

On The LIGHTER Side

January 15, 1993

Vol. X, No. 1

Etc., Etc., etc.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following officers have been chosen for 1993:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Ray Smizer |
| Vice President | Guy Nishida |
| Editor | Judith Sanders |
| Social Sec. | Greg Ryman |
| Historian | Lynn Baker |
| Goodwill | |
| Ambassador | Laurie Cuevas |

About our new Pres. & VP - Ray & Connie Smizer have been members of the club since 1984. Ray collects primarily table/novelty type lighters, having amassed a collection of over 6000 to date. His entire basement contains his collection, and is a wonderful experience to go through (which I have!).

Guy & Kathleen Nishida have been members for a shorter time (about 4 years), and Guy is a somewhat newer collector. However, in his short time of collecting he has gathered one of the nicest collections in the club. His collection, housed in his "Lighter Room" contains many rare and beautiful pieces.

Welcome to our new officers!

There is a lot of news to cover in this issue, so please bear with me and PLEASE READ ALL OF YOUR NEWSLETTER!!! First regarding the auction from the Nov. paper - the Board is pleased to announce the Zippo "Die" went for \$801 to Kesaharu Imai and the disassembled Zippo Collage went for \$420 to Norman Hatch. These funds have been deposited in the OTLS Account. On a side note: the aluminum lighter from the classified section went to John Grawe.

The date the Nov. newsletter went to the Printer,

we did not have the FAX, but if you read your Correction Page, you saw we acquired the FAX. The number is (903)763-4953. And I am having a lot of fun with it!

As well as saying Thank You again to Kesaharu Imai for contributing this to the club, we also owe a large THANK YOU TO JIM LAUBY for acquiring the FAX at wholesale for us and shipping it to the OTLS Office.

THANK YOU for the overwhelming response to the many requests in the Nov. paper and to the members who have contributed lighters, office supplies or money for OTLS for 1993 - please forgive me for not listing all the names, but there are just too many to list! I would like to thank each and every one of you for your wonderful response to our various needs - you have all started my 1993 off in a great way! --just when I thought you weren't paying attention I found out I was very wrong (forgive me)!!!

IMPORTANT! I will be doing a new Roster for the March issue. Guy pointed out that it would be nice if we knew people's names when we call each other. SO please let me know any addresses, phone numbers or categories changes, also a FAX number if you have one; please let me know before Feb. 20; and if it isn't on the roster, please let me know the name of your spouse, if you are married. I know you all hate it when I ask for postcards, but it would be nice if you would respond.

The Board of Directors feels when something important in the lighter field comes up, we should share that information with the membership. It has been brought to our attention that some person or persons are duplicating Viet Nam Zippos. The Zippo itself is an original of that era, but the engraving is new and NOT from the time of Viet

Nam. This is a most unfortunate event. The only course of action we can suggest is to know your source, so you will know if the Viet Nam lighters are really old. Or you can take them to a jeweler and they can tell you if the 'engraving' is new. Coming in March issue, more about this from Tom O'Key.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire pertaining to the proposed World Lighter Show. If you have an interest in this show, I would appreciate any input. The committee has started to work on this project, but we need lots of ideas and input from all members. And when you send this back, you can give me the information from the above paragraph!

CHEERS to Walmart for the "Collectible Lighter Christmas Ornament"! Several of us got one for Christmas, and I have now bought all they have left to use for door prizes at the 1993 Convention!

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER DEADLINE FOR ADS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FEB. 20, 1993!

You will note I am starting a new section called "The International Corner" for the benefit of our many overseas members. Hopefully I will write the correct words and not say something like "do you want to buy a turnip"!! Thanks to the club members & my niece, Jessica (for the French), who are helping me with this project!



The International Corner

Welcome to a New Year!

Benvenuti ad un Nuovo Anno con L'OTLS!

Bon accueil de bonne annee!

Willkommen im neuen Jahr!

Bienvenitos a ano nuevo!

新年おめでとう。

IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

A MEMORIAL FOR JOHN BECKWITH

John Beckwith died on Nov. 26, 1992 and will be missed by all of us. John was not only the inventor of the Beckwith Lighter, but started Beckwith Manufacturing, was an OTLS member and a good friend to many of us. John would have been 89 on Feb. 14, so he did indeed have a long life.

At the time he first met Tom O'Key, he had more or less become bored with life. Meeting Tom inspired John to become interested again in lighters. When he subsequently joined OTLS he became even more interested. I feel that Tom and OTLS contributed a lot to John's last few years. Many times in the past few years John said to me, "I'm having a lot of fun with all of you". For those who had the wonderful opportunity of meeting John at the 1991 Convention and the 1991 California Swap Meet, you have had an experience worth remembering.

I'm so pleased we have John on one of the Videos and also lots of photos in our club scrapbook. Also for you who ordered a calendar, there is a beautiful picture of some of the Beckwith Lighters in February.

The following is from Tom O'Key:

To know John O. Beckwith was to most people a rare privilege. It is easy for those who knew him to share his stories and recall his charm and humor that was a natural inkling of his manner. Known far and wide by many, "the Sage of The Encinitas" as he was called, had spent the better part of his eighty eight years of life as a collector and horse trader.

In his early years as a boy, he had traveled to New Mexico from the mid west on one of the last wagon trains that settled the west. Soon after, John and his family moved to California where he would live from then on.

John was interested in just about anything exciting. Aviation was one of his first loves and he was not only an accomplished pilot, but navigator as well. He and his brother Warren were the first

cartographers navigating with a compass. To his credit is a world record flight for time by Wiley Post, who use John's map during a contest in the late 1920's. Wrong Way Corrigan was a friend of John's, but John says he never made any maps for him. (Wrong Way was remembered for mistakenly reading his compass upside down and flying some distance the wrong way).

During the war years John was a pilot in the South Pacific. Once he was having engine trouble and had to ditch his plane in the ocean. I remember seeing a photo of him luckily standing on the floating remains, hands on his hips and a grin of relief joining both of his ears.

When I met John he was in his mid seventies. You wouldn't know it though. He was traveling and trading and bargaining and most of all just enjoying life. His health was always bad but he wouldn't let it get him down. He steamed ahead planning his next venture, being quite the entrepreneur he was all his life. He was more of the management type than anything else and the idea man behind a number of enterprises.

He took over the Bulls Eye Pistol Company in the late forties and with his brother Warren, they manufactured the Bulls Eye target pistol for a number of years with great success. Not long after the Bulls Eye venture started, John decided to make lighters as well. The Beckwith Manufacturing Company was founded and established in Los Angeles. He had made a couple of lighters from some Pratt and Whitney engine emblems that were taken from wrecked airplanes in Hawaii while in the service. They were much like the WWI trench lighters in size and shape. In designing his lighters for manufacture, John thought that a smart thing to do was to examine the lighters that had already been made by others. This is what led to him becoming a lighter collector. He was already a well known gun collector and had at one time or another owned nearly every famous gun that was known. Lighters were interesting enough and at the time very inexpensive to buy. Friends and family soon began giving him lighters and his collection grew to several thousands of examples. His lighter manufacturing continued into the mid sixties with some trouble at time but still he never swayed from

believing that money could be made selling lighters. His ideas for marketing lighters were ingenious and inventive and because he saw the market, clearly he knew how to address the problems of selling lighters.

He would make a lighter with a gun on it for the gun shows, airplanes for the airport gift shop and golf items for the pro shops and on and on. The variety of what could be included with the Beckwith Lighter was endless. Not only could you buy a lighter, but a matching money clip, key chain and even a bolo tie if you liked.

I could fill pages with recollections of his tall tales and experiences but the stories are long and deserve more attention than quick blurbs.

I can tell you that John was quite a guy and he loved life. He told me that if he knew he was going to live so long that he would have taken better care of himself but he couldn't resist a sip or two with friends.

In the past few years, John got to know some of the members of OTLS and as a member himself attended the last Las Vegas convention where he met fellow collectors and enjoyed what lighter collecting has become. He had a great time he told me & looked forward to other lighter events to come.

The last time I talked with John, he was putting together a few more lighters with plans to put out another catalog. Unfortunately, John passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1992.

His friends will all miss him very much.

Following are some photos Tom has sent us from his personal Beckwith collection.



The Sterling Silver Horse's Head, which John designed in the 50's. He also had these made again in 1991, from the original mold for OTLS Members.

THE Beautiful
**BECKWITH
LIGHTER**

AN EXTREMELY FINE
CALCULATING INSTRUMENT
AND CIGARETTE LIGHTER combined

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fine craftsmanship

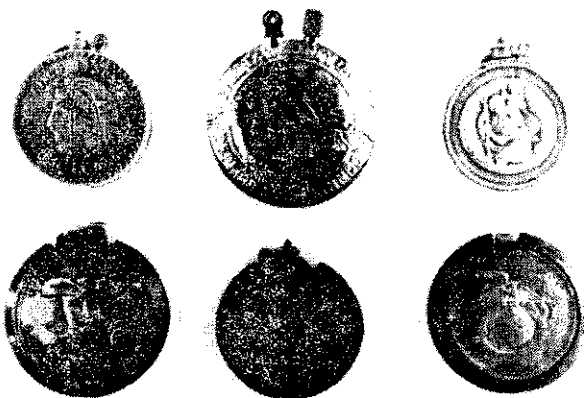
The Beckwith Lighter is available with a
circular slide rule or time distance mileage
computer - both highly accurate and
indelible.



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Meriter 6-4102

BECKWITH MANUFACTURING COMPANY
100 WASHINGTON BLVD. LOS ANGELES 16, CALIF.

Copy of one of the original catalogue sheets from the mid fifties.



Various models of Beckwith Lighters, including (top, middle) the Trench piece made from the Pratt & Whitney Engine Emblem, mentioned in Tom's article above.



Prototype Striker Lighter (leather covered) which John used in his apartment for his friends.

[COLLECTORS' CORNER]

(Editor's Note: For you who don't know about Roseart, and the connection to Zippo, Tom has written an excellent article. At the 1988 convention we were privileged to see some of the Roseart.)

"ROSEART"

by Tom Prylinski

The elegance of Marble and choice woods, with a genuine Zippo Lighter.

Mr. Philip Rose, Founder of the Roseart Co., was born on May 1 in 1913 in Bradford, PA. His business as a craftsman, making monuments, still thrives today serving the community with the help of his family.

In 1957 he started to make what is known today as Roseart Lighters and accessories. Simplicity is what he wanted in the form of art, and quality also. In the beginning he faced a lot of rejects because of the tooling and machinery needed to bore the cavity's in the marbles he was using. By 1959 he had overcome these problems and put the final touch to the manufacturing of his lighters.

A Zippo lighter was chosen as an insert because of their quality. Special arrangements were made between Mr. Rose and Mr. Blaisdell to do this. Even today you can send your lighter back to Roseart for a no charge repair of the lighter insert.

"Roseart" was sold in many of the larger dept. stores in Chicago, New York and others. Special orders were taken also, for engravings, emblems, signatures or initials upon request.

These lighters had beauty in design as well as quality, with accessories to match. They made an ashtray and a cigarette box to match your choice of two size lighters. The lighters were fundamentally the same in design, but one was taller than the other.

The marbles used were from places like France, Italy, New England, Norway and even the Holy Lands.

The woods used were all natural like walnut, cherry, mahogany and some others.

Mr. Rose chose the names of his lighters quite nicely if I may say so myself. For example when he

used the pink marble imported from France, he called it the "Lafayette". When asked where he got that name, he said when he thought of France at the time, the first thing he could think of was a man named Lafayette, so this is where the name came from. "The Black Knight" got it's name from the black and white mottled marble from France also. A deep red marble from Italy was used to make the "Franciscan". The "Galilee" had a golden beige marble from Nazareth in the Holy Lands. Marbles from the green mountains of New England were used on the "Vermont Verde" lighters.

"Roseart Fibron Forrest Treasures" were made from all natural woods, which were high luster polished and burn-proof as well. The base of the lighters were made of metal which could be highly polished or satin finished, and then plated. Brass, chrome and even gold plating were the choices.

You may search long and hard to find a matched set of "Roseart" today, but believe me when you do find them, you will have found a treasure for a lifetime.

Some Roseart is still being sold on a limited basis at the Howard Johnson Gift Shop in Bradford, PA. 16701. The shop is operated by Joyce Rose, daughter of the Founder. Special orders may be taken upon request.

I would like to wish Mr. Rose a very "Happy Birthday" on his 80th birthday this coming May, and also thank him for letting me tell you this short story about his wonderful lighters, which are truly works of art by a craftsman.

Copyright Nov. 1992
by Thomas Prylinski

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ROSEART®

with

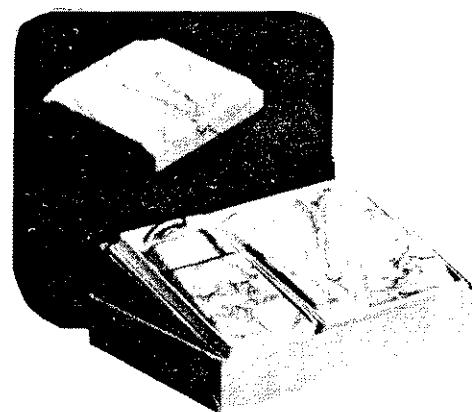
GENUINE ZIPPO INSERT

THE *Elegance* OF

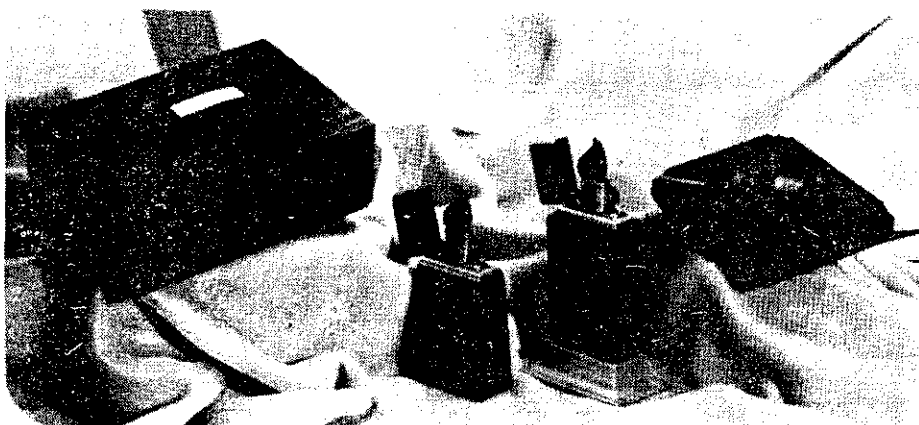
NATURAL MARBLE AND CHOICE WOOD

WITH GENUINE ZIPPO® LIGHTERS

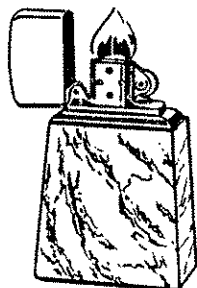
ROSEART LAFAYETTE—Richly grained buff pink marble. Imported from France—polished chrome.



ROSEART FIBRON FOREST TREASURES
— High lustre burn-proof wood-polished chrome.



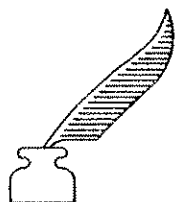
Roseart Elegance



Marble:

Choice Wood:

(ALL PHOTOS HAVE BEEN FURNISHED BY TOM PRYLINSKI)



From the pen of.....

....Kevin Kelley

I had to go to Minnesota on business recently, and had a GREAT time.

Joe Swanson picked me up at the airport with Zippos in every pocket! He volunteered to carry one of my bags (the one with the lighters in it!). And off we went to Joe's for 'Show and Tell'. I also went to visit thousands of my previously owned lighters, which are now in Joe's collection!

While I was there I also got to visit with Sid & Shirley Chase. Don't let anyone fool you -- Sid & Joe between them have some great lighters!

Unfortunately David Santana was out of town so I missed him this visit.

...Bill Koppany, Guy Nishida & Tom O'Key

The California Contingent is holding a swap meet Feb. 13 at the Sheraton Los Angeles Airport Hotel. ALL lighter collectors are invited.

For further information, please call one of the above.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE
WORLD IN
14 SECONDS.....



CONGRATULATIONS to Jerry & Nanetta Agan on the birth of their son, Nicholas Lee Bananato Agan, on December 2 (8 lbs. & 20" long)..... Guy Nishida &

son, Andrew have become Indian Guides - guess what their Indian Guides names are? -Guy is 'Dances with Fire' and Andrew is 'Fast as Lightning'!... Wayne & Jerry Peper have now been to Texas twice recently, we all went to Canton (flea market) and had a wonderful time -they also came by my house and we did some 'trading'.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE OR TRADE

1 Dunhill Service Lighter (Gray) MINT IN THE BOX & 1 Bowers (Black) tube type MINT (No Box) - \$35. John Elster (919)721-0508

Peter Cavanagh has purchased a collection of 400 table & pocket lighters. Most makers represented. Some have been retained. Balance for sale. Send \$4 (U.S.) for airmailed catalogue to Peter Cavanagh

L & J Lighter Catalogue - featuring over 100 quality pieces, including:

- * Dunhills w/watch
- * Dunhill Gold & Sterling Uniques
- * Ronson Touch Tips, Strikers & Deco Case Lighters
- * Pre 1960 Zippos
- * Trench
- * MUCH MORE!

Available January 1993. Send \$2.00 (\$3 overseas) to cover P & H to:

Larry Tolkin, 200 E 71st #20F, New York, NY 10021

ALC (Another Lighter Catalogue)

Illustrating over 50 different items (all petrol) & pictured in original size. This catalogue does 'NOT' include: Dunhills with watches, Dunhills without watches or Zippos. This catalogue includes: Automatics, Trench, Lift Arms, etc. AVAILABLE IN FEB 1993. So to be sure of receiving a copy order NOW. To cover P & P send 2.00 (GB); DM 4.00 (D); SFR 3.60 (CH); \$3.00 (USA). Catalogue will be sent out in different stages to make sure that everyone gets a fair chance. Grahame Martin, Osterather Weg 1, 4150 Krefeld, Germany

For Sale: (1) Ronson Black "Octeffe" (touch tip) with ad for "Corona" - missing wand; (2) Scripto Salesman's Case with 5 advert. P/Ls; (3) Rite-Point Maple & Glass Counter Display (small); (4) Evans Mother of Pearl P/L (new in box); (5) Zippo USS Helena CA-75, Pat 2032695 MINT in striped box. Best offer on these by Fed. 1. Ken Short

Australian Made Lighters - the A.F. Pocket Lighter - Greenandco printed on

FOR SALE OR TRADE

base. Originally made for the WWII Australian Forces. Zippo style w/flint wheel & windguard, but oval shaped, top comes off. Base is spare tank. Late 1940's - still with makers' brochure & in cellophane wrap. \$40 U.S. & I will cover air mail postage. Peter Cavanagh

air mail postage. Peter Cavanagh

**In addition to the regular Post Cards Funke Und Flamme has now come out with a "Tin Plate Postcard" w/lighter ads. These are BEAUTIFUL - Please write to Roif Muller for prices & photos.

Attention Beginner Collectors: 100 Table Lighters for \$600. All in good condition - sorry I don't have a list, just call. Tom Prylinski

Rare Trench Piece for Sale: 2-28 mm Admirals Buttons, believed to be gold, circa 1920 - 1950, as near mint as could be for age. \$160 or trade for good watch lighter. (photo available upon request) Michael Ryan (see New Members Nov). Sell or Trade: 80 DIFFERENT new Zippo Naval Ships. Send SASE for list or call (313)398-0510. Marty Inman

I have several Ronson DeLight P/Ls; also Ronson cases; a Marathon Art Deco Comb. case/lighter - very nice. Still want Frigidaire Reg Size Zippo. Also have about a dozen #10 Barcroft T/Ls left (most new) Ken Short

WANTED

I will pay TOP \$\$ for all signature (Celebrity) lighters - Zippos preferred, but all kinds REALLY! Call Kevin Kelley Collect (818)574-1053

Looking for a copy of Lighters Accendini book. Prefer to trade very desirable Ronson/Dunhill/Trench/Zippo/Evans/Negbaur lighter(s). If interested contact Steven Stolar (609)327-8667, 619-8972 (work).

Wanted: Town & Country Zippos in fair or good cond. - also any photos of them. Want NFL Football Helmets. Also need flint wheels from old broken lighters to make my own lighters. Tom Prylinski

I seek Zippo Lighters: Political, Sports,

Advertising (cinema, cars, cabs, etc.), Military (Korea, Vietnam...) Patrick Meunier

WANTED: ZIPPO TABLE LIGHTERS.

- * 1st Model "Barcroft"
- * early "Lady Bradford" (has large insert)
- * 2 & 3 model "Barcroft" (w/engraved 'Town & Country' pictures on body!)
- * Zippo Fuel Cans (1940 - 1982)

Please send letter or FAX 81-3-3990-7393. Hiroshi Kito

Will pay \$15 each for Evans P/Ls in new condition or Trig-A-Lite in excellent condition. Standard size only. Larry Clayton (804)548-4784

Looking for Zippo Lighters made in 1932, 1933 & 1934; any early Zippo manuals; & Zippo Punch Board. Contact Yasuko Ueoka (703)548-7472

Wanted Town & Country Zippos in any condition. Joe Swanson (612)437-9415

WANTED: C-Notes from Camel Cigs to order door prizes for 1993 Convention - Please send to Loyd Stinecipher!

Wanted: U.S. Navy Zippos, Pat. 2032695. Will buy or Trade for select lighters in my collection. Geoff Mogilner (619)291-7833

Wanted: Ronson "Banjo" in good condition. Let me know your lighter interests - maybe I have something you need. Jack Williams

Wanted: Gold Plated Ronson Newport. Must be in Mint cond. Dick Vincent (see See Sept. New Members)

Wanted: Tucker Automobile P/L w/Tucker Crest on front. (312)233-3205. Russell Riberto (please see address corrections this newsletter)

Looking for the following Ronsons: Waldorf Set w/tray; Puritan Set w/tray, urn & liter; Ronson Grandee; Duchess T/L (wick); DeCanter Tray Set; Ronson Candle Holders (these are not lighters); Joe Roseman

Want info on Koopman's Magic Pocket Lamp. Jody Waselewsky

WHO sent the ad wanting Ronson Banjo, DeLight T/L, Colibri Original, etc.? There was no name on ad!

CONVENTION UPDATES: The 1993 Convention will be June 10 - 13 in Las Vegas, NV. All details for registration will be in the March issue. The room rate will be approximately \$45 to \$50 per night, single or double. The official start of the convention will be Thursday at 4:00 P.M. If you have other questions that can't wait until March, please call. **COULD I PLEASE HAVE SOME VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE???** (Karen? Beth?) (There is a list of jobs to do & you can pick whichever job you want!)

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT...

Fellow Collectors,

As President, I would like to wish all of you a "Happy New Year" and Welcome to 1993.

1992 was a great year for OTLS and our hopes are high for another eventful year. As our club continues to grow, we need more input from our members, so please continue to send in your articles and classified ads. We are all looking forward to our annual convention to be held in Las Vegas later this year (June 10 - 13 mark your calendar).

Have a great year collecting and trading and let's keep our membership growing.

Happy Hunting,
Ray Smizer

AND OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT....

SEASON'S GREETINGS:

I trust you all receive every lighter on your Christmas list. However, if you didn't, I have both short-term and long-term solutions. In the short-run, consider attending an informal gathering to be held on February 13, 1993 at the Sheraton Los Angeles Airport Hotel. This function will be hosted by Messrs. Tom O'Key, Bill Koppany and yours truly. This event is not to be confused or compared to the annual OTLS extravaganza to be held in Las Vegas on June 10-13, 1993. The OTLS Convention will be, as usual, the Event of the Year complete with auctions, trade sessions, special guests, clinics, a sit down dinner and take-your-breath-away lighters. You can even gamble (but think of the lighters you could be buying instead). **MAKE PLANS NOW!**

Beyond these events, keep in mind the World Lighter Show which is in the planning stages now and is projected to take place a few years hence. It's a real measure of the growth and maturity of our passion these last few years. The Show will bring together collectors from six lighter clubs located around the globe.

But, whether you are a beginning or a seasoned collector, whether you plan on attending any or all of the above events, your OTLS club will be ever-present. The officers and

directors will be available to answer your questions or to refer you to other qualified members. They are open to ideas and encourage your participation. This club does not have paid writers or researchers. It does not possess a paid staff to handle fundraisers or events. It's up to each of you to volunteer, to donate time, articles and ideas. Be responsive to questionnaires, to requests for feedback. When you have something to add to an article whether it's a correction or some new information, jot it down and send it in. If you have an idea on how to improve the club or raise money, bring it up. Better yet, take the initiative to do the groundwork. Don't wait for others; get involved. It is not their club; it's YOUR club.

Guy Nishida

**Next Paper - Mar. 15, 1993
Send Ads by
Feb. 20, 1993**



On The LIGHTER Side, Inc.
International Lighter Collectors

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Guy Nishida | Vice Pres. |
| Judith Sanders | Editor |
| Greg Ryman | Social Sec. |
| Lynn Baker | Historian |
| Laurie Cuevas | Goodwill Ambassador |

Board of Directors: Lynn Baker, Peter Cavanagh, John Grawe, Greg Ryman, Judith Sanders, Dot Turini,

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Judith Sanders
136 Circle Drive
Quitman TX 75783-1824
U.S.A.
(903)763-2795