

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.

