

ON THE LIGHTER Side

December 15, 1986

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ETC., Etc., etc.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

There is a lot to cover this month so please bear with me.

It is time for membership renewal for everyone so please send in your dues for 1987 (except for you few who have already paid for another year). Due to the increase in costs of postage, xeroxing, etc. there will be an increase in dues as follows: U.S. Membership will be \$12.00 per year; Overseas membership will be \$16.00 per year.

Some of you are receiving envelopes this month with my old address - my latest order hasn't arrived yet!

Collectors' Corner has been left out this month, due to lack of space, but will return next month.

Since we are getting ready to go into a new year, would some of you send new classified ads for the paper. Also if you would like to rerun old "Wanted" ads, send those also.

Your Editor has received notes from your President, John Cuevas; and your Vice President, Jim Gartner, saying how much they have enjoyed serving as your OTLS Officers this past year. Elections for new Officers will be held next month.

Your OTLS Officers, John Cuevas, Jim Gartner and Judith Sanders would like to wish each of you HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!!!

McNEARS TRAVEL LIGHT WITH LIGHTER HOBBY

Youthful enthusiasm is a state of mind, not chronological age, as proven by Vernon McNear and his bride, who goes by the nickname of "Mom." Vernon has retired from his second career, all the better to pursue his hobby m'dear. Although Vernon has been collecting lighters for about 30 years, his interest, shared in full measure by his wife, took a jump last year when daughter-in-law, Mrs. (Dawn) Vernon McNear, II, saw a newspaper story mentioning the OTLS club, got further information and secured a year's membership for her father-in-law.

Residents of Mount Sterling, ILL., after a 20 year Navy career and then, until recently, farmers - "Mom made me quit," Vernon said - the senior McNears have some 1000 lighters in their collection. They state that they have found special pleasure in acquiring lighters, not only in travels around the United States, but in Europe, Africa, nearby Canada and Mexico and elsewhere over the globe. In service, Vernon was a C.P.O. ship fitter/hull technician with duty tours in Norfolk and with the Mediterranean Fleet. Chief McNear's growing collection was featured in a Groton, Conn. Naval Submarine Base publication almost 15 years ago when he said he got started when he discovered he had several lighters lying around the house and he then added a lighter from each ship and duty station he was assigned to and acquired others from France, England, Germany, Japan and French Morocco as he "saw the world."

More recently, the Illinois Rural Electric News magazine led with a paragraph: "Vernon McNear has a cigarette lighter that plays

(See McNears, page 2)

J. Cuevas
J. L. Gartner
Judith Sanders

McNEARS, continued from page 1.

'Around the World I've Searched for You,' and it would be hard to find a more appropriate song. McNear...has a burning desire for the little machines people use to ignite their smoking materials and he has amassed some 712 (in 1981) of them from, literally, around the world.

'I have one from North Africa that's a poor man's lighter...and it's just a piece of rope attached to a striker setup. There's no fuel, no fuel container, nothing extra. The user just flicks and flicks until the wick starts to smolder...I have another one that's supposed to be one of a batch made especially for Al Capone. The guy who gave it to me said Capone wanted something to give to employees of his brewery as a gift so he had these made on a special order. It's built on a beer can...there were only 40 of these made, as far as I know...'

Some of McNear's lighters have a story behind them. One, a small sewing machine look-alike, is named 'Sister'...When Singer started making sewing machines for the Japanese market, they called them 'Brother.' This is a takeoff from that name.

Most of the McNear collection is displayed in the living room in two large, hand-made bookcases with swinging glass doors and fluorescent lighting, plus a converted Timex display case, an electric powered and lighted turntable for miniature lighters and two sliding trays, resembling drawers (five rows in each drawer) mostly for pocket lighters. They are arranged by subject classification or intended use. Vernon said he enjoys having a "general" collection and he does not plan to specialize in any one type.

Vernon struggles mightedly to get all lighters to "work." He doesn't put them out on display until they function properly, even a recently acquired New Method (platinum wire and alcohol/Columbian Spirits lighter based on the Doberiner principle developed in Jena, Germany in 1823. "Mom" said "Don't put them in boxes; display them; enjoy them." Vernon added, tongue-in-cheek, "Collect them but don't use them" as he lit a cigarette.

'Mom' (who is the one who dusts them) reported that recently, as she and Vernon traveled from Ohio to Illinois, in a large Indiana antique shop they found a tripod camera and a "flintlock," both in good repair, so they searched more and more on the way and came in with around 50. 'Mom' also has a collection of miniatures, "anything on any subject that is approximately 3/4 of an inch high." At one time, she and Vernon had the same number of items, but, in recent years, Vernon's lighters have surpassed her miniatures, she added.

Vernon and his wife were visiting, in Nov., the Greater Cleveland home of their son, Rev. Vernon McNear, II, Pastor of the Parkview Community Reformed Church in Fairview Park, a western Cleveland suburb. He, his wife, Dawn, 2 young daughters and the senior McNears visited friend Gerber for a mutually delightful afternoon tour of a "Den of Lighters," to quote 'Mom.' The McNears also have visited OTLS member, Raymond Smizer in Southington, Conn. They have corresponded with other lighter collectors, have done some minor trading and hope to visit other collectors.

Mrs. McNear concluded her kind Thank You note to this reporter by stating that when they got home they found that their daughter, Veronica Stewart, had taken care of everything at home so, now, they can stand the Winter, come what may. 'Betcha Vernon will have many enjoyable hours restoring and polishing lighters.

by Warren Gerber

For Sale or Trade

For Sale or Trade for pipes or pipe lighters:

1. Ronson Varaflame butane, chrome, in presentation case.
 2. Ronson Whirlwind liquid fuel, satin chrome, in box w/instructions.
 3. Ronson Whirlwind, tan metallic enamel, liquid fuel.
 4. Ronson Vanguard butane, black enamel (an early butane model).
 5. Ronson West German piezo butane, black plastic.
 6. Flaminaire (Parker Pen Co.) butane, chrome, in presentation case.
 7. Evans, black leather & nickel, liquid fuel, U.S. Pat. No.
 8. Douglas, black leather & nickel, liquid fuel, Pat. 1926.
 9. Bowers, Kalamazoo, MI, black gunmetal, liquid fuel.
- ZIPPOS:
10. Regular 1957 satin chrome, (International Harvester logo).
 11. Regular 1965 satin chrome (Liberty Nat'l Life Insurance Co.).
 12. Regular 1967 satin chrome (plain).
 13. Regular 1984 solid brass (1932-1984).
 14. Slim 1961, chrome (plain).
 15. Slim 1969, chrome (Herb Durham, specializing in Zippo).
 16. Slim 1977, chrome (McDonnell-Douglas).

For Sale or Trade

17. Zippo type, regular size solid silver 950 hand tooled case.
Al Grosskopf

Art Deco looking 'Candle' - base is dark green glass, gold metal candle, red glass flame - candle lifts to expose lighter - says "Giv-A-Gift Inc." \$25. Judith Sanders.

Small collection for Sale - includes the following: Table lighters - 3 Ronsons; 6 Zippos w/ads; approx. 35 other type pocket lighters with ads, some in original boxes, no duplicates, most all are at least 20 years old. This man would like to sell all of them in one lot - is willing to sell them at a reasonable price - your Editor has complete inventory for anyone who is interested. Owner is Thomas Costello (non-member) - his address is available for anyone interested.

2 Polaroid SX-70's to photo-graph lighters. 1 is stainless steel & leather covered at \$55 - the other painted metal and leatherette covered at \$45. Both are single lense reflex design & focus down to about 7".
Al Grosskopf

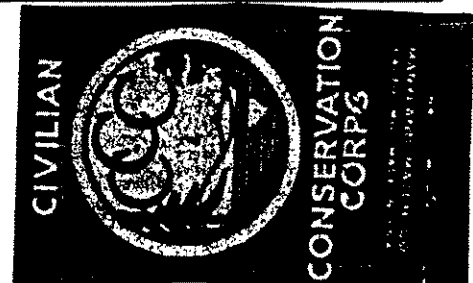
Wanted to Buy or Trade

Want Dunhill lighters with watches in them. John Cuevas

Want to buy lighters for a reasonable price. Send picture & price and I'll respond soon after. Joe Fink

Will trade cigarette lighters for old fountain pens. John Cuevas

Wanted: Civilian Conservation Corps lighter (See photo of logo below). A.E. Beyer, 2108 Eagle View Dr., Colo. Springs, Co. 80909 (Non-Member)



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Printed Once A Month
For Lighter Collectors

John Cuevas	President
Jim Gartner	VicePres.
Judith Sanders	Sec/Treas
	Editor

Ads in this paper are free for members. There is a \$1 charge for non-members. Please send ads in printed form. For information, write or call:

Judith Sanders
Rt. 3, 136 Circle Dr.
Quitman, Tx. 75783
214/763-2795