

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -

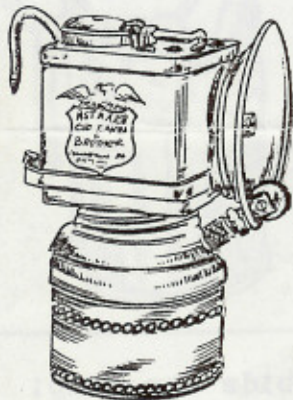


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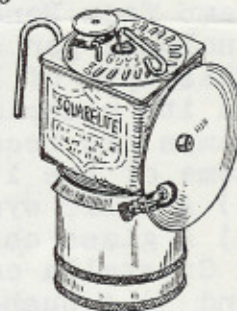
The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candle-holders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212

Anton Carbide Cap Lamp - A recent report and photograph from Ralph Blankenbecker in Coeburn, Virginia, tells us about the rare Anton carbide cap lamp. Yes, Ralph has one! It's brass and the water chamber is square similar to our Squarelite by Guy's Dropper. As illustrated to the left, the *ST*AR* trademark identifies it as being from the same Anton family as the numerous oil wick cap lamps we are all familiar with. The Anton patent date of June 20, 1916 predated the Squarelite patent date of September 19, 1916 by only three months. Our Squarelite measures 4" tall and Ralph's Anton appears to be the same. Our Squarelite hand lamp with the very same water chamber top is 5-1/4" tall but with a different reflector.



GEO. T. ANTON & BROTHER
approx. 4" tall
June 20, 1916

We have always wondered along with our collector friends how and why the early manufacturers were so prolific with names and trade marks on similar and different lamps. This match adds even more questions to the mysteries.



SQUARELITE
4" tall
Sept. 19, 1916

Bob Shoemaker, consulting metallurgist for the Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco, whom we have had the pleasure of visiting with, writes in reference to our Spring issue of The Lamp Post as follows: "In the last issue you gave an explanation of why the miners smoked the reflectors of their carbide lamps. The explanation given was only part of the story and actually a minor part. With a bright reflector, the carbide lamp throws a bright, intense spot of light. Since this spot of light is the only thing that can be seen, when looking away from it the miners couldn't see anything. By smoking the reflector, the spot of light disappears and the diffused light is much better. This bit of information was not told to me by any old acquaintance, I learned it first hand when I worked underground." Many thanks, Bob.

Brite-Lite Carbide lamps - Yes, lamps, plural. Jim Lackey in Huntington, West Virginia, tells us that he has acquired a Brite-Lite hand lamp. Many collectors have been vainly looking for a Brite-Lite cap lamp and now we find that there is a hand lamp, too. Those early manufacturers again! Jim tells us that it is just slightly larger than the cap lamp, about 3/4" taller and the same diameter. The top has a hook as well as two folding handles. We're anxiously awaiting a photo. It's mint!

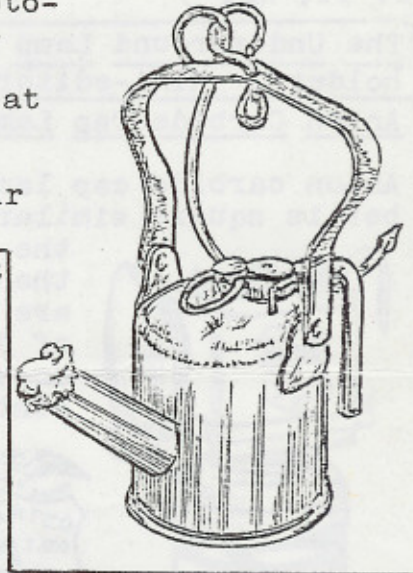
Donald Davis - % Jerry Davis, P. O. Box 25, Fairplay, Color., 80440, called just the other day to say that he had indeed found a Brite-Lite cap lamp . . . but he needs a lighter, the inside water valve rod, and the felt holder parts for it. Now, who can help Donald?

Thank you - Many thanks to the following locations for postage for this issue: New York, California, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Arizona, and Alaska. Though unsolicited, it sure helps. With our new job assignment at Gardner-Denver Co. we are strapped for time, but will continue with The Lamp Post whenever we can get news and information together.

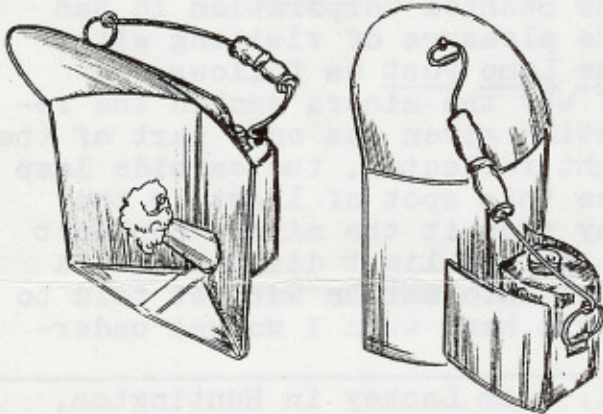
Wolf - Wolf made many mine safety lamps in several styles and shapes. They also manufactured a carbide cap lamp which is very elusive and sought after by many collectors. We recently saw one for sale, but at a rather inflated price. It was in very good condition and was attached to a white canvas miners cap. Anyone interested might write: The Del Norte Trading Post, Del Norte, Colorado, 81132. The asking price? \$24.00!

Dewar - Dewar in Brooklyn manufactured many types of carbide lamps.

Tony Moon in Sandy, Utah, recently sent us a photocopy of a Dewar carbide hand lamp top which had been reworked into an oil wick hand lamp by adding a spout and soldering a tin plate on as a bottom. The illustration at the right shows us what the final product looked like. Those early miners made every can of beans count, they strained their used carbide, and they even reworked their broken lamps into another type of usable lamp.



Rich Finch - One of our best, and certainly our earliest correspondent, has sent several recent items and requests. 1) He has a "frog" type oil wick lamp from Honduras for trade - this is the fully enclosed pan style lamp with a hook for hanging. This type of lamp often has a miner's mark of symbol on its nameplate, but Rich didn't mention such. These lamps are becoming more and more rare and hard to find. Some of the items which Rich needs are as follows: 2) A bulls eye lens for a Justrite carbide lantern; 3) A glass chimney and its supporting metal ring for a Crestella carbide hand lamp; 4) A reflector for an ITP carbide cap lamp; and 5) A push-on reflector and nickel-plated bottom for an early Baldwin cap lamp by Simmons. Anyone with information or possibilities can write to this address: Rich Finch, Dr., Dept. of Earth Sciences, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee, 38501.

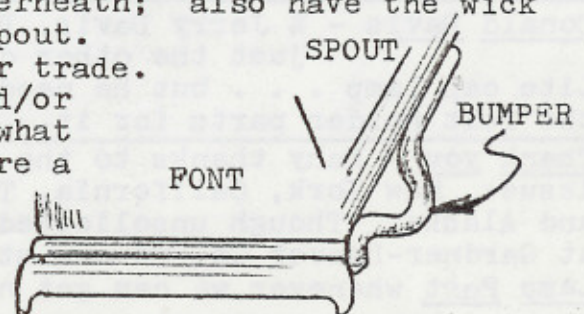


Large hand oil wick lamp. Both John Leahy in Leadville, Colorado, and Tony Moon in Sandy, Utah, have reported and shown a rather large type of galvanized metal oil lamp as shown to the left. At 12-1/2" tall these lamps make quite an addition to a collection. Speculation is that they were a locally-made item by a tinner tradesmith who was looking for additional income from his spare time. They are well-made probably were used as area lights rather than as miner's face lamps or car lamps. Of course, they would have had extensive surface use, too, but their proximity to

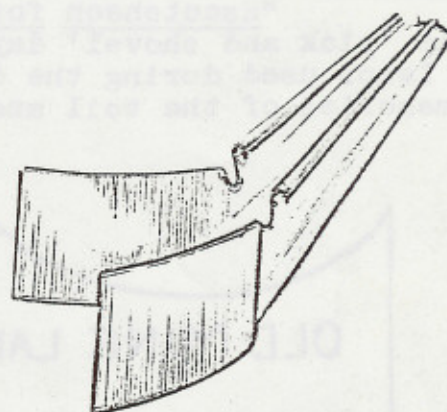
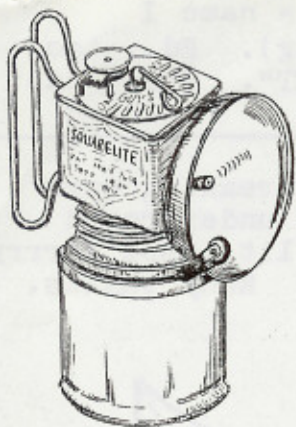
mining "things" when found makes them candidates for underground consideration. Anyone with any information on this type of lamp is requested to let us all hear about it.

Chuck Young reports that he has several C. George brand oil wick cap lamps for trade; they are unfired. They have the usual Crown dates on the lid and the usual "crown" lettering underneath; also have the wick tube reinforcement bumper at the heel of the spout. Chuck also has several other oil wick lamps for trade. He can talk to you about Sun Ray, LuMiNum, and/or Buddy carbide cap lamps, too . . . and that's what many will call real talking. Chuck will require a worthwhile equivalent to seal a trade. Write:

Chuck Young
4021 Hallman St.
Fairfax, Virginia 22030



Back to the front page . . . at the left is our sketch of our own Squarelite hand lamp. It is 5-1/2" tall with a 3" diameter reflector . . . all brass body and reflector. Remember that the cap lamp is 4" tall. They sure make a proud pair in our collection.



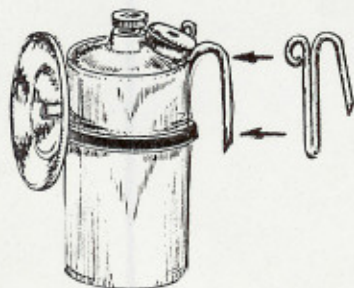
Unique design for an oil wick cap lamp was sent in by Tony Moon. The body and spout were made from a single piece of tin to prevent melting of the solder which would have been used to assemble a lamp of conventional design. The "Hunt & Connell" trade mark should show clearly in our sketch.

Steve Wurzbarger, Box 67, Goodyears Bar, California, 95944, sends us information. His sketch is at the left and his information and traders follow:

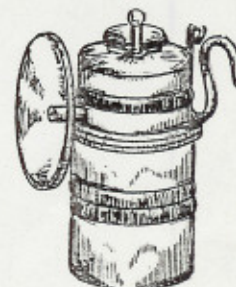


Vertical Justrite standard bottom; another bottom cut off 1/2" high. Screw soldered to center of lamp bottom. There is a hole in the extension bottom and a wing nut holds the whole thing together. The extension bottom was intended to hold extra parts - gasket, flints, felts, tips, and cleaning wires.

Steve also has the following for trades: a dozen new but rusty carbide oval flasks; many new tall Justrite brass bottoms No. 77 with cap but no rubber; many new Justrite air grip bottoms with caps; and RARE new No. 34 tall bottoms nickel-plated with nickel tops - came with early Justrite superintendent lamps. Steve needs bottoms for an Anaconda Special and for a Maple City cap lamp.



Any information anyone might have on these two lamps would sure be appreciated. Why not drop a line if you can identify either of them?



Unknown brand or manufacturer
Carbide Cap Lamp
3" tall x 1-7/8" dia. brass body
2-1/8" dia. reflector

George E. Bayles collection
Chuck Young collection

Unknown brand or manufacturer
Carbide Cap Lamp
3-3/8" tall x 1-7/8" dia. brass body
2-1/8" dia. reflector

Jim Rodemaker collection

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Daylight - Rane Curl wrote long ago about this carbide cap lamp. We don't recall if we ever mentioned it. He says, "Here's a name I couldn't find in the Lamp Post (please correct me if I'm wrong). Ed., too. P & H Ltd., Birmingham, England, No. 72. Tradename, "DAYLIGHT". Brass cap lamp, 4" reflector. Hook (wings broken off)."

Escutcheon - Bob Kloss sent in the following note and drawing.

"Escutcheon for OMLCSA. Centers around the backbreaking work of the 'pick and shovel' days of mining. Includes four early underground mine lamps used during the days of the pick and shovel. The lit lamps carry the memories of the toil and trouble of these brave workers." Many thanks.

