

# THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

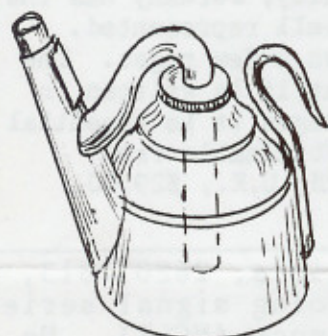
- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



Vol. III, No. 10

Spring, 1983

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



Oil Wick Cap Lamp - Ray Setteur, 6917 Regency Dr., Parma, Ohio, 44129, has provided a sketch of his new two-part lamp (left) with a top cover that screws onto the bottom oil chamber. Specifications are: 3" tall over the wick tube; 2" diameter at the top; 2-1/4" diameter at the bottom of the font; constructed of nickel-plated brass. These specifications and the drawing conform very closely, if not exactly, to U. S. patent #622,742 of April 11, 1899, issued to J. D. Williams of Sherodsville, Ohio. What a nice addition to show up for any collector, especially so close to the original site. Ray also says that he would appreciate the following ad in the Lamp Post: "I am buying miner's lamps and complete collections of: battery, safety, carbide, oil, and candleholders" Anyone interested can write to Ray.



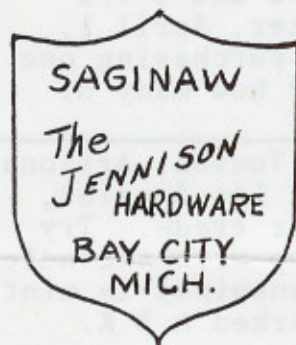
Trademarks - Paul Johnson, 743 Dunreath, Walled Lake, Michigan, 48088, has sent four more oil wick cap lamp trademarks as shown here.

Paul also sent sharp, clear photos of these lamps. He says that he has the following items for trade: Geo. Anton STAR, U S A Eagle, an aluminum, and a Frostberg (all oil wick cap lamps); Koehler, and Patterson HCP (both safety lamps); a Varney candleholder; a carbide railroad lamp; an Edison electric lamp; and a Columbia C, G-D tall boy, ITP hand lamp, Big Boy hand lamp, and a SAMJIN (all carbides).

PENN MFG. CO. INC.



WILKES-BARRE PA.



F. SEYBOLD



Wants List - Good old friend Rich Finch, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Tennessee Technical University, Cookeville, Tenn., 38501, writes that he acquired an Elkhorn carbide cap lamp recently, but that it has a Grier bottom. So, he needs an Elkhorn bottom for his new top . . . and he also still needs a nickel-plated Grier bottom for another lamp. Anyone interested can correspond with Rich at his school.

Classic - Those of our readers who haven't already seen the Nov-Dec issue of the *Mineralogical Record* for 1982 should quickly review a great article and pictorial story by Wendell Wilson and Ron Bentley. It is "Collecting Gold Mining Memorabilia" and, along with the rest of the issue, especially the crystal photographs, is a classic. We hold it on a level with the *Arizona Highways* turquoise issue of several years ago. Be sure to find this Nov-Dec 1982 (Vol. 13, No. 6) issue, pages 323 - 334.

Book Corner

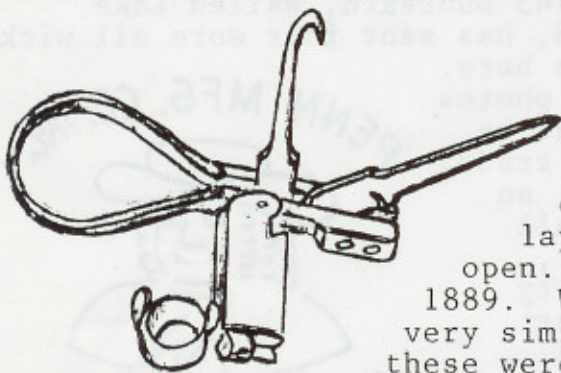
Just in stock: Des Bergmanns Geleucht, II Band, Offenes Geleucht: Karbidlampen.



Eingetragene Fabrikmarke

This is the second volume of Karsten Porezag's book on the Miners Lamps and this one is a monograph on Carbide Lamps. He begins by describing the various uses for carbide lamps - caving, mining, camping, etc. - and then goes on to describe how calcium carbide is produced and how the acetelene lamp works. The various parts of the acetelene lamps are described in great detail with illustrations providing a useful glossary. The main part of the book describes carbide lamps all over the world. Not unnaturally, Germany has the largest contribution and the rest of Europe is well represented. The United States, Australia, etc. are only given a few pages. The only disadvantage I can see with the book is that it is written in German. However, with 220 photos on 200 odd pages it is essential reading for any collector of carbide lamps. Obtainable from Tony Oldham, Rhychydwr, Crymch, Dyfed, SA41 3RB, U.K., \$29.00. including surface mail postage.

Lamp Books - Paul Kouts, P. O. Box 813, Franklin West Virginia, 268070813, has published several more volumes in his ongoing signal series of reference books known as the Miner's Carbide Lamp Reference (MCLR). He asks that readers write to him for information and details. A lamp cataloging and identification system was started with the first volume of the series and is being maintained throughout the series. Rumor also has it that Paul might have a Gee-Bee carbide cap lamp for trade.



Folding Candleholder - Ted Bobrink, 12851 Kendall Way, Redlands, California, 92373, reports that he recently picked up a most elaborate folding candleholder. It opens and locks with a three-dial combination just like a safe. The candle socket also swivels; it has brass inlays in the handle. 5-1/2" folded and 8-1/2" open. Stamped: "C. M. Garland, Maker, April 1, 1889. We recall John Coons in Denver purchasing one very similar several years ago. Wonder how many of these were ever made? Amazing items!

Trades - David Gresko, University of Arizona, S U P O 9098, Tucson, Arizona, 85720, (602)626-1478, (summer - 6451 W. 77 th St., Los Angeles, California, 90045, (213)641-0156), has several good items for trade. Try these: a Butte-type candleholder, a Husson #22 oil wick lamp with a candle-type holder in good condition, a V. L. oil wick cap lamp (sunshine) in mint condition, and a mint small brass mine manager's oil lamp marked A B K. Give David a hollar.

Wolf - Ralph Blankenbecler, Rt. 3, Box 46, Coeburn, Virginia, 24230, offers a 3-1/2" tall (7-1/2" over bale) New York Wolf carbide lamp for trade.

More Trades - Jeff Carnes, 197 Sycamore Dr., North Canton, Ohio, 44720, (216)499-1449 writes that he has assorted Autolite, Justrite, and Guy's Dropper lamps for trade. He also lists the following: excellent condition brass base for a GEM carbide cap lamp; LEYSE miner's lunch pail (8-1/2" long x 6" wide x 8" tall) oval aluminum with aluminum tray insert; miscellaneous mining company stock certificates; many fossils that he would consider trading for lamps and other accessories. Call him for details.

Postage - Many thanks to our good reader friends for postage for this issue from the following locations: Canada, New Hampshire, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Washington, Colorado, Texas, Tennessee, Michigan, West Virginia, California, New Mexico, Arizona, New Jersey, and Idaho. Without this kind help we couldn't continue. As usual, © Copyright, H. A. Pohn, 1983.

THE COMSTOCK CANDLE LANTERN by Tony Moon

Very little can be found in previous editions of the Lamp Post regarding the candle lantern that, judging by the number shown in old photographs, must have been very popular on the Comstock Lode. Photographs of miners on the Comstock show that in addition to the familiar candlestick many of the miners used lanterns. These lanterns were not exclusive to the Comstock area as the writer has seen photographs of miners in Colorado and Utah with these lanterns and the museum in Butte has two from that area, one of which has the initials A.C.M.CO. (Anaconda Copper Mining Company) on the conical top.

Over the years, the writer has been fortunate enough to find three of these lanterns for his collection. These three lanterns are shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 below. All are made of tin and have the characteristic large round carrying ring and the flared base. None of the lanterns have any maker's marks.

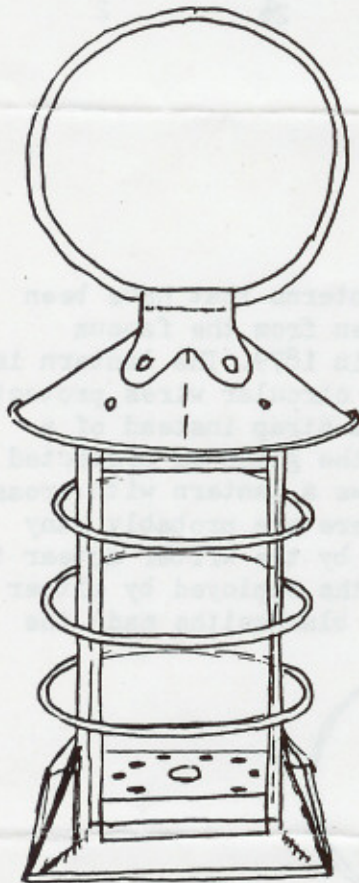


Figure 1

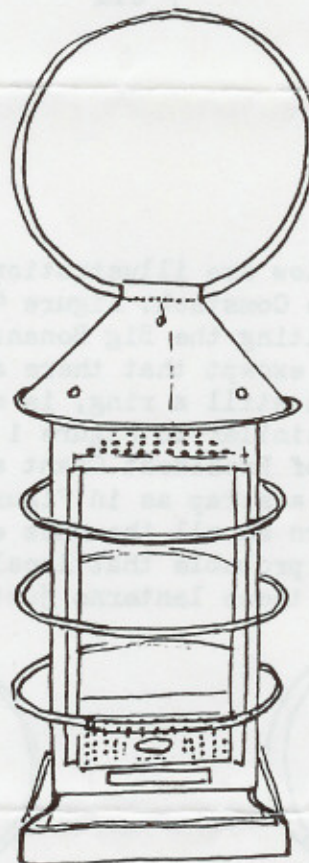


Figure 2

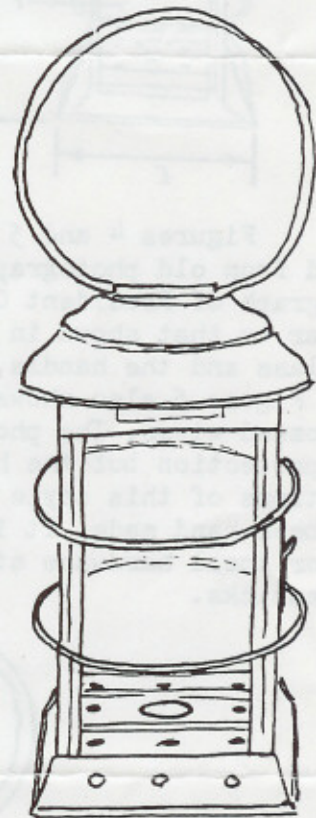
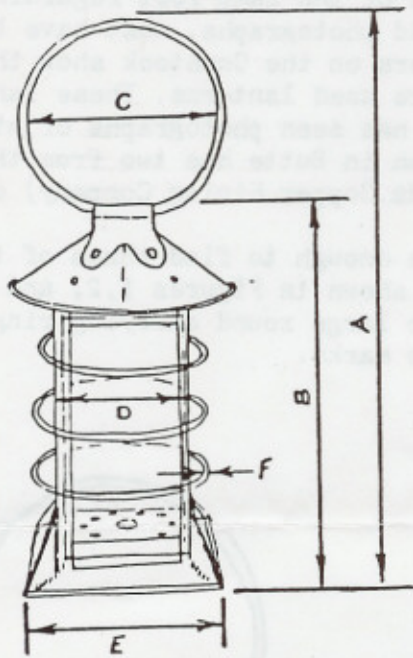


Figure 3

The classic lantern which appears most often in photographs is the type shown in Figure 1. The glass is protected by three circular wires and the flared base is reinforced with triangular pieces at each corner. Figure 2 shows a lantern from Columbia, California, which has a series of 2mm holes to allow air to enter and leave the lamp. The glass is prevented from falling out of the guides by flat, brass springs below each glass. The lantern is of generally lighter construction than the one in figure 1. The base is a 22mm high wire-reinforced strap attached to the main lantern body by a soldered wire at each corner. The lantern in figure 3 is of even lighter construction and is from Sonora, California. The glass, which is protected by only two circular wires, is prevented from falling out of the guides by bendable brass tabs. The top is not a cone and was either spun or stamped from sheet metal. The lamp has two internal slides, probably for use with a small removable oil lamp which has been lost, in addition to the normal candle socket.

Dimensions of the lanterns in the writers collection are as follows:



All Dimensions in mm

Dimension	Figure 1	Figure 2	Figure 3
A	470	449	398
B	322	304	260
C dia	150	142	140
D	117	108	108
E	165	126	135
F dia	4	2½	2

Figures 4 and 5 shown below are illustrations of lanterns that have been copied from old photographs of the Comstock. Figure 4 is taken from the famous photograph of President Grant visiting the Big Bonanza mine in 1879. The lantern is similar to that shown in Figure 1 except that there are four circular wires protecting the glass and the handle, although still a ring, is made of a strap instead of a wire. Figure 5 also shows a lamp similar to Figure 1 except the glass is protected by crossed wires. The photograph of President Grant also shows a lantern with crossed wire protection but the handle is a strap as in Figure 4. There are probably many variations of this style of lantern as all the ones examined by the writer appear to have been hand made. It is highly probable that local tinsmiths employed by either a mine or local hardware store made these lanterns just as the blacksmiths made the candlesticks.

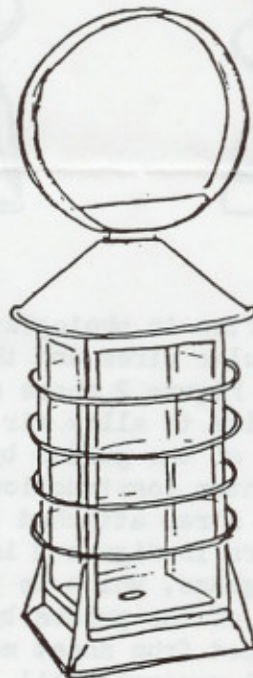


Figure 4

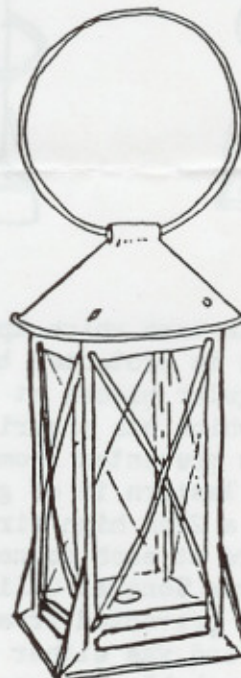
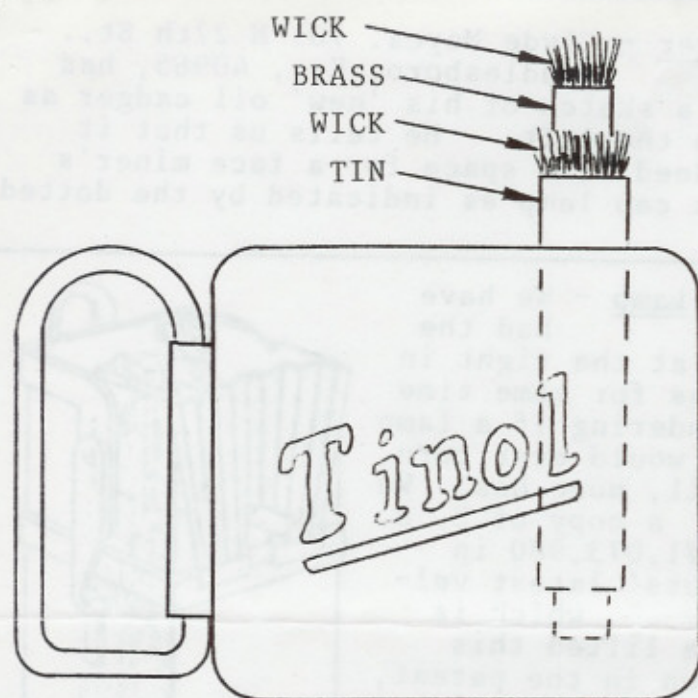


Figure 5



Strange ? - Bob Gossett, 106 Norwood Road, Nitro, West Virginia 25143, has sent the adjacent sketch. Is it a lamp or is it a stove? The font is 1" thick x 2-3/8" tall x 2-1/2" wide, all tin with a spelter finish and folding superintendent's handles. TINOL raised lettering on both sides. Anyone who can help Bob identify this item can write to him . . . write your mini-editor, too, so we can let our other readers in on the information. Bob says he also still needs a Defender bottom and a push-on reflector for an early Auto Lite carbide cap lamp.

Lucky Trip - Philip Casdorff, 30560 Palo Alto Drive, Redlands, California, 92373, has sent us the following interesting story.

Quote . . . "I walked into an antique shop in San Diego carrying a stick and asked the owner if he had

ever seen one. He said that up until the day before he hadn't, but not only knew what it was, but knew where there were several and the daughter of the man who manufactured them (at the turn of the century).

"Several weeks later I met the daughter of one Henning Rudolph Sjolander of Ishpeming, Michigan. She told me that her father manufactured sticks in a barn behind their home.

"The sticks are made of 3/16" wire and have the classic "Michigan" hook.

"Gladys (the daughter) had three of the sticks and sold me two of them. So at the time of this writing I have one for trade."

Philip also reminds that he still has a SHOULDER and a FAVORITE candleholder, both in nice shape, available for trade.

Safety Lamps - We seldom receive any new information on flame safety lamps, so a letter from Fred D'Ambrose, 959 Choate Ave., Hamden, Connecticut, 06518, was very welcome. Fred tells us of a newly acquired Davy-type lamp he has . . . "a rather modernistic Davy lamp, no glass, all screen, brass separations between the sections of screen, wick similar to a kerosene lamp. The dealer I bought it from purchased it from the relative of a Welsh miner who said that it was for gas testing. The top has an emblem stating 'DESMO - Birmingham, Ltd.' On the bottom - 'Made in England.'" Our registry has hundreds of safety lamp names.

More Trades - David Thorpe, 3205 Sandwick Place, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031.

I'm writing to let you know of items I have for trade that you might place in the LAMP POST.

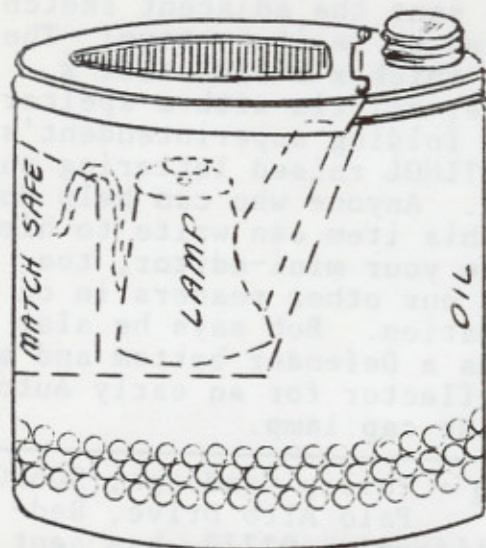
Mint, unfired base for vertical design Grier w/screw cap.

Good condition base for horizontal Grier w/ screw cap. Few dents, no cracks or holes.

Justrite repair kit, some parts remaining. Very good condition.

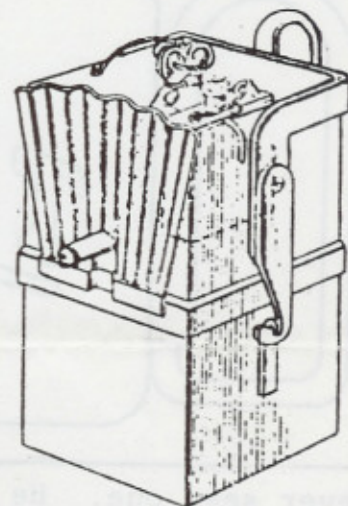
Nickel reflector brace for Guy's Dropper. Designed to fit tank without knurled band.

What I specifically need is a reflector brace for an XRAY (Fulton-Imperial).



Oil Cadger - Clyde Mayes, 701 N 27th St., Middlesboro, Ky., 40965, has sent us a sketch of his 'new' oil cadger as shown to the left. He tells us that it does indeed have space for a face miner's oil wick cap lamp as indicated by the dotted lines.

Carbide Lamp - We have had the drawing at the right in our files for some time now, wondering if a lamp like it would ever turn up. Well, none has. We noticed a copy of U. S. patent #1,073,980 in Paul Kouts' latest volume . . . which is where we lifted this



sketch. Five other views are also shown in the patent, but not much more is revealed about the lamp. The internal workings are standard with a needle water valve. Patented September 23, 1913 and assigned to Wolfgang Gschwendner of Cleaton, Kentucky.

More Trades - Fredrik Freeburg, 1134 Englewood Drive, Richland, Washington, 99352, writes to tell all that he has four candleholders available for trading. "All are hand forged and similar to the one in the photograph . . . (ED. note: Photo looks like a Varney, but the handle is square stock instead of being an octagon section) . . . I will trade for lamps, old carbide cans, or other candleholders."

Mine Lamps and Statues - Many lamp collectors have been fortunate enough to acquire various types and sizes of statues with mining motifs . . . not life size, but most often 24" or less in height. The desirable feature, of course, is the lamp the miner would be using and how accurate its representation might be. We've seen many European mine statues with flame safety lamps, frog lamps, eastern U. S. miners with carbide lamps, etc.

We wish that the photo at the right would reproduce more clearly for our readers. It is our own latest acquisition . . . a 15" tall wooden representation of St. Barbara, the patron saint of miners. Carved to our special specifications by noted Denver woodcarver John Wilson, it is copied from an original wooden sculpture made in Lubeck, Germany, in the year 1468 for the Main Church (now the Cathedral) in Stockholm, Sweden. At 28-3/4" tall, the original is now in the Museum of National Antiquities, State Historical Museum, Stockholm.

Our wooden reproduction is smaller, and in her right hand, the patron saint holds a medieval open pan miner's flame wick lamp instead of the original church steeple; this was a traditional display for early St. Barbara art. To the usually empty left hand we have added a miner's *schlägel* (the miner's hammer).



Carbide Cap Lamp - We have heard that a noted lamp collector and writer has a Norleigh Diamond lamp . . . more in our next issue.