

# ON THE LIGHTER Side

December 15, 1989

Vol. VI, No. 5

ETC., Etc., etc.

**IMPORTANT!!** ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DEC. 31, 1989. Please renew your subscription NOW! We have \$13.74 left in our OTLS Account, there will be a 2¢ per page increase in printing costs which will probably finish this off. So the dues for 1990 will remain \$15 (U.S.) & \$20 (Overseas). There will be SIX newsletters next year (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept. & Dec.), rather than the 5 we had this year, plus a 'convention letter' in May. Since we have to have the convention letter anyway, I decided we might as well have 6 papers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO IRA & SUSAN PILOSSOF - who became the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl - "JULIE" on Sept. 15, 1989. (I know she is beautiful because I have a picture!!) Guess this makes your Editor unofficial 'aunt'!

In July when I was ranting and raving about the 1989 Video, I had not ordered mine yet! Unfortunately, when I got around to ordering my own copy, and later talked to Tom Prylinski, we have discovered there is an audio problem on part of the tape. AND the comments I was making came from watching the video I had made at the convention (does this make sense?). So if you would like a different video of the 1989 convention, or if you haven't ordered one at all, please order direct from your Editor. The cost will be \$10. For you who already ordered the first video, this one not only is a little clearer, but also covers additional parts of the convention.

Since it is the end of the year, if I have forgotten to send any member anything - Zippo guides, OTLS draft of book, Convention lighter, etc., PLEASE send a postcard and remind me now.

There will be a new Membership Roster in Jan. - pay your dues so you will be on it!

Welcome to all our new members! And a special welcome to our newest Corporate Member - Zippo Manufacturing Co.

Your OTLS Officers, Richard Rotman, John Grawe, Jay Meddaugh and Judith Sanders would like to wish each of your HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

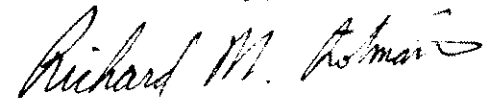
And now a special word from our President....

GREETINGS - FELLOW MEMBERS OF OTLS, It has been an exhilarating year! From "our" great convention in Cleveland, to our fabulous newsletters, to all our members, which have increased in number nicely in 1989.

We are on the brink of an educational book on Cigarette Lighters by OTLS. And I am looking forward to a progressively better club and events.

Happy Holidays and looking to a year of many, new and good lighters.

Sincerely,



President (1989)

FROM MY SOAPBOX....

Three recent events have caused reflection on the part of your Editor. First, I cashed a member's check & forgot to send him a convention lighter; then I got a letter from another member, who I haven't had time to write in over a year; and last I COMPLETELY missed a new member for 6 months! It is becoming clear that as our club grows, the chance for error on your Editor's part increases. I would appreciate your help, by writing when I make a mistake and reminding me.

I would like for you to remember you may get letters from 2 or 3

(continued on page 2)

members - I get letters from ALL members - and letters from non-members!

I AM NOT MAKING EXCUSES, BUT ONLY STATING FACTS!

Another pertinent subject - the 1990 Convention! Our convention is only ONCE A YEAR! If all members would start now saving money and planning for this, we can have a better turnout. As Peter Cavanagh said "...here I have come all these miles and some members only a few miles away aren't here." My response to that statement is he is absolutely right - if you aren't there - WHY NOT?

###

IN MEMORY OF  
LUKE THOMASON

Looking through our club scrapbook, I see a lot of pictures that bring back a lot of memories. And now one that will always bring back memories is the picture of Luke and Gwen Thomason, on their sailboat, headed for the Carribean.

Our good friend, Luke Thomason died on November 8, 1989 from cancer.

With her lovely southern accent, Gwen told me Luke knew he had cancer, but that he wasn't in a lot of pain, so they got to enjoy every minute they had left. And she went on to say "after 45 years of marriage, Luke died in my arms...and I couldn't ask for a better way for him to go."

It's always sad to lose someone, but what courage these two people have shown - and what strength Gwen continues to have.

I know you all will join me in missing one of our number, and in sending your prayers to Gwen.

Gwen has asked that we sell Luke's collection among members of the club, which we will do after the first of the year.

###

CORRESPONDENCE FROM CALIFORNIA!

"Dear OTLS Members,

We want to tell you of two momentous events: first, we were married (both of us tied the knot for the second time) on April 15; and second our Ronson Lighter collection has hit the 500 mark.

We met 4 years ago and began collecting cigarette paraphenalia 2 years ago. When the living room shelves began filling up and the books got moved to the basement, we realized we had better get this under control. So we decided to just collect cigarette & cigar lighters. But things didn't get much better. The bookshelves, coffee table, end tables were almost filled. Some drastic measures had to be made.

The next step was to decide to collect only old Ronson Lighters - no butane models. At this point its obvious: either we've taken the whole lighter collecting thing too seriously, or its been so much fun we can't stop.

We met Larry Tolkin (N.Y. Member) at the Brumfield, Mass. Flea Market on our honeymoon in April. If he comes to CA. soon as planned, we're going to host a little gathering of OTLS Member in our area.

We are happy to report that we and our lighters survived the Oct. Quake with only one broken glass (and some frayed nerves).

We are planning to be in Vegas next June, and will bring some of our prime Ronsons and see many of you there.

Love from Urban & Chris  
P.S. Please see our classified ad in this issue!"

(Editor's note: In addition to the above, Urban told your Editor his favorite Ronson is a heart shaped pocket lighter - chrome & brown - Ronson DeLight (probably from the 30's). He and Chris finally decided on Ronsons because they feel Ronson is the Cadillac of the lighters!

COLLECTORS' CORNER

With the new printing process increasing the quality of photos so well - following are various photos received & taken since the last newsletter. Thanks to all of you who have sent photos!

YOUR EDITOR'S FIRST CHRISTMAS PRESENT IS SHOWN BELOW. THIS WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TREE WAS A GIFT FROM ROBERT & SOPHIE MEDDAUGH. THANKS SO MUCH BOB & SOPHIE!



PHOTO NO. 2: THE TOP LIFTS OFF AND - WALA! A LIGHTER!

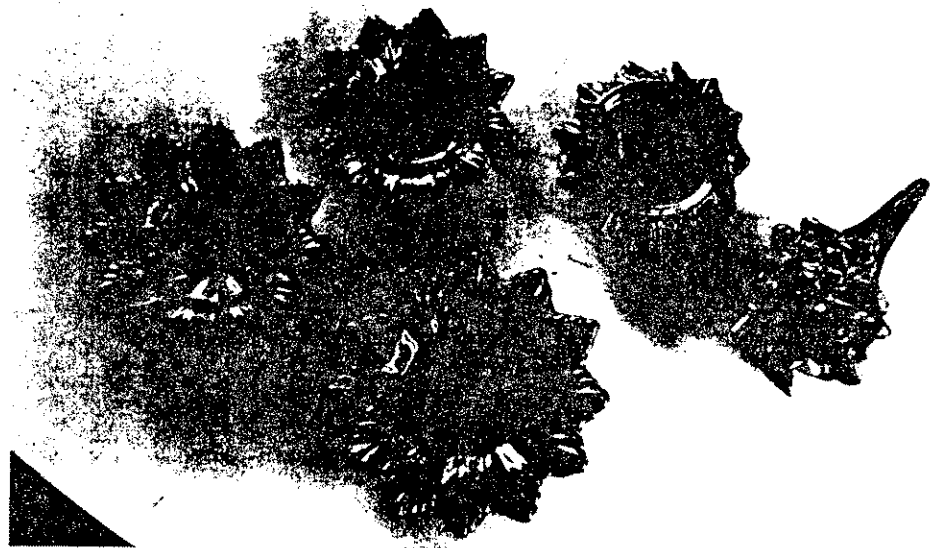
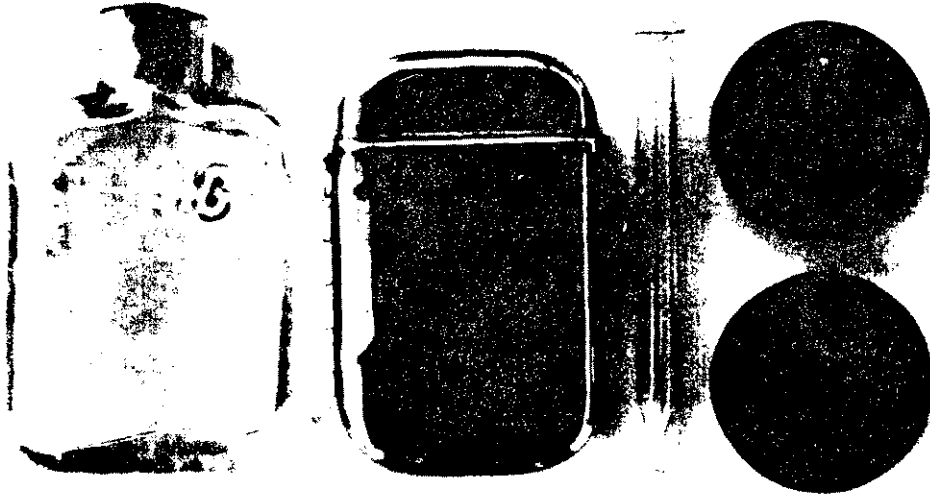


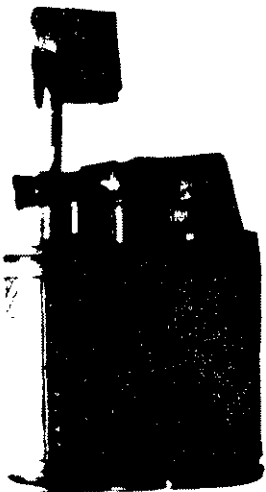
PHOTO NO. 3: ALL THE REST COMES APART AND BECOMES ASHTRAYS!

PHOTO NO. 1 SHOWS A (GREEN, CERAMIC) CHRISTMAS TREE.

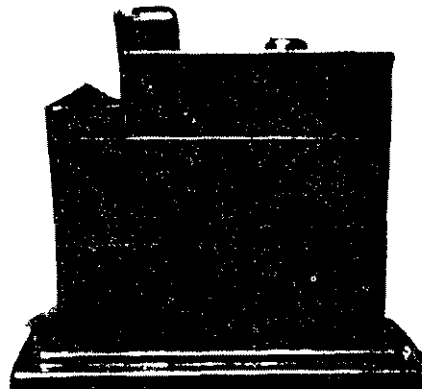
REX HODGSON HAS THE "FIND" OF THE MONTH!! IN THE ORIGINAL BOX HE FOUND THE "MAGIC POCKET LAMP & CIGAR LIGHTER" WITH NOT ONLY THE LIGHTER ITSELF, BUT ALSO EXTRA "IGNITING DISKS", THE BOTTLE WHICH HELD OLD AND THE "FEEDER" TO FILL LAMP.



A RECENT FIND FOR YOUR EDITOR (left) IS A "SOMETTI VERONA" - MADE IN ITALY. ACCORDING TO RESEARCH SOMETTI LIGHTERS WERE MADE IN VERONA, ITALY IN THE MID-TWENTIES. PHOTO IS TAKEN WITH "ARM" PULLED UP.



ANOTHER VERSION OF THE "MYLFLAM" - THIS ONE IS MARKED "MADE IN GERMANY, U.S. ZONE". VERY LIGHT WEIGHT - MAY BE MADE FROM BEER CANS?



PETER CAVANAGH HAS SENT PHOTOS OF RONSON "ROBOT-LITER". THE DATE ON THESE PICTURES IS 1966. EVERYONE NEEDS ONE OF THESE!

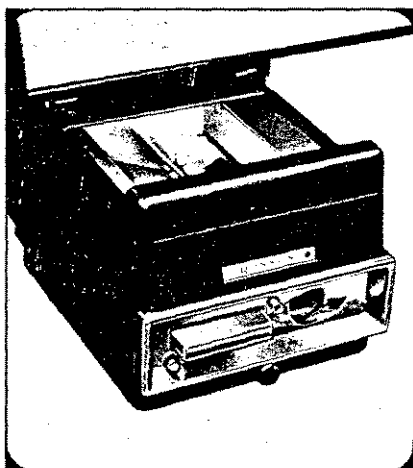
# RONSON ROBOT- LITER™

OPERATION  
AND  
INSTALLATION  
INSTRUCTIONS  
DASHBOARD  
AND  
CONSOLE MODELS

## HOW TO OPERATE YOUR NEW

A new era of automotive convenience, comfort and safety in smoking in your car awaits you with the use of your remarkable new Ronson Robot-Liter. Just a touch of the finger-tip control bar gives you lit cigarettes—automatically—in ten seconds.

The Ronson Robot-Liter has been designed for easy operation and reliable performance. Just follow these simple directions (they apply to both the dashboard and console models):



- 1 Lift the lid for the console model or, for the dashboard model, grasp the flange beneath the unit and slide it out until it stops. The hopper is now exposed. Load the hopper with up to 20 cigarettes. You may intermix king-size and regular size, filter-tip and non-filters. Filters should face towards you. Cigarettes should be kept straight—in line with the divider bar. When loading an entire pack of 20 cigarettes, place the first six in the hopper one-by-one; the remainder can be loaded in batches.



JACK SEIDERMAN

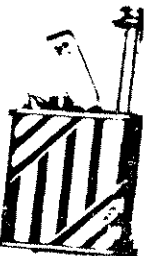
1050 N.E. 120 St.

MIAMI, FLA. 33161

USA

(305) 893-1047

ANNOUNCING my 1990 Catalog and Price List of over 1,000 COLLECTIBLE CIGARETTE LIGHTERS, for sale, each pictured, priced & described. I would like to mail free copies but with postage and printing costs constantly rising, I must charge \$8.50 for 1990's issues including 3 future editions. Purchasers of \$20.00 or more during the year will receive next years' issues free. I also buy collectible lighters.



MOST OF THE USUAL ADS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT THIS MONTH DUE TO SOME UNUSUAL - DIFFERENT ADS - THE REGULAR ADS WILL RETURN IN JANUARY.

"Hospice of the Ridge" is a non-profit organization, whose main purpose is to provide help to people who are terminally ill & their families. Someone has given them 93 lighters, which they would like to sell to OTLS Members. They will sell the lighters separately, taking bids for 1 month. (Please make your bid in odd amounts, i.e. \$5.03, so there will be no confusion) At the end of that time, sell the remaining group as one lot. For a complete listing of these lighters, write or call: Barbara McCreary, 6800 Sylmar Ln., Paradise, CA 95969 (916/872-3242 - evenings). Please include SASE. Buyer will pay shipping costs. I have the list, & it includes many advertising pocket lighters, some Zippo's, some Ronsons & some novelty type (some of the Novelty type are table models). I would urge that some of you respond since this is a worthwhile organization!

We have heard from our friend, Ben Rapaport again! Ben has found a small supply of the out-of-print pocketbook, in German, by Rita Bucheit: Geschichte der Feuerzeuge (1985). These will be arriving by seammil in another month or so - cost will be around \$15 to \$20. This soft back book contains 88 pages, w/black & white and color pictures & history of lighters. This is one of the books referred to in an earlier OTLS paper. If you are interested write direct to Ben Rapaport, Antiquarian Tobacciana, 11505 Turnbridge Lane, Reston, VA 22094

For Sale & Wanted

Barry Levin of "Levin Pipes International" wants to buy a (Paris made) Dunhill Aldunil (see photo 561 in LIGHTERS). THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HIM! (And too long a story to tell) In return for asking our members to help him - he also told your Editor he has SEVERAL Dunhills, a Dupont & Zeniths available for sale - ranging from \$30 to \$500. For info on these, write direct to: Barry Levin, RFD 1, Box 565, West Hill Rd., Craftsbury, VT 05826 or call 802/586-7744.

WANTED: Old Ronson lighters - wick type, touch tip or strikers (no butane please). We buy any piece in mint condition, but really need examples of the old Ronsons, such as the DeLight pocket & table lighters & cases. We are missing many of the striker "A.M.W." animals, Abe Lincoln, Bartender, etc. A.M.W. or Art Metal Works were the only markings on some old Ronsons. We especially need a "Banjo" and will trade for it or buy. Send photo or write - Urban Cummings or Chris Clark, P. O. Box 1482, Palo Alto, CA 94301 or call 415/328-1177

WANTED: Thorens lighters & parts, especially Standard Original model. Al Grosskopf  
FOR SALE: 1. Table lighter, Made in Austria, 1890, leather cover & very unusual - \$95.00. 2. Case & lighter - unknown manufacturer - \$45. 3. Typewriter lighter, made in Japan - \$125.00. All work, & nice condition. Sid Chase  
WANTED - DEAD OR ALIVE - Zippo's & Dunhills. Will Trade from my 1200 Pocket Lighters. Write to me 'Down Under'. Peter Cavanagh

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

William W. Jones  
 Zippo Manufacturing Co.  
 33 Barbour Street  
 Bradford, Pa. 16701

Gerald Gallentine  
 1410 N. Westshore Blvd.  
 Tampa, FL 33607

Bruce Smith  
 P. O. Box 37  
 Chillicothe, OH 45601

Jeffrey Haas  
 2018 Haring St.  
 Brooklyn, NY 11229

John Hale  
 293 Varick St.  
 Jersey City, N.J. 07302

Ronald Eyerkuss  
 190 St. Gregory  
 Florissant, MO 63031

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:  
 Michael Kolb  
 223 S. El Dorado St.  
 San Mateo, CA 94401

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE  
 International Cigarette  
 Lighter Collectors

Richard Rotman	President
John Grawe	V.Pres.
Judith Sanders	Sec/Treas
	Editor
Jay Meddaugh	Historian

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