

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -



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

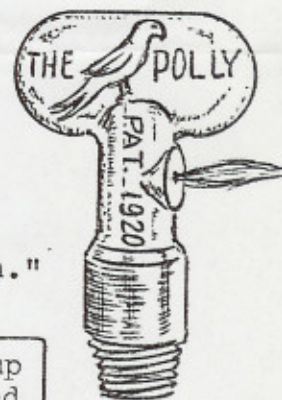
Carbide Oddity - Three lamp tramps have reported carbide lanterns in their collections as illustrated to the left. One is missing a burner tip and another the carbide container. Tom Meador in San Angelo, Texas, Tom Fallon in Houston, Texas, and Donald Davis usually in Leadville, Colorado, are the lucky owners. Tom Fallon says that it is a railroad lamp due to the very wide base - constant bumping and all the vibrating.

This lamp has a glass chimney and four wire protective standards outside the chimney. The wire base is open on one side quarter to allow the acetylene generator to fit close to the burner frame. A rubber hose and a burner adjusting valve complete the unit.

Tom Meador also reports that he has four different models of Brilliant Search Lite belt generators in his collection. He has one duplicate generator for trade. The water tank cap is missing, but all other parts are on/in it. The rubber hose and spring is attached on the top of the carbide container compartment, a belt clip on the side and has two patent dates.

Write to: Tom Meador, Box 3216, San Angelo, Texas, 76901.

Strange Burner Tips - These little items are always very interesting. The sketch shows the "Polly Burner" as manufactured and sold by the L. E. Polhemus Co. in Miami, Arizona, in the 1920's. Their advertisement in the Dec. 1, 1920, Arizona Mining Journal, Vol. 4, No. 7, page 60, read: "The flame is directed horizontally from the lamp. It is made of a soft composition, cuts its own threads and stays 'put.' One hole, easily cleaned. Gives your miners a chance to work efficiently. \$60.00 per thousand, or 10¢ each." The L. E. Polhemus Co. specialized in mine lamps and burners.



Lamp Picnic and Display - Those who missed the fifth annual lamp picnic and display in Leadville, Colorado, last June also missed the famous "Leahy Lunch" as laid out by John and Darlene Leahy. We didn't count the actual number of lamp tramps and visitors who looked in but there were a few less than last year in Denver. We did see some of those rare items from Tom Fallon (up from Houston), Dick Holmes, Leahys, Pohs, etc. Anyone who might wish to comment or to suggest a plan for next summer is welcome to write to John Leahy, 1001 Mt. Massive St., Leadville, Colorado, 80461. If John gets enough response or new ideas, we can sure expect to brag and tell about our new and favorite lamps again in 1975.

Postage Dept. - Again, many thanks to the thoughtful postage offers from California, Virginia, Utah, Washington, and Arizona, etc. If we have ever failed to thank anyone personally, it was a sorry oversight. We do appreciate the help to keep the Lamp Post going (coming?).

Lamp Book - Hooray! At long last we can tell all of our friends who may not have heard yet that our lamp book is now available. "Early Underground Mine Lamps; Mine Lighting from Antiquity to Arizona," is just off the press from the Arizona Historical Society. To quote from their brochure, "In this generously illustrated monograph, light sources from open, grease-burning devices to safety and carbide lamps are pictured and discussed. For the first time materials from obscure and hard-to-find sources have been assembled to interpret the evolution of the mining lamp. The concise text ... provides over one hundred pen-and-ink drawings from collections across the country. Several previously unpublished photographs, taken underground are also incorporated. 104 pages, illustrated, appendices, sources and additional readings, \$6.00."

You'll find registry lists of all of the various carbide lamps which have been reported to us; illustrations of all of the trade marks we know about; registries of candle trade names, candleholders, and safety lamps; plus oil wick cap lamp names and trade marks.

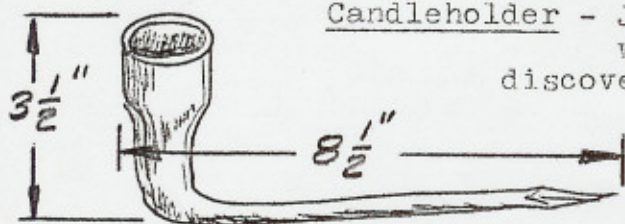
The price - we wish we could send a free copy to all of our friends and correspondents. But, this, too, has been a labor of love. The Arizona Historical Society is a non-profit (as are most historical groups) organization who approved of our manuscript, accepted it, and appropriated their funds to underwrite the publication of the book. With this narrow subject it is a gamble that they will ever break even.

And what a beautiful editorial and printing job they did, as we have our own copy now in hand. We do not have stocks for sale in Denver. Order only from the following address at \$6.00 each:

Arizona Historical Society, 949 East Second St., Tucson, Arizona, 85719

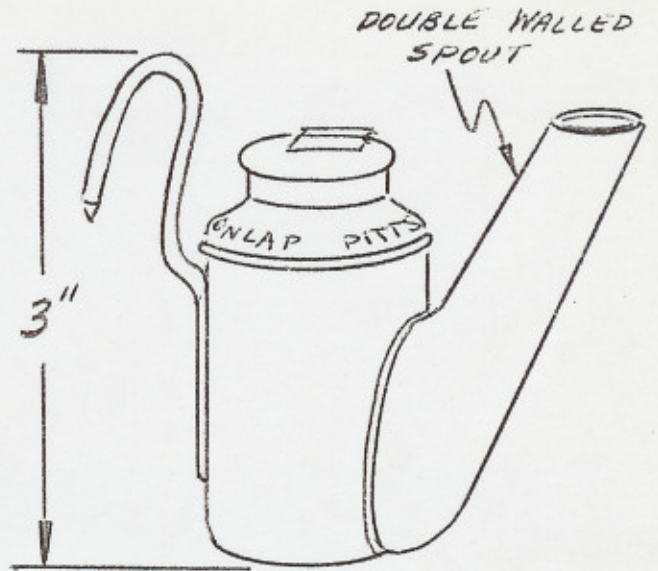
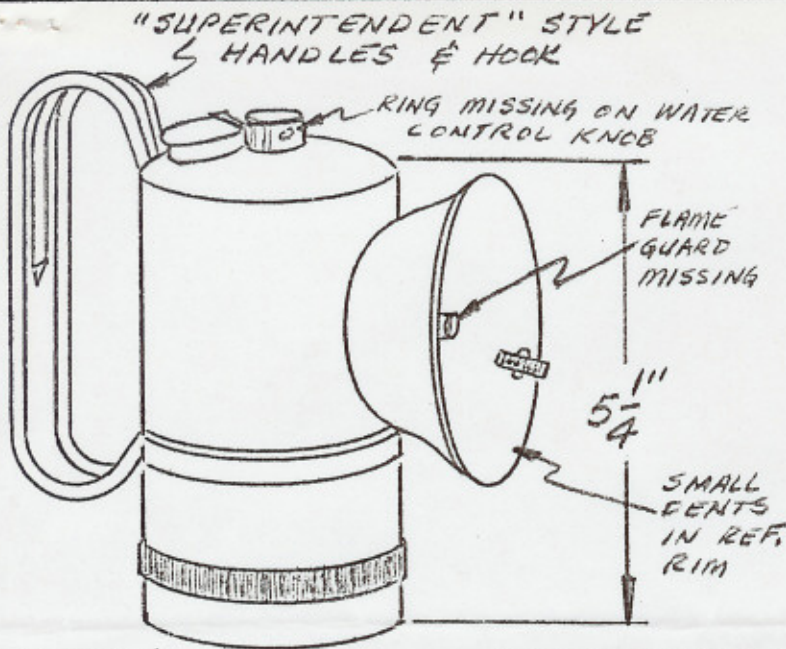
Red Paint - Bob Liebman has written twice recently about the red-painted water doors found on Auto Lite carbide cap lamps in several areas. Many were wondering about the significance or the coincidence of such markings. Well, Bob has solved the riddle - he reports that the red-painting on the water cap was the identifying mark of lamps owned by the state of West Virginia.

Coincidence Dept. - We were favored by a visit to our house on Sept. 11 from Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Young of Fairfax, Virginia, fellow lampers well-known to many of us. While the Youngs were looking and talking lamps with us, who should ring the front door but itinerant Donald Davis whom we never know when to expect. But he sure hit it just right this time, to meet and get acquainted with a fellow correspondent.

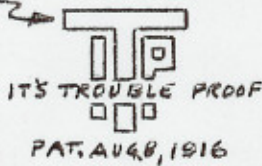


Candleholder - Jack Ramsdell in China Lake, California, writes to tell of a strange candleholder he discovered recently. He believes that it is very authentic. Jack turns up many neat and desirable lamps and candleholders in the inner California trails that he follows.

Foreign? - Professor Bob Kloss from Sacramento State and Iowa State University writes to ask about foreign lamps, patents, etc. He feels that many collectors must have stuff from other countries. Canada, Mexico, English safety lamps, European candleholders are certainly well-known. But, can anyone help Bob out with facts and data?



MARKING ON BOTTOM

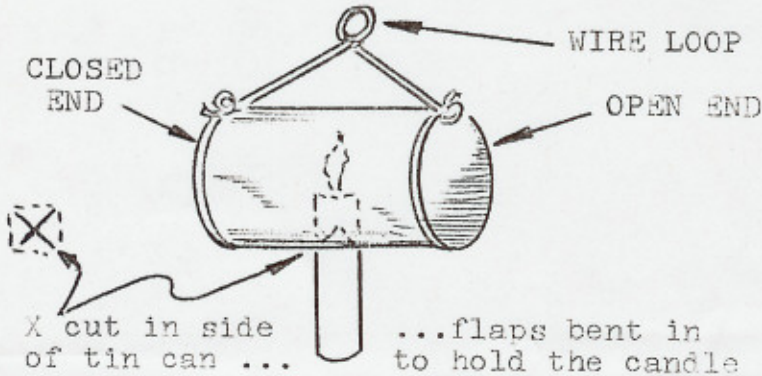


OVERALL CONDITION OF LAMP IS GOOD - ORIGINAL NICKEL PLATING HAS A FEW FLAWS

MARKING: "DUNLAP PITTSBURGH" IS JUST VISIBLE

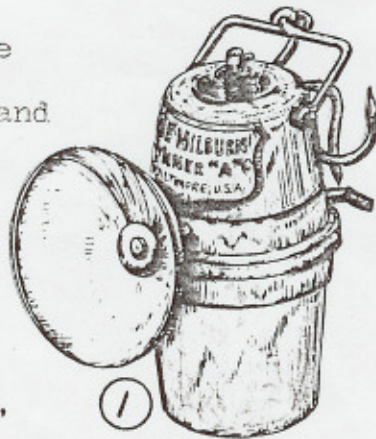
LAMP CONDITION IS FAIR ALL TRACE OF THE ORIGINAL ZINC SPALTER IS GONE

Trade - These lamps are available for trade. Write to: Anthony Moon, 3477 E 9055 South, Sandy, Utah, 84070

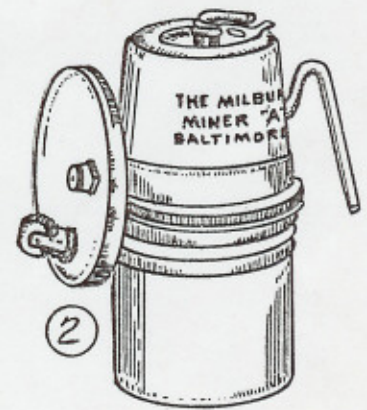


THE BUG - a handmade miners' candleholder, was described to us some time ago by Robert B. Lennon of Patagonia, Arizona. Bob wrote that he had seen several of these in his mining days in the southwest. Now, the question is ... who has an authentic one in their collection? And ... who can tell us any more about the idea. Thanks, Bob.

Favorite Lamps - Now that all of our drawings have been returned from the printers and we know which have been used and which have not, we can begin reproducing some of the ones we like best. These two Milburn "A" carbide cap lamps make a mighty nice pair. But no. 1 is in the George Bayles collection in Cincinnati and no. 2 is in our collection in Denver. Ours is mint, never used, but we can't recall the details of George's lamp. Both are identified on the lamp with the same Milburn "A" model number, but certainly differ in appearance and in design.



1
Milburn "A"
Black steel
George Bayles



2
Milburn "A"
Brass
Henry Pohn