

A Fancy Oilwick Cap Lamp

by Dave Johnson

Pictured here is a very fancy oilwick cap lamp made entirely of German Silver (an alloy of copper, nickel and zinc, sometimes containing small amounts of iron to make it whiter and harder), also known as nickel silver. Both ornate and functional, this lamp is a true work of art, obviously the product of many long hours of work by the craftsman who produced it.

Was this lamp a presentation piece or was it an object for the maker himself to demonstrate his skills? The only information that I have on this lamp is that it came from an estate sale in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal fields. I wish I had some history on this lamp.

This little beauty measures just under 2" tall to the top of the lid. The bottom is separately applied, as is the spout, hook and lid hinge. The font is one piece without a seam. The lid opens back to the hook, an uncommon feature on oilwick cap lamps. I would speculate that is a one-of-a-kind lamp. Fancy oilwick lamps are seen much less often than fancy candlesticks but do not seem to attract the same level of collector interest.



Royal H. F. & Co. Oil Wick Lamp

by Dave Johnson

It seems that there is no end to the new names that keep popping up in the bush on oil wick cap lamps. This one is marked: "ROYAL" in an arch over "H.F. & Co.". I already have a different shaped oil wick lamp marked H.F. & Co. on the threaded lid. However, the ROYAL name is one that I have not seen before.

This all steel cap lamp measures 2 5/8" to the top of the flip lid with a base that is 1 1/16" in diameter. The lid is hinged on a brass wire that penetrates the shoulder. The spout is single wall construction. There is nothing outstanding about this non-descript lamp except for the name.



Australian Wet Mine Lamp

by Steve McCabe

Has anyone seen anything like this before?



The Plomosa Range

by Dave Thorpe

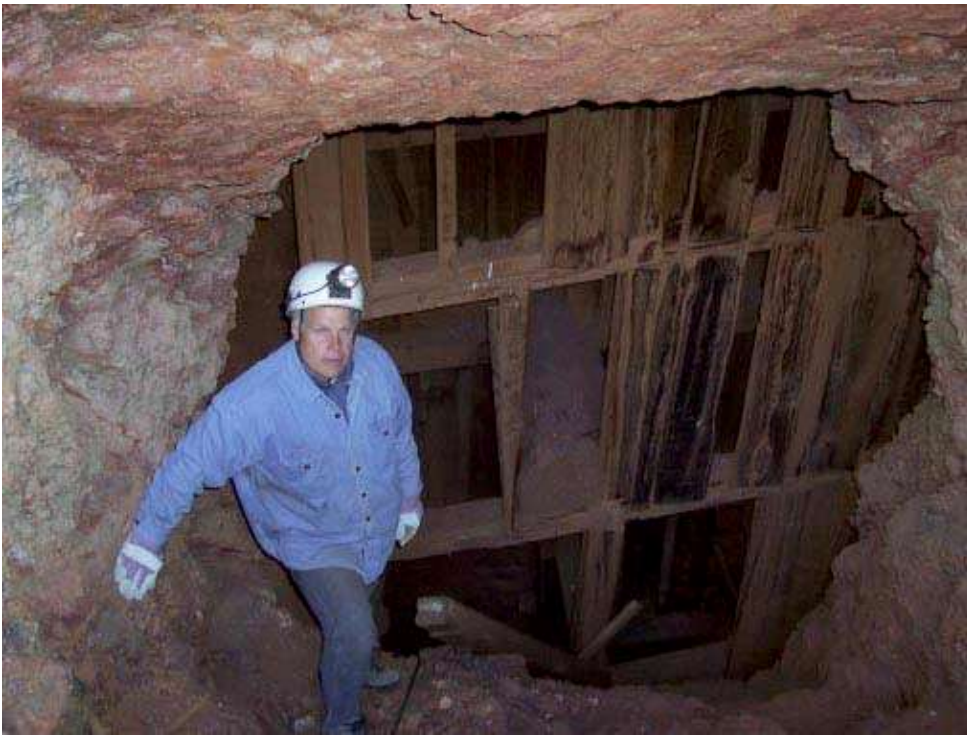
The Sonoran desert in Arizona is a flatland interrupted by small jutting mountain ranges. Some have names like Eagle Tail, Battleship, and Camelback to describe the way they project up with such drama. From the distance of an interstate highway the ranges look remarkably similar to one another. Yet these islands, to which they are compared, have their own isolated ecosystems, thier own individual characters, and thier own abandoned mines. They represent areas where the earth's mineral crust has broken free of its recumbent position and exposed its strata for man to view and to mine. In Arizona, the Copper State, most of that mining took place in the early 1900's. Its remains provide the trails and the playground for our exploration and collecting.

Quartzsite, Arizona is a town of motorhomes. Thousands upon thousands park their rigs here for the winter, some in designated sites within the township proper, others scattered over a radius of twenty miles along makeshift clearings in the desert brush. North of Quartzsite is the expansive La Rosa Plain, stretching some thirty miles to the first island range: the Plomosa Mountains. Even an occasional motorhome can be found in the foothills, but none venture to the heart of this defunct mining district. For this, an ATV is almost required equipment.

On January 18, Roger Becksted, Bob Schroth and I brought our quads to the Plomosas. Modern ATVs are a wonder of engineering. They have full independent suspension, automatic transmissions, and push-button 4WD selection. While 2WD is best for cruising the flat stretches at speeds approaching 60 mph, 4WD is mandatory for the steep and crumbly climbs.

Roger Becksted stands between an old mine foundation and his ATV, a Polaris 500 H.O. Bob Schroth's Yamaha Grizzly 660 is the blue one. Both are full auto-transmission with independent rear suspension that provides increased ground clearance and extreme comfort.





Although adits generally outnumber shafts in most areas, the Plomosas offer a number of shafts that we had previously identified on topo maps. The shafts are our only hope of finding an artifact, as every drift and incline has been pillaged long ago by those whose memories remain as empty cans of Mountain Dew and Budweiser. On the day before this journey we had explored shafts in the nearby Bouse area with dismal

results. In these photos, Roger and Bob rig and descend a 200-footer near the Little Butte Mine.



Fortunately for us, we discovered collared shafts within a mile of our journey at the Mudersbach Mine. Here is a view down one of them that we left for another trip.



After identifying two shafts, we used a GPS to direct us to the the next mine, known as the Tough Nut shafts. The two remaining shafts here are actually located next to a dry gully. They are wood collared shafts, but there was evidence that they regularly took water. Roger rappelled 150 feet into one, then down an incline another 100 feet until it was choked with debris. He brought up only a box end that that was stamped: Hercules Powder Co., Hercules California. On the other side was hand written message: "Come down for lunch".

The photo below demonstrates a new technique we have used to check relatively short drops, or to evaluate the first 50 feet of a larger drop. The biggest problem in checking a shaft is changing over from rappelling gear to ascending gear while hanging on rope. Many times it becomes obvious to the rappeller that he must come back up after dropping in only a few feet. We now use a cable winch attached directly to the seat harness. There is a back-

up safety belay rope just in case there is a mechanical problem. The climber can go up or down without ever touching a rappel rack or an ascender. Bob Schroth is checking this 150-footer. After 25 feet the timber was wet, rotting, and collapsing. This is a bad thing....so back up he came...three minutes total time.



Our final destination was to the Southern Cross Mine, deep in the heart of the Plomosas. It sits at the base of Ibx Peak. This mine was known as Lead Camp in 1911, and the expanse of this operation suggested major workngs. A 1/4 mile square area was littered with foundations, stone walls and even the remains of an old stacked stone house. There were at least four good shafts here.

It is incredible how much energy is expended ascending a 200+ foot mine shaft. While some of it is pure nerves, you are parched with thirst after the climb and often shaking with hypoglycemia. Roger experienced both after coming back up this shaft. Seen here, he is on rappel down a short incline that intersects with a shaft in the background.

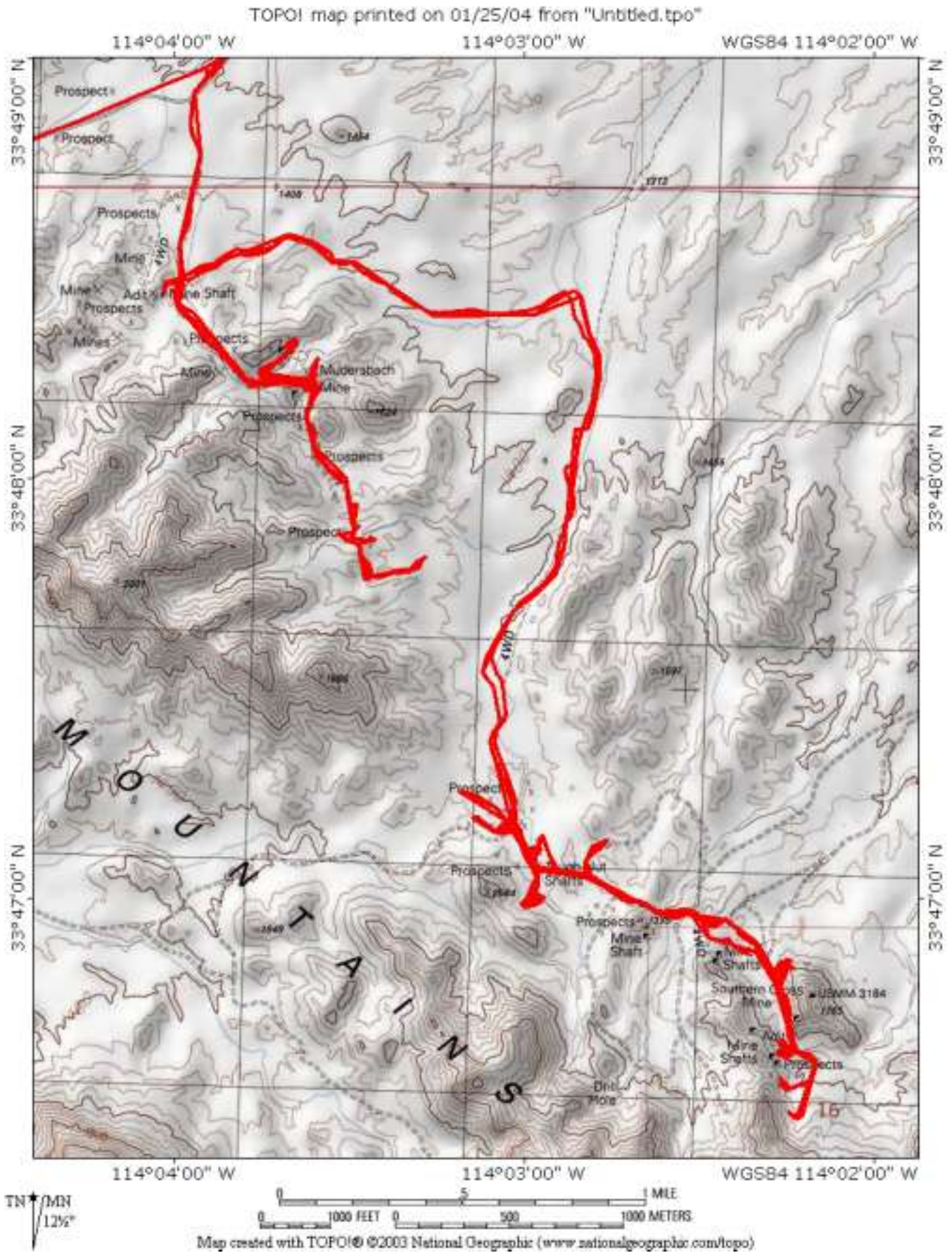


As much as we have become dependent on ATVs to take us to remote locations, so have we opened many doors with the use of GPS devices. These can be integrated with a laptop computer to give a precise visual on a topo map as to where you are and where you need to be. We use the Garmin eMap as a GPS, and topo programs by MapSource and National Geographic. Below, Dave Thorpe plots the course from the back of a pick-up. Inside the truck is his ATV, a Honda Rincon.

With the data uploaded back into the laptop, and overview of the day's activity can be seen on the folowing page.



Below is the map generated from the trip. You can see the Mudersbach, the Tough Nut, and the Southern Cross Mines...all shafts have been identified and wait future exploration.



Development of Werntz Candlesticks

by Al Winters

Carbide lamp development is generally well documented with changes in design and improvements noted by various patent dates stamped into the brass components. Many excellent articles have described the development of the various carbide cap lamps through research and actual observation of the various models themselves. The path of candlestick development is however, seldom documented or for that matter, known.

Wilson and Bobrink briefly touch on the various examples of the Edger Curtiss patented stick in their candlestick book. Another known example of candlestick development through observation of actual models is the Gabriel Werntz candlestick of Placerville, California. Werntz developed a beautiful disassembling, flame-snuffer that could be broken down for carrying in the pocket or assembled for use in the mine. He was granted patent #395,097 on December 25, 1888.



An early and crude prototype of the patent was first developed by Werntz prior to his patent. The thimble of the prototype is attached by means of a sliding brass post and the hook, when disassembled is secured by a sliding square brass socket. Because of the various deficiencies for practical use the prototype was probably quickly scrapped as Werntz went on to develop his patent model. The prototype is illustrated below.

Following his early experimental candlestick, Werntz probably developed his patent which incorporated the flame-snuffer disk as shown (later improvements include a marked and slotted disk for more secure attachment when disassembled). As noted by Bobrink and Wilson, in practice the snuffer was probably lost or discarded within the first few days and it is therefore rare.

***“Standard Issue” patented Werntz
candlestick with flame snuffer.***



Later (or earlier?) than his patent, Werntz probably attempted to make a more durable stick that could better stand up to the severe treatment of mine work. The larger and heavier duty stick, shown below, incorporates a single but much larger post on the thimble and no flame-snuffer.

Heavier stock Werntz style candlestick.



A comparison of the three types of Werntz candlesticks assembled and disassembled is shown.



Santini Carbide Safety Lamp

by Dave Johnson

This will probably be a new one for most mining artifact collectors, especially in the U.S. In my 35+ years of collecting mining artifacts I have added two German Wolf, a German Seippel, a German C. Koch and two French Arras carbide safety lamps to my collection and thought I was doing very well. While at the mining artifact show in Wilnsdorf Germany last June an Italian collector brought in a carbide safety lamp I had not seen or heard of before.



The lamp is stamped F.SANTINI FERRARA on the bottom of the base. The water control knob is stamped SANTINI BREVETTO FERRARA. Ferrara is a city in Italy and is obviously the place of manufacture. When I first saw the lamp I thought it was so ugly that I paid it little attention. After leaving the show the more I thought about it the more I regretted not having bought it because it was so unique so I contacted the owner to see if he still had it, he did, and I bought it.

The lamp is all steel with the exception of the threads that attach the water chamber to the carbide chamber, the threads that attach the globe and gauze to the water chamber, the burner assembly, threaded water door and water control valve. The glass is heavy with wave distortions and a few bubbles. There is no locking mechanism, and the globe and gauze must be removed in order to adjust the water valve. There is an overhanging skirt that covers the water adjustment valve when the lamp is assembled. There is no igniter on the lamp, thus the only way to adjust the flame or re-ignite the lamp is to expose the burner, hardly a well thought out design. The only way to remove the globe or gauze is to remove the 4 nuts on the ends of the pillars that hold the skirt and threads in place, pull off the skirt and let the globe and gauze drop out. This is not a very quick or efficient way to accomplish this task.



Joining Headframe Timbers

by Dave Thorpe

On a recent trip to a mine in southwest Arizona, we encountered a large operation in which the headframe had been knocked down. I noticed that the broken timbers were joined with 3/4 inch bolts and cast iron washers. These are about three inches in diameter. We did not have any wrenches at the time, but were able to chip out a couple of these from the timbers.



They are patented:

May 10-04
Oct 29-7

The raised lettering also reads:

S-T-L. M-G. CO.

Perhaps this is St. Louis Manufacturing Co.
In the center is stamped:

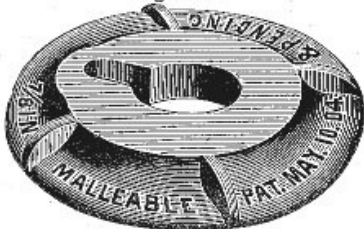
No. 10 MALL 3/4

The meaning of this was questioned over MiningCollect, and Peter Cain took a "wild guess" that it referred to malleable iron. A page from a 1911 Hendrie & Bolthoff catalog proved that he was right. The washers in the catalog even share the May patent date with the specimens found.

626 THE HENDRIE & BOLTHOFF MFG. AND SUPPLY CO., DENVER, COLO.

MALLEABLE IRON WASHERS

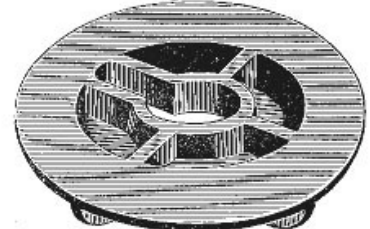
Fig. 2203



TOP VIEW

NAIL HOLE, LOCK NUT

Fig. 2204



BOTTOM VIEW

These washers are of about the same diameter as cast washers, weight about one-third as much, and are several times as strong. They are about one-half as thick as cast washers, and save from one-half to one inch in length of bolt. In most cases they will be found to be cheaper than cast washers, while the freight on them is only one-third as much.

Size, bolt, inches.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	1	$1\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	2
Price, per 100.....	\$2 00	\$3 00	\$4 50	\$7 00	\$9 00	\$12 00	\$20 00	\$25 00	\$27 00	\$55 00
Weight, per 100, pounds.....	7	22	33	50	68	87	150	190	206	420
Diameter, inches.....	2	$2\frac{1}{4}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	6	6	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Thickness, inches.....	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{16}$	$\frac{7}{16}$	$\frac{7}{16}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$

Railroad or Mining?

Submitted by Tom Stranko

I have had this forever. It looks like a RR tail end lamp (a marker lamp) but it seems to have the anti-explosion gauze seals around the two inlets. It's made by the Dressel Co. of Virginia who made a lot of regular RR hand lanterns.



Top gauze.



Bottom gauze removed from base.



The little "foot" is a casting that allows the lamp to be locked into a bracket on a wall, etc.

I think it had a lock of some kind to keep the top from being opened by an unauthorized person. I see the outline in solder of something right in line with the lid latch that could have locked down the lid. It does not say a thing about being a MSA certified lamp etc. I always figured it was an underground mine car lamp or perhaps a fireless locomotive lamp. Any ideas?

An opinion from Jim Baird (RR lamp expert):

The lantern is by "DRESSEL" who made short globe RR lanterns using this frame (1920-1940). The mounting bracket was used on trolley cars to hang on the rear as a tail marker, with red globe. The factory modifications, both top and bottom, would lead me to believe it was set up as a safety lantern, in a permanent position. Could have been mining or around fuel tanks in the rail yard? Hard to say without old literature as to it's purpose, definitely a possible mining lantern with a question mark?



Crazy for Canteens

Submitted by Tom Stranko

Having bought my third copper canteen, I now see there are different styles according to how the seams are made. The two on the left have the body folded horizontally and the top cone seam. The one on the right has two vertical seams but no horizontal seam for the top cone.





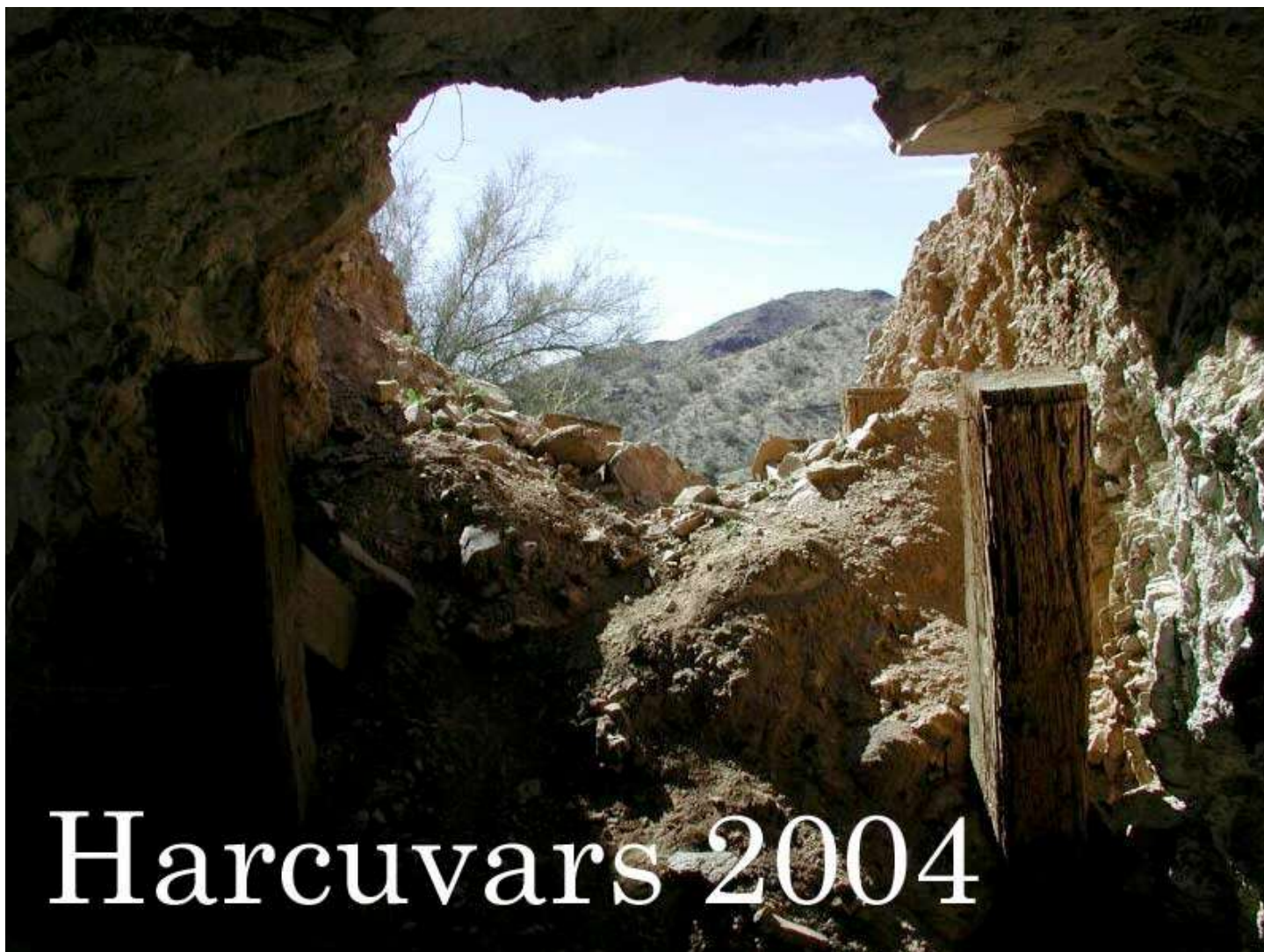
These photos show the difference in construction in terms of solder seams. The flask on the left has three seams compared to its cousin on the right which lacks a seam at the shoulder.

Below is a simple tin flask.



At left is a powder flask with a built-in squib container. While my most recent \$10 purchase is below:



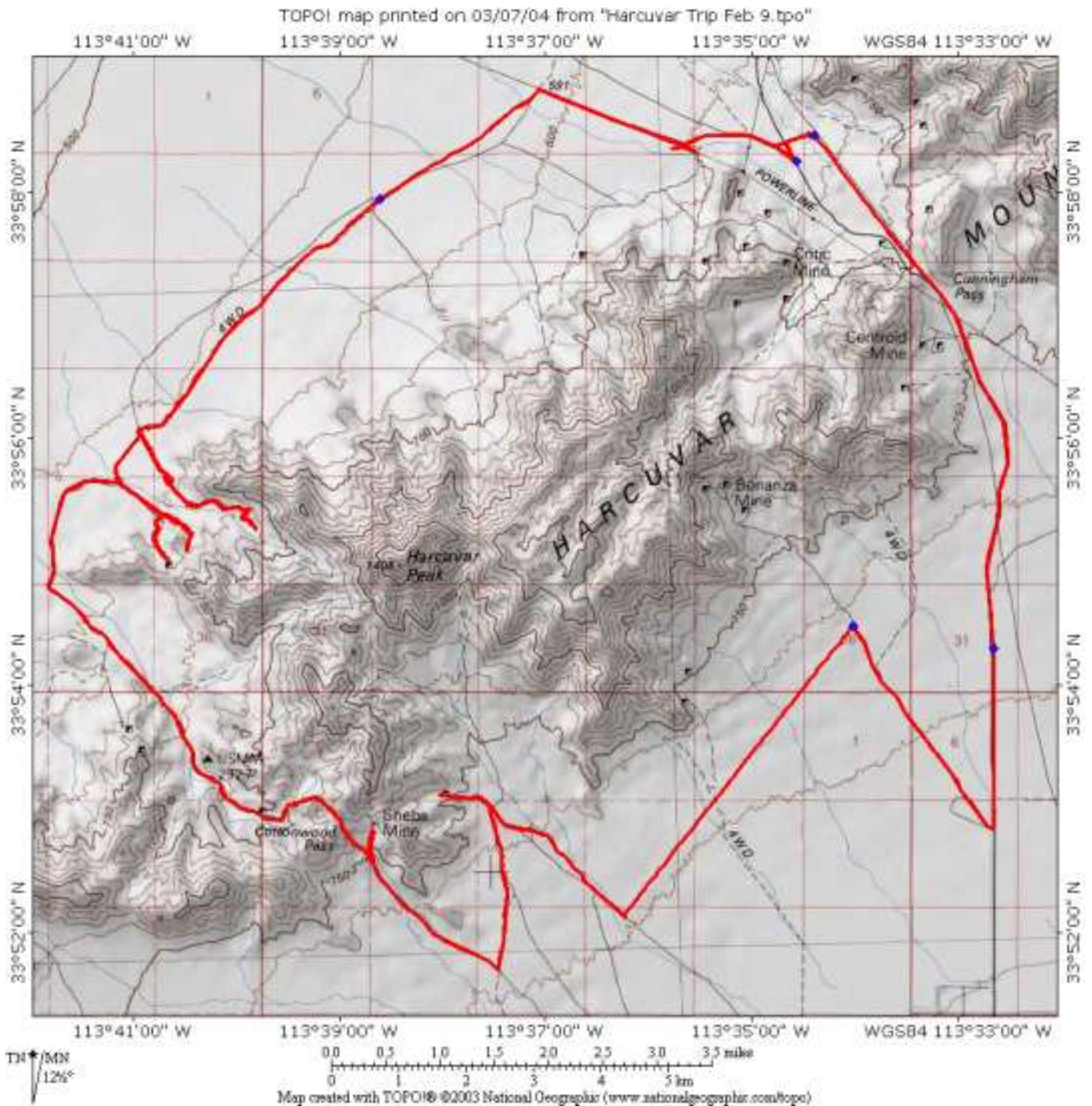


Looking out of an adit in the Harcuvar Mountains, Arizona (photo by Bill Gardner).

Early February has been a time for an increasing number of mine explorers to gather in the Harcuvar Mountains. Having explored the Critic and Little Giant mines, we have recovered many artifacts including flat cars, boxes, tins, and a canteen. Old timers included Dave Thorpe (Arizona), Bob Schroth (California), Dave & Linda Derrick (Wisconsin), Steve Smith & family (U.P. Michigan), Jack Purson (New Mexico), and Don Fritzges (California). New to the group was a retired California firefighter named John and his girlfriend Sandy, and their friend Billy Smith, a Texas story-teller residing in Las Vegas. Additionally, we met up with another group known as the ATV Explorers, headed by Brad Morris of 29 Palms, California. And finally, there was Siegbert "Ziggy" Secha, of Germany out for a wild west experience.

This was to be our last trip, our plan being to circumnavigate the entire western range, checking map-named mines along our course. To make such travel possible over unimproved roads and trail required experienced dirt-bike and ATV riders...and we had a bunch!

(Photos by Don Fritzges, Brad Morris, and Bill Gardner)



The map above shows our route, as recorded by on-board gps. The two blue dots at one o'clock represent our camp area. We traveled in a counterclockwise direction, first following a powerline then cutting left to the back side of the range, which is seldom seen. Keeping track of a dozen people over miles of trail was a little like driving cattle. Walkie talkies helped. Our first destination was to be the Golden Treasure Mine at around ten o'clock. You can see that our first departure off the main route was a wrong turn...the canyon got rougher and rougher until we realized that we'd gone astray. The next turn paid off, we located the mine which lay over quite an area and was accessed by two forks. Unfortunately, the only thing found was a bat colony.



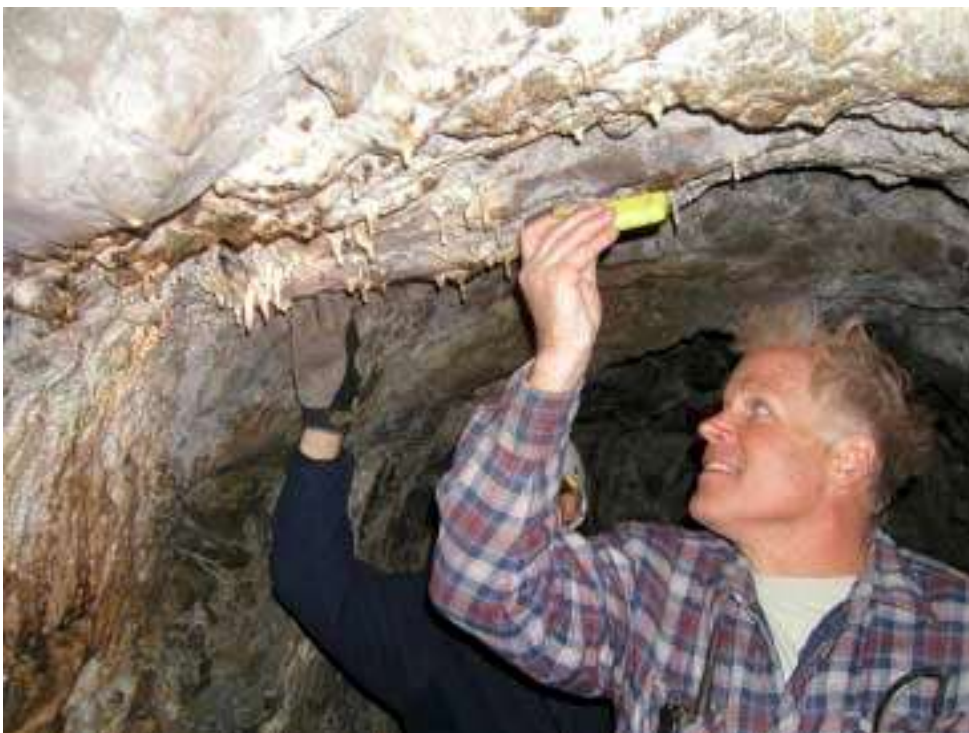
Cottonwood Pass: the Great Divide

Our greatest challenge was to locate and cross Cottonwood Pass. Weather at the pass was on the windy and chilly side. Still the great views and the time of day mandated a lunch break. Nothing like sub sandwiches and diet soda after a hard ride. Looking at the road ahead was bittersweet. The Sheba Mine lay half-way down, a wooden ore hopper still standing...but the exposure and the switchbacks were treacherous. I was a tad reserved on the throttle of the Honda XR600 dirt bike.

We explored all available areas of the Sheba. The lower area was a horizontal tunnel with a number of small stalactites forming. Above was a fantastic hopper with track running out to it. We explored several tunnels here. Dave Derrick crawled deep inside a steep crawlway that was inclined at 45 degrees. I think it was an ore chute. At one point we heard a horrible sounding cave in from above. Dave did not answer, and we were already fretting about how to present the situation to his wife Linda. Fortunately, Dave emerged about 20 minutes later. He had tossed a boulder down the chute and it brought a few more tumbling down with it.



(Above) The ore hopper at the Sheba Mine.



(Left) Bob Schroth examines formations on the ceiling at the lower Sheba tunnel.



(Above) Steve Smith of the U.P. (Michigan) points out a distant mine to Dave Thorpe from Cottonwood Pass. Jerry of the ATV Explorers is suiting up.



(Left) In spite of their advertising, the only restaurant in Wenden is actually a good one,. Siegbert Zecha aka "Ziggy", posed for this picture. Ziggy was visiting from Frankfurt, Germany, and got a real dose of American fun.



Our camp.

The sun sets quickly in the Harcuvars, and the temperature plummets. We bring plenty of firewood and stay up late playing guitar and listening to outrageous stories by Cap Tin Bob Schroth. This year brought a new crew in to join us from the Las Vegas area. Billy Two Guns provided plenty of red-neck humor, and fed us all well with his southern-style cooking.

On the following day we did a high-speed trail ride to the defunct mining camp of Swansea. Many shafts and foundations remained, but the area is well posted and fenced off for historic protection.

I'm sure 2005 will bring a whole new set of trails and campfire entertainment for our ever increasing crowd.

A Tall Boy Stick-lamp

by Bob Schroth

The Shanklin Manufacturing Co. Made a wide variety of carbide lamps for mining use. When looking through early ads from the company you can see how they made a light to fit almost every need. From the small cap lamps to the larger aptly named Tall Boy line to the Square Lite and the largest Hand lamps.



A rare early stick-lamp. Guy's Dropper 2-date model. Gilt pain still present, even over portions of the sharpened steel hook.

SHANKLIN MANUFACTURING CO.

2725-27-29 S. Eleventh St., SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Miners' Carbide Lamps and Supplies

Products

Miners' Carbide Lamps; Carbide Lamp Supplies.

Shanklin's Carbide Lamps

These lamps are made in a wide variety of styles, as described below.

The outstanding feature of all lamps is the Guy Patented Water Dropper, which was perfected several years ago by Mr. Frank Guy, a practical miner, and we have used it for eight years in our lamps, during which time it has proved to be a most accurate and thorough device for feeding water to our Carbide Lamps.

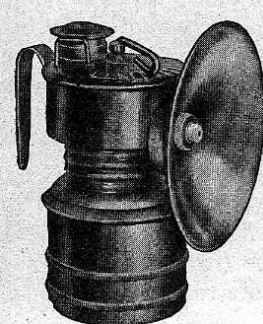
A feature of the Guy Water Dropper is the Valve Cleaner, which is a knurled thimble put on the dropper between the button and the end of the dropper tube. If dirty water is used and the dropper becomes clogged, a few turns of the valve cleaner with the fingers will open it up.

No. 22 S. L. Lamp

Has 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " polished reflector, fastened to lamp with lock-nut screwed on burner tube. Reflector is strongly reinforced on back to protect it from accidents. Intended for use in rooms or entries with high roofs.

Brass lamp only, retail price \$1.00.

No. 22 Lamp, same as No. 22 S. L., without self-lighter added to reflector. Retail price \$1.00.



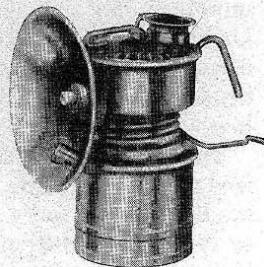
Round or Hex. Bottom; Flat Hook or Round Hook and Brace

No. 220 S. L. Lamp, same as No. 22 S. L., but nickel plated. Retail price \$1.25.

No. 23 Lamp

Has large, deep, highly polished 3-inch reflector, fastened to lamp by lock-nut screwed to burner tube. Reflector strongly reinforced on back to protect it from injury.

Intended for inspectors and workmen needing an extra large light.



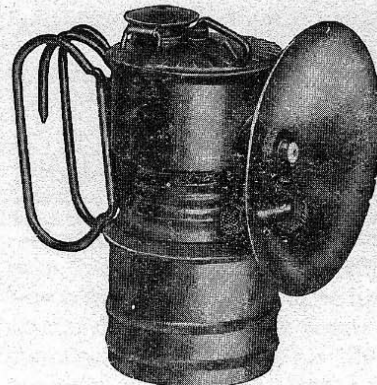
Round or Hex. Bottom; Flat Hook or Round Hook and Brace

Throws a bright spot of light 50 feet.

Brass lamp only. Retail price \$1.00.

No. 23 S. L. Lamp has self-lighter attachment on reflector. Retail price \$1.15.

No. 230 S. L. Lamp is same as No. 23 S. L., but nickelplated. Retail price \$1.40.



Superintendent's Lamp

No. 10 S. L. Lamp

Superintendent's hand lamp. Can be furnished with any of our reflectors, but is usually equipped with the No. 23 S. L. reflector.

Has 50 per cent. more capacity than our regular lamp and will burn 4 hours. Has large hook and large folding handles.

Can be worn on the cap.

Brass lamp only; retail price \$1.50.

No. 100 S. L. Lamp. Same as No. 10 S. L., but nickelplated. Retail price \$1.75.

No. 6 S. L. Lamp

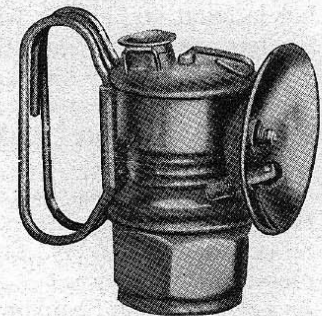
Has an extra large, deep 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch reflector highly polished. Reflector fastened to lamp by lock nut in usual manner. Reflector strongly reinforced on back to prevent injury. Intended for superintendents or inspectors needing an extra large, strong light. Throws a bright spot of light 50 feet. Lamp is same size as regular cap lamp and equipped with handles. Can be worn either on the cap or carried in the hand.

Retail price \$1.35.

No. 60 S. L. Lamp. Same as No. 6 S. L., but nickelplated. Retail price \$1.60.

No. 4 Candlestick

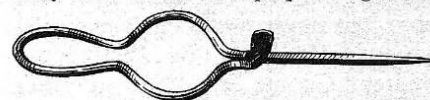
Slips over bottom of lamp. Much stronger and better than a stick that clamps around the screw cap. Does away with the screw cap spreading and making a gas leak



No. 6 S. L. Lamp

around the rubber gasket. Fits our cap lamps and four-hour lamps.

Retail price 30 cents each.



Candlestick

No. 6 Candlestick

Same as No. 4, but made to fit our half-shift lamps. Retail price 35 cents each.

Supply Kit

Contains an assortment of lamp supplies most frequently called for by the miner; also, the repair parts most likely to become lost or worn out, and which require replacement.

Conveniently arranged in a strong, durable cardboard box with hinged cover.

No. 1—\$8.00; No. 2—\$4.50.



Supply Kit

Early Wolf Cap Lamps as Advertised

by John Podgurski


These images are from two separate undated Wolf advertisements. Each adds a bit more information to the collecting lore. The image above shows the cap lamp that is one of the first versions of the the "U.S. style" Wolf cap lamp. Notice the water wheel that is an intermediate development of the early Wolf wire loop.

Next is the earliest Wolf cap lamp ever sold in America. It is the "European style", and is thought to have been made in Germany or England, and rebadged for the U.S. The illustration was taken from a page of primarily hand lamps that were marketed to miners. This lone cap lamp is described as a Boy Scout lamp! Did Wolf think that the cap lamp would not interest miners?

Wolf Miners' Safety Lamps and Carbide Lamps for Mining Purposes

See also Types No. 905a and No. 856 on other side.

WOLF MINERS' CARBIDE CAP LAMP No. 911c.



No. 911c Cap Lamp

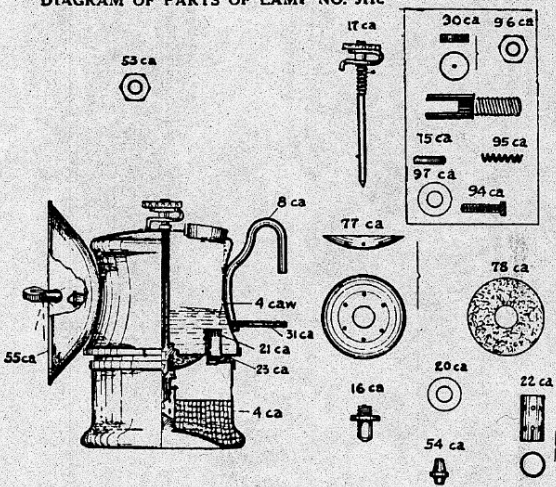
NAMES OF SINGLE PARTS

No.	
4ca	Complete carbide holder
4caw	Complete water holder
8ca	Wire hook
16ca	Water dropper
17ca	Water spindle
21ca	Upper rubber washer
22ca	Water distributing tube
23ca	Lower rubber washer
31ca	Lamp holder for cap
53ca	Nut for fastening reflector
54ca	Lava tip
55ca	Reflector with lighter
77ca	Disc for fastening felt washer
78ca	Felt washer

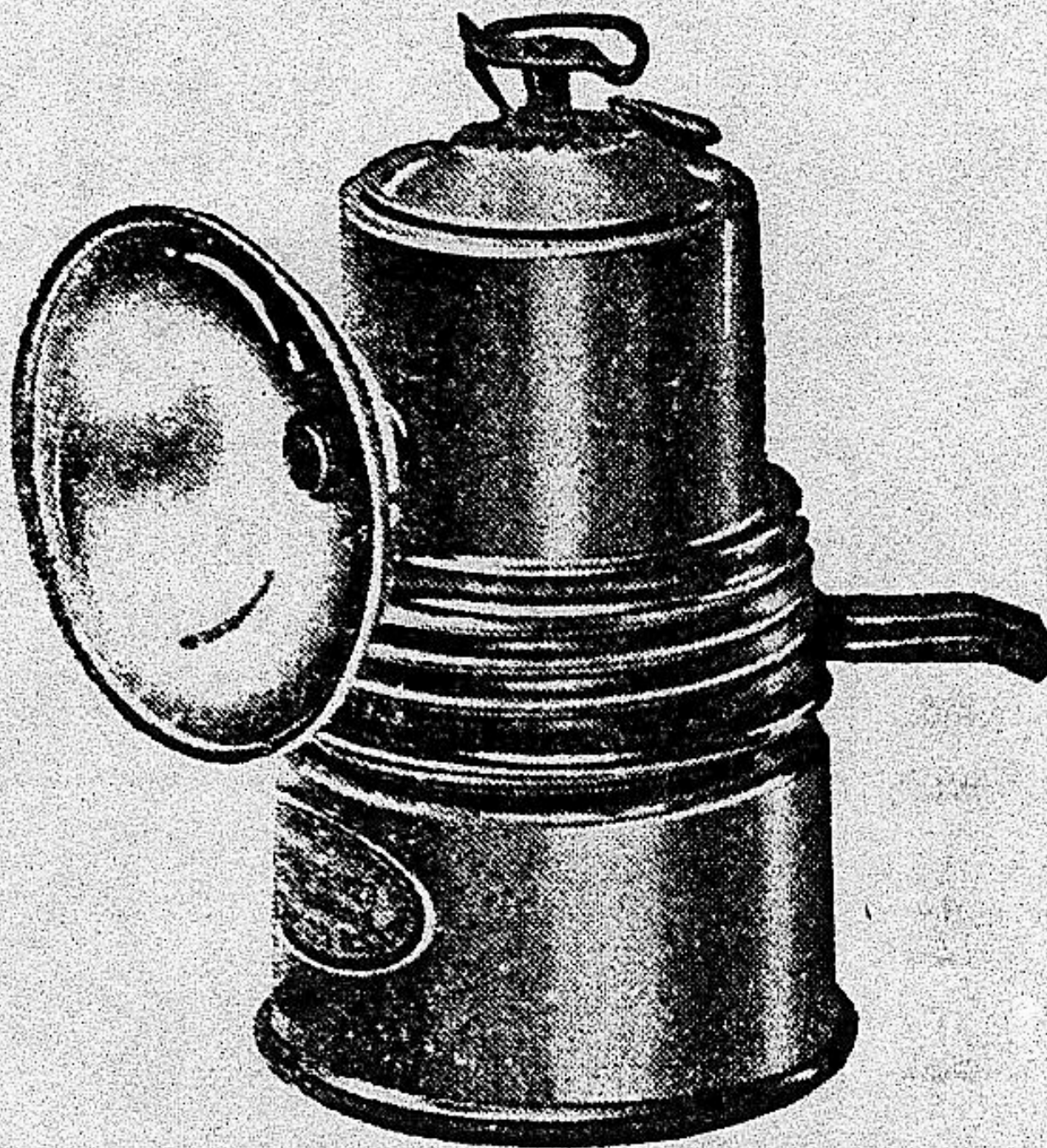
PARTS FOR LIGHTER

15ca	Spark pin
90ca	File wheel
94ca	Adjusting screw for spark pin
95ca	Spiral spring
96ca	Nut for fastening igniter tube
97ca	Washer
98ca	Tube for spark pin

DIAGRAM OF PARTS OF LAMP NO. 911c



Best prices quoted upon request.



Boy Scout Lamp
PRICE \$.75

Folding Gimballed Candlestick

by Al Winters

When George Gaspari of California notified me that he had acquired a "Folding Gimbal" candlestick I couldn't hardly beleive it! George was kind enough to let me examine his find and attached are pictures of a truly amazing stick. The first two photos show the stick folded and extended for use. Unfortunately the hook is missing but one can imagine a relative short hook that not only rotates but folds onto the spike. The inventor may have never finished the folder realizing how impractical the invention was for mine use. What ever the case, the creator decided to go a step further than known existing gimbles.





The spike folds neatly into the handle and keeps the gimbal from rattling about. The last photo compares the "Folding Gimbal" to two of the patented Gimbals; ie: the Rasmussen (patented 1903) and the Weed (patented 1906). If the candlestick does anything, it illustrates the amazing effort of our forefathers to develop a better widget.



Horse Whim and Arrastra

by Terry Humble

Here are the two pictures of the combination whim - arrastra (I think). It is back in the wilds of southwest New Mexico, sitting next to an old fifty foot shaft. It is in a protected area and I guess this is the only reason it is still there. There was at one time a lot of wooden spokes on it and other wooden items but they have either disintegrated or fallen off. It appears to definitely be a whim which picked up a bucket out of the shaft and at the same time, the revolving motion may have been crushing ore with weights on the spokes. The mine appears to be on a metal seam which may have contained gold before the turn of the century. I can't imagine going to the work of setting up an arrastra on any other metal.





The Original Clanny Style

by David Gresko

Editor's note:

In the last decade Dave Gresko of Tampa, Florida has become of the world's preeminent collectors and historians of the miners' flame safety lamp. Dave's regular trips to Europe have earned an education that is occasionally shared with our readers.

It's not too often that you find a lamp of major historical significance. Last month I acquired an unfired example of Clanny's first practical model safety lamp. He had developed several safety lamps, but it wasn't until 1839 when he took and combined the concept of Davy plus his idea of surrounding the flame with a glass cylinder. As you can see by the photo, the lamp is basically a Davy with a glass cylinder inserted.

But what makes this model particularly interesting, is that an old lithograph of Clanny exists of him holding this very model of lamp. Clanny died in 1850, so I assume that this lamp is around 1850.





Sir Clanny himself holding an example of the lamp. The photo predates 1850.

Below: the disassembled lamp reveals a very thick sight glass.



Chesneau

by David Gresko

Here are photos of a mint, unfired nickel plated Chesneau lamp. It appears to be a presentation lamp. It has the old Arras label on it that is probably around 1910. I am curious if anyone out there has seen another lamp like this.

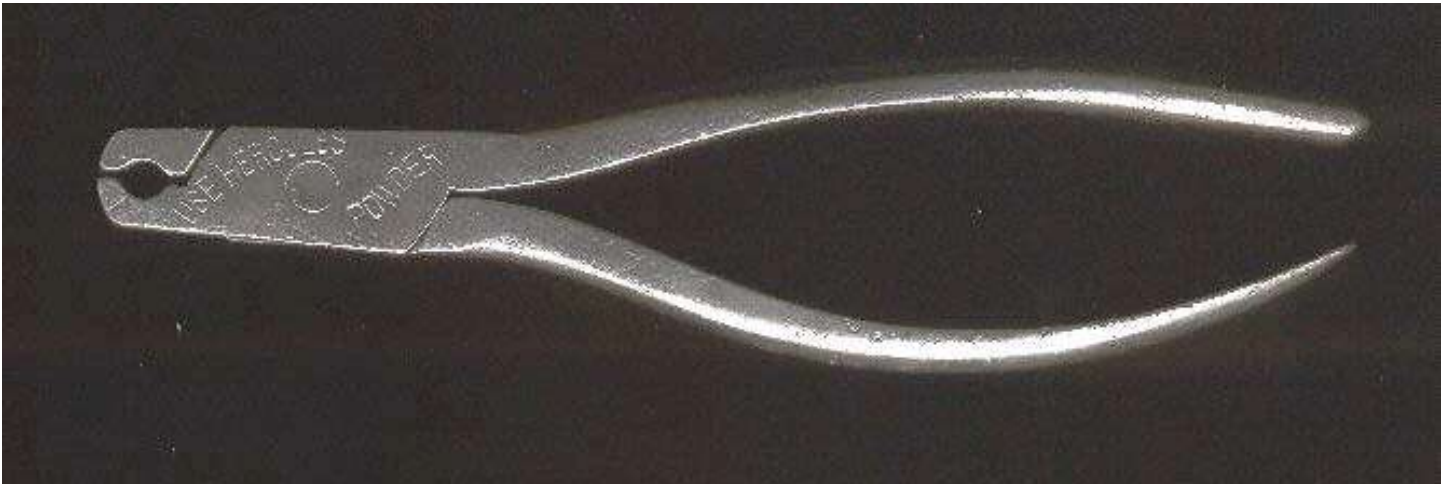




California Crimper

by Ted Bobrink

Over the years I have tried to collect all of the known blasting cap crimpers called "CALIFORNIA CRIMPERS" sold by the famous California Cap Company of San Francisco, California. These are crimpers identified with the gang stamped name "CALIFORNIA" or "CALIFORNIA CRIMPERS" on them. I believe them to be the earliest production made crimpers and the fact that they show up being advertised on the sides of 1880s California Blasting Cap tins is proof.



Last week I picked up a pair of unique California Crimpers that advertise using Hercules Powder made by the California Powder Works of San Francisco, Ca. One side of the crimpers are stamped with the regular known "CALIFORNIA CRIMPER" type stamp and the other side is stamped "USE HERCULES POWDER"

To my knowledge these are the only blasting cap crimpers known to advertise dynamite or anything else for that matter manufactured by someone else. At the time these crimpers were made the only blasting powder and dynamite manufactured with the name Hercules Powder was that manufactured by The California Powder Works of San Francisco, Ca. The only other Hercules Powder sold was owned by Dupont and did not exist for well over another twenty years.

The fact that both the California Cap Co

and the California Powder Works were owned and operated out of San Francisco in the 1880s and dealt with a related product like explosives makes sense.



The early "California Crimpers" are very unique in design in having a long narrow nose. This style comes with no fuse cutter and at 6" they are quite long for just being crimpers. One of the handles is made into a dynamite poke and the stamping on both sides is very bold. Overall finish is smooth. It also appears that this crimper was made in Germany as evidenced by the stamping on the side (below).

