



THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -

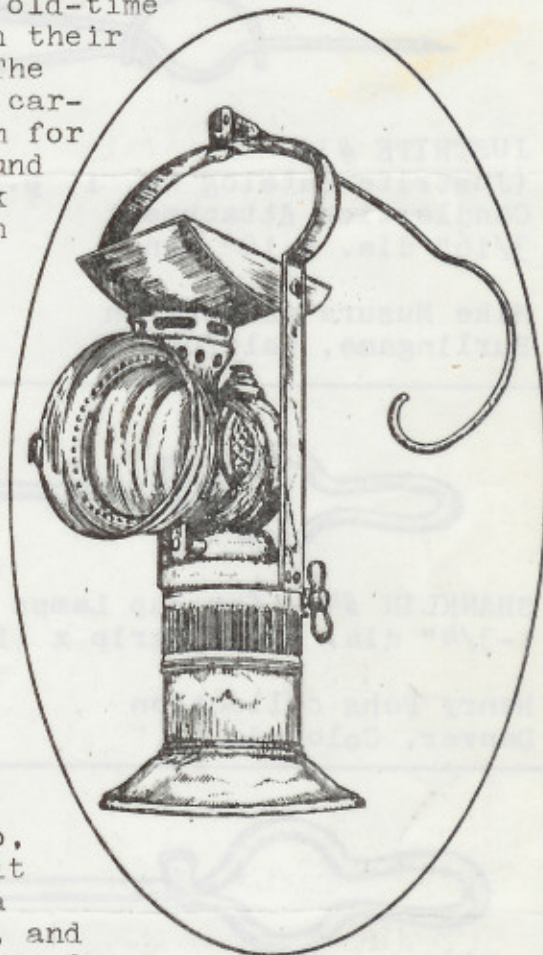
Vol. II, No. 10

Spring, 1978

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

HYBRID (n. Derived from unlike sources). - The old-time miners were reluctant to make changes in their working habits or in their lighting devices. The same with modern-day cavers who cling to their carbide lamps for utility reasons and collect them for sentimental reasons. In pre-electric underground illumination lore we talk of carbides, oil wick cap lamps, and candleholders but, although each was invented and applied underground independently, there seems to have also been a "backlash" of hybrid or cross breed lighting instruments which reflected (!) this reluctance to change implements. This issue of The Lamp Post will illustrate some of these odd items.

We know that bicycle carbide lamps pre-dated any underground mining carbide lamps; the miners eventually began to take their cycle lamps underground or to improvise and to change them a bit to adapt the new lighting system to their work-day needs as well as to their transportation needs. One of our favorites is shown to the right . . . the 'Missing Link' . . . the actual manufacturer's first transition of a carriage/cycle lamp to mining use. It is locked behind glass in the Teller County Museum in Cripple Creek, Colorado, hence no actual dimensions. We estimate that it is 9" to 10" tall with a 4" diameter base and a 3-1/2" diameter lens rim. The wide base, bale, and hood have been added by a manufacturer as evidenced by the machine workmanship and the die-formed appearance of the base.



Since making this sketch, we have had the opportunity to examine a similar lamp in the Mackay School of Mines Museum at the University of Nevada in Reno. This was dark gunmetal blue with the wide base (professionally soldered on the underside) and including a rear handle and a hanging hook.

Carbide Spikeholders - "Give up my candles and fancy candleholder for one of those new fangled carbide things? Never! But I might try a carbide if it had a spike and a loop handle." Page 2 shows eleven of the spike holders which were made and sold for the courageous miner who dared to change . . . ever so little.

Postage - Many thanks for postage for this issue to our good readers in the following states: Michigan, California, Maryland, Arizona, Wyoming, Illinois, Nevada, Colorado, Tennessee, Virginia, Indiana, Alabama, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas, Connecticut, and New Jersey. If we had only been earlier, we would have missed the new postal rates.



Baldwin #72
 (Mine & Smelter Catalog #4386F)
 Candlestick for Cap Lamps
 1/4" x 10" long - painted black

Tony Moon collection
 Salt Lake City, Utah



BALDWIN #73
 (Mine & Smelter Catalog #4386E)
 Candlestick for hand lamps
 1/4" dia. x 10" long



JUSTRITE #55
 Candlestick Attachment for hand Lamps
 1/4" square x 10-1/2" long



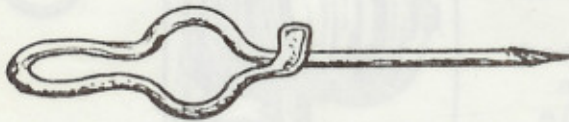
JUSTRITE #30
 (Justrite Catalog No. 1, p. 5)
 Candlestick Attachment
 3/16" dia. x 10" long

Mike Musura collection
 Burlingame, California



JUSTRITE #35
 (Justrite Catalog NO. 5, p. 20)
 Candlestick Attachment for
 half-shift Lamps
 1/4" dia. x 9-3/4" long

Henry Pohs collection
 Denver, Colorado



SHANKLIN #4 - for cap Lamps
 1-3/4" dia. center grip x 11-1/2" long

Henry Pohs collection
 Denver, Colorado



JUSTRITE #35 - for half-shift Lamps
 (Justrite Catalog No. 3, p. 18)
 1/4" dia. x 9-3/4" long

Henry Pohs collection
 Denver, Colorado

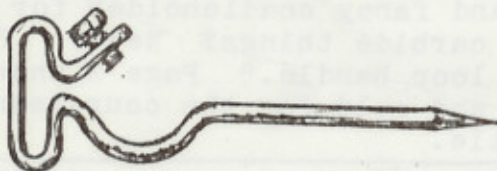


SHANKLIN #6 - for hand Lamps
 2-5/16" dia. center grip x 10" long

John Leahy collection
 Leadville, Colorado



JUSTRITE #94 - for Special Lamps
 (Justrite Catalog No. 3, p. 21)
 1/4" dia. x 11" long



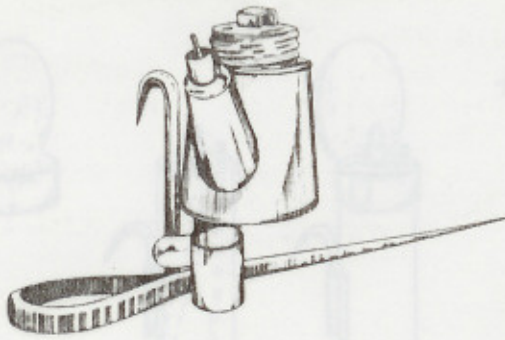
AUTOLITE

Art Hebrank collection
 Rolla, Missouri

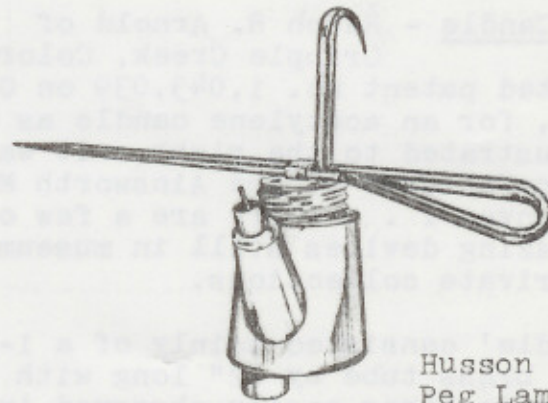


Unidentified - from Butte area
 2-1/8" dia. center grip x 9" long

Tony Moon collection
 Salt Lake City, Utah



Husson #22 Peg Lamp
Used in a miner's candleholder



Husson # 22
Peg Lamp
Used in a miner's
wrought iron candlestick
without a candle thimble

The three items shown above were manufactured by the Knippenberg Mfg. Company of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to satisfy the workers desire to stay with his candleholder but to 'just maybe' try the oil wick lamp. The manufacturers will produce anything that will sell, even if it will be an extra step beyond good design practice.



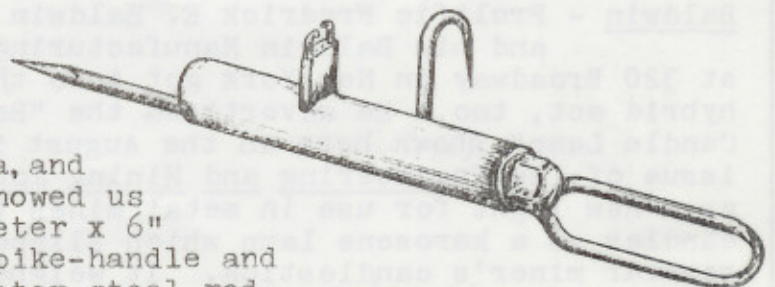
Patent 623,370
April 18, 1899
Peter Home
Bessemer, Michigan

It seems that the ingenuity of many persons was challenged to keep up with the times. Or, as our own design experience tells us, the desire to 'make a buck with a patent' was the motivating factor. Anything different could be patented; and they were, as attest the two spike holders shown to the left.



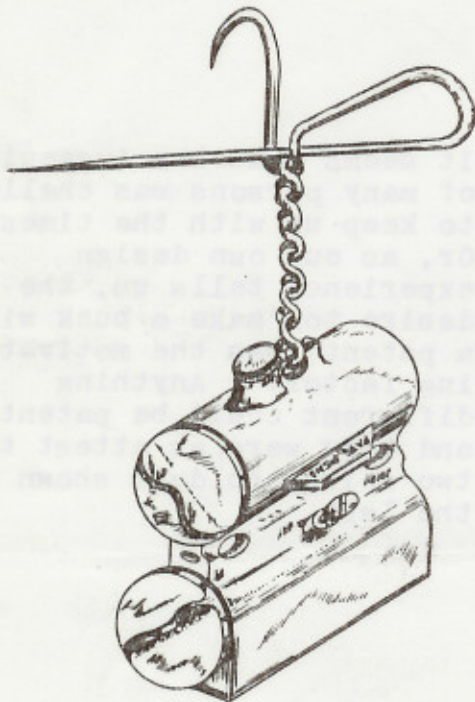
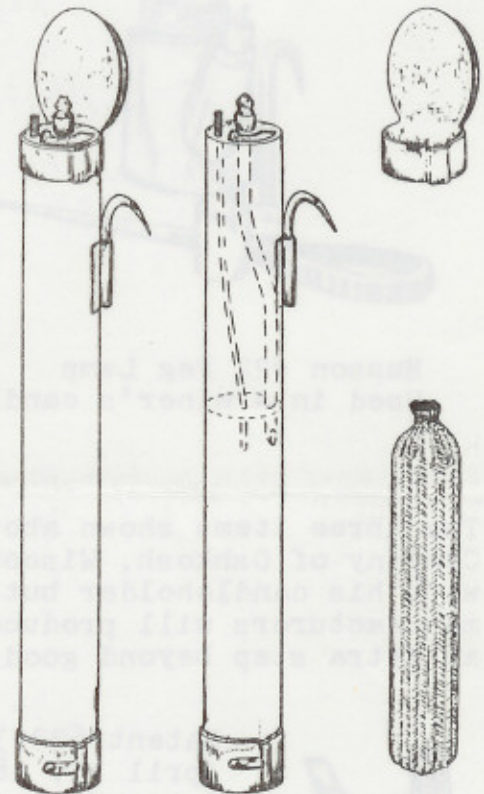
Patent 802,978
October 31, 1905
Gustavus A. Duncan
Deadwood, South Dakota

About the time that we thought we had seen them all, Mike Musura, formerly of Burlingame, California, and now retired to Niwot, Colorado, showed us this classic. It's a 1-1/4" diameter x 6" long brass tube with a 13" long spike-handle and a 3" tall hook, both of 1/4" diameter steel rod.



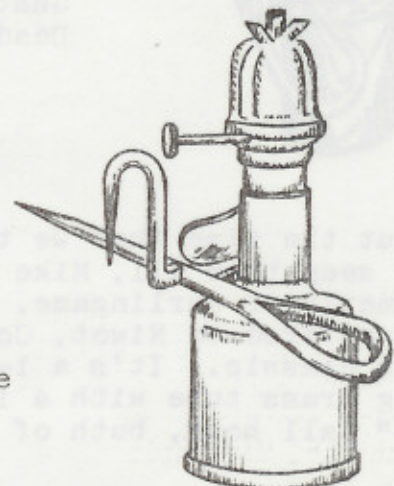
Carbide Candle - Ralph R. Arnold of Cripple Creek, Colorado, was granted patent no. 1,043,039 on October 12, 1912, for an acetylene candle as we have illustrated to the right. It was later manufactured by the Ainsworth Mfg. Co. in Denver . . . there are a few of these amazing devices still in museums and in private collections.

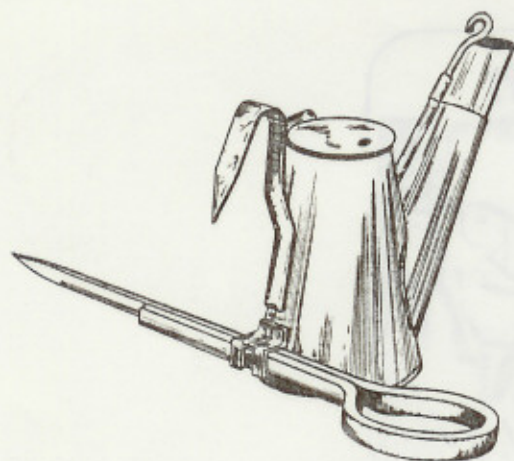
The 'candle' consisted mainly of a 1-1/4" diameter brass tube by 12" long with operating features easily observed in the sketch. A unique feature was the carbide capsule which was a linen pouch to contain the carbide. This obviously made the replenishing of the carbide charge easier and less messier. Probably more expensive, too.



The Denver Lamp Company made at least two variations of the cast aluminum carbide lamp shown to the left. The spike seems to be only a condensation to the candleholder-oriented miner, for the lamp could easily stand on its flat base or could have hung from a simple hook. This oddball measures 2" x 5" x 5".

Baldwin - Prolific Fredrick E. Baldwin and his Baldwin Manufacturing Co. at 320 Broadway in New York got into the hybrid act, too. He advertised the "Baldwin Candle Lamp" shown here in the August 17, 1912, issue of The Engineering and Mining Journal as a new light for use in metal mines to replace candles as a kerosene lamp which slipped into the regular miner's candlestick. It weighed four ounces when filled with 1/8 pint of fuel.





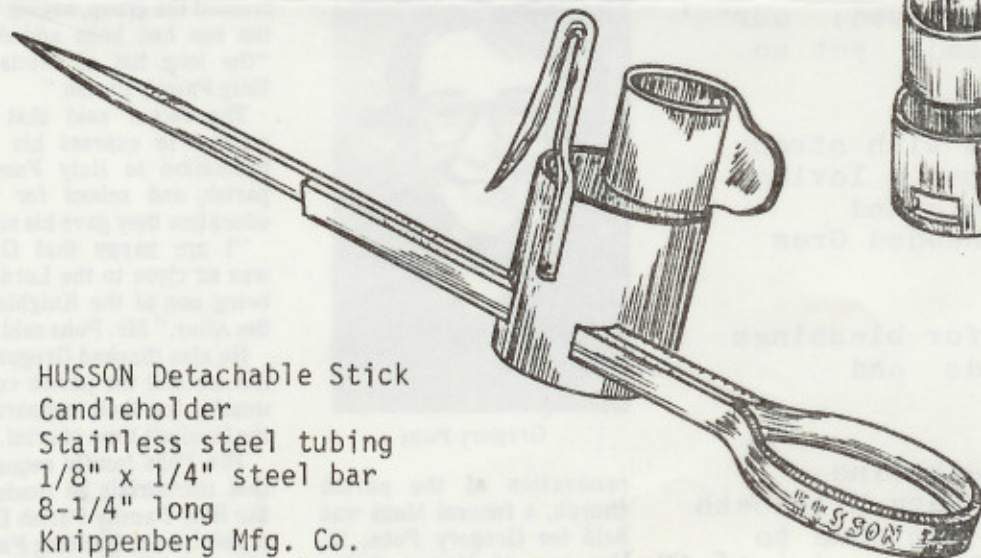
HUSSON Oil Wick Cap Lamp
 Patent Hard Oil Lamp (Sunshine)
 With detachable Stick & copper heating rod
 #2 Lamp, 2" tall
 #5 Lamp, 2-7/16" tall
 Double hook #6
 3/8" dia. copper spout
 XX charcoal tin font



HUSSON Oil Wick Cap Lamp
 Patent Hard Oil Lamp (Sunshine)
 With detachable Stick & copper heating rod
 #4 Lamp, 2-7/16" tall, 15/32" dia. copper spout
 #6 Lamp, 2-7/16" tall, 13/32" dia. copper spout
 Flat hook #1
 XX charcoal tin font



Candleholder and Lampstick



HUSSON Detachable Stick
 Candleholder
 Stainless steel tubing
 1/8" x 1/4" steel bar
 8-1/4" long
 Knippenberg Mfg. Co.
 Oshkosh, Wisconsin



Husson No. 2 Lamp

Joy and Sorrow in a Parish



Fr. Lawrence St. Peter, center, pastor of Denver's Holy Family parish, presented the parish's annual Appreciation Award to Joseph Pughes, Sr., 82, for his longtime service to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other work with the poor. The award was presented at the Appreciation Dinner held Nov. 20 to mark the completion of the renovation work on the church and to thank

everyone who had contributed work for the parish in the past year. Henry Pohs, left, parish council president, was master of ceremonies at the dinner. Father St. Peter noted that Mr. Pughes, although officially retired, runs a food cooperative at Francis Heights, where he and his wife, Estelle, live.

Tragic Accident

Great joy and great sorrow both came to Holy Family parish in Denver in the last week.

A week after a joyful appreciation dinner was held at the parish to honor the parishioners who contributed to the major

The boy, a Knight of the Altar at Holy Family Parish, was accidentally shot to death by his 15-year-old cousin on Thanksgiving Day afternoon. The boys were

in the basement of the older boys home, when the accident occurred.

At the funeral Mass Sunday, Nov. 27, many Holy Family parishioners joined the Pohs family to share the grief which touched the entire parish community.

At the conclusion of the Funeral Mass, Mr. Pohs addressed the group, saying that his son had been added to "the long list of saints at Holy Family parish."

The father said that he wanted to express his appreciation to Holy Family parish and school for the education they gave his son.

"I am happy that Greg was so close to the Lord by being one of the Knights of the Altar," Mr. Pohs said.

He also thanked Gregory's friends and the parish community for their support in the family's time of grief.

The Pohs family requests that memorials be made to the Holy Family Parish Diamond Jubilee Building Fund, in care of Father Lawrence St. Peter, 4377 Utica St., Denver 80212.

Some of our readers know of our personal tragedy since the last issue of The Lamp Post . . . most of you do not. Of those who have heard, many have suggested that we mention it in this issue.

This is most difficult to do. We are permanently grieved; our internal spirit is sad; yet we must keep going.

We have been blessed with strong faith and we know that a loving God the Father has a grand design and that He needed Greg more than we do.

We continue to ask for blessings on all of our friends and neighbors.

Wife Eloise, Mary Catherine (seventh grade) and Mary Elizabeth (sixth grade) will continue to help with The Lamp Post.



Gregory Pohs

renovation of the parish church, a funeral Mass was held for Gregory Pohs, 13, the son of Henry Pohs, parish council president, and Eloise Pohs.