



February 1992

This Month's
Flavors:
Cherry
Orange
Lime
Spam
Broccoli
Mystery
Great Cluster
Anchovy



All-U-Can-Eat
PEZ
Buffet

Issue Number 13...really...I'm sure this is number 13.



February/March 1992

In This Issue:



The Optimistic
PEZZIMIST
Vol. III, No. 13
February/March 1992

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About the Covers

The Optimistic PEZZIMIST is published bi-monthly (more or less ... usually less) in February, April, June, August, October and December by Mike Robertson. This publication is not affiliated in any way with PEZ Candy Inc. (their choice, not ours). Please treat your OP gently and let it outside twice a day.

The front cover is my tribute to John Held, one of my favorite artists. In the 1920s, Held's pen-and-ink drawings of the "flappers" and "sheiks" became the definitive portrait of the wacky youth of the Jazz Age. I have placed Al and Beulah in a roadside pezz-easy. On the back cover is an editorial collage by David Peters which depicts early PEZ worship during the dawn of the Gold and Silver age. Both covers were created on the mighty Macintosh, the *only* real computer.

M I K E S E Z
 S E Z **MIKE** I K E
 M I K S E Z
 S E Z **SEZ** M I K E

Greetings at long last from beautiful Dripping Springs, Texas. Betcha thought I'd forgotten you, didn't you? Naw, not a chance. We're back with another tumultuous tome of PEZ poop for your perusal and pleasure. There's lots to cover, so let's get with it.

Swelling of the ranks: Due to the People magazine story on PEZ, the Whole Pop Catalogue, other media mentions and a computer bulletin board or two, the number of subscribers has, with this issue, risen to more than 300 people! This is astounding, but it's testimony to the love for PEZ which is shared by more people than we ever thought possible.

The Home Front: We are now in our new home, although the final few weeks were trying ones indeed. Perhaps you heard news in December about the 12+ inches of rain we had in one week. And the rain didn't stop there, continuing on and off for several weeks. This not only slowed the final stages of construction to a crawl, but turned our quaint dirt road into a quagmire that made strong men weep. Finally, on January 15, we moved into the house, although there were still a few things to be finished up. Moving is such a fun process, I'm sure you'll agree, but it meant that a couple of weeks went by before I even got my computer plugged in, much less warmed up enough to churn out this issue. Now, though, most of the boxes are unpacked and the road is even drying out gradually. The view from our house is beautiful and the quiet is positively inspiring. One residual effect of the rain, though, was an interminable delay in getting our telephone installed. We were originally told it would take until March 6! It turned out to be a joint snafu twixt Ma Bell and the Electric Company regarding replacement of some poles, which was delayed because of extreme muddiness. We are now promised phone service by February 21. It has been strange not having a phone, and I'm sure I missed a whole bunch of "Where's my OP?" calls...darn. Thanks for your patience during this huge change in our lives.

The joys of publishing: Anybody ever threaten to sue you? It happened to me recently. You may remember a letter in the last issue from a subscriber who had trouble getting paid for a PEZ deal. The subject of her complaint, although not a subscriber, was alerted by some reader (thanks, whoever you are! Not!) and fired off a letter to me threatening to do :il in his power to shut down the OP while suing me for slander and defamation of character. A similar letter was sent to the author of the original letter. I have chosen to ignore the demands of this person, since I don't know, nor have I made, any judgements about him or his character. He did send the money in question to the subscriber, though. Just part of the fun of publishing OP, which also includes people threatening to alert postal authorities because they haven't received their Pocket Guide to PEZ, cancelling their subscriptions due to some complaint, and calling the editor names for taking so long to get things done. Thanks, everyone! Great to hear from you! Oops, sorry, I wasn't going to whine this issue.

Back orders: Speaking of Pocket Guides, the second printing was finally finished (a story in itself which compares to the moving episode above) and everyone should have received theirs by now. The Pocket Guide will not be offered for sale anymore, due to the presence of David Welch's book and the availability of the same info in OP: Year One. So henceforth, please do not order the Pocket Guide; they are history, officially an out-of-print collector's item.

Now that the Guides are caught up and this issue is wrapped up, those of you who are waiting for OP: Year One books are next in line and should be receiving your stuff in a couple of weeks. Also, OP: Year Two books will be ready about the same time; see the ads on pages 25-26 this issue if you need to catch up on past OP action.

Dispens-O-Rama II: We've secured a beautiful site for the 1992 Dispens-O-Rama, the convention for PEZ enthusiasts. See the centerfold for more details and clear your calendars for July 11. This year's convention will be bigger and better in every way than last year.

Baby Talk: Lindsey has just sprouted her first tooth at around 7 1/2 months. She's been sitting up alone for several weeks and looks like she's about to crawl any day. She still sleeps all night, as she has for about five months. At right is a strip of photos taken on Valentine's Day of Lindsey, Lisa and me. As you can see, we had a tough time getting the kiddo to watch the birdie.

Running Numbers: I received about six letters from hyper-observant readers who noticed that the last issue was numbered 13 on the cover and wondered why they had not received number 12. It was a typo, okay?! *This* is number 13. That misprinted cover from last issue is going to be worth thousands of dollars someday, though....suuuurrrre.

Sub stuff: In 1992, we're going to handle subscriptions a bit differently in order to simplify bookkeeping on this end. If your sub expires this issue, there will be a notice enclosed which explains that you can receive the rest of 1992's issues for \$15.00. If you expire *next* issue, it will cost \$12.00 for the rest of the year, etc. In this way, everyone's subscription will run out at the end of the year and I can keep track of all renewals at once, without having to track who runs out with each issue. New subscribers will receive all issues from this year, plus those still to come in 1992. Clear?

The final paragraph: That's all for this round. Special thanks to all who sent in such great stuff to fill out this issue. Couldn't have done it without ya!

Mike



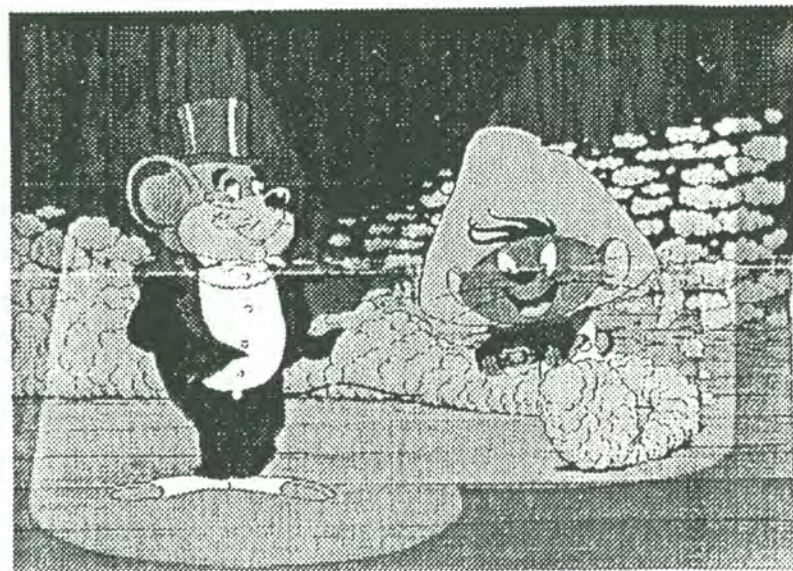
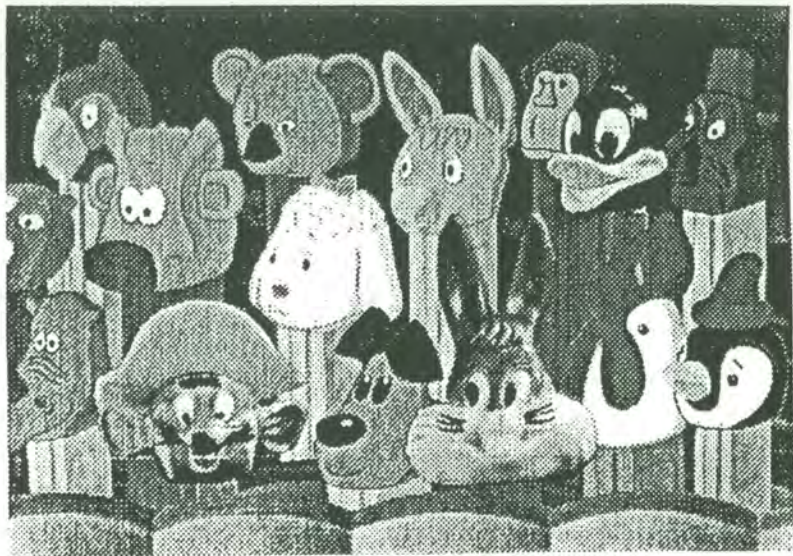
I haven't heard much PEZ news recently due to our move and being cut off from communication for awhile. Doris MacRae sent a copy of a McDonald's collectors newsletter which says, "There was word going around PEZ Candy Dispenser collectors that there was to be a Happy Meal with PEZ. It is now thought that it will not be a Happy Meal, but that PEZ/Mc candy dispensers will be coming out in retail stores. Anyone know more about this?" I certainly don't, but this was interesting to hear.

Maria Straus sends along this photo with a note: "In Austria recently, the PEZ Candy Company offered these vinyl table mats as premiums for sending in a number of PEZ candy wrappers. The mat is a heavy padded vinyl and very colorful. It measures approximately 17 1/2 inches long and 11 3/4 inches high. There doesn't seem to be any way to get one in the USA from PEZ directly. Sure wish PEZ—USA would offer premiums."



OP recently got a new subscriber from England, bringing to four the number of countries receiving this magazine. Vasco De Souza sent a letter on a beautiful four-color piece of PEZ letterhead and two pictures with a paragraph from an unnamed publication. Here's the scoop:

An audience of Pez celebs enjoys a night of magical antics in Austrian agency Haslinger Keck's animated spot for the launch of a sugar-free version of the



snap-happy Euro-sweets. However, behind the scenes, Simonetti Animation's Sergio Simonetti was the real wand-waver, conjuring up solutions to complex copyright rules. These outlaw the animation of any Disney or Warner Brothers creations used as "Pez-heads" and the use of the two companies' cartoon characters in the same frame. On the first count, Simonetti satisfied legal hawks by covering the feet of his Speedy Gonzales-alike in a constant dust-cloud, and restricting his cel-wizardry to cut-outs of Donald, Pluto, Bugs and Mickey dispensers. On the second, he devised crowd scenes in which Donald and peers, while happy to mingle with new animated friends, keep a frame's distance from an equally haughty Warner Bros. Delegation. The 20-second spot hits European TV screens in August.

Interview

with

Mr. M

by

Johann
Patek

Johann Patek, our Austrian correspondent, recently interviewed a man who played a great role in producing the dispensers we all know and love. Like all smart collectors, Johann knows how to protect his sources, so the subject of the interview is known to us only as "Mr. M."

OP: Mr. M, you are the foreman of a big plastic factory which made the PEZ dispensers until recently, when the production moved to Eastern European countries. What was your job as related to PEZ?

Mr. M: I was responsible for producing the tools (dies) and getting the production running. This means the whole process from a given 1:4 scale plaster model to the finished dispenser.

OP: Who created the plaster models?

Mr. M: At the beginning, the large scale mock-up models were created by the famous painter, Mr. Brause, who also painted all the nice PEZ lady pictures. Then a graphic designer was employed. But that was still too expensive for Haas, so they had the mock-ups made by pupils from a sculpture school. But those mock-ups were so horrible that Haas couldn't get them licensed, so at the end I made the mock-ups by myself. And I am proud because my mock-ups—like the Garfield series, Bugs Bunny and Goofy—received the license rights

quickly. [Editor's Note: For those unsure about what Mr. M means, you must secure a license to market a copyrighted character. Then you must submit a model of your product to the copyright holder for approval. If your Garfield looks more like Heathcliff, the owner will probably reject your model and send you back to the drawing board.]

OP: What was the first dispenser you created?

Mr. M: This was the Candy Shooter. I was given a 08 gun and a Walther pistol and told that I should build a plastic gun looking like the real gun, but shooting PEZ candies. I chose the Walther because it had more inside space. We had to

make changes several times during production. First, PEZ candy packs had 14 smaller candies; later they changed to 12 larger candies, so the mechanism had to be altered. The first examples were capable of shooting the candy fourteen meters, which was too dangerous, so the spring tension was altered. And then we were forbidden to produce them in black any more. Too many bank robberies were made with the PEZ gun! So we altered the color to this ugly red.

OP: Had you also made the second Space Gun?

Mr. M: Not completely. We received the prototype from the Hong Kong factory. It worked by a rubber band mechanism and I



created a plunger-type conversion to make it last longer.

OP: I have found in your dustbin a Space Gun handgrip with "Made in Hong Kong" on it. Was it from the prototype?

Mr. M: Yes, probably.

OP: What was the second dispenser made by you?

Mr. M: It was in mid-1960 when the Santa B was made. An awful lot of work for the outworkers who had to paint a lot on each one.

OP: And then?

Mr. M: Oh, then we made the PEZ tombstone—a giant high thing holding and dispensing the larger size PEZ candy packs wrapped in gold paper. I think they were very sharp. This tombstone rotated and was used in candy shops and restaurants.

OP: What dispenser was the most difficult to produce?

Mr. M: Oh, my god! Don't remind me! It was the head of the Make-A-Face dispenser. Not because there were a lot of little (but easy to produce) parts going with it, but the head itself was a masterpiece of engineering, believe me.

OP: To be honest, it looks like an orange egg with a lot of holes drilled in it. What was so difficult?

Mr. M: Oh, boy. If you look closely, you will recognize that each hole is going at a different angle. This was necessary to

get the pins of the ears, eyes and other bits into the head so they would be perpendicular to the surface. When the head is splash-molded, each insert for each hole has to be removed in a different angle to free the head from the mold. So I had to construct a very difficult mechanism to provide all these moving parts. At the end, the Make-A-Face was not a big seller and we ground the last remaining pieces only a few years ago.

OP: What did you do? (very excited)

Mr. M: Useless dispensers are ground up to get new raw materials.

OP: How many Make-A-Faces have been ground? (with tears in his eyes)

Mr. M: Not very many, maybe a few thousand. But the ears of it we kept. They were useful when we made the mixed colored feathers for the Indian Chief from them.

OP: Have you ever heard that there are human beings collecting these crazy dispensers and some of them are willing to pay a lot of money for a complete Make-A-Face?

Mr. M: Everywhere you can find a spinner!

OP: What do you think about PEZ collectors?

Mr. M: Oh, if everybody on earth would have such nice hobbies we wouldn't have any wars!

OP: Do you have any hobbies?

Mr. M: Yes, fishing and working.

OP: Working? Oh, I understand. Can you remember a very annoying story about PEZ?

Mr. M: Yes. You all know that the stem of each dispenser consists of four parts—the outer and inner case, the spring and the button. Until today, all stems are assembled by hand by outworkers. You have to calculate the costs for those people and the costs for the transport to get the stuff to and from them. So I brooded over it a lot and in my spare time I built a machine which could do the complete job. I had four large funnels, each being filled with the four components. At the other end, the finished stem fell out. Oh, I was proud of this machine and hoped that my boss could manufacture now at a fraction of the usual costs.

OP: And have you been rewarded?

Mr. M: No. Just when the machine was ready, Haas came up with the idea of putting feet on all the stems. My machine was designed to work with the footless outer cases only. The new feet made it impossible to reconstruct the machine. At the end, I converted it to a plane machine and built my furniture with it. A sad end.

OP: And now a more happy anecdote, please!

Mr. M: Oh, yes, I remember the Lamb episode. I received the drawing for the Lamb from one of the sculpture pupils. All the dimensions were there and I scaled it down by the given

ratio. The tools were made and installed and then the first Lamb came out. I fixed it to a stem and couldn't even hold it because of laughing. The designer had got the scale wrong and so the head was at least twice the size it should have been. It was so big and heavy that the dispenser was impossible to balance on a table. When my chief saw it, he started laughing, too, despite the wasted tool building. Eventually we had to make a new tool, but you know I love my work.

OP: Are you sad now that you are no more involved in PEZ?

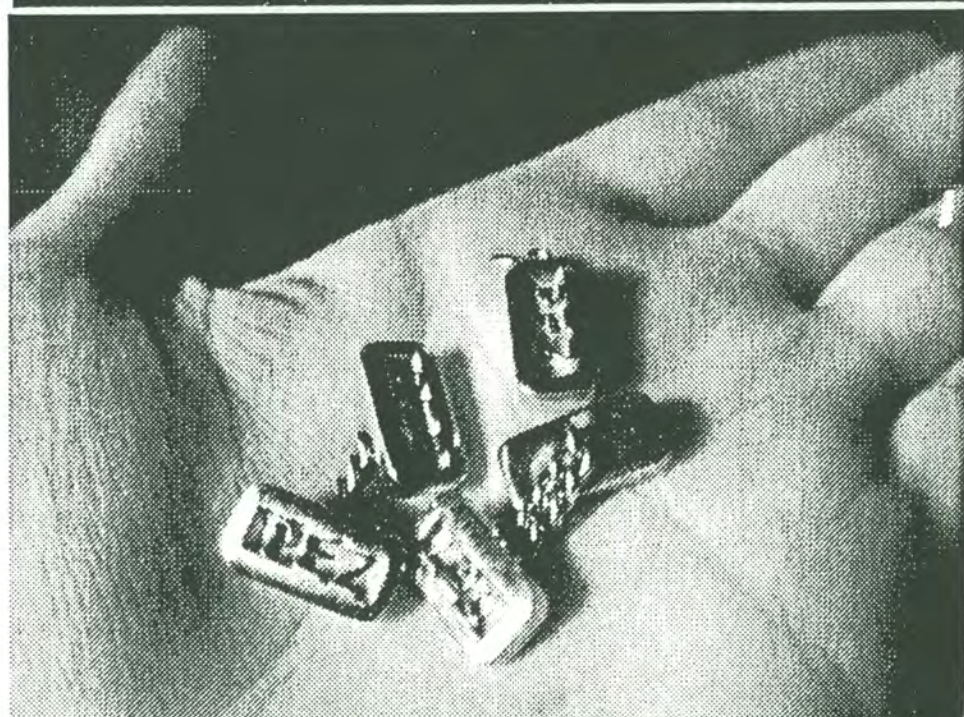
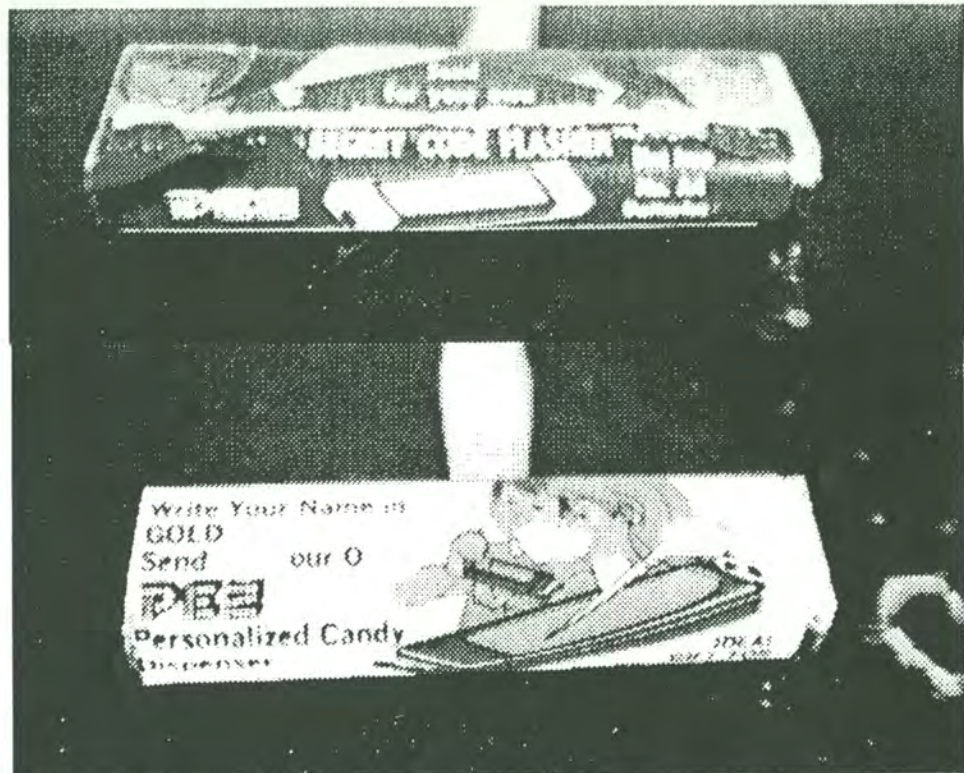
Mr. M: Yes, I am sad. It was a very hard time with more overtime than work time, but I had a lot of challenges and fun.

OP: Mr. M, I want to thank you very much for this interview on behalf of many PEZ-collecting PEZaholics. Thank you!



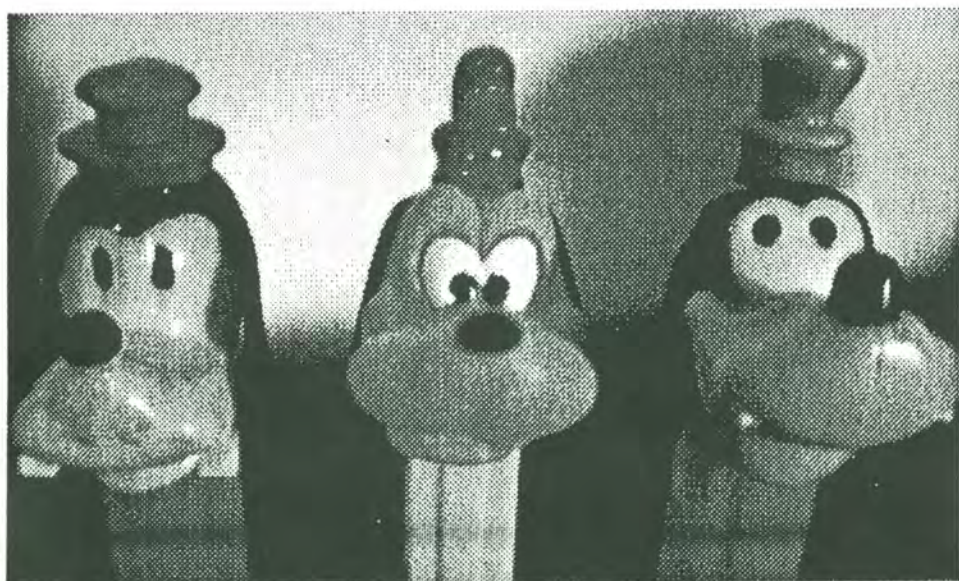
This issue's collection of cool finds begins with the PEZ shoulder bag shown below, from the collection of Johann Patek

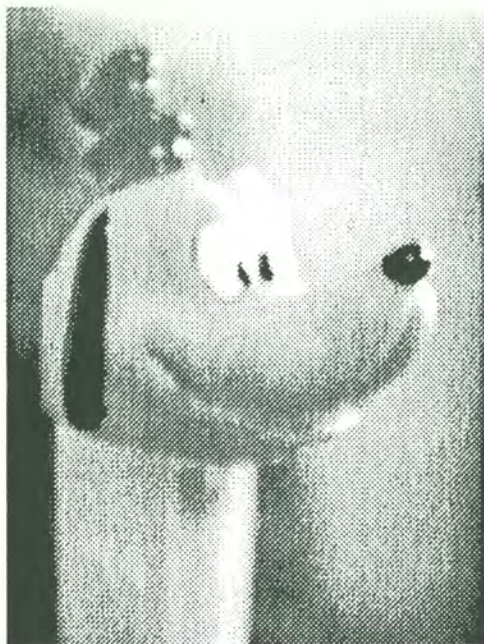






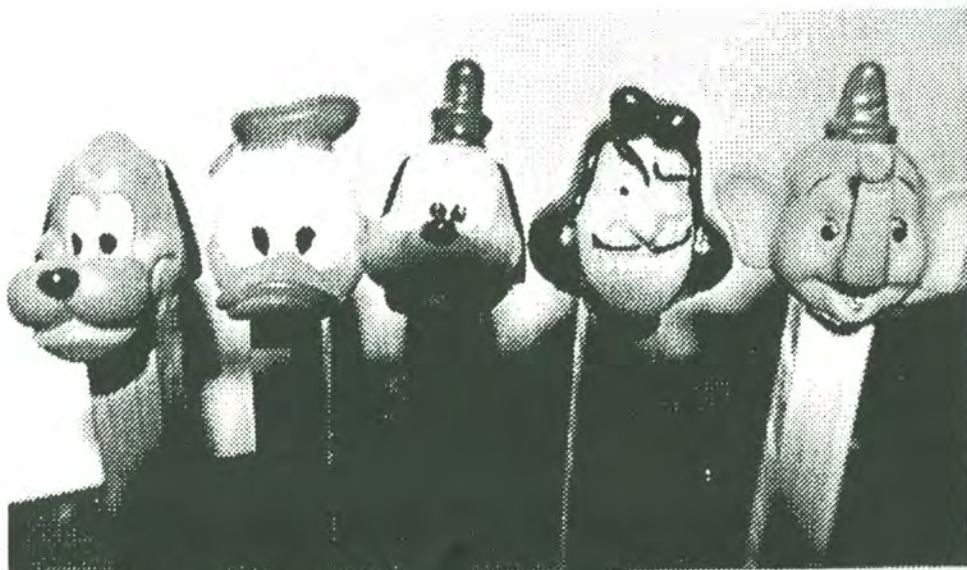
Last summer, we were all atwitter over the discovery of the Pluto and Donald rubber-head prototypes. Now, Gordon Simpson shares some more soft-heads that didn't make it. Above, left to right, are a Goofy, Captain Hook and Dumbo. The Dumbo's trunk is longer and goes up higher than does the one we all have in our collections, which probably would have meant a higher percentage of breakage. Below is a comparison shot of the original Goofy, the soft-head prototype and the 1989 remake.





At left is a closer look at the alleged Goofy soft-head. If you read the interview with Mr. M in this issue, you will learn that licensed character dispensers are sometimes rejected by the copyright holder if they do not satisfy the standards of the owners. I'd be willing to bet that the Disney people vetoed this design, since it looks mostly like the union of some unholy alliance between Goofy and Pluto. Without the hat, it would definitely be Pluto, but instead it is consigned to the ash heap of history. (Ah, the poetry of OP!)

Below is a look at five soft-head Disney prototypes: Pluto, Donald Duck, Goofy, Captain Hook and Dumbo. Why were these never produced for the marketplace? We can only speculate?



Sometimes I'm not given great photos to work with, but when the item pictured is unusual enough, I run 'em anyway! At right is a pic from Gordon Simpson. In the center is the Witch Regular. Or, the right is an all-black Regular with a different thumb-grip on top. My fave is on the left, though—a Regular made from clear, colorless plastic. While I've seen transparent Regulars before, they have always had some color to them. Not this one.



The dark shot at left shows a feature from an early PEZ prototype that was discontinued before mass production began. It has a small sliding button which is used to lock the top of the dispenser! Another great find by Johann Patek.

C O L O R COMMENTARY

BY
JOHN
LASPINA

John LaSpina has been compiling a list of known color variations. In this issue, we begin sharing his findings with you.

Arithmetic	blue dispenser/white cap tan dispenser/white cap red dispenser/white cap green dispenser/white cap
Astronaut 1	silver helmet white helmet blue helmet
Astronaut 2	aqua helmet white helmet
Baloo	bluish grey face royal blue face yellow head
Barney Bear	brown face white face
Batman (hard)	medium blue head/ DC Comics Inc. dark blue hood/Nat'l Periodical Pubs Inc. blue hood, black mask
Boy	black hood blonde hair brunette hair white hair
Boy with Hat	blonde hair/blue hat brunette hair/blue hat white hair/blue hat blonde hair/red hat white hair/red hat no hair/blue hat
Bugs Bunny	dark grey and white face light grey and white face
Bullwinkle	light brown dispenser base yellow dispenser base
Candy Shooter	orange/white grip red/white grip black/brown grip
Captain	flesh face Club Med face
Captain America	blue visor black visor

Cat with Derby	red face/yellow mouth/black hat black face/pink mouth/red hat black face/pink mouth/orange hat orange face/yellow mouth/blue hat yellow face/black mouth/red transparent hat	Cocoa Marsh	clear helmet/light blue dispenser base clear helmet/navy blue dispenser base clear helmet/blue metallic dispenser base blue transparent helmet/blue metallic dispenser base
Casper Die-Cut	white dispenser base light yellow dispenser base blue dispenser base grey dispenser base	Cool Cat	orange face/blue mouth pink face/blue mouth
Chick-in-Egg	purple egg dark purple egg orange egg red egg green egg blue egg light blue egg	Cow A	light yellow face/red nose golden yellow face/red nose blue face/yellow nose powder blue face/yellow nose dark green face/orange nose light orange face/red nose pale brown face/red nose butterscotch face/orange nose
Chick w/o hat	light blue pink orange purple	Cow B	dark blue face/golden yellow horns/pink mouth dark blue face/blue horns/pink mouth medium blue face/golden yellow horns/pink mouth orange face/blue horns/red mouth green face/golden yellow horns/red mouth
Chip	pink face rust brown/orange face		
Clown/Long Face	All combinations of red, green, yellow, orange: nose, hat and hair		
Cockatoo	yellow face/red beak blue face/yellow beak blue face/red beak green face/yellow beak green face/red beak green face/orange beak red face/yellow beak		

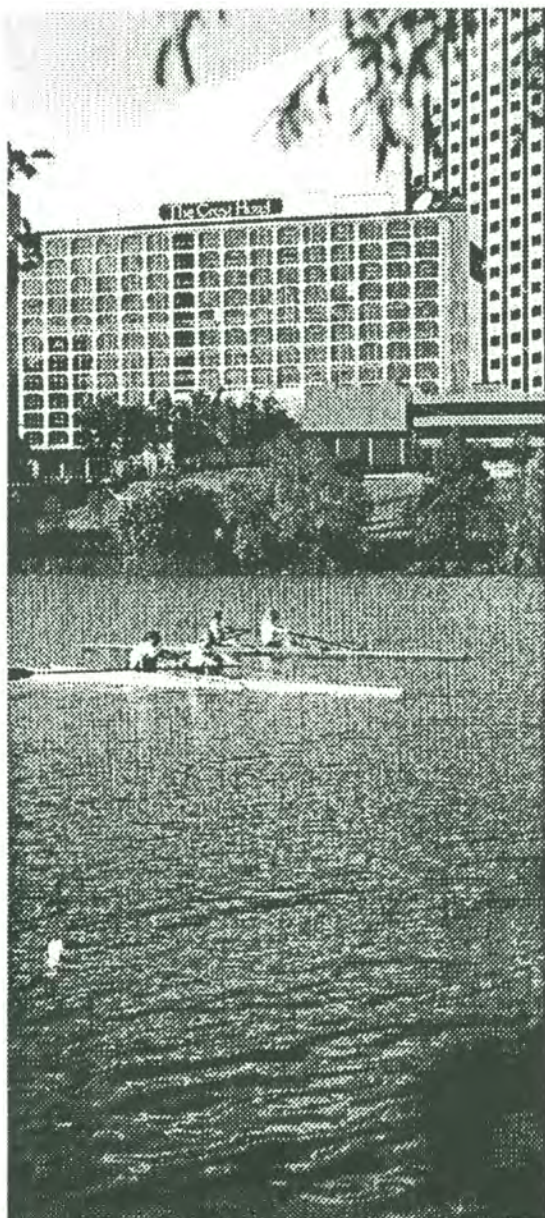
	golden yellow face/ blue horns/red mouth	Easter Bunny (Remake A)	hot pink pink ivory yellow
Cowboy	flesh face Club Med face	Elephant	orange head/blue pointy hat orange head/blue flat hat aqua head/red pointy hat aqua head/red flat hat yellow head/green pointy hat yellow head/green flat hat yellow head/green hair yellow head/red hair green head/red flat hat green head/reddish brown hair pink head/red flat hat butterscotch head/ blue pointy hat grey head/red hair black green
Crocodile	light green dark green		white helmet/red stripe (tape) white helmet/blue stripe (tape) red helmet/white stripe (tape) blue helmet/white stripe (tape) blue helmet/white stripe (plastic)
Daffy Duck	painted eyes plastic eyes		blonde hair yellow hair white hair cream hair w/tan face
Dalmation Pup	white head cream head		
Dog	orange face green face		
Duck Child	big blue eyes/green hat big blue eyes/blue hat big blue eyes/red hat small blue eyes/ green hat small blue eyes/ blue hat black eyes/blue hat black eyes/green hat		
Duck w/Flower	white face/red lips/blue flower green face/yellow lips/red flower dark green face/red lips/blue flower dark green face/ yellow lips/red flower yellow face/red lips/white flower orange face/yellow lips/white flower	Fishman	
Dumbo	blue face/yellow hat grey face/red hat	Football Player	
Easter Bunny (original)	buck tooth/ no details details painted details fat cheeks		

(To be continued...)

DISPENS-O-RAMA



The National Convention for PEZ Collectors • July 11, 1992 The Crest Hotel • Austin, Texas



Make your plans now to attend the second national gathering of PEZ enthusiasts in beautiful Austin, the capitol of Texas.

The site for this year's Dispens-O-Rama is the Crest Hotel on Town Lake—in the heart of downtown Austin. The Crest has recently undergone a multi-million dollar renovation. All 283 rooms and suites, as well as meeting and banquet facilities were completely remodeled from top to bottom.

The beautiful 18.5 mile Hike and Bike trail around Town Lake is just outside the back door. In addition, the Crest has a fully-equipped exercise room and full-size outdoor pool. Only five blocks away, the famous "6th Street Entertainment District" offers the widest variety of live music, dancing, comedy and dining available anywhere.

We have secured a special rate for the Dispens-O-Rama of \$55.00 per room (single or double occupancy) or \$65.00 per room (triple or quad occupancy).

What happens at Dispens-O-Rama?

First of all, you'll see more PEZ than you ever dreamed of! Thousands of PEZ items will be available for viewing, buying and trading. You'll meet other collectors from all over the United States who share your interest in PEZ. A giant dealer room will be open Saturday, July 11, from 9:00-5:00 for shopping and swapping. At 7:00 p.m. a buffet/auction will be held in one of the ballrooms, featuring all you can eat and exciting PEZ items up for bid. As a registered attendant at the convention, you'll receive a "goodie bag" containing a commemorative T-shirt, buttons, and other cool items which are sure to be sought after in coming years (The bag itself will be a special one in which you can carry all your great finds). Unlike last year, you can pick up your goodies upon check-in on Friday.

How do I register?

It's a two-step process. First, make your hotel reservations at the Crest by calling toll-free 1-800-456-5253. Tell them you're with the Dispens-O-Rama to get the reduced rate. Then, send in your registration to Mike Robertson before June 15, 1992. Registration cost is \$20.00 per person and includes admission to the dealer room, T-shirt and other goodies. Please include your T-shirt size with your registration.

Optional Fees:

If you want to have a table in the dealer room to sell your PEZ stuff, send \$20.00 per table. This will give you guaranteed space and you can get into the room any time after 7:30 a.m. on Saturday to set up before the crowd gets in at 9:00.

To attend the Banquet/Auction on Saturday, tickets are \$25.00 per person. This cost includes the Texas Barbecue Buffet and the big PEZ auction. *Only banquet attendees will be able to attend and bid in the auction.* This will be a great time of socializing and a fine wrap-up to the convention.

Other info:

The Crest offers courtesy transportation from the airport. We suggest you come to Austin *before* Saturday. If you weren't in the hotel on Friday night at last year's convention, you missed half the fun—the room-to-room rambling and trading. There will be more info in the next OP, but we suggest you make your reservations as quickly as possible. The Dispens-O-Rama only happens ONCE a year!

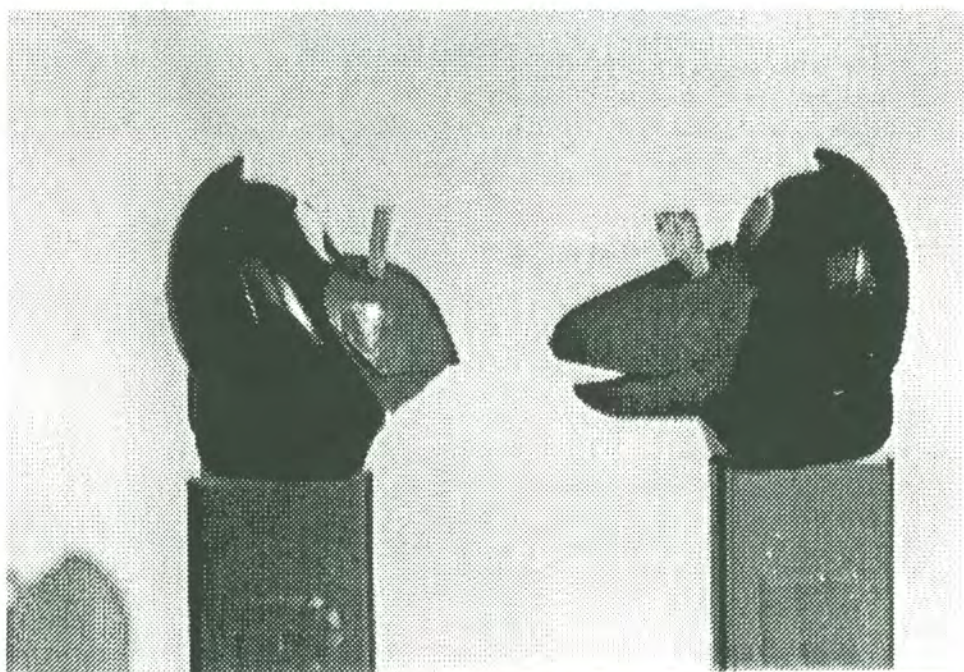
See page 27 for a registration blank you can copy and send in.

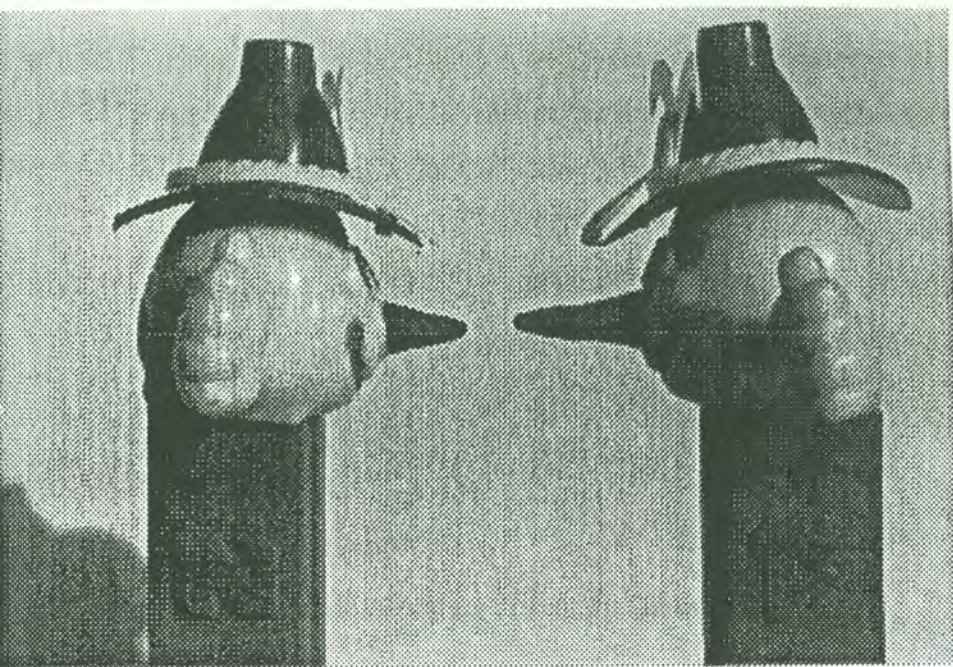
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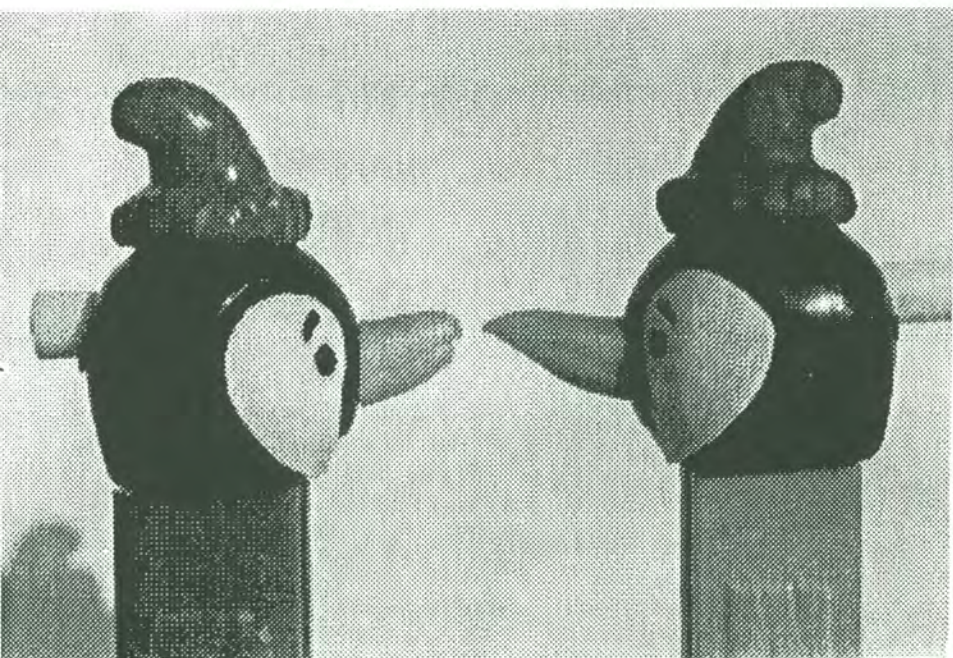
PEZ

Who would ever have dreamed that so many PEZ prototypes would turn up? One would think they were destroyed or lost once a design went into production, but they are being found with increasing frequency, both in Europe and the US. Johann Patek contributes this series of photos showing some of the changes a head may go through between the first concept and the finished product. Below are two Ravens; the one on the left is the marketed head, while the one on the right is an earlier idea which was refined via a nose job.





The Olympic Snowman (above) and the Penguin whistle (below) also sport probosci of varying sizes.



Happy New Year and many thanks to everyone who bought PEZ from the list I mailed out. I will pay unreasonable amounts for: Mary Poppins, Olympic Wolves, Hippo, Müeslix, Make-a-Face or any other strange dispenser or prototype. I also need costume #4, stickers: Daniel Doon, Captain, Pony, Cow, Raven, Puzzy cat, lots of Totems, Yummies and the Habaya Juice Monsters.

Gordon Simpson
558 West 113 St., Apt. 1A
New York, NY 10025
212-662-4554.
Call anytime.

New PEZ things for sale:

Groom (mint in package)—\$185

Mickey Die-Cut—\$75

Balloon Party Pack—BEST OFFER

Spiderman Mask—BEST OFFER

4 T-Shirts made by PEZ company. Front says, "A treat to eat in a puppet that's neat" and the back says, "I've got PEZzazzz." (PEZ is written in distinctive candy block letters). 2 kids size medium in baby blue. 2 adult size medium in white—BEST OFFERS.

Twin pack of pepper mint candy with 2 premium ads on the candy wrappers: one for the secret code flasher, one for personalized dispenser with gold lettering. Both have great illustrations (see photos in this issue)—BEST OFFER

Power of Popeye PEZ

by Maryann Kennedy

On Wednesday, November 27, the PEZ People magazine hit the news stands. That same Wednesday night, the phone rang at the Kennedy household. It was "Judy" from San Antonio, Texas. Judy had a major problem. She was taking part in a scavenger hunt contest and needed a Popeye PEZ dispenser. She had called PEZ and they had informed her that they quit making him a couple years ago. (When did they stop making him?) What to do??? Then she saw the article in People, called information and called Minnesota.

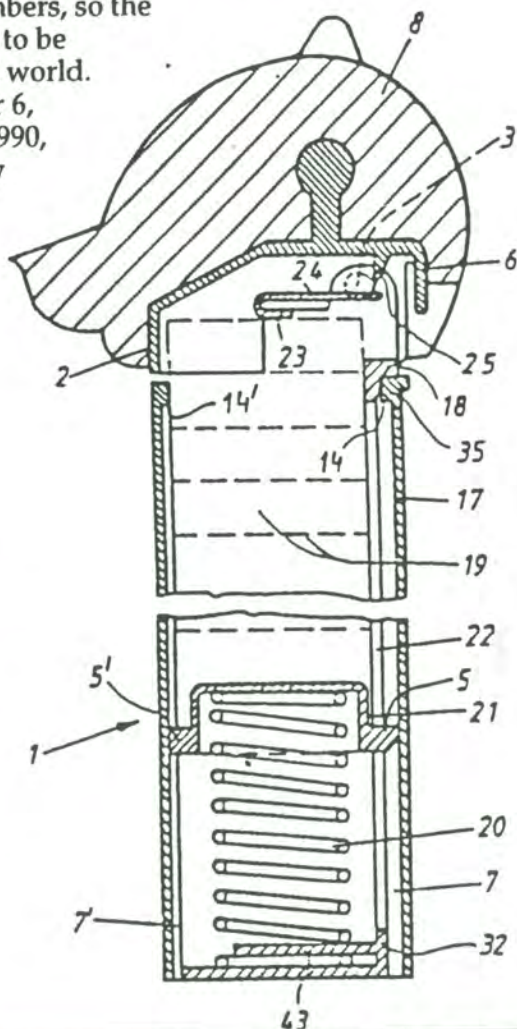
After explaining her situation and the fact that she wasn't a PEZ collector, and that she really only wanted to borrow a Popeye for a short period, and after a follow-up call Saturday, we came to the conclusion that Popeye would be safe with Judy in Texas. Monday morning, Paul went down to the Post Office and Popeye was on his way. Judy called Thursday night wondering frantically if we had changed our mind as Popeye hadn't arrived and the contest was Sunday afternoon. I thought, "Oh, no—Uncle Sam lost him." I told her he was mailed first class and insured so the next day her husband called the Post Office and there he was—just sitting there. So he hopped in his auto and went down to the Post Office and retrieved Popeye.

We checked on Saturday with Judy and were really happy that Popeye was safe. Now the day arrived—Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. Contest Time. The Winner: "Judy!" There were lots of difficult items on that scavenger list for this contest, but Judy was the only entrant with a Popeye PEZ dispenser. The prize? A brand new van and telephone! Hats off to the persuasive power of Popeye PEZ (and congratulation to Judy—maybe she will become a PEZ collector).

Pretty exciting—don't you think?

Patently Absurd

Most collectors were caught by surprise when a new patent number began showing up on PEZ dispensers last fall. There had been four previous numbers, so the new patent—4,966,305—has come to be known as "Series Five" in the PEZ world. The patent was filed on September 6, 1988 and granted on October 30, 1990, but is only now beginning to show up in stores. Dave Meskers graciously sent me a copy of the new patent. Perusal of the mind-numbing prose in this document reveals that the main reason for a redesign was to increase safety. Specifically, the new patent covers a device to prevent the inner spring of the dispenser from popping out and causing injury when the dispenser is "improperly used." The document reveals that the inventor of this innovation is one Ignaz Hinterreiter from St. Valentin, Austria, while the patent itself is assigned to Centromint Company Establishment in Vaduz, Liechtenstein. Now you, too, can be safe while improperly using your PEZ dispensers!



If You Just Tuned In...

OP~YEAR ONE & OP~YEAR TWO

Bound volumes of the first twelve issues of the Optimistic PEZZIMIST are now available! Year One features issues 1-6, the trend-setting first year's worth of the only PEZ magazine in the world and includes tons of cool info, including the history of the Haas family, secrets of the PEZ patents and the Ultimate Guide to PEZ. Year Two (issues 7-12) contains all the 1991 OPs, with plenty of rare photos, news of the first PEZ convention, and mucho more.

Each volume is spiral bound with a new cover. This is the *only* way to get early issues of OP—the originals are long out of print. Each volume is \$18.00, postpaid.

Please send me:

OP—Year One (Issues 1-6) \$18.00

OP—Year Two (Issues 7-12) \$18.00

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order payable to Mike Robertson and send to:

Mike Robertson
P.O. Box 606
Dripping Springs, TX 78620



Dear Mike:

First: I want to send you about a million words of encouragement and gratitude, because you're doing a great job with OP, and for the hobby of PEZ collecting in general. Please keep it up!!!

Second: if you collectors have a complaint or suggestion for Mike, be honest enough to tell him directly, instead of feeding the insatiable PEZ gossip mill. I firmly believe Mike has only PEZ's best interests at heart, and would love for all of us to be happy as thieves in the Austrian PEZ factory. If you tell him constructively what needs fixing, I'll bet he'll be glad to fix it!

It's real easy to sit back and criticize someone like Mike when things aren't done quite the way you might—but the important thing is that Mike is doing it, it's a labor of love, and not without significant cost to his personal and family time. Most of you veteran collectors were probably in the same boat I was before OP—lonely collectors with few, if any, contacts with other collectors, and no clear idea of the real range of available dispensers and paraphernalia.

Since OP, I have added more than 70 new dispensers to my collection, all trades or buys, directly attributable to the pages of OP. I know exactly which ones I lack, and have a good idea of going prices and trends. I've also met, at the convention and through mail and phone, many wonderful PEZ enthusiasts. So try to imagine our world without OP—it would be like the PEZ Dark Ages all over again! Somebody else might pick up the slack, but few people would take the time to make a newsletter as editorially and graphically appealing as Mike has always done. Just take a look at back issues of *Old Variety Store*—although that was full of good info, and is a direct forebear of OP (thanks, Steve Powers!), you'll have to admit its looks and appeal pale compared to OP's sophisticated graphic style.

And Mike, with big help from PEZ Dog Richard "Taco" Geary, was instrumental in getting a convention going—and while it wasn't a perfect affair, Mike and all of us learned a lot, and I'm certain that the Austin convention will be smoother and better than ever.

So, PEZ collectors, let's count our blessings for the great things we've got, and let's help Mike with ideas, articles and constructive comments.

Your PEZ Pal,
John "Pezzyboy" McClung
Torrance, California

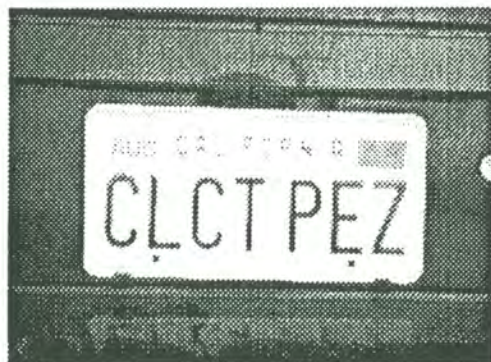
Thanks for the kind words, John. I occasionally hear from an OP subscriber who has experience publishing a newsletter or fanzine and they are perhaps the only ones who can understand the perils of publishing. *Factsheet Five*, the periodical which convinced me to start a zine, was recently killed off by its publisher, Mike Gunderloy. It has been revived by another group of people, but it is not the same.

Dear Mr. Robertson,

Oh, how happy you have made me! As a "freshman" PEZ head I never knew that there were so many PEZ, let alone someone publishing a newsletter. Please, oh, please accept my contribution to your newsletter and let everyone know you have a new member!

A friend of mine who actually toured the PEZ factory in Connecticut got me started about a year and a half ago. I now have over 60 PEZ and am going strong. Please rush me my first edition of your newsletter and keep 'em comin'. If there's anything I can do for you on the West Coast please let me know. Enclosed find my license plate. Gotta love it!

Suzanne Austin
San Diego, California



Suzanne, I looked in the envelope several times for your license plate, but all I found was a photograph of it. Has anyone ever followed you and offered you PEZ because of it?

Dear Mike,

How's things out in Dripping Springs? Hope PEZ have been easier to find by you than by me! Lots of competition and insane prices these days. What do you think of Obelix going for \$1,000? Kind of a shame really; tends to put the last few I need out of reach for a "working man" like me, how 'bout you? Well, enough moaning and groaning. I guess it works to our benefit also by increasing the value of our collections, but that's not the reason I got into this hobby and it's kind of taken most of the fun out of it for me.

Take care,
Norm Hunt
Clifton, New Jersey

I know what you mean, Norm. I got real depressed for awhile over the way prices were going, but I don't know any way to reverse the trend. It's easy to say I won't pay more than X amount for a dispenser, but it does no good when there are a dozen collectors out there who will seemingly pay *any* price for a dispenser they don't have. The same thing has happened in so many fields, like comics, records, lunchboxes, toys, etc. But we don't seem to learn anything from our mistakes.

Dear Mike:

Say it ain't so! Bulk mail—argh!

I've been experiencing some severe difficulties getting bulk mail delivered around here at all. In past years it has been fine, but this year has been incredibly frustrating and the recent incident at the Royal Oak Post Office has just exacerbated the situation.

I will keep you posted on when the OP arrives. I hope that the recent personnel changes will help.

I understand your feelings—completely—about the current state of PEZ collecting. That was the same situation I was experiencing with my horses—and the reason why I started with PEZ. I just keep reminding myself that there are only a very few collectors willing to pay more than \$250 for any dispenser, and the few do not represent the many. Outside of my commentary on the bulk mail thing, you won't hear a complaint from me, because of all my hobbies and of all the hobbies I have had, PEZ is the most fun.

Andrea Gurdon

Well, Andrea, as you can see, the bulk mail thing has not materialized as yet, so this issue is still riding the first-class rails. 75¢ per piece still seems like an awful lot to me, but...

Hi!

Just a short note from a little kid.

I agree, Mike, the price of PEZ is out of hand. I can't fold enough clothes or dry enough dishes in my life time to afford some of the old or rare PEZ! So, I have decided to just "keep the faith" and keep looking for good buys and to be sure that I buy all of the current PEZ on the market.

So, Mike, would you consider a column in your OP that lists the PEZ that are currently on the market place in Canada? I have a friend in Canada now, but I have no way of knowing what new PEZ are on his market!

Oh, found a display of Christmas PEZ in Colorado Springs. Same old Santa, but the Snowman is different—he is bigger and his hat doesn't have a seam down the front.

Thanks for putting up with me for two years! Looking forward to lots more years of PEZzing and OPing.

Callee Jo Smith
Pueblo, Colorado

P.S. A note from grandma. Callee has a new PEZ, put up for a gift. I bought it from Jodi Clark in Oregon. It is a Snowman with a smooth mouth (all of the "dots" connected). Also, thanks for the words of encouragement. My store is great, and most of all it is FUN!

I would consider almost any kind of column for OP. All I need is someone to volunteer to write it! I don't have any special contacts in Canada (or anywhere else, for that matter), so I don't personally know what is available there at any given time. All the news that gets printed in OP is either sent to me or phoned in; I don't have the time to do much research anymore.

Mike,
Your Pocket Guide describes the Indian Brave as a 2-piece PEZ with painted black hair (hair *not* a separate piece). The Brave I have is 3 pieces—black hair—*not painted*—flesh face plate piece and the third piece is the band and feather. Are there two different Indians? Please let me know!

Thanks,
Betty Nimitz

Betty, this is what we in the printing business call a "mistake." At the time the Guide was written, I did not have a Brave in my collection, so I called another collector for a description. The collector described the Brave dispenser from memory and mis-remembered it as having painted hair. So, sorry to burst any bubbles, but all Braves should be three pieces, not two.

Dear Mike,
One of my projects for the school holiday was to write you. I know this past year has brought many major changes in your life—a new child, a new house, a new job—and if that wasn't enough, a second year of OP!

This letter is first and foremost a THANK YOU letter. THANK YOU for sticking with OP in the face of what, I know, was a very hectic (and thankless) year. This might help to keep things in perspective: right after I've worked very hard on a theatre project and the criticism starts rolling in I say to myself, "**** 'em if they can't take a joke." I remind myself of what the playwright George S. Kaufman once remarked after one of his plays opened and the criticism started rolling in from all corners (I paraphrase): "I think the phone books in this country should be changed to list all Americans' *two* occupations: 'George Smith, plumber and critic. Sam Diamond, doctor and critic. Gloria O'Connell, clerk and critic. Bob Kelly, salesman and critic."

So again—thank you for two great years and a healthy and happy new year for you and yours!

Two ideas for the third year of OP that might make planning the year's issues, and therefore filling the pages, easier (or it might make it harder, I'm not sure). First, I subscribe to a number of specialized magazines that devote a major section of an issue to a member directory (an alphabetical and by state listing of subscribers). The directory is great for communication—visiting others, buying selling, trading, and general communication. Anyone who does not wish to be listed is asked to check this info on a subscription blank or by writing the editor. What do you think of this idea?

Second, I strongly recommend a yearly updating of The Ultimate Guide to PEZ (OP May 1990). I use this guide constantly and I know from the questions that you and I both receive from new collectors/subscribers that we are asked the same questions over and over. This update could be a yearly feature. It could be a compilation of all the new PEZ info featured during the past year (new dis-

P E Z Z A N T
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For Sale or Trade: Advanced collector selling off large amount of duplicates or will trade for? Send a SASE to Craig Robbins; 22262 Craggyview Street; Chatsworth, CA 91311.

PEZ Wanted—Bullwinkle, Casper Die-Cut, Snow White, Bozo (you know who you are!). Have some PEZ to trade or will use more conventional forms of payment/barter, cash, livestock, 4th generation family farm or a baby's arm holding an apple. Contact David Peters; 2141 Walnut Ave.; Venice, CA 90291. Telephone (310) 390-3528. No Republican fund raisers, please.

Greetings, PEZ Pals! For sale or trade: Candy shooter gun, orange and white, \$225. Softhead Batgirl, \$30. Pirate, \$25. Pinocchio B, \$25. The following footless PEZ are mint in cellophane bags: Softhead Batgirl, \$35. Capt. America, \$20. Hulk, dark green, \$15. Also have a few pairs of Hello Kitties left (see ad in OP #12), \$15/pair MIP. For trades, I need Knight, Sheriff, Sailor, Wolfman, Frankenstein, Indian Brave & Squaw, Betsy Ross, Pilgrim, Daniel Boone, Football Player, Peter Pan, Snow White, orig. Mickey Mouse, Mary Poppins, Tinkerbelle, Santas A & B, pearly green Creature B. Lagoon, Olive Oyl, 50's gun, all Olympics, both Psychedelics. John McClung, 310/518-3734.

PEZ (5 & 6 rarity level) Wanted: Still missing 25. Please write or call today. Joe & Jason Wilcoxon; 3007 Bluffs Drive; Largo, FL 34640. 813-584-2333.

PEZ advertising, display items (including header cards, boxes), enclosures, premiums, ad sheets, color variations and any unusual dispensers wanted. Anything PEZ. Call or write. Thanks. Happy PEZzing. Maryann Kennedy; 409 N. 5th St.; Marshall, MN 56258. 507-532-6926.

Auction! PEZ from Germany. All have feet. Black Batman MIB, Black Batman loose, Pluto in bag with stand, Goofy in bag with stand, Donald Duck in bag with stand, Scrooge McDuck in bag with stand, Speedy Gonzales loose. Auction ends Sunday, March 22. Please, no calls after 10 PM CDT. Call Matt (214) 647-0999.

Wanted: Baseball Glove, Bullwinkle, Bozo, Batman w/cape, Bride, Cow B, Diabolic, Dopey, Easter Bunny original and Die-Cut, Groom, Mickey Die-Cut, Indian Brave, Sailor, Orange, Fishman, Witch Regular and 1-piece, etc. My best to all in 1992. Melody Clark; 1004 SW Washington St.; Albany, OR 97321. (503) 926-9270.

Angel—\$10, Uncle Sam—\$30, Monkey Sailor—\$15, Elephant w/flat top hat—\$15, Astronaut—\$50, Mexican Boy (missing

moustache)—\$8. Plus postage. Pam Koonse; 6 Valley View Drive; Washington, PA 15301.

Pezazz Photo invites you to send LSASE to receive a FREE sample full-color 4x6 PEZ photo and our NEW 1992 order form. Send your trade/want/sell list along, too! Jill Russell; 3103 Lincoln Avenue; Alameda, CA 94501.

PEZ costumes for trade: B10 and B8. Will trade for: A3, A7, A11, B1, B2, B3, B5, B7, B8, B9 or B12. Elton & Shirley Garber; 7500 Glenwood Drive; Conneaut, OH 44030. 216-224-1680.

Ten Pack of mint PEZ only \$10 postpaid. Pack includes Fozzie, Mickey, Kermit, Bugs, Gonzo, Chick-in-Green Shell, and two each of 1990 Bunny and Lamb. We also have PEZ Halloween bags from White Castle restaurant for \$6 postpaid. Thanks to all who trade with us. David Straus; 4456 Hill; Swartz Creek, MI 48473.

Rhino PEZ whistle—only \$6 postpaid. We also have many other non-USA PEZ very reasonable. We are very glad to make trades. We will trade three whistles face PEZ for one Pony. Maria Straus; 4456 Hill; Swartz Creek, MI 48473. Phone 313-655-4075.

For sale—First printing (six copies) Pocket Guide to PEZ. \$7 each, includes postage. Craig Clark; Greengate Garden Apt. D-14; Greensburg, PA 15601-2028.

Have Thor; need his wings. New 1991 Skulls—\$3.00 each. Callee Jo Smith; 38 Calhoun; Pueblo, CO 81001.

For Sale or Trade (No Feet): Santa Claus C, sealed—\$5; Snowman, sealed—\$8.00; Chick-in-Egg (purple), sealed—\$10.00; Lamb, sealed—\$5.00; Rabbit (fat ears), sealed—\$5.00. Send list for sale or trade. Bernie Schroeder; P.O. Box 164; Walden, NY 12586.

For Sale: Japanese PEZ wanna-be's called Kabaya. Have 15 available MIP \$5.00 each + \$1.00 postage. Paul Bullard; 255 Kinsey Ave.; Kenmore, NY 14217 (716) 877-3823.

Thanks to the collectors who responded to my plea for PEZ anecdotes for a magazine article! I'm still looking for letters on topics such as: What was your luckiest/weirdest/most fabulous find? What's your favorite PEZ memory? What is it about PEZ that drives you to collect them? Please send to

Brenda Thompson, 1520-A Enfield Road; Austin, TX 78703. I promise to send everybody who responds copies of the two PEZ articles I've had published so far.

Wanted: Non-US Charlie Brown variations, Dalmation Pup, Petunia Pig (with or without feet), Licensed Thumper, all B series trucks and A series Truck #16. Thanks! Jim Kilgour; 6 Tower St.; Red Hook, NY 12571. (914) 759-9144.

Costumes from Spain—mint in package—with Disney character PEZ dispensers. \$15.00 each. Also PEZ from Israel, \$5.00 each. Charlene Henig; 19500 NE 22 Avenue; North Miami Beach, FL 33180. (305) 931-6445.

Wanted—many PEZ for my collection. Please send me your price lists. I am interested in buying the Pony, Raven, Zoo animals and many more. Jane Goldman; 113 Granby Pl. W; Westerville, OH 43081. 1-614-890-0377.

I have for trade (plus cash, if needed) Muppets, Snoopy and Disney header cards, and the following dispensers: Peter PEZ, Raven, Policeman, Fireman (in dispenser box), Captain Hook, Pony (orange head), Elephant (round cap) and Duck whistle. Call or send your trade list. Phillip Rayher; 682 Rosal Ave., Oakland, CA 94610. (510) 763-3267.



ADVERTISING RATES

All OP subscribers are entitled and encouraged to use their FREE 50-word classified ad in each issue.

Larger, professionally typeset display ads are also available at a cost of \$20.00 per page. Half-page ads are \$12.50. Payment must accompany your ad.

Ads received after the deadline are not guaranteed to be in the next issue. The deadline for Issue 14 is March 23—right around the corner—so hurry if you want an ad in next issue.

SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Subscriptions to OP are \$18.00 per year and include all six issues from the calendar year. In other words, new subscriptions in the coming months will receive #13-18, regardless of when they subscribe. Renewals of current subscriptions will be for remaining issues in this calendar year. If your subscription is expiring, you will receive a notice regarding your renewal cost.

Send all ads and orders to:

Mike Robertson
P.O. Box 606
Dripping Springs, TX 78620