

ON THE LIGHTER Side

November 15, 1990

Vol. VII, No. 6

EIC., Etc., etc.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT....

Since this is the last paper of 1990, PLEASE BE REMINDED ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE WITH THIS ISSUE. Your 1991 dues should be received NO LATER THAN JANUARY 10, 1991. The dues for 1991 will be \$18 (U.S. & Canada) & \$23 (Overseas). If you are a Senior Citizen on a limited income, please advise your Editor and you will receive a discount.

You may recall \$3 of this money will be going into a "Special Account" for future major expenditures. Even though postage is going up in 1991, the Board didn't want to raise the dues any more than necessary. If there is a shortage, it will be covered from the "Special Account."

You may have noticed, it has not been mentioned where the 1991 convention will be held? This omission was due to confusion on the part of your Editor! The 1991 Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada June 7-9, 1991. THIS WILL BE A 3 DAY CONVENTION! The following year the convention will be held in a major city. At present it has been decided to have the convention in Las Vegas EVERY OTHER YEAR and the years between in a major city (north, east or mid-country) allowing all members to eventually attend. One reason this was decided is because Las Vegas has offered us such an attractive package deal for our conventions. HOWEVER, IF THIS PLAN IS NOT AGREEABLE WITH THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, WE CAN ALWAYS TAKE A CLUB VOTE. You might let me know your ideas on this subject.

Since this is the last issue of the year - ATTENTION ALL NEW MEMBERS! As of this date, you should have received, JAN, MAR., MAY, JULY, SEPT. & NOV. PAPERS; & A MEMBERSHIP ROSTER. If you have not, let me know.

EFFECTIVE NOV. 3, 1990 AREA CODE FOR QUITMAN CHANGED TO 903.

THERE'S GOLD (LIGHTERS) IN THEM (BEVERLY) HILLS!

Do not be misled (or think you will be bored) when you hear June Berliner has only collected lighters for approximately 2 years. In this span of time June has acquired a "show piece" collection.

As a recent guest in the home of June & Robert Berliner, this writer never ceased to be entertained, astounded and awed. Nestled in the heart of Beverly Hills for 30 years, June and Robert have raised 3 children - Patricia, Jim & Paul. Now all grown, Jim has also added his lovely wife, Diane (another OTLS Member) and their 2 children David & Carolyn.

For many years June has been a collector of compacts. Along with this collection, she started acquiring cigarette cases. Berliner said "One day in an Art Deco Store I fell wild over some Art Deco lighters --- then I remembered my mother had given my Father a gorgeous Gold Dunhill Watch lighter in 1933, and she gave it to me a few years before she died. So I went to a smoking auction in England, bought a Dunhill Aquarium ---and a few others--I was hooked!"

Taking the grand tour thru June's collection, is a great experience. If you are looking for her oldest you would probably want to see the English Tinder Pistol (Iron & wood) with a candle holder, dating from between 1750 and 1800.

Berliner presented one Evans (lift arm type) as her most unusual. On the front of the lighter is a hologram of a man's face. He is wearing a Top Hat, Tuxedo and smoking a cigarette.

The Evans may be unusual but you must continue on the tour and look at her 2 Aquariums. Shown on the next page are photos of both types of the Dunhill Aquarium June has acquired.

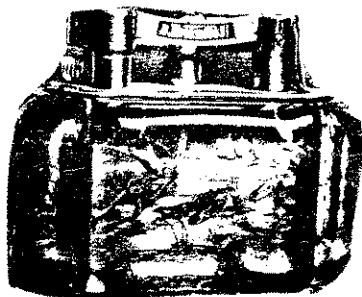
(Continued on Page 2)

And then just beside these is a colorful "Jockey" standing on a base, marked "21" (Evans). The Jockey is a replica of one of the Jockeys standing on the steps of "21 Club" in New York.

Since June started with the cigarette cases she also has many beautiful sets of cases and lighters. One of the outstanding sets is a Golden Wheel set. The set includes lighter (lift arm type) and separate case with a pattern of orange, green, blue, gold & cream enamel. Outstanding!

If you were fortunate enough to see the recent television show presented by the Kovals (Discovery Channel), you will know the descriptions of June's collection could go on and on.

When asked how she felt moving from compacts to lighters, June exclaimed "I've been collecting many 'collectables' all my life -- lighters & lighter people are the GREATEST -- I no longer care about any other collectables!



Having just returned from a wonderful month spent in CA., it seems appropriate to share the high spots with all OTLS Members.

The original reason for the trip was to take care of friends' children (Jorene & Jim, Jon (10) & Jeremy (8), while Jorene was having surgery. But after Jorene was back home the side trips began!

The first weekend was spent with Guy, Kathleen & Andrew (4) Nishida. What a fun weekend they planned for me! Guy picked me up on Sat. morning and I think we saw EVERY antique shop in Los Angeles. What a great day! One of those stops included the famous "Harvey's", which is owned by OTLS Members Harvey & Mark Schwartz. Their shop includes some of the finer lighters I have every seen!

On Sunday Guy had invited the 'Southern Ca.' OTLS Members to his office so we could all visit. Guy, Tom & Debbie O'Key, Tank & Jean Lillich, Bill Weage, Tom Carvellas, June Berliner, Bill & Tina Koppany, Perry & Rose Grover and new member, C. J. Winters all spent the day telling me their latest lighter stories -- and showing me their latest finds -- and of course, doing a little trading. (Greg & Sandy Ryman were 'in route' to join us when Greg got a business call & had to cancel - you'll were missed!)

The following week Kevin Kelley picked me up, took me to lunch, and then (of course) to all of his favorite antique shops. After giving a tour of Simi Valley and Pasadena, we ended up in Glendale, where we were invited to dinner at Perry & Rose's house. Before going to dinner we stopped by the RONSON SERVICE CENTER to see Perry 'at work' and look at the lighters. Can you visualize hundreds of boxes of Ronson & Win parts?! Perry & Rose not only have a lovely home, and lots of beautiful lighters - but also have a patio & back yard I would have loved to have taken home with me! And Rose can cook a lot better than I do!

The next stop was in Beverly Hills at the home of Robert & June Berliner. June had invited me for a

(continued on Page 3)

Viewpoints continued...

couple of days, during which time she managed to show me MOST of Beverly Hills, the famous Rodeo Drive and Venice Beach. You can read the "Spotlight" section to see what we were doing in between! What a delightful hostess!

Early Wed. morning (10/24), Tom O'Key picked me up and off we went to Encinitas to meet John Beckwith. As you know, John used to own and produce Beckwith Lighters (see classifieds). We had a great visit with John and learned a lot about Beckwith lighters. John Beckwith is one of the most charming people I have met in a long time. If we all can be half as interesting as John (at 87) we will have accomplished something in life - THANKS JOHN for being such a nice person!

The next day I spent with Bill & Tina Koppany. This was a great opportunity to get to know Bill & Tina better - and see some more lighters! Bill cooked dinner for us (by the pool) on the grill (with Tina helping). Bill has several "Made in the U.S." lighters I haven't seen before - we made a list to add to the book OTLS is working on.

On Oct. 30, Urban Cummings picked me up in San Jose (I rode the train from L.A. to San Jose - fun experience!) and took me to stay at his and Chris' house in Palo Alto. Now if you want to see some Ronsons, this is definitely the place to go!

Thursday Urban played tour guide and showed me the sights of San Francisco. If you have never stood on the Golden Gate Bridge and looked out over the skyline of San Francisco and the Bay, some day you should experience this sight.

Urban & Al Grosskepf had invited the 'Northern CA' OTLS Members to Al's apartment (at University of San Francisco) Thursday evening. As well as seeing Urban & Al again, I was so pleased to meet Mike Holm, Paul & 'Mike' Norman, Chieh Huang and Allen Holts. Now if Mike Holm would just give me his Occupied Japan Gas Pump!!!

Again I heard some great stories and saw some wonderful lighters. Al Grosskopf has got to have the world's record on 'great finds'!

As you can tell I was busy! Peter Cavanagh has always said 'Judith is spoiled...' - but if I wasn't spoiled before I certainly feel spoiled now! THANK YOU ALL YOU LOVELY CALIFORNIA MEMBERS!

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PERSONAL NOTES:

John & Elizabeth Grawe had a baby girl - Brittany Nicole. Vid & Katherine McClellan had a baby girl - we haven't gotten her name yet - Vid?

The response to the letter (by your Editor) in the September Philip Morris Magazine was tremendous. Since we have so many new members the classified ads have been cut down this month - we will have more ads in January.

COMING IN JANUARY, 1991 - The story of Vernon & 'Mom' McNear's trip to Tyler & Quitman!

YOUR OTLS EXECUTIVE BOARD & OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A PEACEFUL THANKSGIVING, WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

1. Howard O. Smith
P. O. Box 979
Eureka, MT 59917
2. Albert Roth
19825 Welk Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85373
3. Paige P. Mayfield
P. O. Box 61
Galesburg, KS 66740
4. Ronald R. Harrison, Sr.
4012 Wilmont Dr.
Richmond, VA 23222
5. Bill & Nancy Major
P.O. Box 9351
Boise, ID 83707
6. Jo Ann Garlough
P. O. Box 373
Newalla, OK 74857
7. P. Leo Schwemberger
2566 Merrittview Ln.
Cincinnati, OH 45231
8. Kenneth G. Eifert
33 MacIrwin Dr.
Newport News, VA 23606
9. Nicholas Kratsas
Amusement Supply Co.
838 Allegheny River Blvd
Oakmont, PA 15139
10. Kerry D. Sears
Route 1, Box 336
Clarksville, AR 72830
11. Emil S. Inga
35 Halsey Dr.
Brick, N.J. 08723
12. Andrew C. Helms
639 Anneslie Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21212
13. Robert F. Adams
119 Public Street
Manchester, NH 03103
14. Vincent J. Sabella
481 Salem St.
Lynnfield, MA 01940
15. Andrew J. Lloyd
855 Fenimore Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
16. Scott MacNeil
689 Golf Club Lane
Frankfort, IL 60423
17. Ted Handley
2709 9th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
18. William Kim
General Delivery
(East Main St.)
Mahaffey, PA 15757

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

1949 TOBACCO WORLD FEATURES McMURDO

Displaying pictures and describing manufacturing techniques was not unusual a few years ago. Today's ads for lighters (if you even see one) are seldom so picturesque.

Shown on page 5 is a full page ad which was featured in the October 1949 issue of the British magazine TOBACCO WORLD.

McMurdo Lighters fall under that category of "Hard to Find." And if found, you can't help but be attracted to the unusual style and mechanism.

Richard Ball (England) has researched this company and come up with the following facts. Ball says it appears the company originally was named British McMurdo Sterling Co., Ltd., having incorporated October 6, 1937. In June of 1940, the name of the company was changed to McMurdo Instrument Co., Ltd. Then again in January of 1963 the name was changed to Mec Max, Ltd.

Information as to why the name was changed isn't available. Although you could speculate possibly the company was sold one or more times.

We also do not know during what span of time this company actually manufactured lighters. With the exception of knowing from the ad the company was obviously producing lighters in 1949.

In the book by Stefano Bisconcini, he shows a copy of a Patent which appears to be a McMurdo. According to Bisconcini, this patent was submitted by a Harry Lakey on March 6, 1946, and is a patent of the table model.

However, in researching company records in England, Ball did not find Lakey mentioned as an officer or director of McMurdo. Possibly he invented the McMurdo lighter and sold the patent to the owners of McMurdo Instrument Company.

We do know McMurdo made table

lighters and pocket lighters. Although 3 models are all that have surfaced so far.

Of the two table models seen, Fig. A (photo) has a 'skin' covering and Fig. B (from collection of Judith Sanders) is gold metal, covering with a yellowish brown leather. According to one brochure Richard acquired, Fig. A and B were "constructed of durable metal in various finishes" - it does not mention there also were different "coverings."

The second model of table lighter is taller and slimmer. Please refer to Fig. C. It is agreed by these writers this model was made later than Fig. A and B.

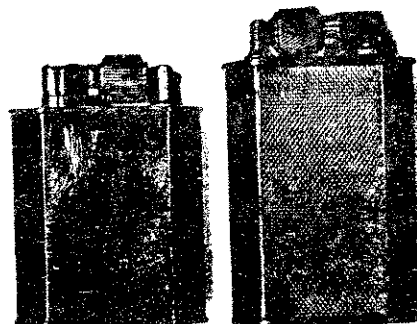
A breakdown of the McMurdo Table Lighter is shown in Fig. D. Note each lighter also had a spare flint container built into the bottom screw. The bottom screw is also much larger than usually found.

Where there appears to have been at least 2 tables lighters, these writers have only seen style of pocket model. However, the pocket model was made in at least 3 different sizes (see photo below of 2 sizes). The pocket version was a type of chrome and a smaller version of Fig. C.. One version in the collection of Richard Ball has a gold sheath around it.

Possibly you have a McMurdo in your collection and didn't realize the value or rarity of the lighter. Although there are many rare lighters, those from smaller companies, and where the lighters were not made in great quantities, may be more unique than those from a larger company.

It is hoped one member of OTLS can discover another version of the McMurdo Lighter to share with the other members in the future.

by Richard Ball & Judith Sanders





This is a laboratory —
 where —
 white-coated wizards —
 evolve —
 with infinite patience —
 and improve —
 with incredible ingenuity —
 the plating secrets —
 that add —
 lasting beauty —
 to mechanical masterpieces

New plating techniques are continually being evolved and tested in the McMurdo laboratories. These are part of the fully-equipped precision engineering works that stand behind the mechanical perfection and superb finish of the McMurdo Lighter.

McMURDO



POCKET & TABLE LIGHTERS

Issued by THE McMURDO INSTRUMENT CO. LTD., 10 Upper Berkeley St., London, W.1.
 AMB. 3261/2. FACTORIES: 145, London Road, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. Kingston Q153
 Victoria Works, Ashford, Surrey. Ashford 3401

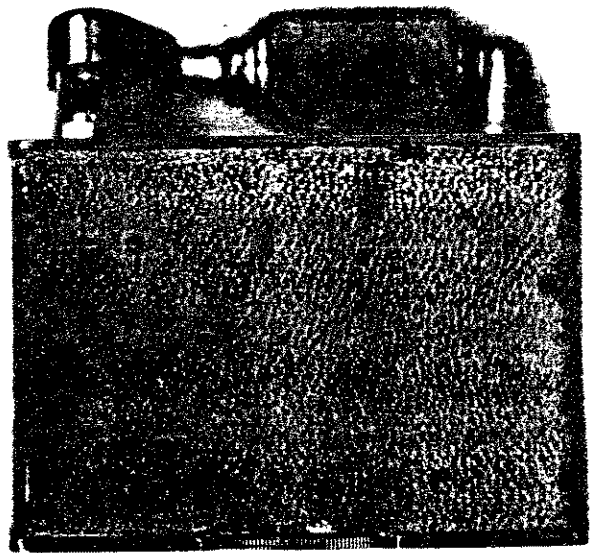


FIG. B

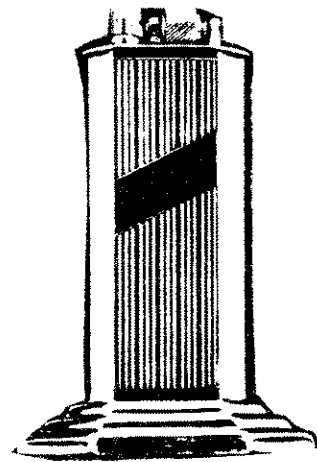
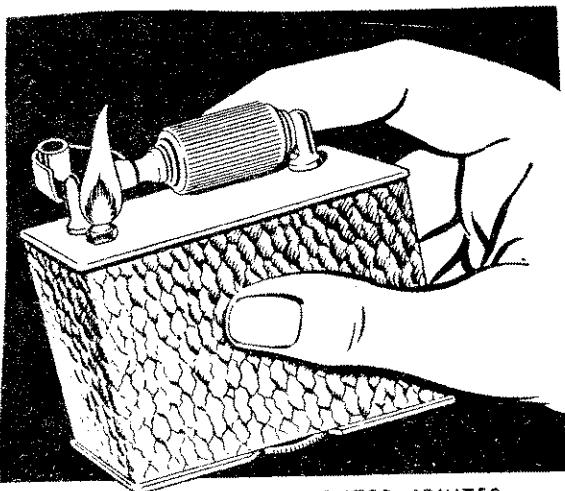


FIG. C



PRESS DOWN, AND THE LIGHTER IGNITES....

FIG. A

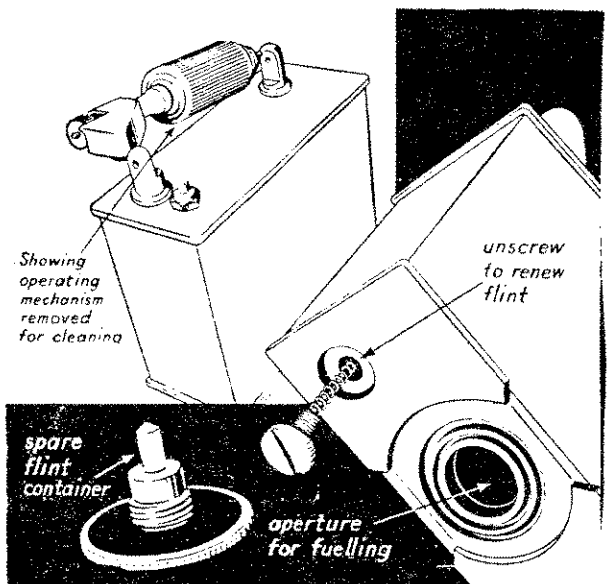
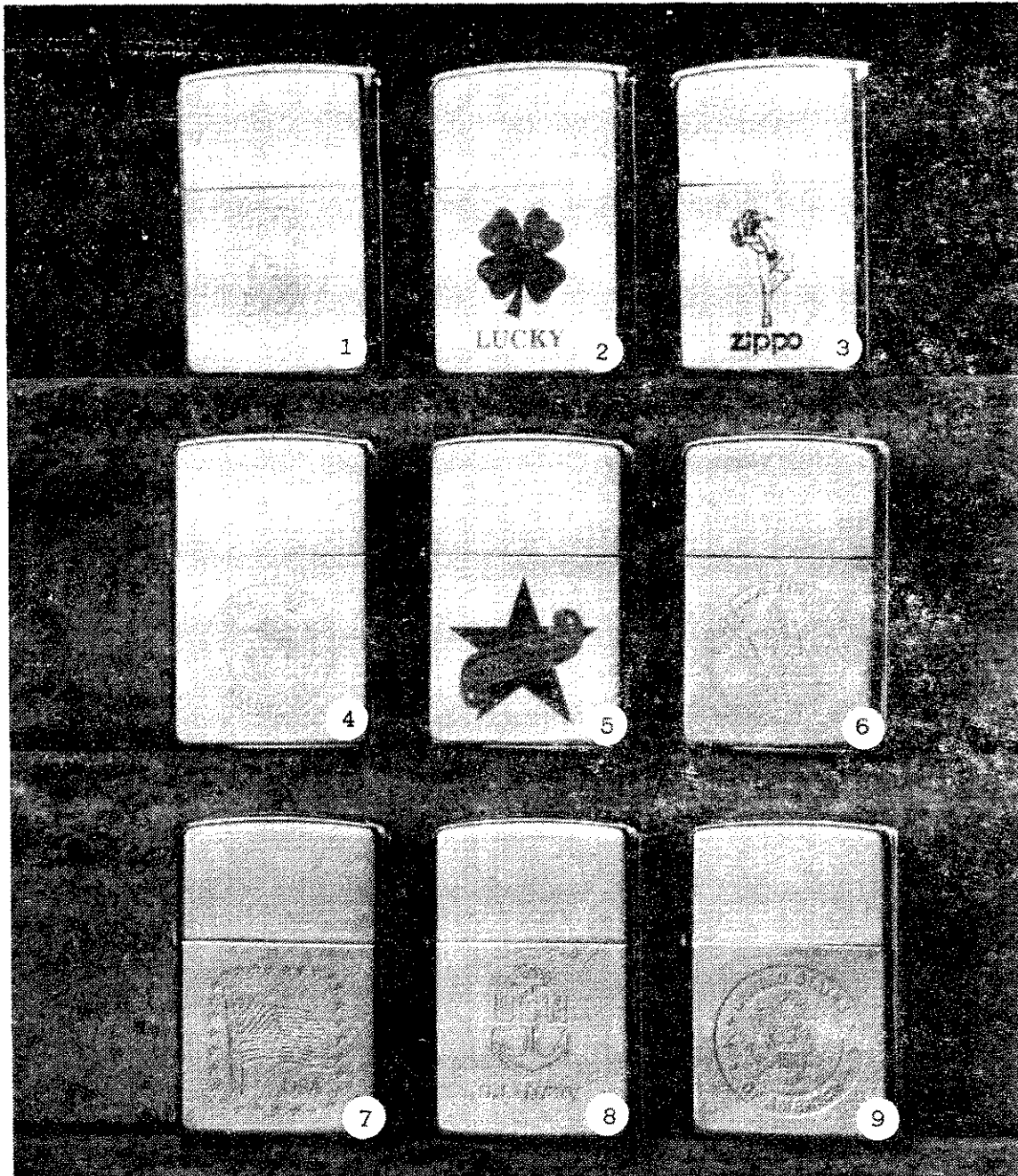


FIG. D



New Zippo lighters with Custom Imprinted Logos
on model #250 High-Polish Chrome.

Indicate quantity desired next to descriptions below:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1. C.H.P. | _____ | 4. U.S.M.C. | _____ | 7. USA/Flag | _____ |
| 2. "Lucky" | _____ | 5. Hollywood | _____ | 8. U.S.N. | _____ |
| 3. Nostalgia | _____ | 6. Moonwalk | _____ | 9. Army | _____ |

I am ordering _____ lighters @ \$9.50 (includes shipping and handling) for a total of \$ _____
CA residents add 6.75% sales tax

Send this form with check or money order to:
Class Products, Attn: Tom Carvellas
21213-B Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90509

VISA/MC orders toll-free 1-800-753-4325

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

19. Richard P. Brady
1444 E. Sandpiper Way #23
Salt Lake City, UT 84117
 20. Stephanie Cardillo
48 Rock Valley Avenue
Everett, MA 02149
 21. Elmer J. Schultz
1522 Smith St.
Green Bay, WI 54302
 22. L. Michelle Kretzler
1700 Third Avenue
New Brighton, PA 15066
 23. Steven M. Stolar
5 Kemble Ave.
Millville, NJ 08332
 24. Young Hwa Chon
920 E. Carson St. #5
Long Beach, CA 90807
 25. John Fiola
3 Monterey Dr.
Methuen, MA 01844
 26. C. J. Winters
1253 Meadowglen Lane
San Dimas, CA 91773
 27. Charles E. Birdson, Jr.
1016 Westside Dr.
Tampa, FL 33619
 28. Harley Bowling
2738 Edroy Ct., #37
Cincinnati, OH 45209
 29. John C. Yeargin
261 Ridge Road
Mogadore, OH 44260
 30. Guy J. Stoeber
22 Guilford St.
Lebanon, PA 17042
 31. Ron O'Donnell
494 Meadowvale Dr.
Cheswick, PA 15024
 31. Wayne H. Schneider
407 Grant St.
Wausau, WI 54401
- CHANGES:
1. Judith Sanders
903/763-2795
 2. Loyd Stinecipher
903/566-4755
 3. Kevin Kelley
119 S. First Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
818/578-8554
 4. Mary Kelley
11 Wethersfield Dr.
Andover, MA 01810
508/475-4234
 5. Richard Sager
2971 Queensbury Dr.
L.A., CA 90064

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Sell or trade: New Zippos with scenes of Hong Kong & Singapore. Trade only: Ronso Monkey & DoDo Bird - Sorry no wands! Guy Nishida

For Sale: Coke Bottle - Butane - 2" long, refillable Came from Berlin, Germany. \$30 incl. postage. Peter Cavanagh

Beckwith Lighters for Sale - Send SASE (45¢) for brochure on lighters & prices. John Beckwith (Editor's Note: If you don't have 1 of John's lighters you SHOULD! - These are all left over from John's company - from the 50's)

For Sale: 1937 Zippos with diagonal lines, orig. insert - WWII Black Zippos - 25th Anniversary Zippo (1932-1957 - U.S. Navy & Military Zippo - 2 Zippo Barcrofts (General Tire International - Brush Chrome) & "B" (Burroughs?). Presidents Honor Roll 1973 (Polished Brass). Peter Cavanagh

Ronson "Hound Dog" striker type (no wand) \$60; Elgin American cigarette case w/built-in lighter \$30 plus postage. Judith Sanders

THERE ARE ONLY A VERY FEW 1990 OTLS CONVENTION LIGHTERS LEFT - \$15 (includes postage. Order from your OTLS Office. Is anyone interested in obtaining a CONSUL CLIP LIGHTER made in West Germany? I have one in MINT condition in it's original plastic display box. Two instruction sheets in several languages. However, gas adjusting device is so sensitive I do not trust lighter in my pocket. Recommended for display only. Bid low on this lighter. Ralph W. Fink.

NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 15
PLEASE SEND ADS BY JAN. 7.

WANTED

Wanted: 1988 Zippo (Convention) Plant Visitation Lighter; also Bryant & May catalogue. Guy Nishida

Looking for a few good Zippos! Don't have enough to trade yet, but would like to buy your duplicate advertising/logo Zippos. Especially interested in music-oriented trademarks, etc. Please write & let me know what you have? Michael Kolb - NEW ADDRESS: 223 S. El Dorado St., San Mateo, CA 94401

Wanted Evans enameled & table lighters - fruits & eggs. Martha Lam

Want to trade novelty table lighters with anyone interested. Colin Day

Wanted: Zippo lighters of any sort, especially ones concerning American sporting teams (College/Pro). Also coke bottle petrol lighter in good to excellent condition. Damian Smith

On The LIGHTER Side International Lighter Collectors	
Bob Beyers	President
Lynn Baker	V.Pres.
Judith Sanders	Sec/Treas
	Editor
Lynn Baker	Historian
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