

# On The LIGHTER Side

August 15, 1985

Vol. II, No. 8

**ETC., Etc., etc.**

Ray Smizer called to tell me that he and Connie were coming through Dallas on the way back home from their vacation, and that they would have a 4 hour layover at DFW Airport. It seemed like a great opportunity for us to meet - - so your Editor went tootling out there! Can you picture talking non-stop about lighters for 4 hours! (well, we did talk a little about their vacation) I was so pleased to get to see face to face another member of OTLS - - and such nice people - - even if they are Yankees! (Just kidding Ray & Connie) Ray brought me a really neat (old alcohol type) lighter and I had a couple for him. He also brought some pictures of his collection and the story you will see below. I hope sooner or later all of you can make it to Dallas!

NEW TREASURES! Marc Klarman has written to say he has just acquired one of the "Magic Pocket Lamp" lighters! (Your Editor is green with envy, but congratulations anyway, Marc!)

More later.....

*Judith*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT....

Raymond Smizer  
Wife: Connie  
Children: Raymond, Gregory,  
Deborah & Karl  
From: 4 to 4200

At age 57, Raymond Smizer, an ex-smoker of 4 1/2 packs a day, now directs his energies to lighter collecting. What started out as a small clutter of broken lighters in a drawer has now become a gallery of exquisite and unique collectible pieces.

Ray began collecting in 1964 and has been written up in the Hartford Courant. With his wife Connie and daughter Deborah at his side his weekends and vacations are spent hitting the local tag sales, flea markets and auctions. If there are lighters to be found Ray travels to find them...mileage and time are no object.

His collection consists of guns, knives, planes, ships, cars, rockets and tanks among others - and is completely displayed, now that his four children are grown and out of the house.

It's quite an experience to walk down the stairs of his Southington home into a museum of lighted and rotating displays. Protected by a security system Ray's pride and joy of the 4200 lighters grows daily, and those lucky enough to view his exhibit are left with an experience they will never forget.

Picking a favorite is a difficult task when your collection consists of everything from a simple Bic to a one-armed bandit. Among his favorites a BMW race car from Germany, a cat with gem eyes from Hong Kong, a ticker tape machine, an Occupied Japan sewing machine, a TV set that is also a slide viewer and a #1 Grandpa lighter from two special girls, to name a few.

In addition to lighters Ray also collects knives, swords. He has handed his interest and dedication to his children who also have large collections of pigs, political memorabilia, buddahs and beer signs and to his wife, who collects the dust.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written and contributed by Ray Smizer's daughter and daughter-in-law.

## COLLECTORS' CORNER

### PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE

Not to nitpick, but to inform, hopefully, I challenge the outline under the June OTLS issue picture of the (Elias) "Koopman 'Magic Pocket Lamp,' patented 1889, believed to be the first American-made fluid and flint lighters." The credited source, THE SPINNING WHEEL, published the same info. But, not true. Koopman's patent application and several other respected sources state Fulminate of Mercury was the spark source, not (ferro cerium) flint.

Twenty-three bits of Mercury Fulminate were spotted near the edge of replaceable, heavy paper discs, about the size of a silver dollar and mounted on a metal disc inside the lighter. A side button and gearing rotated (1/4 in.O.D.?) the disc and a metal finger would scratch a bit, throwing a spark onto a liquid-fueled wick - kinda like a kid's six-shooter cap gun, except Mercury Fulminate ain't to be played with, nohow.

Mercury Fulminate is named in Bisconcini's LIGHTERS, ACCENDINI as the spark source for George Selden's 1877 Erie lighter and the 1885 Austrian Jagdfeurzeug. Elsewhere, it is authoritatively stated that Amorce (Thompson's Mixture - see encyclopedia of military and civilian pyrotechnics), developed in France/Germany, was the spark source for at least the 1965 George Selden Erie. The Erie is credited in some books of "Firsts" as the first fully automatic lighter in the U.S.A. (world?). Unromantically, these rolls of Amorce must have been very close to a kid's roll caps for a cap gun, only more potent. In both cases, they fired when a spring-loaded hammer face struck them.

A kind soul last month sent me a four page flyer, undated (about 1875), addressed to "Dealers in Tobacconist's Supplies and Fancy Goods," stating: "NOTICE, You are hereby notified that the Cigar Lighter referred to in the Circular of Messrs. Holmes, Booth & Hayden and commonly known as the 'Erie Lighter,' infringes upon the rights secured to the STOCKWELL SELF-LIGHTING GAS BURNER COMPANY by the following letters, Pat. Nos. 47,459, dated June 17, 1865; 155,770, dated Oct. 6th, 1874; 170,913, dated Dec. 7th, 1875, in the following particulars:

"First- A case or shell for containing the Repeating Match [the tape with pellets on it] provided with a nose piece and an igniting device between which two the Repeating Match is ignited.

"Second- A box or case having a hammer capable of operation from the exterior and means for feeding and exploding a pellet by the action of a hammer and feeder.

"Third- In the use of a spring-hammer, in connection with a feeder which feeds the fulminate tape and at the same time raises the hammer and explodes the pellet; and in other particulars.

"All cigar lighters sold by you, using the mechanical devices above named, except the 'Matchless' and 'Peerless', will subject you to an action for damages for infringement. I have been retained, and will promptly prosecute all persons detected in selling the 'Erie Lighters' as now made, as infringing upon the rights secured by the foregoing Letters Patents. Charles P. Shaw, 106 Broadway, New York, Stockwell Self-Lighting Gas Burner Company."

Drawings and price lists of the Peerless and Matchless Lighters igniting tape, automatic gas torch, plain bronze burner and self-lighting gas burner for chandelier, also were shown here.

Warren W. Gerber

For Sale or Trade

Want to sell entire collection.

- 1 Ceramic table (small) lighter with "M" on bottom. \$2.00
- 1 Braves Lighter (baseball). \$1.00
- 1 Confederate Lighter \$1.00
- 1 Ronson Pencil Lighter \$10.00
- 1 Ronson "gold color" lighter. \$10.00
- 1 Butane Lighter (black) Polly-Gaz Steamer in case. \$5.00
- 1 Evans lighter and case gold-black (1940's) \$15.00
- 1 Japanese "fancy" lighter and case (black jeweled) (1940's). \$10.00
- 1 large Japanese table lighter-ashtray set - brilliant green glass and metal (shine with silver polish). \$35.00
- 1 Realite-pink with black poodle. \$3.00
- 1 Supreme-odd case of picture 19th Century - fabric (slides in). \$3

Assorted lighters Zippo, Storm King, Vulcan, Prince Gardner. Some with advertising. Good condition. \$2 ea. Carolyn Page.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since Carolyn didn't have any response to this ad, she has now attached prices hoping to sell the lighters. She didn't say if she would sell them separately or not.

(Omega) Newport advertising lighter. Fair Cond. \$1.00  
Leo Turini

Pencil type lighter. Ad Borden Co.-Refrigeration Boston 10, Mass. Fair Cond. \$2.00. Leo Turini

For Sale or Trade

Have 3 lighters for sale:

- 1 Brass case
- 1 Adver - "A Light Reminder from Fred C. Dietrick Distrib of Fine Foods & Confections - Phone 2085 - 7203 Madison Ave. Hammond, Ind."
- 1 Adver. - "I'm Happy I'm Protected - My Moose Dues are Paid for a Year."

\$10 for all. J. W. Kramer.

(Evans) Pat. June, 1952 pocket lighter - misc. design. excellent cond. \$3.00. Leo Turini

Replica "cigarette" lighters. Refillable butane, flint. Available: Las Vegas (a local cigarette), Marlboro, Kent, HB, 555, Players, Gitane and others. \$3 ea or \$25 dz. assorted. RK Enterprises, 953 E. Sahara Av. #E-15-A Box 257, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Check/M.O. or C.O.D. Please include \$2 for shipping (Non-Member)

IMPORTANT TRIVIA!  
BACK ISSUES OF NEWS-LETTER AVAILABLE FOR 60 CENTS A COPY. THIS COST INCLUDES POSTAGE!

For Sale or Trade

Match-O-Matic, silver with brown grip. Actual size 5" high x 10" long, mounted on walnut base. Looks like James Bond type pistol. \$7  
Judith Sanders

- 1 Plain pocket lighter marked Japan - good
  - 1 Plain pocket lighter Zippo - good
  - 1 Plain pocket Lighter no mark - poor (probably G.T.-WWII Zippo)
  - 2 Ronson pocket - Standard Delight (good for parts)
  - 1 Small pocket lighter marked Japan - key chain attached. fair
- LOT \$4.00  
Leo Turini

Leo Turini also has some of the following: leather matchholders; knapsack match holder (brass colored tin - probably used for vesta matches); cigarette boxes or cases & cigarette paper packet. If anyone is interested please contact Leo.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Zippo w/this logo-  
should have 7 circles in-  
stead of 4 - should be in  
green. This was made for  
Ford Motor Co. in 1955-  
1958. Eric Blackford



Any lighters having to  
do with billards. Also  
Zippos with logo's &  
old alcohol burning  
lighters. Dee Collins

Need Ronson Touch Tip  
parts: Wands & Wicks.  
Also want to buy complete  
touch tip lighters, have  
some duplicates to trade.  
Also interested in WWII  
airplane lighters. Pete  
& Barb Bocciarelli

Scripto "vu-lighters",  
chrome top with clear  
plastic bottom. Inside  
clear bottom is usually  
fishing fly, small dice,  
Golfer, Bowler, etc.  
Send description w/price.  
Nate Barragato

Pocket & table lighters  
w/names of Navy Ships on  
them. Jack Comins

MORE TRIVIA! NOTE SOME  
OLDER ADS BEING RE-USED  
SINCE WE HAVE MORE NEW  
MEMBERS - MORE EXPOSURE!

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Dunhill lighters. John  
Cuevas

Authentic flint & steel  
flintlock tinderboxes  
& other pre-lighter  
fire-making devices.  
Warren Gerber

Ronson "Bartender"  
lighter - will pay good  
price! Judith Sanders

1910-1930's round,brass/  
copper, similar in  
size-shape to man's  
hunter case pocket watch,  
French, German, English,  
flint post pulls out,  
hole-fitting for wick,  
WWI scene or leaders  
or coins. NOT Japanese  
made--"Belgium or French"  
coins. Warren Gerber

USE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS!

Bowers round or flat  
oblong brass lighters.  
Andrew Morgan

Advertising Zippos. Will  
pay \$2 ea. in any legi-  
ble condition. Send list  
& particulars. Richard  
Rotman

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Military - any type.  
Also looking for one  
from Viet Nam with map  
of V.N. on it. Robert  
Koznecki

Ronson Pencil lighters.  
Andrew Morgan

Musical lighters. Warren  
Gerber

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

Will pay \$25 and up for  
"Ceramic Occupied Japan  
Cigarette Lighters."  
Also will buy other O.J.  
lighters. Send complete  
description w/prices.  
Bob Gee

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Printed Once A Month  
For Lighter Collectors

Warren Gerber President  
Robt. W. Gee, Sr. Vice Pres.  
Judith Sanders Sec/Treas.  
Judith Sanders Editor

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

Judith Sanders  
5811 Grassmere #1  
Dallas, Tx. 75205  
214/528-1926