



# THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



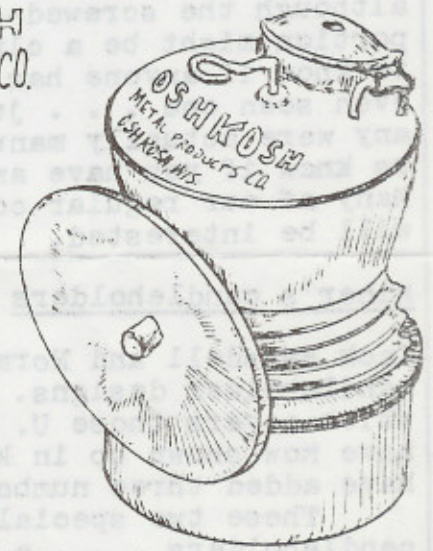
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Fall, 1981

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

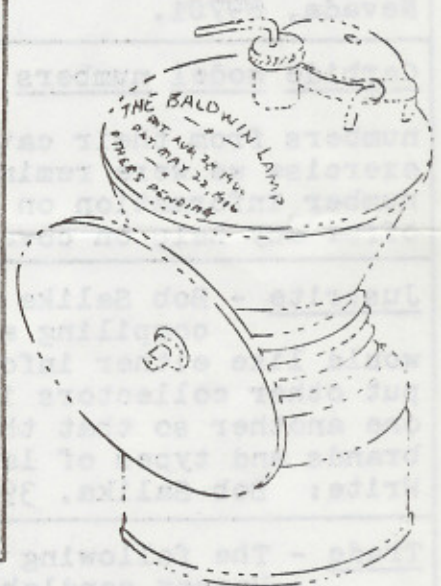
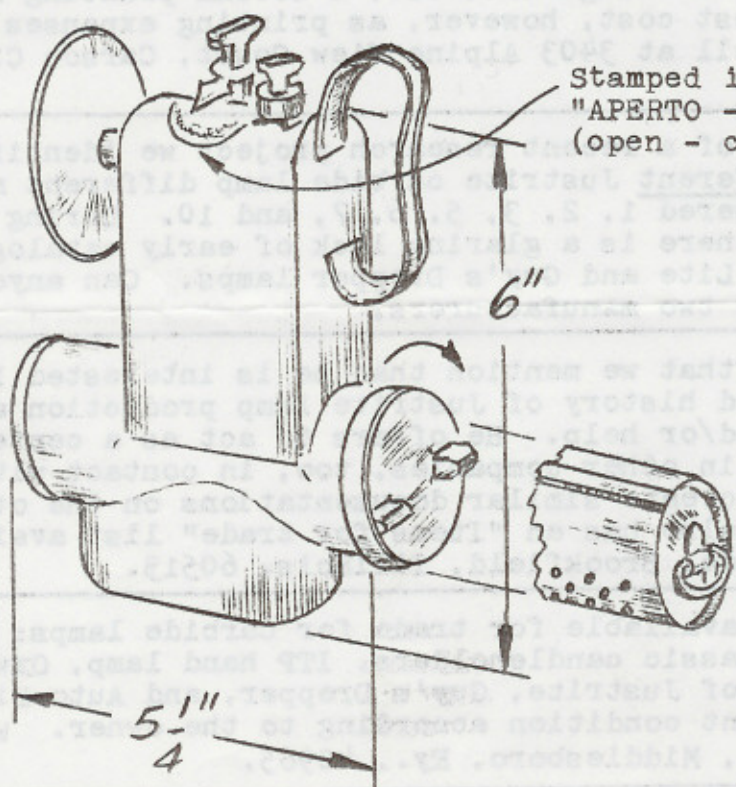
Carbide lamp - Lloyd Fenske in Jeffrey City, Wyo., has sent us a photo and specifications for still another 'new' name for our U. S. carbide lamp registry. His OSHKOSH carbide cap lamp is sketched at the right. Also shown is the 'standard' type 1900-1906 pinch-waist Baldwin which is similar to the Oshkosh.

OSHKOSH  
METAL PRODUCTS CO.  
OSHKOSH, WIS.



OSHKOSH  
Carbide Cap Lamp - Brass  
2-1/8" diameter base  
2-1/8" diameter threads  
2-1/8" diameter top  
2-7/8" tall at top diameter

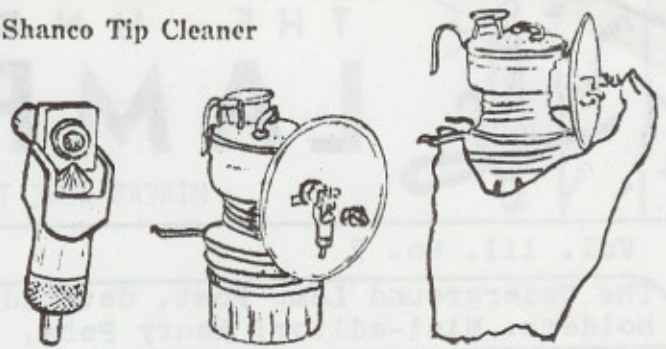
Italian lamp - Rudy Tschernish, Everett, Wash., has reported the unique Italian carbide hand lamp shown below. It is quite well-made (obviously manufactured) but has no trade name or identification. It is made of a good gage sheet steel, probably brazed, and is painted grey. 2-1/2" diameter screwed-on aluminum reflector, 2" x 2-1/2" upper water tank body, 2" round lower carbide chamber, 2" x 3-3/8" oval bottom support, and a screwed-on cap at the rear all complete the design of this neat lamp.



Reference BALDWIN  
Carbide Cap Lamp - Brass  
2" diameter base  
1-5/8" diameter threads  
2-1/8" diameter top  
3-1/4" tall at top diameter

Shanklin - The Shanklin Mfg. Co.,  
2725 So. 11 th St. in  
Springfield, Illinois, made Guy's  
Dropper carbide lamps from about 1916  
on. One of their little-known lamp  
accessory products was a "SHANKO" tip  
cleaner as illustrated and described  
at the right from a 1925 Keystone  
catalog. We've never seen or heard  
of one of these items in a collection.  
Perhaps someone has passed over one,  
not knowing what it might be . . .  
although the screwed-in burner tip  
portion might be a clue. We'd like  
to know if anyone has one or has ever  
even seen one . . . just to verify if  
any were actually manufactured. Let  
us know if you have any information.  
Many of our regular correspondents  
will be interested.

Shanco Tip Cleaner



The Shanco Tip Cleaner has been patented by  
a practical miner who has seen the need. Miners  
frequently find their lamp clogged when alone un-  
derground without light or when they are without  
a reamer. This cleaner can be used in the dark or  
by miner with poor eye-sight, for the cleaner is  
fastened to a tip that replaces the one in the lamp  
and is in the right position to enter the hole of the  
tip. A trial will convince you. Ea. 25c.

Miner's candleholders - We can think of several ways to catalog and to list  
various kinds or types of miner's candleholders.

Jack Ramsdell and Norm Wagner have long been keenly interested in patented  
candleholder designs. This summer they provided the listing on page three  
which covers those U. S. patents which were actually manufactured and which  
have now shown up in known collections. Jack and Norm listed 24 . . . we  
have added three numbers which showed up later.

These two specialists have also put together a monumental work on  
candleholders . . . a printed and bound volume containing copies of all of  
the U. S. patents on miner's candleholders, including all of the drawings  
and all of the specifications. The first minimal printing was quickly  
exhausted to friends and close associates, but Jack tells us that he will  
take all inquiries and if there is enough interest, a second printing may  
be ordered. Don't expect a modest cost, however, as printing expenses are  
out of sight. Write Jack Ramsdell at 3403 Alpine View Court, Carson City,  
Nevada, 89701.

Carbide model numbers - As part of a recent research project we identified  
331 different Justrite carbide lamp different model  
numbers from their catalogs numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10. During this  
exercise we were reminded that there is a glaring lack of early catalog and  
number information on both Auto-Lite and Guy's Dropper lamps. Can anyone  
offer any help on covering these two manufacturers?

Justrite - Bob Salika has asked that we mention that he is interested in  
compiling a documented history of Justrite lamp production and  
would like either information and/or help. He offers to act as a center to  
put other collectors interested in other companies, too, in contact with  
one another so that they could create similar documentations on the other  
brands and types of lamps. Bob also has an "Items for trade" list available.  
Write: Bob Salika, 3917 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Illinois, 60513.

Trade - The following items are available for trade for carbide lamps:  
Varney candleholders, classic candleholders, ITP hand lamp, Oxweld  
R R carbide lamp, and a variety of Justrite, Guy's Dropper, and Auto-Lite  
lamps. All items are in excellent condition according to the owner. Write:  
Clyde A. Mayes, 701 N. 27 th St., Middlesboro, Ky., 40965.

Buy - Any Justrite-made lamps. Richard Geer, 2812 Lexington Ave.,  
Mishawaka, Indiana, 46544.

PATENTED MINER'S CANDLEHOLDERS

The following list represents the results of a just-completed ( March 1981 ) compilation of Patented miner's candleholders presently owned by a group of the country's leading collectors or vouched for by them as having been seen and handled during their years of collecting.

Patent #	Date issued	Patentee
134,113	Dec.17,1872	Theodore Washburn, Gold Hill, Nevada
181,362	Aug.22,1876	Dennis Quinliven, Ukiah, California
239,548	Mar.29,1881	Hugh L. Rice, Fair Play, Colorado
289,702	Dec. 4,1883	Cyrille Pateneau, Helena, Montana
395,097	Dec.25,1888	Gabriel Werntz, Placerville, California
410,166	Sep. 3,1899	David James, San Francisco, California
430,488	Jun.17,1890	Louis Sholder, Cleveland, Ohio
442,186	Dec. 9,1890	David James, San Francisco, California
536,460	Mar.26,1895	August Eck, Helena, Montana
561,428	Jun. 2,1896	Samuel Nash, Georgetown, Colorado
593,459	Nov. 9,1897	John Campbell, Leesburg, Idaho
D-30-406	Mar.28,1899	William Pleasants, Victor, Colorado
656,209	Aug.21,1900	Chris Peacock, Altman, Colorado
735,578	Aug. 4,1903	Peterson & Fielding, Grants Pass, Oregon
738,571	Sep. 8,1903	Rasmus Rasmussen, Integral, California
760,398	May.17,1904	Edson Packer, Mace, Idaho
766,599	Aug. 2,1904	Edgar Curtiss, Baker, Oregon
801,465	Oct.10,1905	John Lindahl, Colorado Springs, Colorado
814,456	Mar. 6,1906	Joseph Kindelean, Leadville, Colorado
820,209	May, 8,1906	Phillip Knippenberg, Oshkosh, Wisconsin
910,390	Jun.19,1909	Benjamin Kelley, Salt Lake City, Utah
922,950	May 25,1909	Charles J Ramstead and Peter J. Johnson Ouray, Colorado
938,838	Nov. 2,1909	Carl Fisk, Spokane, Washington
951,595	Mar. 8,1910	John J. Cluin, Chicago, Illinois
996,308	Jun.27,1911	Henry D. Buys, Emmett, Idaho
1,011,878	Dec.12,1911	Nathan Varney, Denver, Colorado
1,069,170	Aug. 5,1913	Pelham and Kaba, Colorado Springs, Colorado

As it stands this compilation indicates that of the 83 patents known to have been granted by the U.S. Patent Office, only 24 can be listed as having been produced commercially. Almost certainly others have been and are represented in collections not canvassed or else are not recognized as patented products due to a lack of patent name-date-number stampings. Accordingly, the compilers will welcome word concerning the existence of any patented specimen any reader knows of that is not included in the above list. Or pictures to compare with patent drawings for any unusual unmarked specimens the patent status of which may not be known to the reader.

Jack Ramsdell, 3404 Alpine View Court, Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Norman S. Wagner, 2624 1st Street, Baker, Oregon 97814

Postage - Many thanks to our friends who have provided postage for this issue of the Lamp Post. Contributions have come from California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Oklahoma, Washington, Ireland, Louisiana, Kentucky, Nevada, Ontario, Virginia, Pennsylvania, D. C., Tennessee, Michigan, and Missouri. We appreciate these kindnesses very much.

Special thanks - A special thanks to John Leahy who has managed to xerox the copies of this issue (300 plus!). As we have always said, we will continue as long as we have xerox facilities available. Well, we're out of an office for a while, and John was kind enough to offer to get the printing done for us. Many thanks, John.

Buddy - Ted Bobrink offers a Buddy carbide cap lamp for trade. Write him at: 12851 Kendall Way, Redlands, California, 92373.

Candleholder - A "Sholder" type patent candleholder is available for trade from: Philip R. Casdorff, 30560 Palo Alto Drive, Redlands, California, 92373.

Defender - Anyone have a water door for a Defender carbide cap lamp? Write to: Chuck Young, 4021 Hallman St., Fairfax, Virginia, 22030.

Trade - Available: 4-hour and 8-hour Lu-Mi-Num, 4-hour Wolf, other misc. carbides, misc. marked and unmarked candleholders, and a General Grant lantern. Write: Ron Bommarito, Box 114, Genoa, Nevada, 89411.

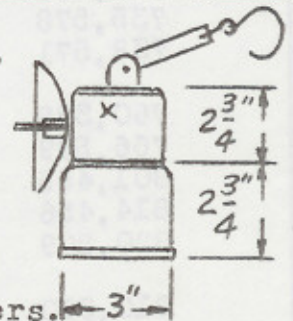
Ott Lamp - John Higgins sends us the following description from Dublin, Ireland: 3" diameter x 5-1/2" tall, Upper part has brass outer sleeve and iron or steel inner liner, 4" diameter brass reflector, iron or steel lower chamber. "X" position stamped "William H. OTT"

Manfg. of

Metal goods, Jersey City, N J

John says his lamp came to him from Chile! Now, why hasn't someone in the U. S. ever seen or reported this lamp?

We continue to be amazed by the many lamp finds of our readers.



Safety lamps - Another reader wants safety lamps. Write: Gil Flint, Apt. #408, Franklin Park West, 125 Franklin, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81501.

Force Feed - Water cap for Force Feed (Hansen) carbide cap lamp needed. Write: Lester Bernstein, 4212 Washington Ave, S.E., Charleston, West Virginia, 25304.

Trade - Would like to trade a Zar for a Hansen; need a brass base and a reflector for Gem carbide cap lamp; need a bottom for a no-name double carbide cap lamp. Write: Ralph Blankenbecler, Coeburn, Va., 24230.

Hardsocg - Rich Skovlin reports that he has talked to a person who knew the Hardsocg manufacturing family and may have worked for them at one time. Rich relates that this person mentioned that Hardsocg made a nickel-plated brass carbide lamp early on. That's another new one for the books.

Cleaning - Wendell Wilson would like to know about favorite cleaning and polishing techniques and materials. Write about your methods to: Wendell Wilson, 4631 Paseo Tubutama, Tucson, Arizona, 85715.

Safety lamps - We're often asked to write more on safety lamps. We're working at it! We recently organized all of our notes of safety lamps and find that we have 296 documented names of different lamps. Even if we ever get a registry in shape, it will be tough to print it all.