

# THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

Vol. IV, No. 5

Fall, 1985

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



How Many Lamps? - The lamp illustrated at the left has been reported in several forms. The water chamber top has no markings. Lamps of identical design for both the top and the carbide container bottom but with three different trade marks on the bottom have been found. The marks are incuse stampings on the bottom side of the carbide chamber as shown. Many correspondents have discussed these lamps and have raised many questions.

Were there three distinct manufacturers? Why are the lamps so alike? Who made the X-RAY brand? The X-RAY trade mark was later acquired by JUSTRITE.

Are there other lamp brands of this design? Were or are there more than one set of dies? Both brass lamps and nickel-plated lamps exist . . . were there any steel lamps? How many of each are in collections? We do not have answers to any of these questions. Do you?



Missing Information - The drawing below appeared in the Spring, 1980, issue of the Lamp

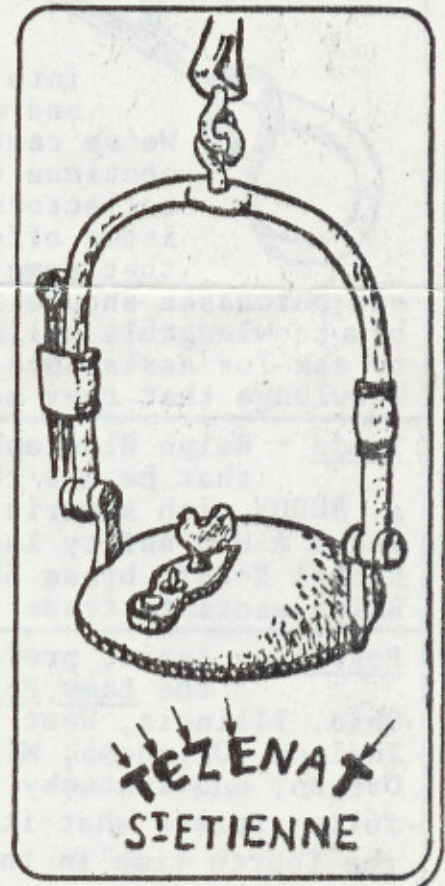
Post with the note that some of the name stamping was unclear on the specimen lamp. Fredrik Freeburg Of Kennewick, Washington, has written that he has acquired a lamp with all of the name clearly marked. The small arrows here show the now-discovered letters.

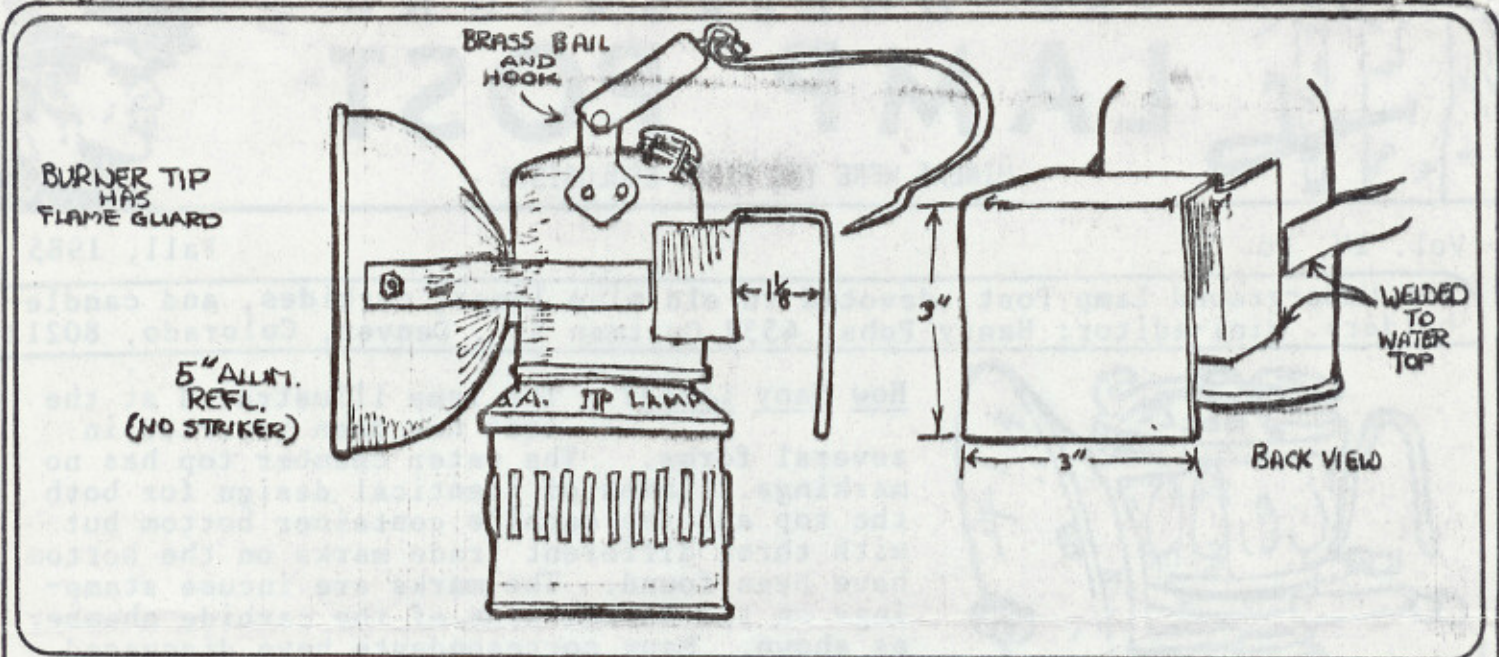


Possible Trade - Norm Wagner, 2624 1st St., Baker, Oregon, 97814, has a JUSTRITE No. 44 belt generator. He emphasizes . . . generator only . . . which he will trade on or for a candlestick to anyone having a yen for it. It is in very good shape, says Norm.

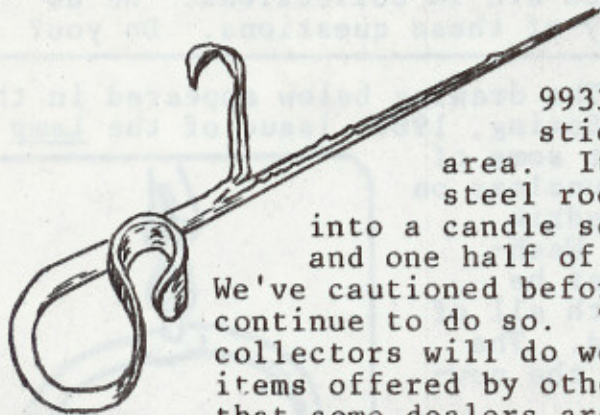


Squarelite - David Crawford, 1808 Harlem Blvd., Rockford, Illinois, 61103, needs a SQUARELITE bottom (nickel or chrome) and would be willing to trade or to buy one. Recall that there are at least two types of lamps commonly called by the "Squarelite" name . . . one by Anton and one by Guy's Dropper. Check with Dave if you can help him.





Car Lamps - Mine car carbide lamps were regularly advertised, but few have appeared in collectors acquisitions. Oil wick lamps used on cars were occasionally found. More often, the car lamp was a mock-up made from another design. Don and Dave White have sent the above sketch of a re-manufactured carbide lamp for a mine car. What do you have in your files or in the collections you have gathered?



Modern? - Fredrik Freeburg, 36007 Clover Road, Kennewick, Washington,

99337, sends us this sketch of a dubious candlestick which was appeared in quantities in his area. It is made from 5/16 in. (7.94 mm) round steel rod flattened on both ends, one side rolled

into a candle socket, the other side split with a chisel and one half of the resulting fork bent up to form a hook.

We've cautioned before about questionable merchandise and will continue to do so. Too many fakes are now on the market. All collectors will do well to be very certain of the value of any items offered by other than reputable dealers. We understand that some dealers are even in the "manufacturing" business, so

all purchases should be backed up by certain knowledge or by a confirmation by a knowledgeable collector. New collectors, for sure, should not be afraid to ask for assistance. Most long-timers are more than willing to share the knowledge that they have acquired over the years.

Trade - Ralph Blankenbecler, Rt. 3, Box 46, Coeburn, Virginia, 24230, writes that he has the following lamps up for trade: brass ZAR (several), a BUDDY with superintendent's handles, WOLF, GEM, nickel-plated GREER, and a A H G safety lamp. He also has bases for these lamps: brass BUDDY, nickel X-RAY, brass SHANKLIN, brass POCAHONTAS, BALDWIN, and nickel I T P. Ralph wants to trade for a Maumee DUPLEX carbide lamp.

Postage - Again, profound thanks are offered for postage for this issue of the Lamp Post which has arrived from the following locations; Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, California, New Mexico, Washington, Indiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Australia, Canada, Oregon, and Kentucky. That is an impressive list, and we find it hard to fully express what it means to us . . . we are again looking for work for the fourth time in the last four years.

Book Corner - We have a copy of the book Miner's Candlestick Patents by Wendell E. Wilson. It is an eighty-one page compilation of the illustrations from the U. S. patent office patent letters for miner's candlesticks arranged in chronological order. The descriptive text from the patents is omitted for clarity and conservation of space; thus, the patent drawings are enlarged and enhanced for easier study. Comments on the number of patents known to the author at the time of publication are also included. Existing examples in selected collections are also noted. This fine publication is certainly useful for the collector who wishes to become acquainted with the range of patented designs in the miner's candlesticks. Copies are available for \$12.00 plus \$1.00 shipping from: The Mineralogical Record, Book Department, P. O. Box 1656, Carson City, Nevada, 89702. Make checks payable to the Mineralogical Record.

Buy - Trade - John Baz-Dresch, 912 Highland Drive, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801, writes that he needs a slip-on reflector for his early BALDWIN carbide cap lamp. John also says that he is interested in buying the common varieties of carbide lamps, as well as oil lamps, candleholders, blasting items, cap tins, etc. All he has to trade are some old jackleg drill bits of as yet undetermined manufacture. He also trades hard hat stickers. Many collectors may wish to write to John about his wants.

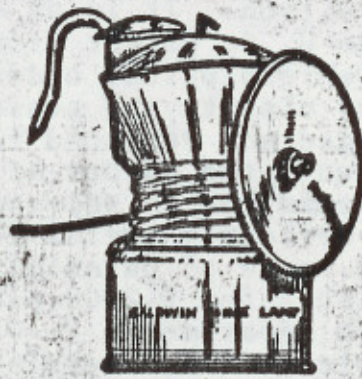
More Trades - Mr. J. R. Bennett, 15 Greenhill Bank Road, New Mill, Huddersfield, W. Yorks., England, HD7 7EW, offers the following items for trade:

- A Hailwood & Ackroid Type 01B safety lamp in good condition, but unfortunately fitted with a replacement base (oil vessel);
- A Protector Type 6 Official's lamp in good original condition (not a tourist lamp);
- A couple of standard Prmeier carbide cap lamps, although he suspects that these may be as common in the U. S. as they are in England.

For Trade - Contact Jeff Carnes, 197 Sycamore, Canton, Ohio, 44720, for information about the following items:

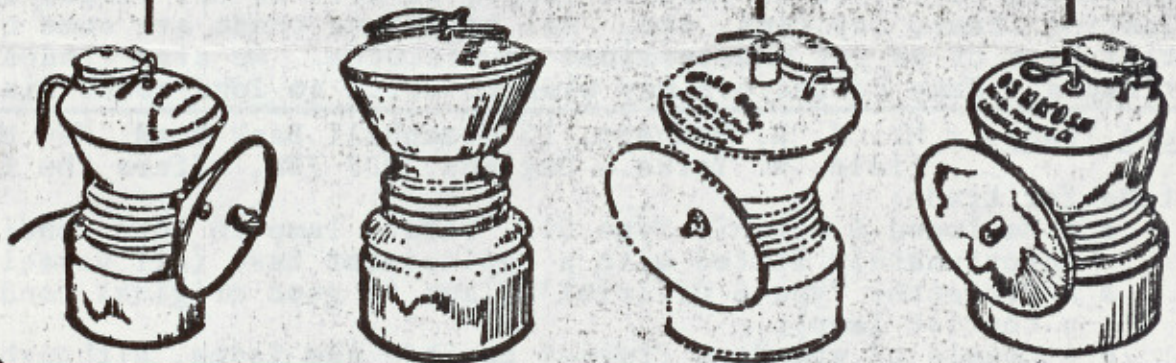
- CL-36 Justrite brass cap lamp, horizontal water tank, attached reflector, oval water door, wire hook, model #527, good condition;
- CL-56 Justrite brass cap lamp, horizontal water tank, attached reflector, polygon feed, good condition;
- CL-59 Justrite nickel-plated cap lamp, horizontal water tank, removable 3" reflector, round water door, wire hook and handles, good condition;
- CL-50 Justrite brass 8-hour hand lamp, very good condition;
- CL-42 Guy's Dropper brass "Tall Boy", 7" reflector, very good cond.;
- CL-2, CL-5, CL-7, AutoLite common brass cap lamps, all in very good condition;
- CL-40 Pinnacle No. 5 aluminum hand lamp, very good condition;
- CL-49 Broken Hill South (Australian brass hand lamp), very heavy;
- Electric trip light, hung on end of ore car, good condition;
- Hardsocg Imperial oil wick cap lamp, excellent condition;
- Galvanized spout cap lamp, no markings, very good condition;
- Koehler safety lamp, small, aluminum, very good condition;
- Koehler safety lamp, tall, brass frame, aluminum font, good condition;
- Hard leather hard hat (old style), lamp bracket missing, but otherwise good condition;
- Miner's lunch pails - 1) round, tin, domed top, good condition, 2) oval, aluminum, BUCKEYE on handle, good;
- Candleholder, round steel, unmarked, good condition - original? I don't know;
- Justrite, 1 lb. oval carbide container, good condition;
- Justrite, early brass lamp base, beaded style, good condition;
- Misc. mining company stock certificates, drill bits.

Carbide Cap Lamps - Lamps have genealogy as well as pedigree (X-RAY, p. 1). This illustration shows several descendents of the original BALDWIN design for carbide cap lamps. We know no more about the reasons or the relations of the designers and the manufacturers of these lamps than we do about the X-RAY, FULTON, or IMPERIAL; the same questions.



Early BALDWIN  
(But not the first design)

Left to right; WHAT CHEER TOOL CO., FUNK BROS., GRIER BROS. and OSHKOSH.



And here is an assortment of WOLF lamps:

