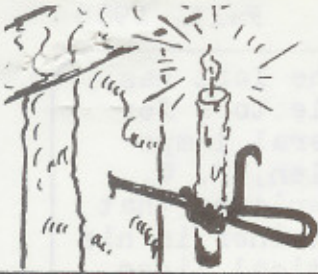


THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



Vol. IV, No. 7

Fall, 1986

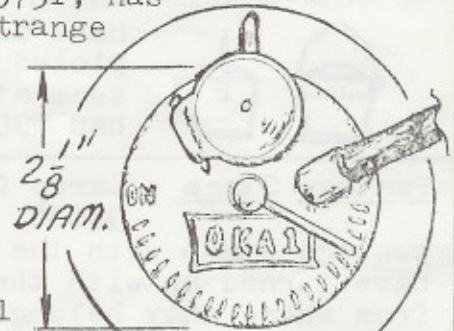
The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candle-holders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212



Another DAYLIGHT - Ralph Blankenbecler, Rt. 3, Box 46, Coeburn, Virginia, 24230, has sent a polaroid of his DAYLIGHT carbide cap lamps which include an early nickel-plated model as shown to the left. It is marked P & H, BIRMINGHAM, on the lower side plate. Ralph has some items available for sale including 22 AUTO LITE, 21 GUY'S DROPPER, and 13 JUSTRITE generator tops only. For trade only are: one BUDDY cap lamp; two pinch-waist BALDWINs; one late JUSTRITE lamp; and the following bases: one nickel X-RAY; one BUDDY; one brass SHANKLIN; and two nickel I T Ps. Write to Ralph.

OKA1 Lamp - Paul Wallace, 3568 St. Rt. 13 SE, Crooksville, Ohio, 43731, has

written to remind us about his strange brass generator-hose-cap burner lamp with an OKA1 trade mark on the top. Paul calls it a close copy of the GUY'S DROPPER lamp top with an elongated conical

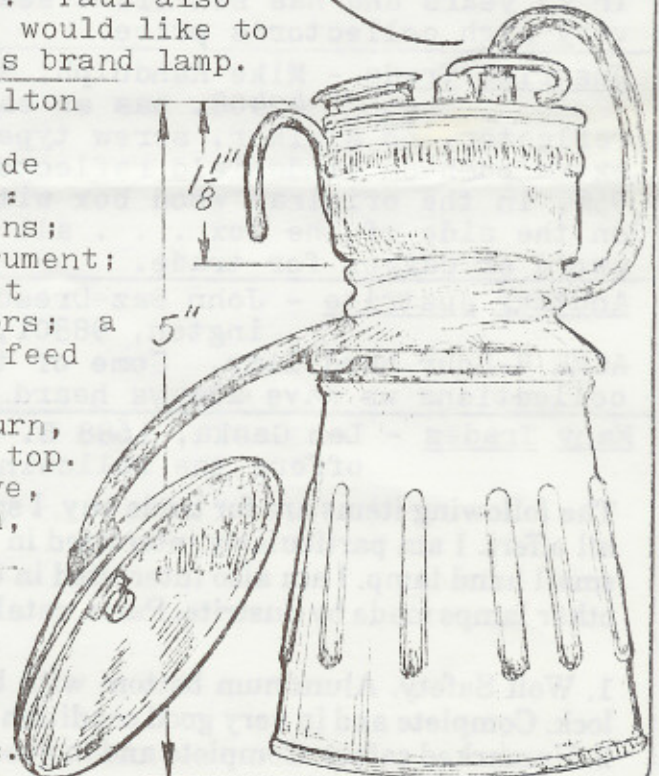


carbide container bottom. It has a thimble on the bottom end of the water control rod for rotating to clean the valve. The top has two notches in the rim for cap lamp-style wire braces which suggests to Paul that there may be OKA1 cap lamps somewhere. Paul also thinks that this lamp is foreign-made. He would like to know if anyone else has information on this brand lamp.

Buy and trade - Charles J. Frase, 1015 Noelton Ln., Nashville, Tennessee, 37204, wants to buy or to trade for carbide cap lamps. He has the following available: a tin candle lantern with a blown glass lens; a nickel-plated brass mine surveying instrument; an alcohol heat lamp; a nickel pinch-waist BALDWIN inspector's lamp with two reflectors; a double-hook GUY'S DROPPER; and a Liberty feed JUSTRITE No. 95 lamp.

Lu-Mi-Num - Butch Jacobson, Box 1048, Osburn, Idaho, 83849, has a Lu-Mi-Num top. He needs a water cap, a water control valve, an aluminum reflector and braces, a bottom, and the lug clamps, all to fit the top.

Traders - Mike Puhl, 3648 S. Maplewood, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74135, (918) 664-8060 (new address), has sent in a traders list including the following: Defender, Lu-Mi-Num, Wolf, X-Ray, Baby Wolf safety lamp, Sholder candlestick, etc.





Trade Mark - The trade mark shown at the left has puzzled oil wick lamp collectors for many years as it has been found on several lamps and never has been identified. Ken Allen, P. O. Box 954, Valrico, Florida, 33594, has written that it appears on the cap of a carbide container in his collection. He notes that the two vertical lines could be part of an 'H'. Theorizing that the company made carbide lamps as well as a carbide can, perhaps the trade mark could be for the Charles Hoppe Co. of Cincinnati. Ken's carbide can is 5-3/4" tall, 3-3/8" across the base and the mouth is 1-5/8". Does anyone have any comments?

Ken also says that he has a brass Brite Lite without a reflector for trade.

Safety Lamp Part - Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ewing, 26 River Hill Road, Louisville, Kentucky, 40207, have written that they need a 1-5/8" diameter gauze screen cap for a Clanny safety lamp. These are hard to find, but sometimes someone has a spare among their parts. Correspond with the Louisville address for the Ewings.

Sunshine Oil - Herb Dick, 67 Third Street, Woodland, California, 95695, writes that he is very much in need of a sunshine oil tin (Miner's Sunshine Oil) about 10" tall x 7" wide; they held the oil; about two quarts; was yellow or red colors on the tins. Herb adds that he is most interested in oil lamps at this stage of his collecting and would like to obtain some Husson stick lamps.



Herb also sketched the item at the left which he has picked up. It is heavy gauge tin, soldered with a lap seam at the back. It is 1-1/2" in diameter x 2" tall. It has WSDL stamped on the front and on the lid. What is it?

Pastage Stamp - Larry O. Blair, 192 Sequoia Dr., N. E., Marietta, Georgia, 30060, has sent a newspaper photo of the \$1.00 U. S. postage stamp with the rushlight candleholder format. Copies of the stamp have turned up with the candle's yellow flame and orange glow a half-inch from where they belong. It is the first U. S. invert (erroneous printing) in 23 years and has set off a search for more of the stamps which have a very high collector's price.

Justrite Trade - Mike Randolph, Rt. 3, Box 327, Dawson Springs, Kentucky, 42408, has an early Justrite cap lamp with the integral reflector, no striker, screw type water feed with the raking wire missing, extra push-on windshield reflector, extra bottom and lid, all nickel-plated 95%, in the original wood box with a sliding lid and a picture of the lamp on the side of the box . . . all for trade. He wants a Japanese Samurai sword or dagger for trade.

Another Justrite - John Baz-Dresch, 912 Highland Drive, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801, needs a reflector brace for a Justrite ACME 8-hour hand lamp. Some of these must be in those Justrite parts collections we have always heard about. Write John about a trade.

Many Trades - Len Gaska, 1688 E. Carson St., Pasadena, California, 91106, offers the following list of trade items:

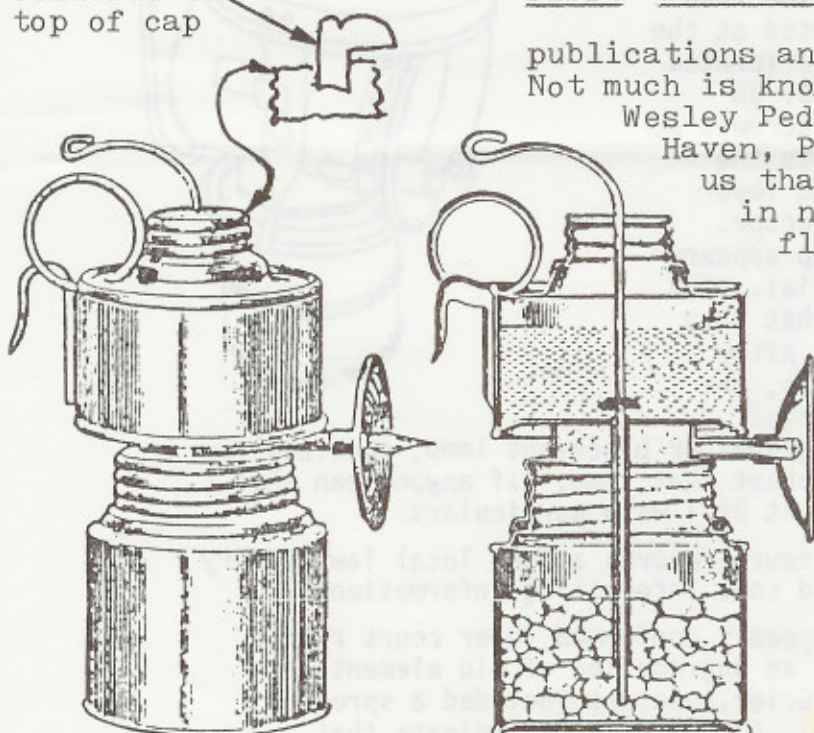
The following items are for trade only. I specialize in Justrite items, but will consider all offers. I am particularly interested in an Anaconda Special, and a Justrite #100 small hand lamp. I am also interested in certain Justrite vertical styles, X-Rays, and other lamps made by Justrite. Parts, catalogs, and parts boxes are also welcome.

1. Wolf Safety. Aluminum bottom with brass tag. MSA brass tag on top. Magnetic lock. Complete and in very good condition.
2. Unmarked safety. Complete and in good condition. Painted black.

3. Tin Frostburg oil lamp. Slight dent on spout. Light rust. Good condition.
4. Tin Anton oil lamp. Very slight rust. Very good condition.
5. Tin Dunlaps oil lamp. Light rust. Good condition.
6. Tin and brass Crown oil lamp. Dented. Fair condition.
7. Tin Hardscog oil lamp. Excellent condition.
8. Tin and brass Highland (?) oil lamp. Excellent condition.
9. Tin oil lamp with domed lid. Marked "PATENT APPLIED FOR" on side. Excellent condition.
10. Tin "Star" Anton oil lamp. Appears to be mint.
11. Tin "Star" Beall Bros. oil lamp. Excellent condition.
12. Justrite Arizona Special hand lamp. Complete and in good condition.
13. Lu Mi Num cap lamp. Complete and in very good condition.
14. Brass Wolf cap lamp. Complete and in good condition.
15. Np Wolf cap lamp. Complete and in mint condition.
16. Sun Ray cap lamp. Complete and in very good condition. Cast aluminum reflector (may not be original).
17. Guysdropper Tall Boy. Very good condition.
18. ITP Np supervisors lamp. Good condition.
19. Fisma "spout" carbide hand lamp. Excellent condition.
20. Unmarked "spout" carbide hand lamp. Reflector missing, but in good condition. Might be an early Dewar.
21. Dew R Lite brass hand lamp. Very good condition.
22. Nathan hand lamp. Missing reflector. Fair condition. Unusual and very rare.
23. Dewar steel hand lamp with "spout" burner and brass plate on side. Very good condition.
24. Dewar steel hand lamp with "spout" burner and water umbrella. Unfired with minor rust.
25. Russell candlestick. Good condition.
26. Several blacksmith candlesticks. Nothing special.
27. Justrite and ITP parts. What do you need?

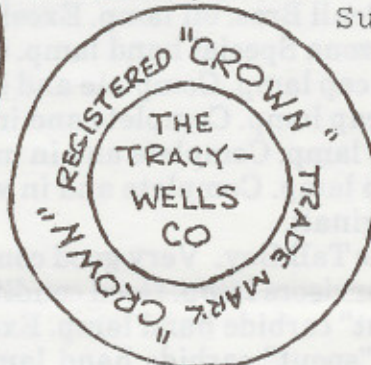
I also have many uncommon varieties of Justrites, Auto-Lites, and Guysdroppers. If you are looking for a particular type, let me know.

Soldered to top of cap



First Baldwin? - The drawings at the left have appeared in many very old publications and in the Spring, 1979, Lamp Post. Not much is known about the lamp. Now Mr. G. Wesley Pedlow, Jr., 30 Hemlock Drive, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, 17745, was informed us that he has just obtained this lamp in never-fired condition. The reflector is missing. It is unmarked. The dimensions are 3" in diameter x 6-1/2" tall (to the top of the water cap). It is a mixture of galvanized tin body and brass fittings with no corrosion or any rust and only slight discoloration of the zinc and brass. We think that this is a major find. Wes wonders where this lamp has been hiding for 80 + years. Just about the time we think we have seen all of the lamps to be collected up, one like this turns up. Great Hobby!

Crown Lamps - Tony Moon, 214 Via Mantilla, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, (temporary address), has several questions about the CROWN oil wick cap lamps . . . including . . . Who owned the Crown trade mark? How many variations are there? What did the different variations mean? Where was the profit margin? Tony enclosed many sketches (below) of the CROWN trade marks on his lamps. The brands include: 2 C. Georges; M & O; F. Beiter; Tracy Wells; Punxsutawney Hardware; Cambria Central



Supply; Logan-Gregg; and the May 26, 1908 patent. Let Tony know what else you have in your collection or might know of.

REG'D U.S.
TRADE
"CROWN"
MARK
PAT OFFICE

Correspondent - Bill Spence, 2381 Homewood Drive, San Jose, California 95128, sends the drawing

at right of a recently acquired Justrite Western Special modified with a black-out hood. The hood pivots at the sides of the water tank to swing down and cover the entire reflector face. Note that there are 2 reflectors, riveted at the center, with the rearward of the two perforated around the rim. The hood is composed of an outer brass dome perforated as shown, screwed at the center to an inner steel dome. Note the simple catch mechanism holding the hood lever and the rest stop just behind the reflector. Except for these modifications the lamp appears to be a stock early-model Western Special. The nature of the modifications suggests that they had to have been done at the factory. After consulting with several other collectors, the most plausible explanation for the changes seems to be that it was intended as a signal or black-out lamp, possibly for use in Europe where WWI was raging at about that time. If anyone can shed more light on this strange lamp, contact Bill with particulars.



Bill also recently researched federal court records at the local law library and uncovered several cases which yield some interesting information:

Anton vs. Grier Bros (1911) Court of Appeals confirmed lower court ruling that Anton patent 756,151 is void as an aggregation of old elements and dismissed infringement suit against Grier. Patent included a spreader and reinforcing plate on a wick lamp. (Other sources indicate that

Anton also sued Grier to stop infringement of the STAR trademark, but Bill has not found confirmation of that yet.)

Bleser vs. Baldwin (1912) Court of Appeals upheld lower court ruling that lamps made by Jacob Bleser of Springfield, Illinois per his patent #949,349 infringed claim #1 of Baldwin patent #656,874 (8-28-00). Granted injunction and accounting for profits. This decision probably helped drive Bleser out of the lamp business. Interestingly the courts did not uphold Baldwin's claim of infringement with respect to claims 2,3,4,5,6 and 10 of the same patent or with respect to any part of patent #821,580 (5-22-06). The decision prompted Baldwin to rewrite the latter patent and apply for a re-issue which was granted by the Patent Office (#13,542 3-11-13). For those of you not familiar with Bleser, Paul Kouts has previously noted in his study of Springfield lamps that Bleser advertised in the city directory as a lamp manufacturer in the years 1912 and 1914. Has anyone ever seen a Bleser lamp?

Baldwin/John Simmons vs. Grier Bros. (1913-1922) A series of cases beginning in district court and culminating in a 1922 Supreme Court ruling. The case confirms that the Baldwin-look-alike Grier lamps in some collections (ref. Lamp Post, Fall '85) were rip-offs of the Baldwin design made by Grier Bros in 1913. Grier not only made the lamps confusingly similar to the Baldwin pinchwaists but packaged them in similar pasteboard boxes with similar spare bottom and tip cleaner and with identical instructions in the same 5 languages. Baldwin sued for patent infringement and unfair competition. The court granted an immediate injunction with respect to the unfair competition which was upheld at all levels of appeal. The charge of infringing patent #13,542 (3-11-13) was agreed to by the district court, reversed by the Court of Appeals and finally upheld again by the Supreme Court. Obviously Grier stopped making their pinchwaist lamp fairly early as a result of the injunction, but it was only after the Supreme Court ruling in Feb 1922 that it was finally certain that they had to cough up the profits from sales of that lamp to Baldwin/Simmons. Already strapped financially by construction of a new factory in 1921, the accounting for profits may have been the straw that broke the camel's back. (Grier ceased making lamps by the end of 1924.) Facts in the case also indicate that the Baldwin pinchwaist first hit the market in January 1906 and by the end of 1913 had sold over 1 million copies. The case refers to Simmons as the "sole licensee" of the 1913 Baldwin patent.

Baldwin/John Simmons vs. Abercrombie & Fitch/Justrite (1915) Court enjoined A&F from selling and Justrite from making lamps which court held to infringe Baldwin patent #13,542. It is not clear from the decisions which lamp is in question, but it looks to Bill like the Justrite #88,99 original wire feed lamps which disappeared from Justrite catalog #2 when issued in 1915. Most interestingly the case describes the relationship between Baldwin and Simmons in the 1908-1913 period. The decision states "that in 1908 an arrangement was made between (Simmons) and Baldwin whereby the former manufactured the lamps while both parties sold them; that in 1911 a new contract was made, under which (Simmons) acquired the exclusive right to manufacture and sell the lamps." If the 1911 "contract" was a buy-out, it is likely that it would have contained a non-competition clause which could explain Baldwin's inactivity from 1911 until 1913 when he began development of the Zar lamp.

Guy vs. Stein (1916) An interesting case because it contains much factual data about lamps in Springfield and because it invalidated the famous Guy Dropper patent #1,097,716 (5-26-14). The patent was held unenforceable because the court determined that Frank Guy had been selling the dropper mechanism in his own lamps or installed in other lamps for at least 2 years prior to applying for the patent; hence it was in the public domain. This was probably an important decision in opening up the lamp business to other competitors, since most of the water valve mechanisms used through later years would have come within the description of the Guy patent. Facts

indicate that Guy developed the dropper in 1906 or 1907 and by 1908 was installing droppers in Bleser lamps or lamps made by him from components of the Bleser lamp and/or another lamp called the barrel (S.E. Simmons?). He would also install the mechanism in lamps brought to him for a 50¢ fee. Bleser apparently was making carbide lamps as early as 1908, but the implication is that distribution was strictly limited to the Springfield area. Martin Moore (also noted in Paul Kouts' study) also was in the business of repairing and modifying lamps using his own dropper mechanism with a conical valve for 50¢. Testimony indicated that Moore made "a lamp" embodying his valve design but doesn't indicate whether he ever produced it in quantity. Meyer Stein (dba M. Stein Manufacturing Company), the defendant in the case, was apparently also repairing lamps with Guy-style droppers as early as 1908. The court record isn't clear, but the timing suggests that the suit was brought to stop production of The Springfield Lamp by Stein rather than his repair business, since the valve in the Springfield would have infringed the Guy patent. George Shanklin was a co-plaintiff in the case since his Guy's Dropper lamp featured the Guy patent, but there is no indication that he was involved with Guy's earlier repair or sales activities. Obviously there is much to learn about the early days of carbide lamps in Springfield.

Due to the number of pages involved, Bill is not encouraging requests for copies of these cases but will be happy to discuss them with any callers.

Bill is also looking for parts to complete a nickel-plated Defender top.

Can anyone help?

Masthead - For those who missed the masthead number and date on some copies of our last issue and cared enough to inquire, you can xerox the bottom edge of this page and paste it on your copy of the Spring, 1986, issue. Sorry some got by; good luck.

Postage and expenses - Due to the kindness of many of our readers, we were able to cover almost all of the costs for the last issue of the Lamp Post. Again our thanks go out to all who have sent stamps and funds to make the past issues of this newsletter possible including (since last issue) Colorado, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Germany, Missouri, New Hampshire, Virginia, Alabama, California, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington, Nevada, Michigan, Arizona, West Virginia, France, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, and New Jersey. Realism and lack of employment again compels your editor to report the following costs for approximately 350 copies and mailing for this current issue: Postage = \$77.00; Envelopes = \$7.15; Printing and paper = \$79.50; and Stapeling = \$1.75. Thank you all for covering the last issue.

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