

# ***EUREKA!***

THE JOURNAL OF MINING COLLECTIBLES

Issue 41



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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: Dave Thorpe, Bob Schroth, and Dave Derrick explore a shaft in the Harcuvar Mountains.**



## On-line Auctions

Fred Holabird Americana, eBay and others in cyberspace have taken over as the main purveyors of mining artifacts. And why not? They can advertise to the the entire world.

## Tucson Show 2004

### 10th Annual Mining Antique Collectors Swap Meet, Dinner & Auction

**Time:** SATURDAY, 7 February 2004. Swap meet 11AM - 5PM (setup @ 10AM). Dinner: Hot Buffet & Auction 6:30 PM (125 people limit).

**Location:** Smuggler's Inn, 6350 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85710.

**Room reservations:** (800) 525-8852. \$122 per room.

**Fees:** (Make checks payable to Carol McNulty, 4550 N. Territory Pl., Tucson, AZ 85750)

**Swap meet:** No charge after 11AM. Early bird fee for people without dinner reservations, at 10AM is \$5 per person.

**Swap meet tables:** \$15 per table. \$8 per half table.

**Dinner & auction:** \$29 per person.

## Future of MiningCollect

We are now exploring a more advanced internet-read only forum for Miningcollect. That means no more email when it does go into effect. More and more of our subscribers are finding that their spam-blockers prevent them from getting MiningCollect email. This has become problematic from an emotional

point of view as well, as many subscribers feel they have been slighted by MC when their mail stops. People have become indignant and accusatory when in fact it is their own Internet Service Provider that is the culprit. We will have to evolve with the times.

## Hard Copy Eureka Service

Don't forget that many hard copy issues of past Eureka Magazine are still available through Todd Town. [ttown@cybertrails.com](mailto:ttown@cybertrails.com) or phone (928) 425-0423. Various members have printed up color copies of the recent Eureka's for sale. These have been very high quality documents. Enthusiasm for these has been underwhelming, and it is unlikely that those providing this service will continue.

## eBay Yields new Cap Tin



This is the first report of the Anchor Brand cap tin. It closed at over \$500 with Graham Living as winner. The tin has similarities to California Cap Co.

# Distinctly Scottish Oil Wicks

by Dave Johnson

The mining of coal in Scotland goes back at least 900 years to the 12th century when monks at such places as Dunfermline, Culross, Edinburgh and Newbattle began digging coal in open cut mines and bell pits. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, Scottish coal was in demand by the salt-making industry. Salt distillation was especially well suited to the rich coal areas along the shores of the Forth, in the Lothian coal field and the rich coastal Ayrshire coal field. The Firth of Forth was the center of Scottish salt production, with numerous salt pans operating in Ayrshire, Lothians, Clackmannan and Fife. This salt production is reflected in such place names as Grangepans, Prestonpans, Kennetpans and others.



**(L) D.B. Rankin Maker Airdrie**  
**(R) Thos. Robertson Dalkeith**

As in all coal regions, when the surface deposits were mined out the mines had to be sunk deeper. As this occurred, water became more of a problem, as did the hoisting of mined materials. At first the small amounts of water encountered were carried to the surface on people's backs, followed by buckets raised and lowered by a windlass. As the depth increased these methods became less and less efficient and productive. The same is true of raising mined material from underground. At first the coal was hauled to the surface by women carrying baskets on their shoulders and backs, followed by buckets raised by man-powered and then horse-powered windlass. The advent of the steam engine for pumping and hoisting greatly increased the amount of water and mined material that could be raised to the surface from greater depths.

By 1720, the coal mines of Scotland were producing about 16% of the UK's total coal tonnage, the greatest proportion coming from the Lothian coal field, followed by Lanarkshire and then Ayrshire. The beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Scotland is recognized to be about 1770, at which time the lowlands of Scotland was developing cotton and textile mills, saltworks, breweries, candleworks, potteries, ironworks and mines other than coal. Coal is what fueled the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution's insatiable demand for iron led to a subsequent greater demand for coal to replace charcoal to fuel blast furnaces and to fuel steam boilers to run pumping engines and hoisting engines in mines and machinery in other burgeoning industries.



**(L) J. Anderson Dalkeith**  
**(R) A&J Grant Fauldhouse**

As in other coal mining regions, the coal miners of Scotland went through the same evolution of underground lighting, from torches to oil lamps and candles to safety lamps and carbide lamps to electric lamps. What developed in Scotland though was a style of oilwick cap lamp that is distinctly Scottish. Oilwick cap lamps that developed in the rest of the UK and the United States, the two largest users of this type of lamp, differed from the distinctly Scottish style. The typical oilwick cap lamp found in the UK is very small, just 1 3/4" to 2 1/4" tall to the top of the font lid. . The particular oilwick cap lamps being featured here have a much smaller diameter wick tube and correspondingly smaller wick than lamps in the U.S., as well as most other oilwicks produced in the UK. There is no equivalent of the driver's lamp found in the UK.



**(L) LD (Lamb & Dunn Ironmongers)**  
**(R) J. Melville Lochgelly**

The two types of oilwick designs found in the UK are 1) those with a spout that is attached to the font only at the base of the spout, with an open v-shaped space between the spout and the font (like most lamps found in the U.S.), and 2) those with an enclosed spout that connects to the font from top to bottom. It is this second style that is distinctly Scottish in origin. Interestingly enough the first patent for an oilwick cap lamp in the United States has a patent drawing (William Seybold Patent of 1862) of just such a lamp, however, this style never became popular in the U.S. This patent drawing is shown on the following page.

To date I have collected 54 different UK oilwick cap lamps, 14 of which are this particular Scottish style, and of which 11 are stamped with Scottish place names. The vast majority of the other 40 also have Scottish place names. In old period writings I have commonly found these little oilwick cap lamps referred to as "tallow lamps" or "tally lamps".

It has been my experience that the oilwicks produced in the UK are much more likely to be found with a spade hook than their American counterparts, 26 of my 54 examples have spade hooks. These spade hooks are

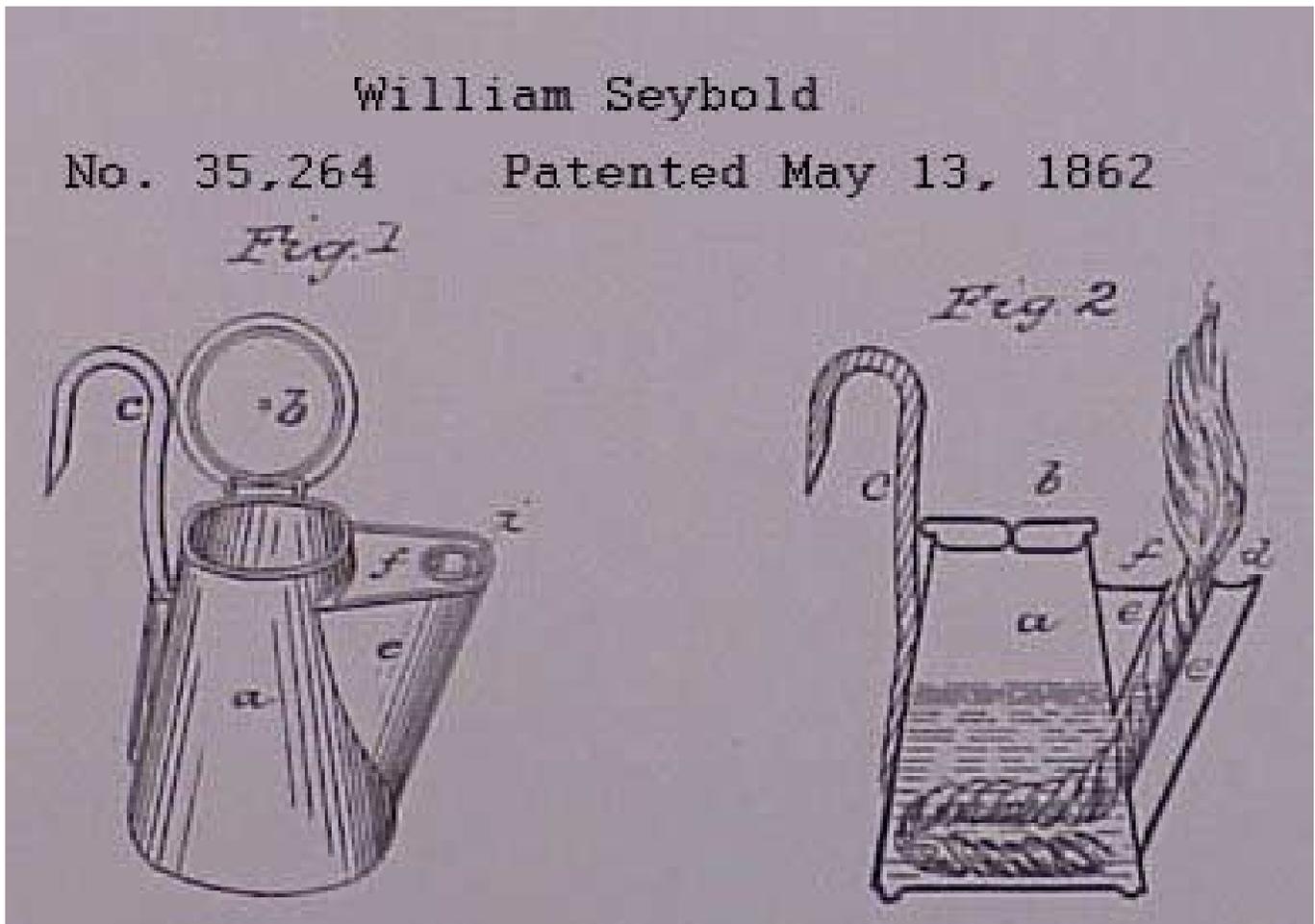
almost always tinned steel, even on lamps that are otherwise all brass, and are of a thinner gauge metal than spade hooks found in the U.S. Also worthy of note is the fact that oilwicks produced in the UK are more likely to have slightly domed lids than those produced in the U.S., 24 of my 54 examples have some degree of a domed lid. Six of the 54 have threaded lids (machined). The question in my mind is why this particular style of oilwick lamp was produced and used almost exclusively in Scotland?



**(L) J.H. Anderson 22 Victoria St. Edinburgh**  
**(R) W. Falconer & Son Dalkeith**



**(L) Unmarked, (R) Unmarked with brass spade hook.**



**William Seybold U.S. Patent drawing**

# Mini-Mining Set

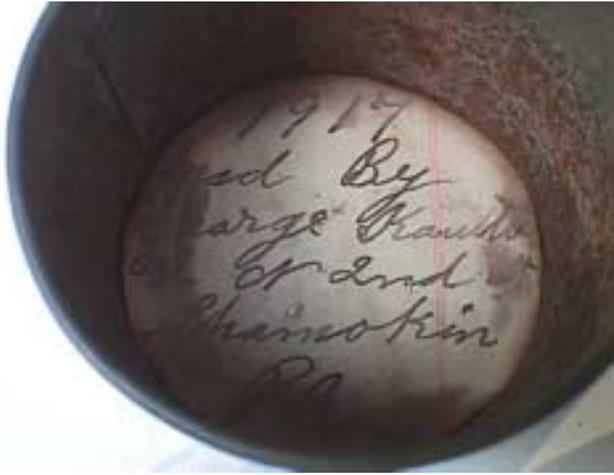
*by Dave Johnson*

Collectibles from many collecting fields have been produced in miniature. Too often these miniatures are erroneously described by sellers and collectors as salesman's samples when in fact they were objects produced to demonstrate the skill and craftsmanship of the maker. Such appears to be the case with the neat little tinned steel mining set shown here consisting of a miner's oilwick cap lamp, miner's canteen and miner's lunch bucket.

Inside of the lunch bucket is a note on a piece of paper cut to fit in the bottom that reads: "1917 George Kaultor 32 N. Ind St. Shamokin PA". It is written with a fountain pen and the paper is old and yellowed with age, thus I believe it to be contemporary with the lunch bucket. The bucket measures 1 7/8" in diameter and 1 7/8" in height to the top of the lid, not including lid ring.

The canteen is shaped just like some of its larger cousins. The stopper is cork with a tinned steel top, the stopper pull ring goes through the cork and holds it in place. The canteen measures 2 13/16" tall to the top of the stopper and the base measures 3/4" across and 1 11/16" long.





The oilwick lamp has a nicely tapered wick tube and tapered shoulder on the font with a separately applied vertical collar. The lid has a slightly down-turned edge. The lamp measures  $1 \frac{5}{16}$  inches tall to the top of the lid and has a base diameter of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

All three pieces were made from what appears to have been junk metal, recycled in today's terminology, with red and white lithographed print visible inside the lamp.

The workmanship on all three pieces is excellent. This is one of two similar sets that sold on ebay several months ago a few weeks apart. The story from the seller is that they were made specifically for two individuals in 1917 as a gift. I do not know who got the second set that was offered.



# Ouray 2003

*by Dave Des Marais*



This year's western mining artifacts show was hosted by Steve and Malia Rush in Ouray, Colorado. The fantastic scenery was a real treat for those of us who had never before visited the region. But EVERYONE who attended was treated to warm hospitality by the Rush family and by their supporting cast, including the good folks of Ouray. At the Friday welcome barbecue, we enjoyed great food and admired the Rush's new home and their great collection of artifacts. More than 70 collectors attended the main show on Saturday, and several tables were stocked with a rich variety of artifacts. Mike Bergman and the Goetz and P. Johnson families offered a remarkably large selection of goodies, especially considering their long treks from the east. The sumptuous banquet and lively auction kept things rolling into the evening. The vast majority of the auction items sold, and Paul Johnson's fancy candlestick finished the evening with some real high stakes bidding. Later, many of us enjoyed the Sunday morning mine tour as well as the gorgeous scenery and rich mining history of the surrounding region. It is indeed a happy prospect that Steve, Malia and their team have extended an invitation for the western show to return to Ouray in 2005.



***Friday afternoon at the Rush's home. Left to right: Tony Moon, Paul Johnson, Bill Bowman, Bob Guthrie, (back to camera unknown), Larry Kuester, Mark Bohannan.***



***Three old pals: Dave Thorpe, Larry Click, and Bob Schroth.***



***The best acution item, a gimbaled patented candlestick was sold by Paul Johnson to Bob Guthrie.***



***An overview of the floor.***



***Although he was missed as auctioneer this year, Bob Schroth entertained one and all from his table of artifacts. Seated immediately next to him is Mark Bohannan. In front is Paul Kouts.***

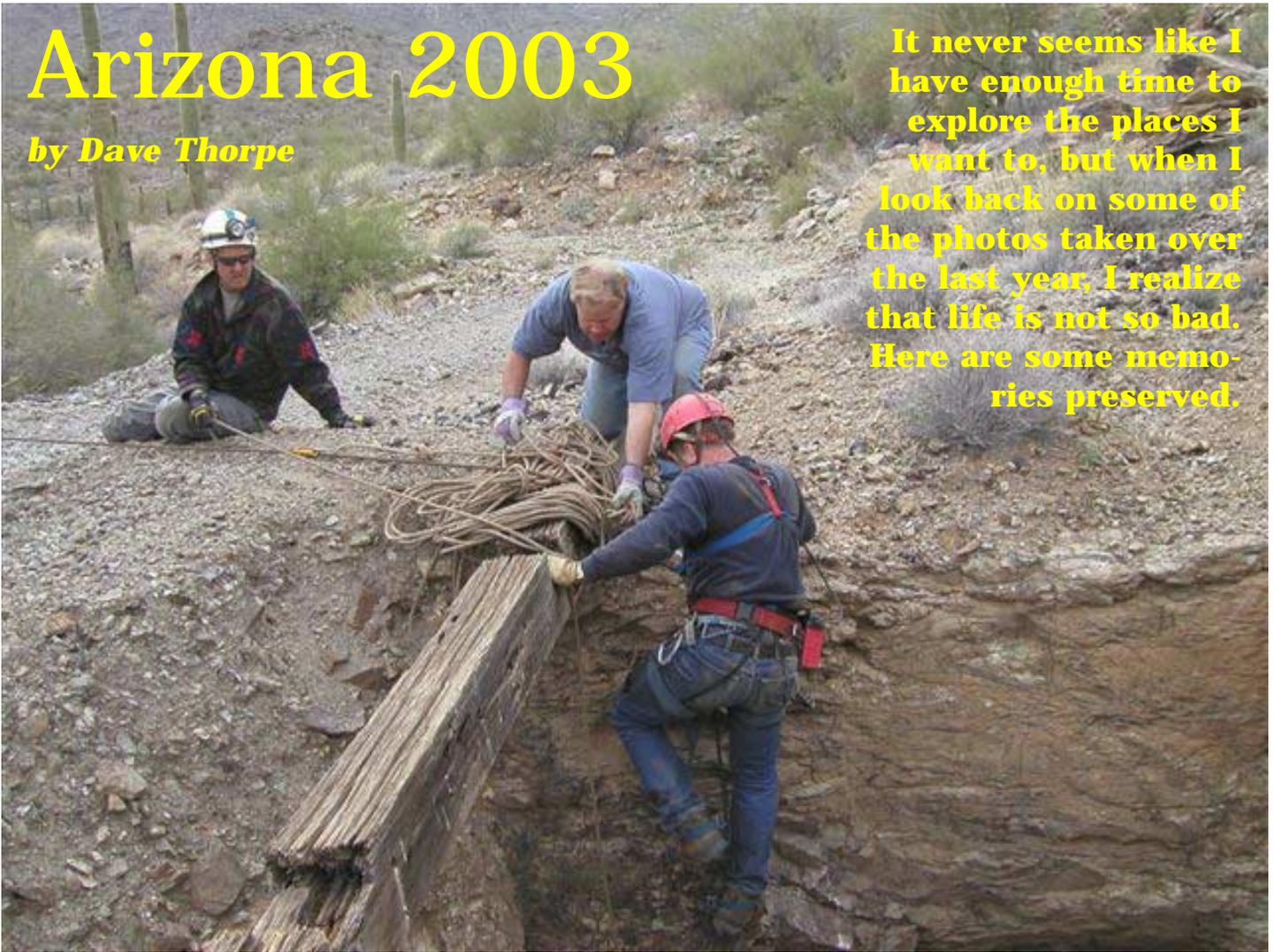


***Now a regular vendor at the shows is Mke Bergman, this year assisted by his son, an internationally ranked soccer player. Tony Moon scans the wares.***

# Arizona 2003

by Dave Thorpe

It never seems like I have enough time to explore the places I want to, but when I look back on some of the photos taken over the last year, I realize that life is not so bad. Here are some memories preserved.



**Above: The Harcuvar Mountains. Dave Derrick is first to drop this mountainside shaft while Bob Schroth and Dave Thorpe (white helmet) assist. Like most shafts in this area, it ended in breakdown at around the 150-foot level. This trip followed the February Tucson show. Next year's trip will explore a new area.**

**Left: Another shaft, explored to the 200-foot level yielded a metal canteen appearing to be early 1900's. ATVs and dirt bikes are now becoming standard equipment in getting out to the remote shafts.**



***In April, Bob Schroth, Dave Thorpe, and Roger Becksted did some extensive reconnaissance work in the Constellation district near Wickenburg. At this site, a cage was discovered topside. It is shown on the left with its spring-loaded safety dog mechanism still intact. Cages are quite heavy, yet we are not certain if this one remains on site. Some of the sheet metal panels from the roof of the building were still marked from the Wickenburg supply house that sold them around 1900. Some of these panels appear to have been removed by collectors.***



**Travel north from Phoenix and take the Table Mesa exit west for a punishing 20 miles of jeep road, and you will be at the Tip Top Mine. It is a steep incline shaft. An 8-foot bailing bucket sits at the 200 foot level. The PMI rope is becoming a real mess for Dave Thorpe as he lays it down. Bob Schroth was soon to follow, while Steve stayed topside and shot this photo.**



**Various excavated plateaus mark the hillside of Jerome, Arizona. This photo shows the "500-foot" level with various old buildings and a barely legible "No Trespassing" sign. It is rumored that Phelps Dodge keeps old artifacts in these old structures, one of which was the shower facility, or "dry-house". We are fairly certain that no one has entered these buildings in recent years. Photo by Blue Boelter.**



**Future possibilities  
abound at the  
Binghamton Mine  
near Mayer, AZ. Sev-  
eral miles of rough  
jeep road lead to this  
100 year old copper  
mine. The main  
shaft seen here is  
flooded at 175 ft.  
Could there be a drift  
before that?**

**Dave Thorpe does a  
stone drop into this  
nicely collared shaft.**



# Nail City Oil Wick Lamp

by Dave Johnson

One of the most unusual brand names to appear on a miners' oilwick cap lamp is the Greer & Laing NAIL CITY. Greer and Laing was a wholesale hardware business in Wheeling, West Virginia. Records in the West Virginia State Archives for the period 1871-85 list Greer & Laing, as "importers and dealers in hardware", with J.R. Greer and A. Laing as proprietors. The Nail City oilwick pictured here is all tinned steel with a double spout. It is a small face lamp with embossed lettering. The embossed lettering, seldom seen in oilwick lamps, is the only feature that really distinguishes it from other oilwicks.



The Nail City brandname comes from the fact that Wheeling, West Virginia was long known as the Nail City. According to a September 14, 1886 report in the Wheeling Intelligencer newspaper; "No city in the United States produced more nails than Wheeling, where the first nail factory began production in 1834". Wheeling manufacturers are recognized as being pioneers in introducing soft steel as a material for making nails rather than iron.

Hand-forged nails date back to Biblical times. Nails have always been in demand by people building with wood. Some blacksmiths specialized in making nails and they were called "Nailers". In many areas of pre-1850 America nails were so scarce (and expensive) that people would burn dilapidated wood buildings just to sift the ashes for iron nails. This was done because pulling the nails would have been time consuming and would have damaged most of them. After the nails were recovered, a blacksmith could easily straighten any nails that had been bent during construction.

Today we still use the term "penny" when referring to the size of a nail. It is believed that this term came into use in the early 1600's in England. The English monetary unit was the Pound Sterling (£) which was divided into Shillings and Pence. The cost of 100 nails in Pence in the 1600's is how we refer to nail sizes to this day. For example, 100 small nails that sold for 4 pence were called 4d nails (4d is the abbreviation of 4 pence). 100 larger nails that sold for 16 pence are 16d nails. And so on. The cut nail made its appearance in the mid-1700s. Thomas Jefferson is known to have

established a nail factory at his Monticello plantation as a way to supplement his income. His nail factory made both hand-forged and cut nails. It would not be until the middle-1800's that cut nails began dominating the marketplace. Cut nails are not actually "cut" they are sheared from steel plate that is the thickness of the nail shank. Although routinely referred to as "square nails", they are not truly square, the cutting machine tapers the nail shank as it is sheared from the steel plate. A second machine forms the head of a cut nail. With the hand-forged nail, all four sides are tapered. With the cut nail, two sides are parallel because they are the thickness of the plate they were sheared from.

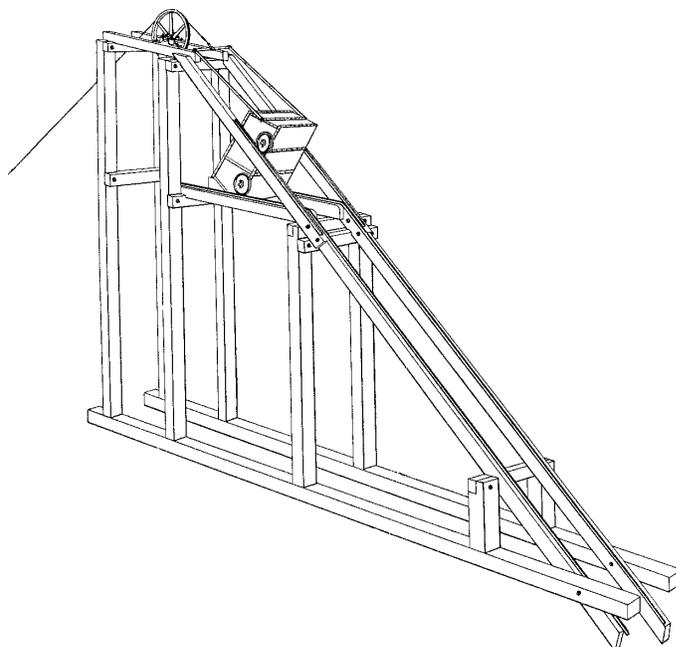
Cut nails could be manufactured much faster than individually formed hand-forged nails. As the process was mechanized, the cost per nail decreased. However, cut nail factories employed operators and attendants for each machine so the process was still labor-intensive. Cut nails had their heyday from about 1820 (development of the Type B nail) to 1910, the advent of the wire nail. Wire nails are round. Steel wire is fed into a machine that grips the wire, cuts it, makes the head, and chisels the point, all in one operation. This process is totally mechanized, requiring someone to merely provide maintenance for multiple machines and turn the machines on and off. Each wire nail machine can make thousands of nails per minute.

Wire nails have all but replaced the cut nail. Cut nails are still used but mainly for restoration and masonry work. Though wire nails are cheaper to produce, the cut nail has a holding power of approximately four times that of the modern round nail. Compared on that basis, cut nails are still the better nail. Now you know more than you ever wanted to know about nails, as well as learning about an unusually named oilwick lamp.

# Skip Cars

*by Dave Thorpe*

They are a little odd looking, but when you understand how they are used, skip cars suddenly become collectable too! You can see the rear wheel has an extra smaller rim that extends out from the main wheel. The smaller rim catches another track part-way up the incline which tips the car and dumps the load. These cars were used for both ore and water haulage.



# What's New in Maple City

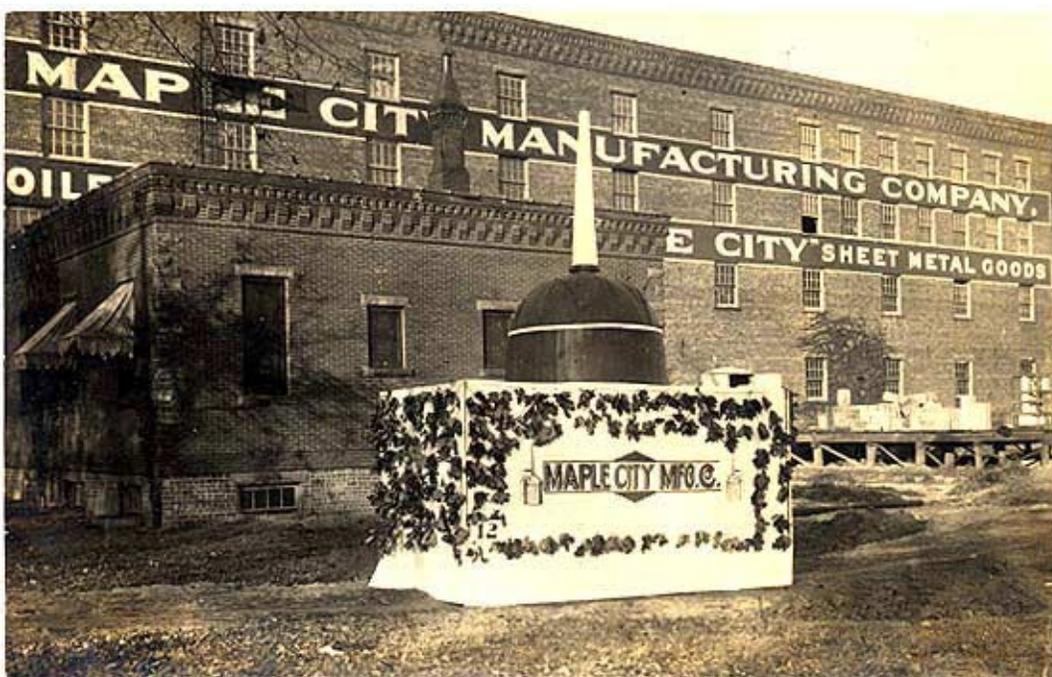
by Dave Thorpe



The last informational article on Maple City lamps was in the Fall 1990 Mining Artifact Collector. Since then, a few "new" items have emerged. It had long been speculated that the rare Union Carbide cap lamp was made by Maple City, largely due to the stamping on the

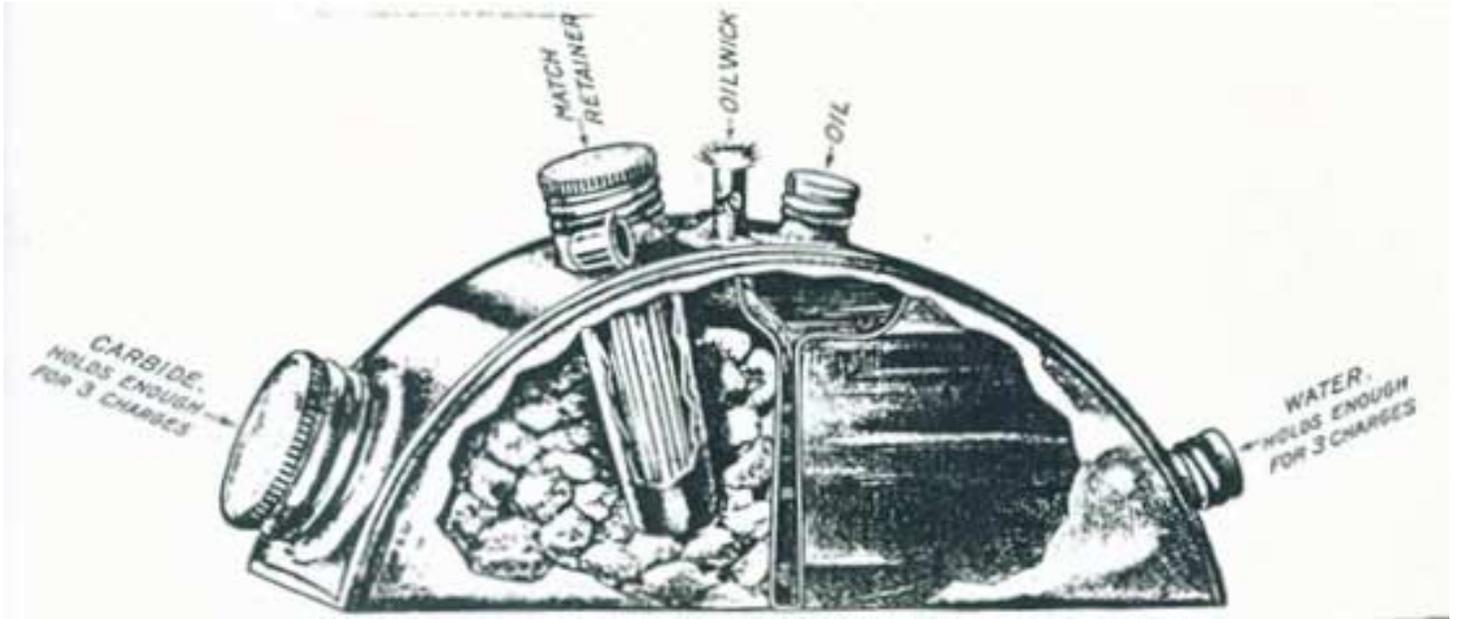


side that read Monmouth, Illinois. This small town is where Maple City lamps were manufactured. An unrelated bit of trivia, is that Monmouth is also the birthplace of Wyatt Earp. While conven-



tional Maple City lamps and the Union carbide shared a similar reflector, there were just enough differences in their design to leave a slight doubt as to a common ancestry. This doubt was removed when Bob Schroth obtained two unfired examples of Maple City stamped lamps that are identical in every aspect to the Union Carbide.

Although several collectors have now obtained Maple City flasks, this one, owned by David Crawford, stands out as one of the finest. The advertisement shows what the various compartments are used for, and the circular stamping is also shown in closeup.



# Medium Weight Artifacts

*by Leo Stambaugh*

Many people collect the smaller items like candlesticks, crimpers, and hand tools. Others go for the heavy metal ore cars and cages. Leo Stambaugh shows us that there is a middle ground. Over the last year he has sent us images of some collectible artifacts that are rarely seen.



***Here is a sample grinder that can be operated by a belt drive or cranked by hand. It is patented.***



***This is an ore crusher, also patented and nicely stamped.***





***Found in the rough, Leo is restoring this Giant powder oven.***



# The Transitional State Wolf: A Rare Example

by Dave Thorpe, photos by Tim Bonelli, illustration by Wendell Wilson

In the second issue of Eureka Magazine, April 1992, Jim Van Fleet documented the lineage of the Wolf cap lamp as it was sold in America, starting with the venerable 911a. The awkward looking lamp was imported from Germany, but was sold in the U.S. with an attached oval plaque displaying the New York, NY address.



The lamp debuted in 1914, and like many carbide cap lamps of this era, it had it was far different in design from competing lamps. By 1920's, most companies made lamps that were more "standard", that is they resembled each other. The 911a looked like a German beer stein, and stood a fair bit taller than other cap lamps. The size of the 911a was so large, it resembled a supervisor's lamp more than a cap lamp, and was also sold with a bail and hook in nickel plate. Unlike other US lamps, the gasket was tucked up inside the lamp atop the narrow threads. Most US lamps used a thick peripheral gasket that kept the threads free of dirt. The waterfeed lever was a delicate loop that resembled those on early German hand lamps.

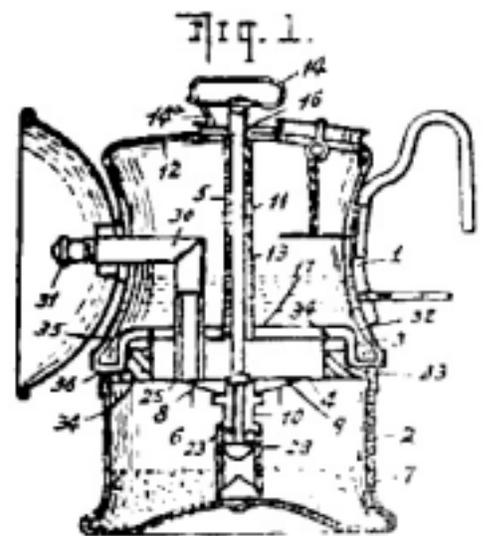
The waterfeed lever was a delicate loop that resembled those on early German hand lamps.

Most collectors are quite familiar with the stout Wolf "dome-top" and "flat-top" cap lamps that were made in the mid to late 1920's. These are conventional cap lamps in every sense and were designated the 911c. To my knowlege, a 911b was never advertised, but one might guess that this number referred to a cap lamp that looked like the 911a, but was smaller so as to be similar to standard US cap lamp. This lamp, while considerably rarer than the larger and more commonly seen 911a, is known to exist (Errol Christman collection).

The interest of this article is with the transition period between the 911a and the modern 911c dome-topped Wolf. These transition lamps were also designated 911c and probably began to be manufactured after WWI around 1920, as evidenced by the patent application date of May 5, 1920 and a Keystone ad from 1921 . The patent diagram is shown at right. The oval plaque soldered to the side of the base now read New York, USA.

The first ones carried an additional "Made in USA" plaque on the bottom (Jim Lackey collection, see Eureka, Issue 2 for photos). At some point this additional plaque was discarded, and the oval New York, USA tag was moved from the side to the bottom.

The early 911c lamps shared details with both the 911a and the modern Wolf lamps. Not yet ready to abandon the internal gasket, the lamp added an external gasket. With two gaskets, their claim was to a "double non-leaking joint". For the modern day collector, this is quite a prize...for the Wolf company it was a short-lived vestage that would not survive evolution through the 1920's.





Fine vertical knurling runs around both the tank top and base bottom, The tank and base are each concave, giving the lamp an oddly symmetric appearance. The first 911c lamps used the same loop water lever as European lamps, but this was soon modified to include a knurled wheel as shown on the lamp featured here. The striker has a tiny knurled knob that screws into the tube itself. Cap attachment is by hook and round-stock cap brace, but the brace is soldered over the base of the hook, a detail not seen on other American lamps. The first 911c lamps used a primitive and screw-in water door, but this too gave way to a hinged door.

The reflector is heavy spun brass and screws onto a threaded gas tube. There is no reflector brace, but a lock-nut holds it firmly in place. The lock-nut perhaps also served to allow precise positioning of the striker.



***Details of the double gasket mechanism. A standard Britelite gasket is a perfect match for the outer gasket. Note the tiny knurled adjustment knob at the end of the striker.***



In chemistry, when a molecule undergoes a reaction, it reaches a more stable and necessarily lower energy state. The object causing the reaction to occur may be heat, radiation, another chemical, or a catalyst. Any of these induction agents work by first bringing the molecule to a higher energy state which is an unstable form known as a transitional state. It remains in this state for only millionths of a second, then quickly finds a lower energy state which is the end result. In other words, the sled wants to slide downhill, but it first needs to rise over a large bump, a high-energy transition state. The induction agent is what pushes it over the bump. Scientists study high-energy transitional states (the top of the bump) to understand how molecules are formed and new ones might be synthesized. The ancient 911a Wolf cap lamp could be said to have been in an energy state that was at the top of the hill: it was unconventional and had features that needed to be reduced to a few simple tried and true designs. The dome-top Wolf we see today is the end result: simple and basic...it resides at the bottom of the hill. The early 911c, as shown here was a short-lived transitional design. As collectors we are lucky get an occasional glimpse of one, and as historians we recognize World War I as the catalyst.

## References

- Clemmer, G., *American Miners' Carbide Lamps*, 1987, pp 91-92.  
Van Fleet, J., *Eureka! The Journal of Mining Collectibles*, 1992, *Wolf Carbide Cap Lamps*, pp 1-6.

# Hoist Level Indicator Arrows

*by Dave Thorpe*

In the Summer 2002 issue of Eureka, Ted Bobrink described collecting mine hoist level indicators. These large mechanical dials showed the hoist operator which level the cage was on. Many indicators are so huge that they can not be collected with ease, however the pointer arrow itself is small enough to be displayed in a room. Many of these are a work of art equal to the miner's candlestick, and some even bear patent information. These are photos I have received from two collections.

The pointer on the left is somewhat ornamental and is 26 inches long. The shaft of this arrow is black-painted steel, and the two shiny parts are nickel-plated cast brass. In this case, there are two square-head set-screws. Its use can be traced to the underground copper mines of Jerome, Arizona

The pointer on the right is entirely cast brass and measures 25 inches. A single square-head set-screw is used. It was bought at a flea market in Globe, Arizona where it was supposedly used at the Old Dominion Mine. Below is a close-up showing the stamping and patent information.



# Desert Mine Creatures

*by Dave Thorpe*

While exploring mines in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, we regularly encounter living creatures. The most common is the rattlesnake which loves to hide out in mine entrances. Frequently, they fall into shallow shafts and give us quite a surprise as Steve Smith discovered on rappel in the Harcuvar Mountains last spring. We have seen desert tortoises, ring-tail cats, and a rare snake known as the Rosy Boa. Among the creatures found in the so-called twilight zone (the dimly lit entrance of the mine), this is the first time we have encountered an amphibian

While exploring the Cleator area, Steve Chilcoat found what appeared to be toads at the entrance of an adit. After consulting with Daren Riedle at the Arizona Game & Fish department, they were identified as Canyon Treefrogs. They are more commonly found clinging to rocks than trees with their suction-cup fingertips.





# Victor Swivel Lamp Bracket

by Dave Johnson



When using a oil wick cap lamp there was always the possibility of spilling fuel through the vent hole in the lid when the lamp tipped with the cap to which it was attached. This was especially likely when miners were lying on their side undercutting a coal seam with a pick. When they were lying horizontally there was nothing to prevent their fuel from slowly leaking out of the lamp.

One far-sighted individual found a way to keep the lamp from tipping, keeping it always in a vertical position. This was accomplished through the use of a swivel built into the lamp bracket attached to the miner's cap. William Israel, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, received patent 688,092 on December 3,

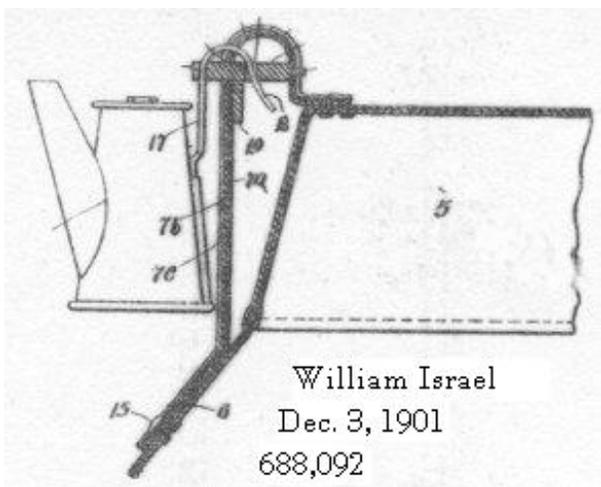
1901 for a miner's cap with a lamp bracket having a "rotatable member".

I had found this patent several years ago but had never seen a cap that matched this patent, that is, until I was able to buy this NOS example listed on Ebay recently. The lamp bracket is marked "VICTOR Pat. Dec. 3, 1901". As can be seen in the accompanying photos, this is a functional device. The question that I cannot

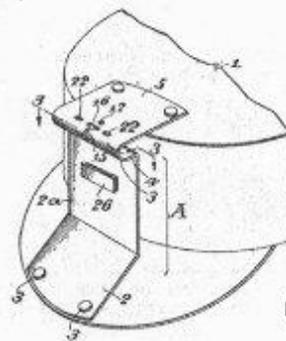
answer is why this design did not catch on? In my 35+ years of collecting this is the only example of this patented cap that I have seen or of which I have even heard. Obviously if this cap had been popular with miners more examples should have survived as they have with other varieties.



This was not the only patent granted to William Israel. On October 16, 1923, he received patent 1,470,923 for a "lamp supporting attachment for miner's caps. This patent was awarded for a lamp bracket that was to hold carbide lamps. I am not aware of any surviving examples of this patent but perhaps someday one of these will also surface just like this example of his earlier patent has done.



1,470,923. LAMP-SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT FOR MINERS' CAPS. WILLIAM ISRAEL, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Filed Mar. 21, 1921. Serial No. 454,047. 3 Claims. (Cl. 240-60.)



# Has the Powell Patent Candlestick been Found?

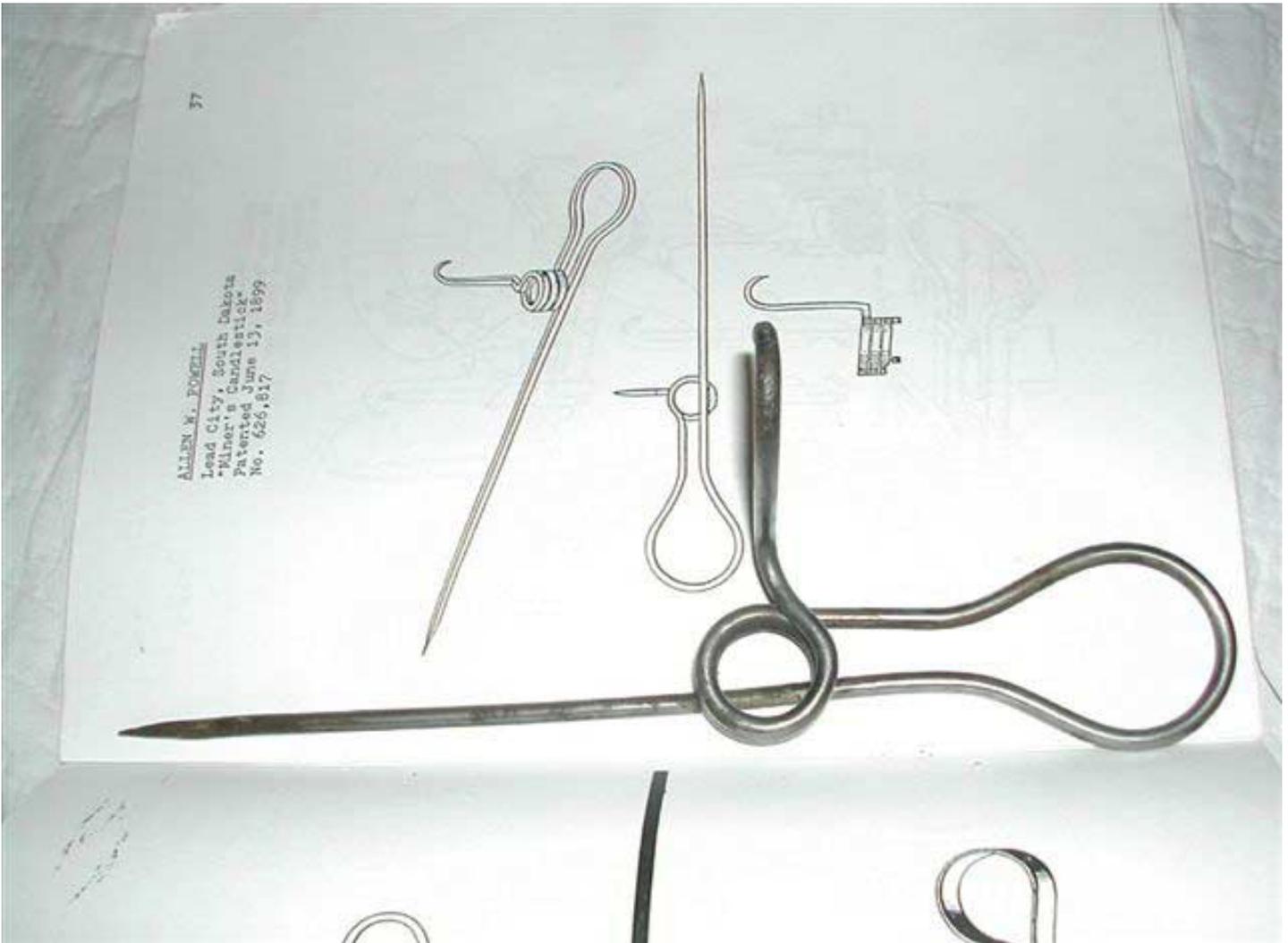
*by Al Winters*



***The top stick which closely follows the Powell patent is compared to the better known Steel Coil stick sold by Pacific Hardware & Steel Co.***

Patented candlesticks are typically unusual and often more complexly constructed than blacksmith holders. They were also generally more expensive to manufacture and seldom were a financial success. For that reason few were made and are very rare with many unknown to exist. Each year or two a previously unknown patent example turns up. As most examples are unmarked or do not exactly follow the patent design it is always somewhat speculative that the stick is the actual patent example. One stick that has eluded collectors for many years is the Allen W. Powell stick patented in Lead, South Dakota on June 13, 1899 under the patent #626,817. The Powell patent covers a very simple design that should have been inexpensive to mass produce but to my knowledge no examples have yet

turned up. The stick I have recently acquired is believed to have been produced under the Powell patent. It is made of spring steel, follows the patent design exactly but is constructed of round stock instead of square stock. This change from square to round would have been a logical modification for inexpensive mass production. The stick was formed in a jig and is almost a kissing cousin to the common Steel Coil stick marketed by Pacific Hardware & Steel Company of San Francisco. What if any connection exists between the two designs or timing of production is unknown but the steel coil is shorter, has 1/2 turn less in the thimble, is reversed in the spike position and therefore would be less expensive to produce and market. If anyone has any comments on the stick, patent, or speculation let me know. While someone may have a marked stick that exactly follows the patent as to square stock versus round, for the time being, I have labeled the stick the Powell Patent. Tony Moon has informed me that he has a similar stick that he acquired back in the 70's. It is in poor shape but I'm convinced it's the same.



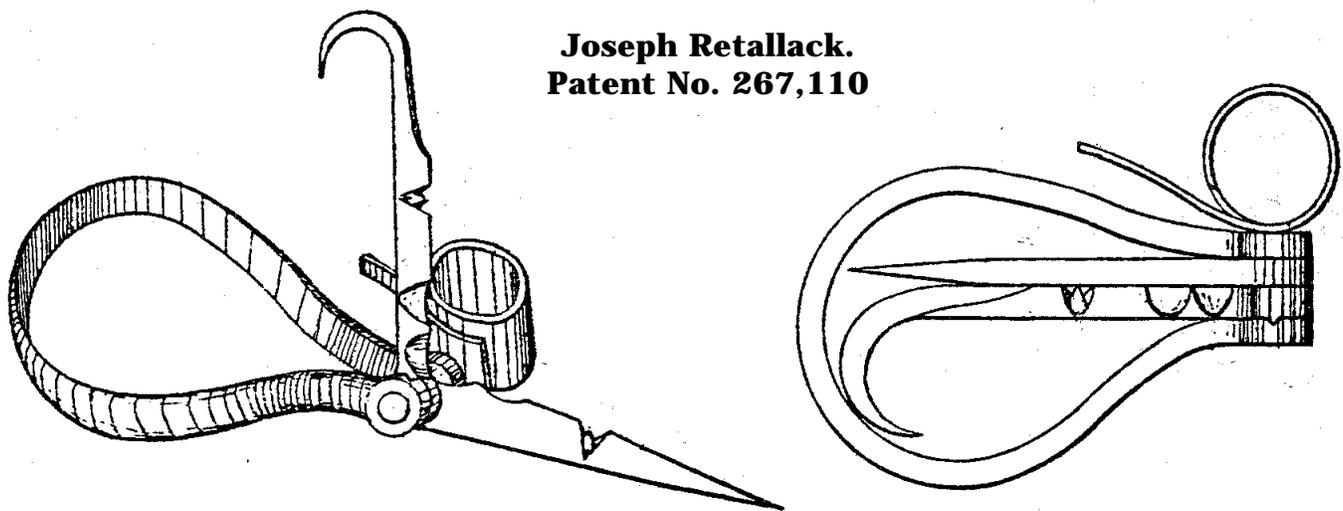
***The candlestick is compared to Powell patent drawings in Wendell Wilson's book of candlestick patents.***

# Mechanical Tool Candlesticks

by Al Winters

There are several varieties of manufactured and blacksmith produced candlesticks which incorporate either a knife blade, blasting cap crimper, fuse cutter or fuse splitter. Wilson and Bobrink classified these types as "Mechanical Candlesticks" and some of the most desirable within this category in my opinion, are the C. Cleaves models. Mechanical candlesticks such as the Cleaves were built for the miner to work and perform the extra duties of cutting and capping fuses for blasting. All such candlesticks are rare and were never popular probably because of their extra cost and the difficulty and somewhat dangerous requirement to hold and operate the candlestick tool while cutting fuse as well as crimping blasting caps while attached to a lit candle only an inch or so away. Regardless of their true functionality these mechanical wonders to some collectors, represent the ultimate in candlestick collecting.

Even more difficult to find are mechanical tool sticks that fold. Eleven folding sticks that incorporate fuse cutters, crimpers or knife blades were patented and of those, 5 are currently known to exist. To my knowledge, the known folders are the Neils Larsen--Mill City, CO 1874 (in the Henry Ford Museum); Charles Des Moinaux--Leadville, CO 1882 (in the Leo Stambaugh collection); Joseph Retallack--Central City, CO 1882; John Martin--Tuscarora, NV 1883; and, David James--San Fran., CA 1890 (in the Henry Pohns collection). Other non-patented folding tool sticks also exist such as illustrated by candlestick #241 in Bobrink's book on page 121.



**Joseph Retallack.  
Patent No. 267,110**

***Shown above, is the patent illustration for a candlestick by Joseph Retallack of Central City, Colorado on November 7, 1882. A photographed example is shown on the next page.***



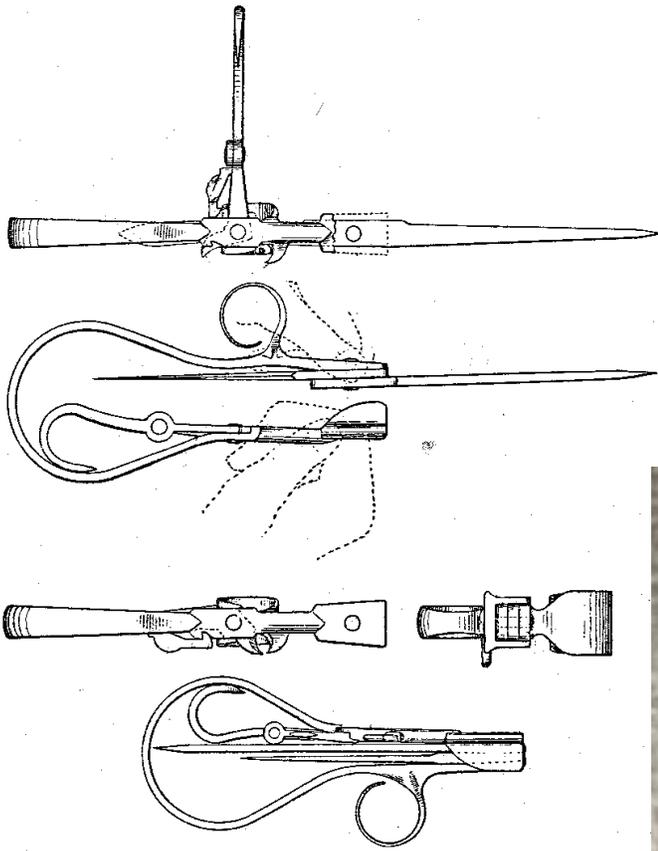
This folder (7.5--4.5in) was found in Retallack's Colorado home and originally acquired by Leo Stambaugh. The Retallack hook incorporates a knife edge cutter while the spike has both a serrated cap crimper and fuse cutter indentation.

***The Retallack stick shown left folded, and below fully deployed.***

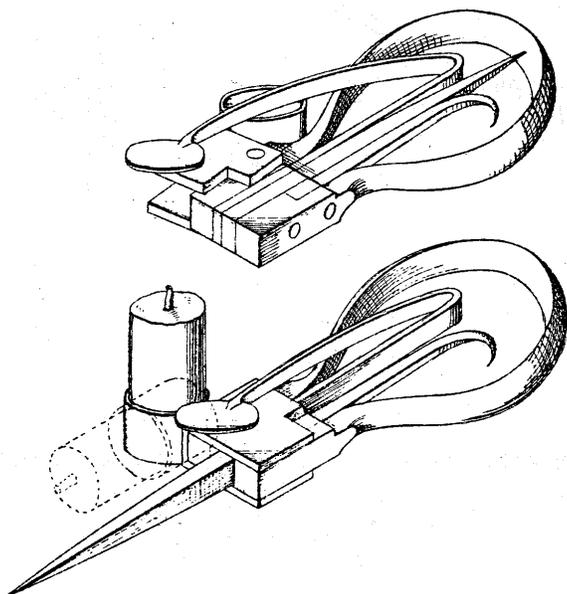


John C. Martin of Tuscarora, Nevada obtained this patent on April 3, 1883 (No. 275,057). His illustration nicely demonstrates how the stick can be spread apart to disengage the locking mechanism.

The example shown below (8.25--5-in) incorporates a foldout knife blade and a blasting cap crimper at the lower section of the hook.



This candlestick is a non-patented mechanical tool folder (7.5--4.25-in). It is similar to the 1882 Hume and Tate patent (shown in the illustration) but incorporates a fuse cutter and crimper lever and fixed blade bar.



The last set of photos also illustrate a non-patented mechanical wonder from Arizona. This stick was originally acquired by the late Charlie Moore of Globe, Arizona and in my opinion is certainly one of the best folding candlesticks that I have seen. The stick is 11-in. long and folds to 6-in. A fuse cutter and crimper is incorporated into the handle with a cutting bar that also serves to lock the hook and spike in position. The mechanical mechanism resembles a regular Blasting Cap Crimper and contains two small holes that may be for cutting and stripping blasting wire(?). This stick could have been patented as it contains several very unique features and is of gunsmith quality



# Everdry

*Dave Thorpe*

A name like this is bound to raise eyebrows! After all, the Eveready and Drylite carbide lamps are two of the most sought after. And while Everdry is not an error in typing, and neither is it a joke, it must be said that the name is after all...not that of a miners lamp.

The serious collector, who may have had a short run of tachycardia upon first hearing this name,

should feel no chagrin when it is learned that the word Everdry is inscribed on a mere matchsafe. For it was marketed by one of the most important men in the history of mine lighting: Jacob S. Sherman, whose career began in Springfield, Illinois and flourished in Chicago as the inventor and manufacturer of the AutoLite miner's cap lamp. Mr. Sherman's humble beginnings in Springfield began with the Park Sherman Company. The photos will demonstrate that Park Sherman Co. was indeed the maker of the Everdry.

