

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



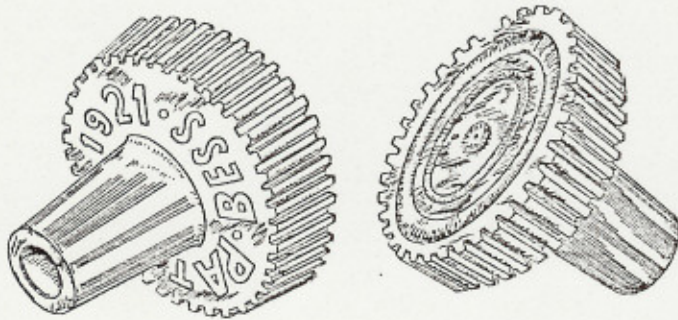
- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -

Vol. II, No. 2

Spring, 1974

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

Mr. George Bayles - For those who might not yet have heard, our good friend and perhaps the premier lamp collector in the U. S., George Bayles of Cincinnati has been seriously under the weather for the past several months. His recuperating address is: Room 208, Oak Pavilion, 510 Oak St., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45219. We all hope that it will be only a short-term address.

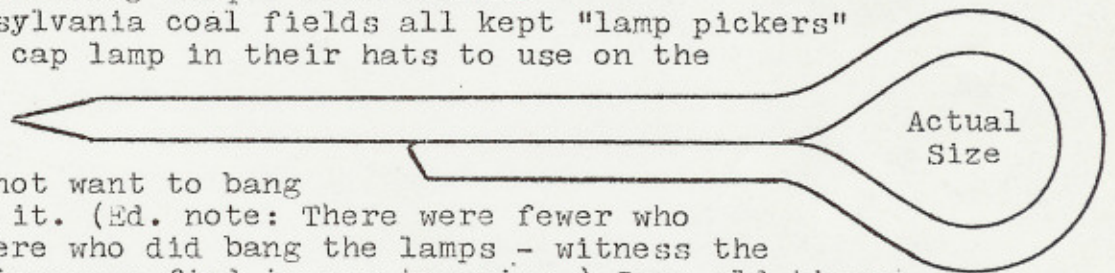


STRANGE BURNER TIPS - Wyane Babros in Alleghany, California, has sent in some interesting old advertising materials. Among them is the "Bess Burner" tip for carbide lamps as illustrated to the left. It was designed, manufactured, and distributed by the L. E. Polhemus Co. in Miami, Arizona, who also advertised miners' lamps and supplies as late as 1922. They sold for 3 cents each in lots of 100 ; the price varied down to 1 cent each in lots of 25,000. Made of a composition material metal, users were told

that ... "all you have to do is to twist the burners into the lamps with the fingers; to take out, twist backwards; no pliers, no cement to make a joint." And ... "with common horse sense care, they should last for months."

Professor Robert M. Kloss at Sacramento, California, State University, has passed along the following unique information.

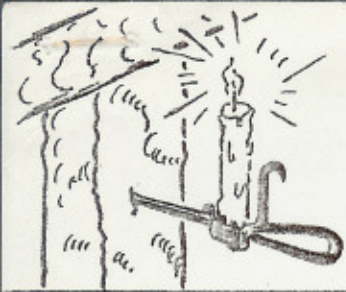
Miners in the Pennsylvania coal fields all kept "lamp pickers" behind the carbide cap lamp in their hats to use on the carbide (slacked lime) which stuck in the lamp



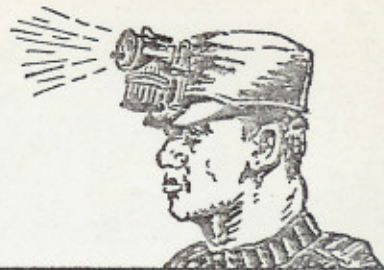
bottom. They did not want to bang the lamp to loosen it. (Ed. note: There were fewer who cared than there were who did bang the lamps - witness the usual beat up specimens we find in our tramping.) Some old timers, it is reported to me, used a 20 penny nail for the purpose; but some of the young guys made lamp pickers or had a blacksmith do it for them. They were made of spring steel or spring brass from old coil springs usually. (The "rope riders" who kept the cars moving in the mine had to have lamp pickers even after their lamps went out. They used them to strike the two bell wires running in the passages to signal the engine house above ground - he "belled" them.

Many thanks, Bob.

NI-BA Carbide lamp: Recall the NI-BA lamp illustrated in our 1973 Spring issue. Neal Bullington at American Fork, Utah, now reports additional data. He was able to trace his lamp as far back as an antique dealer in Tacoma, Washington, who had this to say: "I believe the letters on your miner's lamp may stand for Nisqually and Bay. If so, it may have originated in the area of Nisqually and Bay Shore which are small towns southwest of here. However, the lamps are certainly not common as I do not recall having handled another in more than seven years in this business."



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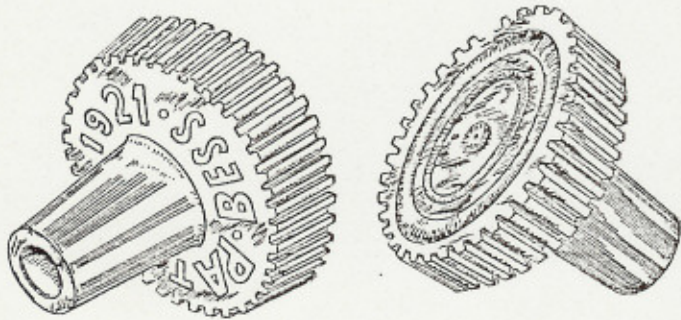
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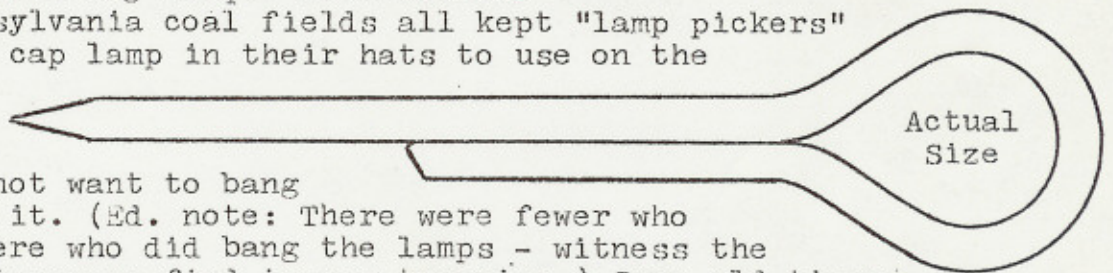


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LAMP PICNIC

The Fifth Annual Picnic of the Old Mine Lamp Collectors Society of America will be held in Leadville, Colorado the weekend of June 15-16, 1974. Bring your new finds, trading materials, and bragging lamps. Drop John Leahy a line on any comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., that you might have. Further details will follow when plans are finalized.

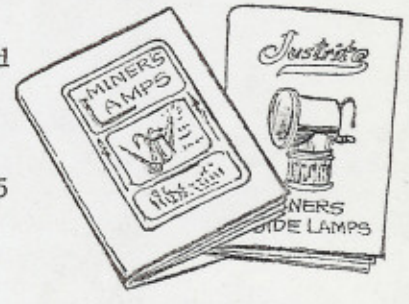


plan to attend

CATALOGUES

John Leahy has copies of lamp catalogues for sale. These are high-quality Xerox copies; each page is printed on both sides, and picture reproduction is very good. They are bound with original style covers.

Husson Oil Lamps, Oshkosh Metal Products Company (they are successors to Knippenberg Manufacturing Company), 15 pages, shows details of Husson patent, oil lamps with detachable candlesticks, various hook styles that were available, and two types of candle holders. Also included is an informative flyer put out by Knippenberg concerning Husson lamps.



Price.....\$ 4.00

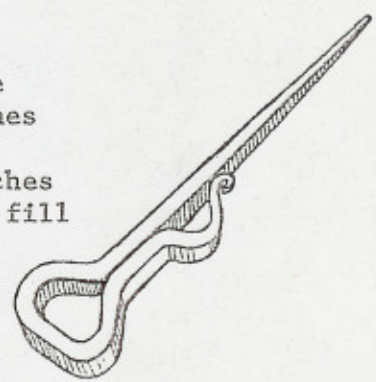
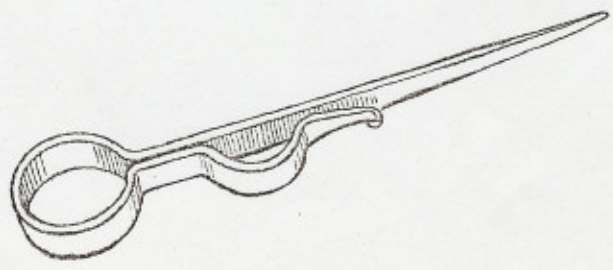
Justrite Carbide Lamps, Catalogue No. 3, May, 1919, 32 pages, shows X-Ray, Uncle Sam, Little Giant, Liberty feed, parts, accessories, and much more. Also included is an advertising card for the Justrite gas lighter and a small folder on the Justrite acetylene lantern.

Price.....\$ 6.50

TWO-FOR-ONE-DEAL, both for.....\$10.00

EASTERN STYLE CANDLEHOLDERS ?

Collectors in Virginia and Pennsylvania are finding these candle holders which were supposedly used in the clay mines of Pennsylvania. If anyone has any information on these, please send it to John Leahy. Pictures or accurate sketches will be very valuable. Maybe he will find out enough to fill up a page for the Lamp Post.



John Leahy
1001 Mt. Massive Drive
Leadville, Colorado 80461

Blessed are our benefactors! We have received postage offerings from Ohio, California, Maryland, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, West Virginia, and Illinois. Many, many thanks. Your interest and help sure makes our job easier. And keep the information coming, too.



Crusie Lamp: Norm Wagner allows that over the years Lady Luck has favored him with some truly nice specimens of early wrought iron Betty and Crusie lamps. He has a duplicate one that he is now offering for trade. This Crusie lamp is the double variety similar to the illustration to the left. The wick adjustment chain (not shown) is missing, but that is an easily restorable replacement item. This lamp is offered for trade only, and for prime patented miners' candlesticks only. Norm is not unmindful of latching onto all types of early mining lighting devices, but the candlesticks are his prime interest. Make your inquiry or offer to Norm Wagner, 2624 1st Street, Baker, Oregon, 97814.

Rich Finch writes from Honduras to remind anyone passing through Austin, Texas, and who is interested can view a pretty fair collection (his) on display (semi-permanent loan) on the third floor of the University of Texas Geology building. It includes some 60 or so pieces, over twenty brand names of carbide lamps. Rich also offers the following UNFIRED lamps for trade:

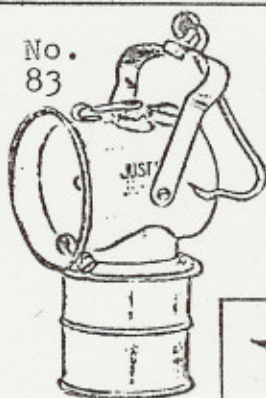
- Unfired FLEMING SPECIAL carbide hand lamp; manufactured in Germany and sold in Canada 1900-1910; steel with brass fittings; 6" tall over body; 8-1/2" tall over bail; 4" diameter polished steel reflector; will trade for 2 rare or three not-so-rare carbide cap lamps.
- Unfired ZAR carbide cap lamp; all brass; one of those rare carbide lamps from the very early design era.
- Unfired early BALDWIN carbide cap lamp; another hard-to-find item.

Write to Rich with your offers at: Rich Finch, Rosario Apdo 502, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, C. A.

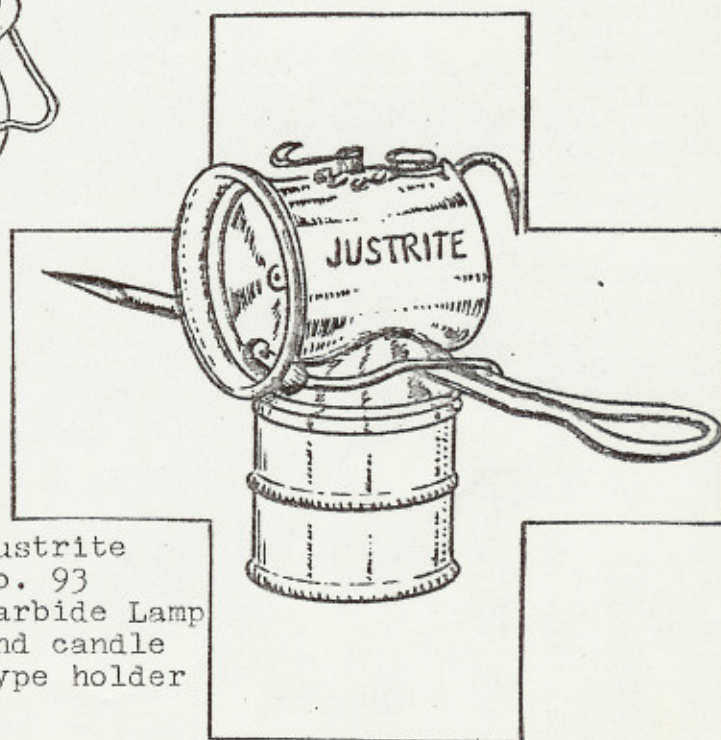
Justrite ARIZONA SPECIAL

We've seen several old advertisements which showed a Justrite carbide lamp called "The Arizona Special". But, two different designs were shown, and many of us have wondered. Well, we saw the real "Arizona Special" stand up - in the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Martin when we were in Palo Alto, California this spring. It's the No. 83; the other one is the "Anaconda Special" No. 93. The "Arizona Special" No. 83 is approximately 4" tall over the lamp body and is one of those 4-hour cap-and-hand type lamps.

While visiting the Martins, we also met the Robert Shoemakers, all avid lamp tramps. Many thanks for the kind hospitality. We enjoyed all of the lamps and candleholders, too.



No.
83



Justrite
No. 93
Carbide Lamp
and candle
type holder