



THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



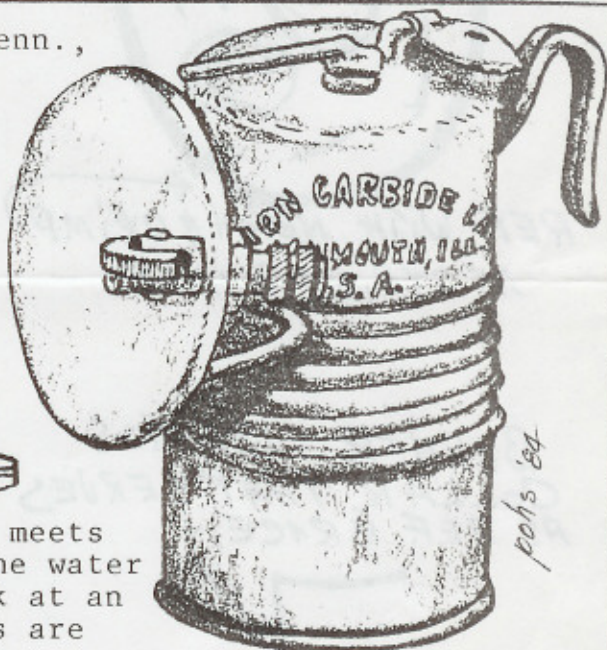
- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

Vol. IV, No. 2

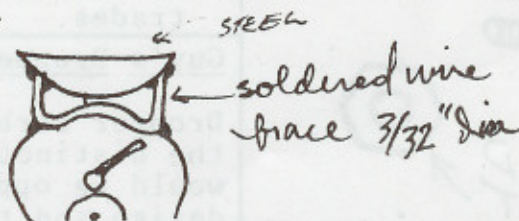
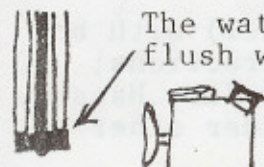
Spring, 1984

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

Union Carbide - Steve Loftin of Nashville, Tenn., has jubilantly reported his recent acquisition of a Union Carbide brass carbide cap lamp. His 8 x 10 enlarged photo is much too large to reproduce here, but the sketch at the right accurately illustrates this previously unreported lamp. The lamp is brass with a steel reflector. Dimensions are: 3.625 in. (92 mm) overall height; 2.062 in. (52.37 mm) bottom diameter; 1.75 in. (44.45 mm) top diameter; 2.125 in. (53.98 mm) reflector diameter. The hook is made from rectangular stock; the burner tip is all-ceramic with the recessed gas opening (U. S. patent 994,365).



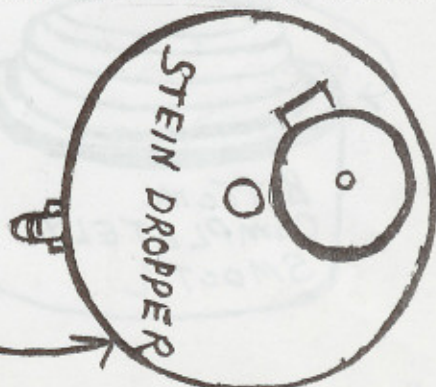
The water control is a flat disk that meets flush with the bottom of the tube. The water door and opening meet the tank at an angle. Steve's other sketches are also shown here.



UNION CARBIDE
MORMOUTH, ILL.
U.S.A.
trade mark
rubbing

Stein Dropper - Clyde Mayes of Middlesboro, Tenn., has sent us the sketch at the left of his 'new' Stein Dropper brass carbide cap lamp. Clyde says that the top is smooth, no notches for the water lever. The water valve looks the same as a Guy's Dropper. A Guy's Dropper base will fit the Stein Dropper. The water door size is in between the Auto Lite and Guy's Dropper sizes. It has a deep-dished brass reflector (see sketches on the next page). We do not have all the dimensions on record yet.

STAMPED OFF-CENTER
FROM THE
BURNER TUBE

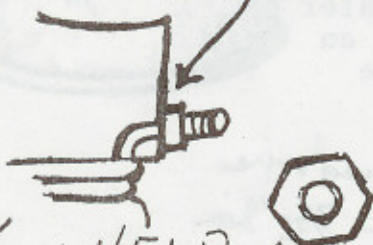


More Stein Dropper sketches:



REF. WITH NOTCH & CRIMP AT STRIKER HOLE.

BURNER TUBE HAS COLLAR THAT SERVES AS REF. BRACE.



REF. IS HELD WITH HEX NUT → GUYS DROPPER WING NUT IS TOO LARGE.

CRIMPPED AT TOP



No markings on bottom.

Wolf Carbides - The Wolf model 856 series canister-type carbide hand lamps usually turn up sans their slip-on reflectors. Ray Drake, P. O. Box 12, Victor, Colorado, 80860, has a supply of reproduction replacement reflectors for these lamps. Write Ray for sizes, prices, and quantities.

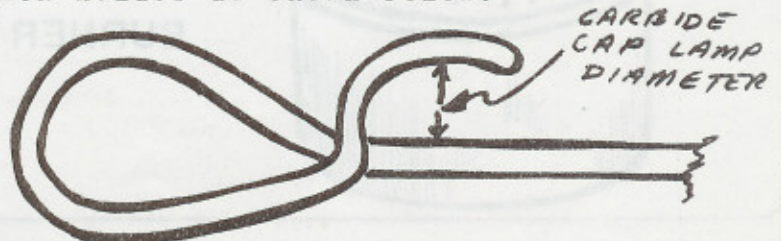
Cap Candleholder? - Recall the item illustrated at the lower left of page one of the last issue of the Lamp Post (Fall, 1983). Dave Crawford had sent a sketch of a strange candleholder which he wanted identified. Jack Ramsdell suggests that it is a broken part of a Husson No. 4 wire candleholder which has a standard length spike. Sure could be.

Trades - David Thorpe, 16646 N. 30th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, 85023, has the following items up for trade:

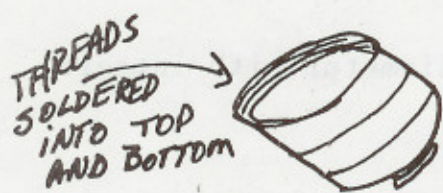
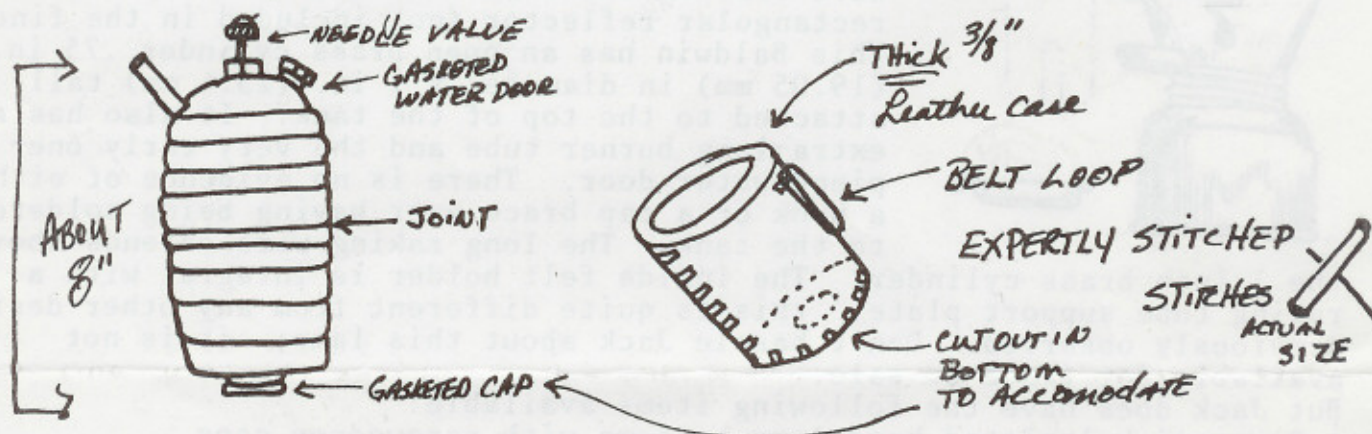
- Nickle-plated Baldwin carbide lamp with superintendent's handles; excellent;
- Nickel-plated Simmons "Pioneer" carbide lamp with superintendent's handles; very good condition;
- Mint unfired Zar (early model) with box and spare bottom; plus instructions; will trade for a late-model Zar, Hansen, or Force Feed; will consider other trades.

Guy's Dropper - Early on in the lamp study we had a report of a Guy's Dropper carbide hand lamp designed without the distinctive G-D thin waist . . . this would be opposed to the familiar cap lamp design and the G-D "Tall Boy" shape. We have never heard about this particular design again. Can anyone verify the report and provide any details or even a good photo? Could this lamp have been confused here with the Big Boy? Did Guy's Dropper ever make a hand lamp with the straight sides? We now wonder.

Buy and Trade - Howard Myhre, 14548 Wilder Lane, Grass Valley, Calif., 95945, writes that he wants miner's candleholders; will buy or trade. Howard has his multi-spout lamp up for trade, and has quite a few other lamps available. He prefers candleholders for his collection. Howard also reports he has acquired a lamp stick holder as shown below.



Strange Lamp and Traders - More from Steve Loftin, 6552 Kendall Dr., Nashville, Tennessee, 37209. Steve sends the following interesting sketch of a maverik carbide lamp. Steve says, "The man who had this lamp believed it once belonged to a well digger; he must have been a big dude; this jewel is thick heavy brass, probably a carbon tet fire extinguisher. All the work is extremely good."



The case is a marvel of workmanship.

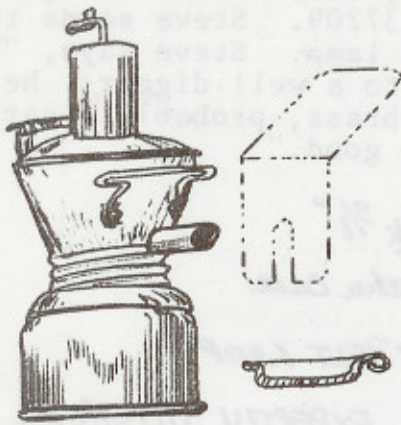
Steve also lists the following for trade:

- Unfired Simmons "Pioneer" cap lamp - mint
- Nickel-plated X-Ray cap lamp
- Nickel-plated I T P superintendent lamp with bail
- Lu-Mi-NUM cap lamp - rough
- Victor cap lamp - rough
- Nomelt cast aluminum oil wick lamp
- Winfield patent sunshine oil wick lamp - unfired, mint
- N. Gary oil wick lamp - unfired
- Anton American Eagle BRASS oil wick lamp
- Dunlap "Pittsburgh" drivers lamp - unfired - in what remains of the original printed box (70%)
- Brilliant Searchlight belt generator
- Large carbide generator - type that bolted to early auto runningboards, probably used with Solar brand headlights
- Dewarlite hand lantern - all brass
- Water tank (top) for Shanklin Metal Products cap lamp - no reflector

Steve needs:

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| • Wolf Cap lamp | • Shanklin Metal Products bottom, reflector and brace | |
| • X-Ray reflector and brace | • Good Springfield bottom | |
| • Good Victor bottom | • Maple City | • Defender |
| • Lu-Mi-Num cast aluminum reflector | • Scranto(n) | • Anthracite |
| • Pinch-waist Baldwin nickel-plated with superintendent's handles | • Squarelite | • Anton |
| • Britelite | • Eveready | • Milburn |
| • Pathfinder | • Etc. | • Etc. |

Justrite JIFFY - Your mini-editor has acquired a damaged Justrite JIFFY bottom (no top). It needs some repair work. Who has a top to go with it? Recall that this is not threaded, but has the bayonet twist locking design. And, which trader gets the finished lamp?



Baldwin - Now comes old reliable Jack Ramsdell, 3403 Alpine view court, Carson City, Nevada, 89701, with a long-undiscovered carbide lamp similar to the Baldwin No. 33. It is basically the 1900-1906 brass water tank top with a wire bracket soldered on for the also-elusive rectangular reflector (not included in the find). This Baldwin has an open brass cylinder .75 in. (19.05 mm) in diameter x 1 in. (25.4 mm) tall attached to the top of the tank. It also has an extra-long burner tube and the very early one-piece water door. There is no evidence of either a hook or a cap brace ever having being soldered to the tank. The long raking wire extends above

the 1 inch brass cylinder. The inside felt holder is integral with a raking tube support plate; this is quite different from any other design previously observed. Don't hassle Jack about this lamp; it is not available for trade or sale.

But Jack does have the following items available:

- Dewar nickel-plated hand lamp bottoms with screwed-on caps
- Dewar nickel-plated hand lamp bail and hook
- Dewar hand lamp water doors
- Dewar hand lamp cast aluminum reflectors, 3" diameter with integral brace and igniters
- Gas tubes, 1/4" x 1" threaded brass
- Threaded, nickel-plated tip protectors
- Dewar hand lamp brass felt holders
- Justrite No. 64 felt holders, one dozen in original boxes
- Justrite No. 53 felt holders, one dozen in original boxes
- Wire tip cleaner with sliding cover
- Tip reamers, one dozen in metal tube
- Oblong brass water doors
- Cap hooks, 3/4" wide brass
- Reflector, 4" diameter, nickel-plated with igniter
- Reflector, 2-1/2" diameter, nickel-plated with igniter
- Hex reflector nuts, nickel-plated
- Hex nuts, nickel-plated for igniters
- Burner tips, lava fish-tail in threaded brass

Trades and Wants - Bob Gossett, 106 Norwood Road, Nitro, West Virginia, 25143, has sent the following lists for publication:

Needed:

- A Defender bottom
- Pathfinder reflector
- Auto Lite push-on reflector
- Guy's Dropper reflector brace
- Justrite "Streamline" reflector brace

For trade:

- Stonebridge folding lantern
- Victor (Justrite) cap lamp
- Justrite 8-hr. hook-and-bail hand lamp
- Coal King leather hard hat
- Justrite 1-lb. carbide canister

More Trades and Wants - Kevin Downey, 18 Forthill Ter., Northampton, Mass., 01060, reports the following:

Have the following for trade: Nickel-plated Wolf cap lamps; Baldwins, (hand and cap); I T P hand lamp; many old and mint horizontal tank Justrites; Frostburg oil wick lamp with coded mark; copper lamp with shield, STAR, and John D. Gills Sons, Phillipsburg, Pa. marking.

Kevin needs: Reflectors for Pathfinder, Sun Ray, and I T P; bottom for Sun Ray in brass; dripper for Simmons hand lamp; most any odd parts.

Kevin also has a supply of spare bottoms, lids, reflectors, etc.

available upon inquiry about quantity, quality, and trading proposals.

Book Corner - This should be good news for those many correspondents who have written us over the years asking for copies of our original old mine lamp book. We had to always reply that it was sold out and out of print. The Arizona Historical Society has just informed us that they have reprinted the book and it is now again available at their offices. The price has now gone to \$9.00 per copy. Write directly to them at this address: The Arizona Historical Society, 949 East Second St., Tucson, Arizona, 85719.

Moonshine - Tony Moon, 2763 East Willow Wick Dr., Sandy, Utah, 84092, has sent the following list of items he has for trade:

Candlesticks

- Nothing special; one Varney, one from hardware store in Butte
- Justrite stick for carbide lamp; two-piece style

MISCELLANEOUS

- Koehler safety lamp; brass and anodized aluminum const with key lock (have key). Present style in fired-once condition
- Lenticular or tunnel oil lamp; no markings, iron with brass fittings on bail; oil vessel large size ($4\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter) and 21 inches high overall with hook.
- Blasting cap tin by Hercules; red and yellow rectangular.

CARBIDES

- Guy's Dropper SQUARELITE; bigger than cap lamp $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high to top of water door and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter reflector; probably style for use with stick. Minor dings but some original paint finish on top - hook is missing.
- Guy's Dropper BIG BOY; brass hand lamp with nickel finish that has worn thin in places. Marked BIG BOY on top and Shanklin Mfg Co on bottom. Some rust on steel parts and minor dings on bottom. Early BIG BOY style that is hard to find. See picture
- Miscellaneous common Autolite, Justrite and Guy's Droppers
- Head piece for Brilliant Searchlight lamp; not in good shape and leather part torn and unusable



BIG BOY

For Sale - Rudy Tschernich, 12915 52nd Dr. S. E., Everett, Washington, 98240, offers the following: "Mining Lamp collection for sale; priced individually, over 200 items; safety lamps, candleholders, hand carbides, European carbides, lenticular oil lamps, hats, coats, blasting cap boxes. Write for individual price lists and photos."

Still More Traders - Jeff Carnes, 197 Sycamore Drive, North Canton, Ohio, 44720, 216-499-1449, has a very interesting trade list which includes the following:

- Small steel oil wick cap lamp, no markings, fair condition
- Small brass oil wick cap lamp, reproduction nicely made
- Five Auto Lite brass carbide cap lamps in various good conditions
- Four Justrite carbide lamps, 3 caps, 1 hand, various conditions
- Six Guy's Dropper cap lamps, various conditions
- Two Justrite carbide containers, one oval, one curved
- Defender and Grier brass cap lamp bases with caps
- Miner's oval lunch pail with tray insert, made by Leyse Al. Co.
- Miscellaneous mining company stock certificates
- Many fossils

Trading Again - Clyde Mayes, 701 N. 27th St., Middlesboro, Kentucky, 40965, offers the following trade list:

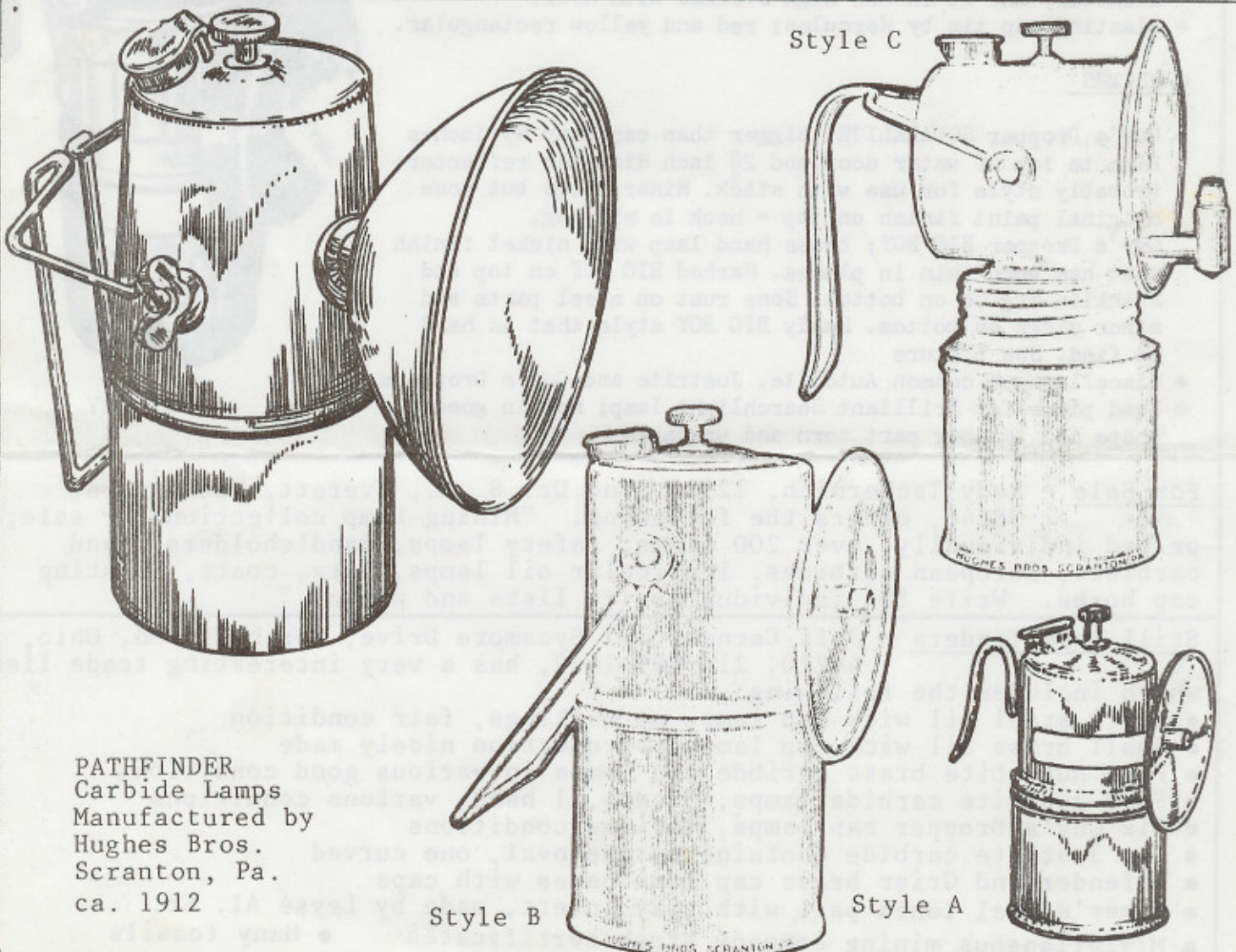
- Husson #6 oil wick cap lamp with copper heating rod, 1903, mint condition
- Brass base for Zar carbide cap lamp, mint condition
- Nickel-plated base for Baldwin #39 hand lamp, mint condition
- Brass base for Baldwin cap lamp, mint condition
- Brass base for The Buddy carbide cap lamp with cap, mint condition
- Aluminum Baby Wolf safety lamp with key lock, good condition

Among other things, Clyde is looking for these items:

- Hanson, Force Feed, or EverReady cap lamps
- Ashworth-Hepplewhite-Gray safety lamp
- Good name combination cap and surveyor's oil wick lamp
- Interested in other complete and good condition lamps

Postage - Acknowledgement for postage for this issue of the Lamp Post is due to our good friends in the following locations: Virginia, Arizona, California, North Dakota, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Jersey, Missouri, Nevada, Maine, Indiana, Oregon, Colorado, Arkansas, New York, Tennessee, Washington, and Michigan. Without this kind and understanding help we would not be able to mail to our over 300 friends on our correspondence records. Thank you all very much.

More Thanks - Due to our negative employment situation again, we have had to rely upon John Leahy for the printing of this issue of the newsletter. Many thanks, John.



PATHFINDER
Carbide Lamps
Manufactured by
Hughes Bros.
Scranton, Pa.
ca. 1912

Style B

Style A