

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -



Vol. 1, No. 2

Spring, 1969

A HAPPY HUNTING YEAR TO ALL LAMP TRAMPS ! !

This will answer inquiries from several correspondents since the first issue of The Underground Lamp Post.

1. No special Lamp organization is planned, at least by this approximate editor; someone else may tackle that job.
2. No dues or fees for The Lamp Post.
3. I only hope to exchange information between interested parties.
4. This attempt at communication is subject to time and physical material limitations.
5. I hope to often have contributions and information from others to pass along.
6. I need practical details about old lamp usage and operation in various geographical areas; plus photos of odd and scarce lamps; like good wine, the earlier the vintage, the better the demand ! !

Additions to the lamp listings in the first issue:

CARBIDE LAMPS:

Pathfinder	Hughes Bros., Scranton, Pa.	Cap lamp	
Dew-R-Lite	Dewar Mfg. Co., Brooklyn		8 hr.
Sun Ray	Dewar Mfg. Co., Brooklyn	Cap lamp	
Springfield	Springfield Lamp Co., Springfield	Cap lamp	

OIL WICK LAMPS:

Liberty			
◆ Black Diamond			
U.M.W.A. (United Mine Workers of America)	Tretaway Bros,		
Husson	Parsons, Pa.		

BICYCLE CARBIDE LAMP:

20th Century

John Leahy was too humble to sign his name to CARBIDE COMMENTS which I attach. Thanks, John.

The attached list of Safety Lamps is all old English. I have made no attempt yet to add later U.S. makes. Any offers?

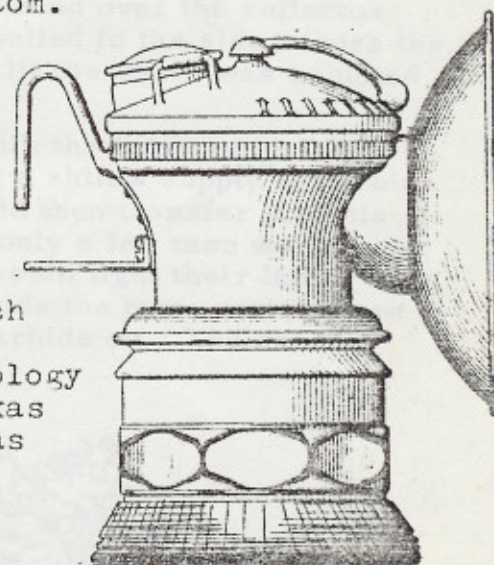
Duplicates for TRADE:

1. Baldwin Carbide Cap Lamp - missing reflector & tip, cracked lip.
2. Cap Oil Wick Lamp - unmarked
3. Early German-made Carbide bicycle lamp

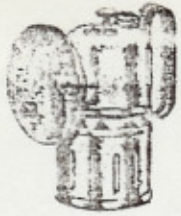
Would like Lu-Mi-Num, Zar, Wilburn but no Auto, Dropper, Springfield, Baldwin, or Justrite.

Peter M. Hauer
1506 Miller St.
Lebanon, Pa.
17042

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Brand new, never fired AUTO-LITE Carbide Lamps complete with box; round hook style with 2-1/4" reflector and old type embossed bottom.



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CARBIDE COMMENTS



In many mines a cap lamp was the mark of a beginning miner. When worn on the cap the lamp would cause burns on the back of the miner's arms when he was performing any work in front of him. If the miner's work required him to bend over, the fumes from the lamp rose directly into his face. Almost all experienced miners used a hand lamp.

Such hand lamps as the Wolf and the Uncle Sam were not favored as soon as better designed lamps became available. Both of these lamps were arranged so that the flame from the lamp heated the reflector which in turn burned the miner's fingers when he carried the lamp. The lamp could not be carried by the hook because the lamp would rotate and burn him on the leg. This is why these lamps are often found with the reflector removed and a home-made burner tip installed which directed the flame away from the body of the lamp. Aluminum lamps were very popular for a time, but word soon spread that they would not keep a good seal. These lamps were not used very long.

The type of hand lamp preferred by most miners had a flat strap placed on the back of the lamp for an additional handle. When walking down the drift the miner would hold the lamp by the back handle and fold the top handle down and hook his thumb over it. He could then shine his light in any direction with relative ease.

The burning time of an individual charge of carbide was seldom as long as the manufacturer advertised. Most miners ran their lamps with a moderate flame and still received about one half of the advertised life. With the cap lamps a spare bottom was sometimes sold. The spare bottom was fitted with a lid so the bottom could serve as a container for extra carbide. The idea was that when the first "4 hours" worth of carbide was expended the spare bottom could be placed on the lamp and the shift completed. Sometimes these cans are found with a small hole punched in the top. This was necessary in wet mines because the water would react with the carbide and burst the cans if a vent was not provided. The carbide itself was too coarse to fall out of the hole. The "8 hour" hand lamp was usually refilled at midshift when eating. In this way there was little danger of your light going out when you were working. If the light went out and left the miner in the dark there was no great emergency. The first thing that the miner learned about refilling his lamp in the dark was to place his finger on the gasket as he took the lamp apart and make sure the gasket stayed with the lamp base. The amount of carbide added was gauged by placing his finger in the lamp base. The miner then spit into the lamp base. This provided enough acetylene gas to start the lamp. The lamp was started by placing his hand over the reflector and trapping a quantity of gas. Then his hand was quickly pulled to the side across the striker which caused the gas to ignite. After the lamp was lit the water was adjusted to obtain the proper flame length.

The mine owners and the miners were quite conservative with the lamp materials which they had to purchase. Some mine owners weighed out a shift's supply of carbide and issued it to each miner in a paper bag. The miner would then transfer it to his own carbide flask. When time came to get on the man trip only a few men would light their lamps with the strikers and the rest of the men would light their lamps off of them. This was done to conserve the striker flint. Outside the mine portal there was sometimes a screen that the men dumped their spent carbide on. The coarse particles were saved for later use.

THE END.



MINERS' SAFETY LAMPS

DAVY TYPE.

Ordinary Davy—

Eleven lamps,
Pieler testing lamps.

Davy with Shield—

Douglas and Mason.
Scotch Davy.

Jack Davy—

Ashworth,
Perkins.
Upton and Roberts.
Wearmouth.

Davy in Case—

Ayton,
J. M. Foster.
Routledge and Johnson.

STEPHENSON TYPE.

Hann lamps,
Williamson.

CLANNY TYPE.

Unbonneted—

Leech lamp.
Pelton,
Rotherham.
Shakespear,
Westphalian, No. 1.
Wolf.
Wolf, Nos. 4, 6 (Ellis Lever competition).

Bonneted—

Ashworth,
Evan Evans (Llanrwst).
Evan Thomas,
Thomas Thomas.

MUESELER TYPE.

Unbonneted—

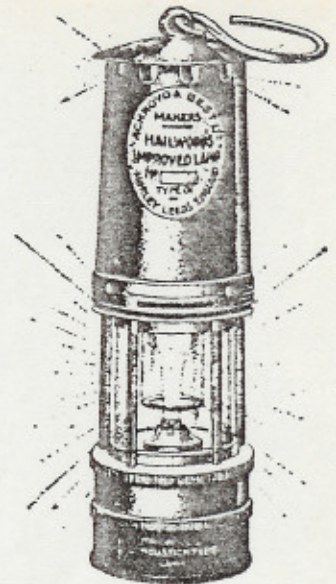
Nine Standard Belgian pattern.
Fifteen from British Collieries,
Eighteen other British makes.
Ashworth,
Jaspart, Nos. 30
Mackworth.
N. Rosa,
Shakespear, No. 10.
Strelly.

Shielded Mueselers—

Routledge and Johnson.

Bonneted Mueselers—

Johnson, Clapham, and Morris.
Morgan.
Thompson, No. 1.



BOTY TYPE.

Bainbridge.
Gissing.
Schöne.
Westphalian.
Wethered (two gauzes).

ELOIN TYPE.

Eloin,
Fumat,
Gardner,
Hann,
Horn,
Howat,
Pelton,
Purdy,
Smethurst,
Soar,
Timmis.
Williamson.
Evan Thomas.

GRAY TYPE.

Gray, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
Morrison, No. 2.

MARSAUT TYPE.

Nine lamps, Nos. 1-9
Davis and Son (Derby).

MISCELLANEOUS TYPES.

Ballardie.
Boullenot.
Crossley.
Haworth.
Heinslerling.
Humble.
Kellet.
Lichieu.
Lucas, Nos. 1, 2.
McKinless.
Motto "Ellis Lever."