Jones got so caught up with our excitement that he went in the back room and found 4 boxes of (old) Zippos, which he offered to sell us - and almost got run over by the OTLS Members running back to go through the boxes!

It was a wonderful tour and the people at Zippo couldn't have been nicer. If we had just had a little more time we probably would have bought everything they had!

A couple of items from Zippo: (1) they have changed the method of marking Zippos to tell the year - now on the left of the word "Zippo" there will be a letter, i.e. F indicating February; and on the right a roman numeral indicating the year. There will be a new "guide" printed soon - as soon as it comes out I will notify you. (2) they are making a reproduction of the outside hinge Zippo and the square cornered Zippo (from 1937) and will also let us know when these are available (3) we ran into one lady who works at Zippo, who is a lighter collector - we hope she will join our club (4) Mrs. Kelly Yohe (Personnel Dept., Zippo) asked to have one of our papers and more information about our club - she also said Zippo has an in-house paper and she will mention our club. I'm sure I will get a copy of that.

On the way back from Zippo, we stopped to visit the Kinzua Bridge and the Kinzua Dam, both of which were very impressive.

Saturday morning a business meeting was held. The following decisions were made: (1) The dues in 1989 will go up to \$15 (U.S.) and \$20 (Overseas); (2) There will be 5 newsletters in 1989 (Jan., Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.). The June issue will come out some time after the 1989 Convention to cover convention news.; (3) The 1989 Convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. I appreciate the fact that we have many

(continued on page 2)

Collectors' Corner continued...

OTLS Members in the western part of the U.S. I would suggest that if one of you is interested in hosting the 1990 Convention that you put a bid in prior to the 1989 Convention. Your Editor would have liked to have scheduled the 1989 convention more to the west but there was no one to offer a bid.

Our President brought up the point that in checking through back issues, only 30% of all members have placed classified ads. Tom has asked that more members try to place an ad in one of the newsletters.

After the business meeting, John Grawe conducted a workshop on Patent information. Thanks, John! If John keeps conducting these workshops, we may eventually learn how to locate more information on our lighters - but some of us are very slow (me!) in learning.

Jay Meddaugh, the OTLS Historian, gave us a brief rundown on his progress. He is compiling a list on computer of all materials in the club archives. He said the list will probably be complete by September, at which time you will be able to order anything on the list.

Jerry Agan announced he has more OTLS caps for sale. You can order a cap from him for \$5.

Saturday night there was a dinner for everyone. Before and after the dinner, several OTLS Members contributed lighters to be auctioned off to raise money for the club. The auction turned out to be a lot of fun & we raised some money for the club.

Your Editor has already seen the 1988 Convention Video and it is GREAT! As soon as Jay gives me the word, I will let you know how to order a copy. Although all of the video is good, the part taken at Zippo makes this video something everyone should have!

The experiences shared at the convention cannot be expressed in words. For those of you who have not attended a convention, I feel you really are missing a part of lighter collecting!

Following is a description of the pictures on pages 4 & 5.

1. Our President, Tom Prylinski, and his lovely bride, Joanne.
2. On the left, John Kronos - on the right, Ken Luke.
3. Eddie & Judie Dektor - Eddie has a short video that was taken of his collection - really cute - hopefully some time we can get a copy.
4. Prior to going to the convention, your Editor visited a few members around the East Coast. On June 4 I spent the day with Ira & Susan Pulosof and John & Laurie Cuevas (New York City). This picture shows the inside of "The Light" - a book shaped, Dunhill lighter. This lighter is from approximately 1938. And is in Ira's collection.
5. A picture of the outside of above lighter.
6. Jack Albertson - From Griswold to lighter collecting!
7. Paul Rowan. Paul brought some great old ads to give to Jay to add to the club's collection.
8. Leo & Dot Turini. Leo & Dot brought some friends to a few of the activities - they had so much fun they may become lighter collectors!
9. Left to right - T.J. Prylinski (Tom & Joanne's son), Joanne visiting with Sophie Meddaugh (wife of Robt. Meddaugh). Bob isn't well right now, so Sophie came in his place. Bob, we missed you!
10. John & Elizabeth Grawe (Liz, open your eyes!)
11. Peter Cavanagh was sporting a mustache this year. This shot was taken while he was acting as "Auctioneer" Sat. night - that man is crazy!
12. Louis Long - Lou had some good ideas we will be hearing about later.
13. On June 2, I visited the Smizers. This is Ray's KOOL penguin lighter. Ray has a wonderful collection - and displays you wouldn't believe!
14. Judith (your Editor) and Ira sitting in the floor playing with lighters!

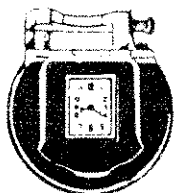
- 15. This is the scratcher/striker Ronson Bartender John Cuevas has. Notice the front portion opens. Beautiful lighter!
- 16. This is the Ronson Touch Tip Bartender, which Ira has. You can see the difference in the striker and touch tip.
- 17. Richard Rotman had just finished setting up his displays and sat down to rest.

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Since I picked up a few new cards this year, I thought you would like to see the original ideas of some of the members. As well as the cards from the convention, shown are others received in the past. This may give you some ideas for your own design. Also it was discussed creating a card for OTLS - any ideas?

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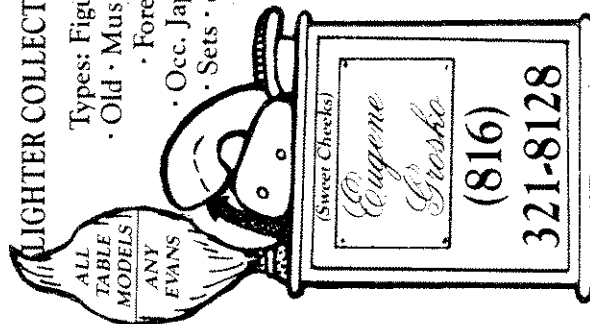
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Peter Cavanagh brought his
Dunhill flag to display
(with his Dunhill lighters!).



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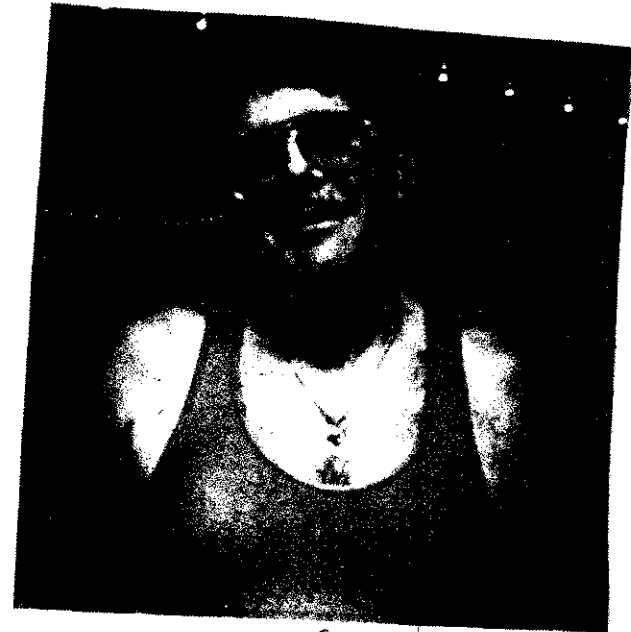
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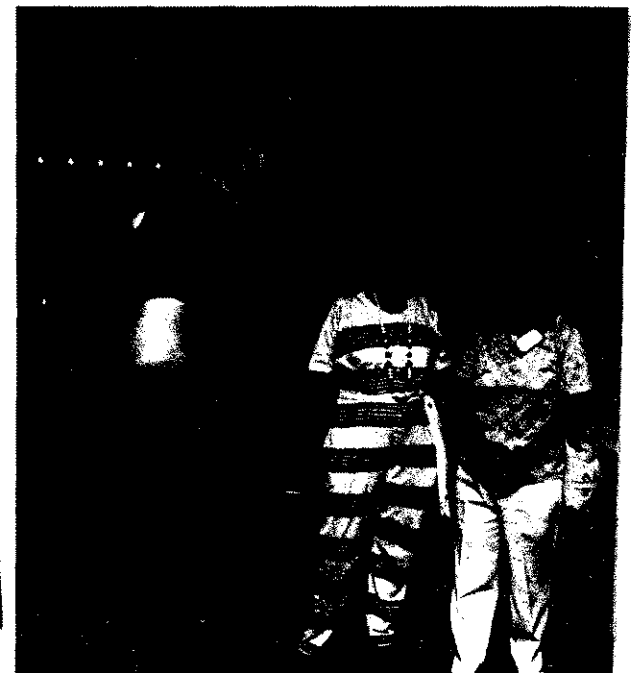
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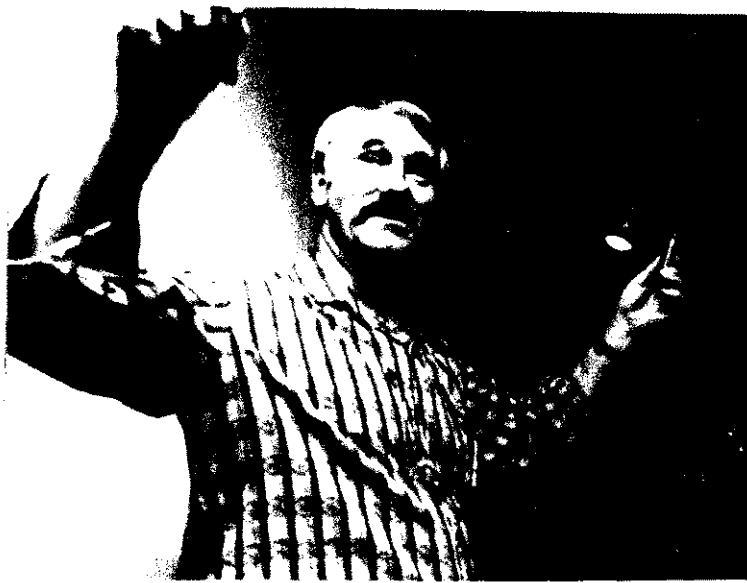
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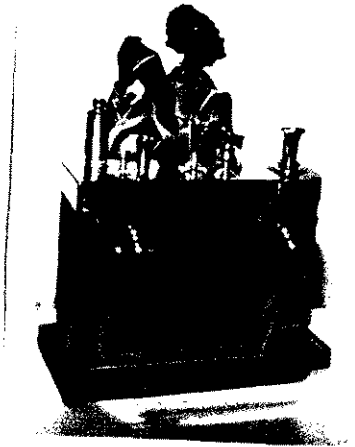
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John Cuevas (in N.Y.)



Corky & Evonne Horner



Left to right: Bob Beyers, Tom Prylinski, Jerry Agan (Pam is hidden behind Jerry), Tom Zimmer, Joanne Prylinski

Below left: Warren Gerber with a small part of his display.



**CLASSIFIED ADS WILL RETURN
NEXT MONTH!!!**

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Printed Once A Month
For Lighter Collectors

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
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| | Editor |
| Jay Meddaugh | Historian |

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