



THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

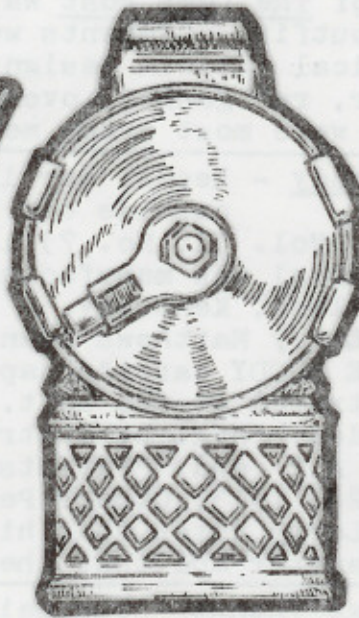
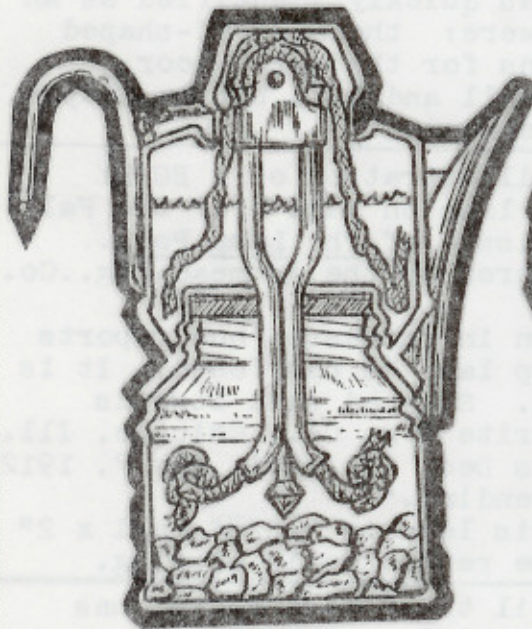
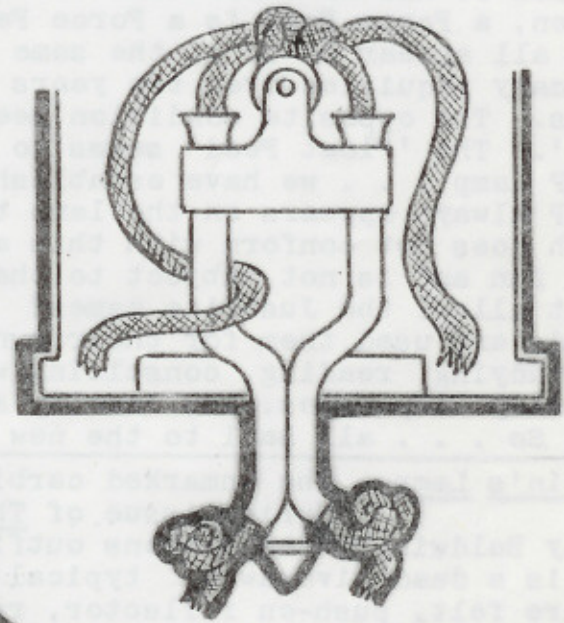
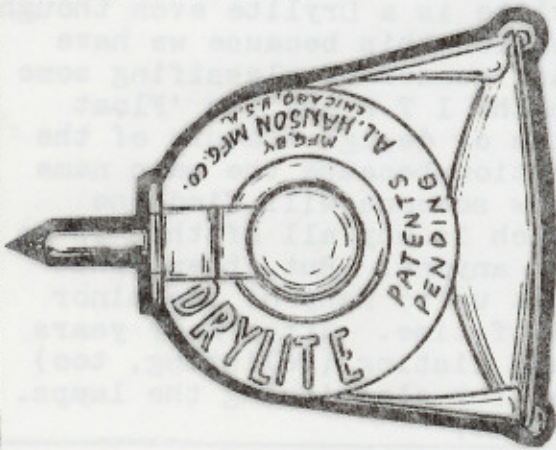


- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -

Vol. II, No. 9

Fall, 1977

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



Drylite - Carbide cap lamp with odd wick-type water feed. Two "Lamp Tramps" from about as far apart geographically as we could imagine have both recently reported the same rare carbide cap lamp as additions to their collections. 'New' correspondent Ron MacWillie in Los Angeles has provided sketches and data; ole' reliable Chuck Young in Fairfax, Virginia, has sent 35mm colored slides; and then we found abstract copies of U. S. patent no. 1,505,259 ca. 1921, issued to

Augie L. Hansen, Evanston, Illinois, assigned to A. L. Hansen Mfg. Co. in Chicago. With allowances for the fact that lamps, or any other mechanical items, rarely are made exactly as the patent drawings show, we have been able to create the adjacent sketches.

Essentially, there is a tubular wick doubled lengthwise with both ends threaded through metal tubes leading down into the carbide chamber. Ron describes a pulley under the domed cap above the water chamber, but the patent only says that a second wick piece is connected thereto with its



ends dipping well into the water reservoir. There is no identifiable means of adjusting or controlling the water flow.

Except for the flip-top dome covering the wick connection, the general design of this lamp copies our Hansen and Chuck Young's Force Feed lamp; Chuck has a Hansen, too. Generally significant features include: the counter-sunk spark wheel (some Hansens have a sliding flint arrangement); the distinctive diamond pattern on the carbide bottom; a heavy nickel plated brace which supports both the brass reflector and the hook for the cap; the cap brace is a part of the heavy brace; and an internal felt gas filter. The stamping on the bottom is the same on all three lamps. We have sort of agreed that the Force Feed is a genuine lamp of its own species because it has no other name of identity on the top. Thus, a Hansen is a Hansen, a Force Feed is a Force Feed, and a Drylite is a Drylite even though they all appear to be of the same genus. We mention this because we have had many inquiries over the years about the exact manner of classifying some lamps. The opposite condition seems to be with the I T P and its 'Float Feed'. The 'Float Feed' seems to be a subspecies or design feature of the I T P lamp . . . we have established this convention because the main name I T P always appears on the lamp top. Oops - now someone will find one which does not conform with this axiom . . . which is why all of this is so much fun and is not subject to the strictures of anyone. But, then, what about all of the Justrite names? Oh, they bought up so many of the minor brands and used them for their own for a period of time. After many years of studying, reading, consulting with others, and listing (relisting, too) the many lamp names, you develop a 'sixth sense' for classifying the lamps. So . . . all hail to the new DRYLITE lamp name.

Loftin's Lamp - The unmarked carbide lamp submitted by Steve Loftin in the Spring issue of The Lamp Post was quickly identified as an early Baldwin by the Simmons outfit. Comments were: the diamond-shaped tip is a dead give-away; typical Baldwin designs for the water door, square felt, push-on reflector, red gasket, overall and base bottom shapes, and the larger water capacity were most often mentioned.

The Buddy - Recall our illustration of a BUDDY carbide cap lamp on page 4 of the Fall, 1976, (Vol. II, No. 7) issue of The Lamp Post. This model was manufactured by the Ashmead Mfg..Co., in Ashland, Kentucky.

Larry Matthews down in Tennessee now reports on THE BUDDY carbide cap lamp he has found. It is illustrated at the left. Stamped side legends include: "Mfg. by Justrite Mfg. Co., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A." and "Patents Dec. 17, 1901, May 7, 1912, Oct. 28, 1913, Others Pending."

Larry notes that his lamp is 3-5/8" tall x 2" in diameter and that the reflector is missing.

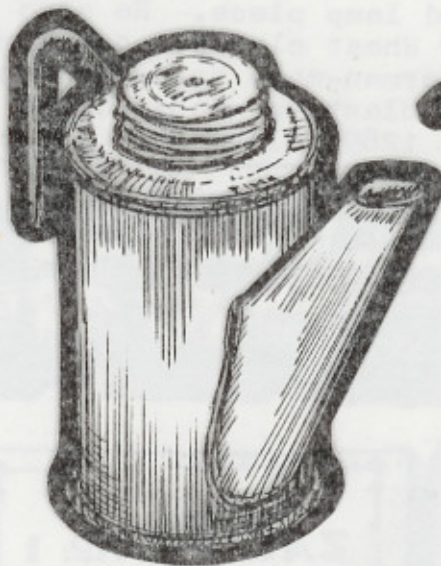
Postage Thanks - Our mail these past months has brought kind postage offerings from the following locations. We try to thank each personally, but again say thanks to: Indiana, Kentucky, Los Angeles, Colorado, Utah, West Virginia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California, Texas, and Oregon in that calendar order.

On a company convention trip last Spring we were able to find time to observe and to photograph the following collections: U. S. Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh; the West Virginia University collection in Morgantown; Lester Bernstein's lamps in Charleston, West Va.; Jim Lacky's items in Huntingto West Va.; and Paul Wallace in Ohio.





Maple City
Hand Lamp
5" tall over all
All brass



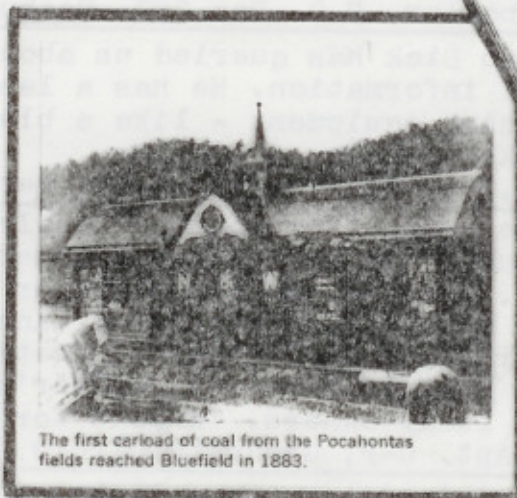
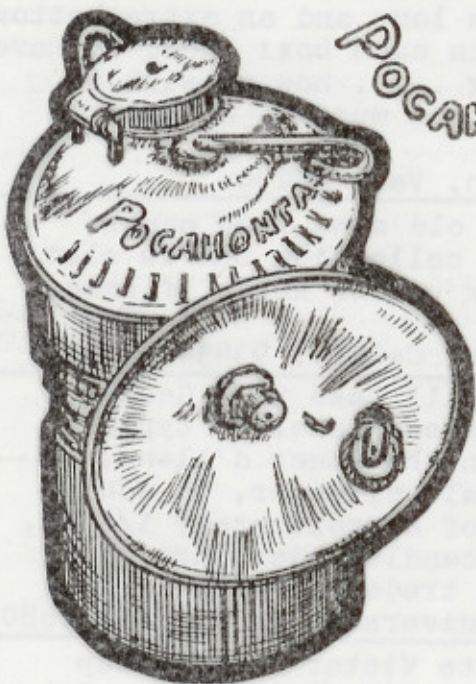
Oil wick cap lamp
Steel construction
Screw cap
3-3/4" over cap



"SURE-LIGHT"

PATD.
6-25-14
7-19-16
OTHERS
PEND.

POCAHONTAS



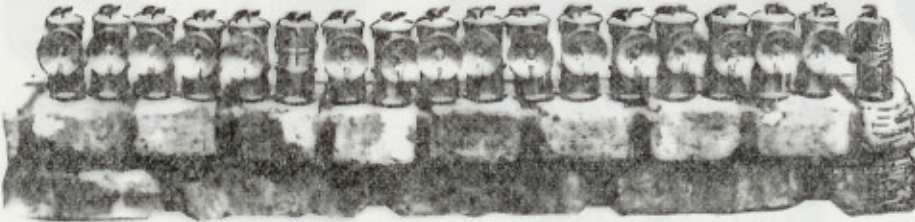
The first carload of coal from the Pocahontas fields reached Bluefield in 1883.



Bluefield - Brass
Oil wick cap lamp
Midge Leahy collect.
Denver, Colorado

Art Hebrank - Fellow lamp collector and long-time correspondent Art Hebrank from Rolla, Missouri, was through Denver last Fall but too late to make mention in the Fall, 1976, issue of The Lamp Post. We didn't get our photos and drawings done for Spring, either, so several of Art's lamps are reproduced on this page. In our excitement we have lost some of the measurements for the Sure-Lite and the Pocahontas lamps. Thanks Art.

Mining Items - Ron Mac Willie, who provided part of the DRYLITE information on Page 1 of this issue, is interested in general mining items as well as old mine lamps. He needs a reflector for a Sunray carbide cap lamp, an ITP carbide cap lamp reflector, and a generator unit for his Brilliant Searchlite head lamp piece. He also is interested and looking for Edison, M. S. A., or Wheat electric cap lamps. Ron says he has a few safety lamps such as a German-made brass and an aluminum lamp both later style lamps, a push-type blasting machine, and old dynamite boxes. Write him at : RON MacWILLIE, 12891 Olive St., Garden Grove, Calif., 92645.



Zar - Ralph Blankenbecler writes that he has not had any luck lately on trading off his "extra" Zar mint carbide cap lamps. He has had lots of offers to pay cash for the lamps, but he would rather trade. Ralph thought that a photo or two might stir up your imagination. We have ran his snapshots thru several steps to get the pictures at the left. Hope that you can visualize these fabulous lamps. He says that he doesn't want to be selfish, but he would like to trade for a lamp he doesn't have. He has 18 (count 'em) Zars and a few boxes for trade. That's a lamp and an extra bottom in each box! Now, we have



a good Zar in our collection, but do not have a box . . . how we wish we had something to trade for one. Some of you out there must be able to strike a trade. Write to:

Ralph Blankenbecler, P.O. Box 207, Coeburn, Va., 24230

More Mining Items - Herb Dick has queried us about old mine lamp names and information. He has a lamp collection but is also interested in other mining equipment - like a black powder keg. If someone wishes to trade a keg to him, write to:

Herb Dick, 490 Miles Ave., Santa Maria, Calif., 93454

Gold Nugget - Now, here's an offer someone surely will take up. George Kenzy would like to acquire a miner's candleholder typical of those used in Butte, Montana, copper mines or in the Couer d'Alene, Idaho, district silver mines. Being an avid mineral collector, he would like to trade Yukon Territory placer gold nuggets of approximately 1/4 oz. to 3/4 oz. wt. We know gold is rare . . . miner's candleholders are both rare and dear to their lucky owners. Anyone for a trade write to:

George W. Kenzy, Apt. 6-P, Graduate Circle, University Park, Pa., 16802

Editor's Needs - Your mini-editor has a nickel plate Victor carbide cap lamp which needs a reflector and a reflector brace. Otherwise our 'new' find is in very good condition. Who will offer to trade or to sell these items. P. S. We haven't much to trade. Write to address at top of Page 1. Many thanks.

Chronology - Bob Salika writes that he is trying to establish a chronology and a range of distribution for the various kinds of old mine lamps, perhaps by manufacturer. He also needs a reflector and tip for his 2-1/2 hr. Lu-Mi-Num. Bob Salika, 3917 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Ill, 60513.

Scranto Lamp - Tony Moon in Sandy, Utah, has sent us some data on the elusive Scranto carbide cap lamp. An old advertisement he turned up last Spring filled in a gap for him in the Scranto history as follows:

Scranton Lamp - Francis Coffin Co. - 1909, 1910
 Scranton Lamp - Scranton Acetylene Lamp Co. - 1911
 Scranto Lamp - Scranton Acetylene Lamp Co. - 1913
 Scranto Lamp - American Safety Lamp & Mine Supply Co. - 1921

Also, the similarity between the Scranton, the Scranto, the non-Justrite Victor, and the Pathfinder lamps cannot be a mere coincidence, according to Tony. There has to be a connection!! Who will supply more information for Tony and The Lamp Post?

Tony Moon, 3477 East 9055 South, Sandy, Utah, 84070

Read On - Connections between people, lamp names, and lamp designs? Chuck Young once suggested that a Mr. Stein could have been involved in the S & S carbide cap lamp (Spring, 1977, Lamp Post). We have identified U. S. patent no. 1,376,654 of May 3, 1921, for a water feed improvement by Meyer Stein of Springfield, Illinois, assignor of one-half to Philip Stein. S & S, maybe? But, read on . . .

Buddy and Elkhorn - Recall the illustrations of the Buddy and the Elkhorn carbide cap lamps in the Fall, 1976, issue of The Lamp Post. Both were manufactured by the Ashmead Manufacturing Company in Ashland, Kentucky. Our correspondent Jim Lackey in Huntington, West Virginia, was fortunate enough to interview Mr. Davis Geiger who was president of the Ashmead Company in 1925. Jim's notes follow.

"Ashmead Manufacturing Co., Ashland, Kentucky

Manufacturers of Elkhorn and Buddy carbide cap lamps. Patents owned by Ben Williamson Supply Co., Ashland, Kentucky. (Ed. note: We just now came across a patent abstract in our file - U. S. patent no. 1,716,809 of June 11, 1929 issued to Ben Williamson for a water feed tube arrangement). Ashmead was formed about 1916 and ceased operations in 1933. It was a separate company, but it was owned by the Ben Williamson family.

It recieved its name from Ashmead Westerfelt who was the general manager. He was hired away from Shanklin where he had held a similar position.

The design engineer was a Mr. Stein who was also hired away from Shanklin. Mr. Stein was also shop superintendent and sales manager. The die maker was Fred Richardson.

The Elkhorn was a local name and to give their lamp a more wider appeal, the name was changed to Buddy. The Elkhorn and the Buddy were never manufactured simultaneously.

The Elkhorn was packaged in a gray and blue box; the Buddy was packaged in a yellow and red box. They were packaged 1/2 dozen to a carton, 6 dozen to a shipping case.

The lamps were distributed in the eastern United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, and several South American countries, especially Bolivia.

There were 108 operations required to manufacture each lamp. Several design changes were made during the life span of the company. . . the water feed lever, a one-piece bottom (which required 4 less operations), etc.

Material cost about 10¢ per lamp and labor was also about 10¢ per lamp. The jobber cost was 60¢ per lamp and retail price was \$1.00. Nickel-plated lamps sold for \$1.25.

Ashmead purchased flints, flint wheels, tips, flint springs, gaskets, and felt from other suppliers. Both lamps were manufactured with 2-1/2" and 4" diameter reflectors.

The above information was obtained from Mr. Davis Geiger who joined Ashmead in 1925 as president. Mr. Geiger was a former Navy instructor

pilot and did a little barn storming after WWI. He also was co-owner and publisher of the Ashland Daily Independent, a local newspaper.

Mr. Geiger is now 80 years old. He is still very active, especially in crippled childrens work, having held several national and international posts in that field. He has a wing of the Kings Daughters Hospital in Ashland named after him. He retired a few years ago as president of the Ben Williamson Supply Co.

Many thanks to Jim Lackey for that special interview.

Bob Lennon - Our sometimes contributor to The Lamp Post and a long-time lamp correspondent, Robert Lennon of Patagonia, Arizona, has scored again. We quote the following book review which our engineering librarian spotted and sent on to us. It is from the June, 1977, issue of World Mining Magazine, p. 75.

"Prospectors and how they made their discoveries, and mines and their machines which turned these discoveries into ore in the western United States are described in Black Powder and Hand Steel, a new book by Otis E. Young, Jr., with the technical assistance of Robert Lennon. Both are known as western authors from their first book - Western Mining.

Until about 1880, the miners were largely Cornish and Irish. Then came the new immigrants: Italians, Swedes, Finns, Austro-Hungarians, and Mexicans.

The tools and the machines used by the miners and how technical advances in machine design and manufacture changed the art of western mining are detailed in this book. Brief stories on the discovery of many famous camps - Tonopah, Gold Field, Globe, Leadville, Tombstone and others are included in the book.

Entertaining reading and a quick reference on who discovered what where.

The 196-page 5-1/4 by 8-1/4 inch hard-covered book contains 23 black and white illustrations, six full color pictures, and an excellent bibliography. It is available for \$9.95 from the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, United States."

Maumee "Duplex" - We've got all these detailed sketches in our files, and as we promised several issues ago, we try to show our readers as many as we have room for. Here is the fabulous and rare Maumee "Duplex" carbide cap lamp. Our lamping memory recalls that George Bayles, Tom Garwood, and Chuck Young each have a Maumee in their collections.

The lamp is all brass, 3 x 3 x 3; i.e., 3" tall, 3" wide, and a 3" diameter reflector, also brass. The relative size makes the Maume look 'cute' because the 3" wide dimensions leave only a 1-1/2" diameter bottom(s), while most cap lamps are more than 2" in diameter.

Lu-Mi-Num - After these many years of seeing various lamps, we still keep on finding out about "new" ones. Now Paul Wallace in Crooksville, Ohio, has shown us a Lu-Mi-Num with a screw-on design between the the water chamber and the carbide bottom instead of the usual lug-clamp style. We wonder if anyone else has ever come across this design. Let us know.

