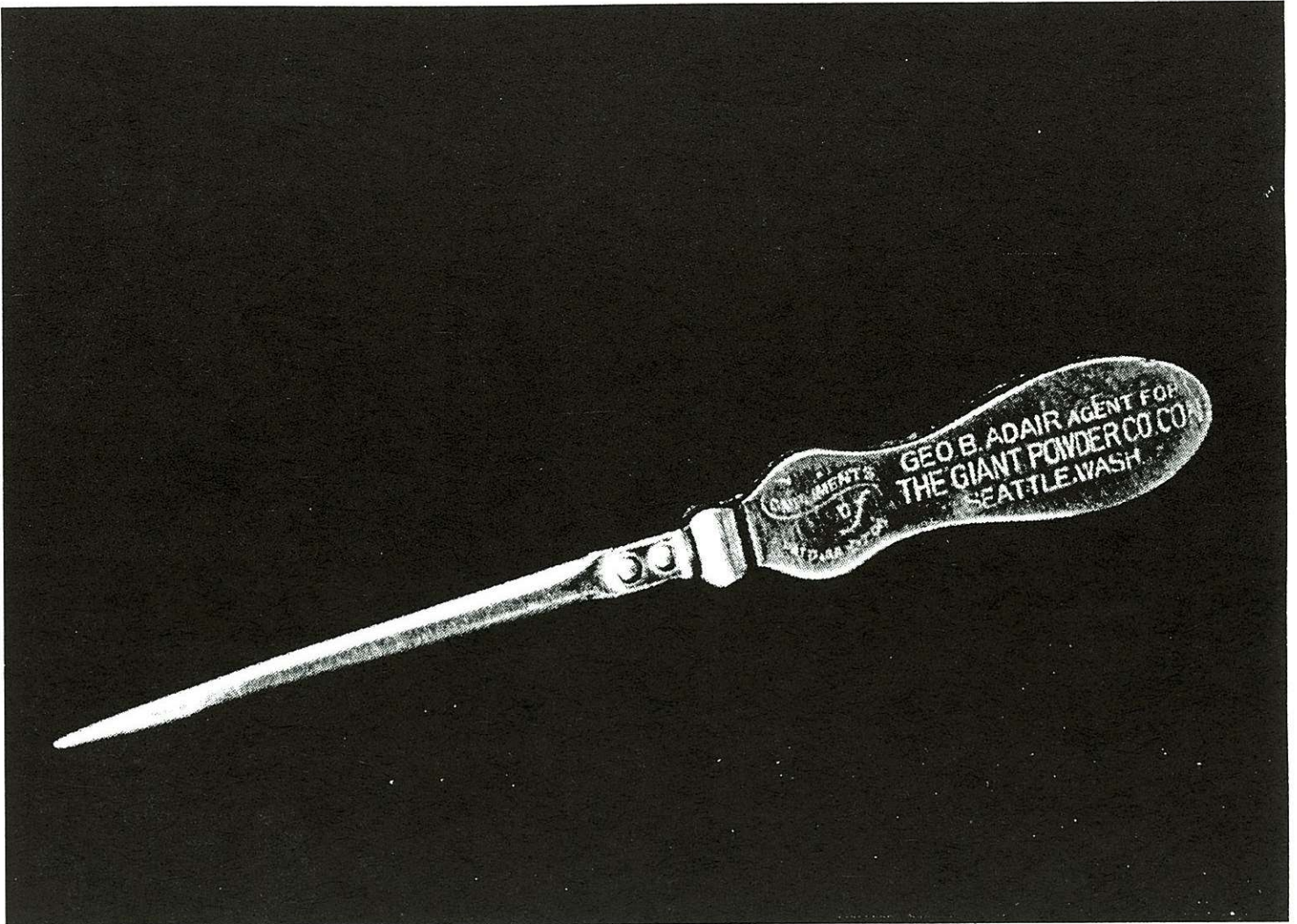




BITS



Unusual Letter Opener

Ed Chris, of Springville, Utah, recently submitted this photo of a letter opener he came across in a small antique shop outside of Tacoma, Washington. The interesting feature, besides being a Giant Powder piece, is the split handle. Between the two metal plates forming the handle are sharply corrugated surfaces. A piece of paper slipped between the plates can be embossed with a pattern by squeezing the two sides together. This may have functioned as a tool for marking canceled checks. Bob Schroth coincidentally has acquired the same artifact at the Lead, South Dakota show. The patent date is July 17, 1906.