

# 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.

