



THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- NOT A HIPPIE NEWSPAPER -

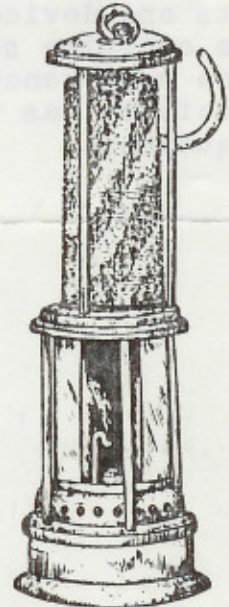


Vol. III, No. 1

Fall, 1978

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

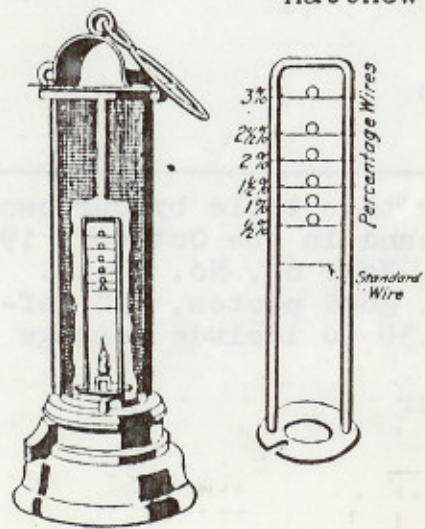
Safety Lamps - We acquired the special, hardly-used mine safety lamp shown to the right last summer . . . odd because of the extra tall (3-1/4") glass, the unbonneted gauze, and the Eloin underfeed. At first we thought it to be a mine surveyor's lamp, but John Leahy reminded us that it appeared much like George Bayles' Beard-Mackie sight indicator gas detector lamp. After a bit of research . . . our photos of West Virginia University's collection include an identical lamp identified as "American Beard Deputy" . . . then a July, 1910 Mines and Minerals magazine, p. 71, seems to confirm the gas detector identity of this lamp as "Improved American Beard-Deputy No. 1 Lamp, with B-M indicator, Brass \$5.00, Aluminum \$6.00. Without indicator, Brass \$4.00, Aluminum \$5.00. Bonnet 25 cents extra" . . . next a 1921 mining catalog page we have shows items from the American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Co., Scranton, Pa.; included is an "American Deputy Marsaut (bonnet) Safety Lamp for use with a Beard-Mackie gas indicator" . . . and finally a photo of a Chuck Young lamp was located which shows the same lamp with a bonnet and a Beard-Mackie indicator . . . research . . . the process of lamp study revealed the true identity of our 'new' lamp . . . even though it lacks the famed Beard-Mackie sight indicator.



Safety Lamp
American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Co.
Eloin air feed below the glass
10" tall - 3-1/2" dia. font

- Aluminum font casting
- Brass standards and hook
- Brass wire gauze
- Brass internal fittings
- Black paint back lite on glass

Beard-Mackie - This device was the joint invention of James T. Beard and Matthew D. Mackie, both mining experts in the eastern U. S. coal fields. It was first introduced in the mines in March, 1903. The illustration shows the indicator detached from a Davy-type lamp. It consists of an inverted "U"-shaped support made of No. 14 brass wire and riveted to a brass disc, which forms its base and fits over the wick tube of the lamp. The indicator is thus held firmly in position in the lamp by the same nipple that secures the burner. Supported on this frame are seven platinum cross wires - a straight standard wire at the bottom, and above this six percentage wires each having a small loop or circle in the middle. The loops enable the incandescent wires to be more readily and quickly discerned within the gauze of the lamp. The lower standard wire is for the purpose of gauging the height of the lamp flame in



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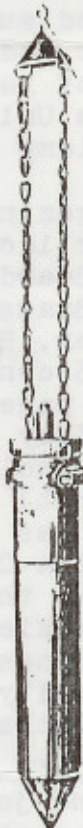
pure air. The presence of gas is then made known by the incandescence of the successive percentage wires, the percentage of gas being indicated at once by the number of wires aglow. The height and the heat of the lamp flame causes the wires to glow. From: Mine Gases and Explosions, by J. T. Beard, C.E., E.M.; New York, John Wiley and Sons; London, Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1908.

Surveyor's Lights - Our interest in surveyor's lights having been re-kindled, we took a full look at our files and found the series of illustrations we show here. Think about it . . . a surveyor usually works by the light of day for a surface project. The only surveyor ever to need a light would be an underground miner or caver. Hence, special lights and devices. We remember the story of the mine crew who worked a late overtime shift to finish a job, ascended the shaft to return to the surface base bench mark only to find that it was long after sunset. The simple decision was to continue the surface work with the underground lights and equipment.

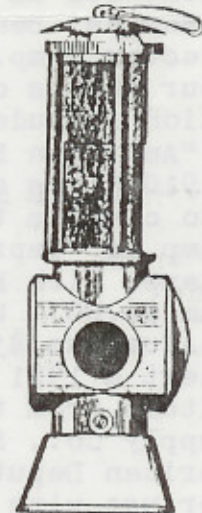


Mine surveyor's
PLUMMET LAMP

Manufactured by
Heller and Brightly,
Philadelphia, Pa.



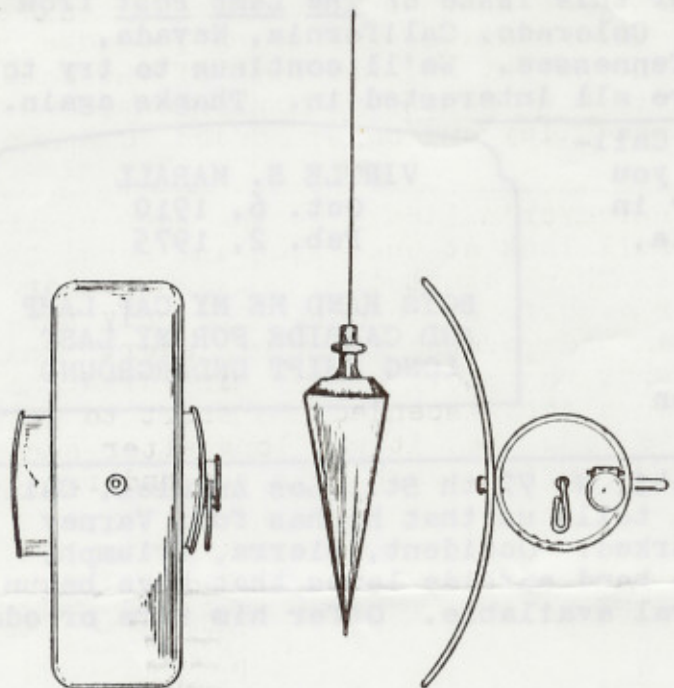
McKay Surveyor's Lamp



MAUCLINE "Bulls Eye"
Surveyor's lamp

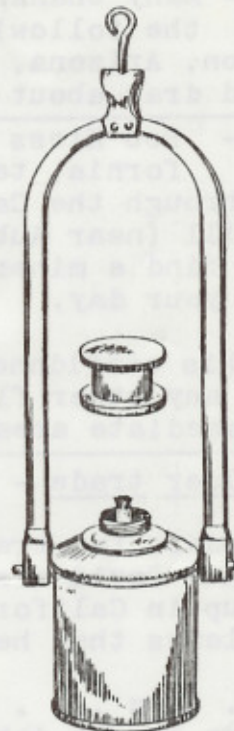
Early American Mine Lighting - A fine article under this title by our own John Leahy can be found in the October, 1978, issue of Mines Magazine (Colorado School of Mines), Vol. 68, No. 8, pp. 22-25. It includes an excellent historical sketch, good photos, and references. Copies of the issue are available for \$1.30 to include postage and handling. Write to:

Ms. Patricia Petty, Editor
Mines Magazine
Colorado School of Mines
Guggenheim Hall
Golden, Colorado 80401

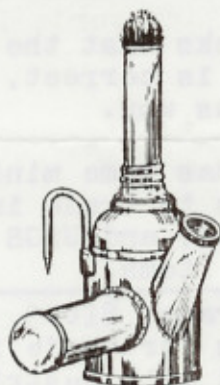


Surveying reflector
for underground mining use
White enamel on sheet iron
2" wide x 7-1/2" long
riveted strap holds reflector to lamp
Mgf. by John Simmons CO.

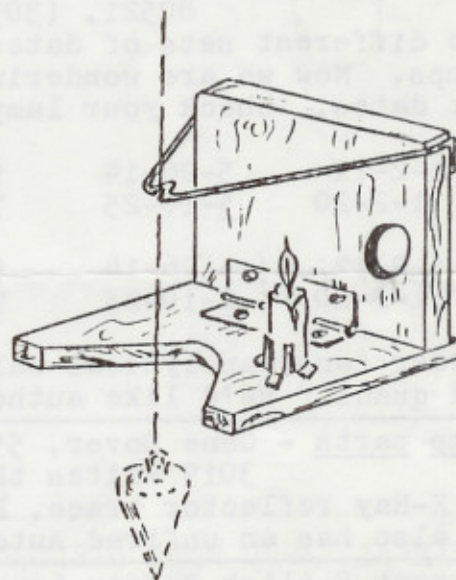
Ref. - Engineering and Mining
Journal, Feb. 24, 1914, p. 425



Mine Surveyor's Lamp
All brass, top swivel and
side gimbals;
9" tall overall



CROWN
Bras oil wick lamp
Combination cap lamp and
surveyor's lamp
The handle can be unscrewed and
used as a cover for
the wick chimney



Mine surveyor's
wood-and-wire
candle reflector;
White enamel back plate;
Usually handmade
Used to illuminate signals

Postage - Many thanks for postage for this issue of The Lamp Post from the following localities: Colorado, California, Nevada, Washington, Arizona, Maryland, and Tennessee. We'll continue to try to write and draw about the lamps we are all interested in. Thanks again.

Epitaph - Bob Kloss in Sacramento, California, tells us that if you stroll through the Catholic cemetery in Forest Hill (near Auburn), California, you will find a miner's epitaph to light up your day.

We like his confidence that there won't be any other flame illumination in the immediate area.

VIRTLE S. MARALL

Oct. 6, 1910

Feb. 2, 1975

BOYS HAND ME MY CAP LAMP
AND CARBIDE FOR MY LAST
LONG SHIFT UNDERGROUND

Candleholder trade - David Gresko, 6451 W. 77 th St., Los Angeles, Calif., (213) 641-0156, tells us that he has four Varney candleholders for trade. They're marked: Occident, Sierra, Triumph, and Royal. David also has the Fisma hand carbide lamps that have begun to turn up in California . . . several available. Offer him rare or odd carbide lamps that he doesn't have.

And . . . then . . . we're still trying to track down anyone who has definitive source data on these Fisma lamps. Where were they made? Are they U. S. or foreign? Were they mining lamps, or for other purposes? Anyone who can verify any data, please let us know so that we can tell everyone else who is interested.

More trades - Errol Christman, P. O. Box 313, Ceder Ridge, California, 95924, (916) 273-3268, informs us that he has many duplicate lamps and mining objects we will trade for carbide lamps that he would like to have. Write or call for more information.

Guy's Dropper - Skip Older, Apt. 8, 2001 Hull St., Ft. Collins, Colorado, 80521, (303) 226-1603, reports that he has identified two different sets of dates on the "six-date" Guy's Dropper carbide cap lamps. Now we are wondering 'How come?' and which are the correct patent dates. Check your lamps and references and let us know.

5-2-12 5-26-14 9-19-16
11-2-20 5-10-25 7-21-26

Skip thinks that the lower set of dates is correct, but forgot to tell us why.

or 5-2-12 5-26-14 9-19-16
11-2-20 2-10-25 7-21-25

He also has some mining things he wishes to trade including

powder cans, analytical balances, electric cap lamps, and USGS atlases and quads. He'd like authenticated copper country items.

Lamp parts - Gene Dover, 553 Avacado, Pueblo, Colorado, 81005, (303) 561-3019 writes that he has numerous parts for trade including an X-Ray reflector brace, Lu-Mi-Num burner tip, and tall Justrite bottoms. He also has an unfired Autolite lamp and an 8-hour ITP lamp for trade.

Current English Safety Lamp Repros - Tom Fallon at Fasco of Houston, Inc., 1511 Bingle, Suite A-6, Houston, Texas, 77055, has been good to us and has asked that we mention the latest duplicate of the 1890 German Wolf . . . its a beauty! Tom brings them in fifty at a time and will sell to collectors at approximate cost. He retails them in fancy shops for a handsome price, so this is a bargain for anyone so inclined. Write or call Tom in Houston. He adds that he has many RR lamps, too, but will now concentrate on flame safety lamps . . . and (we add) the growing pneumatic lamp business for current industry.

Arrow carbide cap lamp - Ken Hoover, 1655 Garretson Lane, New Albany, Indiana, 47150, (812) 944-4324, has asked about the manufacturer of the Arrow lamp. We're not sure; maybe someone else has exact information, or by checking the few known lamps, we can decide who the manufacturer was.

Ken writes that he picked up two Arrow cap lamps, one brass and one nickel-plated. The nickel-plated bottom is stamped "Made in USA - Patented." The brass bottom is marked "Manuf'd by Shanklin Mfg. Co., Springfield, Ill." He is sure that the brass bottom is original since the checkering (diamond-type knurling) marks match the top and the bottom won't fit a Dropper or a Shanklin, but will fit the nickel Arrow. Could it be that Shanklin really did make the Arrow?

Ken says to read on . . . He studies his Shanklin carbide cap lamp. It is stamped on the top "Shanklin Metal Products Co., Springfield, Ill." and on the bottom "Shanklin Metal Products Co. (in oval form) Springfield, Ill. U.S.A. (inside the oval)". On both stampings the name 'Shanklin' has been professionally covered with solder. The lamp is almost identical to a Guy's Dropper except: 1) reflector brace is an integral part of the reflector; 2) the lamp stands 3/8" shorter than a Guy due to a shorter thread collar between the water chamber and the bottom flange; and 3) the bottom is shaped unlike any known on a Guy's Dropper. Guess what? This Shanklin and the Arrow are exactly the same height! Question: is this a Shanklin or some kind of phantom?

Some of our good carbide specialists sure can chew on this and let Ken know of their ideas.

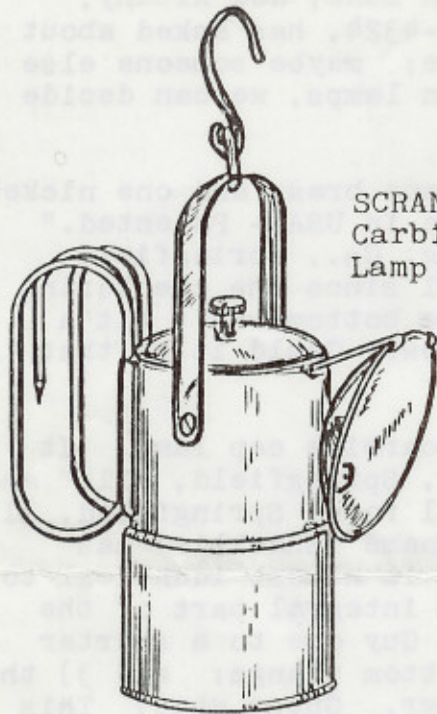
Ol' reliable - Dr. R. C. Finch, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee, 38501, has sent a long list of trade items . . . too long to fully reprint here. He offers a wide variety of Autos, Justrites, and Droppers plus hand ITPs, Fleming, Wolf, Acme, Big Boy, bicycles, and railroad lamps. Rich also offers a repair kit box, parts, and early set-screw reflectors.

He needs a brass bottom for a Springfield lamp, a nickel-plated bottom for a Shanklin Guy's Dropper, a Grier nickel-plated bottom, an Uncle Sam tip, and a Crestella glass chimney.

More reliable parts - Donald Davis, Rt. 1, Box 93-A, Grand Valley, Colorado 81635, always has a good supply of parts and information on carbide cap lamps. Write Donald with your needs. Also check the September, 1978, NSS News, pp. 190-191, for a detailed article on how to build your own "Grier" push button tip cleaner as written by the same Donald Davis. If someone will grant permission, we will reprint it in a future issue.

We need parts, too dept. - We repeat our plea for two Victor carbide cap lamp reflectors, a brass one and a nickel-plated one. We have the two lamps, all else intact, but need the reflectors to complete the restorations. Remember that you can always tell a Victor reflector by the small stamped lettering "Made in USA" which encircle the striker hole on the backside of the reflector. Someone, somewhere must be able to locate these parts for us. Don't hesitate to write your mini-editor with a proposal, sale offer, or trade.

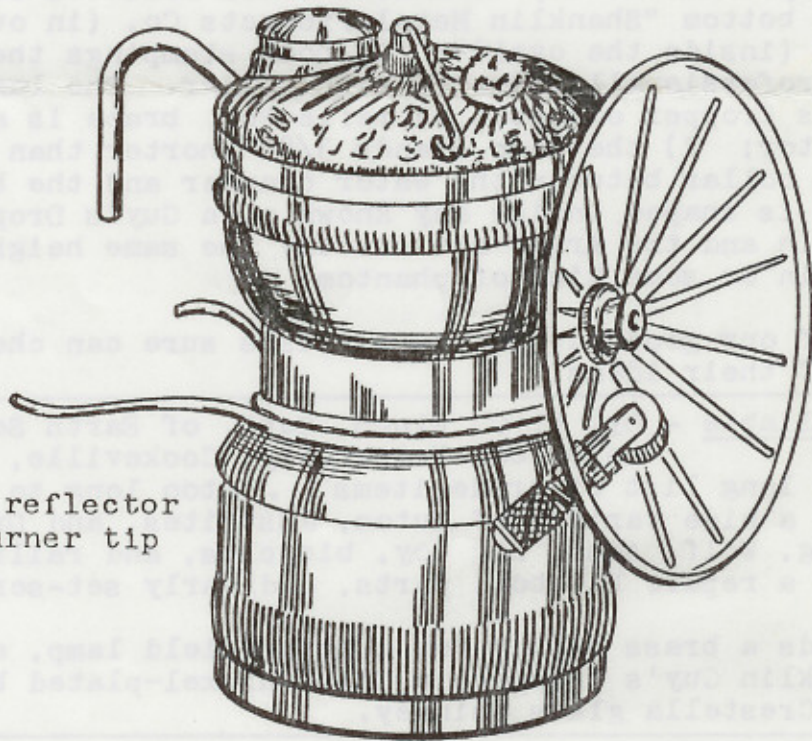
Thank you - We would again like to thank all of our friends who have written or called us this past year. Your thoughts have meant very much to us and have helped us keep things going. We have had a very busy summer at work preparing for the big American Mining Congress show . . . but that is now over and we can get to correspondence which has gone unanswered since last June. Send us greetings to all.



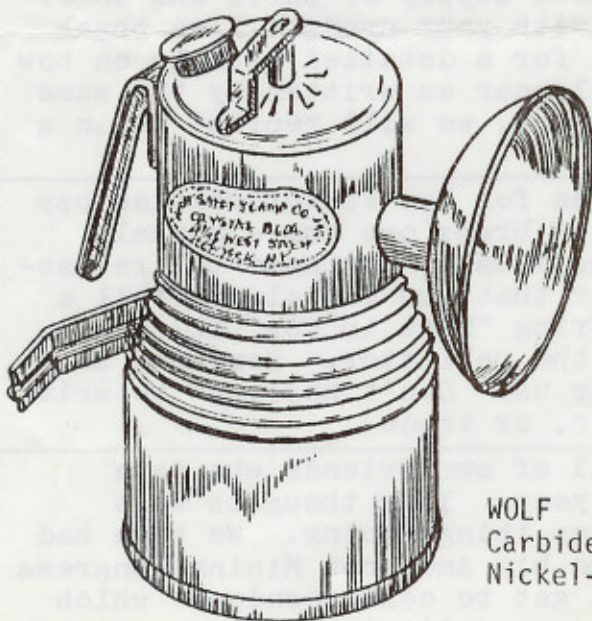
SCRANTO #2
Carbide Hand
Lamp with Bail



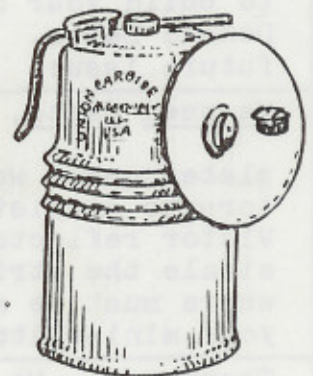
SCRANTO #1
Carbide Cap
Lamp



No. 15 Sun Ray
Carbide Cap Lamp
with radial-ribbed reflector
and Kra-Ker-Jack burner tip



WOLF
Carbide Cap Lamp
Nickel-plated



UNION CARBIDE LAMP
Carbide Cap Lamp
Probably made by
Maple City Lamp Co.
Monmouth, Illinois