

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -

Vol. I, No. 4

Spring, 1970

The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candleholders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado 80212

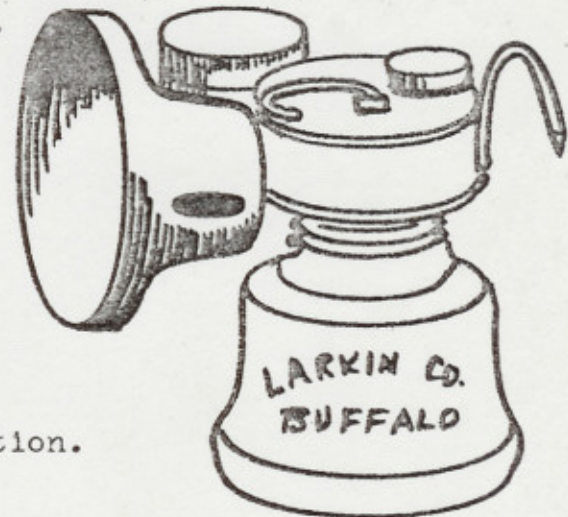
Recent article of interest;

"Cornwall's Legacy to American Mining, Part 1", Compressed Air Magazine, March 1970, Vol. 75, No. 3, 942 Memorial Parkway, Phillipsburg, N. J., 08865. This article mentions some mine lighting procedures and includes illustrations of two lamps and a candleholder. A picture of miners singlejacking by candlelight from The Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society is also included.

Two current movies, "The Molly Maguires" and "Paint Your Wagon" included interesting uses of old mine lamps, particularly the former.

This issue contains many advertising pages and trade offers. Let's have at it all you Lamp Tramps! Everyone's collection can benefit.

Mrs. Midge Leahy of Denver recently showed me a strange adaption of an old Guy's Dropper. It is illustrated in the sketch below. The bottom is a GLASS jar (pomade? Vaseline?) of good quality- it hasn't colored. The jar cap is securely soldered inside the water chamber, punched, and vented. No gasket. An electric lamp, bell-shaped, metal housing is soldered in front as a reflector. Soldered at the side is a circular, capped match-and-flint case. Comments on the pressure vlaue of the glass jar are solicited.



George Corbett is offering old "BALDWIN" carbide cap lamp generators (tops - water chambers) only - no bottoms - for trade. He has more than several and will bargain with you for other types of lamps or parts. The Baldwins are in good condition.

Write: George Corbett
8708 Green Road
Silver Spring, Maryland
20901

R. E. Whittemore, Rt. 4, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601 has the following items for trade:

7 Anto Lites, most of which work

2 Oil Wick cap lamps; one U.S. Eagle, one not marked, both pitted with rust

1 Horizontal Justrite, minor parts missing

Desire other lamps. All offers considered. Details upon request.

OLD MINER'S LAMP PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

Available from Donald G. Davis, P. O. Box 25, Fairplay, Colo. 80440

Most of these parts were found in an old hardware store in Denver. All but the "Jewel" tip, sliding-cover tip cleaner and plated $2\frac{1}{2}$ " reflector are of styles or materials no longer available. They had been on the shelf for many years (most probably date around 1930), but had never been used and are guaranteed serviceable (except lighter units in original boxes; quality-control seems to have been poor on these). Parts marked * are usable on either Universal (Auto-Lite & Guy's Dropper) or Justrite lamps. (Threaded parts are not interchangeable between Universal and Justrite lamps.)

Parts marked "out" may or may not be available again; please inquire. Those with a price listed are available on either cash or trade basis. Those marked "trade" are available in limited numbers in trade for other carbide items wanted. I am especially interested in obtaining old carbide cap lamps in operable or restorable condition (Hansen, Lu-Mi-Num, and any cap lamp of Dewar manufacture, e.g. ITP & Sun-Ray, particularly wanted); and any old parts or accessories. I am specifically looking for the Justrite no. 73 tip or any other multiple-jet tip for cap lamps, and for Justrite cap-clip no. 65. I also want extra-deep Guy's Dropper bottoms and the old, tall, narrow Shanklin carbide-can that could be screwed into the lamp top.

Original Universal screw-caps for spare bottoms (very scarce items):

Auto-Lite screw cap, nickel-plated, convex flange (for old nickel-plated Auto-Lites made in Chicago)--	OUT
Universal screw-cap, brass, straight flange--	TRADE
Screw-cap, brass, convex flange, believed to be Simmons (Baldwin)--	TRADE
Justrite screw-cap, brass (flange differs slightly from modern one)--	TRADE
Justrite screw-cap, zinc, on threaded protective keeper (very odd)--	TRADE
* $2\frac{1}{2}$ " reflector, polished brass, unplated, with lighter assembly--	OUT
without lighter assembly--	OUT
* $2\frac{1}{2}$ " reflector, nickel-plated, with lighter assembly--	\$1.15
without lighter assembly--	.75
*Justrite lighter assembly, no. 177, <u>brass</u> except for striker-wheel:	
Single unit, complete (without flint), guaranteed usable--	.50
6 units in original box (boxes have 3 lettering variants)--	2.40
12 boxes of 6 in original half-gross carton--	18.00
12 units in original box (this type box was in 1-gross carton)--	4.20
*Justrite "Jewel" tip, no. 28 (standard brass-jacketed tip)--	.15
*Justrite "lava" tip, no. 66 (old-style vented stone tip; fits all lamps):	
Each--	.10
Dozen in original box--	TRADE
*Justrite tip cleaner, no. 22 (brush-type <u>without</u> sliding cover)--	TRADE
*Justrite tip cleaner, no. 37 (brush-type <u>with</u> sliding cover)--	.50
*Justrite felt-holder, no. 64B (unusual; resembles Guy's Dropper type)--	TRADE

(TO NEXT PAGE)

Justrite "lever feed" water-valve stem, 3 5/8" long
(for early wire-feed lamps)-- TRADE

Justrite valve-stem, no. 113, for "spiral feed" lamps, 3 5/8" long:
(These are unusual; I have not yet found the style they fit.)
Each-- \$.50
Dozen, in original, lettered box-- 4.50

Dewar windguard (perforated sheet-metal sleeve with threaded brass
base to screw on over tip; will fit Universal threads)-- TRADE

Original Dewar tips (have circular reeded rim, not hex rim):
Brass with ceramic insert-- TRADE
Nickel-plated with ceramic insert-- TRADE

*Universal "Bumpergrip" bottom-protector, early rounded style, brown
rubber (these are cracked & stiff, but usable; have 3 lettering vars.):
AUTOLITE PAT. PEND. (1930-'31?)-- OUT
BUMPERGRIP (1930-'33?)-- TRADE
BUMPERGRIP / PAT. U.S.A. 1,790,709 (1931-'33?)-- TRADE

Priming can for Coleman kerosene lantern-- .50

I now have 3 round-hook Auto-Lites, used but in excellent condition and with all original parts, available for trade. I value these at \$4.50 and can furnish them either with original 3" or 4" reflectors or with new Justrite parabolic 4" reflector (best for actual use). I have 2 other round-hook Auto-Lites, lacking spring-clips and Bumpergrips and with some Justrite parts, valued at \$3.

Mail-order customers paying cash are requested to include estimated postage cost in payment. Any overpayment will be refunded with order. No postage is charged on trades.

For items not listed here, send me a want-list, or inquire of the following sources: "Speleo-Emporium," Rm. 418, Geology Dept., Univ. of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712 (specializing in Universal lamps & parts, and some Justrite); or Justrite Mfg. Co., 2061 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60614. Cigarette-lighter flints, available in any store, will work in carbide lamp lighters.

I also have many photocopies of early articles on acetylene lamps, from the old mining journals, circa 1900-1935. I will furnish copies of these for 10¢ worth of trade items per sheet. Let me know the subjects you are interested in. Some articles include illustrations of such early lamps as Baldwin, Wolf, Brite-Lite, Maple City, etc.

Last-minute note: Richard Finch points out that Justrite valve-stem no. 113 is the same as that in the patent diagrams for A. L. Hansen patent no. 1,202,514 (Oct. 24, 1916). The spiral part of the stem is not a thread but was intended to stabilize water-flow; the valve was opened & closed by a pin-and-slot arrangement rather than the usual screw-thread. The patent drawing also included a reflector with a recessed tip-pocket that screwed into the water-compartment, a gas compartment behind the reflector, and a special lighter assembly that lay flat along the reflector. Does anyone have a Justrite or other lamp with any of these features?

Donald Davis

DON'T THROW THAT LAMP AWAY!

Do you have a carbide lamp whose water-valve is so worn it will not shut off? Or is your lamp one of those that burns feebly at one setting but flares at the next notch? With a very simple adjustment, such lamps will usually work like new--or better.

Remove the reflector, unscrew the bottom, and clean all lime-crust from the lower end of the water-tube. Then turn the valve about 2/3 on and clamp the control lever in a vise, to hold the lamp body upside down. Using a small flame, heat the valve-ball while applying moderate twist and pressure with pliers to tighten the ball against its seat when the solder softens. (A propane torch, or even another carbide lamp--with flame held just far enough away not to soot the work--will do.) If the old solder is only momentarily melted and resets solidly, it may not even be necessary to do any new soldering. If the original solder runs or flakes off, file the area clean and resolder. (Rosin-core solder is preferable, to avoid getting acid flux into the mechanism.) Remove the lamp from the vise and check to see that the new off-position is where you want it; turn it firmly off several times to be sure the solder is holding. With the valve off, check for leaks by filling the top with water and blowing hard into the water-door to create pressure. If no droplets appear around the valve-ball, the valve has a good seal. If you are lucky, one of the control notches will fall on the desired flame-setting. If not, just try again; it only takes a few minutes. The new adjustment should be good for several years.

I have done this with three old Guy's Dropper lamps and an Auto-Lite with uniformly good results, and it should work just as well on Justrites. Worn or badly-set valves, of course, are not the only problems of old lamps; but there are few defects that cannot be repaired fairly easily. Anyone having carbide-lamp problems is invited to contact the writer for advice.

--Donald G. Davis--March, 1970

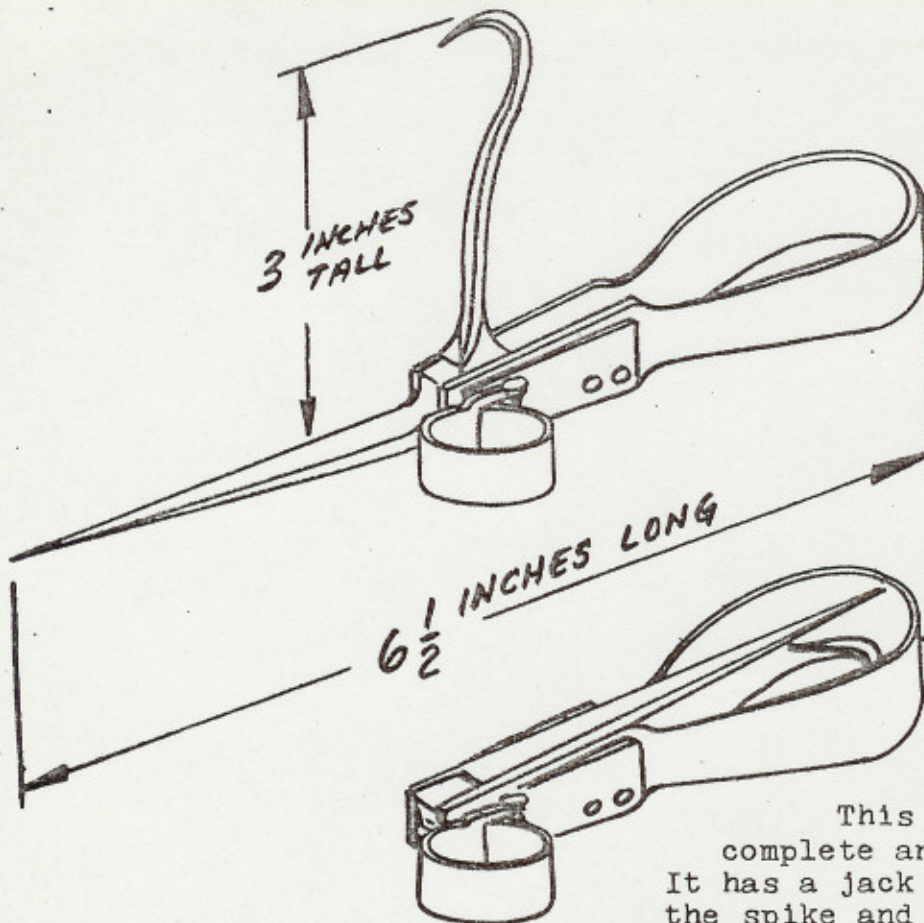
(Written for NSS publication)

All items on this page now available from your mini-editor.

FOLDING CANDLEHOLDER

Invented by

H. L. Rice
of Fairplay, Colorado
Patent No. 239,548
March 29, 1881



RICE
PAT
MAR
2981

Stamped marking

FOR TRADE
FOLDING CANDLEHOLDER
- NO SALE -
WILL TRADE ONLY

This folding candleholder is complete and is in excellent condition. It has a jack knife-type spring which holds the spike and the hook in position and which holds them down when folded.

I will consider trades only - no sales - for equally fine condition items which I do not now have. A copy of patent no. 239,548 will be included. I am thinking in terms of the following scale of values:

One folding candleholder equals one (1) other folding candleholder
or two (2) early safety lamps
or three (3) oil wick spout lamps
or three (3) non-folding candleholders
or four (4) carbide lamps (cap or hand)

I also have the following items available for TRADE:

- 1 "Star" oil wick spout lamp - excellent condition.
- 1 Guy's Dropper "Tall Boy" carbide lamp - size between cap lamp size and 8-hour hand lamp size - excellent condition.
- 1 Victor carbide cap lamp - medium condition - round hook has been resoldered on, one brace is missing, reflector is cracked.
- 1 brass horizontal Justrite cap lamp - fairly good condition.
- 1 wire, spiral-wound candleholder - excellent condition.
- 2 brass carbide bottoms with caps - Justrite - excellent condition.
- 1 7" diameter reflector - good condition.
- 1 late model Wolf safety lamp - gauze is missing.
- 1 late model Koehler safety lamp - gauze is missing.
- 1 pair of domestic cast iron candlesticks - real odd balls.
- 1 glass jar double-spout oil wick lamp - hook is missing.
- A set of 17 8 x 10 glossy photographs of very old rock drills.

Of course I will guarantee all items. Mail your inquiries and offers early to my attention:

Henry A. Pohn
4537 Quitman St.
Denver, Colorado 80212