

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

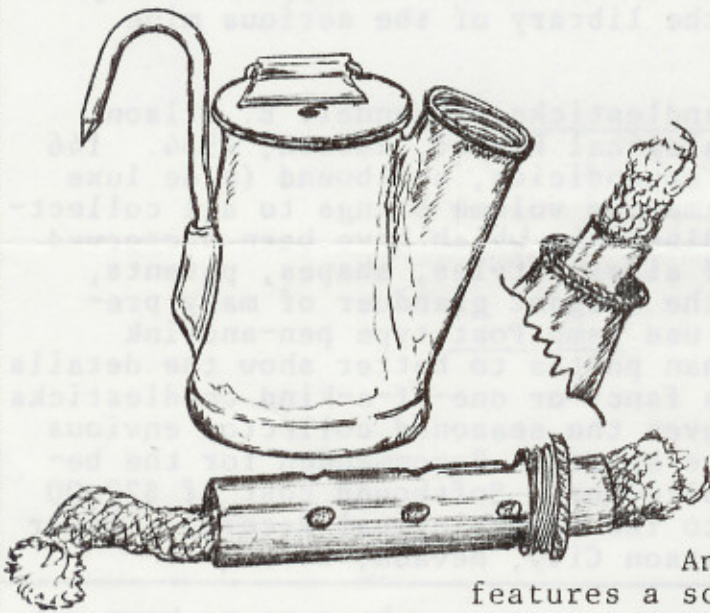
- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -




Vol. IV, No. 4

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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

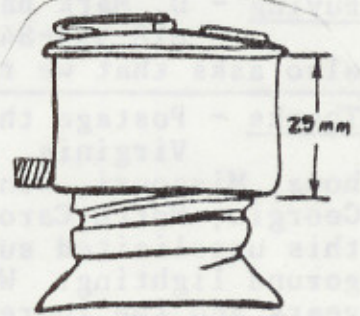
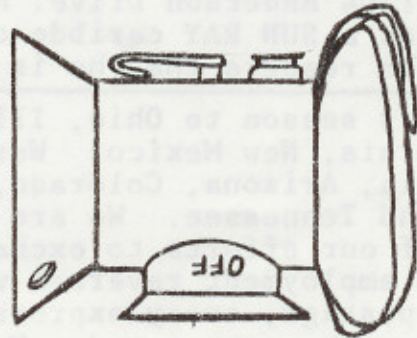
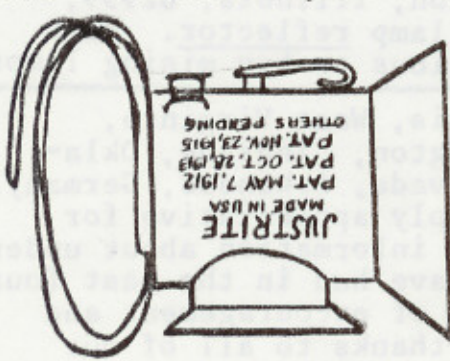
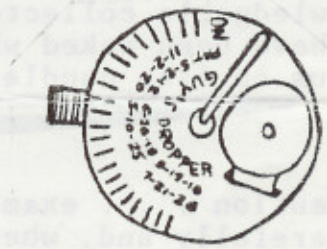


Oil Wick Cap Lamp - Regular correspondent Craig Ellenfield has sent us a beautiful photo of one of his new acquisitions. It is the uniquely designed cap lamp illustrated at the left. The removable wick holder is made of copper while the rest of the lamp is of conventional tin and solder. Craig has remarked about the rather expensive design construction for the wick holder as opposed to the standard hook, cap, and hinge design. The only markings on the lamp are PAT. APL'D. FOR on the bottom. Craig's other new oil wick cap lamp is a full copper STAR lamp by Beall Bros. of Alton, Ills.

Another oil wicker Craig has features a soldered bottom, thus: 

Freaks and Errors - Some time ago Mike Puhl sent us these sketches which represent several oddities in the manufacture of carbide cap lamps. The JUSTRITE #95 superintendent's lamp has the lettering on both sides of the water top stamped upside down and on the side opposite from normal lamps. There seems to be no explanation of how this happened or how it passed the inspection department.

The GUY'S DROPPER is one of the tall water tank styles. Mike's others of this kind are 1.5 in. (38 mm) tall and most standard (?) references are 1.25 in (33 mm) tall. The date errors in the stamping dies have been reported by other collectors on other lamps. This type of cap error could have easily been corrected at the factory by replacing a batch of incorrect caps. But, discarding whole tanks would have been more expensive.



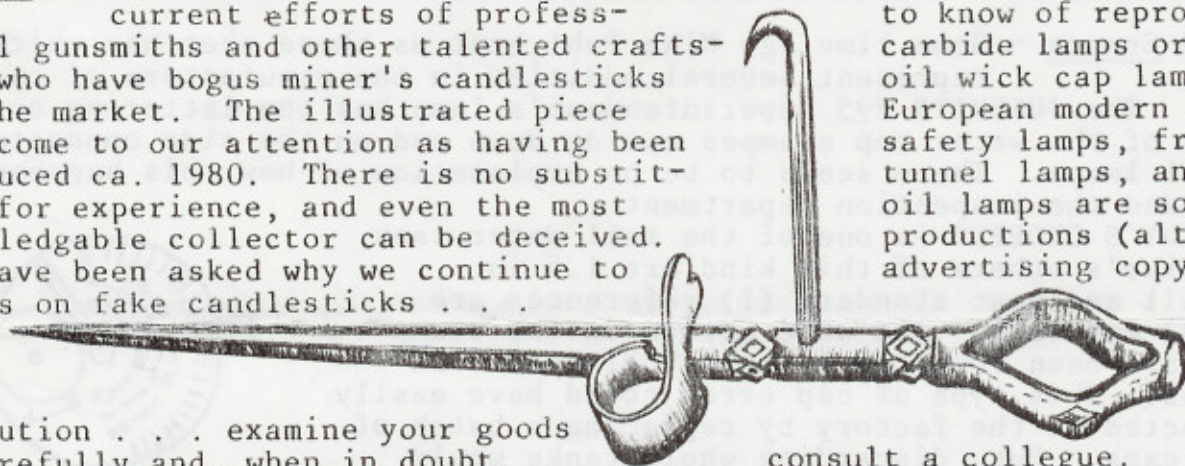
Book Corner - We have several 'lamp' books in hand and report them here in the order received.

Des Lumieres dans La Nuit (viz., Early Lights out of the Dark) by Michel Dupont, published by PRG, Paris, 1983. 288 pages, 199 photos, hard bound. Denver visitor M. Gerard Coussot of Paris has kindly expedited our receipt of this safety lamp book. It is in French and details the evolution of the flame safety lamp from its beginning in the 19th century English coal mines until modern times. Even for someone not acquainted with the French language, the photos of the many designs and styles of British and Continental safety lamps are interesting and educational. At approximately \$32.50 U.S., this volume is a must for the library of the serious mine lamp historian.

A Collectors Guide to Antique Miners' Candlesticks by Wendell E. Wilson and Ted Bobrink, published by The Mineralogical Record, Tucson, 1984. 146 pages, 269 illustrations plus photos, 2 appendicies, softbound (a de luxe hardbound edition has sold out). This amazing volume brings to all collectors the glories of the fine miners' candlesticks which have been preserved by many others. It covers the ranges of sizes, styles, shapes, patents, usage of utilitarian candlesticks plus the elegant grandeur of many presentation pieces. The authors chose to use Lamp Post-type pen-and-ink sketches for the illustrations rather than photos to better show the details of workmanship and design. The numerous fancy or one-of-a-kind candlesticks documented here certainly tend to make even the seasoned collector envious and will indeed be a long-lived reference source. Recommended for the beginner as well as for the experienced collector. Softbound cost if \$22.00 each plus \$2.00 postage (check payable to The Mineralogical Record). Order from: Gale Thomssen, P. O. Box 1656, Carson City, Nevada, 89702.

Warning - Again we are reminded of the current efforts of professional gunsmiths and other talented craftsmen who have bogus miner's candlesticks on the market. The illustrated piece has come to our attention as having been produced ca. 1980. There is no substitute for experience, and even the most knowledgeable collector can be deceived. We have been asked why we continue to focus on fake candlesticks . . .

. . . because we have yet to know of reproduced carbide lamps or of fake oil wick cap lamps. The European modern copies of safety lamps, frog lamps, tunnel lamps, and ancient oil lamps are sold as reproductions (although the advertising copy can sometimes be misinterpreted).



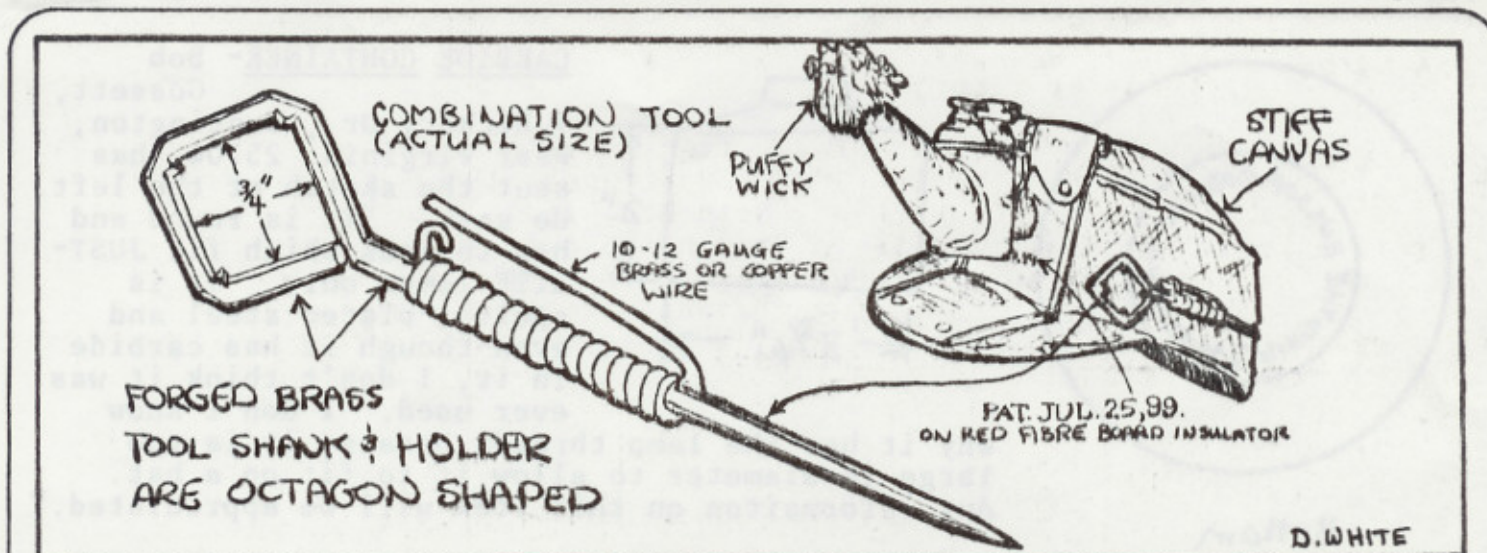
Caution . . . examine your goods carefully and, when in doubt,

consult a colleague.

Buying - D. Mark Ballard, 1204 Anderson Drive. Marion, Illinois, 62959, 618-993-8482, needs a SUN RAY carbide cap lamp reflector. Mark also asks that we remind our readers that he is anxious to buy mining lamps.

Thanks - Postage thanks this season to Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, California, New Mexico, Washington, Indiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Arkansas, Germany, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. We are deeply appreciative for this unsolicited support of our efforts to exchange information about underground lighting. With the employment reverses we have had in the past four years and the increase in postage, every expression of encouragement and the help we have had is so much appreciated. Many thanks to all of our fine friends. We hope that this issue can return the help.

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Trade or Sales - Don and Dave White, 1500 Olympic Dr., Milpitas, California, 95035, 408-946-3288, have sent several sketches and a list of trade items. They are interested in carbide hand lamps and blasting devices (machines, cap tins, and crimping tools). They offer for trade: JUSTRITE #50B hand lamp, #50C hand lamp, #661 cap lamp, #77 supervisor's lamp; TAIYO Japanese hand lamp; WOLF hand lamp, safety lamp. Write or call for more details.

WANTED ITEMS - David Gresko, 5875 No. Yermo - Apt. G-12, Toledo, Ohio, 43613, earstwhile mining lamp collector has advised us that he is anxious to purchase or trade for early miner's rescue apparatus items. We have had a few inquiries about such items in the past, but have not retained any records. Anyone interested should contact David.

AVAILABLE CANDLESTICK - Jeff Shanks, 450 S. 4th St., Globe, Arizona, 85501, 602-425-0498, has an authentic engraved presentation miner's candlestick available to an interested party. He will listen to your offers. Write or call at the above address.

JUSTRITE - Does anyone know the latest Justrite address in Chicago? Last letters to the 2061 N. Southport address have been returned. Send any information you have to the Lamp Post editor.

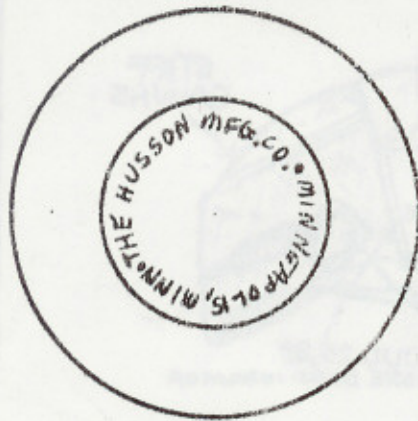
FOREIGN DEPT. - German collector seeks contact with U S collectors. He offers for exchange various types of European miner's lamps. Dr. Manfred Schönfelder, Höhenstr. 126, 5090 Leverkusen 3, Germany.

TRADE - SELL - Ralph Blankenbecler, RT. 3, Box 46, Coeburn, Virginia, 24230, writes regularly and offers the following:

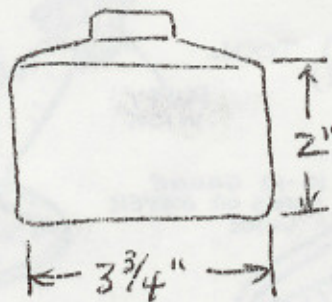
- ZAR carbide cap lamps
- Baby WOLF brass safety lamp
- ARROW carbide cap lamp
- ITP nickel-plated base
- X-RAY nickel-plated base
- PATHFINDER carbide cap lamp
- GRIER BROS carbide cap lamp
- HANSEN carbide cap lamp
- POCOHONTAS brass base

FOR TRADE - Frank Hahenbuch, 5142 Sherman ST., Apt #2, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, 17701, lists the following items for trade:

- WOLF safety lamp, 10-1/2" tall; hook missing; a glass spacer and washer also missing; igniter missing; glass cracked; marked "Made in Germany."
- JUSTRITE with 7" reflector; a dent in the water tank;
- WWI condiment container (ref. Pohn's book, p. 87);
- Miner's helmet hard hat; Miner's Safety Appliance Co.; hard red fiber; from Ajo, Arizona;
- Reproduction wire candleholder;
- PINNACLE Australian carbide hand lamp
- AUTO LITE carbide cap lamp with 7" reflector which is dulled from age



Bottom



CARBIDE CONTAINER- Bob Gossett, 7 Hickory Dr., Juntington, West virginia, 25704, has sent the sketch at the left. He says, "It is round and has threads which fit JUST-RITE lamps only. It is spelter-plated steel and even though it has carbide in it, I don't think it was ever used. I don't know

why it has the lamp threads because it is too large in diameter to allow it to fit on a hat. Any informaiton on this item will be appreciated."

Bob laso notes that he has a GUY'S DROPPER tall boy tank and a FROSTBURG oil wick cap lamp for trade.

WATER DOOR - Your mini-editor needs a brass water door for a brass WOLF flat crown-style carbide cap lamp. Who can make a trade?

MORE TRADES - Tony Moon, 2763 E. Willow Wick DR., Sandy, Utah, 84092, has sent a lengthy trade list, but later mentioned that some of the items have already been traded. Contact him for more information.

CANDLESTICKS

- Butte style pistol grip with round hook and brazed construction (see No. 107 in Wilson/Bohrink book). 8 inches long. Very good condition. RARE
- A couple of VARNEYS. 10 inches long. Both in good condition with legible letters
- Hookless style made by blacksmith. 9½ inches long. Bad rust pitting
- Couple of blacksmith made; one above average workmanship and 11½ inches long - other 8½ inches long with left handed hook and fair workmanship

CARBIDE HAND LAMPS

- Milburn No.22 lamp. Five inch diameter by 8 inch high body of lamp (main cylinder). Missing reflector and part of burner tube. Galvanized steel body with some rust pitting in one area. Nice brass name plate. Very rare lamp but not in good shape.
- Lu-Mi-Num 8 hour hand lamp. Style with handle on back and ribbed reflector. A very nice lamp in good condition.
- Big Boy 8 hour lamp. Nickel plated. Difficult to find early style made by Shanklin Mfg Co (marked on bottom). Very nice condition but lamp has been used.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Justrite nickel plated match safe
- Blasting cap tin - red/yellow - Western Cartridge Co.
- Very nice three compartment carbide/matches/water container by Hardsocg Mfg Co (see picture). Company marking is faint but there between two smaller screw caps. Minor dings and light rust in some areas - much of original galvanized finish is still there.