1934-1963+ 1962-1965

1965-1975

1975-2015+









In 1909, a

Montana brewer suggested
that beer be put in cans. It wasn't
until Prohibition lifted a little in 1933
that Kruger's was allowed to fill 2,000
cans, yet sold none. On January 24,
1935, Kruger Cream Ale was sold in
Richmand, VA. Cans contained 12 fluid
oz., a standard kept to this day. On the
side of cans were instructions
for how to use a church key
opener.

Zip or Tab Top
pull tabs were first introduced
in 1962. Schlitz was the first nationwide brand to feature a "snap top."
Ermal "Ernie" Fraze is credited with
the patent. By August, 1963, 65
brands used this new design. In 1964,
Continental Can introduced the
"U-tab." In 1965, the first "ring pull"
tab can was marketed. Ring pull
tabs were used until 1975.
Maswell, D. &. S. Jennery B. 1983, Boer Cans:
Maskell of Arberbaley 21, 1961.

Early tabs were quite sharp, and sometimes cut fingers or toes when stepped on at the beach or while camping. In 1964, the American Can Company introduced a tab without sharp edges. "Smile beads" were also introduced, claiming that the raised edge around the opening prevented spillage. Two small raised beads used to align the tab looked like eyes to some.

When the Sta-Tab launched in 1975, on Falls City beer, there was period of consumer testing and education--rather like the opening instructions printed on flattop cans from 1934 to the early 1960s. From a waste point of view, the years after "the stay-on-tabs alone amounted to over 4 million tons of aluminum that was recovered and recycled rather than discarded."

