

# THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS. -

Vol. III, No. 8

Spring, 1982

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

Oil Wick Lamp - Chuck Young has supplied the information on an oil wick lamp as shown below, left. He saw it in a mining museum near Neath, Swansea, Wales.

It is tied to a cloth cap by a leather thong. The bottom handle tube unscrews to cover the wick tube. It is 7" tall overall and the central sphere is 2-1/2" in diameter. Could it have been a hand-held surveyor's lamp?



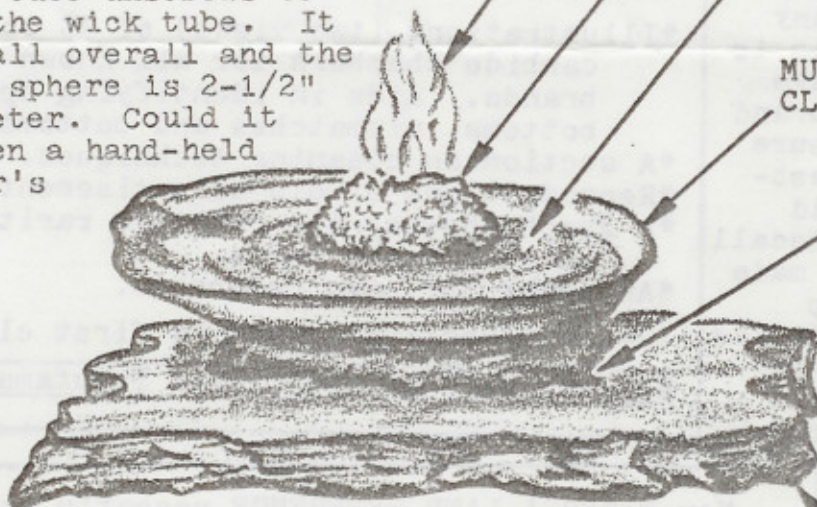
FLAME

SYCAMORE BALL

LARD OIL

MUSSEL SHELL or CLAM SHELL

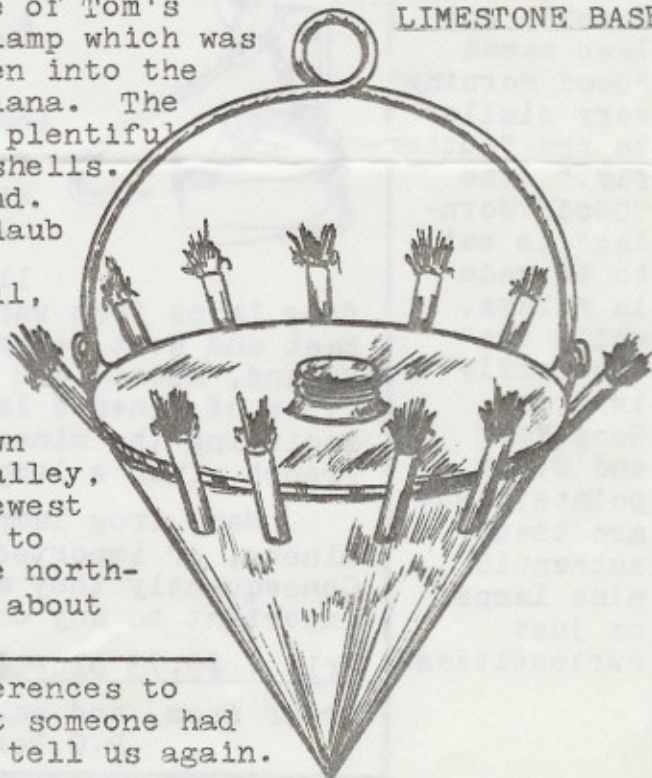
CLAY DAUB



Shell Lamp - Tom Garwood from Benton, Illinois, tells us about the primitive lamp shown at the upper right. One of Tom's early teachers described the lamp which was used in the home and then taken into the mines around Terre Haute, Indiana. The Wabash river is known for its plentiful supply of mussels and mussel shells. Sycamore balls are easy to find. The miners would set a small daub of mine floor clay on a shale slab, pour in a bit of lard oil, and lite the fluffy wick.

SHALE or LIMESTONE BASE

Oil Wick Spout Lamp - How about a 10" diameter soldered steel oil wick lamp with 11 spouts? Shown at the right, Howard Myhre, from Grass Valley, California, has sent us a photo of his newest addition to his collection. It was used to light large underground mine rooms in the northern California gold fields. The cone is about 10" in height



Lunkenheimer - We have lost our file references to the Lunkenheimer lamp that someone had sent us; we've even forgot who. Please tell us again.



BOOK CORNERBOOKSBOOK CORNER

Carbide Lamp Data - We have copies of Paul Kouts' excellent reference booklets on miner's carbide lamps. Volume I is a research of U. S. patents and trade mark records. Volume II covers variations in design of the AutoLite carbide lamp. Paul's intentions are to stimulate the exchange of information between collectors and to extend our lamp knowledge. He wishes to share his data, so query him for prices . . . Paul Kouts, P. O. Box 813, Franklin, West Virginia, 26807.

Guyandotte Lamp -

Jim Lucky has told us that an old E.M. Haw company employee in Huntington, W.Va., described to him a Guyandotte carbide cap lamp that the company made many years ago. This is the first we have heard of this brand name lamp. It sure would be interesting if one would ever turn up. Recall that E. M. Haw made the Fulton lamp which was so similar to the early X-Ray carbide cap lamp. Must be rare, too.

Reference for CARBIDE CAP LAMPS now available:

The (nearly) Complete Bottom-Guide for Carbide Cap Lamps

by Wendell E. Wilson (1981)

Includes:

- \*Illustrations (two views) of 78 bottoms or carbide chambers for all known American brands. Aids in identifying spare bottoms, mismatches and bottoms needed.
- \*A section on cleaning techniques.
- \*Reproductions of old advertisements.
- \*A graph showing the relative rarity of the various brand names.
- \*An index for easy reference.



-----Cost: \$3 plus 75¢ first class postage.

Wendell Wilson, 4631 Paseo Tubutama, Tucson AZ 85715

Good Morning Lamp -

One visitor has told us of a carbide cap lamp named "Good Morning" very similar to the "Butterfly." The "Good Morning" is said to be made in Malaya, while the "Butterfly" is from Hong Kong and other points east. Are these authentic mine lamps, or just curiosities?



New MINERS' LAMP REFERENCE recently published in a very limited edition:

FROG LAMPS

A Survey of Examples from 1529 to 1979

by Wendell E. Wilson

(Softcover, 6 x 8½ inches, 112 pages)

Includes chapters on history, construction methods and features, and a design classification based on country of origin.

Illustrated and discussed are 72 different frog lamps from various regions including the United States, East and West Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Russia and England. Also illustrated are 13 other types of miner's lamp and related styles for comparison, including the miner's betty lamp, miner's Giesser lamp, French miner's lamp, and the rare German miner's Blende.

Many frog lamps were brought to the U.S. by immigrant miners, or imported to the U.S. and Mexico for sale. Consequently they are a collectible and attractive variety important to any collection of miners' lamps.

Price: \$9.75 plus \$1 postage and packaging (no dealer disc.)

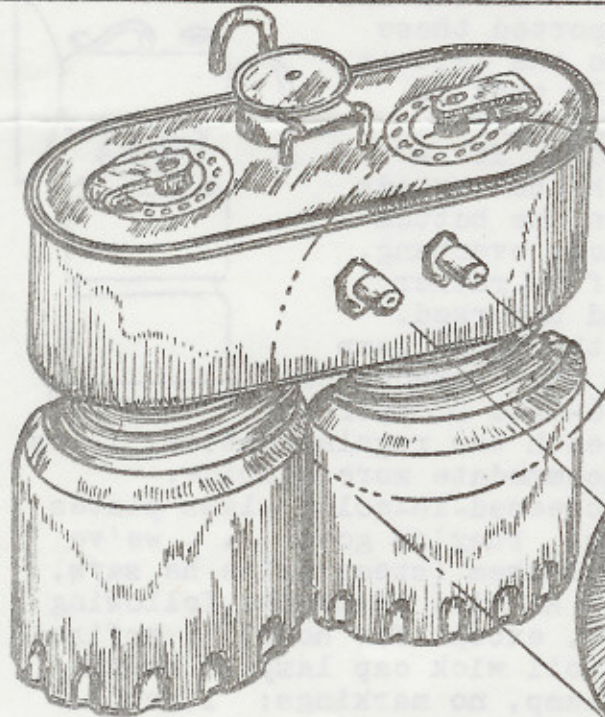
Order from, and make check payable to: THE RUSHLIGHT CLUB,  
P.O.Box 3053, Talcottville, CT 06066



Catalog Reproductions - John Leahy offers quality lamp catalog reproductions in original-style covers. These are reprinted copies of actual catalogs, not xerox copies. Trust us, they are quality.

1. Justrite Salesman's Catalog No. 1, Dec 10, 1913, 16 pages  
3-1/2" x 6-1/2" \$6.50
2. Justrite Catalog No. 5, without the original cover or binding,  
5-1/2" x 8-1/2", 28 pages, folded and stapled \$5.00
3. Justrite Catalog No. 7, with lots of photographic work, 16 pages,  
4" x 9" \$7.50
4. Brilliant Search Lite Catalog, Oct. 15, 1918, this catalog is full  
of sporting goods and some lights including the belt generator and  
cap lamp burner; the only mention of mining is in a poem on the back  
cover, 16 pages, 5" x 7-3/4" \$6.50

John will be happy to trade for lamps, other printed material or similar items. Write him at: John Leahy, 408 W. 3rd, Leadville, Colorado, 80461.



Double-Bottom Carbide Lamps - Recall the Fall, 1977, issue of the Lamp Post and the illustration of the Maumee Duplex lamp with the double-bottom design. Illustrated to the left is another double-bottom lamp which has been reported by at least three collectors. It is unmarked and un-named; 2-3/4" diameter reflector; 1-5/8" diameter bottoms; the threads do not fit the Maumee.

Ralph Blankenbecler has one of these unmarked lamps, but one bottom is missing. He will make a good trade for anyone who can find him the missing bottom. Write him at: Ralph Blankenbecler, Rt. 3, Box 46, Coeburn, Va. 24230

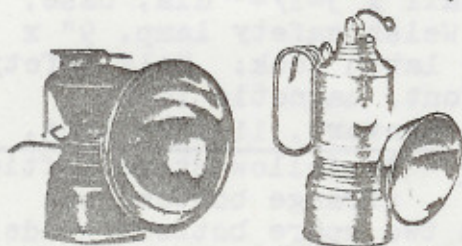
Candleholder for Sale - Steve Johnson wishes to sell a Varney-type miner's candleholder marked "Varney". Drop him a line at: Steve Johnson, 3805 Taggart Ct., St. Joe, Missouri, 64506.

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ABERCROMBIE &amp; FITCH CO.

ACETYLENE GAS LAMPS.

Made on an Entirely New Principal of Construction. Strongly Recommended and Absolutely Safe.



Button Hole Lamp. Pocket or Hand Lamp  
—a leaky can of kerosene means a ruined outfit. and brilliant and under perfect control.

Simple to operate and perfectly safe. No smoke, no soot, no grease, no trouble. They have a vast advantage over kerosene or other oil lamps in that the carbide is of far less bulk and is easily and safely carried. A bursted can of carbide is nothing. The light is very steady

More A & F - Jack Ramsdell has sent us a copy of an Abercrombie & Fitch catalog page which shows these two carbide lamps. The copy in the catalog mentions that they were excellent for the camper, the canoeist, and the miner. Each lamp came with an extra bottom and two reflectors. The small lamp was brass and sold for \$1.00. The larger lamp came in brass and galvanized metal; it sold for \$2.00. Unfortunately, the catalog page is undated, but it does show a 57 Reade St., N. Y. address.





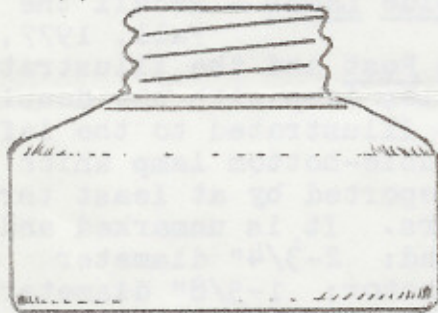
### Miner's Hand Lantern

Burns acetylene gas.  
Clutch hook to hang  
lamp to rocks

The  
Scott Supply and  
Tool Co.

DENVER, COLO.

20th Century Carbide Lamp - Wendell Wilson has sent us the advertisement shown at the left. It is from the Mining Reporter for December 5, 1901. We have seen two lamps like this before . . . see the Lamp Post for Spring, 1978, page 1. We have come to call this lamp "the missing link" . . . between the carbides made for bicycles and carriages and those specifically designed for mining. How lucky can one get? Just a week after receiving Wendell's letter and the advertisement we were able to acquire one of these 20th Century Lamps in perfect condition. It is a handsome addition to any collection.



Crazy Lamps - Steve Loftin has reported these two oddities. To the left is a lamp bottom only that is stamped "THE SNELL LAMP - MCH. PAT. APL. FOR" It is crudely made with the threads being soldered on the bottom at a much too short overhang. The bottom itself is rather squat, smooth and unmarked. Steve says that the whole lamp



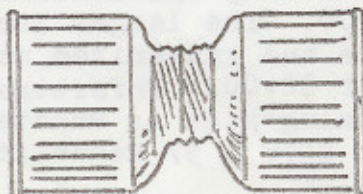
itself must have been a disaster and hopes that someone can shed some light on it. At the right is a 6-date Dropper with an extra bottom expertly soldered beneath the regular bottom. It is open between the bottoms, of course, to accommodate more carbide.

Steve also advises that he has silk-screened-in-color glass plates of certain lamp advertisements and drawings. They're good . . . we've seen one . . . and he wants to trade or sell them (steep price he says, because of the expense in producing them). He also lists the following for trade: 1 complete Brilliant Searchlite, except for hose; 1 unfired Simmons (Baldwin) cap lamp #29; 1 Liberty oil wick cap lamp in rough condition; 1 unfired Husson oil wick cap lamp, no markings; 1 rough nickel-plated Dewar (ITP) cap lamp bottom; 3 unfired Justrite flat clip cap lamps in the box; 1 unused push-on type reflector with set screws; lots of Auto-Lite glass plaques and T-shirts. Steve Loftin, % Graining Equipment Co., 525 5th Ave South, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, 615-352-4545.

Scranton Lamp - Ralph Blankenbecler has sent us a foil rubbing from his brass carbide cap lamp which clearly shows an "N" at the end of the trade mark name. Now we all can be sure that there was both a SCRANTO and a SCRANTON lamp. Thanks, Ralph.

Trades - Write Clyde Mayes, 701 N. 27th St., Middlesboro, Ky., 40965, for more information on the following items he has for trade:

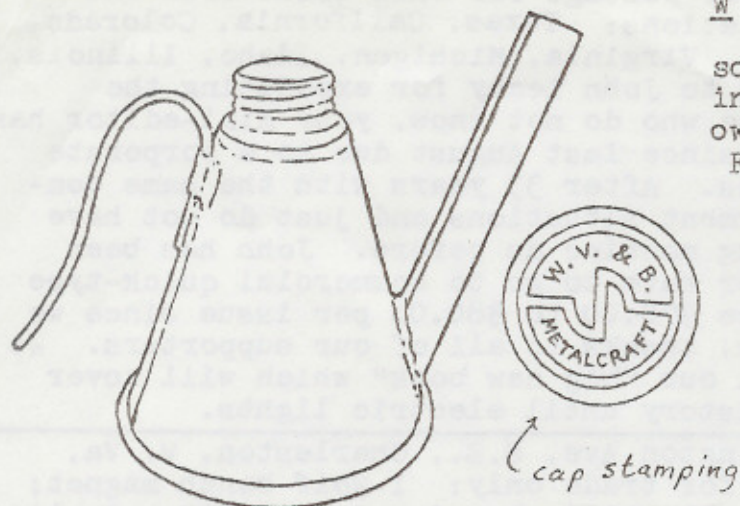
Davy-type safety lamp, 8" tall x 3" dia. base, ASL&MS Co., key lock, near mint; British "Protector" safety lamp, 9" tall x 3-1/4" dia. base, nickel-plated bonnet, magnetic lock, near mint; Welsh safety lamp, 9" x 3-1/2" dia. base, no name, hair-line glass crack, latch lock; Wolf safety lamp, 11" tall, MSA Co. tag on top, Wolf tag on font, magnetic lock, good condition; Varney-type candleholder marked "Denver", 11-1/4" long.



Lamp bottom(s) - To follow Steve Loftin's strange bottom, we recently found two spare bottoms soldered together by means of their caps as shown to the left.

© The Lamp Post, 1982, all information.





W V B Puzzle - Wendell Wilson's sketch to the left solves the recent question of the three initials stamped on a lamp cap. The owner is a friend of Wendell's, John Francisco. The lamp has a steel body, with a brass cap and collar. It is 5" tall and the base diameter is 4-1/2".

Miner's Compass - Ken Hoover, 1655 Garretson Ln., New Albany, Ind., 47150, has a neat miner's compass and dip needle available for trade. He has an old advertising flyer to go with it. Drop him a line.

More trades - Rich Finch, 621 N. Dixie, Cookeville, Tennessee, 38501, offers the following trade and wants list.

ITEMS FOR TRADE (trade only, will not sell)

Small, unmarked wrought iron miner's candlestick from the Rep. of Honduras, C.A.

Fleming Special 8 hr lamp, unfired, perfect.

Shanklin Metal Products cap lamp, good condition.

Guy's Dropper cap lamp, unfired, in box; box in poor shape, lamp with a couple of splits in the screw flange below the water tank, but still a good show piece

Guy's Dropper cap lamp, unfired, in box; box in poor shape.

Auto-Lite cap lamp, unfired, in box, perfect.

Auto-Lite cap lamp, unfired, but missing box and lacquer tarnished.

1951 German railway hand lantern.

John Simmons cap lamp with an unusual water valve; this lamp has a Justrite bottom on it, but might be considered "original" for the Maryland supplier sold the Simmons tops separately and allowed the purchaser to put whatever bottom he wanted on them.

Genuine miner's candle (stearic wax?), thought to be at least 60 yrs. old.

Small tinned steel oil flask, shaped like a canteen and meant to be carried on the belt; for carrying extra oil for a "Sunshine" oil lamp; missing its screw top, otherwise in excellent shape.

Auto-Lite cap lamp with ribbed reflector.

Wolf Type FS safety lamp, unfired, perfect.

Koehler safety lamp, used, but good condition.

Justrite brass 8-hr. hook & bail lamp, used, but good condition.

FISMA steel 8-hr. hook & bail lamp; no reflector, but that may be the way the lamp came.

Paper scrip from Premier Coal Co., Yamacraw, Ky.

Metal scrip from Harlan Collieries Co., Inc., Harlan, Ky.

Metal scrip from the following Tennessee companies:

Indian Creek Coal Co., Jellico B. G. Coal Co., Black Diamond Coal Mining Co., The Diamond Coal Mining Co., New River Fuel Co., and the Cash Grocery Co. of Coalfield, Tenn.

Also: I have a wide selection of rare parts; if you have a specific need in order to repair or complete a lamp, I might have what you need.

Parts I need: a burner tube for an Uncle Sam lamp; a nickel plated bottom for a Shanklin Guy's Dropper cap lamp; a brass bottom for a Springfield cap lamp; a nickel plated bottom for a Grier Bros. cap lamp; a glass chimney and ornamental chimney ring for an old Crestella lamp.



Postage and Printing - Many thanks for postage for this issue from the following locations: Texas, California, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Michigan, Idaho, Illinois, Wyoming, and Missouri. Also, thanks to John Leahy for expediting the printing again this issue. For those who do not know, your mini-editor has experienced employment difficulties since last August due to a corporate merger and subsequent reorganizations. After 33 years with the same company, we are now in temporary employment situations and just do not have liberal access to the beloved copying machine as before. John has been able to cover for us. Should we ever have to go to commercial quick-type printing, the costs probably would be \$70.00 to \$80.00 per issue since we mail to over 325 readers now. Again, thanks to all of our supporters. We are now hard at work on what we call our "big new book" which will cover all underground lighting from pre-history until electric lights.

Trade - Lester Bernstein, 4212 Washington Ave, S.E., Charleston, W. Va, 25304, offers the following for trade only: 1 Wolf bench magnet; 2 baby Wolf safety lamps, aluminum, one key lock and one magnetic; 1 all-brass full-size Wolf safety lamp, key lock with mirror; 1 brass Auto-Lite flask; 1 set of carbide bottoms, 3 bottoms with tops attached by wire for belt attachment. Lester says he will trade for a brass baby Wolf, unbonneted, non-key, or for unusual lamps.

More Trades - Michael Puhl, 3165 Countryside Drive, Springfield, Missouri, 65807, offers the following for trade: 1 Big Boy carbide hand lamp, water screw missing, 7" reflector, minor solder on bottom; 1 Wolf hand lamp top, #900 style, no reflector or tip; 1 ITP hand lamp, water door and water feed missing, two-piece non-original reflector and brace, flaking silver paint; 1 ITP hand lamp, top bail missing, cast aluminum reflector with small hole; 1 ITP hand lamp, top bail missing, non-original reflector, dent in water door and in side of bottom; 1 nickel-plated Auto-Lite, screwed-on braces, all words on top, small dents in top; 1 nickel-plated Auto-Lite top, all words on top, welded-on braces, no reflector, brass water door; 1 nickel-plated Auto-Lite top, all words on top, welded-on brace, re-soldered hook; 1 very old Auto-Lite, pat. pend., set-screw reflector type, wire braces broken off, no reflector, cracks on base of top screw threads, base style BA (Kouts), top TA2 (Kouts); 1 spare Auto-Lite bottom with lid; 1 horizontal Justrite top, wire feed says "off" on the side, 3/16" wire braces broken off, 2-1/2" brass reflector, whole thing dented; 1 pre WWI condiment container (per Pohs' book p. 87), mint condition; 1 Auto-Lite box, empty, poor shape; 1 Justrite box, blue and white, contained Justrite's last brass model cap lamp, empty, in very good shape; 1 X-Ray cap lamp, reflector and brace missing, wire braces on back broken off, bottom frozen on; 1 Oxweld railroad carbide lamp, larger version that says "Union Carbide Lamp, Patent Pending" on top, painted red, front glass door missing; 1 Oxweld railroad carbide lamp, the smaller size, complete, painted silver; 1 Solar bicycle carbide lamp, front glass and top of chimney are missing, U. S. patent dates are Feb 4, 1896 - Jan. 31, 1899 - Feb. 7, 1899; English patent dates are Feb. 4, 1896 - May 12, 1898; Canadian patent date June 15, 1899.

**GETCHELL RING SELF CLEANING CARBIDE LAMP TIP**



Made of brass with lava tip, to fit all makes of miner's carbide lamps. It is made in two parts, self contained with inner spring so that tip may be depressed, allowing a fine steel cleaning needle to pass through orifice in lava tip doing a thorough cleaning job.

No.	Each
T35 - Self Cleaning Tip .....	\$0.35
24 tips on a display card.	

Carbide Tip Cleaner - Tony Moon and Norm Wagner have sent the advertisement at the left and above for a spring-loaded, self-cleaning carbide tip cleaner. It is from a catalog for the Thomson Diggs Co., page 602, no date. The cleaning wire is not visible when the lamp is lit.