

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

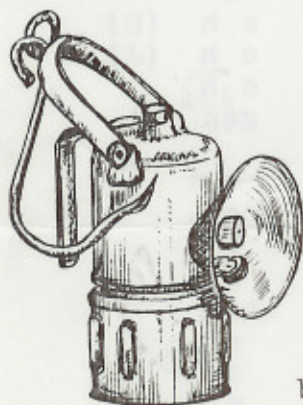
- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -



Vol. II, No.7

Fall, 1976

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



Strange Lamp Marking - We recently added the lamp shown to the left to our collection. The raised lettering on the top in 3/16" letters reads "ORIGINAL-WOLF" as detailed on the right. The lamp is steel and the general design looks like many of the Justrite varieties which are so common. However, it has the classic Dewar brass threads and collar lips between the water chamber and the lower carbide chamber. The lamp is 6-1/2" tall over the body and 9" over the bail. A 3" diameter steel reflector is backed by a brass support ring, copper washers are on both sides of the bail connections, the water control shaft has a brass knob handle, and the water door is of a very primitive design - irregular round edges and no round bottom plate where the door enters the chamber.



Young on Museums - After our story about the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit in the Spring issue of the Lamp Post, Chuck Young has sent us his own museum comments from Fairfax, Virginia. Chuck is retired and enjoys the luxury of chasing around the countryside looking for lamps and looking at museums . . . when he chooses to leave his retirement job at Appalacian Outfitters.

Chuck says, "Visited Penn State U. to see their lamp collection. Well, that would disappoint you. They have on display about 30 safety lamps, some very interesting, plus about only 3 oil wick lamps, nothing very great. Talked to the curator; the rest of the collection is in boxes, and not available for view, even to somebody who had a copy of a lamp article which the curator wanted to copy. The owners of some of the lamps might just as well have flattened them with a hammer as donated them to some museums. This curator says that there is no inventory of what they have in the collection. A dead end. Boy, when I go, I would like some collector friend to handle a sale of my lamps to other collectors so they stay out where others can see them and appreciate them. However, if they did go to a museum, the only place would be the Shelburne, Vermont, Museum where they really display collections." 'Nuf said! P.S. Chuck aint goin' - Ed.

Unnamed Lamps - Steve Wurzburger, Box 67, Goodyears Bar, Calif., 95944, has suggested that someone should compile a list or portfolio of drawings of unmarked carbide lamps. Steve is collecting such information and would make it available to everyone upon completion. We've sent Steve our sketches of unmarked lamps already as it sounds like a good project.

Postage - Again we are indebted to many good readers for postage for this issue of the Lamp Post. This time we have contributions from Texas, New Jersey, Ohio, Arizona, Colorado, California, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia. This postage help and your letters are what makes this hobby and this newsletter so interesting. We're making a sincere effort to record all of the trade names, trade marks, and drawings you send in.

Carbide Lamp Trade Names - Listed below are the carbide lamp names now in our registry records. We make no claim to being totally inclusive . . . we may have missed some here or there. What we're after here is to give everyone a crack at the registry list so that we can be sure that we haven't missed something from someone. Just let us know if you have an addition to the list. Reference date: Fall, 1976.

U. S. CARBIDE LAMP REGISTRY

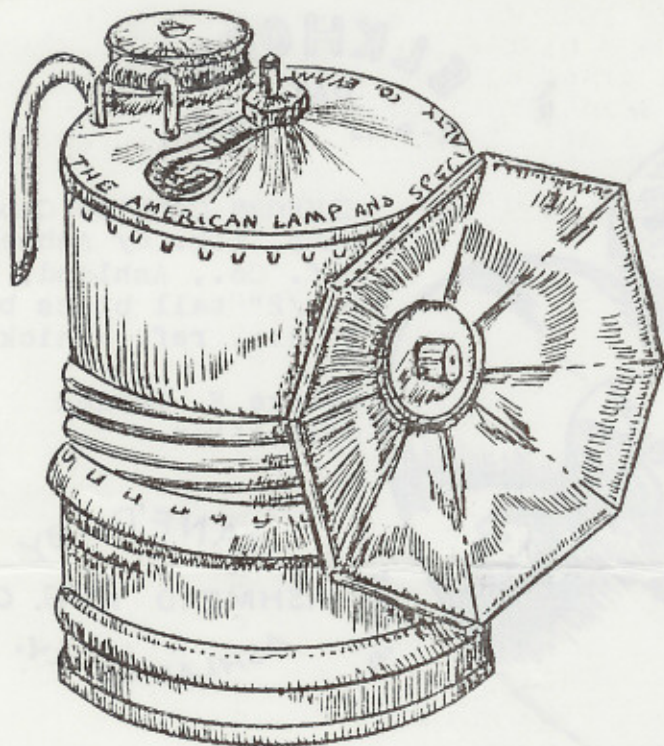
ACME	h	(J)	HYDROLITE	c	
AMERICAN	c		IMPERIAL	c	
ANTHRACITE *	c		I T P	c h	(D)
ANTON	c		JUSTRITE	c h	(J)
ARNOLD'S Carbide Candle			LU-MI-NUM	c h	
ARROW	c		LUNKENHEIMER	gen	
AUTO LITE	c		MAJESTIC **		
BALDWIN	c		MAPLE CITY	c	
BIG BOY	h	(U)	MAUMEE DUPLEX	c	
BIG TOP	h		MILBURN	c	
BLACK DIAMOND	c		NI-BA	c	
BRILLIANT	gen		PATHFINDER	c h	
BRITE LITE	c		PIONEER	c	
BUDDY	c		POCAHONTAS	c	
COLUMBIA	h		S & S	c	
COPPER QUEEN	h	(J)	SCRANTO	c h	
DEFENDER	c	(J)	SHANKLIN	c	
DENVER Spike Light			SIMMONS	c	
DEWAR	c	(D)	Simons		
DEW-R-LITE	h	(D)	SPRINGFIELD	c	
ELKHORN	c		SQUARELITE	c h	
EVER READY	c		STANDARD	c	
FULTON	c		SUN RAY	c	
GEE-BEE	c	(G)	SURE-LITE	c	
GEM	c	(G)	UNCLE SAM	h	(J)
GRIER	c	(G)	UNION CARBIDE	c	
GRIER	c	(G)	UNIVERSAL	h	(U)
GIANT	h	(J)	VICTOR	c	(J)
GUY'S DROPPER	c h		WOLF	c h	
HANSEN	c		X RAY	c	(J)
			ZAR	c	

Codes:

c = cap lamp
 h = hand lamp
 gen = generator and cap
 (D) = Dewar Mfg. Co.
 (G) = Grier Mfg. Co.
 (J) = Justrite Mfg. Co.
 (U) = Universal Mfg. Co.
 * George Bayles' name
 for an unmarked lamp
 ** Chuck Young report in
 1972; no further data

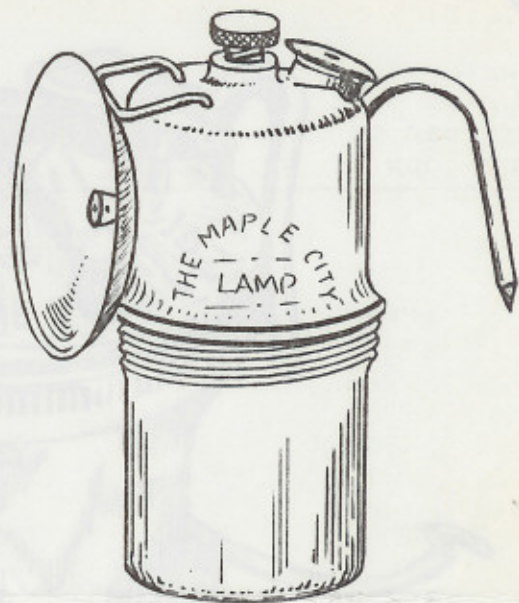
CARBIDE LAMP REGISTRY
Foreign makes

ARRAS	h	modern
BREVETE	h	modern
BUTTERFLY	c	modern
Safe Sport		
CHRISTIAN MICHEL	h	modern
CRESTELLA	h	
DAYLITE	c	modern
LUX	h	
PREMIER	c h	modern
RIEMANN	h	
SOMNER-HERMAN	h	
STELLA	h	modern



AMERICAN Carbide Cap Lamp
 Inscription reads:
 "The American Lamp and
 Specialty Co., Evansville,
 Indiana, Patented"
 3-1/2" tall brass body
 2-3/4" screw-on octagon ref.

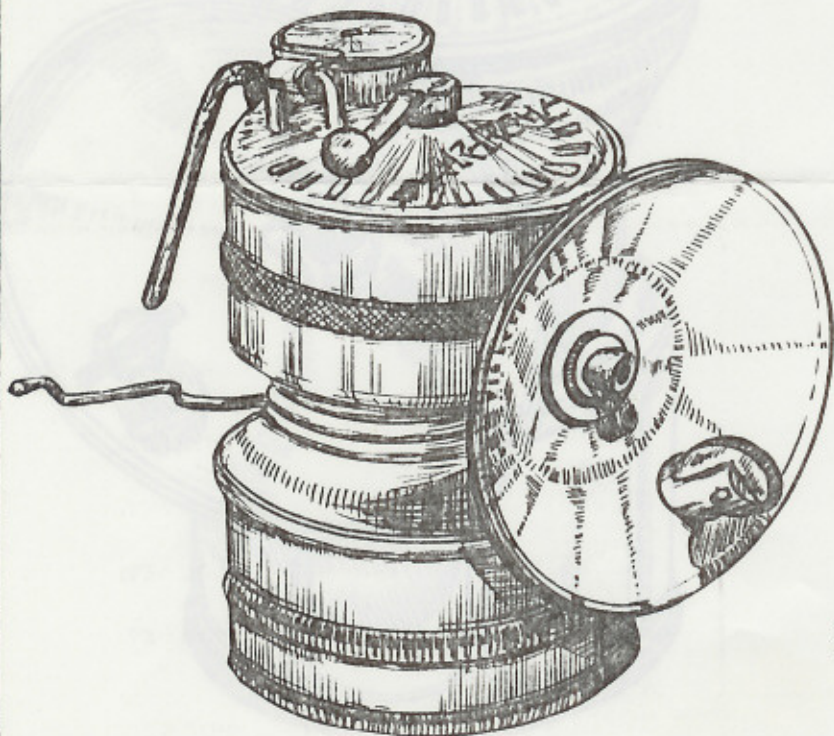
Jim Rodemaker collection



THE MAPLE CITY
 LAMP

THE MAPLE CITY LAMP
 Carbide cap lamp
 3-1/4" tall brass body
 2-1/8" dia. steel ref.

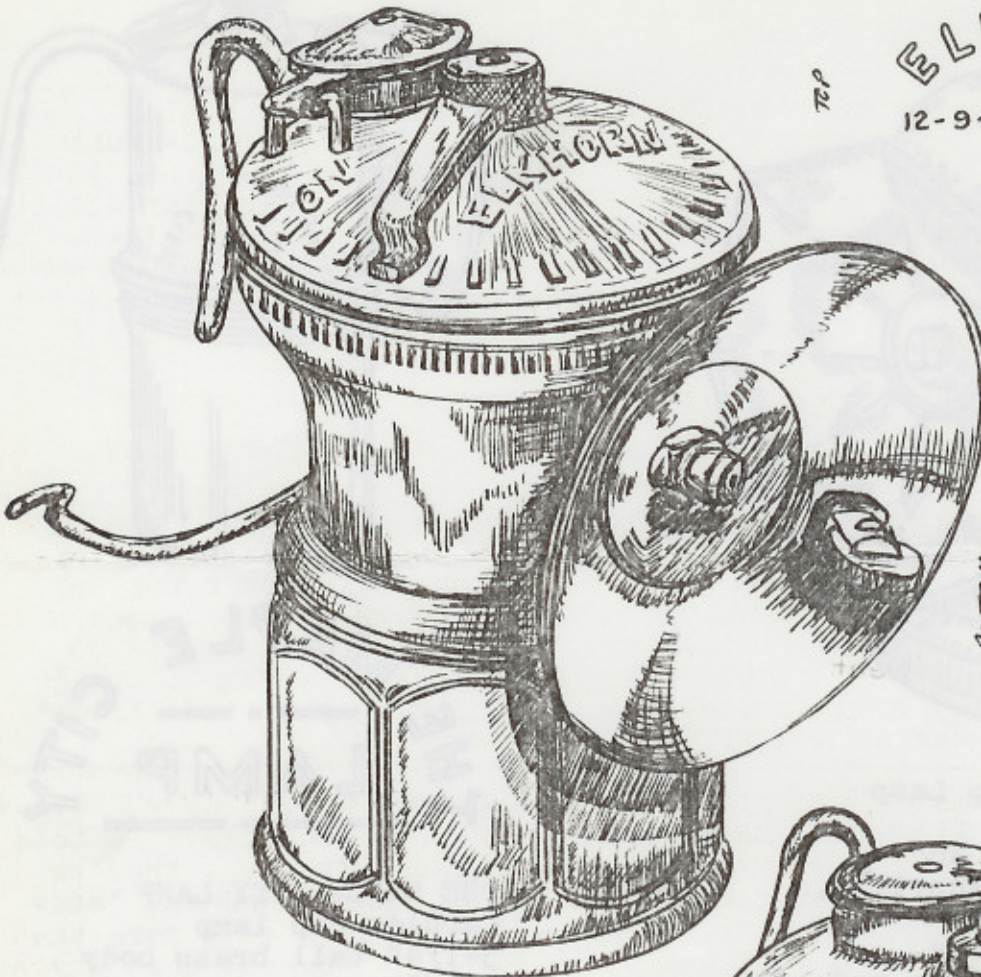
Henry A. Pohs collection



ARROW Carbide cap lamp
 3-1/2" tall brass body
 2-1/2" dia. nickel-plated ref.

George E. Bayles collection

→ ARROW →
 TRADE MARK

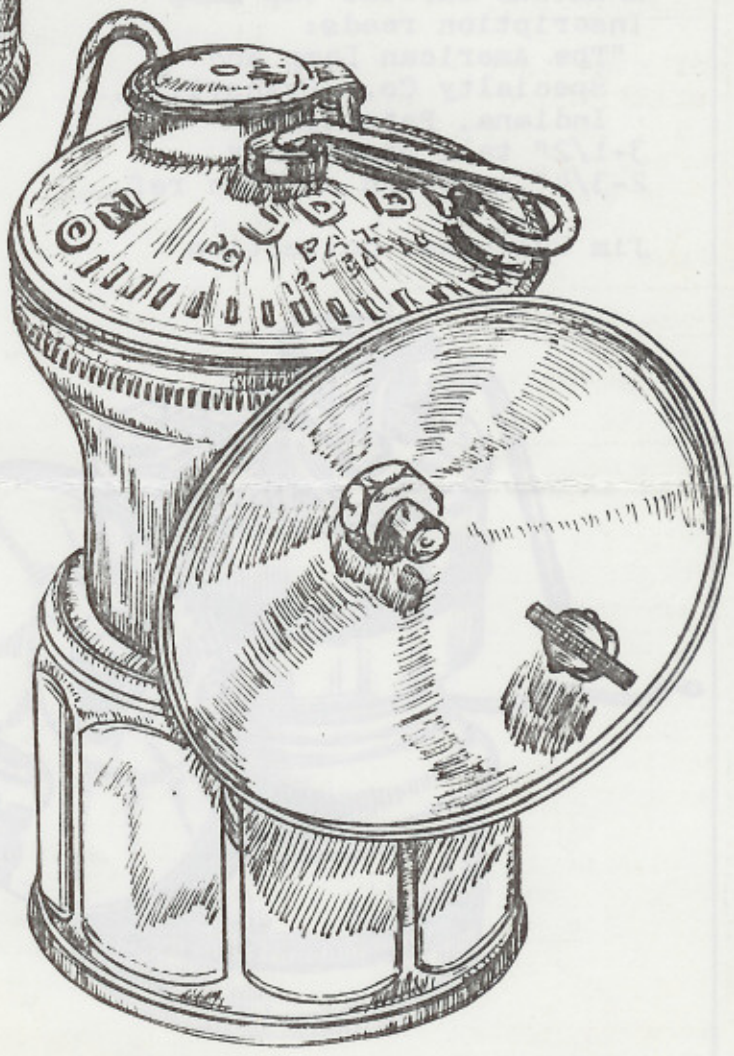


TOP
ELKHORN
 PAT
 12-9-13 9-3-21

ELKHORN Carbide Cap Lamp, Mfg. by Ashmeade Mfg. Co., Ashland, Ky. 3-1/2" tall brass body 3" dia. ref. - nickel

George E. Bayles collection

MANFD. BY
 ASHMEAD MFG. CO.
 ASHLAND, KY.
 BOTTOM



BUDDY Carbide cap lamp
 Mfg. by Ashmeade Mfg. Co.
 Ashland, Ky.
 3-1/2" tall brass body
 3" dia. ref. - nickel

George E. Bayles collection

BUDDY
 PAT
 12-19-13 5-9-21
 U.S.A.

Love Letters - Rich Finch's remarks in the last issue brought an avalanche of replies . . . to us and to Rich. Several were annoyed, some wanted equal time (then decided 'no' things are as they are). Most agreed about the high prices of lamps and how they are forced up, but most were resigned to the prices as unavoidable. Others want to resist gougers and fight the high prices . . . but, (editor here) if you want THAT lamp and you have THE money, what are YOU going to do? Right, you'll BUY when you think that the price will not go any lower. Glad for all the response, and glad that the Lamp Post is a means for exchanging views.

Zar - Ralph Blankenbecler, P. O. Box 207, Coeburn, Va., 24230, bought out someone's junk shop as far as carbide lamps go. So now he has the elusive Zar carbide cap lamp in quantity for trade. Seems that the someone had bought up a mine supply house in the late 1910's and the Zars had set there since then. Write Ralph with your trade offers.

Trade - Robert Blake, Box 8844 N. A. U., Flagstaff, Arizona, 86001, writes that he has a Dewar and a Wolf handheld lamp for trade. Since he doesn't collect handhelds, he would like to trade them for either a rare cap lamp (Victor is rare enough) or for several common, spade mount cap lamps such as Guy's Dropper or AutoLite. Bob also says, "I also have a number of wire mount lamps I would like to trade for spade mount lamps either paying a cash differential (\$2 for each of the 5 lamps) or trading 5 wire mounts for 4 spade mounts; 2 Autos, 1 Dropper, 2 Justrite, all in nice shape; 1 Justrite having a like new exterior."

Candleholders - Jack Ramsdell, 3493 Alpine View Court, Carson City, Nevada, 89701, liked our candleholder sketches recently. He told of some three-figure prices he has seen in shops recently . . . they're still there! Jack also questioned the propriety of right-hand vs. left-hand identification on candleholders. Now, we've run into this more than once, and no one can prove which is right or left. We suggest that anyone interested write to Jack with their sketches and reasons. Jack can log 'em, maybe get a consensus, and then let us all know thru the Lamp Post. Thanks, Jack, we appreciate that volunteer spirit.

More Candleholders - Joseph Chervy, 788 Lehigh Ave, Union, N. J., 07083, reports a Varney candleholder with the marking "H B" on the shaft. That's a new one for our registry. Could it be the old Hendri and Bolthoff Supply Co. here in Denver?

More Trades - Dennis Seekins, 8217 Roanoke, Takoma Park, Md., 20012, has sent us the following trade list:
8-hr ITP unfired and 8-hr Justrite "Little Giant" missing bail hook
Dennis is only interested in carbide cap lamps for the most part.

Henry Boker - Recall the first page illustration and story in our Spring, 1976 issue . . . a Henry Boker candleholder. Retired Norm Wagner, 2624 1st St., Baker, Oregon, 97814, writes the following:
"Hold everything. The Ford Museum's Henry Boker from New York City I know nuthin' about. But I have an original cardboard carton and a candelstick as per the illustration. My box top is abundantly and explicitly labeled:

Henry Boker Remscheid Germany	Manufacturer of Hardware, Tools Cutlery, Tin, and Enamelled Holloware & C	Well known Throughout the world is the high standard of all the articles bearing the name HENRY BOKER
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Norm understands that the Henry Boker of Remscheid, Germany, is now the Wiss Scissor Company.

Thanks, Norm.

Boker, cont'd. - And then . . . Joseph Chervy confirms from Union, N. J.

"I investigated and found that Henry Boker's plant was situated in Maplewood, N. J., which is only about 5 miles from Newark where Varney manufactured his candlesticks. The personnel manager at J. Wiss & Sons Co., which took over the Boker plant about 8 years ago, had very little information to give except that Wiss only took over the pocket knife business.

"Henry Boker originated in Germany and became famous for their straight razors, scissors and I imagine pocket knives and possibly cutlery. The main office and supply house was in New York City. At Maplewood the plant expanded to include pliers, hedge shears and other tools. My brother-in-law, Frank F. Franko, started as a young man in Bokers. During his stay he designed and engraved the famous "Tree Brand" trade mark Boker used on their pocket knives.

"I do not know when Boker located in the U. S. and it is possible they made the candlesticks in Germany. Is it possible Varney made them at a later date, the plants being so near?"

FOR TRADE ONLY:

Lenticular hanging lamp, with hart shaped hold-down screw.
 TWENTIETH CENTHRY bicycle lamp (missing carbide chamber)
 BALDWIN cap lamp. Pat. Aug. 30, 1900 & May 22, 1905 (missing reflector, tip, wire water feed).
 BALDWIN cap lamp base with cap.
 WOLF No. 900(?), non-swiveling hook, (missing reflector, reflector screws & nuts).
 WOLF No. 905a bottom (with brass WOLF tag), bail, hold-down screw, swivel & hook, extremely rusted).
 JUSTRITE No. 44 headpiece & hose (missing belt generator).
 JUSTRITE Superintendents lamp, pat. May 7, 1912, Oct. 28, 1913, Nov. 23, 1915
 JUSTRITE Lava Burner Tips No. 67 for carbide lantern.
 JUSTRITE cap lamps-assorted, non-horizontal.
 DEW-R-LITE, DEWAR, ITP 8 hr. lamps.
 Unfired JUSTRITE & AUTOLIGHT cap lamps in original boxes.
 BRILLIANT SEARCH LIGHT generator (missing hose & headpiece)
 Model A Union Carbide lamp reflectors.
 GUY'S DROPER carbide flask.

WANTED: Carbide Cap Lamps

Antracite	Hanson	Springfield	<u>4hr. Lamps</u> Acme
Anton	Liberty	Standard	Columbia
Black Diamond	Lu-Mi-Num	Sun Ray	Guy's Dropper
Brite Lite	Mapple City	Universal	Giant
Buddy	Maumee	Union Carbide	I.T.P.
Daylight	Milburn	Victor	Justrite
Defender	Ni-Ba	Zar	Milburn
Elkhorn	P. & H. Ltd.	X-Ray	Squarlite
Ever-Ready	Pathfinder		Wolf
Fulton	Pioneer		
Gee Bee	Scranto		
Gem	Squarelite		
	Simmons		

8 Hr. Carbide Hand Lamps:

Arnold's Carbide Candle	Lu-Mi-Num	
Copper Queen	Milburn	
Crestelle	Pinnacle	— ? ED.
Guy's Dropper	Riemann	
National Carbide Lantern	Sommer	
Little Giant	Uncle Sam	

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