

# THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

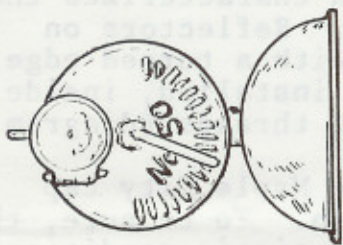


- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

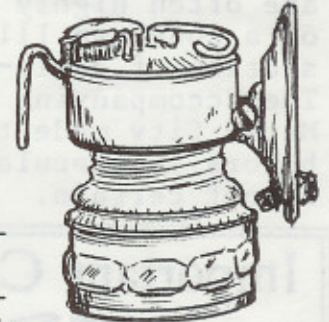
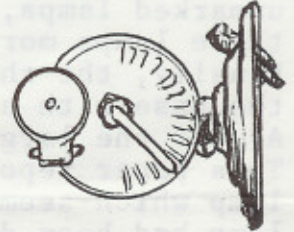
Vol. IV, No. 10

Spring, 1988

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



Carbide cap lamps - Len Gaska, 1688 E. Carson St., Pasadena, California, 91106, has reported two different carbide cap lamps for your registry lists. Shown at the left is a brass cap lamp marked NO 50 on the top. The upper part looks like a Guy's Dropper. The water valve looks like an Arrow. The water door has a single large hole underneath. The base looks like an Arrow or an early Auto-Lite. It could have been made by a small operator who bought component parts from other manufacturers. Len has one source who believes that this lamp was manufactured by the United Lamp Co. of Springfield, Illinois. The unmarked brass lamp at the right has a plain top identical to early set-screw reflector Guy's Droppers; it possibly got by unstamped. The bottom is a cannibalized part from a later Auto-Lite brass lamp.



More mystery mark - Tony Moon, 2763 East Willow Wick Drive, Sandy, Utah, 48092, has taken the mystery mark seen on oil wick cap lamps and fuel containers apart as shown here. He comes up with C F J Co. Or any of the other possible combinations: FCJ, JCF, FJC, JFC, and CFJ.

Does this spark anything from other readers? And what of the patent dates March 30, 58 and Ext'd. March 30, 72?

Lamps for trade - Ralph Blankenbecler, Rt. 3, Box 354, Coeburn, Virginia, 703-395-2229, has the following for trade: a glass case, 2 brass miner's oil wick cap lamps, 3 nickel oil wick cap lamps, shooting paper, miner's surveyor lamp, squib box, carbide holder, miner's canteen (carbide, matches, and water), brass miner's candle holder, nickel miner's candleholder, canvas Hansen carbide bottle, Shanko carbide tin, 3 nickel miner's oil flasks (2 plain, 1 Charles Hall), pocket carbide flask, tin Justrite carbide flask, brass Auto-Lite carbide flask, brakeman whistle, mine car check, I.D. badge, 3 paper script. Ralph needs the following carbide cap lamps: Abercrombie & Fitch, American, Funk Bros. Mfg. Co., Ni-Ba, Oshkosh Metal Products, S & S, Schneider's lamp, the Buddy, What Cheer, and A. L. Klun.

Safety Lamp - Robert H. Fox, Box 343, Coulterville, Illinois, 62237, needs a red Koehler safety lamp glass. Who can help?

New address - Jeff Carnes, P. O. Box 214; Dellroy, Ohio, 44620.

Unmarked carbide cap lamps - by Dave Thorpe and Bill Spence, continued from the article in the Fall, 1987, Lamp Post.

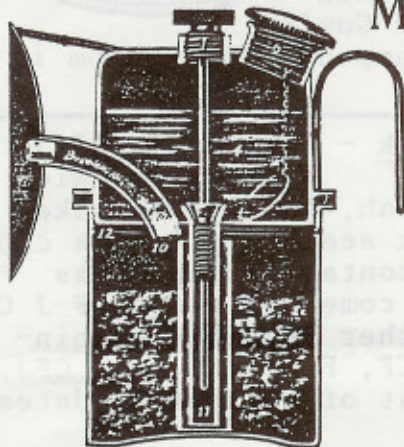
Unmarked loop-hook cap lamps: A Maple City product?

Collectors have long suspected the "loop-hook" lamps to have been produced by the Maple City Manufacturing Company due to their overall dimensional similarity. Indeed, both lamps are cylindrical and utilize a gasket eccentric to the lamp body.

Still, differences between these unmarked lamps (referred to as "Anthracite" by some) and the "classic" name-stamped Maple City have made others question this hypothesis. The Maple City had roll-stamped screw threads externally visible in the base, a top-braced rolled edge reflector, and a hook which pierces the water tank. In contrast, the loop-hook, which characterizes the unmarked lamps, is externally soldered to the water tank. Reflectors on these lamps more closely resemble the flat Baldwin type with a turned edge. Finally, the threads are not visible externally, but are installed, inside the base with a separate piece either as fine machine cut threads (diagram A), or the larger roll-stamped type (diagrams B and C).

This paper reports the existence of a very early unmarked Maple City cap lamp which seems to bridge these dissimilarities in design. To be sure, the lamp had been depicted in 1911 advertisements, but such artistic renditions are often highly inaccurate. First found by Mark Ballard in the back room of a southern Illinois hardware store (actually concealed inside an unused section of drain-pipe), the lamp conforms exactly to its advertised rendition. The accompanying drawings detail the similarities and differences. Whether Maple City made these various lamps for different market areas or distributors is speculative, but the probability of a common manufacturer is now almost certain.

## Important Constructional Points in Maple City Mine Lamps



The body is made from brass drawn seamless in two parts, connected by means of a perfect thread and a rubber gasket of special compound, which eliminates leakage.

The water regulator is accurate and permits only enough water to run into the carbide to produce sufficient gas to give a clear, bright light that penetrates every corner.

The burner, reflector, and hook are securely fastened to the body.

The gas conductor is provided with cotton so as to prevent carbide dust reaching the burner.

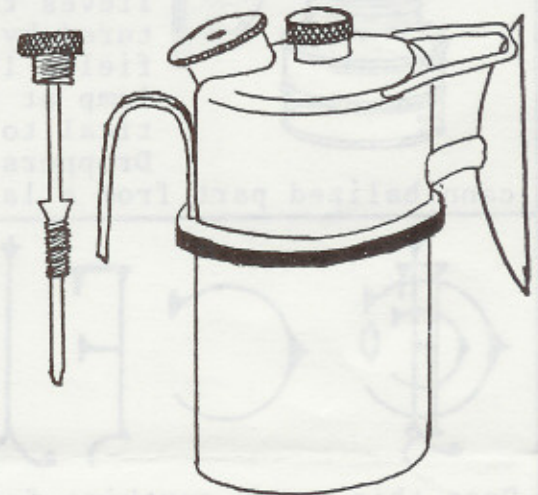
We don't want superintendents to simply take our word for it, but we want them to test our lamps themselves, because they will then be convinced. A sample lamp will be sent to any mine superintendent writing for it on his company's letterhead.

**The Maple City Manufacturing Company**

P. O. Box 42, Moanmouth, Illinois

Mines and Minerals, November, 1911

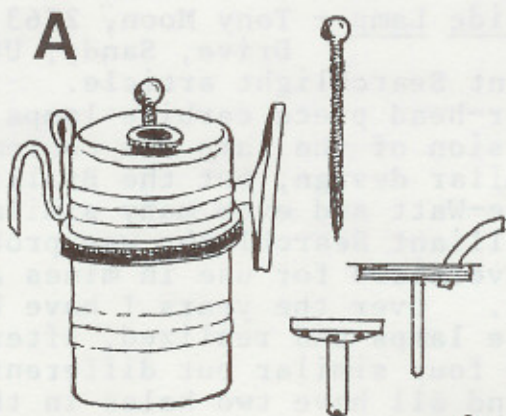
Editorial note - Notice the careful use of the term "Anthracite lamp". There is no Anthracite lamp. "Anthracite" was a term once used in correspondence by the late George Bayles to describe a generic illustration of a carbide cap lamp in a 1910 textbook which simply said that this was a "New type of lamp being used in the anthracite regions." We have done too much over the years with the word "Anthracite." It was a personal thing with Mr. Bayles. We would all like to see it forgotten.



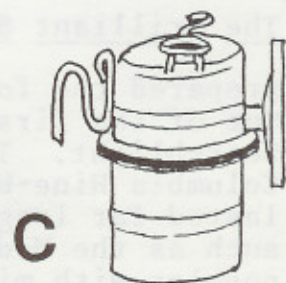
## 1911 UNMARKED MAPLE CITY LAMP

*Dave Thorpe collection: First advertised in 1911 by Maple City, this was the predecessor to the more familiar and more sturdily built stamped version which was advertised in 1912. Its similarity to the "loop-hook" lamps is striking. Unique features include tinned steel reflector with sharp unrolled edge, fine machine-cut threads, screw-in waterdoor with retaining chain, and externally mounted square-stock hook.*

Mike Puhl collection: this lamp, like the early Maple City, features fine machined threads, one-piece curved gas tube, and an identical concave bottom stamping. Threads, however do not fit the Maple City. The long screw waterfeed is flat-filed on the side in its distal aspect to allow flow when unscrewed. Reflector is tipped slightly forward, waterdoor is concave screw-in with knurled edges and internal retaining wire.

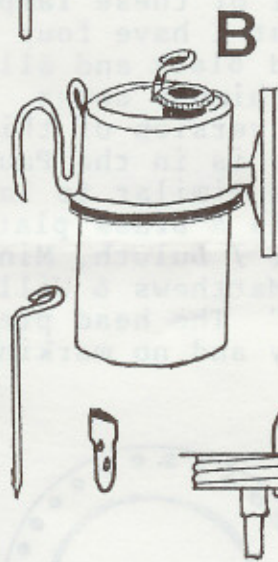


UNMARKED  
LOOP-HOOK  
LAMPS



The single-ring model (C), has a hinged waterdoor. Its bottom stamping is the same characteristic concave dome seen on all Maple City lamps.

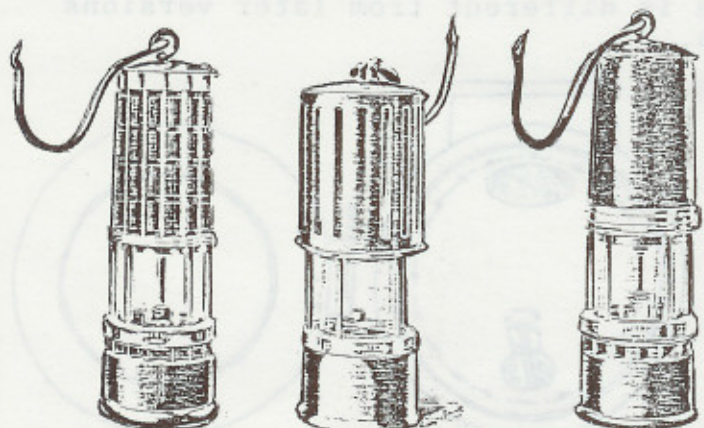
Dave Thorpe collection: These two lamps have identical internal components; a pointed wire water regulator and a two piece gas tube which (in contrast to the Maple City) exits horizontally. The reflector is absolutely vertical. The threads are interchangeable.



The smooth-side model (B) has an inset top stamp, and the knurled waterdoor, while identical to lamp "A", is set slightly more forward. The bottom mark, unlike all the others, is an inset ring.

Also - George Allen, 2610 Skyline Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah, 84108, has also written that he has one of these unmarked lamps without the side rings but with the indented bottom.

David H. Thorpe, (new address), P. O. Box 477, Peoria, Arizona, 85345.  
Bill Spence, 2381 Homewood Dr., San Jose, California, 95128.



Safety Lamps - H. Werner Börkel, Schulstrasse 60, 4100 Duisburg 18, West Germany, would like to acquire the three Wolf safety lamps as illustrated above. He would like to trade or purchase. While the original designs were made in Germany by Frieman & Wolf, there may be some in the U. S. and others may have been manufactured here.

Europe - Herman Berube, St. Eleuthere, Kamourask, Quebec, Canada, G0L 2T0, needs manufacturing addresses for Backbone (Eng.) & Denhaan (Hol.)

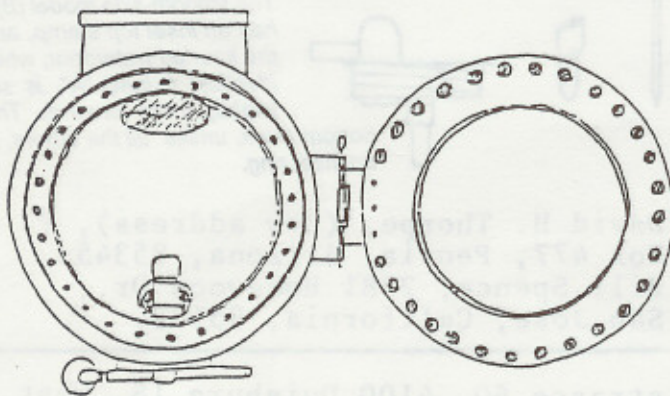


Portugal - Christian Tauziède, 4 rue de la Pinède, 60550 Verneuil-en-Halatte, France, has sent this illustration of a lamp he recently found in northern Portugal. Referring to the Spring, 1980, (Vol. III, No. 4) issue of the Lamp Post, which described typical Portugese lamps, he says that this one is quite different. It is made of iron with a brass burner. Diameter is 3.54 in. (90mm), height is 5.31 in. (135 mm) and 12.59 (320 mm) over the bail. The "21" capacity is stamped on the burner tip and the triangular trade mark is not totally legible.

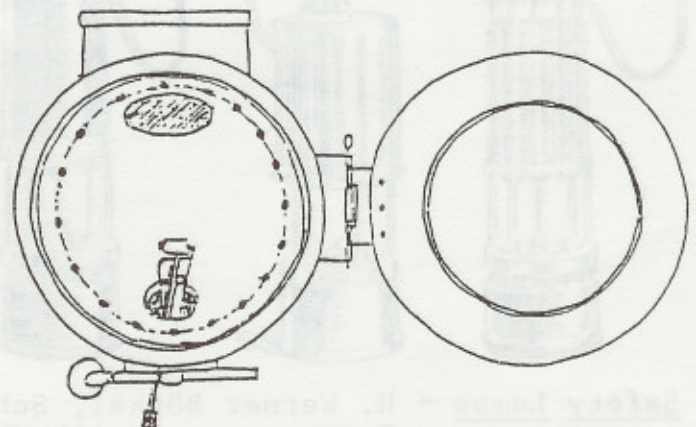
The Brilliant Searchlight Carbide Lamp - Tony Moon, 2763 East Willow Wick Drive, Sandy, Utah, 84092, has prepared the following Brilliant Searchlight article.

One of the first belt generator-head piece carbide lamps was the Brilliant Searchlight. The earliest version of the lamp was contemporary with the Columbia Hine-Watt lamp of similar design, but the Brilliant Searchlight lasted far longer than the Hine-Watt and even many similar Justrite lamps such as the Model 44. The Brilliant Searchlight was probably never very popular with miners but was advertised for use in mines as well as for hunting, fishing, camping, etc. Over the years I have been fortunate enough to find several of these lamps and realized, after unpacking my entire collection, that I have four similar but different versions of the lamp. All are painted black and all have two holes in the top of the chimney for the optional chimney cover.

Type I. The earliest version of this lamp that I am aware of but have been unable to examine is in the Paul Johnson collection. The generator portion of the lamp is similar to later styles but the markings are different. On one side is a brass plate marked as follows: "Brilliant Searchlight / R. C. Kruschke / Duluth, Minn. / Pat. Dec. 21, 1902" and on the base is the marking "Matthews & Willard Mfg Co, Waterbury, Conn. Pat Pending, Made In U. S. A." The head piece is different from later versions having a round chimney and no markings.



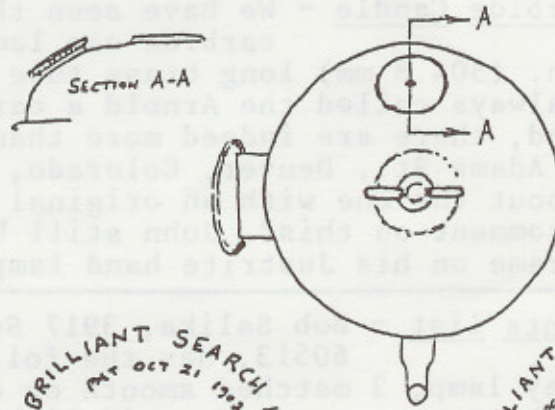
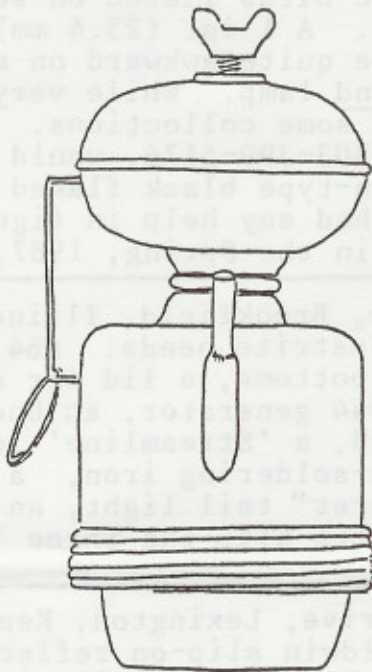
1911 Model Head Piece



1919 Model Head Piece

Type IIa. The generator is shown in the figure and, with the exception of the side bracket which is iron, the generator is made of brass. Both generators of this type in my collection have headpieces marked "1911 Model" on the back of the chimney. Both headpieces are similar with a smaller inner glass than later versions; this glass is surrounded by a ring with 26 holes. The inner reflector has 20 holes and the headpiece shell has 16 holes behind the reflector and 27 holes in the outer door. One headpiece is mostly brass and the other is brass except for the outer door, chimney, and leather head strap bracket which are iron. One of the headpieces has the optional large solid front door and thus has no eye lens with the smaller front door. This optional larger solid door was available from the 1911 model onward until production of the lamps ceased.

Type IIb. The generator is exactly the same as in the type IIa except for the base marking. The headpiece is marked "1919 Model" on the back of the chimney. The inner glass has no surrounding ring of holes, no holes in the outer door, and the number of holes in the headpiece shell is reduced to 10. The reflector has 18 holes. The headpiece is iron except for the burner base and the burner holder portion of the shell. The particular headpiece in my collection has a factory-made striker of flimsy design. This was almost certainly an option which was not offered on subsequent models of the headpiece.

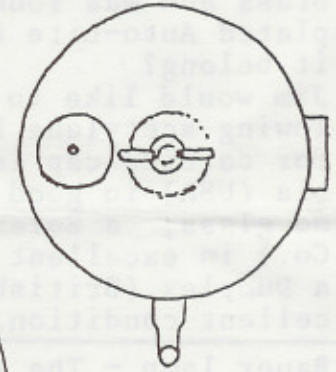
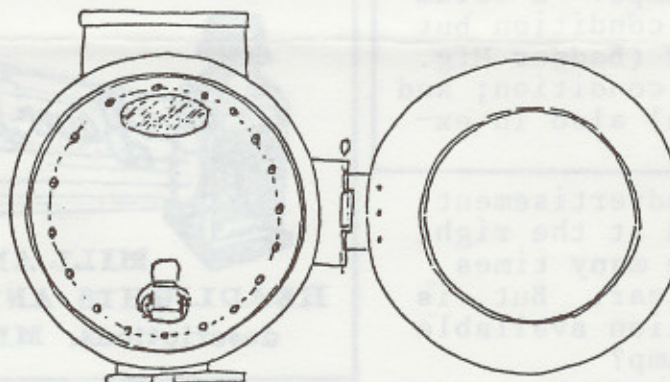
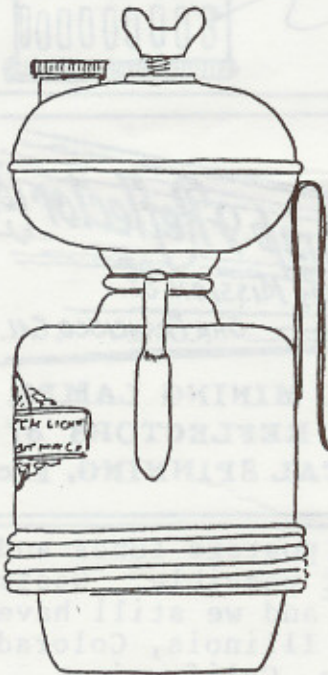


Type IIa

Type IIb

Type II Generator

Type III. This is the last and, in my experience, the most common version of the lamp found. The generator belt loop and water door have changed as shown in the figure and the marking reflects a Chicago address. The generator is made entirely of brass, painted black as are earlier versions, but with the addition of a decal on the side of the carbide container. The headpiece is marked "Brilliant Searchlight" and is similar to the 1919 model except that the small acetylene valve has been deleted from the burner inlet tube. I have found this version of the lamp in mint condition complete with instructions and rubber hose. The hose is red, uncovered and unreinforced rubber about 45 inches (1.143 M) long. The lamp was sold in a nicely made wooden box with English and Spanish lettering on the sides.



Type III Generator and Headpiece

Arnold's Carbide Candle - We have seen these rare birds listed on several carbide cap lamp lists. A 1 in. (25.4 mm) diameter x 12 in. (304.8 mm) long brass tube would be quite awkward on a cap. So we have always called the Arnold a carbide hand lamp. While very few have survived, there are indeed more than one in some collections. John Coons, 1127 Adams St., Denver, Colorado, 80206, 303-399-5176, would like to know more about the one with an original baked-on-type black flaked finish. Can anyone comment on this? John still has not had any help in figuring out the steel frame on his Justrite hand lamp shown in the Spring, 1987, issue.

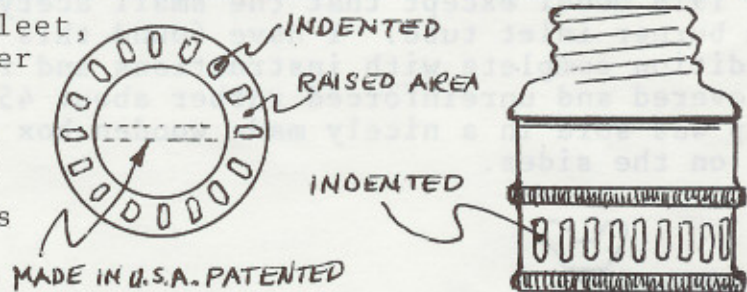
Justrite wants list - Bob Salika, 3917 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Illinois, 60513, has the following Justrite needs: #64 felt holder, X-Ray lamp, 3 matched smooth or dimpled bottoms, a lid for an early spare bottom, a gas and squib lighter, a #44 generator, an Uncle Sam lamp, an Acme lamp, a cap lamp with a spiral feed, a 'Streamline' lamp with a narrow spade, a water-proof match box, a torch-soldering iron, a lithographed #76 carbide tin, #240 or #241 "Safety First" tail light, an aluminum burner tip, a non-Justrite Victor, a metal parts kit, the three 'half-shift' lamps with candlesticks.

Sale and trade - Ronald Welch, 3354 Coldstream Drive, Lexington, Kentucky, 40502, needs a nickel-plated Baldwin slip-on reflector and an unfired Justrite bottom for an early Victor. He has the following for sale or trade: 2 unfired Grier Bros. #96 vertical, soldered reflector in mint condition; 1 Grier Bros. box; 6 T. R. Jones 1906 soft caps - new; and the following Justrite catalog-numbered items: 78 Lever feed valve stems, 177 lighter units, 173 lighter springs, 22 tip cleaner, 64 felt holder - early, 64 felt holder - later, 62 felt, 60 gaskets, 28 jewel tips, and 66 lava tips with air holes. Most of these are in the original boxes.

Bottom I D and trade - Jim Van Fleet, 1571 Walker

Ave., Union, N. J., 07083, has sent the bottom drawing at the right for identification. It is brass and was found on a nickel-plated Auto-Lite top. Where does it belong?

Jim would like to trade the following acetylene bicycle lamps for carbide cap lamps: a Columbia (USA) in good condition but no glass; a Solar (Badger Mfg. Co.) in excellent condition; and a Duoplex (British) also in excellent condition.



Bauer lamp - The advertisement shown at the right has been copied so many times that is not too clear. But, is there any information available on this type of lamp?

**Bauer Lamp & Reflector Co.**  
529 MISSION ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

**MILL AND MINING LAMPS,  
HEADLIGHTS AND REFLECTORS of all  
descriptions, METAL SPINNING, Etc.**

Postage - Again, our thanks go to all who have offered postage funds and stamps to make another issue of the Lamp Post possible. Costs are higher for this issue due to the postage increases and we still have to use commercial printing. This issue is indebted to Illinois, Colorado, Utah, Missouri, Oregon, Arkansas, Germany, Ohio, Nevada, California, West Virginia, Michigan, France, Florida, New Jersey, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. Thank you all.

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