

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

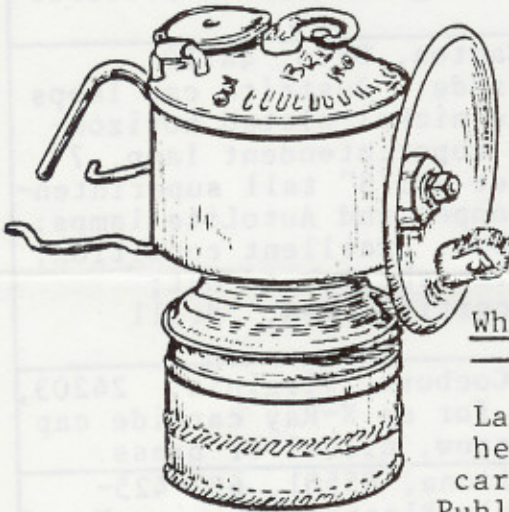


- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

Vol. IV, No. 3

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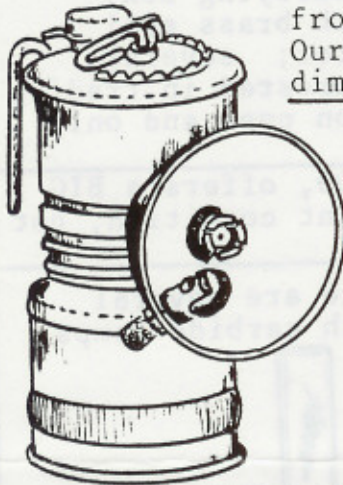
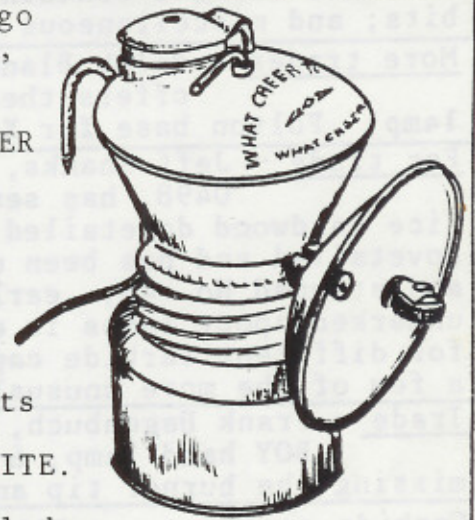
The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candle-holders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212



Belcro No. 1 Carbide Cap Lamp - Old reliable Ralph Blankenbecler of, Coeburn, Virginia, reports still another "new" name for the carbide cap lamp registry. Ralph has now acquired a nickel-plated BELCRO NO. 1 from one of his exclusive sources. The major specifications are: 3-1/2" tall; 2-1/2" diameter base; and a 3" diameter reflector.

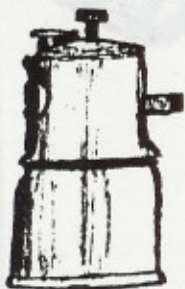
What Cheer Tool Co. - Long ago (April, 1978)

Larry Peterson mentioned his hearing rumors of a WHAT CHEER carbide cap lamp. Now, Mike Puhl has let us see a set of private photos of the real thing from the collection of Al Qugman. Our copy sketch is at the right. No dimensions are available yet.



Hold-A-Lite - Early mining magazine advertisements referred to a John Simmons Co. lamp called HOLD-A-LITE. Gil Flint's 1984 Senior Conflow calendar shows a photo which includes an unmarked lamp which appears to be very similar to these ads. No dimensions here either. As we continue to learn, there are still many strange lamp products to be cataloged and studied. As with the HOLD-A-LITE sketch at the left, we still have the question of lamp brand names which do not show on the lamp.

Pocahontas - Ralph Blankenbecler also reminds us that his POCAHONTAS carbide cap lamp is nickel-plated while Errol Christman's is brass. Early on, most collectors thought that plain brass was the general standard, and the few nickel-plated lamps found were the exception. Now, however, it appears that perhaps many more brand name lamps were produced both ways than was originally thought. Recent catalog finds seem to support the proliferation of nickel-plated lamps.



Pathfinder - Dave Thorpe, 16646 N. 30th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, 85023, 602-866-3304, offers the following for trade: PATHFINDER carbide cap lamp, base unstamped, very good condition, few flat dents in the base, hook broken off, no reflector. Will trade for excellent ITP or horizontal GRIER (brass). Mint ZAR carbide cap lamp also for trade. Dave's PATHFINDER sketch is shown at the left. Ed. note: We've never had a report of a nickel-plated PATHFINDER, so we assume that this one is brass.

Trade - Susan Dalton, 2717 Cumberland, Ashland, Kentucky, 41101, offers the following for trade: **Bottom for BUDDY** and ELKHORN carbide cap lamp, Manufactured by Ashmead Mfg. Co. - Ashland, Ky. is the marking on the bottom; this is the flat bottom type with no ridge on the base. A railroad hand torch called a "tunnel lamp"; marked C & O RY.; this is a 7" diameter round lamp with a screw top lid and a chain at one edge and a round wick spout across at the other edge of the top; probably used kerosene.

Wants List - Mark Ballard, 1204 Anderson Dr., Marion, Illinois, 62959, needs reflectors for both a SUN RAY and a FRED R. BELT carbide cap lamp. He says that he has some good trades including old Edison electric lamps and Wheat or Kohler.

Traders - Jeff Carnes, 197 Sycamore Drive, North Canton, Ohio, 44720, 216-499-1449, offers the following for trade: Justrite cap lamps nos. 707 and 527, both in good condition; Justrite nickel-plated horizontal cap lamp, excellent condition; brass Justrite superintendent lamp, 7" reflector, excellent condition; brass Guy's Dropper 4-3/8" tall superintendent's lamp, excellent condition; common Guy's Dropper and AutoLite lamps; brass AutoLite cap lamp with ribbed reflector in box, excellent condition; Koehler safety lamp; candleholder, round steel; clam-shell hard hat; Justrite carbide containers; mining company stock certificates; drill bits; and miscellaneous parts.

More trades - Ralph Blankenbecler, Rt. 3, Box 46, Coeburn, Virginia, 24203, offers these items for trade; brace for an X-Ray carbide cap lamp; Fulton base for X-Ray lamp; Pathfinder; Arrow, nickel or brass.

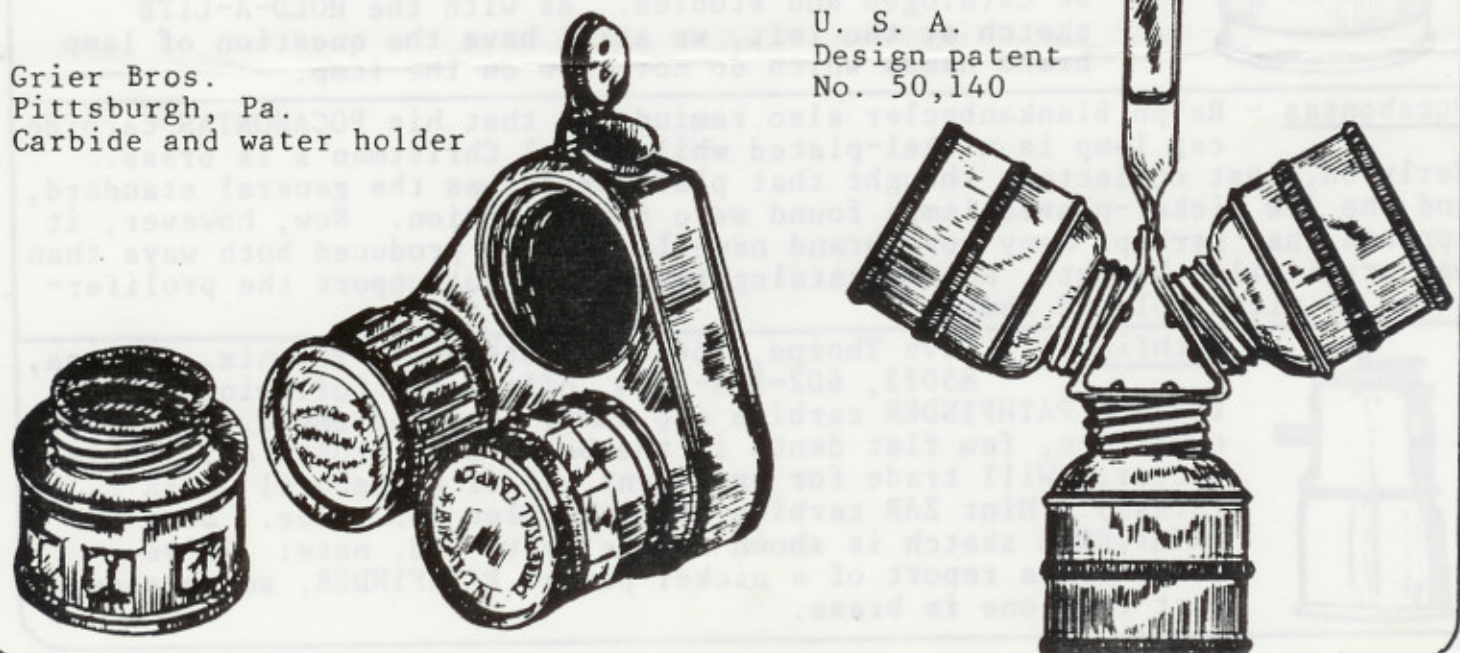
For trade - Jeff Shanks, 450 S. 4th St., Globe, Arizona, 85501, 602-425-0498, has sent this trade list; Reliable Blasting Machine No. 3 nice hardwood dovetailed blasting machine; old dynamite carrying box, dovetailed and has been used; BRAIMES Lever-Lid lamp, with brass seal and stamped No. 48; early AutoLite with set screw reflector; several unmarked spout lamps in excellent condition. Jeff is interested in trading for different carbide cap lamps; he says he has all common ones and only a few of the more unusual carbide cap lamps.

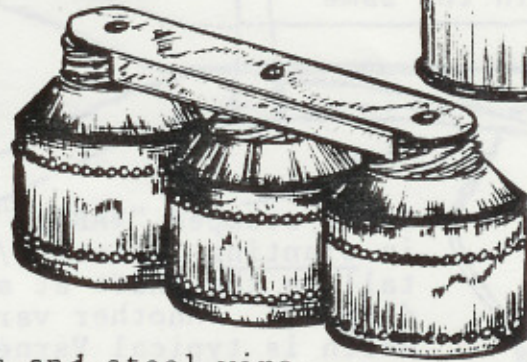
Trade - Frank Hagenbuch, P. O. Box 759, Alton, N. H., 03809, offers a BIG BOY hand lamp, 6-1/2" tall, 10" at handle, excellent condition, but missing the burner tip and igniter for trade.

Carbide containers - Illustrated below and on the next page are several different carbide containers used with carbide lamps.

Grier Bros.
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Carbide and water holder

U. S. A.
Design patent
No. 50,140





Three carbide cap lamp bottoms joined by a single 1/8" wire soldered around the caps and formed into a belt hook. Brass containers and steel wire.

U. S. A.
Design Patent
No. 46,280

Editorial - The business of writing and publishing, whether it be amateur or professional, is always fair game for suggestions, questions, and criticism. We knew that going in. Within the past two years, certain criticisms have reached our desk concerning the lamp hobby, the market, prices, publications, illustrations, the so-called "advertisements" (we have never accepted advertisements, never will), research credits, copyrights, etc. We have always tried to be straight-forward and level, enthusiastic and helpful, sharing and community, with information and data.

We've always tried to print each person's notices as closely as possible to exactly the way they were written or spoken. Space is always a problem to any editor, as it is directly proportional to costs. We know a local newsletter editor who has to spend \$400.00 per issue for eight pages going to less than 300 readers.

What we are trying to say is that all we can do is keep trying to do our best and keep typing until it becomes obvious that the Lamp Post is no longer able to serve its original intentions.

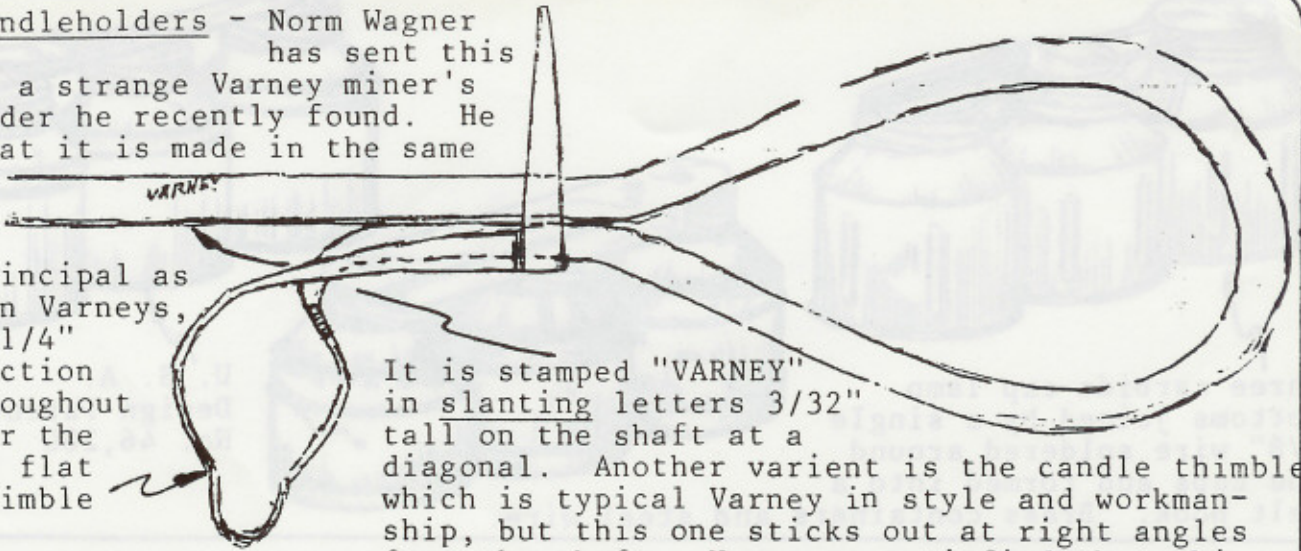
As many of our readers know, we are working on our "big new book" about the history of underground lighting from ancient times up to electricity. It is a grand effort which goes far too slow at times due to many other day-to-day commitments. Our employment situation this year (negative!) sure has not helped.

In all of our past publications and books, careful reference and credit has always been given for every photo, bit of information, source, etc. Scholarship is a primary guide. Recall the detailed footnotes over and above the general references in our first lamp book. If and when the "big new book" ever gets finished to its present outline, we will have compiled as complete a guide and reference as possible to all types, names, publications, definitions, eras, locations, histories, manufacturers, and sources.

Many correspondents over the years have sent us data, photos, sketches, and information, etc. We have always thankfully answered every single letter as quickly as possible with information as requested and asking for permission to reproduce or publish. Our files already include many such permissions. The problem now arises as to how to cover everything ever received from everyone. May we assume that our past correspondence implies permission to use materials from that correspondence? Be assured that scrupulous, almost excessive, dissertation-quality scholarship is being observed. On the other hand, may we ask that any reader who does NOT wish to grant permission to use this type of material please notify us? This request, then, amounts to a mild disclaimer. Many thanks to all.

Postage - Thanks to Ohio, Colorado, California, Arizona, Wyoming, Virginia, Ireland, New Hampshire, France, Tennessee, Canada, Kentucky, Idaho, Washington, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, West Virginia, and England.

Varney Candleholders - Norm Wagner has sent this sketch of a strange Varney miner's candleholder he recently found. He writes that it is made in the same



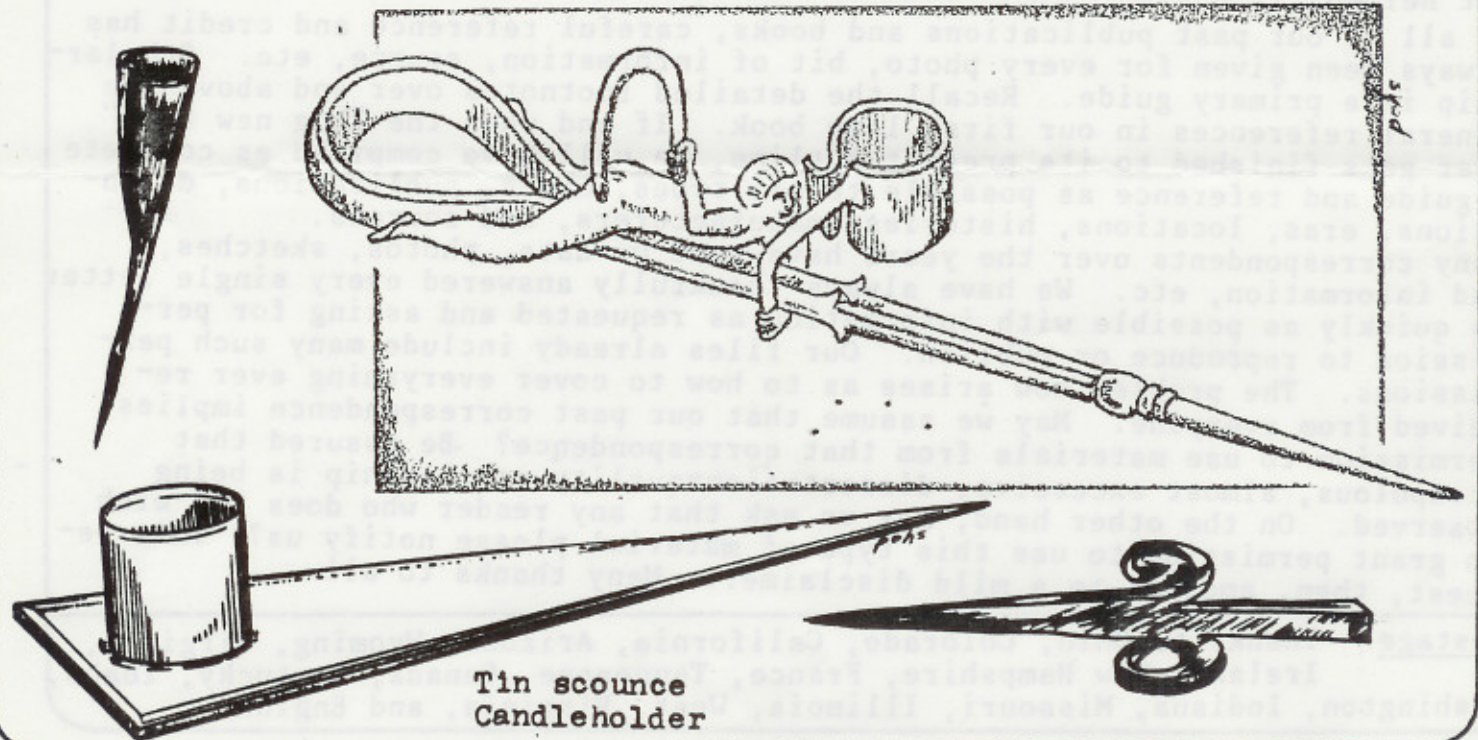
design principal as the common Varneys, but from 1/4" square section stock throughout except for the typically flat candle thimble portion.

It is stamped "VARNEY" in slanting letters 3/32" tall on the shaft at a diagonal. Another variant is the candle thimble which is typical Varney in style and workmanship, but this one sticks out at right angles from the shaft. Norm was satisfied that this

speciman was a genuine oldie before he bought it and after experiencing better than two hours cleaning it, he is sure beyond any shadow of a doubt. He lists several reasons: because of the way the rust cleaned off; because of the nature of the pitting underneath; because of the looks of the rust in the stamping; because of the temper in the thimble; and because of the emergence of three owner's punch dots not in evidence before the candlestick was de-rusted. Norm's feeling is that this may be a pattern which Varney experimented with (shaft, candle, and hook all square) before he settled on the classic round hook, hexagon handle, and square shaft that we all are so familiar with.

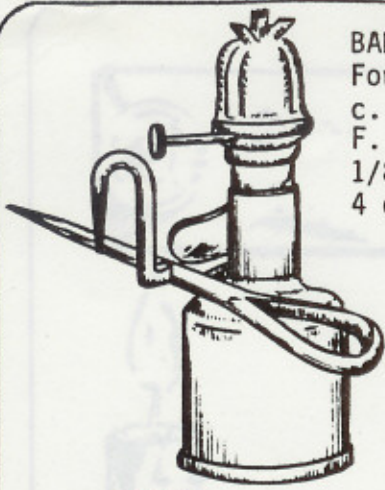
Warning - We have seen many fake candleholders and miner's candlesticks over the years. We have had a raft of recent reports including several about gunsmith-quality folding candleholders made from old pocket knife frames. So good, in fact, that dealers, buyers, and sellers are all open to deception. So, be careful in what you buy. Once true dealers find out about such fakes, the suppliers market may well collapse. Once that happens, the forgers would be 'stuck on their own sticks.'

Candleholders - Candlesticks - The balance of this issue will illustrate some of the items in our files.

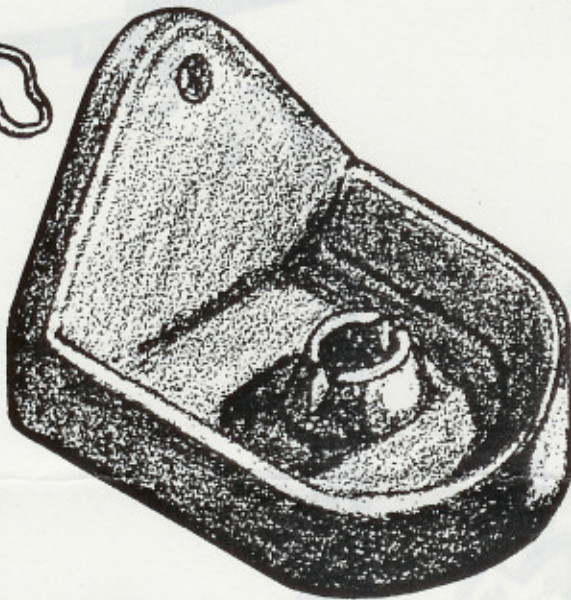
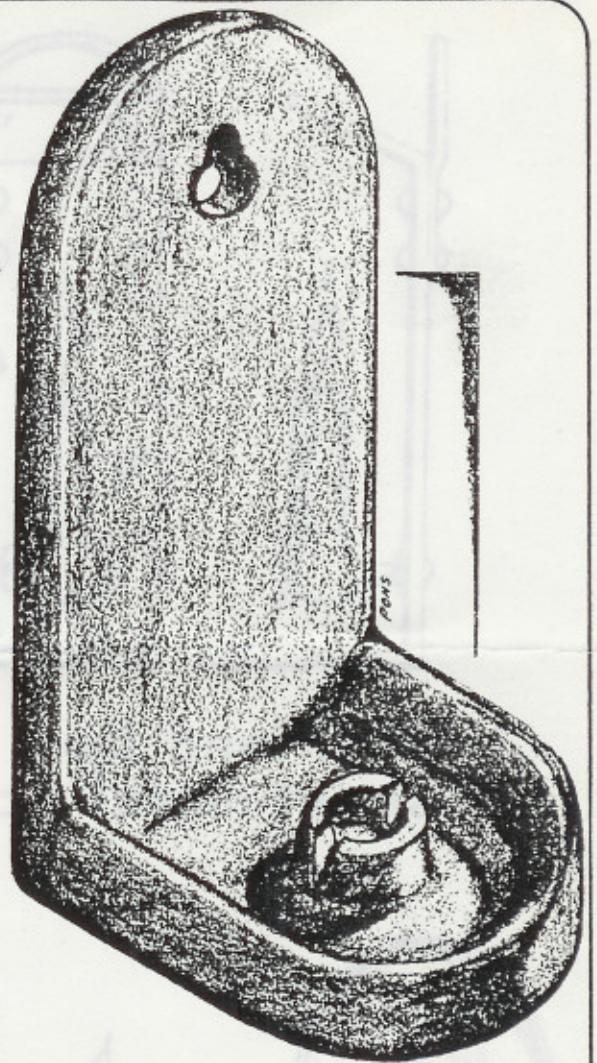


Tin sconce
Candleholder

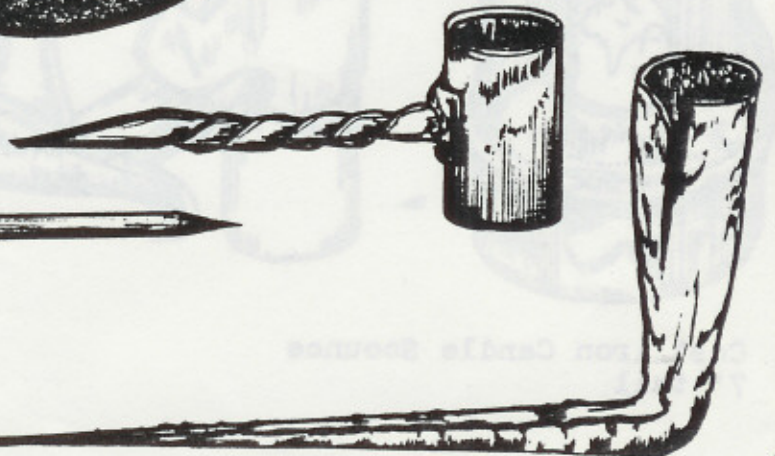
BALDWIN Candle Lamp
 For use in miner's candleholders
 c. 1912
 F. E. Baldwin Mfg. Co., N. Y.
 1/8 pt. oil
 4 oz. weight when filled

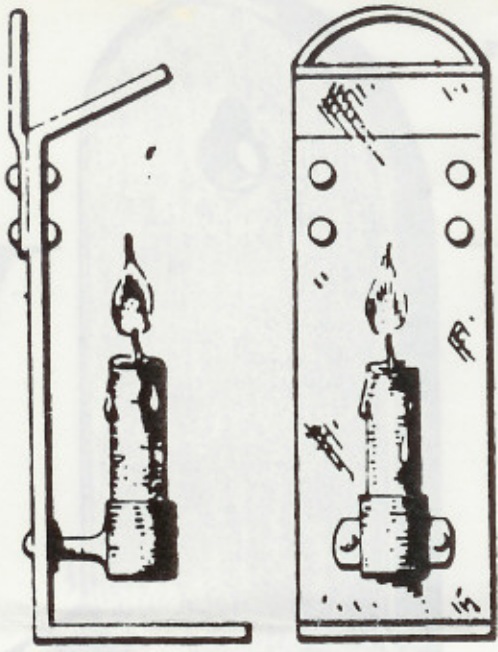


Candleholder
 made from a
 single piece
 of wire.
 Univ. of
 Nevada - Reno
 Museum.

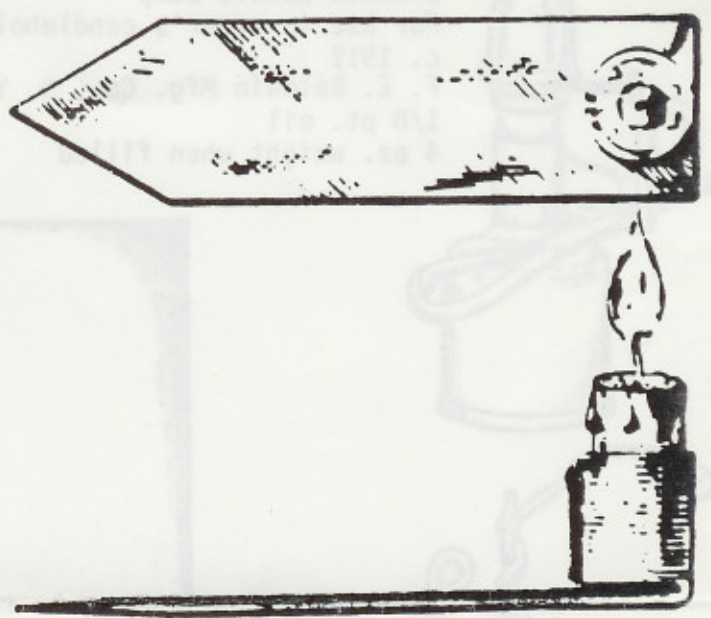


Copper Queen
 cast sconces.

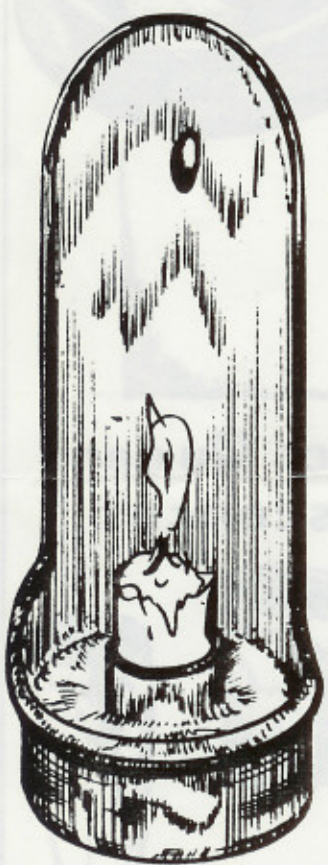




Highland Boy sheet-metal sconce.



Cleveland Cliffs sheet-iron sconce.



Cast iron Candle Sconce
7" tall

