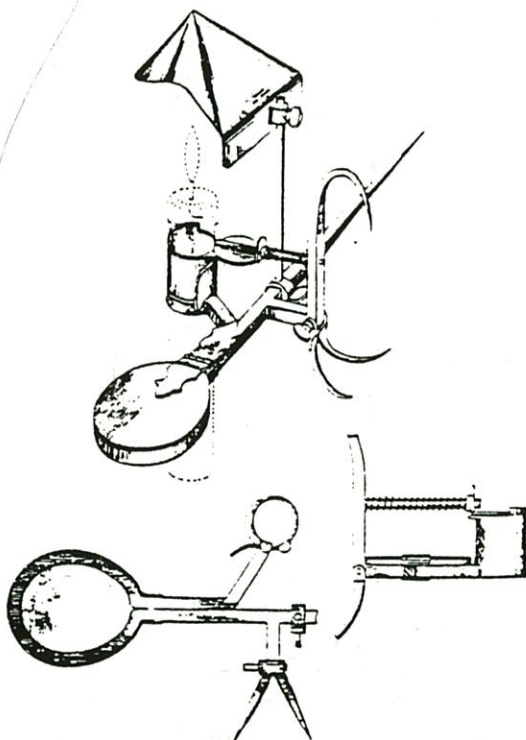


# Mining

## ARTIFACT

## COLLECTOR

Issue Number 1      Fall, 1988





Wonderful  
Success of a  
New Acetylene  
Mine Lamp

↓

### PATHFINDER

Some things leap into favor immediately. Pathfinder is gaining high favor with mining men all over the country. This is what they say:

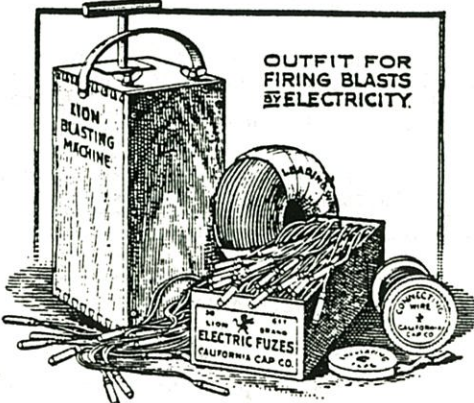
Your Style A mine lamp is superior to any acetylene lamp that I have used. There are several makes used in this mine—yours is the peer of them all.  
J. E. Burke, Mine Foreman

I believe you have the best acetylene mine lamp on the market. It has the best water feed I ever saw.  
W. E. Holland, Hocking, Iowa

It pays to have a good lamp, and particularly the one that is recognized as the best. The price is no higher than any other—\$1.00 per lamp, with extra carbide container.  
We will send a sample lamp to any manager or superintendent, who writes on Company letterhead.

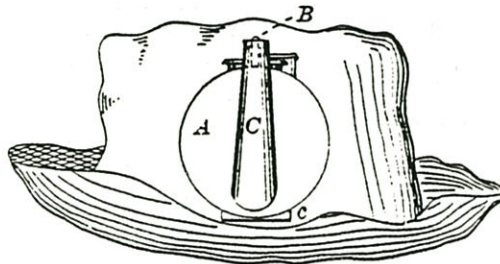
## HUGHES BROS.

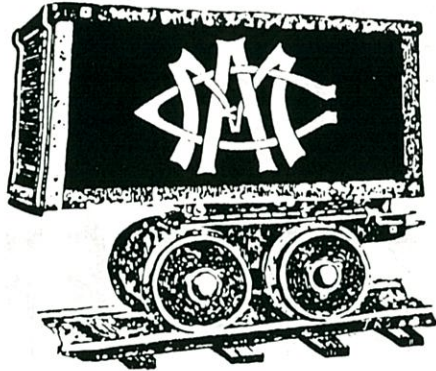
For 40 Years Manufacturers of Safety Lamps  
Scranton, Pa.



**OUTFIT FOR  
FIRING BLASTS  
BY ELECTRICITY.**

49477—W. McClave—Miners' Lamp.





## MINING ARTIFACT COLLECTOR

### On the Cover

Illustrations representing the four main collecting areas that MAC will cover: candlesticks, carbides, blasting items, and oil lamps.

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- Page 20 - Blasting Item Section: Dating Dynamite Boxes, Climax Fuse, Two New Blasting Cap Tins, Cap Carriers, and Cap Crimpers.
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- Page 31 - Sale/Trade Ads

### Subscriptions

The MAC newsletter is published four times a year in the months of January, April, July, and October. The cost is \$12 for domestic delivery and \$16 a year for overseas delivery. We will not accept subscriptions for more than one year (4 issues) at a time. A subscription form appears on the back cover.

Mail subscription requests to: Ted Bobrink  
12851 Kendall Way  
Redlands, CA 92372

Back issues are available for \$4 domestic delivery and \$5 overseas delivery.

### Article Submission and Ad Policies

Articles and other submissions should be sent to the appropriate editor. Drawings and other artwork should be of high quality and ready for reproduction. Although we cannot guarantee publication of any submission, we will make every effort to do so. Articles should be submitted early and as a general rule, should reach the editor at least six weeks before the publication date.

Ads for trade items are free and are limited to 80 words. Continuing ads must be resubmitted for every issue.

Ads with items for sale are charged at \$5 for up to 40 words for subscribers and \$10 for non-subscribers. Four consecutive ads are charged at \$15 for subscribers and \$30 for non-subscribers. Business cards may be submitted for publication at the same rate as for sale ads. Other types of advertising are available upon inquiry. All advertising artwork must be ready for publication. The deadline for all ads is three weeks before the publication date.

We reserve the right to refuse ads deemed objectionable or otherwise inappropriate. We are not responsible for the accuracy of any ad or the honesty of any advertiser. Please report any problems to the editor.

### Addresses

Editor/Carbide Editor: Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 405-0647

Treasurer/Candlestick Editor: Ted Bobrink, 12851 Kendall Way, Redlands, CA 92373 (714) 794-5518

Oil and Safety Lamp Editor: Jim Steinberg, 2425 Cooley Place, Pasadena, CA 91104 (818) 791-3795

Blasting Item Editor: Mark Bohannon, Star Rt. Box 107E, Oro Grande, CA 92368 (619) 246-4418

All other articles that do not fall into the four main categories should be sent to Len Gaska.

## Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the MAC (Mining Artifact Collector) newsletter. The nature of mine artifact collecting has changed drastically in the last several years. Many new collectors have joined the fray and most of the old-timers have expanded their interests to include more than just carbides, candlesticks, and oil lamps. Common to both novice and maven is the insatiable demand for knowledge about the items they collect. Who made this lamp? What is the right reflector for a Gem carbide? How can I tell a reproduction candlestick from the real article? Our purpose is to help you (and ourselves) answer these questions by collecting, publishing, and sharing information. To that end, the entire collecting community must become a part of our publishing team.

It is you, dear reader, that probably has a piece of information in your files or in your head that no one else has. And since that information is much more fragile than the artifacts themselves, it should be shared lest it be lost forever. If you have an interesting article you would like to write, please do so. We can almost guarantee that it will be published in a timely manner. And even if you only have an interesting bit of information or an informative ad about mining artifacts, please share that with us and the rest of the collecting community. It is only your continued interest and support that will keep us going.

Who are we? We are Ted Bobrink, Mark Bohannon, Len Gaska, and Jim Steinberg. We have over 40 man-years of experience in mine artifact collecting, but our main qualification might just be our obsessive interest in the hobby. Many of the old-timers out there probably know and have written to or talked to at least one of us. And in the next few years, we hope to get to know many more of you. But first, let us tell you a little about ourselves.

Ted Bobrink is the candlestick co-editor and has collected the longest of the four of us, over fifteen years. Although he is a bit of an authority on virtually everything mining, he is best known as a candlestick expert. He was co-author with Wendall Wilson of the book "Miner's Candlesticks."

Mark Bohannon is the blasting item co-editor. Although he collects just about everything mining, he specializes heavily in blasting artifacts and ephemera. He is probably best qualified for this particular area of expertise as he has worked as a "powder monkey" in the past.

Len Gaska is the primary editor and co-editor of the carbide section. He has collected for about 10 years and specialized in carbides from the beginning. He has acquired some expertise as a Justrite specialist and his collection contains over 130 varieties of Justrite lamps.

Jim Steinberg will be the co-editor of the oil and safety lamp section. He is somewhat of a generalist, but does have particular interests in oil lamps and assaying items. Jim is also very interested in the technical details of all aspects of mining and mining history. He will be favoring us with articles on those subjects.

Now that the preliminaries are out of the way, let us turn to the specifics. Each issue of the MAC newsletter will be divided into 8 sections; an editor's page, carbide lamps, candlesticks, oil lamps, blasting items, miscellaneous, sale items, and finally, trade items.

The editor's page will contain a variety of material including editorials, announcements, gripes, letters to the editor, and what not. Sale and trade items should be self-explanatory. Trade announcements for subscribers are free and are limited to 80 words. Any ad with at least one item for sale is considered to be a sale ad and is charged at a rate of \$5 per issue for up to 40 words for subscribers. Non-subscribers pay double at \$10 for up to 40 words. A business card is charged at the same rate as for sale ads; \$5/\$10. Ads placed for four consecutive issues will be charged at \$15/\$30 for subscribers and non-subscribers, respectively. All artwork including drawings, business cards, and other items must be ready for reproduction when received.

The other five sections are devoted to articles on mining artifacts and will be self-contained. Articles by subscribers will appear in the appropriate section. Each section is handled by a separate co-editor and the miscellaneous section will contain articles that do not fit into the four main categories. When submitting material for publication, you may send it to the editor or any of the co-editors with assurance that it will reach the appropriate person. Note that putting this newsletter together involves a great deal of work, so get your submissions in early.

And speaking of submissions, a few words about what you may submit and what form it should take. Anything related to mining is appropriate and it may be anything from a few lines of information to full feature articles. Submissions may also include advertisements, interesting letterheads, and other paper items. We do ask that artwork be ready to copy although we do have the capability to size artwork up or down. We would also prefer typewritten copy, but handwritten submissions are fine as long as they are legible. If you do submit drawings, please take the time to do a good job. Alternatively, several good close-up photos of the item will suffice. Because we do not plan to constrain ourselves to a certain number of pages, we will make every effort to publish all submissions in a timely fashion. With the material in our own files and the material we receive from you, dear reader, we hope to publish a lot of new information.

We will publish four times a year in the months of January, April, July, and October. The subscription policy appears below and will also appear with a subscription form on the back cover of every issue.

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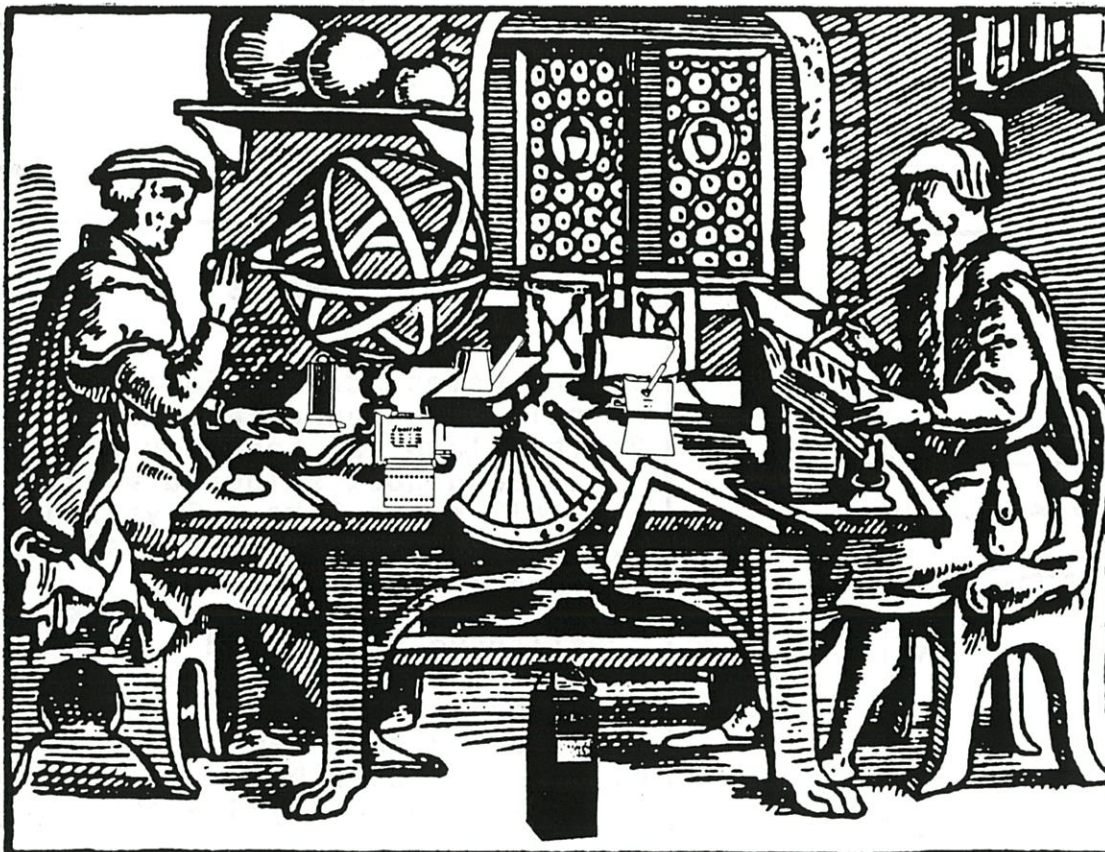
## Editorial

Back in mid-July when this newsletter was not far beyond the germination stage, I happened to "connect" with a dealer/collector of oil and kerosene lamps. We were chatting about the weather and the drought, when suddenly out of the blue, he says: "You know, Len, this collecting business has gone crazy. About the only thing I can find anymore is entire collections and the prices have gone out of sight." He went on to describe auctions where people were paying 3 to 4 times fair market value for kerosene lamps in only fair condition. Good single pieces at reasonable prices were becoming difficult to find at traditional sources like auctions and flea markets. He also described items that cost \$150 ten years ago and were now fetching \$2500 or more.

Sound familiar? When I started collecting in the mid-1970s, common prices were \$10 to \$15 for virtually all carbides. I distinctly remember hemming and hawing about paying \$18 for my first Sun-Ray carbide. What is truly amazing is that flea market prices have not risen all that much in the last ten years. The problem in the collecting community is simply that new material is becoming so hard to find. Even those collectors willing to pay high prices are finding it difficult to obtain good material.

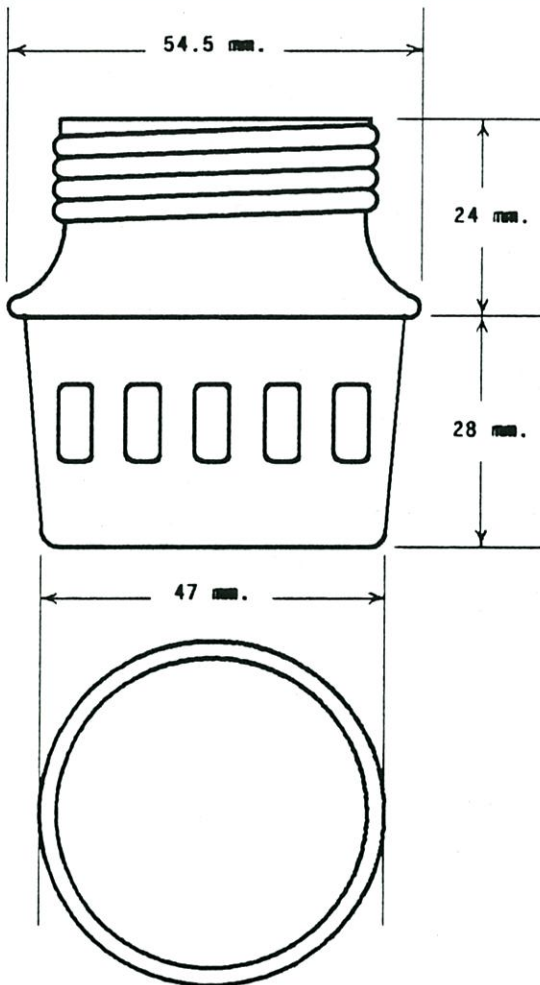
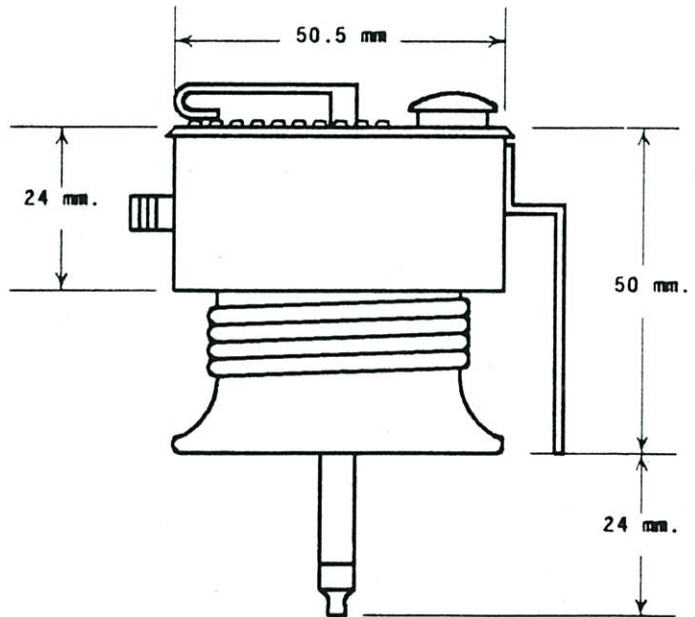
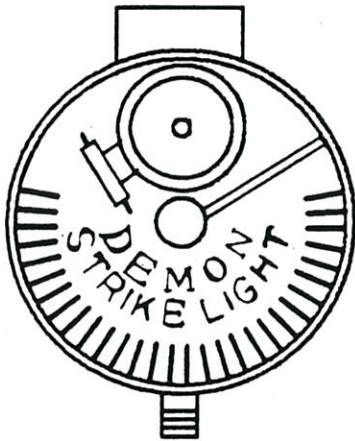
So what is the poor collector to do? Most of us have reacted to the scarcity of material by expanding our interests to include a wider variety of mining items. Many items are still out there that are probably just as interesting as your particular speciality.

Is there anything we can do about the high prices some people are asking? I am afraid not. Because of increasing demand and a decreasing supply, prices are rising to a free market value. With a bit of reflection, we should all realize that current "high" prices are quite reasonable when one considers the scarcity, demand, and the astronomical prices other collectibles are fetching. Good hunting!



Ye olde editors at work on the next issue of MAC

# DEMON STRIKE LIGHT



Reflector Brace



Reflector Nut

## Notes





1. The Demon Strike Light has only been found in brass.
2. This lamp has been found with a round hook soldered with a small plate like a Guysdropper.
3. The water feed is very similar to a Guysdropper.
4. Of the several known lamps, all have been found with 2 to 3 inch brass reflectors.
5. Minor variations in the top stamping have been found
6. The reflector brace is identical to that of a Guysdropper.

*Ben Kachis*

## Demon Strike Light

The Demon Strike Light is yet another carbide cap lamp of unknown manufacture that has been discovered in the past several years. This lamp has been found both in the United States and Australia. Indications are that the Demon Strike Light saw at least moderate use in Australia, but may well have been manufactured in the U.S. Fellow carbide collector Dave Thorpe speculates that the lamp was manufactured by a company in Springfield, Illinois, possibly Shanklin Manufacturing. Dave also believes that the lamp dates from the 1930s.

The Demon Strike Light is strikingly (no pun intended) similar to a six patent date Guysdropper with a wide blade. The relatively minor differences are as follows.

<u>Feature</u>	<u>6 date Guysdropper</u>	<u>Demon Strike Light</u>
Knurled band on tank	Yes	No
Water door		0.5 mm. larger in diameter
No. of click stops	22	29
Flange	Partially crimped	Fully crimped
		
Water dropper		
Taper of carbide chamber		More pronounced
Bottom marked	Yes	No
Width of blade		2 mm. larger
Ridges on blade	Yes	No
		
Blade configuration		

Thus the differences between a six date Guysdropper and a Demon Striker Light are cosmetic. Overall structure, appearance, and function are very similar. Even the water dropper appears to be the basic Guysdropper design. The similarities strongly suggest that the lamp was manufactured by the Shanklin Manufacturing Company (or by Auto-Lite which bought Shanklin in 1932).

**In Reducing Costs the Little Things Count**

We can save you at least  
\$12 a gross with

**The Bullard Special Spiral Feed  
Justrite Cap Lamps**

By making a very large purchase at one time we  
are enabled to make a very attractive price  
on a Special Spiral Feed Lamp

**While They Last**

No. 500 Brass Spiral Feed.  
Lamp Only \$8.75 Doz.

No. 500 Same as above with Curved  
Pocket Carbide Container... \$9.50 Doz.

No. 500A Same as above with Bullard Can-  
dlestick and Curved Pocket Carbide Con-  
tainer Half Shift Lamp.... \$14.00 Doz.



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SPIRAL FEED. Send us a trial order and if they do not  
prove as satisfactory as the ones you are now using,  
we will take them back at full value.

Everything In Acetylene

Everything in Safety

Phone Douglas 1118

San Francisco  
268 Market Street

**E. D. Bullard**

Los Angeles  
130 South Broadway

E. D. Bullard catalog, 1921

The Justrite spiral feed is a unique design in carbide water feeds. It was used on horizontal style cap lamps, and the Uncle Sam, Little Giant, and Copper Queen hand lamps. The long path that the water had to follow supposedly helped assure an even flow. The design did not survive long, however, probably because of clogging problems.

A few examples of the spiral feed cap lamp without water click stops have been found, many of them in California. Speculation: the ad to the left from E. D. Bullard (date unknown), a mining supply house, mentions a "Special Spiral Feed Lamp." Could this have been the model without the water click stops? Another feature of the spiral feed with variations is the water feed lever. It is been found both with and without a small spring that rests in the click stop notches. Without the spring, the click stops were not functional and the water lever can swing freely. We might then surmise that early models without the spring were also made without the click stops. We would, of course, love to hear from other collectors that have acquired this somewhat rare variety of the spiral feed.

Speaking of spiral feeds, the Justrite Little Giant is a somewhat elusive hand lamp dating to about 1920. Its almost twin brother, the Copper Queen is highly desired by lamp collectors, Arizona artifact collectors, and mineral collectors. The Copper Queen differs from the Little Giant only in the stamping on the side of the lamp. Otherwise, they are identical.

The Copper Queen lamp was a special order item from the Justrite Manufacturing Company for the Copper Queen mine in Bisbee, Arizona. The Copper Queen is the only known American miner's lamp that has the same name as a mine. That gives it a special place in mining history.

It's A "LITTLE GIANT" IN STRENGTH

MANUFACTURED BY JUSTRITE MFG CO.

YET--- LIGHT IN WEIGHT BECAUSE IT'S SEAMLESS ALUMINUM

THIS AND OVER 40 OTHER STYLES ...OF... MINER'S CARBIDE LAMPS

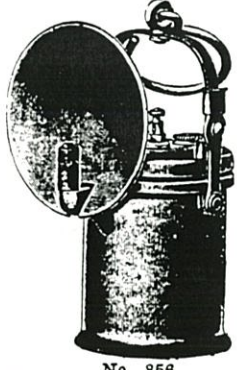
MADE BY JUSTRITE MANUFACTURING CO. 2078 SOUTHPORT CHICAGO, U. S. A.

No. 110  
6 Hours Capacity  
1919 Catalog On Request

Mining & Scientific Press, 03/06/20



Have you ever wondered why one rarely sees a Wolf canister style hand lamp with the original reflector? In fact, I have yet to find one with anything but a homemade reflector. This article from the 02/08/14 issue of the Engineering and Mining World points out the problems with the Wolf. It is too bad that more miners didn't make the suggested modification!



### THE WOLF LAMP

All steel construction, made in two sizes:

Size 2—burning capacity, 7-8 hours  
Each, \$3.60

Size 3—burning capacity, 5-6 hours  
Each \$3.85

No. 856

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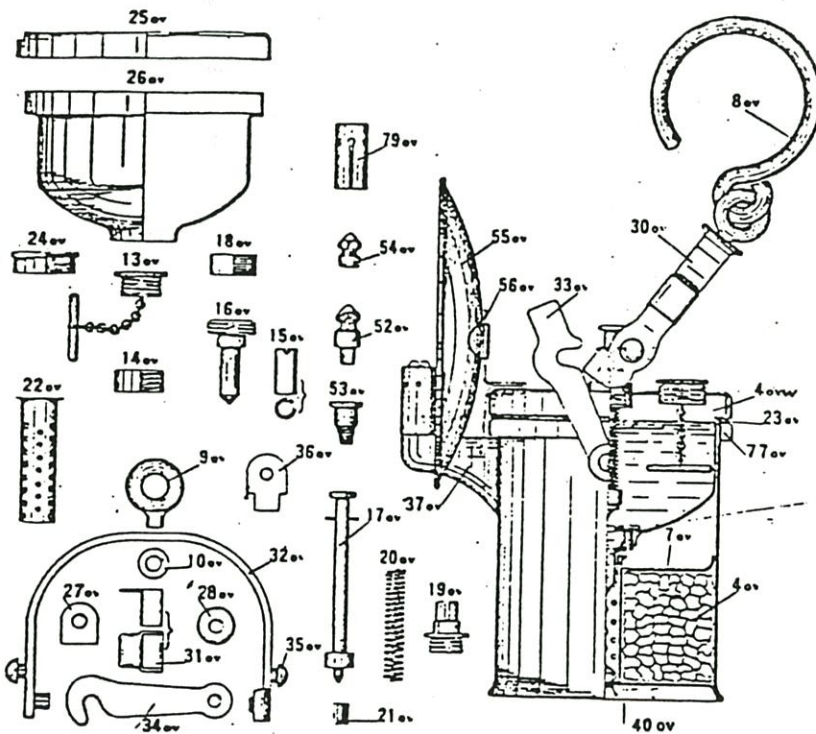
**San Francisco**  
268 Market Street  
Douglas 1118

## E. D. BULLARD

1921 Catalog

**Los Angeles**  
130 S. Bkoadway  
Broadway 7498

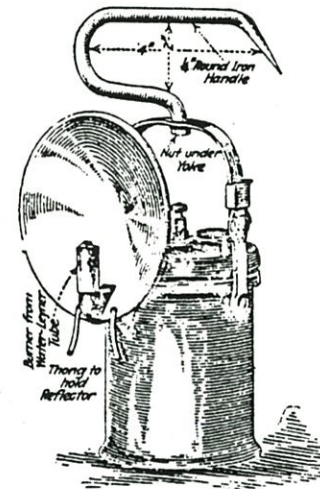
Diagram of Parts of Lamp No. 856.



### Improving a Miner's Carbide Lamp

The hook usually furnished with the "Wolf" miner's carbide lamp, and fastened to the yoke of the upper part of the lamp by a swivel, is good enough when the lamp is to be hung up and left in one position; but when the user is climbing ladders and crawling through stopes, the swivel hook offers a decided disadvantage, as there is always the tendency for the lamp to twist, so that the flame frequently swings under the hand of the carrier, often resulting in either a bad burn or the dropping of the lamp. One manner of overcoming this disadvantage was by removing the swivel furnished with the lamp and attaching the handle shown in the accompanying illustration. This contrivance consists of a combination hook and handle, made of 1-in. round iron and about 2 in. high by 4 in. long. It is fastened firmly to the yoke by a small nut, and does not permit the lamp to revolve; the pointed end makes it possible to hang the lamp where the manufacturer's hook will not take hold.

One means of preventing the reflector from being knocked from a lamp, and an improvement that permits its easy removal when refilling, is the following: Two small holes are punched near the bottom of the reflector, as shown in the illustration, and a leather thong or



IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS TO THE WOLF LAMP

cord is passed through them and around the under side of the burner-pipe. The ends of the cord should be two or three inches long, and allowed to hang free.

Burners are frequently lost or broken, and usually when no others are available. In such cases a burner can be quickly made by plugging the hole for the burner-shank with a piece of lead having a single small hole punched in it. Another type of burner may be made from a 1-in. section of Water-Leyner tube, by squeezing one of the ends together, and punching a small hole in it. The tube will fit snugly in the burner hole. By bending this piece of tube outward, the lamp will throw a horizontal flame instead of a vertical one, and this is advantageous in protecting the hands, as the flame is not so easily put out in wet places and offers the best and most lasting marker on the walls of mine workings for sampling and surveying purposes.

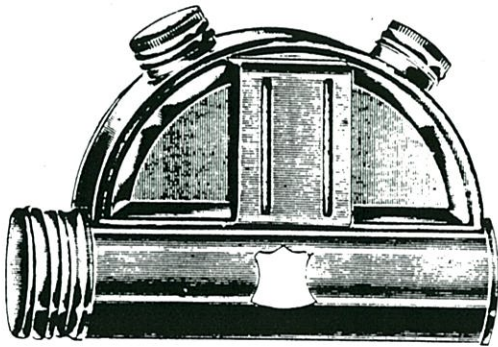
The Wolf canister style hand lamp has a somewhat unique design among American carbide lamps. The European influence is evident and not surprising as Wolf was primarily a German company.

## A New Name American Carbide Cap Lamp

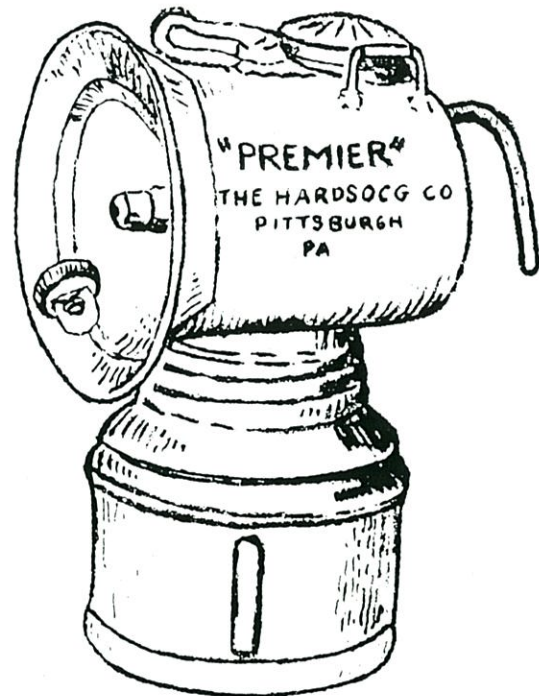
Have you ever told an antique dealer that you want carbide lamps "except for Butterfly, Premier, and most Justrites, Guysdroppers, and Auto-Lites?" There is a high probability that this advice was sound, but with the discovery of a Premier by Hardsocg, you may have inadvertently passed up a very rare lamp.

The Martin Hardsocg Company of Ottumwa, Iowa and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania was formed in the 1870's and continues to the present day. They were and still are a manufacturer and distributor of a variety of mining equipment, primarily tools. Hardsocg produced the rare "Imperial" carbide cap lamp, but is better known for its oil lamps and carbide/water/match container.

Except for the stamping, the Hardsocg Premier is identical to an early horizontal Grier Bros. carbide. There is little doubt that Grier Bros. manufactured this lamp for the Hardsocg Co. We would love to hear from any collectors that have any information on this lamp or have been lucky enough to find one.



Hardsocg Miner's Canteen.  
Holds carbide, water, and  
matches.



## It's Not Absolute Proof, But.....

This page of lamps from a Funk Bros. Manufacturing Co. catalog (date unknown, but most likely about 1925) is compelling evidence that the Arrow carbide cap lamp was manufactured by the Universal Lamp Co., the maker of the Auto-Lite cap lamps. In the top line of the page, both the Auto-Lite and the Arrow appear below the "Universal Lamps" heading. Most collectors have speculated that Universal made the Arrow because the Arrow bottom is identical to the bottom found on many early Auto-Lites.

A couple of other interesting items on the page. Note the unusual Auto-Lite bottom. It is a style that is known, but is certainly uncommon. The legends under the Justrite lamps are misleading as there was only one size of Victor cap lamp. The only difference between the no. 661 and the no. 666 is the reflector size. The 661 has a 2 5/8 inch reflector and the 666 has a 3 inch reflector.

### UNIVERSAL LAMPS

#### AUTOLITE



No. 102-X—Brass, 2½ in. silver nickered reflector with self lighter.

#### ARROW



No. 10—Brass, 2¾ in. wind-proof reflector with self lighter.

### GUY DROPPER LAMPS



No. 5—Brass finish, 2⅞ in. brass self lighter reflector.

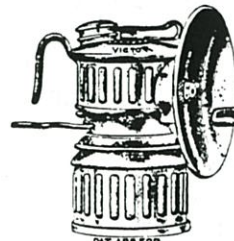


No. 28—Brass finish, 2½ in. deep brass reflector protects burner tip from dripping water.

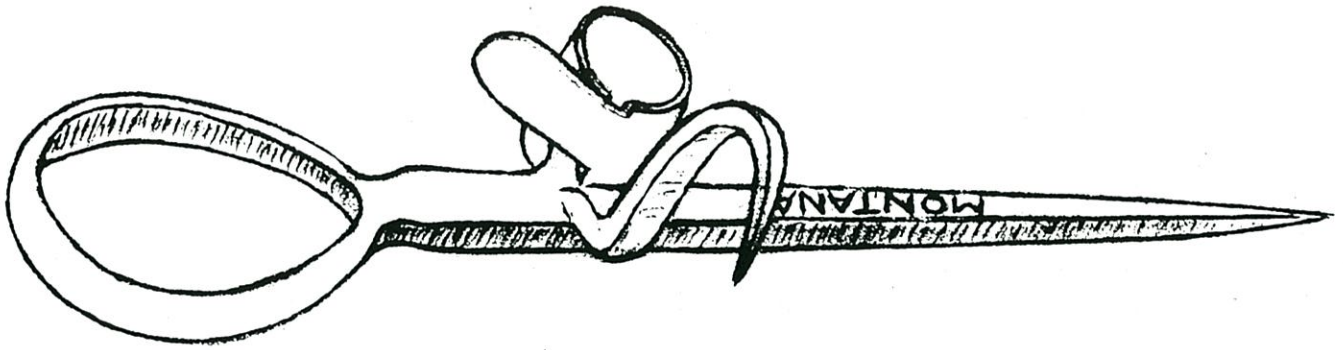
### JUSTRITE LAMPS



No. 661—Large Victor Lamp.



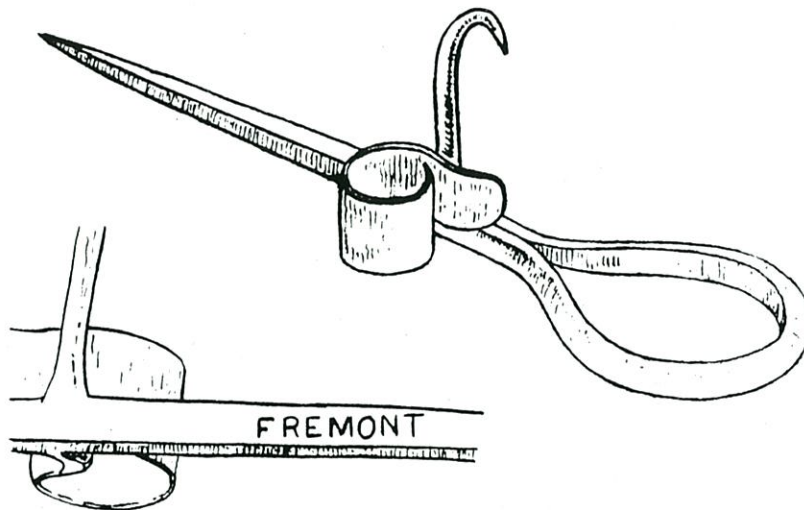
No. 666—Small Victor Lamp.



The Montana candlestick made by the Ludlow-Saylor Wire Co. of St. Louis, MO.

The Montana is one of the most sought after brand name candlesticks. It is of cast steel construction with a sheet steel thimble fastened by brazing. It came with a black paint finish. The hook bends over and comes up from the right side. The "Montana" stamping is very large and is quite distinctive due to the heavy stamping. It is 11 inches long.

The Montana is somewhat uncommon, but with diligence, it can be acquired. Other Ludlow-Saylor Wire Co. sticks that are identical in construction to the Montana are the Mt. Shasta, Eureka, and the Argonaut.



The Fremont Candlestick

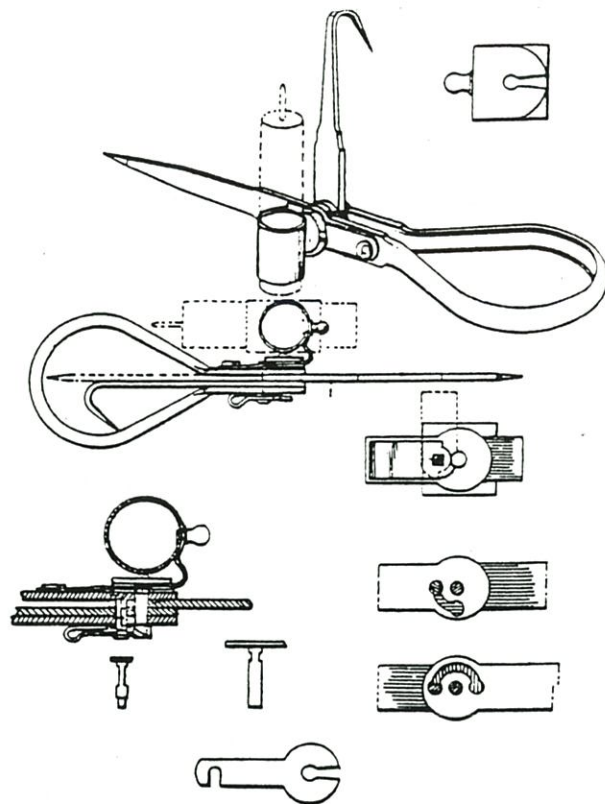
This new candlestick was recently found by Tony Moon of Sandy, Utah. It is approximately 10 inches in length and is identical in construction to the well known Comstock and Bonanza sticks, all of which surely originate from the famous Comstock Lode of Virginia City, Nevada.

The name Fremont surely relates to the famous explorer John C. Fremont who named the Carson Valley in 1844 after his friend and scout Kit Carson.

The Fremont and Bonanza sticks are unique in that only one of each is known. Several examples of the Comstock stick are known, but they are quite rare. Any one of these three sticks is a very nice find and a fitting memento of the Big Bonanza of Virginia City, Nevada. Good hunting!

Any serious collector of candlesticks is likely to own one of these remarkable and very functional folding sticks. It is the most common of the folders and by far, the easiest to acquire.

The Fielding and Peterson is very professionally manufactured and has some unique features. The lever lock releases the hook and spike and allows the stick to be open or closed. The thimble rotates to allow the candle to hang vertically. The stamping is quite elegant and reads as follows: "Pat. Aug. 4, 1903, Manuf'd by Fielding & Peterson, Grants, Pass, Ore." The stick is 5 inches long when closed and 8 inches when open. It is manufactured of polished steel and is one of the very best manufactured folding candlesticks made.



The Fielding and Peterson folding candlestick. Patented August 4, 1903.

## Husson Miners Lamps AND Candle Holder.

We make Miner Lamps for burning Lard Oil, Coal Oil and Solid Oil, such as are known as Sunshine or Moonshine Oil.



No. 4 LAMP.

The only Miners Lamp made with a permanent Copper Wire as a heat conductor. (Our Patent.)



No. 2 LAMP.

SOLID OIL LAMPS



CANDLE HOLDER.

The only Solid Steel Tube Candle Holder made. (Our Patent.)



CANDLE HOLDER or LAMP STICK.

The only Detachable and Interchangeable Candle Holder or Lamp Stick made. (Our Patent.)

MANUFACTURED BY

The Knippenberg Manufacturing Co.,  
21 and 23 S. MAIN ST., OSHKOSH, WIS.

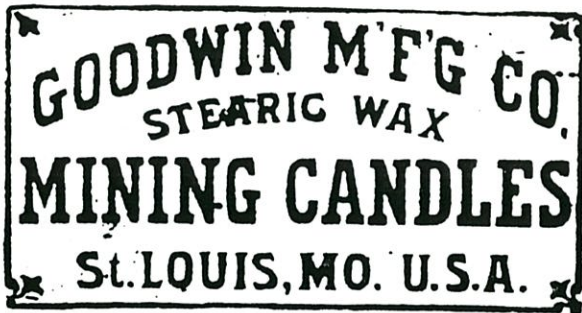
OUR DETACHABLE STICK A MOST CONVENIENT TOOL for the MINER.

WE MAKE ALL SIZES AND STYLES OF MINERS LAMPS.

The Husson detachable candle and lamp stick made by the Knippenberg Mfg. Co., Patented May 8, 1906.

The Husson detachable candle and lamp stick was made for the miner that wanted either a candle holder or a oil lamp holder. By squeezing the handle of the stick, the candle thimble or the oil lamp could be removed. Both the lamp and the thimble had hooks so they could be used on a hat. It was common for the miners in the northeastern U.S. to utilize their candles on a hat.

The stick was approximately 9 inches long. A few of the thimbles have been found with a "Pat. Pend." stamping. The oil lamp came in both a face size and a driver's size. The lamps, candle sockets, and the sticks are all quite rare and to have all three is quite an accomplishment.



Side of a Goodwin candle box found in the Waterloo Mine, Calico, CA. Circa 1891

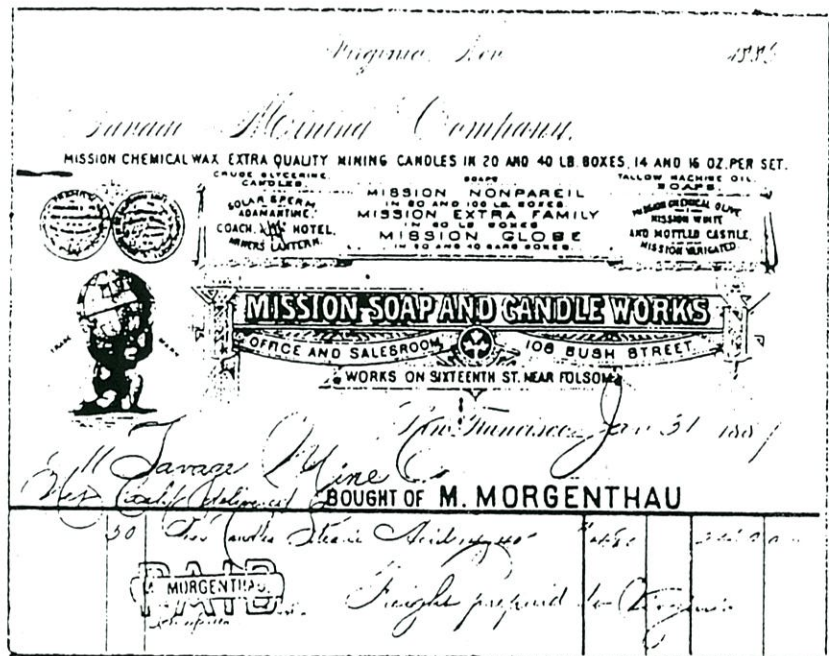
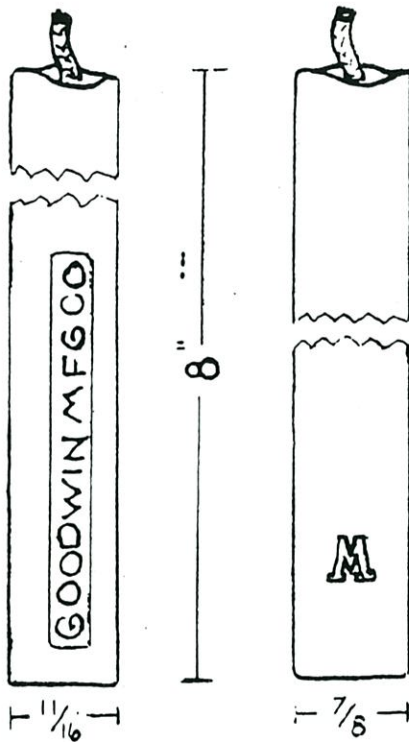
The Goodwin Mfg. Co. and the Mission Candle Works were two very large suppliers of mining candles in the western U.S. The Goodwin candles were stearic acid based wax and were very hard. They were supplied in both 8 and 10 inch lengths and were wrapped 6 to a bundle in 20 and 40 pound boxes. Mission candles were soft tallow and also came in both 8 and 10 inch lengths and were wrapped 6 to a bundle in 20 and 40 pound boxes.



End panel of a Mission candle box. Circa 1910. Found at the Noonday Mine, Tecopa, CA.



Wrapper for six candles. Circa 1891.



Stampings found on Goodwin and Mission candles.

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

H. M. MIXTER.  
MINER'S CANDLESTICK.

No. 410,802.

Patented Sept. 10, 1889.

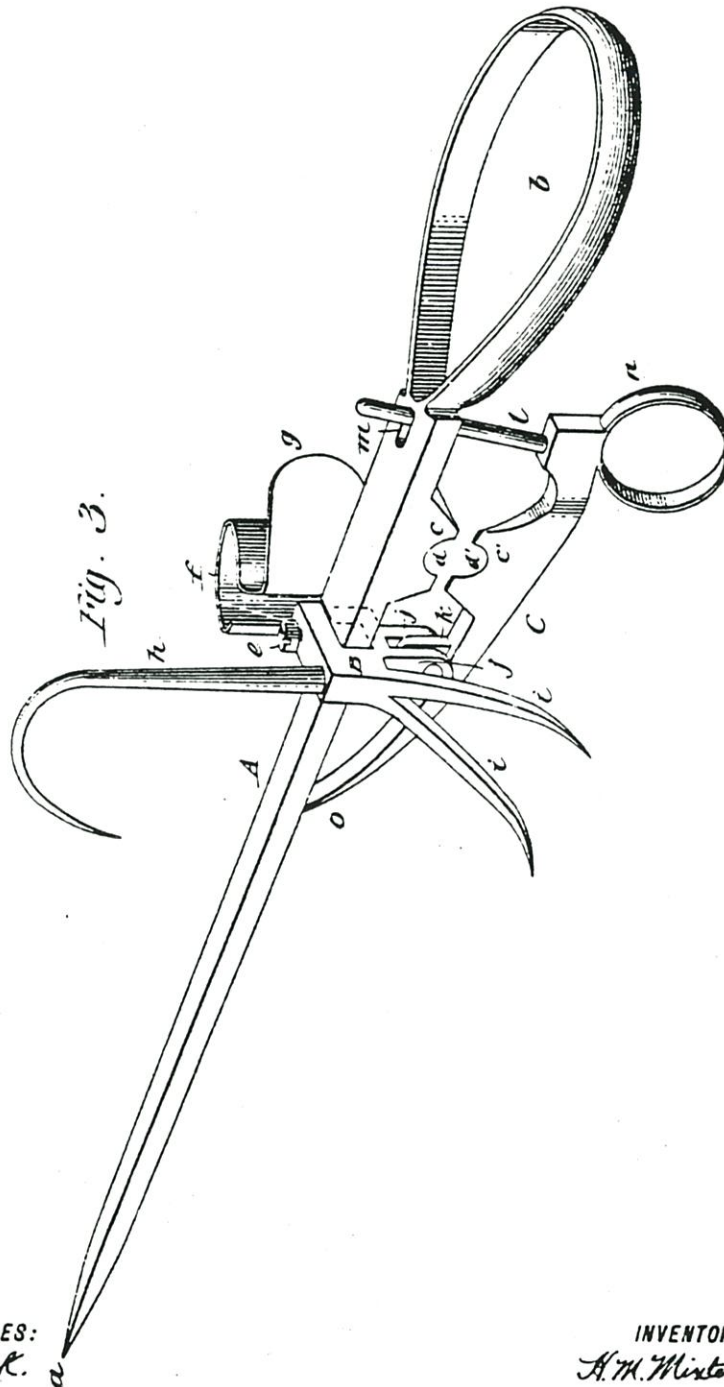


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:  
*H. Clark.*  
*W. S. G. G. G.*

INVENTOR:  
*H. M. Mixter*  
 BY  
*Munn & Co.*  
 ATTORNEYS.

MISSING!

Have you seen an example of this candleholder? If so, please let us know!

## A Labeled Miniature Oil Wick Lamp by Jim Steinberg

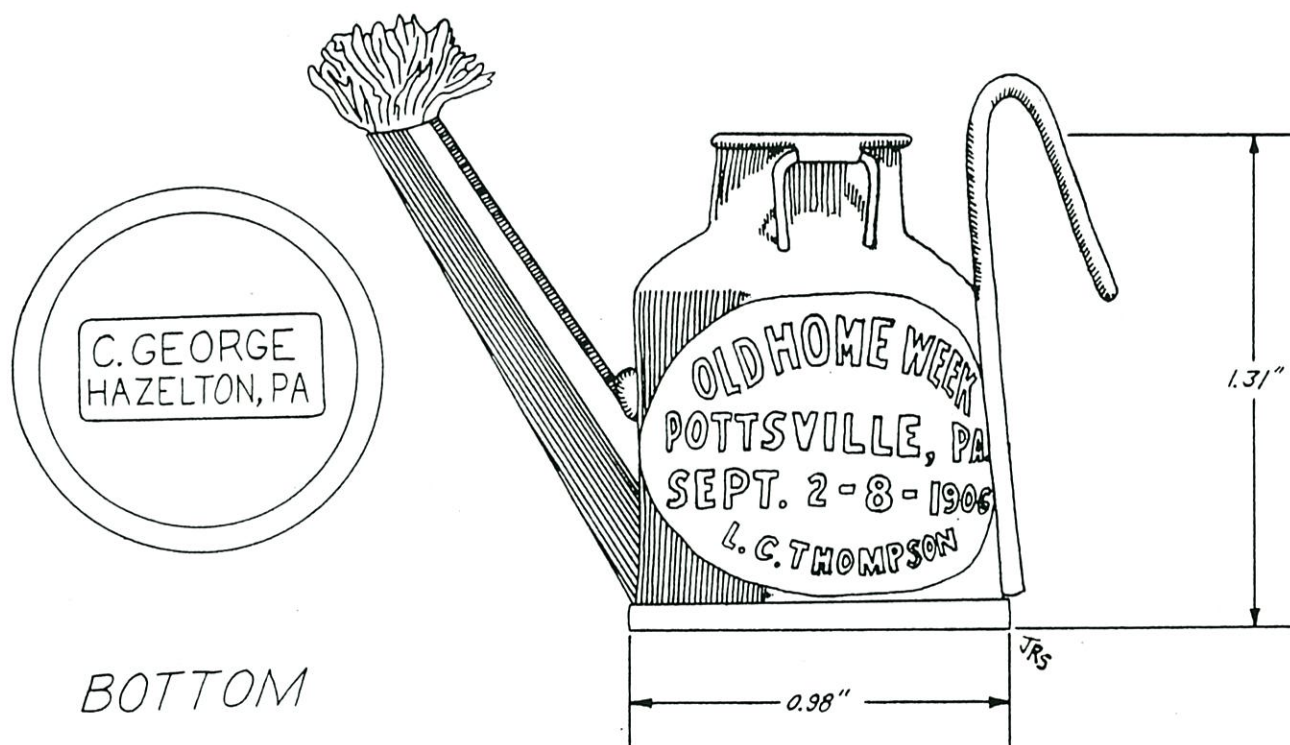
The oil wick type lamp shown here is actually a miniature. There is speculation among collectors that these were actually salesman's samples. Although I do not intend to settle the issue, questions do arise regarding these speculations. If these type of lamps are true samples as opposed to manufacturer promotions, are there any full size versions of the miniatures that are identical in construction? Additional evidence suggests that the miniature oil wicks were used as promotional items and possibly used as parts of badges and ribbons at mining related events. I would appreciate any further information or photos that readers might provide for future articles. The lamp shown here was found with the label as shown.

Through the gracious assistance of Nancy Smink and Jonelle Miller of the Pottsville Free Public Library, a great deal of information was provided to the editors.

For the week of September 2-8, 1906, much of Pottsville's business and industry (including the coal mines) closed for "Old Home Week." This was a celebration of the history and accomplishments of Pottsville and the surrounding region. Pottsville was a major center for anthracite coal mining as well as other industries.

During "Old Home Week," a number of events were held. There were parades of military units, fraternal societies, trade unions, and even entries from the local mines. Other events included contests and generally boisterous festivities. The Pottsville miniature oil lamp was apparently a promotional item provided by L. C. Thompson for the event. Lewis C. Thompson (Nov. 7, 1835 - ?) was a very prominent resident of Pottsville and the owner of its oldest hardware store, "L. C. Thompson Hardware."

The illustration and measurements are based on the Pottsville C. George miniature oil lamp in the collection of Ted Bobrink.






**L. C. THOMPSON,**  
**HARDWARE**  
 Oils, Paints, Glass, Cements,  
 Plaster, Drain Pipe.  
 Cor. Centre and Market Streets, POTTSVILLE, PA.

Advertising Department

**THE MINERS' JOURNAL**  
 POTTSVILLE, PENNA. — ESTABLISHED 1826

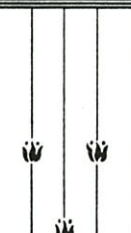


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 CARBON, DAUPHIN AND NORTH-  
 UMBERLAND COUNTIES. P P P P P

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The artwork on this page was drawn by Jim Steinberg based on or copied from material from the Pottsville Free Public Library. Jim and the other editors would love to hear from other collectors that have information on the origin and use of miniature oil lamps.



PUBLISHED BY THE  
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRINTED BY  
 POTTSVILLE DAILY REPUBLICAN  
 MINERS' JOURNAL EVENING CHRONICLE

**OLD HOME WEEK**

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

AND

**HISTORICAL SKETCHES**

OF

**POTTSVILLE**

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Notes on the V. L. Lamp  
by Jim Steinberg

In the period of use of Sunshine and oil lamps within the mining industry, the V. L. Lamp is of rather late vintage. The lamp shows patent dates of September 14, 1909 and November 20, 1909 with other patents pending. The V. L. lamp was prominently displayed in the Miner's Sunshine fuel advertisement of the Standard Oil Company. These ads were running in "Mining and Engineering World" in 1912 and 1913, a period of time in which carbide lamps were becoming widely available and used in the eastern coal fields.

The V. L. Lamp has a number of interesting features. As in all Sunshine style lamps, special features were present to insure that the fuel stayed in a liquid state while the lamp was burning. Many Sunshine lamps insulated the fuel in the spout with a double wall, and others utilized copper conductors to transmit the heat to the bottom of the lamp. The fuel heater on the V. L. Lamp is unique. First, it has a hinged tin hoop (a) which is heated in the flame when it is in an upright position. The hoop is riveted (c) to a copper collar (d) which is the visible portion of a copper heat conductor that extends to the bottom of the lamp (see advertisement).

The spout and body of the lamp consist of a single piece of Japanned tin (some V. L. Lamps are reported to be brass). with a web (b) adding further support to the spout. The back of the lamp is crimped (e). Another striking feature is the use of spot welds to attach the cap hinge (f) and the hook (g). It is worth noting that the V. L. Lamp in the Standard Oil advertisement has a brace holding the hat hook onto the lamp.

Artwork and measurements based on a V. L. Lamp in the collection of Len Gaska.



*The V. L. Lamp*

# ***Miner's Sunshine***

***Brightest and Cleanest Light a Miner Can Use***

Office of  
STATE INSPECTOR OF MINES  
Room 110 State House  
INDIANAPOLIS

STANDARD OIL COMPANY:

Gentlemen:—Some two years ago I gave you a recommendation on Miner's Sunshine, stating at that time I had always advocated it's use in our mines and that my reason for this was it produced better light and comparatively no smoke at all.

I am pleased to state that my views regarding this product are the same today, if not even stronger than they were at the time I gave you the recommendation referred to and, furthermore, in making our rounds of inspection I find practically every mine of any consequence using Miners Sunshine.

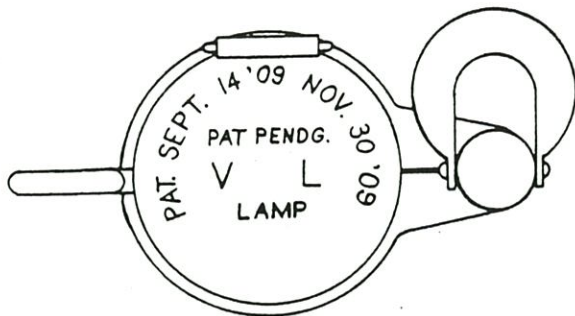
It is my desire and I should like very much to see the time when Miner's Sunshine takes the place of oil entirely in the mines.

You may rest assured that not only myself, but my deputies (who agree with me that Sunshine is better than oil) will take pleasure in recommending it's use, fully believing that in so doing we are aiding a good cause.

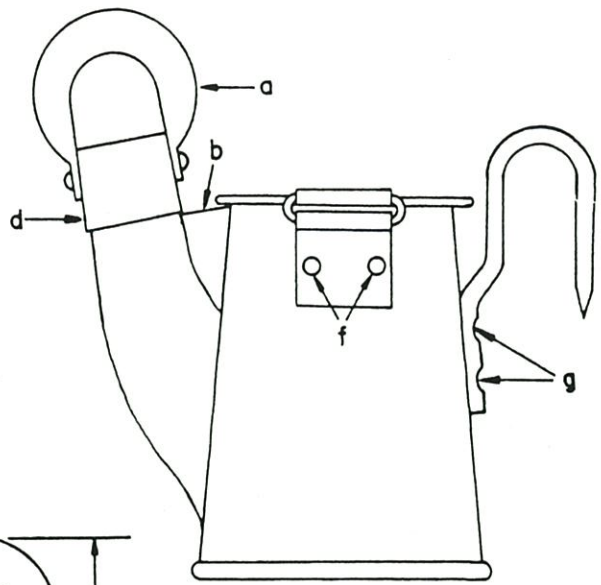
Yours very respectfully,  
(Signed) JAMES EPPERSON,  
Inspector of Mines.

## **STANDARD OIL COMPANY**

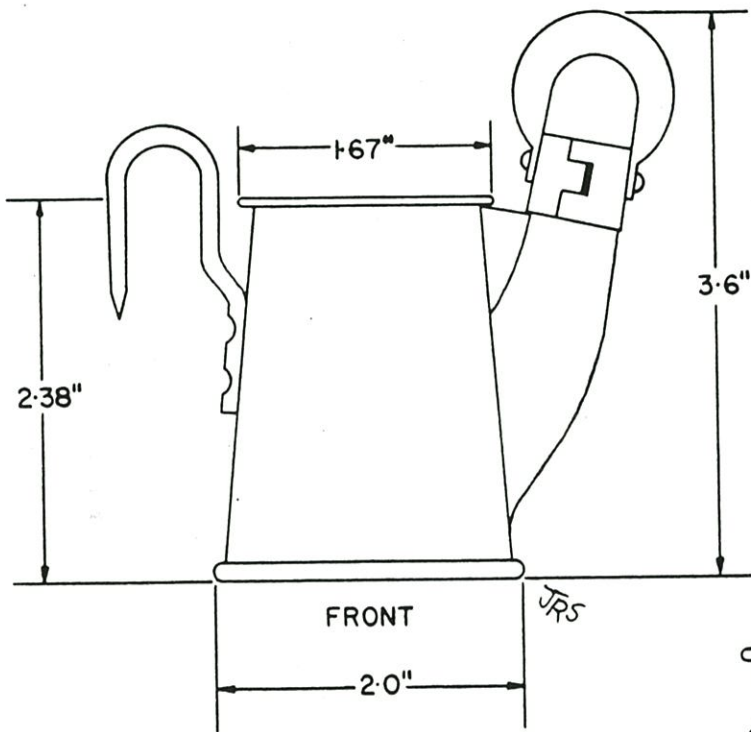
(AN INDIANA CORPORATION)



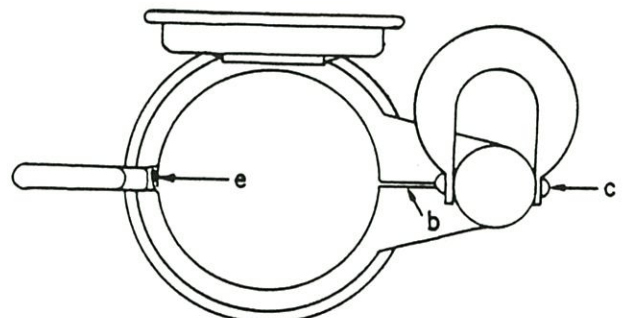
TOP (closed)



REAR



FRONT



TOP (open)

# THE V L LAMP

## The Dating of Dynamite Boxes

by Mark Bohannan

Most of us who collect dynamite boxes would like to know when the boxes were in use. There are only a few ways of determining the dates when a certain style of box was used. One method is to locate the box style in advertisements or catalogs, although the dates will only be approximate.

Another method is to determine when a company was in existence. This method is useful when an explosives company existed for only a short period of time. A short-lived company is not likely to have a large number of box styles.

The most accurate method of dating is by examining the box ends for date stampings. Dated boxes are not common as it appears that only a few boxes from each lot were stamped with dates.

It is hoped that future issues will present many more box styles with reasonably accurate dates. Collectors who have dynamite boxes with dates are encouraged to submit photos or good photocopies.

Illustrated below is a unique box end from the Giant Powder Company of San Francisco for Giant Gelatine Dynamite. The dates on these boxes range from 1908 to 1915.



## The Climax Fuse Company

by Mark Bohannan

In 1850, a fuse plant was started in Avon, Connecticut by R. Andrews and his son, A. F. Andrews. The plant operated intermittently for the next twenty years, but became idle from about 1870 until 1880. It was at this time that H. S. Chapman became involved with the business and incorporated it as the Climax Fuse Company. In 1907, the company merged with the Ensign-Bickford Company.

The different brands of fuse manufactured by this company are unknown to the author except for the example shown in the letterhead. Perhaps one of our readers knows of other fuse wrappers and/or other items produced by the Climax Fuse Company.

# The Climax Fuse Company.

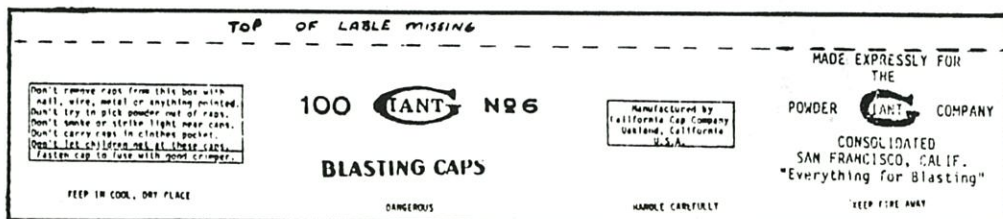


*New York* July, 1, 1968

## Two New Cap Tins Found by Mark Bohannon

The **DUPONT NO. 8** cap tin show below, had until now, only been seen in the 1911 and 1917 Dupont catalogs. The tin is painted green with white lettering.

The **GIANT** cap tin was previously unknown. This tin was most likely manufactured by the California Cap Company for the Giant Powder Company. The lid is embossed as shown below and has a red paper label. The label, also shown below, is almost identical to those of the **CALIFORNIA** cap tins except for the **GIANT BLASTING CAPS** and the color. The dates of this tin are unknown, but was probably manufactured after 1910.



## Containers for Blasting Caps

by Mark Bohannan

In 1923, the DuPont company developed a container for miners to carry up to ten blasting caps safely (Fig. 1). Up to this time, the most common method of carrying small quantities of caps was either loosely in pockets or in the tin boxes in which they were sold.

The body of the container is made of vulcanized rubber. Drilled at regular intervals are ten holes, each just large enough to accommodate a blasting cap. The top cannot be removed, but can be rotated around a pin which firmly secures it to the base. The top is designed to prevent accidental turning. A hole in the top exposes the ten compartments one at a time. After the container is filled, the top can be positioned so the access hole is over a solid part of the base. In the early models, the top is made of polished brass. In later models, the top is made of the same material as the base.

Containers were made to accommodate No. 6 and No. 8 caps. The color of the base is red with the legend - **Blasting Caps - Dangerous - Handle Carefully** -. Embossed in white letters on the back of the containers were the following safety rules.

Do not remove caps with wire or nail.  
Don't tap or otherwise investigate them.  
Don't carry caps loose in pockets.  
Don't store in residence.  
Don't smoke near caps.  
Don't shoot into caps.  
Attach caps to fuse with cap crimper, not with knife or teeth.  
Keep in a dry place.  
Keep open lights away.

About this same time, it appears that the Giant Powder Company and the Atlas Powder Company began advertising a moisture proof blasting cap carrying case. The **Giant** case (Fig. 2) held seven No. 6 or No. 8 blasting caps and appears to have been stamped with the Giant name. The material used in the construction of this carrying case is unknown, but was probably some type of non-sparking material.

The **Atlas** case (Fig. 3) also held seven No. 6 or No. 8 blasting caps. The case was made of aluminum and measures 7/8 " by 2 1/8 ". It is currently unknown if this case was actually marked.

The waterproofing in these two cap carrying cases is accomplished by means of a tight rubber sleeve that fits over the seam when the case is closed. Cap carrying cases do not appear to have gained popular acceptance among miners. Very few cap carrying cases of any brand are known to exist.



Fig. 1, Dupont

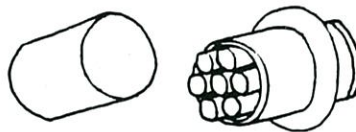


Fig. 2, Atlas

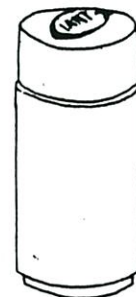


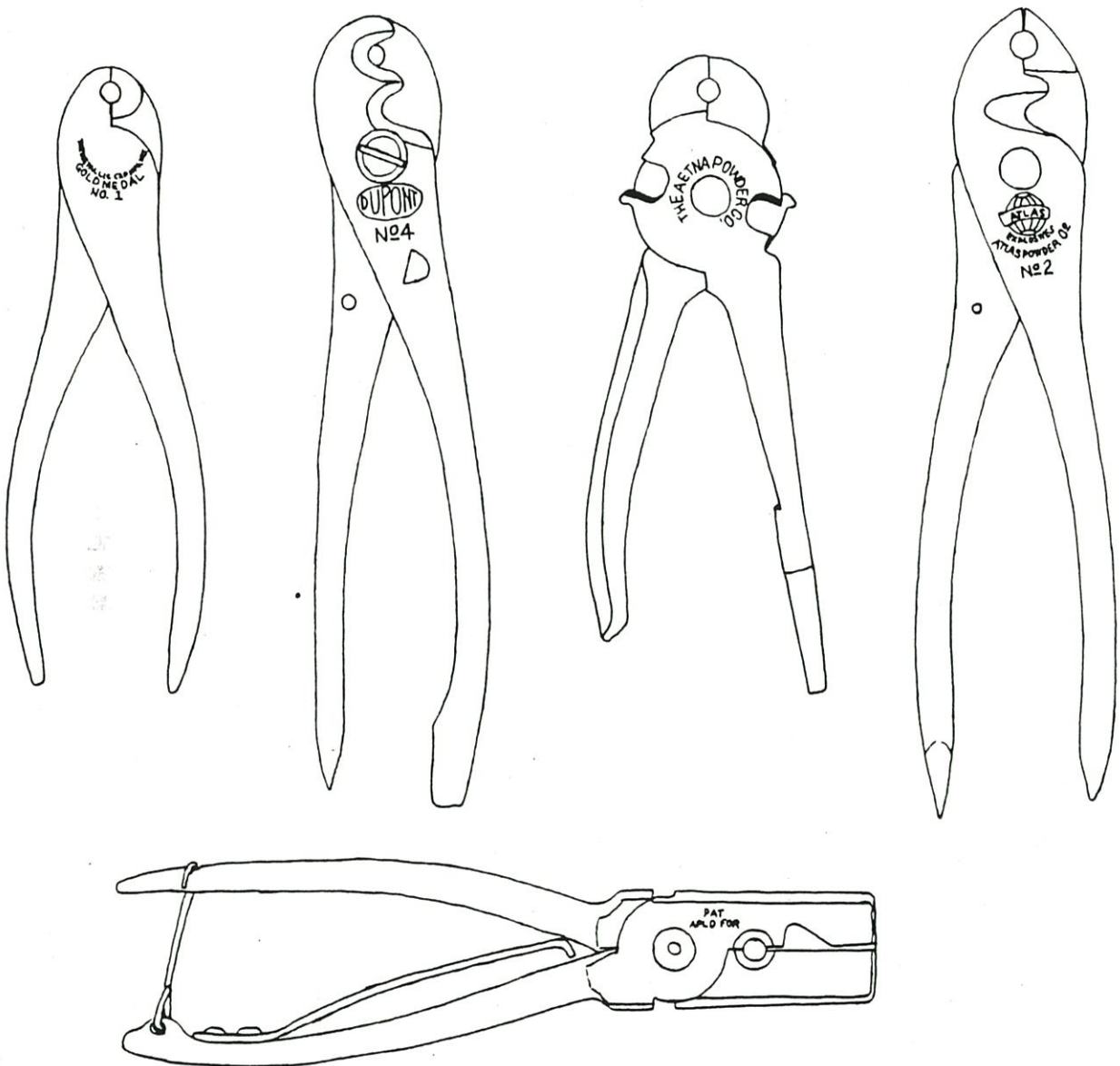
Fig. 3, Giant

## Blasting Cap Crimpers

by Mark Bohannon

Blasting cap crimpers are a special tool for fastening blasting caps to safety fuse. They are generally made of steel or brass and are found in a variety of shapes, sizes, and finishes.

Cap crimpers are made so that they will secure the cap firmly in place, but not interfere with the burning of the fuse. Almost all cap crimpers have one of the handles rounded and pointed for punching holes into the dynamite sticks. Illustrated below are five different cap crimpers.



I am in the process of writing and illustrating a booklet on different blasting cap crimpers. I would very much appreciate good photocopies of crimpers (both sides), particularly varieties that are known to be uncommon. Cap crimper advertisements are also sought. Your assistance will help to make the cap crimper booklet as complete and accurate as possible.

## Ralph Blankenbecler

Most collectors probably know by now that Ralph Blankenbecler passed away on July 6 at the age of 77. Ralph was one of the "grand old men" of lamp and coal scrip collecting. I personally never talked to Ralph, although we had corresponded a few times. He always had great material to trade, but alas, I never had anything he needed. By all reports, his lamp collection was nothing short of superb.

Ralph was a lifelong resident of Coeburn, Virginia, a retired merchant, a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Survivors include his wife, one daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

Mark Ballard related the following to me:

"Ralph was a true pioneer collector of carbide cap lamps. The first time I met him was at a National Scrip Collectors Association show, of which Ralph was a member. On a 4 x 8 table sat some of the finest carbide cap lamps I had ever seen. Sitting behind the table was a man with a big smile and he said: 'Son, do have any cap lamps for sale or trade?'

Ralph was a true gentleman and honest and fair to all. He will not be forgotten by the lamp and scrip collecting community." --- Len Gaska

## Nystagmus

by Jim Steinberg

Nystagmus is described as being strictly a miner's disease in Peele's "Mining Engineer's Handbook" of 1918. Supposedly affecting the optic nerve, the disease caused the eyeballs to oscillate. Victims were sometimes unable to walk straight due to a perceived rotary motion. Nystagmus was blamed on insufficient or poor lighting with the chief causative factor being mine safety lamps, particularly early models that did not produce much light. Some statistics stated that 91% of those affected were using safety lamps, whereas among those using open lights, less than 1% were affected.

Successful solutions to the problem included using two safety lamps for illumination, open flame lamps such as oil wicks and carbides, and electric lighting.



## Any Collectors Out There With Electronic Mail?

I know there must be a few collectors out there that have E-Mail (electronic mail) addresses via their academic institution or place of work. If so, I would like to publish your addresses so we can exchange information or just chat about collecting. How about it? I do know that E-Mail can be exchanged within and between ARPANET, BITNET, and CSNET. To get things rolling, my E-Mail ARPANET address is GASKA.PASA@XEROX.COM. Let me hear from you!





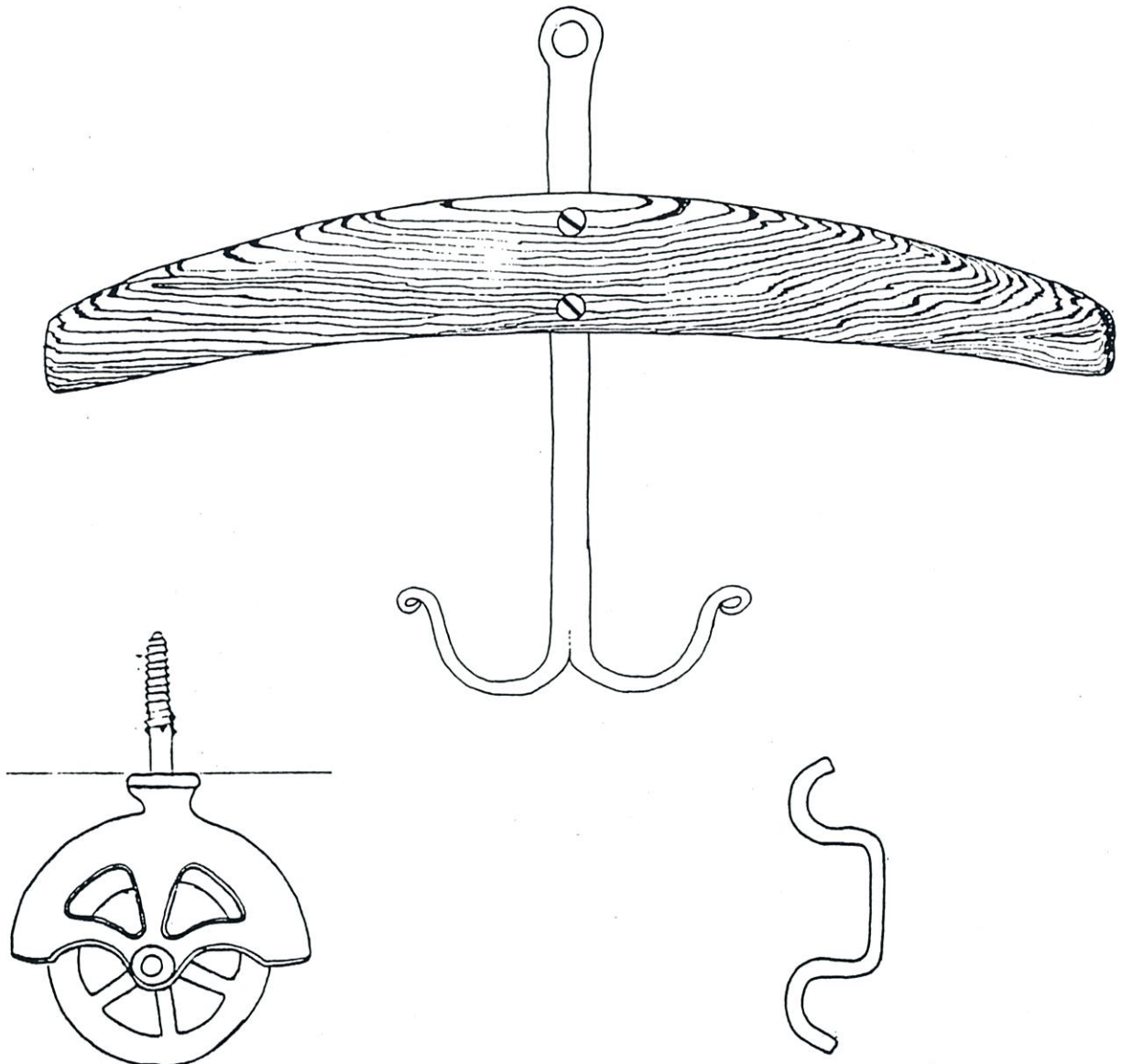
## Miner's Clothes Hanger From Bisbee, AZ

by Mark Bohannon

The type of clothes hanger illustrated below is found in the changing rooms of the principal mines at Bisbee, Arizona. The hanger itself was tied to a long piece of cord which passed through a pulley anchored to an overhead beam. The end of the cord was then tied off to an anchor point next to each miner's locker.

At the start of his shift, the miner would lower his hanger and hang his street clothes. Once changed into his working clothes, the hanger would be raised and tied off. The hangers provided a convenient way of keeping the miner's street clothes clean, dry, and unwrinkled. It was also used to hang working clothes to dry between shifts.

Unfortunately, not many of these hangers exist anymore as the mines have closed and the changing rooms have become storage buildings.



## Ask Dr. Lampbottom

*Dear Dr. Lampbottom, I have been wondering on how to go about cleaning my carbide lamps. Do you have any suggestions and tips?*

Funny you should ask! The editors assure me that they will have a full article on carbide lamp cleaning in the near future. Stay tuned!

*Dear Dr. Lampbottom, I have often wondered about the miniature oil lamps that some collectors have. What were they used for?*

One theory is that they were salesman's samples. Somewhat unlikely as no manufacturer would make a miniature of an item that was already small. Another popular theory is that they were souvenir items given away at conventions and the like. A recent find confirms this theory. See the article "A Labeled Miniature Oil Wick Lamp" by Jim Steinberg in this issue. These miniature lamps are highly collectible and prized by oil lamp collectors. Keep an eye out for them as they are quite small and easy to pass by.

Do you have any questions of a technical or historical nature for Dr. Lampbottom? If so, please submit them to the MAC editor and we will forward it to the good Doctor. Of course Dr. Lampbottom is an avid collector and is almost always on the road looking for good mining items. For that reason, Dr. Lampbottom cannot send personal answers to each and every one of you. And by all means, if you have information that contradicts one of Dr. Lampbottom's answers, please contact us. Dr. Lampbottom is a snooty old fellow and the editors love to prove him wrong!

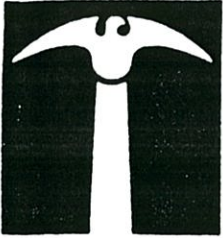


## The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum

by Len Gaska

Collectors often have a love-hate relationship with museums. On one hand, a good museum will have rare items that the average collector may never see elsewhere. But there may be the feeling that a museum is just another competitor for hard-to-find artifacts. And how could the general public ever enjoy the items as much as an avid collector? Realistically speaking, a museum is often a good source for historical data. Furthermore, mining museums offer the general public an opportunity to view artifacts they may never see elsewhere and to learn more about the historical aspects of mining.

Even though mining is the starting point for all technology and played a crucial role in the history and expansion of the United States, it has not received the attention that it deserves. A museum devoted exclusively to mining and the preservation of mining history is long overdue. Although The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum has been in existence for some time as an organization, the recent acquisition of a building to house their collection is an important milestone. The editors of MAC hope you will join us in supporting this venture. Write to them for membership details.



## *National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.*

P.O. Box 981

Leadville, Colorado 80461

Phone: (303) 486-1229

### WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

During their lifetime, every American born will need 1,000 pounds of lead, 1,000 pounds of zinc, 1,700 pounds of copper, 4,500 pounds of aluminum, and 91,000 pounds of iron and steel.

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Mined resources play an enormous role in the vitality of our national economy. Historically, they triggered the greatest peaceful migration of all time, redirected the course of American history, blazed the trail to the settlement and development of three-fourths of this nation's land area, and unlocked a treasure chest of incomparable riches which aroused the envy and commanded the respect of the world.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum will serve as a national facility to educate the American public in the importance of mining, as a hall of fame honoring the industry's pioneers, as a library and research center for the mining industry, and as a worldwide meeting facility for mining and environmental symposiums.

The facility is located in the National Historic District of Leadville, Colorado, in the 71,000 square foot former Lake County Junior High School building, which is leased to us, in perpetuity, for 50 cents a year.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum received unanimous support by the Colorado Legislature in House Joint Resolution 1019, supporting our facility in Leadville. There are currently two bills before the 100th U.S. Congress which would grant the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum a Federal Charter. This Charter would make us a site-specific tourist destination, would allow our facility to appear on all road maps, and would make provisions for signage on interstate highways.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum has received the endorsement of the American Mining Congress, the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, Women In Mining, and the Colorado Mining Association, among others.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum gratefully accepts membership donations, as well as contributions of artifacts and museum-quality specimens. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Robert T. Reeder, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, P. O. Box 981, Leadville, Colorado 80461, or phone (303) (719 after March 1) 486-1229.

# The National Scrip Collectors Association

by Len Gaska

Membership in The National Scrip Collectors Association is a must for collectors who are interested in coal scrip. Membership is only \$10 a year. For further information, write to:

Walter Caldwell, Secretary  
PO Box 29  
Fayetteville, WV 25840



## On the Cover

by Len Gaska

Upper left: F. Muenger candlestick patent drawing. No known examples of this stick exist. This is probably the most desirable of all patented mechanical candlesticks. It has a match safe, flame snuffer, hood, and claw.

Upper right: An ad for a Hughes Bros. Pathfinder carbide cap lamp from "Mines and Minerals," September, 1912.

Lower left: An ad for California Cap Company blasting machines from a 1925 California Hardware Company catalog.

Lower right: A patent drawing for an oil lamp from an 1865 Report to the Commissioner of Patents.



## A Parting Shot

by Len Gaska, Editor/Layout/Printer/Janitor

Well, we hope you enjoyed our premier issue of Mining Artifact Collector. I assume you first feverishly looked for the trade and sale ads and then leisurely read the entire issue from cover to cover. We would really like to get feedback from you, dear reader. Were the articles interesting? Did we go into sufficient detail? Was there adequate balance in the material? We also want to **STRONGLY** encourage you to submit articles and material for publication. After all, we are only four collectors and have access to just a small percentage of the interesting material that exists. And don't forget those trade and sales ads!

Thanks to Jim Steinberg who designed and created our cover heading and borders. It was modeled after the early mining journals which usually had fancy lettering and artistic borders. Ye olde editor forgot to insert credits in the carbide and candlestick sections. Ted Bobrink wrote the text and supplied artwork for the entire candlestick section. Ted also supplied artwork for the articles on the Arrow and Hardsocg carbides. Len Gaska wrote and supplied artwork for the remainder of the carbide section. Thanks to various people who gave encouragement in the early stages. It was your interest that got us going. See you in January!

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## Sale and Trade Ads

---

**For Trade:** Fielding and Peterson folding candlestick complete and in good condition with minor rusting. Lindahl candlestick in good condition with match safe and "PAT. APLD. FOR" on the hook. Minor rusting and dings on end of screw cap. Iron Range candlestick in good condition with minor rusting, but some of black paint remaining. Lu-Mi-Num cap lamp with lug type base. Good condition. Bullard "Hardboiled" hard hat with lamp bracket. Made of leather with 1925 patent date. Very good condition. Tony Moon, 2763 East Willow Wick Drive, Sandy, UT 84092

---

**For Trade:** Lu-Mi-Num, nickel plated Sun-Ray, and Shanklin Metal products carbide cap lamps. Varney candlestick. Blasting cap tins: M. C. Mfg. Works, No. 6, red and white rectangular. Hercules No. 6, yellow and black round. Western No. 8, blue and gold rectangular. Will trade for blasting items. Don and Dave White, 1500 Olympic Drive, Milpitas, CA 93035

---

**For Trade:** Unfired Scoby duplex cap lamp. Very nice Maumee Duplex (Editor's Note - Groan!). Unfired Justrite #10 lantern in the original can. Several other cap lamps and safety lamps available. Desire oil wick and flame safety lamps. Mark Ballard, 1204 Anderson Drive, Marion IL 62959

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**For Trade:** Carbides: Brite-Lite, Arrow, Springfield, and 4 hour Scranto. Candlesticks: Eureka folding and Marshall folding. Black Diamond oil wick. Safety lamps: American Beard-Mackie and baby Wolf. Errol Chrisman, PO Box 313, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

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**For Sale:** Complete mining museum including lighting, assaying items, ore cars, and books. Errol Chrisman, PO Box 313, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

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**For Trade:** Explosives rules and instructions, pamphlets, explosive papers, wrappers, letterheads, and other explosives related paper. Will trade for other explosive related items, especially from eastern U.S. explosive companies. Mark Bohannon, Star Rt. Box 107E, Oro Grande, CA 92368. (818) 246-4418

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**For Trade:** Copper Queen carbide hand lamp, excellent condition. Varney "Bonanza" candlestick, very good condition. Grier Bros. Sunshine lamp, mint and unfired. Western Federation of Miners pin. Desire carbides, oil wicks, safety lamps, and very good candlesticks (fancy, folding, and patented. Jim Steinberg, 2425 Cooley Place, Pasadena, CA 91104

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**For Trade:** Copper Queen carbide hand lamp, fair condition. Lu-Mi-Num carbide cap lamp, good condition. Demon Strike Light carbide cap lamp, good condition. "Bendingo" Australian hand lamp. Primitive and unusual. Auto-Lite with set screw reflector. Brace missing, but otherwise in good condition. "Turtle Shell" miner's helmet. Very good condition. Nobel blasting cap tins. I also have some very nice oil wick lamps possibly available. Want carbides and related items. Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA 91106. (818) 405-0647

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Sale and Trade ads continued on the back cover.

## Sale and Trade Ads (continued)

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**For Trade or Sale:** Carbide cap lamps: Pathfinder with clip-on reflector. Unfired horizontal Grier Bros., Simmons "Pioneer" with small reflector. Candlesticks: Two semi-fancy models, California, Crescent. Sears "Favorite," and a Patented Nash. Safety Lamps: Hughes Bros. superintendent's Davy with wind guard. Two American Davies, American Beard-Mackie complete, Other: Porcelain Arizona mine bell sign and many blasting cap tins. All items are in excellent condition. Ted Bobrink, 12851 Kendall Way, Redlands, CA 92372

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**For Trade:** Comstock candlestick with shape of handle changed. Boker Sunset candlestick. Variation of the #28 Husson candlestick. Rick Yarborough, 4106 Modoc Ct., Concord, CA 94521

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**For Trade:** ITP carbide cap lamp, excellent condition. Brass Baldwin carbide cap lamp complete and in excellent condition. Mount Shasta candlestick, and a California Miner's Improved gold scale, green case and in excellent condition. Randy Marcotte, 6157 Bellingham Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552

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**For Trade:** Carbide lamps: Victor, Arrow, Shanklin Metal Products. Oil wicks: J. J. Murry, Shielded Trethaway. Safety lamps: aluminum miniature Hughes Bros., Clanny style American. Charles Frase, 1015 Noelton Lane, Nashville, TN 37204

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**For Trade:** Wolf carbide cap lamp, excellent condition. Patterson safety lamp in nice condition. Porcelain mine bell sign from Victor, Colorado. Grasselli green #6 blasting cap tin, and Trojan brown #7 blasting cap tin. Ken Roberts, PO Box 1267, Twain Harte, CA 95383

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**For Trade:** Lu-Mi-Num carbide cap lamp in excellent condition. Hercules #2 blasting machine in good condition. John Johnson, Rt. 1 Box 199, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

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**For Trade:** Shanklin Metal Products carbide cap lamp in excellent condition. American Beard-Mackie safety lamp, indicator missing. Brad Ross, 107 Westminster Dr., St. Clairsville, OH 43950

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Trade ads up to 80 words are free and encouraged. For-sale ads are only \$5 per issue or \$15 for four consecutive issues. Send ads to the editor: Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA 91106.

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