

EUREKA!

THE JOURNAL OF MINING COLLECTIBLES

Issue 40



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General Information

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EUREKA!



*A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO THE
COLLECTING, PRESERVATION, AND
HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF EARLY MINE
LIGHTING AND COLLECTIBLES*

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Cover: A Cinnibar Mine in Arizona as photographed by Todd Town. The metal piping is a condensation device for precipitating mercury.



Alert!!!

eBay seller: att2706, actual name: Patrick Raffael, 3020 Barrington Pl., Arlington, TX 76014
artplus49@yahoo.com

Selling reproduction miner's candlesticks and implying authenticity! Please avoid any auctions by this seller. He has listed at least five fake sticks in recent weeks, and has steadfastly refused to stop this practice. We will keep you alerted of further activities if he changes his user name. Mr. Raffaelo has now (3/5/03) made an attempt to have those who have complained about his fraudulent auctions banned on eBay. Thusfar he has been unsuccessful. Unfortunately, eBay has taken no action to curtail his activities

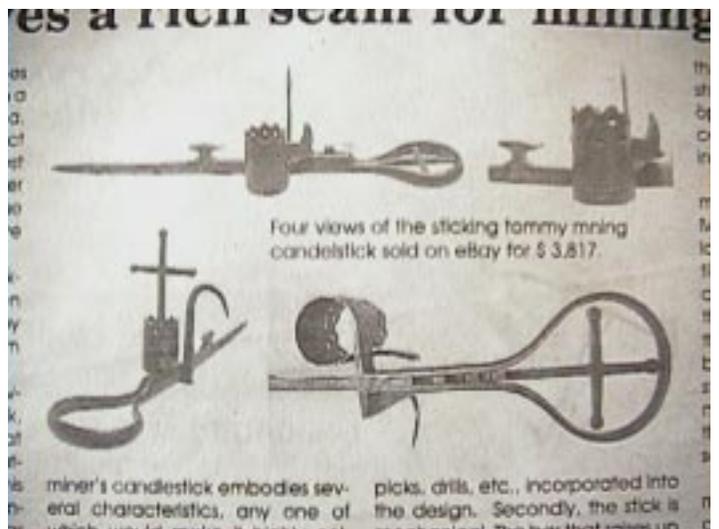
eBay Purchase Yields Bit of Publicity



A writer for Antique Week noticed the purchase of a fancy candlestick by Dave Thorpe. He wrote an little article for their newspaper, complete with price paid! Thanks to Leo Stambaugh for submitting the image. I would reprint the article, but it's a little embarrassing!

Globe, AZ Lights Up

Todd Town submitted this photo of the No. 5 Shaft in Globe, which was decorated for the holidays.



Air Compressor

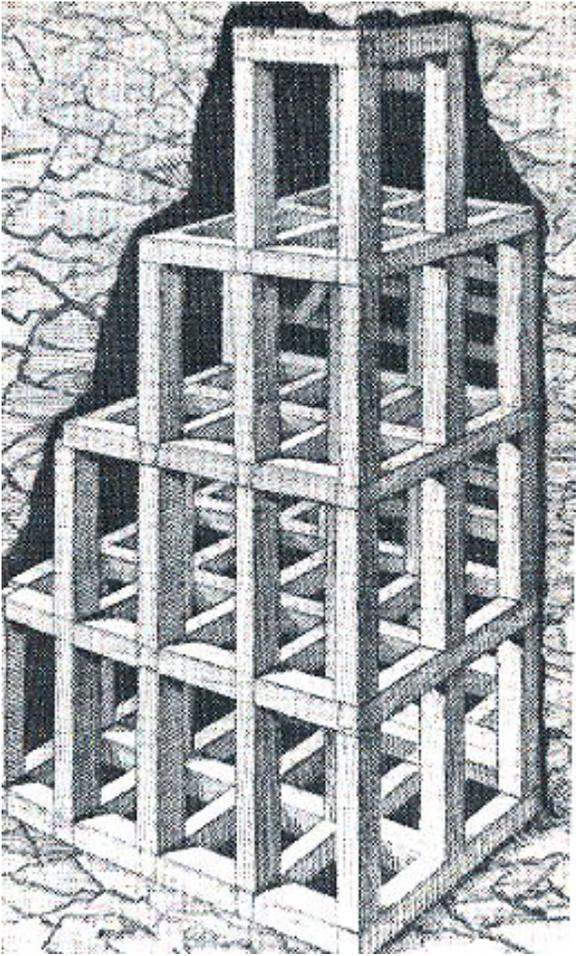
by Bob Schroth

Large mining items are becoming more interesting. Like most people, I started with ore cars, but I'm moving up to even bigger toys! Here is an Ingersoll Rand air compressor that I recently pulled out of the California desert. The inside was rusted so I filled the cylinders with diesel fuel, and they have broken free. All the parts move now, and it is pumping air.



1880's Squaresets

by Ted Bobrink



Every week end for the last month I have been going underground with a group of my friends in Calico. I have been teaching them how to climb rope, and on our last trip I took them into the unbelievable Square Sets of the Waterloo Mine in Calico. I have received some great photos from Gary and John Brewer who attended our trips and would like to share them with you. In the past I have talked about exploring the square sets in the Waterloo Mine and received some email from people that still do not know what mining Square Sets are. This article along with these photos should give them a good idea.

In the 1860s the mines of the Comstock Lode in Virginia City Nevada were uncovering unusually large bodies of ore. When the ore bodies are mined the roof and sides of the stopes have to be supported with timber. When the length of the ore bodies became longer than the available timbers, a mining engineer by the name of Philip Deidesheimer

invented a system to solve the problem. By cutting mine timbers to certain lengths and notching the ends to fit into each other. The timbers can be made into square blocks and extend out and up from one another. By keeping the blocks tight against the walls of the mine in all directions the pressure is equalized in all directions. This allows the miners to work in a safer environment and lessening the chance of a roof collapse.

The Waterloo Mine is located on the West side of the town of Calico. It is by far the largest mine in the Calico mining district and has over 10,000 feet of tunnels and drifts. It has seven levels originally worked from a 70 degree main inclined shaft that is now caved. There are two ways to enter the Waterloo on the West side, and one is through a caved working stope to the surface. You have to make three rope drops down the 70 degree incline stope to enter the first square sets on the 4th level. These square sets are small compared to the others but they give you an exciting example of what's to come.

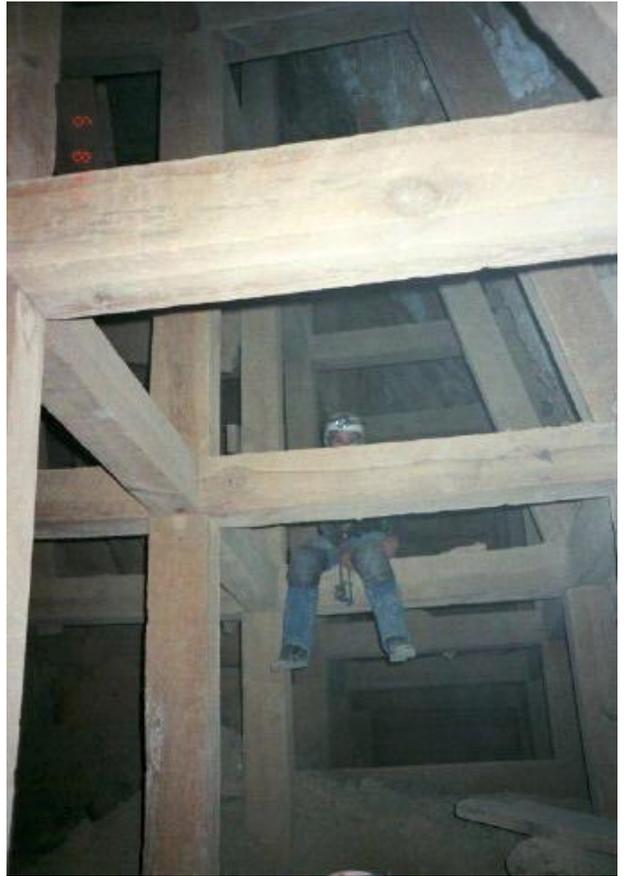
(Right) This is a photo of the top of the first set of square sets on level six of the Waterloo Mine. They are four levels high and about 80' long.



One more rope drop down a 20' vertical ore chute and you enter the large square sets between level 4 and 5. They are seven stores high and over 100" long by about 80' wide and the workmanship is something to see. I have taken over thirty people into these sets on four different trips and we manage to still find cool artifacts every time we go. On this trip we found three hand made tamping bags, two stamped sticks of 1880s Giant Powder, and nine complete dated 1890s newspapers.

To my knowledge the square sets in the Waterloo Mine just may be the only 1880s square sets to survive in pristine condition. They were not used after the late 1890s and have been perfectly preserved in a dry even atmosphere.

(Right) This view shows Bridgett on the second level near the south side. Note the incline of the sets on the right. This is the angle of all of the stopes in the Waterloo Mine and the reason you need to rope it.



This is a view from the bottom of the sets looking from the west. You enter the square sets from the west on the next level up. From the bottom there are six levels above. The ladder you see is loose and could be moved around and the miners laid 2x12 planks down to work on.



This is a view from the middle of the fourth level looking west. Bridgett Dunbar is in the foreground and Jim "High Grader" Malouf is in front of her. I am in the red shirt on the right.



(Above) This is a view showing me reaching up into some lagging and pulling out one of seven 1890 newspapers. Jim Malouf (I think I'm changing his name to lucky) spotted them up in the timbers and is looking on the left.

(Left) This is a photo of all of us while I am opening up Jim new find. We were all very excited as I had just opened up the wrapping with the three round tubes that turned out to be really cool hand made Tamping Bags. From L to R is John Emray, David Bobrink, Ted Bobrink, Bridgett Dunbar, Gary Brewer, Jim Malouf and John Brewer taking the photo.



This is a view showing Gary Brewer shooting video from the fifth level of the square sets.. I am in the background trying to look cool, but I am really kind of nervous standing five stories up on an 8" beam with an inch of dust on it.

Erbele Fuse Pliers

Mark Bohannon and Scott Brady



The fuse pliers shown above were found by Scott Brady and show stamping on the handle that reads ERBELE FUSE PLIERS. This is the first example to be reported in modern times. Mark Bohannon's book, *Blasting Cap Crimper Patents*, shows that these crimpers were patented by John F. Erbele, of North Dakota, in 1929. The 74 known patents range from 1880 to 1961, but there are only nine patents more recent than these.

Looking at the head of the pliers, one can see an offset arrangement of the distal teeth, somewhat like a parrot's beak. This in fact is the unique feature of the Erbele pliers. The upper tooth, as seen in the photo is actually a transverse knife blade and was used to splitting the fuse so as to prepare it for splicing.

Just inboard of the splitter, is a fairly standard cap crimper. The inside handles are used as a fuse cutter. This area can be seen in the photo as the square notch in the upper handle. A close-up photo and patent drawing are shown next.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 1

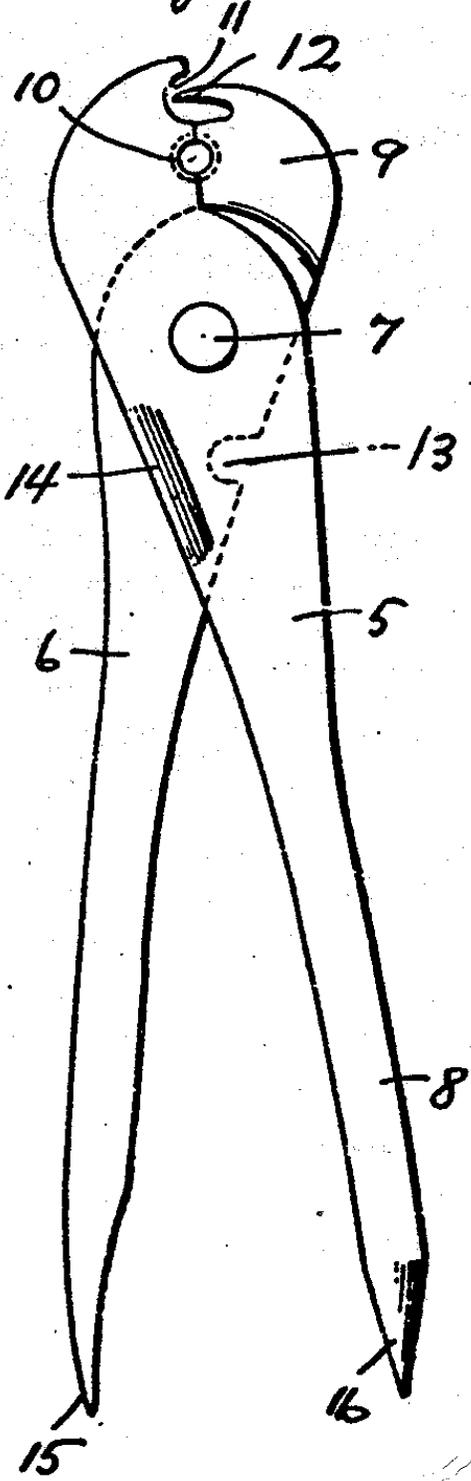
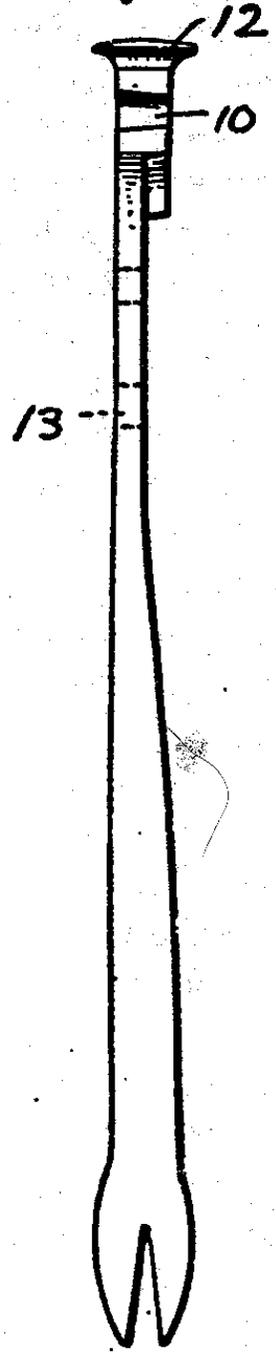


Fig. 3.



So what is the split end on the tip of the handle? According to the patent, area 15 is a nail puller! The other handle end is of course the familiar dynamite punch.

Western Hardware Bucket in Copper

by Leo Stambaugh

Here is a pretty unique lunchbucket from an old Leadville estate. The base construction is the same pattern as the other Leadville buckets made in the tin shops of the Western Hardware company. The lid is unique with the cup shaped protrusion on the right side which was made to hold an early thermos bottle. The bottle is still there. The other unusual aspect is that it is made of Copper instead of the usual soldered tin. The tag is the regular Western Hardware Company, Leadville, Colo. soldered in the middle.



Maple City on a Stick

by Dave Thorpe

I was recently sent some photos of a Maple City lamp that exists in Pennsylvania. Its owner was interested in knowing any others like it were known and what I might be able to tell him about it. The photos show a cap lamp top with a candlestick attachment. Although I knew of a Maple City lamp with a soldered on stick, that once belonged to John Coons, I had never seen this arrangement.



The question becomes, what is factory made and what isn't. Most stick attachments for lamps do not include the hanging hook. This item has the hook, which is redundant for a lamp with its own hook. It is unlikely that the stick was factory made for this lamp.



Back side showing two hooks, one on the lamp, one on the stick.



Let's look at the stick first. It detaches from the lamp with a large tubular sleeve in place of the thimble. The sleeve is riveted to the stick.



Is this a factory made piece? It is certainly well done, and I could be convinced of it if I had ever seen another, but my gut feeling is that it is a standard blacksmith smith that was hand modified to accomodate this specific lamp. Still I wonder...it looks very well made.





Now to the base. This tall base is like no other Maple City base, and yet it screws on to the top. Note the faint rolled grooves in the base that would lie above and below the stick clamp. Pretty impressive!

Still, no backyard mechanic could ever duplicate the screw threads of a Maple City lamp. They are narrow and will not interchange with any other lamp.

The dilemma of the threads is answered by examining the interior. There is an entire Maple City base dropped into the external base. The original base had its bottom cut away so as to make full use of the new taller chamber.



In the photo above you can see the vertical solder seam, which is very un-factory-like.





The top itself is in nice shape. The two forward arms that once braced the reflector have been cut off and filed smooth to the surface. The gas tube looks to be reinforced with a sleeve. The reflector and water feed have been removed.

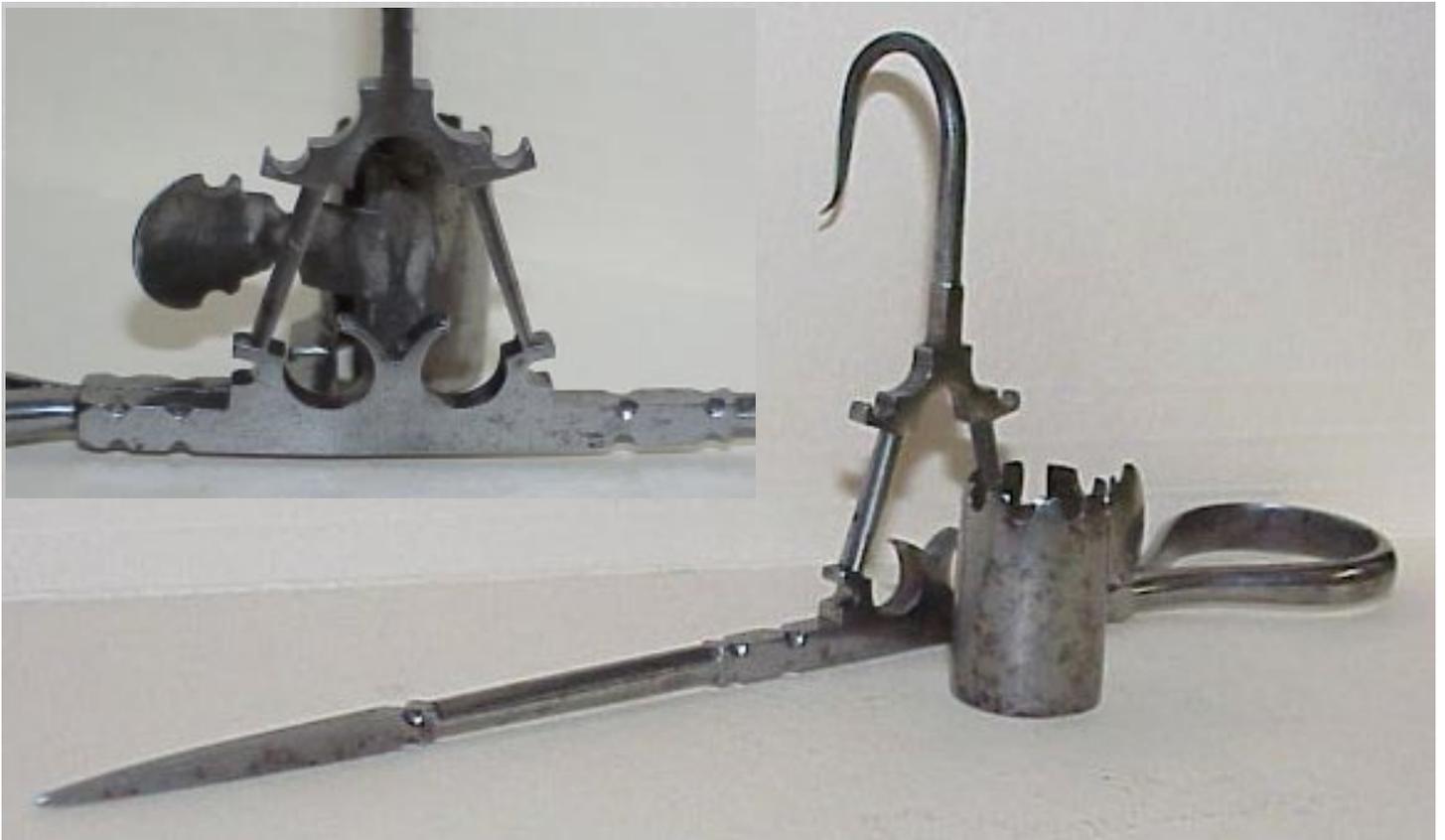
So what is the verdict on this piece? It is probably a home-modification, though I would not state that with 100% confidence. It is a very interesting a purpose-built mining item.

A Tiny Fancy Candlestick

by Dave Johnson

Any fancy miners' candlestick is a relative rarity but what makes this candlestick even more rare than most is the fact that it is roughly a half-size miniature model. The stick measures 6 1/4" in length and 2 3/8" to the top of the hook. Some smaller candlesticks retain the standard 3/4" thimble, and could therefore be pressed into use. This thimble is 7/16" inner diameter. The detail is very finely finished and the overall workmanship is excellent, with single piece construction. I would think that a piece this size is much more difficult to manufacture than a full-size stick. The question to be answered is why was this stick made in miniature, was it a presentation piece or was it made just to demonstrate the skill of the maker?

The original owner, according to the seller, was the seller's grandfather, a Washington State Supreme Court Justice with interests in Washington mining companies prior to 1900.





Comparison to a standard candlestick.

The Lu-Mi-Num 'Handy Tool'

by Dave Johnson



Most collectors of mining artifacts are familiar with the uniquely designed Lu-Mi-Num cap and hand lamps produced by Fred R. Belt. A successful salesman for the Justrite manufacturing Company, Fred Belt left Justrite to start his own company in 1922, the Fred R. Belt Company, of Chicago. His were the only cast aluminum cap and hand lamps made by an American manufacturing firm.

Handy Tool for the Lu-mi-num Lamp

SCREW DRIVER
— ALSO USED TO
PUT ON RUBBER
GASKET, DRIVE
OUT LAVA TIP
AND CLEAN CAR-
BIDE CUP.

TO CLEAN THREADS
TO UNSCREW TIP-
HOLDER
TO CLEAN THREADS

Case-Hardened Steel
ONE FREE WITH EVERY LAMP
EXTRA TOOLS 10c EACH

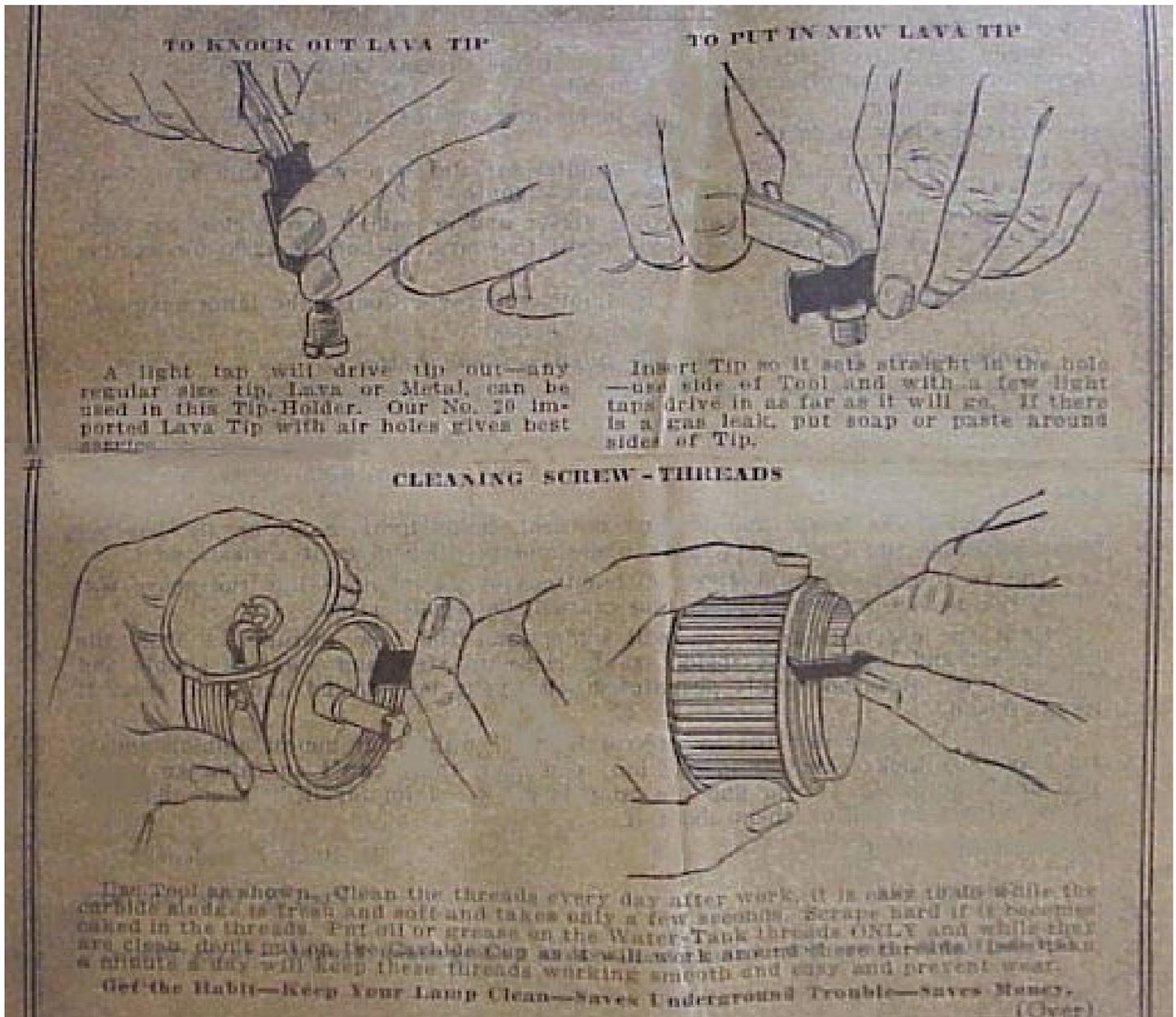
TO PUT ON RUBBER GASKET

Hold Gasket with finger as shown and force into groove with flat side of Tool— if it buckles, draw Tool backwards.

TO REMOVE TIP-HOLDER

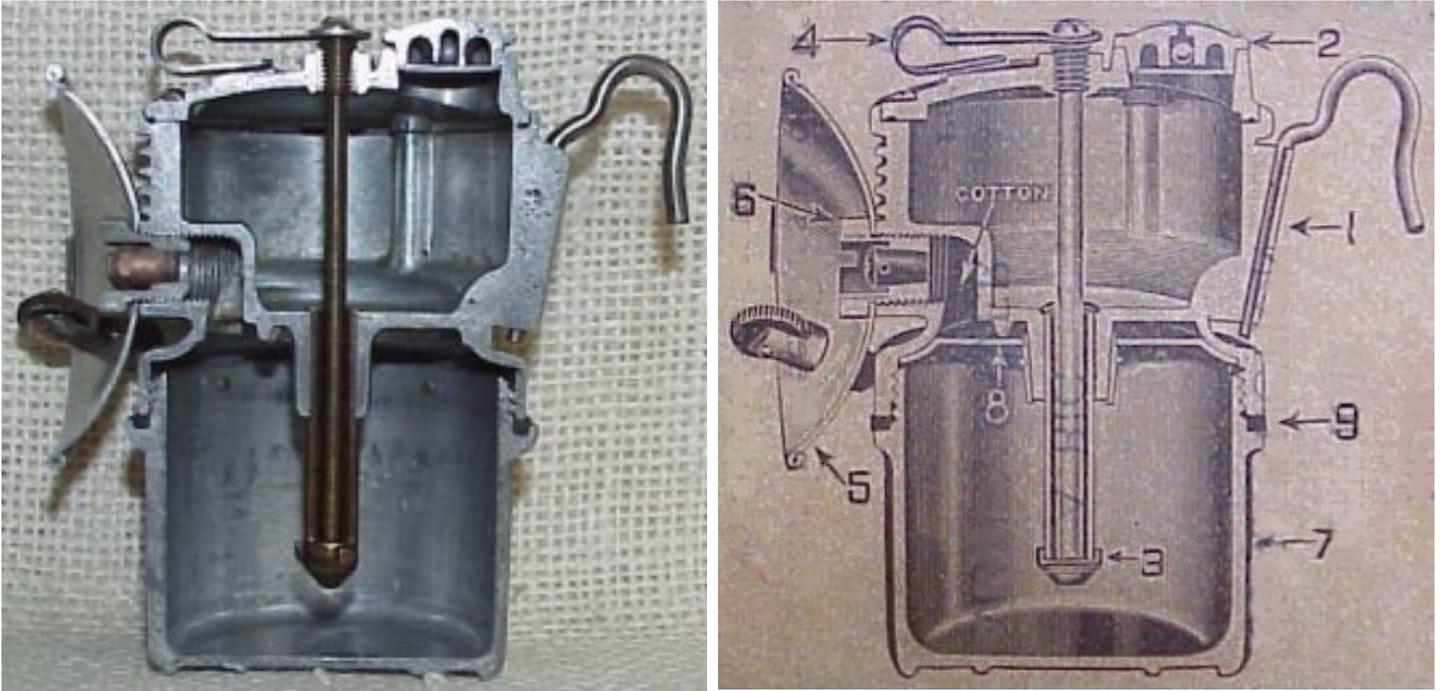
Should unscrew easy— if it turns hard, put oil or grease on the threads— graphite grease is best.

For collectors interested in collecting variations, the Lu-Mi-num cap lamp can be found in three varieties, 1) the early threaded or screw base with a cast aluminum reflector and wire cap hook, 2) a lug mounted base with the same reflector as the first model and a wire cap hook and 3) a larger nickel-plated steel concentric ringed reflector and a spade hook. There are also at least three known varieties of the Lu-Mi-num hand lamp.



The recent purchase of an early screw or threaded base model cap lamp brought the added premium of two double-sided instruction sheets from the Fred R. Belt Company and a tool that was sold with the lamps. The first sheet was the instructions for operating the lamp, including a cut-away drawing of the lamp, which goes well with the salesman sample cut-away version of the lamp in my collection. The second sheet was the instructions for the "Handy Tool" which could be used as a 1) screw driver, 2) to put in and remove the rubber gasket, 3) to clean the threads, 4) to unscrew and screw in the tip holder, and 5) to knock out the lava tip and to put in a new lava tip.

According to the sheet describing the use of the tool, every lamp came with one of these tools or the tool could be purchased separately for 10 cents. If these tools came with every Lu-Mi-Num lamp why haven't more of them been found by collectors over the years? The only explanation I can give is that without the instruction sheet illustrating them a collector would have no idea what they were, especially since they have no marking of any type to identify them. How many of these have we all passed over at flea markets just lying in boxes of junk?



Cut-away lamp compared to that on instruction sheet.



Covering all known variations of the Lu-mi-num cap lamp are: above, screw-threaded lamp, below left, lug-mounted lamp, and below right larger plated steel reflector and narrow spade mount.

Tombstone: First Descent

*by Dave Thorpe
photos by Rory Gibson
and Roger Becksted*



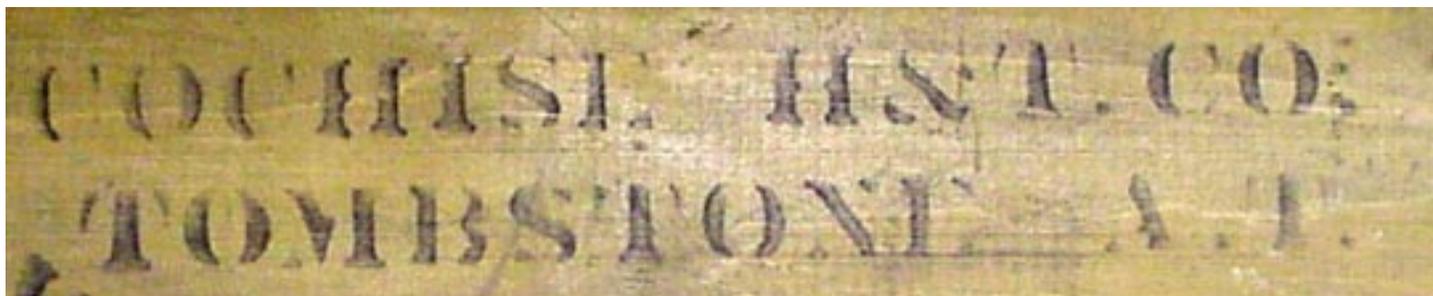
You are very much alone. You are living in a part of your psyche that believes it is a nine year old walking through the woods after dark. Decades of experience cannot subdue the apprehension of descent into a new shaft. Six thousand pound test rope seems like clothesline, your bombproof rigging looks to unravel, and the clean rock wall now threatens to crumble in on top of you. That is how it feels in an unknown mine shaft, and anyone who tells you different is a liar or a fool.

Roger Becksted had been exploring the mines around Tombstone, Arizona over the past year. Some real interest was aroused when he began to discover some early artifacts. The first Copper Queen fuse wrapper was found as well as a dynamite box with Tombstone stamping.

Roger is a very private gentleman, a self-made engineer from Tucson. He had no prior rope training and realized that further finds would require shaft work. I suggested that we put a team together for just such an expedition. Roger outfitted himself with a brake bar rack and rope-walker ascending system, and we enlisted the help of Dave and Linda Derrick (vet-

eran shaft droppers from Wisconsin), as well as Rory Gibson and Larry Kuester of southern California for top work. A date was made for October 19th, and we set out for two large workings: The Emerald Mine and The Prompter Mine.

We had scoped these out from the surface a month beforehand. Both had headframes still standing, as well as deep haulage shafts.



Above: A portion of a dynamite box is photographed in a Tombstone area mine. The abbreviations stand for Cochise Hardware & Trading Co., Tombstone Arizona Territory.

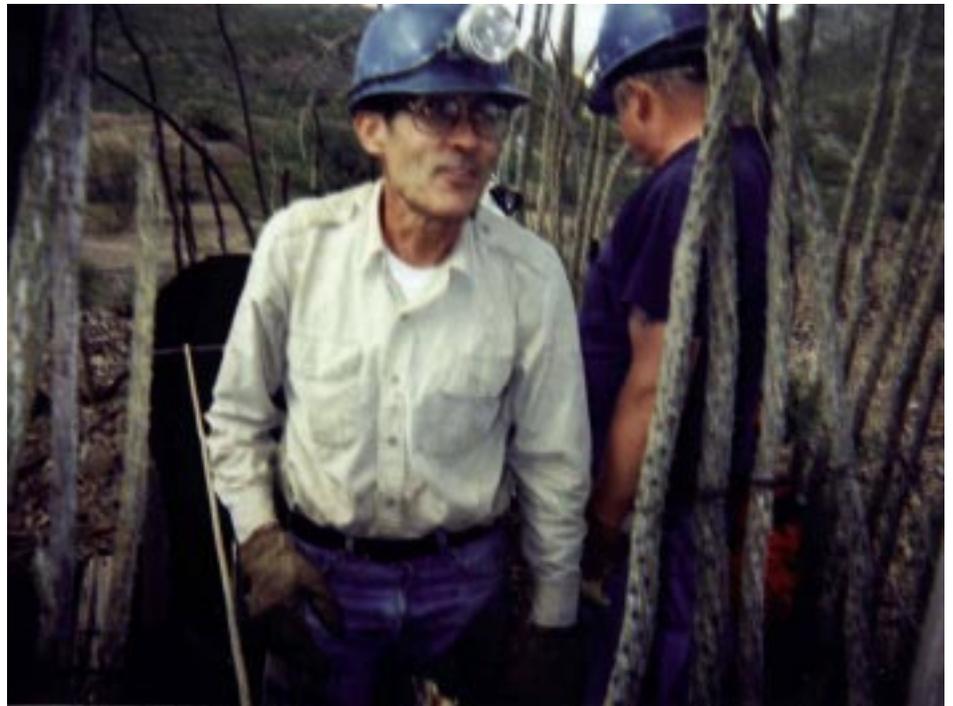


The Emerald Mine, with Dave and Linda Derrick beside the steel tube manway.

The Emerald was our first mine, and also marked our campsite. The simple metal headframe sits over a very steep incline haulage shaft. Old maps show the mine reaching a 500 foot depth. Immediately next to the shaft was a vertical manway. This was an large riveted steel tube that dropped 20 feet to a flat sta-

tion. There was no ladder in the tube, so we brought down an extension ladder to span this first distance.

Once off our ladder the manway continued as a rickety wooden ladder that went another 200 feet through a rock shaft. It ended on a large landing where it now joined back with the inclined haulage shaft. Using our more powerful lights we lit the depths of this pit. It continue for another sickening 300 feet! Although clear of obstruction, many timbers and debris clung precariously to its sloped surface. Not one of us volunteered to drop it. At our landing point there was a large stoped area with another horizontal tunnel that collapsed after a few hundred feet. Everything was devoid of artifacts. Another day may send us down the remaining haulage incline, but we were anxious to see what was in store on the next ridge.





Here was the Prompter whose headframe (left) sat over a semi-clogged shaft. Through the debris, one could see the beginning of a ladder some 50 feet down. A nearby adit let us walk directly into the mountainside. This area had been recently remined and was open in various places to the sky.

Not too far in we encountered a shaft. Several logs and flat boards lay across the top as a makeshift bridge. Beneath lay 70 feet of vertical shaft that appeared to transition into an incline at a further depth.

Below: Roger rigs into his rappel for the inside shaft of the Prompter Mine. The ladder only spanned the first six feet of the shaft.

This would be our rappel point, but the best rigging point required crossing the bridge. I did this with some trepidation on hands and knees, while Roger skipped right across with little concern. Dave Derrick stopped midway and did a short Irish jig on a round log as Linda scolded him.



Dave Thorpe gingerly crosses the wooden bridge in the Prompter Mine.



Dave Derrick examines a steam hoist at a junction room in the Prompter Mine.

After the first 70 feet of vertical rappel, there was another 50 feet of steep incline rappel, and then another 100 feet of downclimbing. We now entered a junction room where several tunnels met. There were two stories here with both round and square timbering. It was here that we encountered the first artifacts. A small steam hoist (above) still had steel cable on its drum. There were three partial ore cars, one with a very cool round bottomed box, all riveted construction. One ore truck as found with only two wheels, but both were spiral spoked. General litter was piled on the floor comprising tins, cans, and boxes. One tunnel led to the haulage shaft that we had looked into from above. It continued down to some sickly level, and above various short sections of wooden ladder clung loosely to the walls. Back in the junction room, all of the tunnels were caved after several yards. We spied a nice ladder though leading yet deeper. Dave and Roger traveled down this route, and by their account they scaled twelve separate ladders for a total of 170 feet! They then encountered massive horizontal passage with major air blowing. Each explorer took a separate arm for at least a thousand feet before they returned to meet each other. Neither had reached a dead end. It was getting late, and the top party was anxiously waiting, and so we decided to exit. This will of course be the beginning of our next trip, as Roger believes that this level is heading for a completely different mine system, and air was still blowing strong.



Our tired crew back at the Emerald base camp. Left to right: Dave Derrick, Linda Derrick, Dave Thorpe, Larry Kuester, and Rory Gibson.



Finally, an interesting artifact found in another Arizona mine. More on this one later!

Exploring the Fan House at the Huber Colliery

by Tom Stranko

The Huber Colliery stands in Ashley, PA. just a little south of Wilkes Barre on the west side of interstate 81. If you were at all interested in anthracite coal mining and you lived in the area like I did, you couldn't help but want to explore the buildings. The container that holds the 35mm slides from that trip has a 12/84 date on it and I clearly remember it was Christmas day--I dragged my wife away from our visit to my mother in Scranton for a "fun day" checking out the Huber. She froze in the car while I shot 3 or 4 rolls all over the place.



The fan house, 1984.

Later in the week I drove behind the main area and discovered the ventilating house sitting beside an out-of-the-way city street (not fenced in !!-- the good old days) I just parked the car, grabbed my camera and disappeared for a half an hour. My feelings on entering the abandoned fan house were like Howard Carter on seeing King Tuts tomb for the first time "Things, wonderful things!" ¹



Left: Corless one-lung steam engine. Right: etching on fan housing.

The high efficiency Corless type single cylinder steam engine looked like all it needed was a touch of oil and some hot steam to come back to life. The engine was a 40HP type according to the data plate on the engine. There was an etched builders name plate mounted high up on the big fan housing that stated "Buffalo Forge". I have an 1897 Buffalo Forge hard cover catalogue but there are no Corless engines listed so I assume the Huber engine dates from around WW1. Basically, the big steam engine was direct connected on the same shaft to two fans: the main fan (closest to the engine) was about 18 feet in dia. The picture of me standing on the fan drive shaft shows the appx. size. This was a centrifugal fan that drew air from the mine through its center and expelled it out around the rim.



Standing on the axel of the centrifugal fan.



The picture at left shows the funnel like exhaust air vent that directed the old air upward. The fan blade as seen below with me standing in for scale, is about 12 feet in diameter and is constructed like a household electric fan with radiating blades with a heavy pitch. This fan was completely housed inside a separate building that communicated with the upward running air shafts.





There were big steel shutters (see two photos left) that went floor to ceiling (at least 20 feet) and could be opened or closed to adjust the "suction" in one of the two main upward shafts. I wish I had done a better job of documenting the mechanical insides of these areas but I was hampered by not having a flashlight and by the realization once I was inside, that there must be shafts down into the mine inside here that I couldn't see and did not wish to fall down into. I'm a nut about old steam and gas engines so I spent some time around the engine itself as can be seen from

the "engine" pictures. As I recall, the piston would have been about a foot in diameter.

There was a wooden rack that had electrical connections for charging the 1940s style Edison lamps. Apparently, they used the building as a lamp room as well. All these buildings and machinery are now buried and bulldozed.



The Dry House and Miners' Baskets

by Dave Johnson

After working a long shift underground, where the miners and their clothes would become quite wet and dirty, miners were faced with the prospect of walking home in all weather conditions. In areas with severe winters a miner's clothes could literally freeze. Imagine working underground for 10 hours, climbing ladders for hundreds or even thousands of feet to reach the surface and then walking home several miles over snow covered roads in freezing weather before you can bathe and change into dry clothes. This is not an experience anyone would look forward to, especially on a regular basis.

The first answer to this problem in both the United States and Europe was for the miners to change their clothes in one of the surface plant buildings and leave their work clothes draped over or hung near steam pipes to dry them. This did not address the issue of bathing. Over time mining companies built facilities in which the miners could change, bathe and leave their clothes to dry. These facilities came to be known by many different names depending upon locale. They were known as the "change house", "miners' dry", "mine dry", "dry house" or just "the dry".

At first they were merely a place for miners to change and leave their clothes between shifts, and miners simply draped their clothes over pipes that ran through the building. There were generally no provisions made for bathing in these early dry houses. At most mines the miners had to walk outside from the shaft to the dry house in all types of weather.

An interesting facility was provided at the Levant Mine in Cornwall England. There they constructed a dry house connected to the man-engine shaft by an underground tunnel and circular stone stairway which allowed the miners to stay out of the weather at this wind-swept seaside mine until they had bathed and changed to dry clothes. This facility was constructed in 1889 with steam pipes running through the building to provide heat for drying the clothes. There were 4 elliptical baths, one in each corner of the building, formed in the concrete floor (see photos). Today the dry building is gone and all that remains is the concrete floor with the baths, the circular stairs and the tunnel. At the time this was a state-of-the-art facility.





The Levant mine, its baths, and the circular stairwells leading to the tunnel.



In the U.S. changing and bathing facilities provided by the mining companies was long an issue between labor and management, especially in the coal mining industry. The miners demanded facilities and the mine owners rejected those demands based on perceived cost. At some mines changing and bathing facilities were not provided until the 1940s. Bathing at home after a long day underground was no easy task as company houses had no running water until well into the 20th Century and water hauled from a well or hand pump had to be heated on the stove.

When facilities were finally provided, the concept of hanging the clothes from the ceiling where air could circulate through and dry them came into practice. At first just some hooks hung from chains were used. These were followed by more elaborate devices which included hooks and a basket, tray, or box in which to place personal items. These baskets could be raised or lowered by a chain and then locked in place with a padlock so that no one else had access to them, thus allowing for some security from theft. The drill went something this – the miner arrived at the mine for his shift, he went to the dry house and lowered his basket, he changed into his diggers and hung his street clothes, when he returned to the dry after his shift he changed out of his diggers, he bathed, changed into his street clothes and then raised his diggers to dry. At the next shift the process was repeated.

In searching for information for this article I was unable to find a single old photo of the interior of a mine dry. In all my 30+ years of collecting I only recall seeing one photo of the interior of a mine dry with all the baskets hanging from the ceiling. When I first started collecting in the mid-1960s I can recall going into several old dry houses in the Michigan Copper Country and the Gogebic Iron Range after the mines had closed and seeing hundreds of these baskets still hanging in place. If only I had thought to take some photos then.



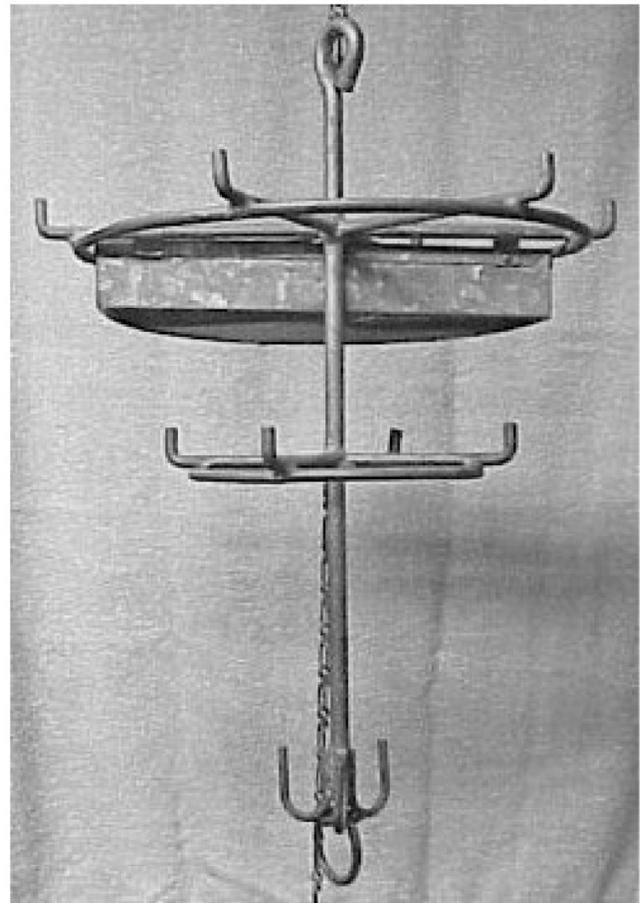
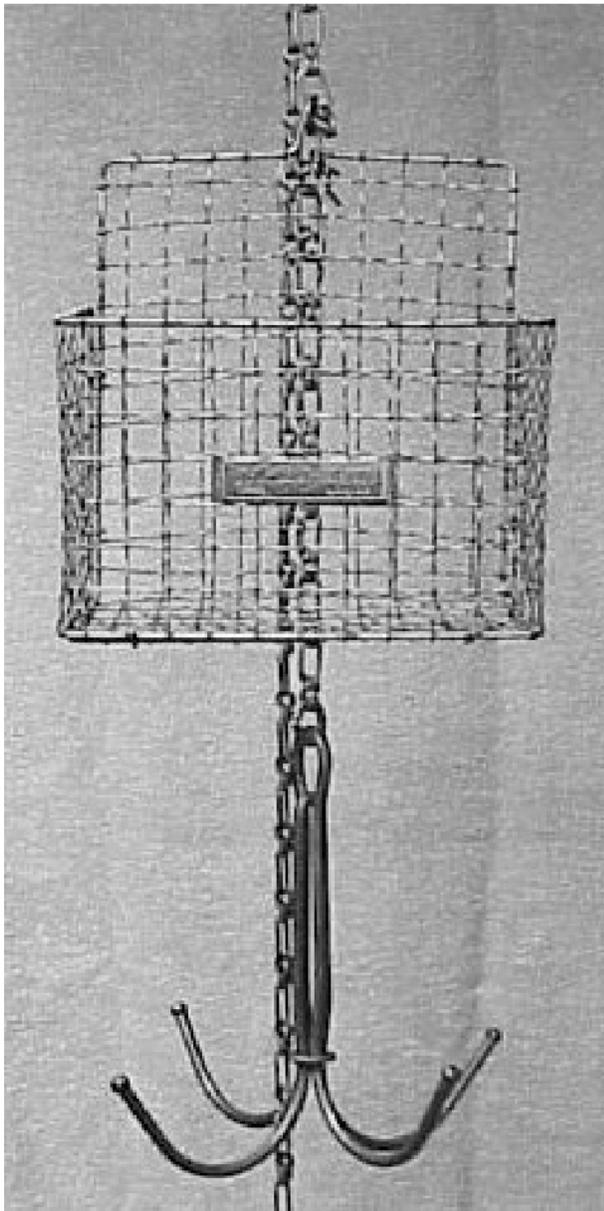
This brings us to another mining collectible - the baskets used in the dry houses. These baskets are as much a mining artifact as just about anything else we collect. They were manufactured in a multitude of shapes and sizes – round, square, oval. These have actually found more favor as a decorator item than as a mining artifact. They are used in bathrooms as towel racks and soap dishes, and in kitchens to hold and hang utensils.

Pictured here are numerous examples of these baskets from several mining areas in the United States and from Europe. Notice that the baskets from Europe are all of a similar design, while those from the U.S. appear in a greater array of configurations.

US Baskets



Left: Illinois basket tag with basket underneath.

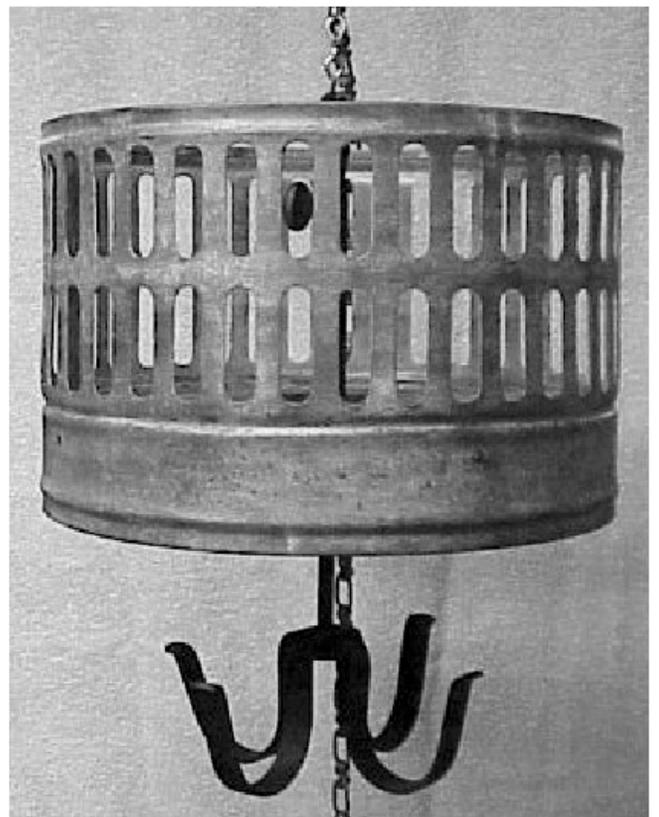
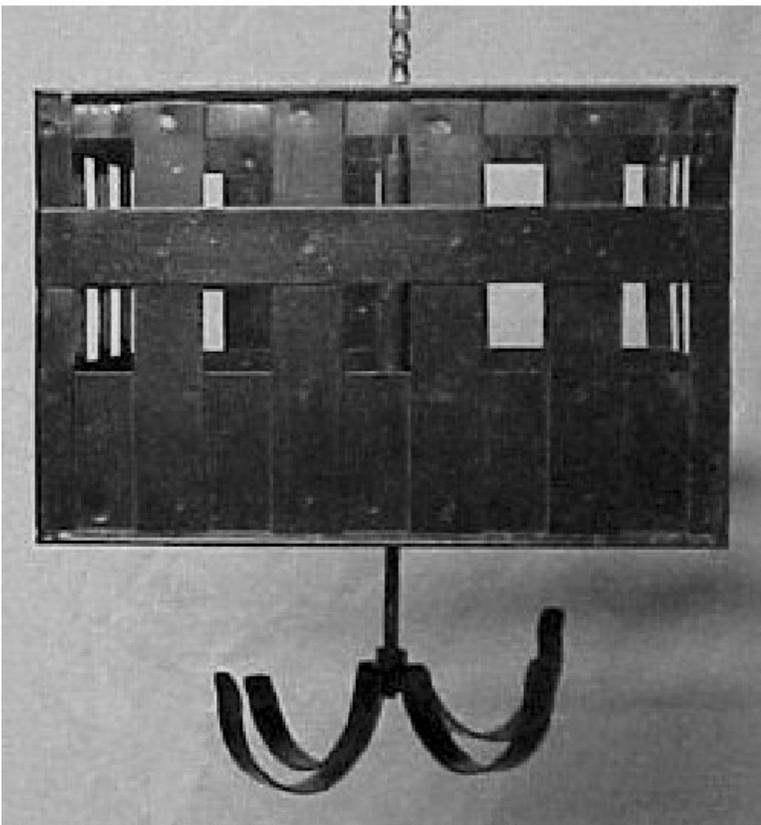


Above: Michigan basket.



Above and right: Safety First Supply Co. tag and basket.

Below: Two other Pennsylvania baskets.





Two baskets from West Virginia.

European Baskets





The Comstock Box

by Leo Stambaugh



This is the Comstock box that was noted in an old MAC. It is the same one, with the same stains and edge chips. A man here in town got it out of a collection in northern CO. The collector had bought it back in the 1980s at a shop in San Francisco. There were two there but the other one was rough so he only got this one. Pretty wild, eh?



C. B. Porter Oil Wick Lamp

by Dave Johnson

Thanks to the eagle-eye of Nelson Ressler there is another new name to add to the ever-growing list of miners' oilwick cap lamps. I recently was able to add this new oilwick to my collection. The stamping reads: "C.B. PORTER" over "PHILA.". The stamping of the letters ORTER are very light.

The lamp measures 2 1/2 " to the top of the lid. It is tinned steel

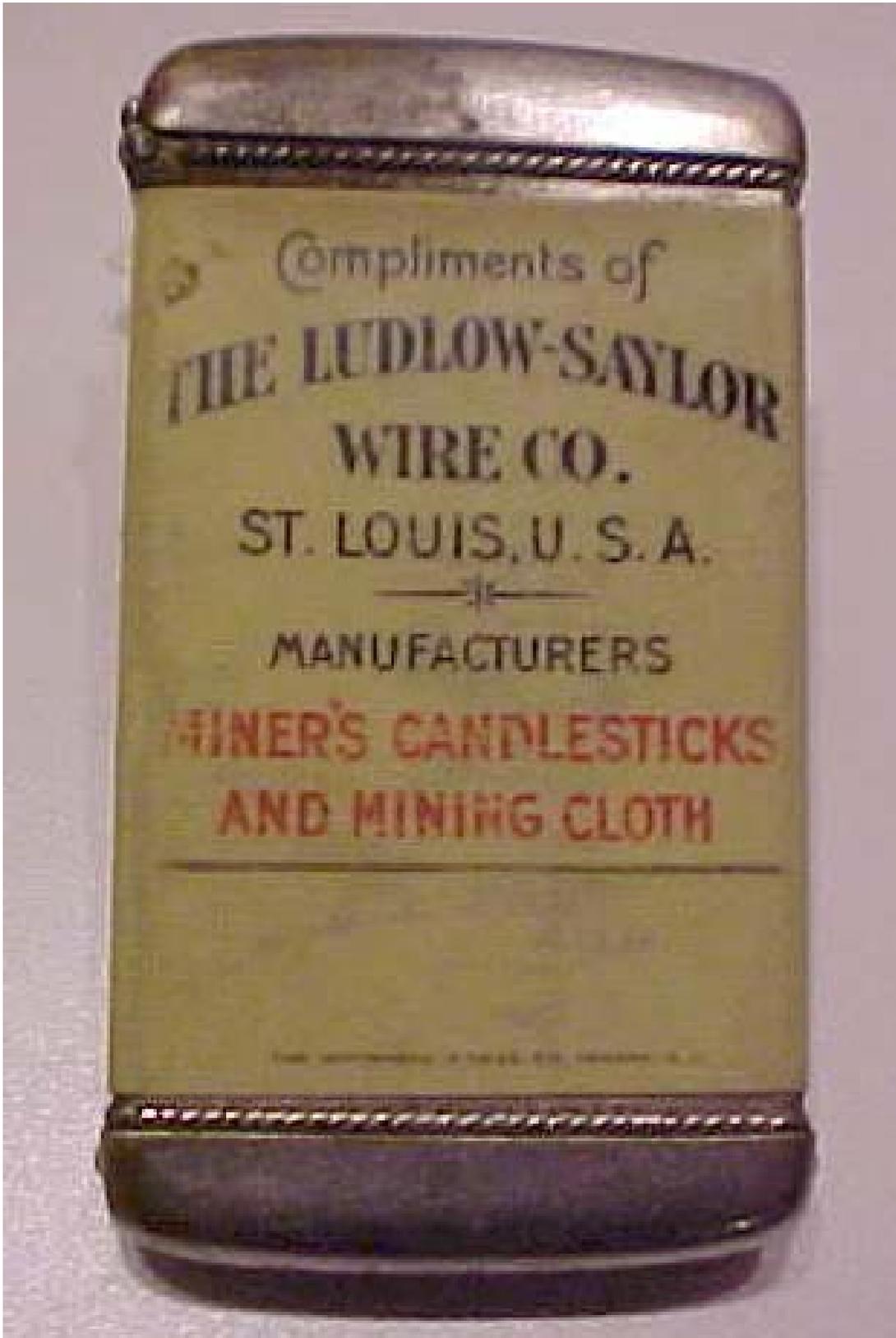
except for the separately applied collar below the cap and the hinge wire attaching the cap to the front, which are both brass. It has a single wall spout.

The only reference to a C.B. Porter & Co. in Philadelphia is a reference to James Fallows & Sons, later Frederick & Henry Fallows Toys, listed as a toy maker, originally organized under the name C.B. Porter Co., prior to 1894. Fallows is known to toy collectors today for their painted and stenciled tin toys. It would be no stretch for a company that produced tinned steel toys to produce oilwick lamps.



Mining Related Match Safes

by Bob Schroth



I have been collecting mining related advertising for several years. I was very lucky to come across this very interesting celluloid match safe. I have seen similar match safes from Blasting Powder companies but never from, The Ludlow Saylor Wire Co.

This is the first time I have seen any advertising from a maker of miner's candle sticks. I thought I would share it with everyone.

Keep your eye's open and with some luck you may find something of interest in this area. These match safes look like a cigarette lighter but they have a flip open top and a couple still had antique matches in them.

Advertising match safes also come in brass and/or nickel plated finishes.

Canadian Cap Tins - Updated

CANADIAN BLASTING CAP TINS



by Don Blyth 2003



To the left is the cover of Don Blyth's updated monograph covering all of the known Canadian blasting cap tins. It is 26 pages with an extra blank in the back for future addenda.

Inside, the black and white illustrations are of very good quality. This study ends with the fuze cap and does not go into the electric blasting cap at all. Each tin is assigned a number. There are over thirty tins listed, some with whole numbers, and others with decimals to indicate newer finds or intermediate varieties.

Don also illustrates other Canadian blasting collectibles, much of it advertising related. There are watch fobs, ash trays, dynamite punches, brochures, crimpers, powder boxes. Some old photos depict the powder plants as well as a few interesting shots of the aftermath of plant explosions. One postcard shows a piece of rail track that was blown so hard it wrapped around a large tree one and a half times!

There is a fairly extensive coverage of powder knives and jack knives with company logo. There are match safes, pens, letter openers, lighters, and my favorite: a genuine Giant Powder cribbage board in its own 1914 dated case!

To view these items and own a copy of Don's fantastic manuscript, you can send \$20 (US) to:

Don Blythe
R.R. #5
Guelph, Ontario
Canada NIH 6J2

New Empire Box

by Dave Crawford

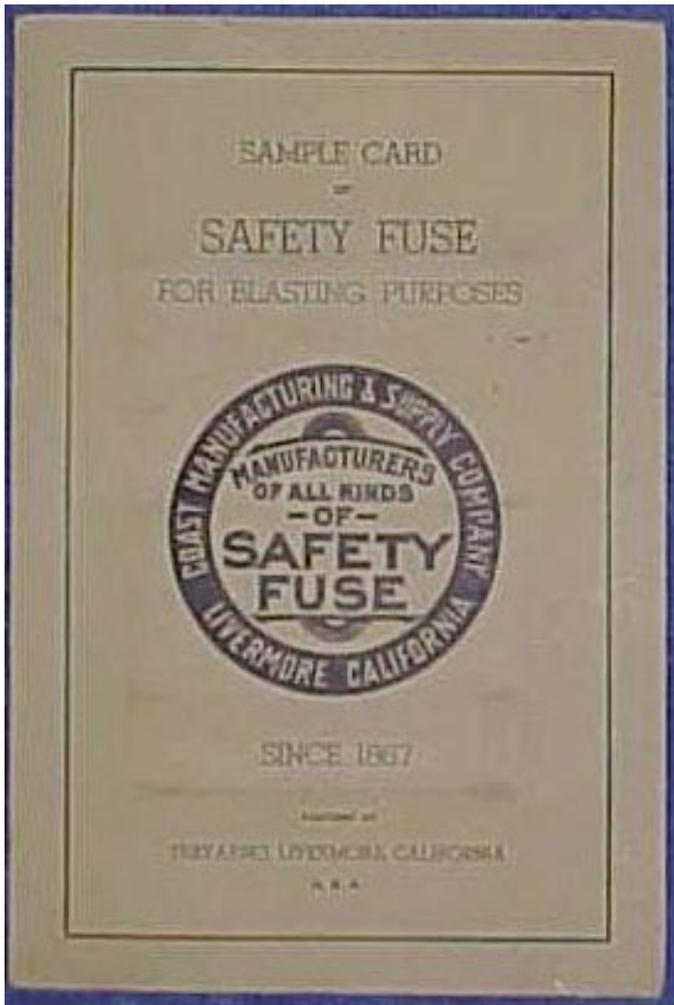
Brought to you from Rockford, Illinois, is this Empire Dynamite box. Heretofore, two Empire boxes have been reported (a 25 lb., and a 50 pounder), but neither indicated the city of origin. Many suspected New York.

Dave's box clearly shows that this box came from Chicago. It also indicates "Tiger Brand", something the other boxes did not show.



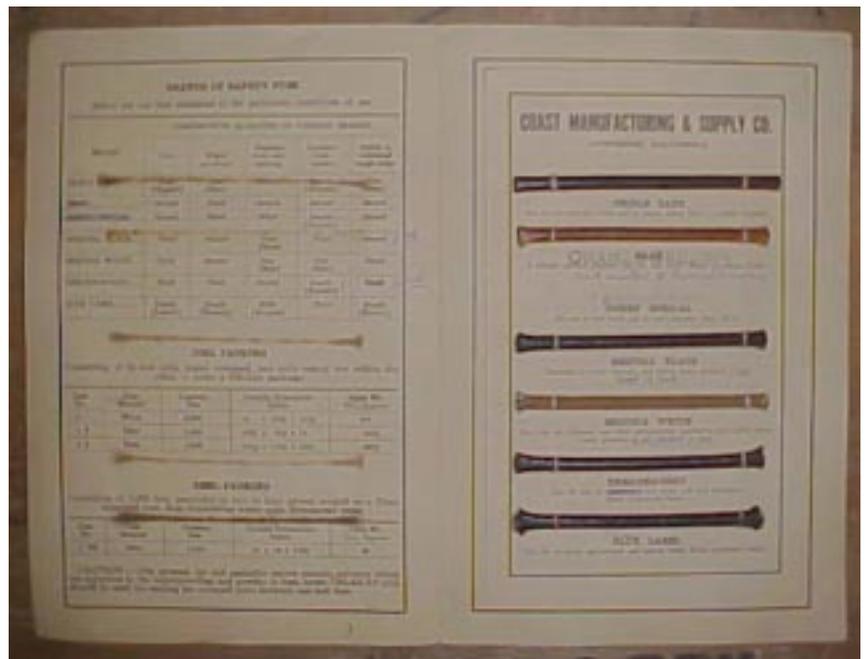
Coast Manufacturing & Supply Co.

by Todd Town



While looking for the elusive mining artifact we go to great lengths and travel far to hunt down a treasure we can fondle when evening comes around. On occasion this search takes you to the individual who is starting to get rid of all the junk he has accumulated. You know the guy, he has never thrown away anything and neither did his dad. It can be overwhelming as you go from shed to shed, building to building making your way through five generations of automobiles and swing sets. Stacked in the corner of each building are broken pick handles, shovels and bull pricks, some so big I wonder if there are any real men left that could use one. And boxes of every conceivable household utensil and game boards. Finally finding the fifty pound powder box he knew he had with some of his mining stuff in it. The candle sticks, the carbides, the cap tins all in one box. The "payoff" How very cool as you crouch down looking and picking up the treasures. Thanks to those who never throw away anything! This very unusual sample card for safety fuse, not only does it advertise the types of fuse that Coast sells,

what fuse works best for what application, quantity of coil pack and reel pack, but the inside of the card contains four inch samples of each fuse type the miners could buy. And of course it was at the bottom of the box. Photos are worth a thousand words. Here are some photos of the fuse sample I picked up.



COAST MANUFACTURING & SUPPLY CO.

LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA



TRIPLE TAPE

For use in very wet work and in places where four is rightly handled



ORANGE BEAR SEQUOIA

A plastic, general purpose line for wet work. White countered finish

not suited to Resisting

DISCONTINUED COMET SPECIAL

For use in wet work and in cool climates. Tape finish.



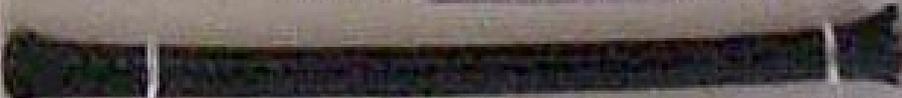
SEQUOIA BLACK

Resistant to warm climates and heavy water pressure if not
kinked or beat



SEQUOIA WHITE

For very hot climates and with inflammable explosives and under heavy
water pressure if not "kinked" or beat



DREADNAUGHT

For all uses in ~~any~~ wet work and cool climates.
Black countered finish.



BLUE LABEL

For dry or damp agricultural and quarry work. Black countered finish.