Lehigh Valley Coal Advertising Oil Wick Lamp

Dave Johnson

Advertising pieces from coal companies are a common collectible, generally appearing as letterheads, pens, pencils, letter openers, blotters, lighters, ashtrays, paperweights, pocket mirrors, pocket knives and matchbooks. A very unusual advertising piece is this oilwick cap lamp stamped with embossed letters COMPLIMENTS OF LEHIGH VALLEY COAL SALES CO. This unfired lamp was manufactured by Trethaway Bros. of Parsons, PA and features the O'Keefe Patent (July 21, 1896, Pat. No. 564,450) brace between the font and spout. This is only the second oilwick I have seen with embossed stamping and only the second different oilwick used for advertising a coal company, the first being my all copper Consolidation Coal Co. lamp dated April 28, 1897.

Lehigh Valley Coal Sales was the sales branch of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. The Lehigh Valley Coal Company, with main offices in Wilkes-Barre, was divided into Ten Divisions, nine of which were anthracite coal producers. There was the Wyoming Division with the Warrior Run, Franklin and Mineral Springs Collieries, the Lackawanna Division with the Heidelberg, William A , Seneca and Broadwell Collieries, the Luzerne Division with the Maltby, Westmoreland, Exeter, and Stevens Collieries, the Delano Division with the Park and Buck Moutain Collieries and Springdale Washery, the Locust Mountain Division with the Centralia and Sayre Collieries, the Girard Division with the Packer No. 4 and No. 5 Collieries, the Lehigh Divison with the Spring Mountain, Beaver Meadow, Derringer and Oneida Collieries, the Hazleton Division with the Hazleton, Drifton and Eckley Collieries, the Pottsville Division with the Blackwood Colliery and a single Division at Snowshoe which produced bituminous coal from the No. 22, 25, and 26 Mines on the Kittanning Seam. The Lehigh Valley Coal Co. was a major anthracite coal producer with thousands of employees involved in the production process. All production was shipped from the mines via the Lehigh Valley Railroad.