



Nov. 15, 2018 Vol. XXXVII, No. 6

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



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***FOUNDED IN 1983 - THE LONGEST RUNNING
LIGHTER COLLECTING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!***

And Now A Word From Your Editor

Richard Weinstein

Even though I will longer wear the Editors hat which I am passing along to Greg Ryman who sympathetically offered to give it a try, I will remain a board member and will contribute to the club in other ways. Please welcome Greg by offering to help him in this position by providing some interesting content for the newsletter.

If you have not heard yet, the 2019 convention location has been set at Newark New Jersey from June 20th to the 23rd. Please make your best effort to attend. Our last show at Newark was attended by a larger than usual percentage of the club which makes for a better show with more lighters to buy, sell or trade.

A Message From Your President

John Elster

Our 34th year as a Vintage Lighter Club was a good one. We added new members, held a successful convention, and experienced some renewed energy to a hobby that in previous years was on the decline. I want to thank everyone who wrote an article, submitted a photo, attended the convention, or contributed to the OTLS Facebook page. Without you, this club would not be what it is today.

I want to extend an even bigger Thank You to Rich for his dedicated service as editor of our newsletter. As you will read in another article, he is taking a well desired break from his many years as editor. Greg has some big shoes to fill - but he will do a great job and I commend him for volunteering to take on this important role. Rob quietly keeps our internet site up to date and posts the newsletter when it is prepared and Art has done a good job getting our membership roster updated - thanks to both of them for their work on behalf of the club. Behind the scenes Judith does an amazing job making sure that the Board stays on task and she certainly knows how to run a smooth convention!



Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find the renewal page for 2019. Please submit your dues as early as possible. It will make life much easier to those on the board who are responsible for keeping the rosters up to date.

Please also note the decrease in the price of the online version of the newsletter!

On behalf of OTLS, we wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas and Chanukah.

When I accepted the role of President, Art mentioned that he would like for me to assume the role of Chairman when he stepped down. I have accepted this role and I look forward to the challenges that await me. Our club is comprised of fellow lighter collectors and your voices should be heard - so please speak up with your thoughts and suggestions as we head into the new year. My email address is jresce@aol.com.

Lastly, it is not too early to begin to plan for the 2019 OTLS Convention. It will be in Newark, New Jersey. Why Newark? In 2017 we had a very successful show in Newark. The hotel is easily accessible from the airport. Air-line fares and the room rate at the hotel are both reasonable. It is a short distance from NYC - so you can plan to visit the Big Apple just before or after our convention. The dates will be June 20-23. Information about the hotel and the convention registration will be available in the coming months.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Chairman's Message

Art Brooks

I would like to start by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and all remaining holidays for the year. This will be my last Chairman's message. When I became Chairman,



John Elster replaced me as President. We decided John would become Chairman, replacing me again as of December 31 of this year. John has always been a very large club supporter and we all have every confidence he will do a superb job. I will remain a member of the board. I would like to give thanks to all the board members for their support and a special thanks to Guy Nishida and Judith Sanders for their support and assistance.

This is also another milestone in OTLS history, this will be the last newsletter that Rich Weinstein will be Editor. Rich has done a magnificent job as Editor and made numerous improvements. I personally can not thank him enough for all his contributions to OTLS and the lighter collecting hobby. Board member Greg Ryman has agreed to take on the task as the new Editor. I am confident Greg will do a fine job as well.

The 2019 convention will be held in June in Newark, NJ. Judith has agreed to remain the Convention Chairwoman and will coordinate the activities. She will publish the details at a later date. We do need to start the convention lighter design. If any of you out there has a design idea for consideration please let any board member know.

Now for the fun part.....Lighter Tales! My latest purchase was an Evermatch self filling lighter made in Japan. This specific lighter was made in Tokyo under the Swan name brand. It came with the box and is the center lighter in the photo (top right). The red and green Evermatch was made in Sweden around 1933. You can see the refill bladder button in the center is rectangular in the Sweden version as opposed to circular in the Japan version. I have no idea when the Japan version was manufactured.

The photo below shows the Prince SKK Evermatch made in Occupied Japan on the left and the Sweden



Evermatch on the right. You can also note the MIOJ version has a round button as opposed to rectangular. To fill all the Evermatches, unscrew the bottom and a tube falls out the bottom. You then submerge the tube in fluid and push in on the center button and it sucks the fluid up into a bladder. When the lighter is full, simply push the tube back up inside the lighter and reinstall the screw. When the lighter is ignited and you can again push the button and it will force additional fluid to the wick which makes for a larger flame.



The Evermatch made in Sweden and Japan with refill tubes extended.

If you have any comments or suggestions I can be reached at

caymus99@sbcglobal.net.



We Never Truly Grow Up - Cartoons & Lighters

By: John Elster

I was looking over a pile of lighters as I was contemplating a topic for my article. I noticed that there is a big market for lighters that depict cartoon characters. I guess we never truly grow up. Every Zippo collector hopes to find a nice Mickey Mouse Zippo for their collection. Of course that find may lead them to search for a Minnie Mouse & Donald Duck to enhance the collection. Beginning in the 1990's several artists emerged who decided to use the Zippo lighter as their 'canvas'. One of the more well known artists is Richard Wallich. His hand painted Zippos are made in limited quantities. In other words, he might paint the same image 2 or 3 times at most. He numbered the lighters 1 of 1 or 1 of 3 so the buyers will know just how many exist.



I have shown a few images of lighters that Wallich painted: Porky Pig, Disney's Goofy, Bart Simpson, Beetle Bailey & Joe Camel. While these are all hand painted, there are certainly a bunch of cartoon related Zippos that actually were made as production models or in limited quants as special orders. An example of a limited run made as a private order is the adult cartoon designed by Dawn McTeigue. For you vintage collectors, I have also pictured an Evans which features a caricature of Jimmy Durante. While not a cartoon character, it has a similar look.



Given that lighters are made for adults, not children, one must conclude that the ‘kid in us’ still likes cartoons!



Miniature Lighters

by Judith Sanders

A few years ago Guy & Ira gave me these cute “lighters” for Christmas. They are ceramic and tiny, and not real lighters! I put a U.S. coin on the bottom row (a penny) so you could tell the size of these cute pieces.

I think they got these from ebay? I keep them all in a box on a shelf in my living room so I can show them off from time to time.



My Latest Flame - Zippo the "Canvas" – Personal Art on Zippo Lighters

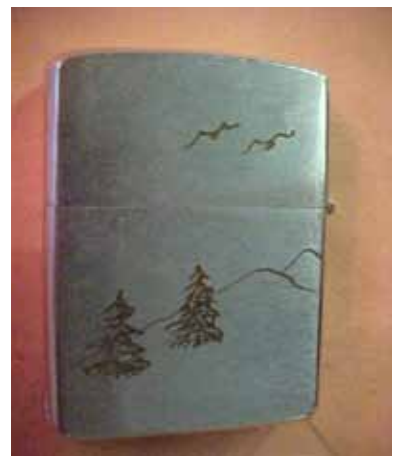
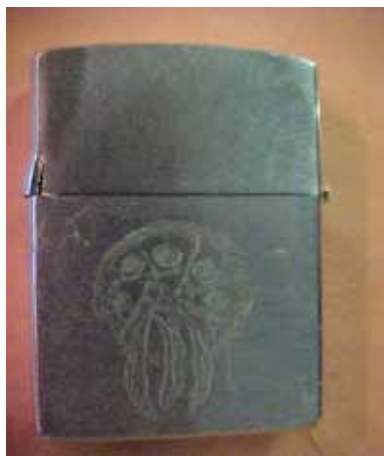
by George Gynes

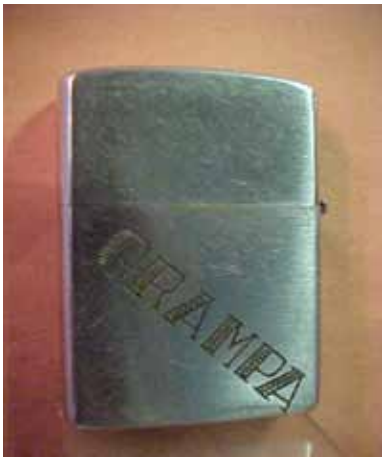
During my "hitch" in the US Navy in the 1960's I served on board a ship that was assigned to a few tours in the Vietnam waters. Since I was already a lighter collector, I had a chance to pick up a few "In Country" Vietnam, local art, Zippo lighters. Since then, I have actively collected the Vietnam Decorated Zippos and been able to acquire a nice collection. The Vietnam Zippos were primarily engraved by machines operated by local craftsmen.

However, for this article I submit some "Personal Art" Zippo lighters. These Personal Art lighters were primarily hand carved by their owners. Consequently, the "Art" ranges from professional talent to a bit amateurish, non-the-less, all are quite interesting.

The first six are "Two Sided" and I have pictured each side, first the Obverse than the Reverse. The next six are one sided, therefore, only one photo. The dates range from 1949 to 1986, there is a Canadian Zippo and a "Knock Off Zippo" (that one is easy to spot, even without seeing the bottom – If you recognize it, please drop me a note.)

Happy lighter hunting to all, George





Eye Candy

submitted by Urban and Chris Cummings-Rare Ronson Lighters!





***MY FRIEND,
RICH WEINSTEIN***

Contributed by Judith Sanders

Several years ago, as I started making mistakes with the newsletter I decided I needed to quit doing the newsletter. After some persuasion Rich said he would do it.

Now all these years later, he is ready to retire from doing the newsletter and pass it on to someone else. I am very thankful for the years he has done this. Especially when you consider he is also running a business at the same time.

As always happens with every club, besides doing the newsletter, he has had to beg and harass many of you to please send articles and photos! And answer questions from many of us, even when he was busy with his own work.

He will continue to repair lighters, stay on the Board, and care about our club even if he wants to quit being the Editor.

So Rich THANKS from all of us for your hard work!!

If you know anything...

about this lighter, please contact Tom O'Key at firstonfire@aol.com



Happy Holidays

Wishing You a Wonderful Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year



THE PASSING OF A DEAR FRIEND AND COLLECTOR

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Sam Barnett, a long time pipe and lighter collector, friend and fixture at the New York City flea markets. Sam was primarily an expert on pipes, but as many of us can relate to, had other collecting interests as well. I met Sam at the 26th St. flea market in the 1980's, and he was instantly fascinated and intrigued with all of the many vintage lighters that I displayed in my booth. He had many contacts, and so Sam, Richie and I had many dealings over the years. Sam also collected flashlights, tobacco tins, and much more that filled his two bedroom Upper West Side apartment. Sam asked me to visit him in recent months, wanting to liquidate items so he could leave something to his family. I did visit him twice but, when he asked me to come visit again last week, I did not. While I did buy some of his items, it was very difficult to see him like this, knowing his time here would soon end.

I asked him if he found himself to be more spiritual or religious during his illness. He replied. "Ira, if I were to suddenly go there, after so many years of not believing I would be a hippocrate".

Rest in peace my friend

Ira Pilosof

Editorial

based on an email received by a member giving his honest opinion of the club's governing Board and my response.

Dear Guy,

Before I joined OTLS, I had the opinion the club was a bit little like an old dog that couldn't learn new tricks. (Please do not be insulted by this analogy, I am only trying to be explanatory.) After being a member for a few years, my opinion has only been reinforced. Frequently, it seems like the people running the club don't enjoy running the club. From a member perspective - I completely understand why the club has trouble getting members to participate and contribute. Based on my own experiences, participating in the club can be very frustrating.

Dear member,

I appreciate the candor and I understand the crux of your email. I'd say that my personal departure from the Board has much to do with not enjoying the position. It was a job that brought me frustration and diminished my joy for the hobby. Many members don't truly understand that it is THEIR club and to make it flourish all must actively and routinely participate. OTLS must be a community of collectors who use this platform to engage with one another and share in the hobby. But the key personnel cannot be the same half-dozen for 30 years. Richie has resigned his position as editor effective with this last issue for the same reason -- burnout. Having to constantly prod members for contributions is draining, especially when our membership has fallen so precipitously over the years. It requires no less work than when we were blessed with a larger membership but it is done for a much smaller audience and with less assistance.

Our editor has carried on for the last several years only out of a sense of duty and loyalty to the club and in recognition of Judith's efforts over multiple decades building the hobby. Ditto for me and my agreement at taking over the Chairmanship after having been on the Board for many years. Even among Board members obtaining responses to inquiries can be taxing yet not surprising as collecting lighters is a part-time past-time. (emphasis on the word "part") But in context, most of the heavily invested members all held/hold jobs and have family/life responsibilities that naturally deserve priority yet they have managed to hold the club together all these years. There is only a limited amount of time available for the hobby.

Personally, banging one's head against a wall of seeming ambivalence to the importance of contributing to the club weighs heavily on one's psyche and does negatively affect attitude. I see very few enthusiastic non-Board members with enough energy to share duties nor the willingness to grow the club. Greg Ryman has spent an inordinate amount of time in attempts to garner photos, articles and interviews with members. He regularly canvasses former members and Facebook posters. He is fortunate if anyone bothers to extend the courtesy of a return call. As we know, the newsletter articles are typically penned by the same handful.

It is a reality that you can love someone but if there is no perceived reciprocation you can lose much of your deep feelings. Although lighters are inanimate things and we can appreciate them for their utility, history and beauty as well as their design without regard to value, I know many a collector whose fervor has waned as overall prices have plummeted. For purely selfish monetary reasons or with a view to increase the inventory of available vintage lighters, one would expect that members would want to do their part to keep collectible lighters in the public eye. I "like" many on-line lighter postings because I want to encourage posters to continue to share. I presume these specialty sites and their posters would disappear if no one showered any thumbs up upon them. Would specialty site creators continue to monitor and manage the sites if they saw no participation? If you answer no, then you can sympathize with those who run the brick and mortar clubs. I believe from personal experience that they would they be crestfallen and disappointed.

I freely admit that some of the members/Board can be considered old dogs. But many represent the oasis of those who do anything at all to promote the club and the hobby. While their efforts can be measured as small or modest, compared to the majority of collectors these efforts are enormous.

I think all the specialty sites springing up ie., Imco, Vintage, Deco, Dunhill, Antique, Zippo, KW et al are wonderful additions but in some respect they preach to the choir. It can be argued that they do little to promote the overall growth of the hobby and may in fact splinter interest all the more. Without a club like OTLS/LCGB there would be no entity cohesively

bonding all collectors while being a stronger unified voice in any area of concern. OTLS fills the need to represent all lighter collecting niches so all the varied information can be shared and members can learn about all brands and types of lighters. There is never going to be specific sites for every lighter make and model and as collecting habits/interests change, one can switch lighter allegiances seamlessly within the club and find a kindred spirit. They may learn of a lighter unknown to them that may peak their interest and send them in a new direction.

One fear is that the knowledge-base that these specialty sites generate will be lost as I don't envision browsers scrolling far down the posts over time to locate a comment matching their particular quest. Will any of them ever be published or categorized in searchable archives? It would be wonderful if these photos and posts (many scholarly) were printed in a club newsletter which could be easily retrieved.

As I mentioned to the Board, someone (again with the energy and time) should make contact with all these specialty sites with the intention of cross-pollination/cross-advertising. That would broaden the exposure for OTLS/LCGB as well as the specialty sites. At one time there were at least 6 major clubs as well as a few regional clubs. Well over 20 years ago I was charged by the founders of all the known clubs with organizing a World Lighter Show. For a number of reasons, this never materialized. It was an ambitious idea with far-reaching implications. Unfortunately, as years have passed we have seen that some of the clubs have sadly fallen by the wayside. The hobby could not support a multitude of clubs with its finite audience and shallow pool of core contributors, some of whom supported more than one club. Thus the strength and talent within each club was diluted. I'd hate to see the remaining ones expire because collectors find fault but miss an opportunity to inject their own electricity into teaching the old dogs new tricks.

I have begun to wonder if the same fate will eventually befall the growing number of specialty lighter on-line sites - - will there be nothing more than a handful of active participants in each (again with duplication) and will they become a temporary blip on our computer screens? Will future posts appear much more sporadically until the viewership moves on? How long before they give-up the ghost similar to most of the general lighter clubs? It is worth noting that there is a measurable number of collectors who are simply not that adept at the internet and that unfamiliarity is an obstacle to them

visiting sites on-line. That segment of our collector world still has a lifespan worth considering in any futuristic approach to the hobby.

There is absolutely no question that the lighter world has/continues to evolve. The internet has dramatically altered the communication landscape as well as the buying/selling/trading/learning process. Ebay, among other sites is a great buying equalizer while it simultaneously dispenses with all manner of false lighter information via the seller's description. As an aside, I am amazed at how many listings of lighters are for sale on-line and the number of potential members the buyers represent. How do we tap this potential? Yet I think all of us, yourself included have benefited by having clubs that hold conventions offering the opportunity to buy/sell and compare lighter notes, physically meet, mingle and most importantly become friends. That's where the real communication and trust is built. Why meet on-line when you can surround yourself with flesh and blood aficionados and tables full of lighters?

Breaking bread and sharing festivities are crucial elements to a long-lasting relationship. Most collectors are attracted to more than one type of lighter and history has evidenced thus far (Zippo aside) that the Dunhill, Ronson, Evans, Dupont or other specialty collectors are never going to have a separate show or club. I don't envision an antique or deco lighter convention anytime soon. In years past, there were a number of regional lighter shows but they too have disappeared due to minimal attendance and excessive expenses.

I see some analogies to car collector clubs where every gearhead appreciates autos of all types and do have their unique clubs specializing in Pontiac, Corvette, VW, etc. But unlike lighters, I think the car's history has been fully documented. What keeps their clubs alive is physically meeting, working on their cars, and basking in the camaraderie built thru interaction and outings. They could easily buy a coffee table book of lavish photos, procure an owner's manual and read and see all they need to know. From that perspective, the survival of the remaining lighter clubs is paramount. Once we have posted the bulk of our knowledge and lighter photos, future posts will be as rare as the new discoveries. Humans are social animals and collecting is more enjoyable when there is a strong social aspect attached to it.

I sympathize with your viewpoint concerning the Board's presumed muted level of energy. But likewise, please empathize with them. All of them

have donated an ungodly amount of time/energy and have gone it alone to a significant degree. That is precisely why Judith Sanders is so revered by perceptive collectors. Precious few have stepped forward to lend a hand. Volunteers to aid in operating the club despite repeated entreaties are as rare as a '33 Zippo. There were obviously collectors before Judith Sanders, Richard Ball and Ron Eyerluss founded their clubs. But until then, most collectors thought they collected in a vacuum and their knowledge was scant and often incorrect. I can't think of any member who believes they derived more personal satisfaction before they learned of a club and other collectors. The knowledge base has grown because members had a home to share experiences, discoveries, lighter history and contact information. The vast majority of the lighter books were obviously based largely on independent research but there were kernels to gems of data/photos gathered from club members who also proof-read, provided geographical value comparisons and offered constructive criticism.

What happens if collectors abandon the clubs in favor of on-line conversation? I'm confident that there will continue to be a need for an organized convention or other face-to-face forum for members to bond and fondle lighters. Feedback I hear about OTLS, LCGB, and Krefeld confirm this. Sometimes I read on-line exchanges concerning some fraud or disreputable dealer being discussed among a handful of Facebook readers. How much more useful would it be to be posted in club newsletters notifying hundreds of collectors?

In the main, the collectors who now share on-line with each other originally met and connected thru the clubs. So, the challenge to serious and enthusiastic collectors like you is to take charge of an existing framework (the clubs), tap aside the pioneers (who would gladly retreat to the background) and build on what was started with new ideas. It remains to be seen if the hobby is in retreat or if it is a matter of stimulating new blood to energize it and the clubs with innovation. In any event, I'm certain the oldsters would welcome the comfort of resting on their proverbial laurels.

Respectfully,
Guy

Follow-up:

Good morning Guy, I wanted to offer a quick reply.

You are welcome to share my previous message with the board, but I'd like to clarify I did not intend the 'old dog' euphemism (?) as blatant ageism. This was a commentary on what I perceive to be dogma at the club, doing things "because that's how they've always been done". If the people involved are not enjoying what they do, I believe this sentiment radiates to the membership. Hope I've explained this better!

Dear member,

I took nothing that you wrote as defamatory or disrespectful. I agree that the "old dogs" could be more proactive in trying new things but my point is that all are tired and all the more so because we receive little reliable assistance. If the Board were to all resign, the club would fall. As mentioned, if members are unwilling to actively participate, where is the motivation to the Board? If all the energy from active collectors is now being spent on-line, what does that say about the future of the clubs?

I do disagree that we have remained static over the years. Since Judith retired, we now publish on-line; we added color. We started the Facebook page. We created a flyer template for members to add to their Ebay sales promoting the club (to little avail). It's tough with a small group of volunteer members to mount noteworthy moves quickly and without cost. Despite the drop-off in membership we reduced annual fees as an incentive to increase membership. We made modest updates to the club website (not without cost). Due to our successful efforts to reduce operating costs, we even made the convention lighter free to induce attendance. Don't forget that unlike LCGB or even PLPG (when they existed), OTLS has continued with 9 issues per year (but who knows how long that can continue) while the other clubs slowly trimmed to 4 – 6 per year. Again, another reflection of the dearth of content and help.

Kind regards,
Guy

SPOTLIGHT (Meet the Members)

By Greg Ryman

Many of you more seasoned members will recognize the name, Alice Hodges, who for years was a prolific contributor to our newsletter. She had to pause her wonderful articles as she had a more important job to do: be the primary care giver for her aging father. While our newsletters sorely miss her it is absolutely understandable that her father comes first.

Alice has been a member of OTLS for fifteen years. Her working career was first in commercial banking and then in the fuel oil industry. She claims to be semi-retired but anyone who has been a caregiver knows that she is actually still working full time. She was extremely reluctant to be interviewed (took me almost a year) as she said she no longer has the time to contribute to the newsletter and was embarrassed to be interviewed. I hope I assured her that if she never submits another article she'll have done more than 90% of our members.

Her interest in cigarette lighter collecting started when she was gifted one Christmas with a cigarette case some fifteen odd years ago. (she sure found OTLS fast!) She really liked how pretty it was and it prompted her to seek out other tobacco related items as she knew that smoking was on the way out and anything cigarette related was going to get rarer and rarer. Being a fan of second hand and thrift stores she started looking at cigarette lighters. Alice was reluctant to admit that lots of the lighters she buys 'speak to her.' Personally I find that perfectly normal as many of my lighters have big mouths and they forced me to buy them.

Alice is a fan of WWI and WW11 lighters aka trench art, however she considers herself a general collector. She collects nothing but tobacco related items. Her collection consists of cigarette cases, cigarette lighters both pocket and table, and a few ashtrays thrown in for good measure. Lately she has restricted herself to just cigarette lighters, as they are small and easy to display. Admittedly, she is drawn to delicate and fancy cigarette lighters. At the same time she is impressed with the sturdiness of lighters and how they continue to still function after 50-100 years and more. She's right as how many mechanical items still function after so many years?

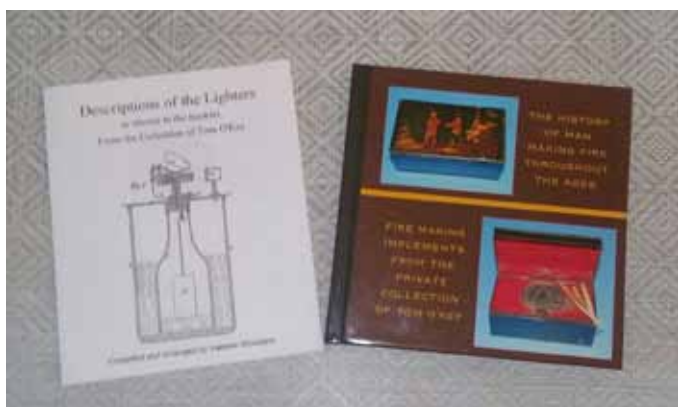
Her collection is displayed throughout her home on tables and in a legal glassed bookcase. Lately she has limited herself to mainly buying pocket cigarette lighters and has reduced her collection of ashtrays as they take up too much room. Nowadays she finds most of her lighters on the Internet (don't we all?). I asked what her best deal was and she replied it was a Dunhill dueling pistol (100% complete) for \$10.00. Her special lighter is a small and delicate lighter that she says is "eye candy," as it's hand decorated. She says the lighter she wants most is a Dunhill lift arm from the 1920's, enameled Japanese decorated Namiki. (Alice had to call me back as I had no clue what Namiki meant [now I do, duh!]).

I asked her what our newsletters are missing and she promptly replied, Zippo information. She said if she knew more about them she'd probably buy more. Do I ever agree with her. She only has a ½ dozen or so plus two different Barcrofts and I have close to 200 but know next to nothing. Unlike a growing number of our membership she is open to phone calls and emails from members about our collecting field. Alice has a noticeable southern accent (I loved it) and is very, very intelligent and just so darn nice.

Welcome New And Returning Members

Patrick Zicari
Michael Davis
Thomas McDaniel
James Beckner Jr.

CLASSIFIED ADS



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SEND ADS BY December 20, 2018.**



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Judith Sanders

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