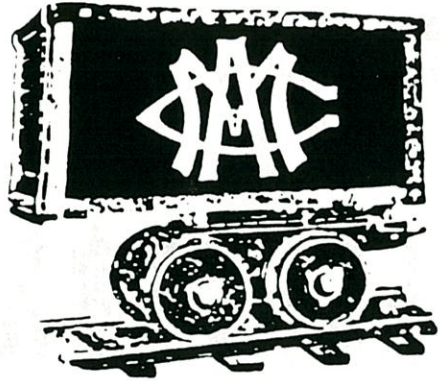


# MINING

## ARTIFACT COLLECTOR

Issue Number 3 Spring 1989





## MINING ARTIFACT COLLECTOR

### On the Cover

The Standard Oil Miner's  
Sunshine Fuel can. See article  
in this issue.

Drawn by Jim Steinberg.

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### 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.

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.

## The Editor's Page(s) by Len Gaska

### Annual Mining Collector's Reunion

We are pleased to announce the 4th annual Mining Collector's Reunion to be held at the home of Herb Dick in Woodland, California on June 10 at 11:00 am. This event has formerly been called the "Lamp-In," but due to the expanded interest in all kinds of mining artifacts, we are changing the name to reflect that broader interest.

This event is a time to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends. Those of you who have attended this event in past years know that it is a great place to do some heavy-duty trading as well as buying. The editors of MAC will be there to trade and meet some of you who are new to the field. We strongly encourage you all to bring interesting items to photograph for future issues of the MAC.

Herb's address and phone number are as follows:

Herb Dick  
67 Third St.  
Woodland, CA 95695

(916) 662-5571

Woodland is north of Sacramento and convenient to the Sacramento Airport. There will be a \$5 charge for food and drink which will be graciously supplied by Herb Dick. And Herb puts on a helluva spread! The MAC will have a door prize for attendees and a nifty award to the person coming the longest distance. Herb reminds us that you must RSVP him by June 1 so he can know how much food and drink to buy. A flyer announcing the event and a map to Herb Dick's house is enclosed with this issue of the MAC. We hope to see you there!

### And Now the Bad News ...

When the MAC newsletter was still in the planning stage, we envisioned a decent quality newsletter of 15 to 20 pages. Our cost estimates were based on that size of newsletter with a modest circulation. We got by for the first two issues by bootlegging part of the copying, searching out cheap copying places, and doing the collating and stapling ourselves. But that is no longer feasible and we are now going to have the MAC printed or copied at a commercial printer. Rest assured that we are minimizing expenses whenever possible, but the current subscription rates will just not suffice. So..., starting with the fall 1989 issue, the rate will be

\$20 per year for four issues. Add \$10 per year for overseas airmail which costs \$3.50 per issue as opposed to \$1 per issue for surface (boat) delivery.

Any extra money will go toward improving the quality of the publication and eventually the purchase of a document processor for editing and laying out the MAC, and possibly even a copy machine. In any event, we certainly hope to continue to provide you with a high quality publication with information found nowhere else.

### **Comments From a Reader**

Mark Ballard pointed out that we have used an ambiguous term in our carbide cap lamp articles. We have used the term "stamped" when referring to lettering. A better set of terms is "raised lettering" and "incuse" or inset lettering to differentiate between the two types of stamping. We will make an effort to use these terms in the future.

### **Article Submissions**

You will notice that we have added a couple of new names as contributors to this issue. We gratefully acknowledge Dave Thorpe and Tommy Bish for their articles. I am sure that there are a few of you out there that believe that you couldn't write an article for the MAC. Nonsense! But if you are absolutely convinced that you can't write an interesting and informative article, send us the information and briefly outline what you want to say. We will write the article for you and you will get full credit.

### **A Detective Story**

The article entitled "Baldwin, Scranton, Victor, and the Monogram 'WV & B'" points out the value of collaborative research and the sharing of information. Besides Dave Thorpe, the author of the article, four other collectors are involved in this story. Jim Van Fleet photographed the Baldwin lamps in the Smithsonian, Bill Spence researched the founding of the Baldwin Company, Henry Pohs published two articles relating to the "WV & B" monogram, and Len Gaska found a possible piece of evidence in an early Thomas Register.

Such cooperation and sharing of information is necessary in the field of historical research. Few people have all the pieces of the puzzle, but many have or can locate an important piece. And each piece is important; without it, the puzzle or picture is incomplete. The editors of MAC thank all the participants and hope others will come forward with other important bits of information on the history of mining and mining artifacts.

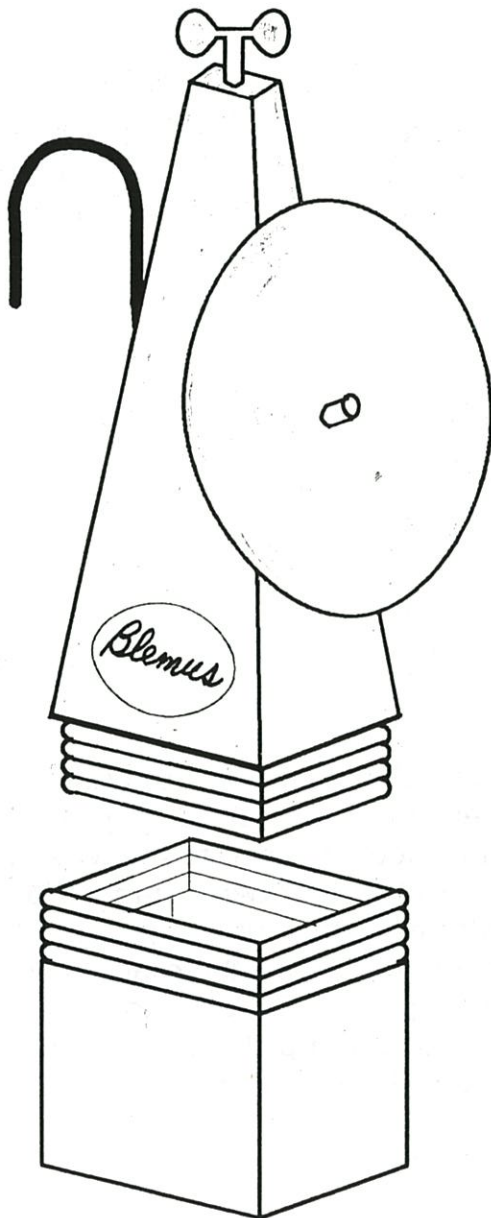
### **A Special Thanks**

To Wendell Wilson, editor of the Mineralogical Record, for writing about the MAC newsletter in a recent issue. We also thank Wendell for the use of his drawings, many of which have appeared elsewhere and are well known to the collecting community.

## The Blemus Lamp by Len Gaska

Well, even new collectors sometimes find a rare and possibly unique lamp. Ms. Ima Hokes of Goshen, Indiana sent us a very nice photo of her new find. I hope my sketch does justice to this fascinating lamp.

Ima reports that she obtained the lamp and some information from the surviving relatives of the inventor of the lamp, Mr. Adoph Blemus who lived in Fosdick, Pennsylvania. Lotta Blemus, a surviving sister of the late Adoph Blemus, reported that Adoph tried many times to patent his lamp, but was always firmly rejected because of "several serious design flaws."



Type: Cap  
Material: Bismuth  
Rarity: Unique  
Owner: Ima Hokes

## Baldwin, Scranton, Victor and the Monogram "WV & B" by Dave Thorpe

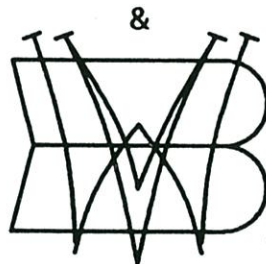
On August 28, 1907, The Baldwin Lamp Company was established in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by five men:

L.M. Evans, Scranton, Pa. (President)  
W.L. Allen, Peckville, Pa.  
A.F. Law, Scranton, Pa.

J. VonBergen, Scranton, Pa.  
W.J. Frees, Scranton, Pa.

Just how Fred Baldwin was involved is unknown, but he seems to have always depended on a manufacturing benefactor, as the above stockholders were the probable equivalent of John Simmons Co. in New York. Nonetheless, on July 6, 1909, the company changed its name to **The Scranton Acetylene Lamp Company** whose ads for the Scranton and Scranto lamps have been known to many.<sup>1</sup>

The very earliest Baldwin "half-shift" lamps (circa 1906) looked like tin cans and were constructed primarily of steel. Recently, several of these have been photographed in the Smithsonian museum. A very interesting finding is the monogram WV & B stamped very artfully into the screw-on water door.<sup>2</sup> This same monogram has been seen stamped into the screw-cap of a spare bottom.<sup>3</sup>



The WV & B Monogram

Early advertisements, as well as Van Fleet's photographs, show a tin wire clip soldered to the water tank. Looped over this clip (in the advertisements) is a dime-sized slug of sheet steel with a little eccentric hole in it. The little hole is how the piece attached to the wire clip. These interesting metal slugs have been seen elsewhere. In 1984 I bought two unfired "Non-Justrite Victor" lamps, along with about six matching bottoms with screw caps (Chuck Young collection). Rattling around within each of these spare bottoms was the exact same piece of metal! And soldered to each slug was a 1/4" piece of wire just the right size to be used as a tip cleaner. In fact, these simply could be *nothing other* than wire tip cleaners. The tiny hole in each was just large enough to fit over the cap hook on the "Non-Justrite Victor."

If one can draw any conclusions from the above, they would be that.

1. While Fred Baldwin designed the pinchwaist lamp for John Simmons Co. in New York, he designed the Scranto-like lamp for the group of five in Scranton, Pa.

2. The "Non-Justrite Victor" was the earliest of the Scranton lamps (made under the name of The Baldwin Lamp Co.), utilizing the same tip cleaner as the tin-can lamps made in New York.

One question still remains. While it is clear that the monogram WV & B is now clearly associated with Baldwin lamps, what do the initials actually stand for? Jim Van Fleet first speculated that it may stand for "Baldwin Water Valve." However, subsequent research led to more concrete possibilities. An oil lamp with the inscription "W V & B Metalcraft" has been reported.<sup>4</sup> The oil lamp has a tin body and a brass screw-cap. The early Baldwins also have tin bodies and brass screw-caps. Although the oil lamp does not have the monogram found on the Baldwins, the identical initials and the similar construction is compelling evidence. Further investigation showed that a tinware and metal stamping company named "William Vogel & Brothers" existed in Brooklyn, New York in 1906, the period in which the early Baldwin lamps were manufactured<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, the Baldwin company was also located in Brooklyn, New York. Although the evidence is not 100% conclusive, it is felt that the early Baldwin lamps were probably manufactured by "W V & B Metalcraft" or "William Vogel & Brothers" which may actually be the same company.

1. Research by Bill Spence. Letters from the Executive Department, Commonwealth of Pa.
2. Photography by Lindy and James Van Fleet.
3. Underground Lamp Post, 1980.
4. Underground Lamp Post, Spring 1982.
5. Thomas Register of American Manufacturers, 1905-1906.

## Baldwin Acetylene Mine Lamp



**Burns In Light  
Or Foul Air  
Absolutely Safe.  
Does Not Smoke.  
Stays Lit.**

It has proved itself much cheaper than any known method of lighting in the mines. Well constructed, light to carry, easy to operate. No valves or springs to get out of order, or require attention.

Patented.

LITERATURE ON REQUEST

Manufactured by  
**JOHN SIMMONS COMPANY**  
102 Centre St., New York

**ACETYLENE**

For Mines

**SAVES 50%**

10 Candle Power Light

**COSTS 2 CENTS PER SHIFT**

**F. E. Baldwin Mfg. Co.**  
104 Center Street, New York.

**ACETYLENE**

For Mines

**SAVES 50%**

10 Candle Power Light

**COSTS 2 CENTS PER SHIFT**

**F. E. Baldwin Mfg. Co.**  
104 Center Street, New York.



Ads from Engineering and Mining Journal, January 1909.

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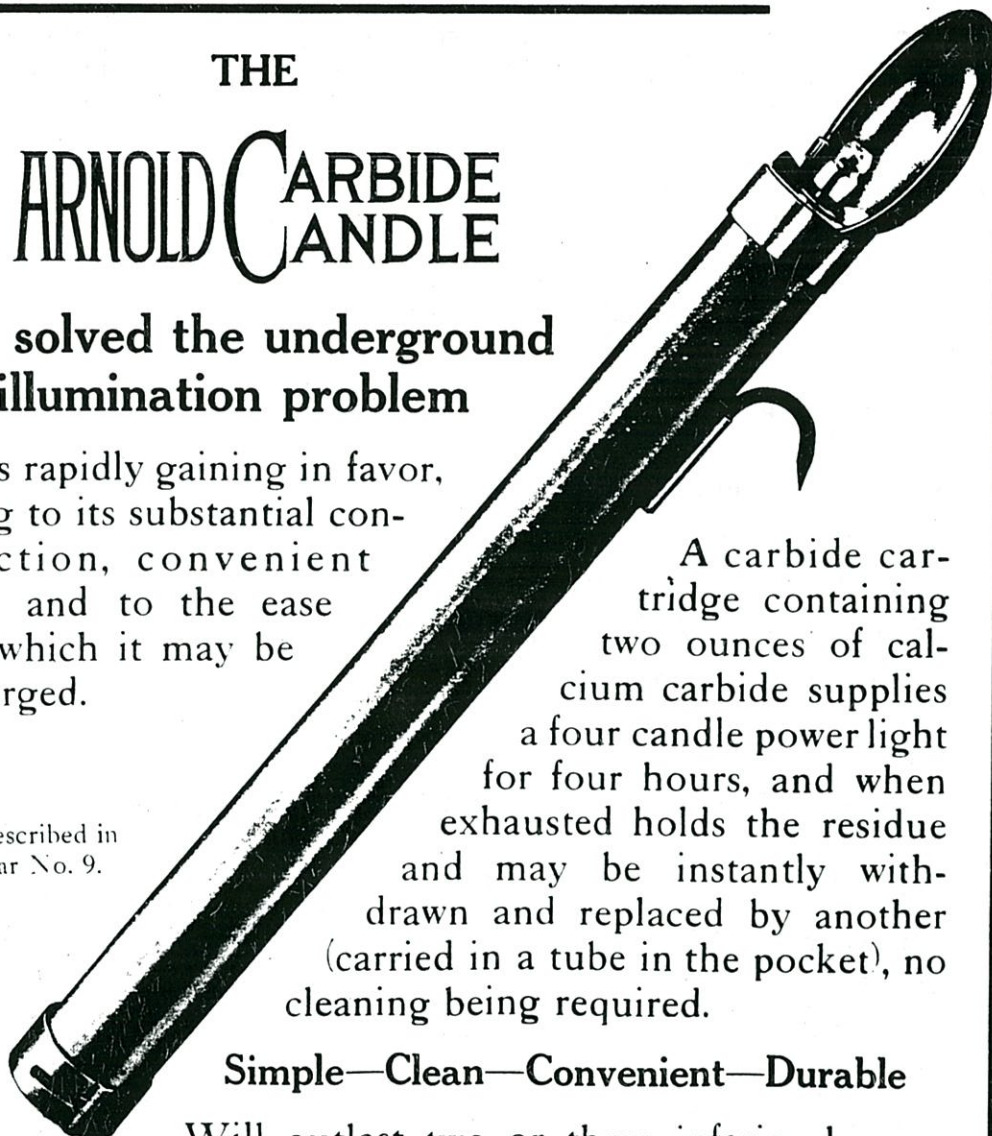
BUYERS DIRECTORY, PAGE 36

## THE ARNOLD CARBIDE CANDLE

**Has solved the underground  
illumination problem**

and is rapidly gaining in favor,  
owing to its substantial con-  
struction, convenient  
form, and to the ease  
with which it may be  
recharged.

Fully described in  
Circular No. 9.



A carbide car-  
tridge containing  
two ounces of cal-  
cium carbide supplies  
a four candle power light  
for four hours, and when  
exhausted holds the residue  
and may be instantly with-  
drawn and replaced by another  
(carried in a tube in the pocket), no  
cleaning being required.

**Simple—Clean—Convenient—Durable**

Will outlast two or three inferior lamps.

Price \$2.50. If your dealer does not carry them, a sample  
lamp will be sent postpaid upon receipt of price.

**WM. AINSWORTH  
& SONS**

**THE PRECISION FACTORY**

**DENVER, COLO.  
U.S.A.**



## The Arnold Carbide Candle by Len Gaska

The Arnold Carbide Candle is one of the most unusual carbide lamps ever made. It is certainly not a cap lamp and doesn't really fit into the category of a hand lamp or "hanging lamp" as I categorize conventional 6-8 hour lamps with hook and bale. It's rather large hook was designed, no doubt, for hanging on mine walls or timbers.

A unique feature of the Arnold Carbide Candle is the cloth bag to hold the carbide. Each Arnold was supplied with several bags and a tin to hold extra charges. This feature was supposed to result in simplicity of cleaning and recharging of the lamp. However, because the bags were subject to tearing and deterioration, this method of charging the lamp was probably not practical. Miners have always been drawn to simple, reliable, and durable designs in mine lighting and the Arnold Carbide Candle did not fit the bill.

The Arnold Carbide Candle was patented on October 29, 1912 by Ralph R. Arnold of Cripple Creek, Colorado. Advertisement for the Arnold refer to extensive use and testing in the Cripple Creek Mining District. Although the Arnold was most likely superior to candles, it could not compete with the simpler designs of Justrite and other lamp manufacturers. Because of its relatively short life, the Arnold Carbide Candle is rare and highly prized by collectors.

<b>WM. AINSWORTH &amp; SONS</b>	<b>THE PRECISION FACTORY</b>	<b>DENVER, COLO. U.S.A.</b>
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THE  
**ARNOLD CARBIDE  
CANDLE**

**SOLVES THE MINE ILLUMINATION PROBLEM**

A two years' tryout underground in the Cripple Creek mining district has demonstrated its superiority over the numerous lamps now on the market owing to its simplicity, economy and durability, as well as to its convenient form.

**Simplicity:** As shown, the lamp consists of a main tube 1 1/2 inches in diameter by 12 inches long and divided near the center into a water chamber closed by a shutter above, and a carbide chamber closed by a gasket lined cap below, a water control valve with screw adjustment and a gas tube extending from the carbide chamber to the top.

**A Cartridge** containing calcium carbide is placed in the carbide chamber and the water chamber filled; upon opening the valve the generation of gas immediately begins and by regulating the water and thereby the production of gas the flame is controlled and may be varied from one fourth to 8 candle power, the cartridge containing a sufficient amount of carbide (2 ounces) to produce a 4 candle power flame for at least 4 hours.

**Economy:** When the entire charge has been consumed the cartridge containing the residue may be instantly replaced by a new one, no cleaning of the carbide chamber being required, the cartridge fabric being such that it filters the gas, thereby eliminating the filters required in other lamps, accommodates the expansion of the carbide, and conducts the water to the carbide uniformly throughout the length of the cartridge thereby consuming every atom.


**The Burner** produces a fan shaped flame affording maximum illumination with a minimum of gas, thereby eliminating carbonizing and the consequent obstruction of the burner.

**Reflectors:** A nickel plated removable sliding reflector serves also as a wind shield and water deflector, and when slid down on the candle acts as a protector for the burner when general illumination is required.

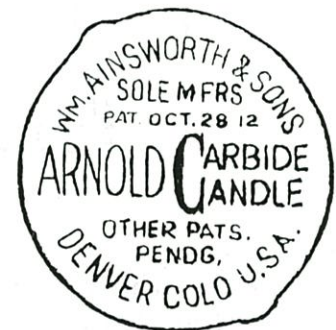
**Durability:** Made of 20 gauge brass, has no screw threads to become jammed or crossed, and will outlast from two to six of the inferior lamps now on the market. Only the best workmanship and material used throughout.

**Circular No. 9** gives full description and price. Send for it.

If your dealer does not carry them, a sample lamp will be sent by parcels post, paid, upon receipt of price. Discount in quantities.



Weight 8 Ounces.  
Price \$2.50



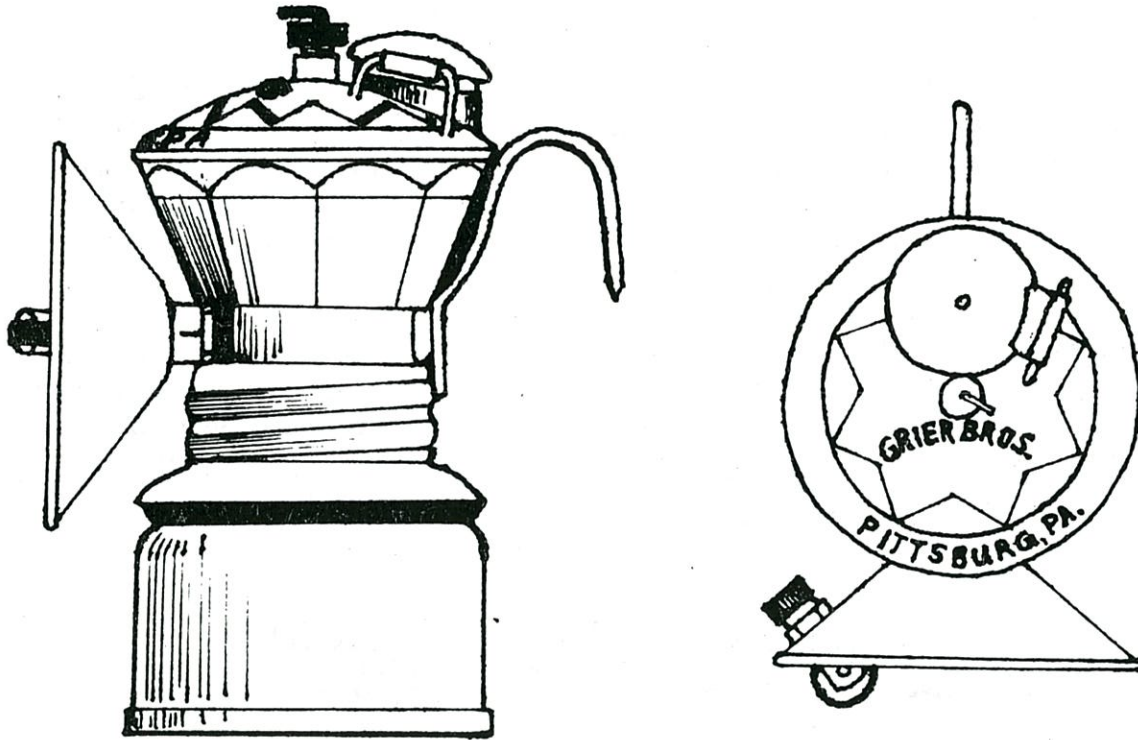
Bottom



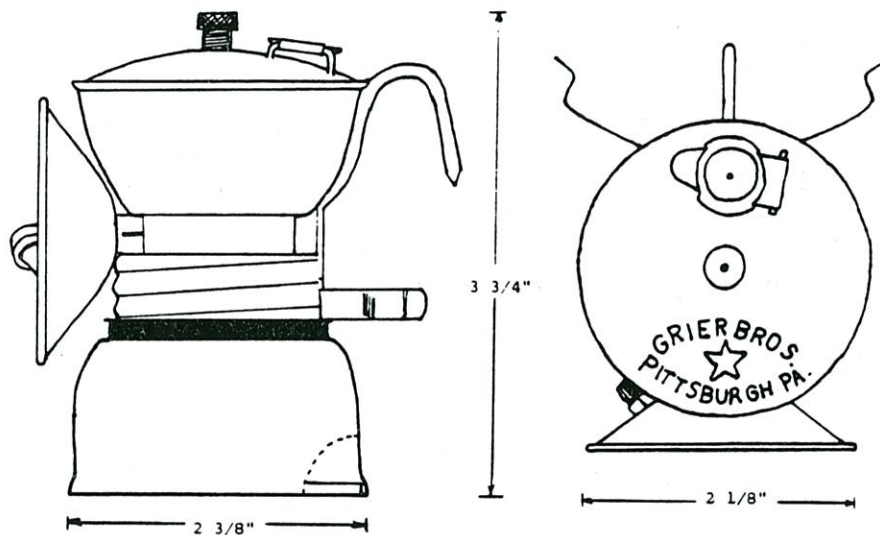
Bag

## The "Octagon" Grier Cap Lamp by Dave Thorpe

Several varieties of pinchwaist Grier cap lamps exist, that is, lamps which resemble early Baldwins more than the common "vertical" Grier style. The "octagon" Grier is the most elegant in design and the rarest.



Distinguishing features include the eight sides water tank, an a top stamped with an eight pointed star. The steel conical push-on reflector is identical to that found on many Baldwins and all other known "pinchwaist" Griers. A wire cross-brace is missing from this unfired specimen. The water door is domed and without any stamped design. The spelling of Pittsburg on the top indicated that the lamp is of a more recent vintage than the "fat bottom" pinchwaist Grier bearing the "G-H" spelling. See figure below.



Another Grier cap lamp (not shown) bears an identical top stamping to the "octagon" Grier, but differs in the following ways.

- The water tank is of the standard teacup shape found on the common vertical Griers.
- The water lever is of the swan-neck shape found on the common vertical Griers.
- The water door bears an eight-point star stamping.
- The cross-brace is a flat strip.
- The push-on reflector is soldered in place.

This lamp represents an intermediate design between the "octagon" and the common "vertical" Grier and exists in both the Dave Thorpe and Len Gaska collections.



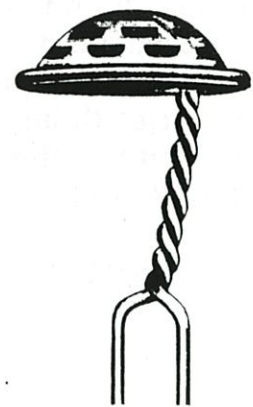
## "Umbrella" Lamps by Len Gaska

Hand lamp use in the United States occurred primarily in the western states. That is, in metal mining rather than coal mining. One of the problems with the use of hand lamps in the west was the presence of water in many mines. Although the problem was not severe for the conventional design where the burner tip was horizontal, water posed a problem for hand lamps with a vertically oriented burner. Although the vertical burner arrangement is common in European hand lamps, the author is aware of only a few American companies that made hand lamps with vertical burners. The most well known example is the Justrite "Uncle Sam," an aluminum hand lamp dating from the late teens. An optional water umbrella was available for the Uncle Sam (illustrated).




**EQUIPPED WITH  
UMBRELLA**  
Nos. 307, 309, 311.

**Umbrella**



**No. 324.**

**For all Lamps.**

**FLOAT  FEED**  
IT'S TROUBLE-PROOF

**FLAT FLAME BURNER**



No. 210

Height of Lamp 7 in.                      Weight, 2 lbs.  
 Height to top of bail, 10 1/4 inches.  
 Burns 6 1/2 hours on one charge  
 when equipped with 1/2 ft. burner.

Price, Complete ..... each, \$4.00

For burners  
and parts for  
this lamp see  
pages 14 & 15

Dewar Manufacturing Co. of Brooklyn, New York also made hand lamps with a vertical burner arrangement. They were all known by the brand name "ITP" which stands for "IT'S TROUBLE PROOF." The ad to the left illustrates one of these lamps with a water umbrella. This Dewar hand lamp has been found in several varieties.

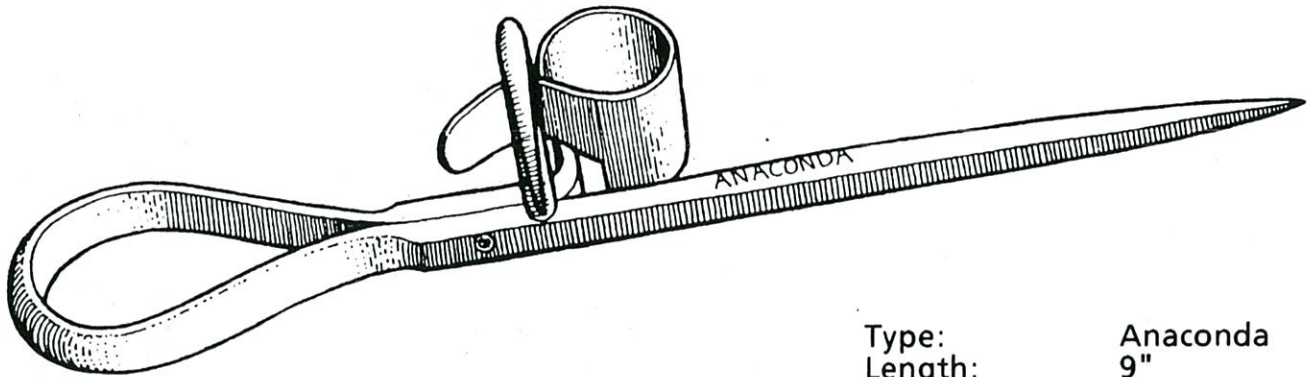
Illustrations are from a Dewar lamp catalog (date unknown) and from the 1919 Justrite lamp catalog.

## The Anaconda Candlestick by Ted Bobrink

The Anaconda candlestick was sold by the Montana Hardware Co. of Butte, Montana. If you cannot read the stamping on this candlestick, it can be easily recognized by its unique construction.

The Anaconda is constructed in two pieces. The point, handle, and thimble consist of one piece of forged steel. The hook is made from round stock and is applied separately. A brass rivet holds the handle neck together and is a unique feature.

The drawing is by Wendell Wilson.

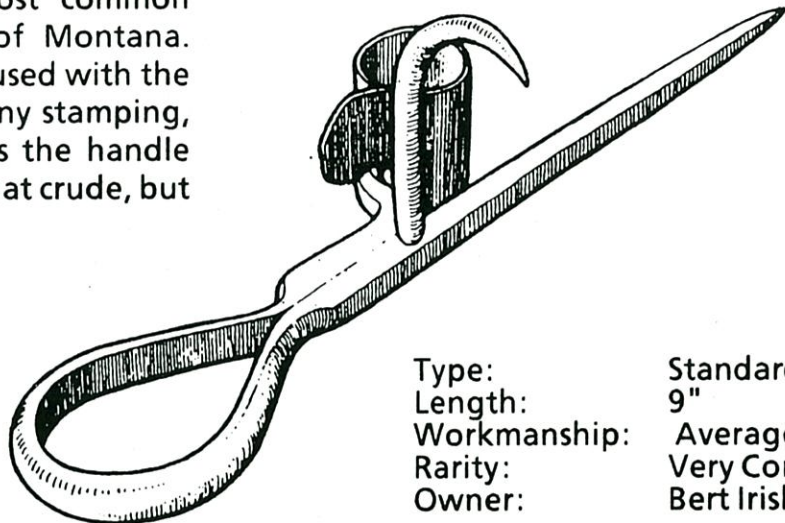


Type:	Anaconda
Length:	9"
Workmanship:	Good
Rarity:	Rare
Owner:	Philip Casdorff

## The Montana Hardware Candlestick by Ted Bobrink

This is another candlestick sold by the Montana Hardware Co. of Butte, Montana. If you collect candlesticks, I will bet that you own or have seen one of these. It is the most common candlestick found in the state of Montana. Though similar but not to be confused with the Anaconda, this candlestick lacks any stamping, has a shorter thumb tab, and has the handle neck brazed together. It is somewhat crude, but very durable and quite common.

The drawing is by Wendell Wilson.



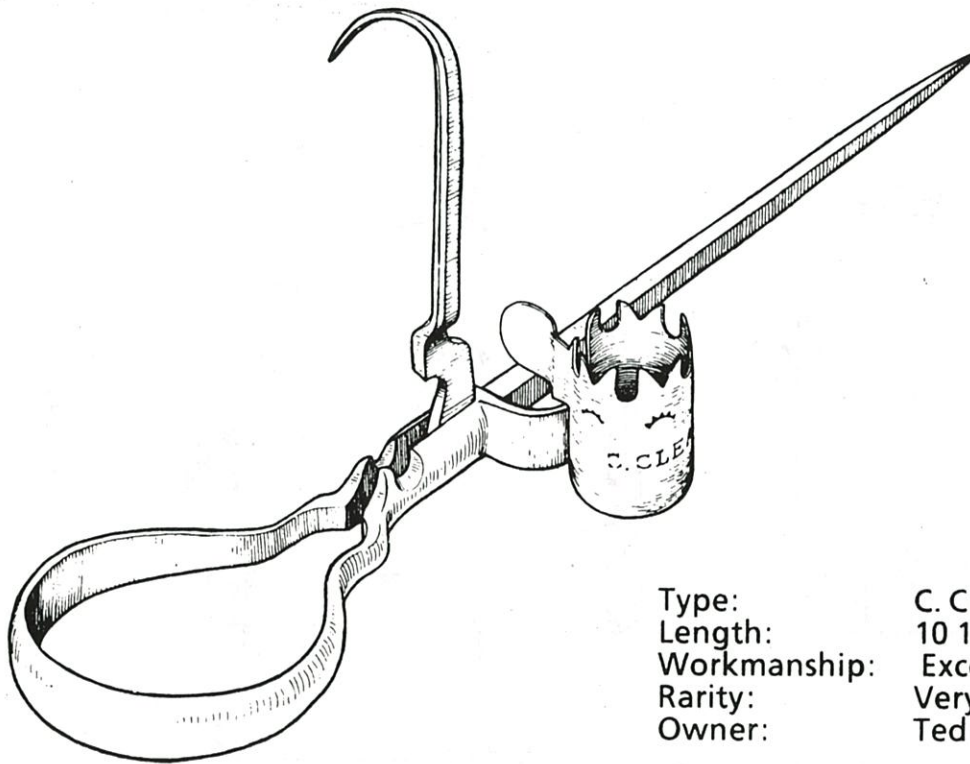
Type:	Standard
Length:	9"
Workmanship:	Average
Rarity:	Very Common
Owner:	Bert Irish

## The C. Cleaves Candlestick and Cap Crimper by Ted Bobrink

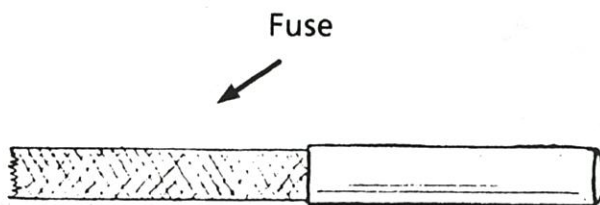
The illustration shows one of three different types of candlesticks with the name "C. Cleaves" stamped on the thimble. Nothing is known about C. Cleaves himself, or where he made his unique candlesticks. It is my opinion, however, that of all the manufactured sticks made to be used by the everyday miner, nothing comes close to the excellent design and workmanship of the C. Cleaves candlesticks.

The type illustrated here has the hanging hook doubling as a cap crimper. By laying a fused blasting cap across the slot in the handles neck, a tight crimp can be made by pulling the hook back and down over the cap. The resulting tight crimp keeps the fuse from pulling out of the blasting cap.

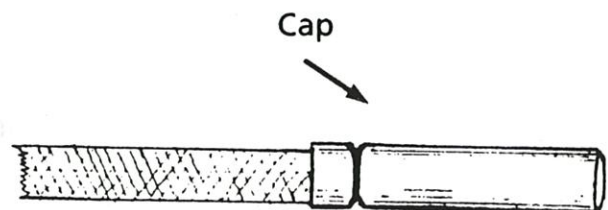
Other interesting features of all C. Cleaves candlesticks is the awkward position of the thumb lever and the elegantly serrated thimbles. The drawing is by Wendell Wilson.



Type:	C. Cleaves Cap Crimper
Length:	10 1/2"
Workmanship:	Excellent
Rarity:	Very Rare
Owner:	Ted Bobrink



Before Crimping



After Crimping

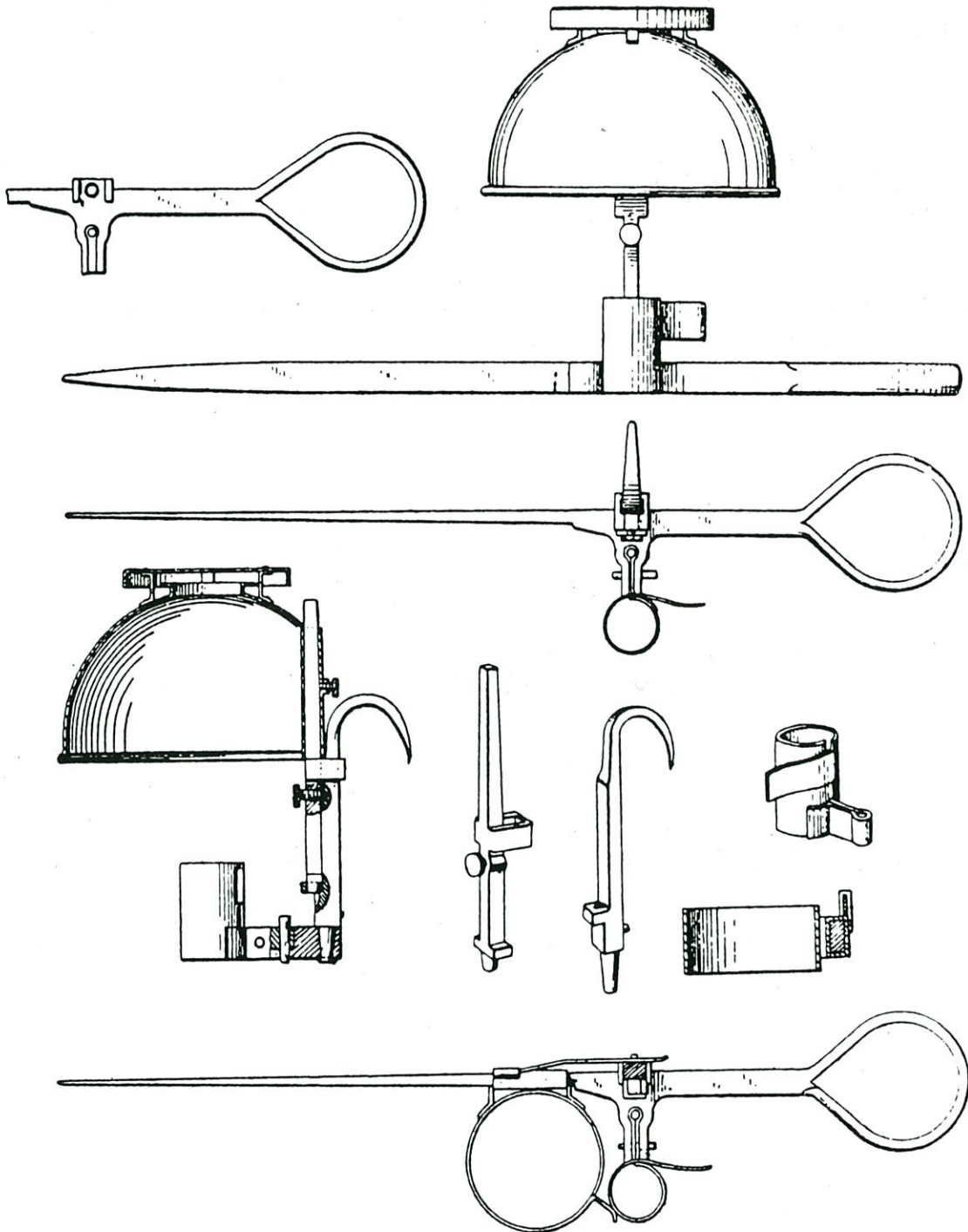
MICHAEL A. BURKE

Kingman, Arizona

"Support"

Patented March 16, 1915

No. 1,131,906



**MISSING!**

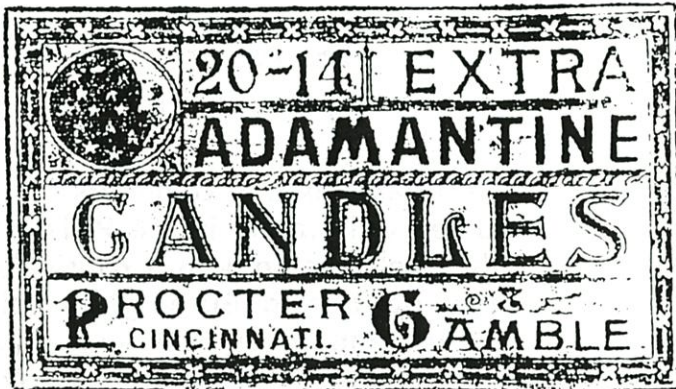
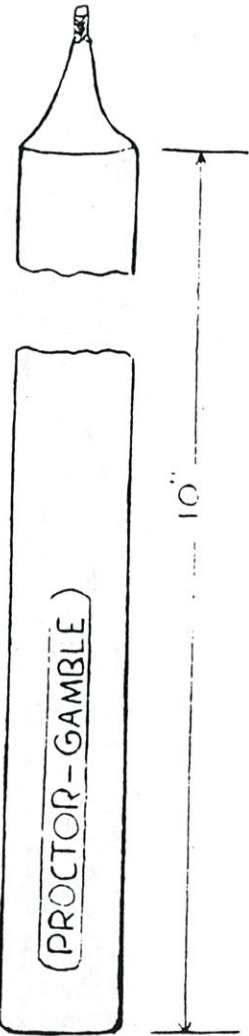
Have you seen an example of this candlestick? If so, please let us know! This stick is unique among patented candlesticks as it has an optional carbide cap lamp holder. It is also unusual in that it has a late patent date of March 16, 1915, a time when carbides were fairly well established.

## Mining Candles by Ted Bobrink

The Procter and Gamble Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio was one of the earliest and largest suppliers of mining candles. There have been many different styles of Procter and Gamble candle boxes found, suggesting that the company made mining candles for quite some time. In fact, I have seen some candles boxes assembled with square nails.

The stamped candle illustrated to the right is a stearic acid type, white in color, and extremely hard.

In the first three issues of the MAC, I have covered five different brands of mining candles with stamped company names. They are Goodwin, Mission, Werk, Schneider, and Procter and Gamble. If anyone knows of other stamped mining candles, please let us know.



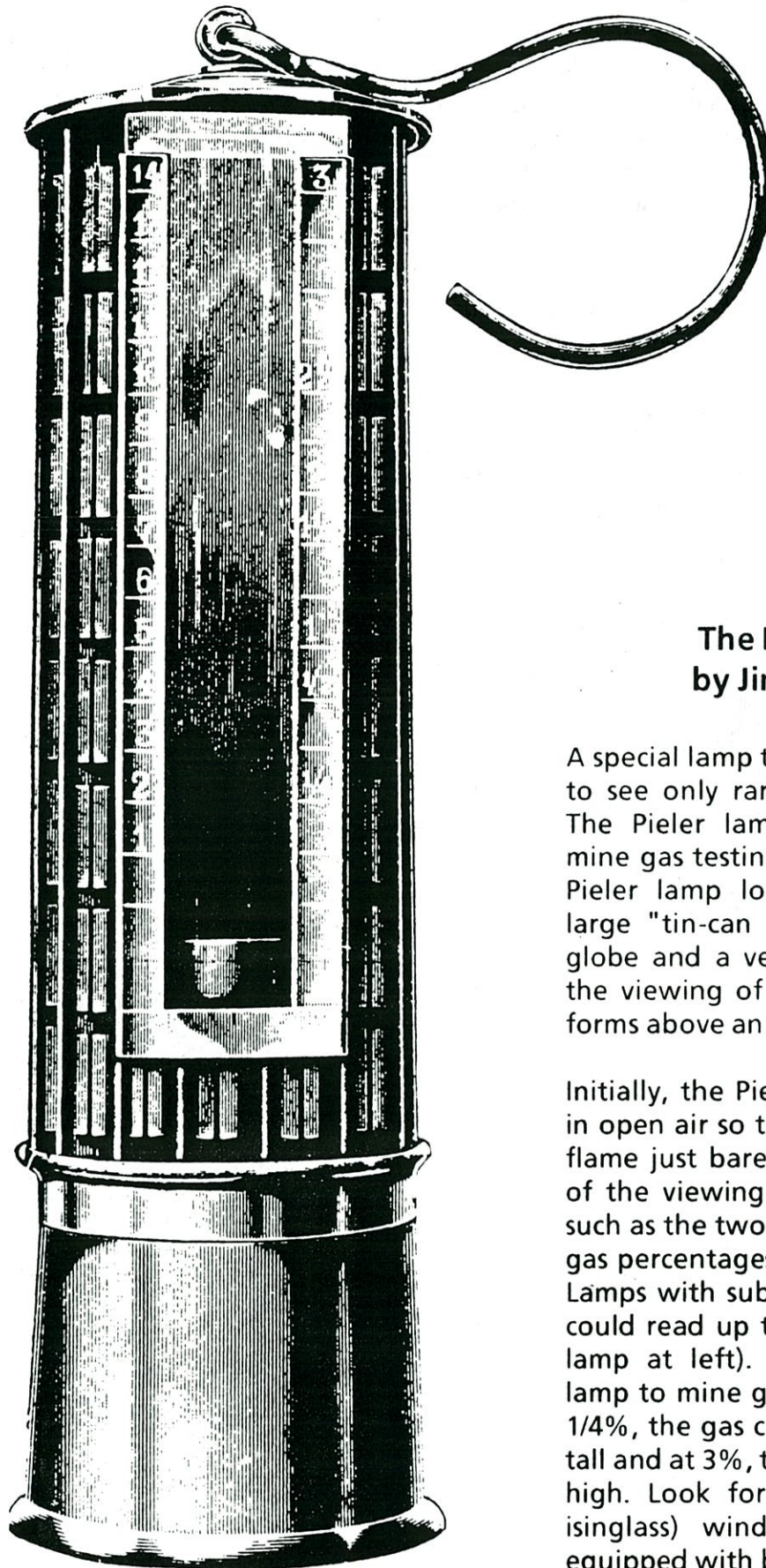
End of a Procter & Gamble candle box found in the Little Butte Mine, Randsburg, CA. Circa 1896.



End of a Procter & Gamble candle box found in the Waterloo Mine, Calico, CA. Circa 1891.



Procter & Gamble candle wrapper found in the Waterloo Mine, Calico, CA. Circa 1891.

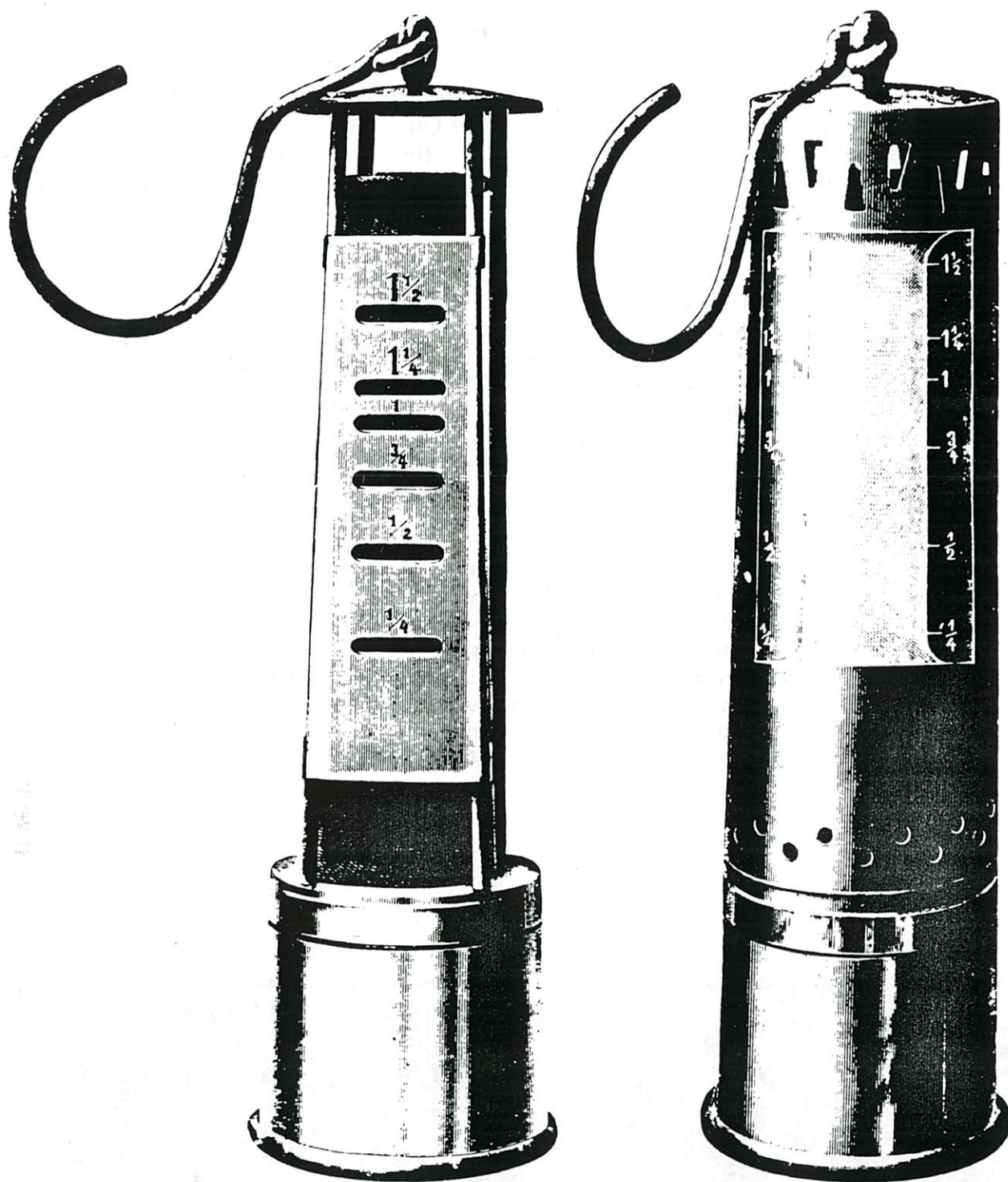


### The Pieler Lamp by Jim Steinberg

A special lamp that collectors are likely to see only rarely is the Pieler lamp. The Pieler lamp was exclusively for mine gas testing. Burning alcohol, the Pieler lamp looks very much like a large "tin-can Davy." It has no glass globe and a very tall gauze to allow the viewing of the high gas cap that forms above an alcohol flame.

Initially, the Pieler lamp was adjusted in open air so that the very top of the flame just barely reached the bottom of the viewing scale. Standard lamps such as the two to the right could read gas percentages from  $1/4\%$  to  $1\ 1/2\%$ . Lamps with substantially taller gauzes could read up to  $2\%$  or even  $3\%$  (see lamp at left). The sensitivity of the lamp to mine gas was so great that at  $1/4\%$ , the gas cap was nearly one inch tall and at  $3\%$ , the gas cap was 7 inches high. Look for mica (also known as isinglass) windows on Pieler lamps equipped with bonnets.





The Pieler lamp was an extremely poor choice for any other use other than mine gas testing. In the presence of gas, the lamp would heat up quickly and when the concentration was high, the flame would fill the lamp. Intended to detect gases when the concentration was too small for measurement with a standard Wolf type safety lamp, the Pieler would almost inevitably cause an explosion if brought into the presence of a substantial body of gas.

The lamps shown here are as depicted in the 1915 catalog of the Draeger Oxygen Apparatus Co. which was a representative of the Wolf Safety Lamp Co.

## The Standard Oil Miner's Sunshine Tin by Jim Steinberg

Having shown the V. L. Lamp and the advertisement for Standard Oil's Miner's Sunshine in a previous issue, a description of the actual Sunshine Oil tin seems in order. Illustrated on the front cover is a drawing of the front and sides of the tin in which the waxy fuel was sold. The text on the back of the tin appears below. The illustration and text are based on the tin in the collection of Len Gaska.

In Wicking Nos. 1 and 2 Miner's Sunshine Lamps the strands should not be more than 4 inches in length and No. 6 and driver's lamp about 5 inches.

Miner's Sunshine when heated is more fluid than oil, therefore the wick should be made to fill spout of the lamp snugly, but should not bind.

Fresh wick strands should be put into lamp when dry, then pour melted Sunshine or oil in bottom of lamp and tilt lamp so that melted Sunshine fills the spout and saturates the wick.

When lighting cold Sunshine, hold lamp upside down until Sunshine in the spout has heated sufficiently to feed wick.

Before putting out the light, knock off the char and raise wick a little above the spout; then fill lamp with Sunshine. This is necessary to re-light the lamp easily.

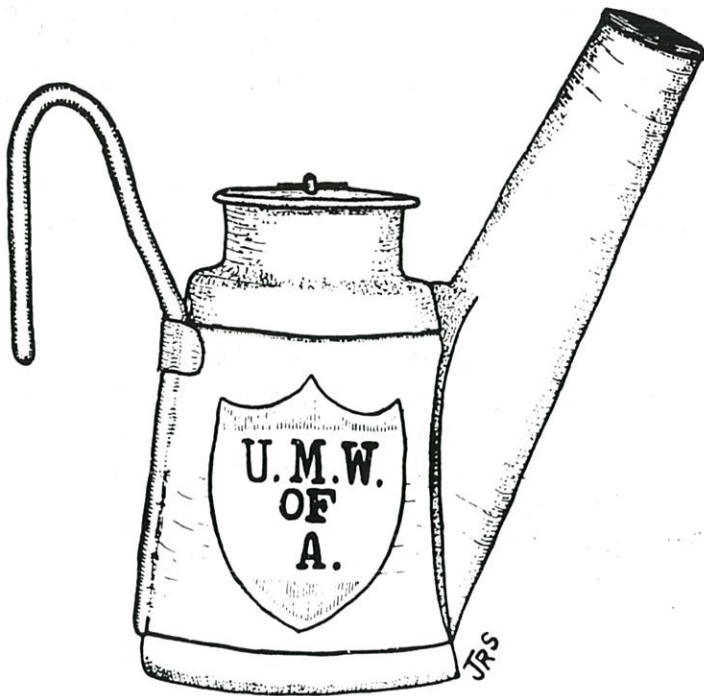
Where copper pin is used it should project from a half to three-quarters of an inch above wicking, a strong draft requires the greater exposure of pin. If lamp becomes overheated, push the pin into wick level with the end of the spout.

The wick can be pushed up or down, according to size of flame desired.



Advertising sign for Sunshine Fuel from the Ted Bobrink collection. The sign is yellow with black lettering and measures 1' by 3'. At the bottom in small letters is the marking "T.D.C. of Baltimore."

## U. M. W. A. Miner's Cap Lamps by Mark Ballard and John Podgurski



Style: Oil Cap Lamp  
Material: Tin & Brass  
Maker: Trethaway Bros.  
Height: 3.5"  
Owner: Jim Steinberg

The collector of mine lighting recognizes the oil wick lamp as the first method of cap illumination used in mining. While candle holders predominated in metal mining, oil wick cap lamps were used extensively in the coal mining fields.

While early literature simply refers to them as miner's lamps, many names are used to describe them across the country. Some of these names were derived from the fuels used to fire the lamps. Examples begin "Sunshine," "whale oil," "sperm oil," "lard oil," and "oil wick." Only Sunshine fuel came in a solid form while other fuels were liquid in nature. Many of these fuels were expensive to the miners of the period causing cheaper fuels such as kerosene to be used. A common distinction also existed based on the size of the cap lamp. "MINER'S" lamps tended to be smaller in size while "DRIVERS" lamps were larger. Drivers lamps were more commonly used by machine operators and mule boys. The wick tube of the lamp or spout, was also available with a reflector to keep the mule or driver from getting burned by the open flame in the ventilation currents of the mines haulageway. Miner's lamps sold as Sunshine lamps contained a copper lining inside the wick tube and lamp reservoir to conduct the heat needed to melt the solid fuel.

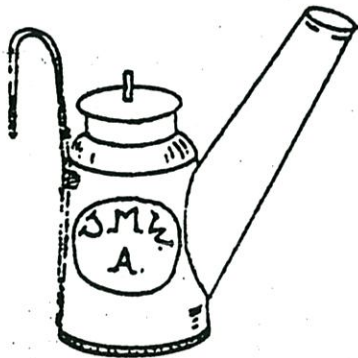
Multiple varieties of oil wick lamps exist, with advanced collections containing over 400 different lamps. One of the most sought after varieties are those containing the United Mine Workers of American logo, usually identified by the abbreviations U.M.W.A. or U.M.W. of A. This article is dedicated to the identification of some of the miner's lamps in this series known to exist in collections. Other varieties unknown to the authors most likely exist. We would appreciate hearing about any varieties not listed in this article.

Most of the oil wick cap lamps in this series were made by the Trethaway Bros. of Parsons, Pa., although the earlier vintage lamps did not have the company name on the lamp. The style and construction methods are similar on all the varieties seen by the authors.

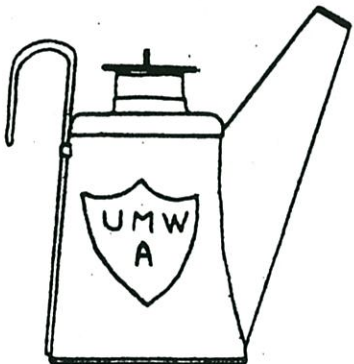
The original lamps were made at the request of John L. Lewis to be suspended from post drill bits in the redecoration of the U.M.W.A. headquarters in Washington, D.C. These lamps were not intended for "in mine" use, and the actual number of lamps originally manufactured is not known. Several of these original lamps were taken from the office over the years and some actually used in mining. The manufacturer however, did produce an unknown quantity of other lamps after the original order. This would explain the variations in lamps found by collectors over the years. Most of these lamps found their way into the mines, and they were used throughout the coal fields.

With the exception of one all brass lamp I've seen, all other lamps in this series are constructed of both tin and brass. All these lamps I've seen use brass for the logo which is soldered to the reservoir. All the logos are positioned as if the letters are read with the wick tube facing to the right. The transfer section from the lid to the reservoir is brass on all the lamps described in this article.

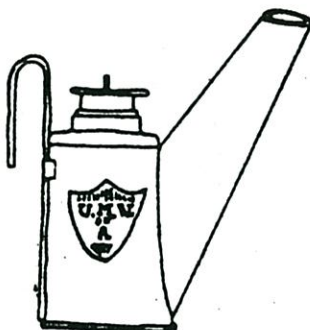
Special thanks are in order to Tony Moon and Elwood Maples for supporting information and to David Ballard for the artwork. Jim Steinberg drew the lamp at the beginning of the article.



This lamp's construction is slightly different than the others in this article. The reservoir section is straight (vertical) while the reservoirs on the others are tapered. It has a single wick tube and only the logo and neck are brass. It is a named lamp.



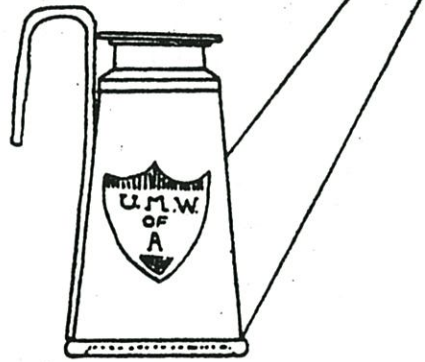
This lamp appears to be of the earliest vintage by its construction and simplicity. The brass shield contains only the U.M.W.A letters without the added details of the following lamps. The bottom of the reservoir is brass. This lamp has no name.



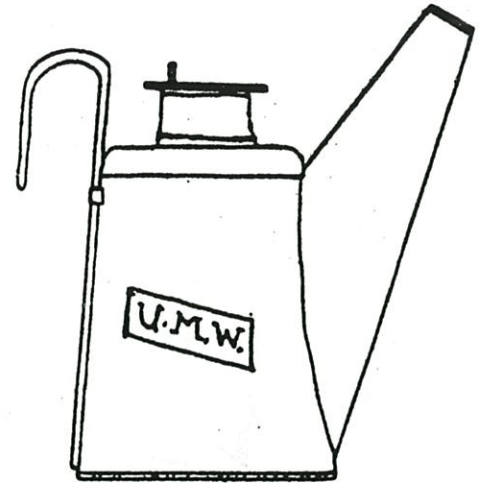
This lamp is the first to use a double wick tube construction. The tip of the wick tube is approximately 1/2" above the lid versus a full inch on previous lamps. The lower lid section is brass as if the bottom of the reservoir. Vertical lines are used to accent the U.M.W of A. lettering. The lamp is named.



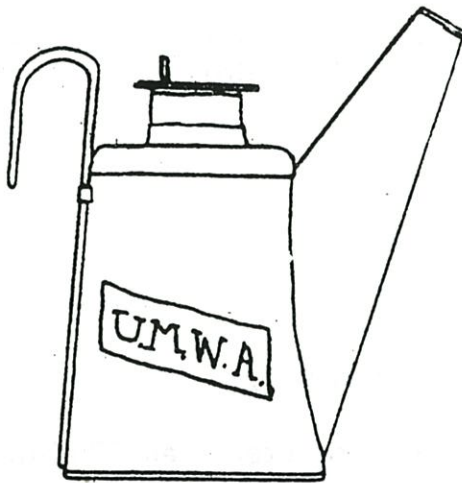
This lamp also employs the double wick tube. The bottom is entirely tin and has a domed recess extending into the reservoir. A different style hook and mounting is used on this lamp. Its shape is different and is secured to the lamp by much larger overlapped pieces of tin at a higher location on the reservoir.



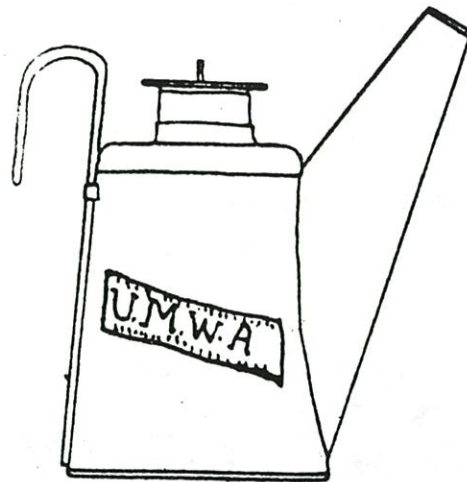
This lamp reverts to a single wick tube with a crimp at the end. It is, however, smaller in diameter and is soldered to the reservoir at a lower position than the other lamps. The very bottom is also recessed, but is vertical instead of dome shaped. The lamp is named.



This lamp has a single wick tube with a crimp at the end. The breather tube in the lid is offset to the rear. Only the logo and neck are brass.



This lamp has a single wick tube with a crimp at the end. The breather tube in the lid is offset to the rear. The logo has the letter "A" added and the brass neck is slightly higher. The lamp has no name.

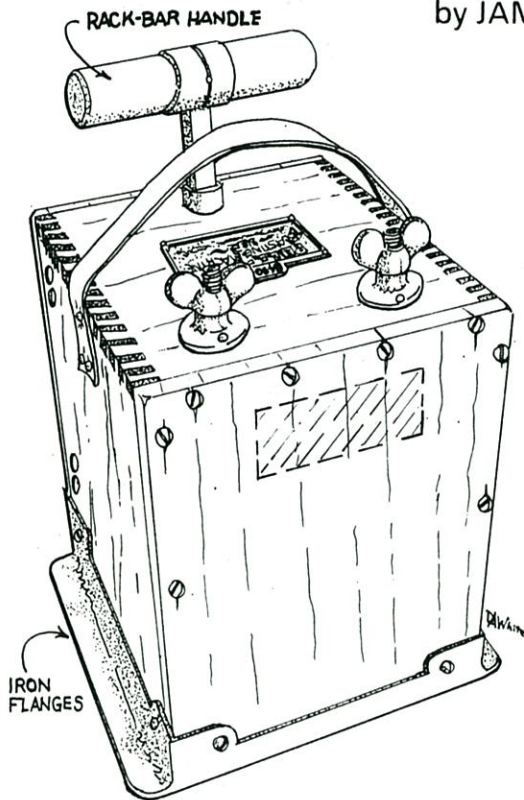


This lamp has a single wick tube with a crimp at the end. The breather tube is centered on the lid. The logo contains a series of vertical lines above and below the U.M.W.A. The lamp has no name.

## The "Pull-Up" Blasting Machine by Don and Dave White

What made the "Pull-Up" unique, was that it fired on the UP stroke, rather than the conventional down stroke we're so used to seeing.

The "Pull-Up" was Patented April 11, 1893 and manufactured by JAMES MACBETH & CO., New York City, New York.



Made in three sizes:

- No. 3 (Illustrated) - Fired 20 to 30 holes
- No. 4 - Fired 40 to 50 holes
- No. 5 - Fired 75 to 100 holes

To fire the "Pull-Up," you stand on the projecting iron flanges at the base with both feet, then pull up on the rack-bar handle quickly with both hands (the quicker the stroke, the more current is generated). Once the charge is detonated, you released the handle, and the rack-bar drops back into place.

No. 3- wood box dimensions.  
7 1/2" W X 10 3/4" H X 9" D



Cast brass ID plate (shown 1/2 size)

JAMES MACBETH & CO., produced their "Pull-Up" machine for powder manufacturers of the time, such as The AETNA Powder Co., and others. These machines have an additional I.D. plate mounted to the front (see shaded area in illustration) to identify the powder company.

No. 3 (illustrated) - from the White Bros. collection.

## The American Cap Company by Mark Bohannon

The American Cap Company was started by Charles Loucke and John Ramsey at Scottdale, Pennsylvania in 1910. They manufactured their own fulminate which they then loaded into shells that were purchased from other companies.

In 1911, the Fort Pitt Powder Company was incorporated in Pennsylvania with George Reese as president and H. G. Luker as vice-president. The Fort Pitt Powder Company had a blasting powder mill at Putneyville, Pennsylvania which had a capacity of 400 kegs per day and was gradually increasing to 1000 kegs per day. The company also sold their own brand of dynamite which was manufactured by the Cameron Powder Company.

In order to include the sale of blasting caps along with their dynamite and blasting powder, the Fort Pitt Powder Company bought the American Cap Company in 1912. They continued to operate the blasting cap plant at Scottdale which now produced Fort Pitt blasting caps.

In 1916, the Atlas Powder Company acquired the Fort Pitt Powder Company, along with the old American Cap Company plant at Scottdale, and operated it until 1918. The blasting caps made by the Atlas Powder Company at the Scottdale plant from 1916 to 1918 were probably marketed under the Atlas brand name.

The American Cap Company blasting cap tin (Fig. 1) is painted dark blue with white lettering and dates from 1910 to 1912.

The Fort Pitt blasting cap tin (Fig. 2) is painted light blue with white lettering and dates from 1912 to 1916.

Both of these blasting cap tins are very rare due to the very short period in which they were manufactured.

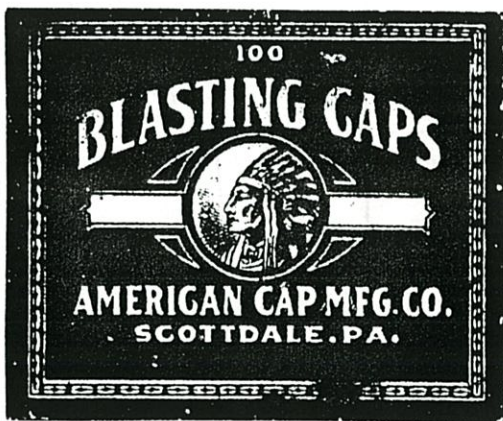


Fig. 1  
Ted Bobrink Collection

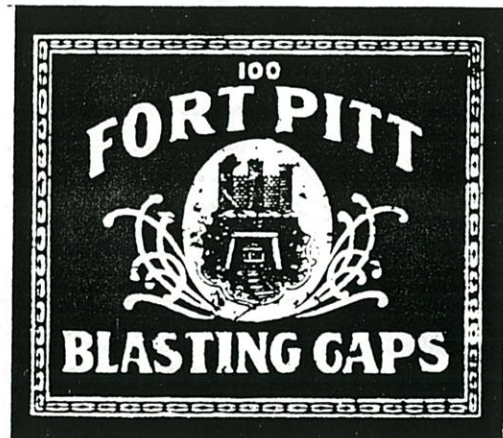
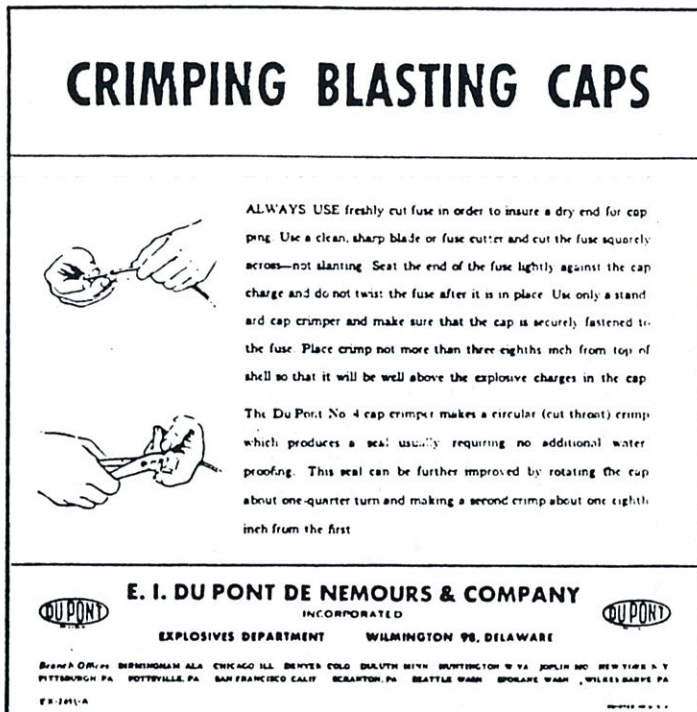
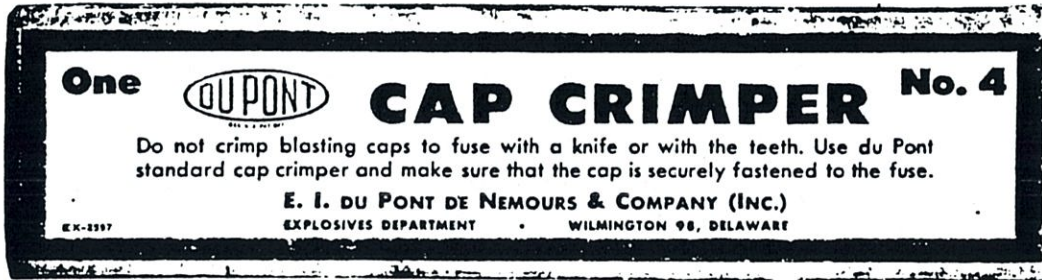


Fig. 2  
David Crawford Collection

## The DuPont No. 4 Cap Crimper by Mark Bohannon

The most common blasting cap crimper is the DuPont No. 4. This cap crimper was manufactured as late as the 1960's and is still being manufactured today, but there is no company name stamped on the current styles. The current production model is zinc plated. The DuPont No. 4 crimper was available in either a polished metal or a yellowish-gold anodized finish. Illustrated below is the DuPont No. 4 cap crimper along with the instruction sheet and original box.



Mark Bohannon Collection

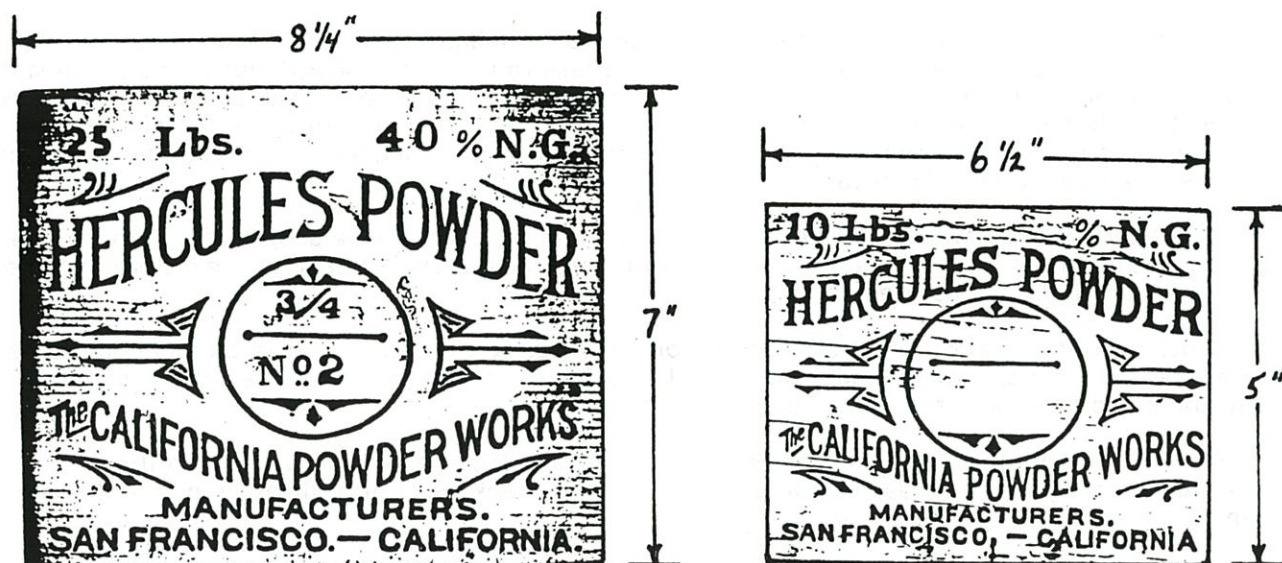
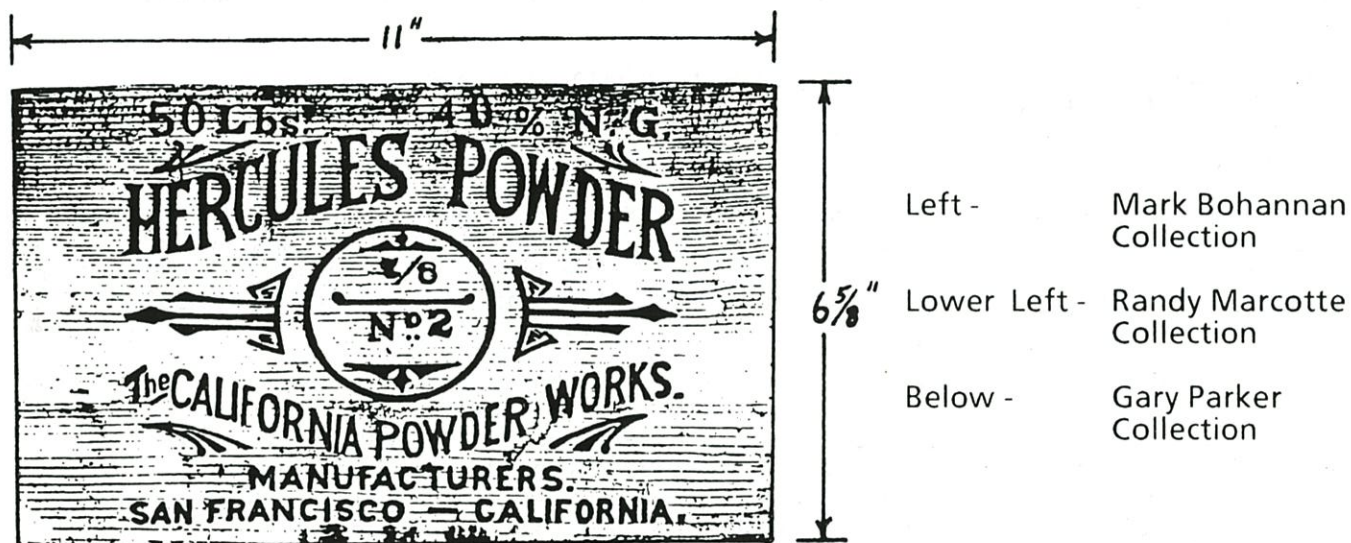


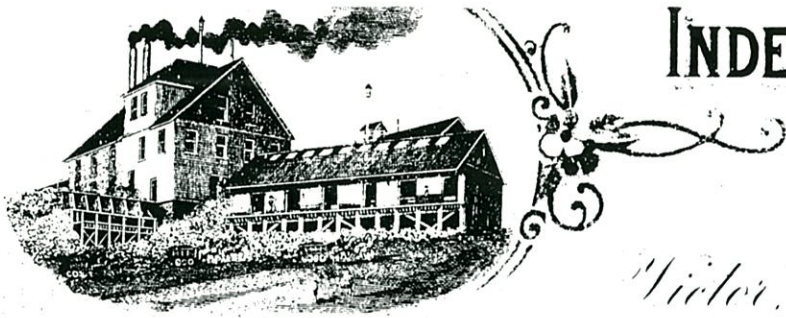
## Dynamite Box Sizes by Mark Bohannon

Unknown to many collectors is the fact that the large powder companies sold dynamite in three different quantities; fifty, twenty-five, and ten pound boxes. The most common is the fifty pound box which almost every powder company produced. Many powder companies did not sell dynamite in quantities less than a fifty pound box. A few did make 25 pound boxes available for the convenience of the small independent mining companies whose powder useage was small or infrequent.

Ten pound dynamite boxes are extremely rare due to the fact that only very large powder companies like Hercules, DuPont, Giant, Atlas, California Powder works, and a few others, sold quantities this small. The ten pound box size was designed for the prospector or others who needed only a very small amount of explosives to accomplish their task.

Shown below are the relative sizes and actual dimensions of three different size boxes of 40% No. 2 Hercules powder that were sold by the California Powder Works.





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OWNER

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Brian Levine

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### The Portland: Colorado's Richest Gold Mine by Brian Levine, Syzygy Gold Mining Company

So you're a collector of mining artifacts. Carbide lamps. Assay equipment. Stock certificates. And the like. You've got the date parameters. Manufacturer types and specifications. Condition requirements. Signatures you're absolutely looking for.

That's all fine -- and necessary. But did you know there are collectors out there who are so specialized they only acquire artifacts pertaining to a single mining district, property, or person? Right now, there's quite a group of people getting more and more interested in the Portland Mine, Colorado's richest gold property -- in Colorado's greatest gold camp.

The Portland claim was originally registered on January 22, 1892. A triangular piece of land that took up only one-tenth of an acre of Cripple Creek's renown Battle Mountain. By 1900, the Portland Company had grown to encompass over 183 contiguous acres in Cripple Creek's richest sector. In that year, practically 61,000 tons of gold ore had been raised, milling out to over 118,000 troy ounces with a gross value of more than \$2,350,000 (gold then valued at \$20.65 an ounce). And that wasn't even the Portland's peak year.

It wasn't long after this that the Portland became known as Colorado's greatest gold producer.

Everyone who was anyone in the Cripple Creek District was associated with the Portland in one way or another. James Burns and James Doyle were the original discoverers (and, Burns the company's first president). Winfield Scott Stratton -- Colorado's wealthiest and most benevolent gold baron -- owned one-third of the Portland Company's shares. Irving Howber, El Paso County's first county clerk, became one of the Portland's most influential directors. And the Carltons, through the Golden Cycle Corporation, ultimately gained control of this pinnacle of Colorado gold mining.

In its 40 years of steady activity, the Portland produced close to 3.5 million troy ounces. A long production period for most gold mines. A period full of history not only important to the mining world, but to the entire state of Colorado. The Portland's wealth helped build the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek Railroad (known as the "Short Line"), made millionaires of at least 5 mining men, got one man elected governor of Colorado, and significantly contributed not only to the longevity of the Cripple Creek District, but to the reputation of Colorado Springs as the financial center of America's "Greatest Gold Camp."

Today, the Portland's legend lives on. Out there in the vast arena of collecting are people who specifically search out Portland related items. Their interest is only that of reconstructing and preserving the history of the great Portland Mine. But what can those items be?

Well, the most obvious is The Portland Gold Mining Company stock certificate. These used to be obtainable, but have, over the years, disappeared, and become rather difficult to acquire. They are attractive certificates, large-size, unique format, but rarely seen with an issue date before 1900.

Then, of course, there are the company's checks and letterheads. These occasionally come on the market, and sometimes have the signatures of James Burns, Irving Howber, Frank Peck, or William Lennox -- all important figures in the development of the company.

Much more scarce are the company's annual reports. Especially those between 1898 and 1903. These are thick publications filled with superb A. J. Harlan photographs, both surface and underground. They also contain detailed maps of the Portland property, vein systems, shafts and driftwork, and reports by the president, superintendent, and engineer. Quite a volume of history.

But not nearly as much as the original meeting minutes of the company's boards of directors. These are extremely rare. Only 10 different ledger books are known to exist. They cover in microscopic detail the inner workings of the Portland Company. The ousting of James Burns as president. The slow change in the company's "open door" employee policy to that of the "card system" invoked by the Mine Owners Association. The crucial financing of the Cripple Creek Deep Drainage Tunnel Project. And a thousand other corporate and political decisions and maneuvers.

Then there are the special one ounce gold ingots put out by the Portland Company. in July 1910 for the dedication of its new 300-ton per day cyanide mill. Fourteen of these ingots were made from the first gold brick produced at the mill, and each individually engraved for directors and officers of the Portland Company. Only one has ever been seen. But that doesn't stop a number of collectors from pursuing the other thirteen.

The Portland Mine definitely has a following. One with a strong historical base. Portland articles in "Mining Investor," "Mining Congress Journal," "Mining Reporter," "Mining Science," "Mining American," "Mining and Metallurgy," American Institute of Mining Engineers, Colorado Scientific Society, and other are regularly being sought. Anything at all written about the Portland is in high demand. The more that's known about the Portland makes the mine all the more intriguing.

Even the B.P.O.E 367 medallion with a piece of high-grade Portland gold ore dangling from its centerpiece is a highly prized item. You talk about specialized! You can't get much more specialized than collecting historical material from just one gold mine -- even if it is Colorado's richest.

(If you would like more information on the Portland Mine, write Syzygy Gold Mining Company, PO Box 465, Victor, CO 80860-0465 to obtain details on the soon to be published book, THE PORTLAND: COLORADO'S RICHEST GOLD MINE.)



## Museums by Jim Van Fleet

In this issue of the MAC newsletter, I would like to begin a regular feature, reviewing the mining artifact collections of museums throughout the U.S. Len Gaska has commented on the love/hate relationship between collectors and museums. And this column is about the part we love; seeing lamps and other artifacts available nowhere else, and finding clues to some of the many mysteries in their history. The best place to start is the largest museum in the U.S., the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

The Smithsonian has been called "the nation's attic," and the National Museum of American History is the attic room where old miners left their gear. The museum's collection of mining items is currently in storage, but can be viewed up close by contacting Mr. Francis Gadsen, the curator of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Division.

With the help of Mr. Gadsen and his assistants, you can don white gloves and start opening drawers. What comes to light is a very large and beautiful collection of safety lamps, both European and American, including several miniatures. There is a good selection of oil wick lamps, and a collection of electric cap lamps. Each of these deserves the attention of a specialist collector, and their own write-up in this column.

I should apologize here for the apparently narrow scope of this review, but the museum's storage area consists of about 120 cabinets, each with two or three drawers full of artifacts. A dedicated mining historian could spend a week in there!

The museum's collection of carbide lamps consists of about 35 cap lamps, 2 half-shift lamps, and 12 hand lamps. Most of the lamps are clean, completed, and beautifully preserved. Some are unfired.

The collection of early Baldwin lamps is the strongest, and includes two of the earliest style pinchwaist cap lamps, with the screw-on water cap/wire feed in the center of the top. There is another early cap lamp with no markings, identifiable from early ads as a Baldwin model 32, as well as a nice Baldwin "lightning bug" model. There are two Baldwin model 36 half-shift lamps, tin with brass fittings, and a larger hand lamp of the same style. These lamps alone have enough interesting and possibly unique features to require their own article in a future issue of MAC.

The other cap lamps in the collection are as follows.

- 1 Pathfinder
- 2 Maple City
- 1 Victor (Justrite)
- 1 Wolf
- 1 vertical Justrite with Michigan (narrow) spade
- 2 common horizontal Justrites
- 12 Common Auto-Lites
- 4 common Guys Droppers

and lastly, a horizontal Grier with a base identical to that of the Hardscog Premier cap lamp pictured in the first issue of the MAC newsletter, having three oblong bumps around the base.

The museum's hand lamps include:

- 4 early Wolf lamps (European style)
- 3 ITP
- 2 Dew-R-Lites

One of the museum's Dew-R-Lites has been extensively modified, with a right angle burner tube mounted on the top, and a reflector that has to be seen to be believed.

The same could be said of the collection as a whole: it should be seen and appreciated by collectors and historians. I am hoping this review will motivate others to make a trip to the Smithsonian and arrange a visit with Mr. Gadsen and the lamps under his care. If you live too damn far away, find a local museum that deserves attention, and submit a review for this column. I know there are many find museum collections in Colorado, Michigan, California, and other states for local collectors to visit. Explain the purpose of your visit and don't be surprised if it opens some doors for you!



## Exploder Tokens by Len Gaska

Exploder tokens were issued by coal companies for the controlled distribution of explosives and related items such as fuse, detonators, and squibs. The number of known varieties of exploder tokens is probably less than 300 and many of them are fairly common.

The illustrations below were copied without permission from Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Store Scrip, Volumes I and II. For more information on the collecting of exploder tokens and coal company scrip, contact the National Scrip Collectors Association, PO Box 29, Fayetteville, WV 25840.



## Reflections: Collecting Over the Last 50 Years by Tommy Bish

For want of a better description, I'll just call this a mixture of potpourri and miscellaneous connected with the collecting of mining artifacts, as well as some of the problems encountered along the way in gathering a representative array of both underground and surface "tools of the trade" connected with mining in days of yore.

First, let's go back a few years - like maybe 30 or 40 years to when the "gathering" of old mining artifacts was engaged in by only a very few astute, historically-minded, and downright nice guys. In those days places such as Bodie and Aurora on the Eastern slopes of the High Sierras, and even the then-called "Hooverville" of the San Gabriel mountains of Southern California, were prime locations for plucking good mining artifacts from the surface of the ground. To pay twenty five to fifty cents apiece for miners candlesticks was considered almost outrageous. And folding candlesticks? These sold from a dollar apiece to as much as five bucks a crack!

And carbide cap lamps? Shucks, more than once I've bought a whole nail keg full of 'em for a dollar or so for the whole kaboodle. I guessed that they were worth that as scrap brass. However, as recently as a year or so ago, I purchased another small wooden nail keg full of stuff and had to pay \$25 for it. This keg was filled to overflowing with star drills, carbide cap lamps (mostly junkers) and seventeen miner's candlesticks, most of which were Varneys and a couple of Sholders. My long-time friend, a retired miner of almost 90 years old, told me, when I asked him what he would take for the filled keg, "Well Tommy, I figure that old stuff is worth about twenty five dollars. It's getting hard to find these days." I didn't haggle one bit with him and simply handed over the money.

Some years ago, another friend of mine, who lived in Sutter Creek, California, had purchased the entire contents of an old established mining museum that had closed because the owner had passed away. I won't mention the purchase price because I hate to see grown men cry. In removing the literally tons of mining and gold rush relics from the old building erected in 1852, my friend ventured into the darkness of the ancient basement just to make sure he hadn't missed anything. On a shelf along one aged brick wall he found a waterlogged box containing something like fifteen or so folding miner's candlesticks. All were clearly marked with the VARNEY name and patent. Would you believe that I managed to purchase two of these folders at the then outrageous prices of five bucks apiece? I wasted no time in informing my good friend what a shyster he was, putting an ungodly price on a lousy folding candlestick. I had never paid over a dollar or so for the other four folding Varneys I owned.

Ordinary non-folding beautifully made blacksmith candlestick? If they were priced over a dollar for an especially nice one, they went begging! At that time - and it wasn't all that long ago either - brand new Justrite cap lamps were selling new for slightly over a dollar apiece, finally climbing in price to over \$6 before they were discontinued and replaced by the plastic model which sold for over \$10 apiece.

One thing I have learned over the years is that there are few "experts" in this field and a lot fewer that "know it all." There just ain't no such animal as a "know it all" in any field. Period! This was brought out to me recently when I mentioned to an "expert" that I owned a very rare

25 #6 blasting cap tin by the California Cap Company, and clearly marked as such with a green label with white lettering. In fact, not one but several self-professed experts all but called me a liar. They were adamant that there never was such a thing as a California Cap Company blasting cap tin that held only 25 #6 caps.

Then a fellow collector came to my rescue. Admittedly I was hotter than a two-bit pistol in hell about this time and this collector sent me copies of old California Cap Company advertisements which clearly stated "OUR CAPS ARE AVAILABLE IN TINS OF 100 CAPS. SMALLER QUANTITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN SUITABLE CONTAINERS." I have since acquired a slightly large version of the tin, only this one for 50 #6 blasting caps, and by the California Cap Company. It might be of interest to note that the old gent who gave me this 50 cap tin once worked for the California Cap Company back in the later 1920's and early 1930's. And if this doesn't point out that nobody "knows it all," I don't know what will!

I was recently lent of copy of Issue Number 2, Winter 1989 of the Mining Artifact Collector. On page 2 of the Editor Page(s) is an article concerning collecting that is unsurpassed both in ethics and truth. This "philosophical filler" could easily be applied to any field of collecting, whether it be antique arms, automobiles, or whatever. If every collector had this attitude, what a better world this would be!

And mining relics? Shucks, I call this stuff everything from junk, crud, to trash. Next to gold, I think that rust is the most beautiful, especially if it is a mining artifact. As I recall, I collected some of my best artifacts in the Bodie area about 1939, so figure that out. But I sure as shootin' ain't no expert on this stuff. I will just continue to collect mining relics and enjoy them to my dying day!

[Editors note: Tommy Bish is a published author of seven books and has been published in fourteen national magazines in the fields of treasure hunting, guns, hunting, scuba diving, and placer mining. He has traveled the length and breadth of the western gold country extensively since the late 1930's and currently operates gold dredges on the rivers and streams of the California Mother Lode country.]



SCENES IN THE WHITE PINE MINING DISTRICT, NEVADA.—[SEE PAGE 269.]

## **The American Miner's Association** **by Jim Steinberg**

It was the year in which Abraham Lincoln was elected president, South Carolina seceded from the union, and in November there was a financial panic which ultimately led to a depression. It was 1861 and In January, the collieries of Saint Clair County, Illinois reduced the coal miner's pay per eighty pound bushel of coal from 2 1/2 cents to 2 1/4 cents. The miners did not fight this. Within weeks, an additional reduction of a quarter cent was made.

This action initiated a nearly spontaneous strike which began in the week of January 21, 1861. The entire coal field was shut down. Within days, an organization was growing in West Belleville, Illinois. Originally formed to direct the strike, it evolved into a permanent miners association to look after the miner's interests. The miners made it clear that they were only striking against the wage reductions and not looking for pay increases. They also made a major case for fair weights and measures. With the support of a community organization, a miner's bill became Illinois law on February 20, 1861. This law created a system of standards and enforcement to assure that the miners were paid properly for each bushel of coal.

Once the collieries saw that this law could not be stopped, they conceded and repealed the pay reductions. On February 16, 1861, Daniel Weaver, the first secretary of the Miner's Association announced the victory of the union and the end of the strike. The first president of the union was Thomas Lloyd.

The Miner's Association was looked upon favorably in Belleville and prospered. Miners in adjacent counties quickly joined the new union and soon it expanded into Missouri. At the first statewide convention of the Miner's Association in 1863, it became the American Miner's Association. In 1863, the union began publishing its own paper called The Weekly Miner. Also in 1863, the American Miner's Association expanded into Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The decline of the American Miner's Association probably began in the Blossburg District of Pennsylvania. In early 1865, after a lockout of over five months, the union in that coal field was destroyed. By September of 1865, the publication of The Weekly Miner had been suspended. In December of 1865, it was replaced by The Miner and Artisan, but this publication failed in July of 1866.

With the Civil War over, the national economic adjustment to a peacetime economy was too much for the American Miner's Association. It began to disintegrate. The mining business was on shaky legs and the miners were forced to accept substantial wage cuts. The lack of a union paper made it harder to communicate with the miners to inform them of struggles, successes, and a sense of solidarity. Through the late 1860s, the American Miner's Association experienced some victories and a number of defeats which crushed more regional lodges of the union.

Early in the 1870s, miners began to organize with increasing vigor into district and larger units. In the fall of 1873 in Youngstown, Ohio, the miners and the surviving loges of the American Miner's Association joined together to form the Miner's National Association of the United States of America. It's first secretary was John James, an earlier victim of one of the crushing defeats of the American Miner's Association.



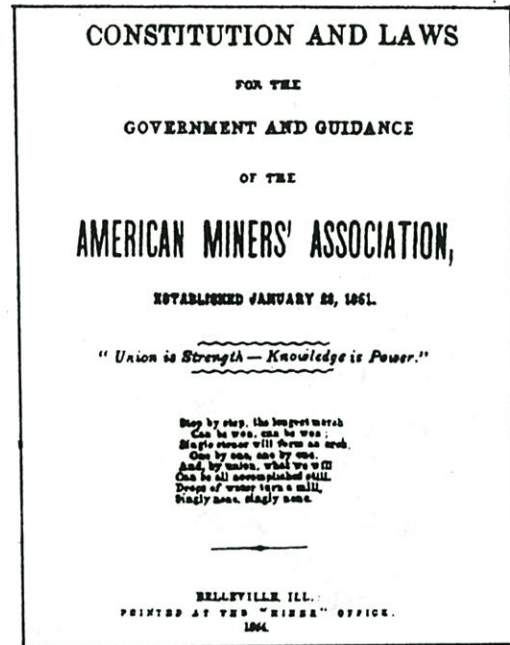
Following is the poem and speech Daniel Weaver gave exhorting the miners to form a union. The poem preceding his speech was written by Charles MacKay from "Voices from the Crowd" published in 1846.

What might be done if men were wise -  
 What glorious deeds, my suffering brother,  
 Would they unite,  
 In love and right,  
 And cease their scorn for on another.

Oppression's heart might be imbued  
 With kindling drops of loving-kindness,  
 And knowledge pour,  
 From shore to shore,  
 Light on the eyes of mental blindness.

All slavery, warfare, lies and wrongs,  
 All vice and crime might die together;  
 And wine and corn,  
 To each man born,  
 Be free as warmth in summer weather.

What might be done? This might be done,  
 And more than this, my suffering brother -  
 And more than the tongue  
 Ever said or sung,  
 If men were wise and loved each other.



The necessity of an association of miners, and of those branches of industry immediately connected with mining operations, having for its objects the physical, mental, and social elevation of the miner, has long been felt by the thinking portion of the miners generally.

Union is the great fundamental principle by which every object of importance is to be accomplished. Man is a social being, and if left to himself, in an isolated condition, would be one of the weakest creatures; but, associated with his kind, he works wonders. Men can do jointly what they cannot do singly; and the union of minds and hands, the concentration of their power, become almost omnipotent. Nor is the all; men not only accumulated power by union, but gain warmth and earnestness. There is an electric sympathy kindled, and the attractive forces inherent in human nature are called into action, and a stream of generous emotion, of friendly regard for each other, binds together and animates the whole.

If men would spread one set of opinions, or crush another, they would make a society. Would they improve the sanitary condition of our towns, light our streets with gas, or supply our dwellings with water, they form societies. From the organization of our armies, our railroad and banking companies, down through every minute ramification of society to trades' associations and sick societies, men have learned the power and efficiency of cooperation, and are, therefore, determined to stand by each other. How long, then, will miners remain isolated-antagonistic to each other? Does it not behoove us, as miners, to use every character, but obliterating all personal animosities and frivolous nationalities, abandoning our pernicious habits and degrading pursuits, and striving for the attainment of pure and high principles and generous motives, which will fit us to bear a manly, useful and honorable part in the world? Our unity is essential to the attainment of our own rights and the amelioration of our present condition: and our voices must be heard in the legislative halls of our land. There it is that our complaints must be made and our rights defined. The insatiable maw of capital would devour every vestige of labor's rights; but we must demand legislative protection; and to accomplish this, we must organize. Our remedy, our safety, our protection, our dearest interests, and the social well-being of our families, present and future, depend on our unity, our duty, and our regard for each other.

In laying before you, therefore, the objects of this association, we desire it to be understood that our objects are not merely pecuniary, but to mutually instruct and improve each other in knowledge, which is power, to study the laws of life; the relation of labor to capital; politics, municipal affairs, literature, science, or any other subject relating to the general welfare of our class. Has not experience and observation taught us what one of the profoundest thinkers of the present day has said, that "all human interests, and combined human endeavors, and social growth in this world, have, at certain stages of their development, required organizing; and labor - the grandest of human interests - requires it now. There must be an organization of labor; to begin with it straightaway, to proceed with it, and succeed in it more and more." One of America's immortals said, "To me there is no east, no west, no north, and no south," and I would say, let there be no English, no Irish, Germans, Scotch or Welsh. This is our country and

"All men are brethren - how the watch words run!  
 And when men act as such is justice won."

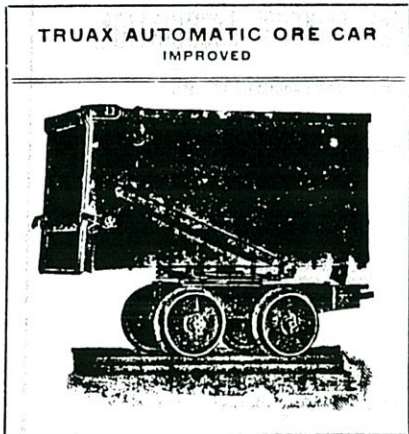
Come, then, and rally around the standard of union - the union of states and the unity of miners, and with honesty of purpose, zeal and watchfulness- the pledge of success- unite for the emancipation of our labor, and the regeneration and elevation physically, mentally and morally, of our species.

Yours, on behalf of the miners, D.W.

Reference: "The American Miner's Association," by Edward A. Wieck, 1940, Russell Sage Foundation, New York.

# The Truax Ore Car by Mark Bohannon

Although collecting ore cars is not feasible for most collectors because of the space requirements, we can all acquire ephemera such as catalogs, advertisements, and ore car tags. Following is a sample of items related to the Truax Ore Car.



JOHN T. PLUMMER  
PROPERTY MGR

CODE WESTERN UNION

J. J. KEARNEY  
DESIGNER

## THE TRUAX MANUFACTURING CO.

SMALL CARS = MINING AND INDUSTRIAL  
HYATT FLEXIBLE ROLLER BEARINGS  
SPECIALTIES

1117 WAZEE STREET  
Denver

PHONE MAIN 2738

July 27th, 1923.

SOLD TO The CONSOLIDATED CONSOLIDATED CO.  
Cripple Creek.

TERMS:

DENVER, U.S.A. THE TRUAX MANUFACTURING CO.

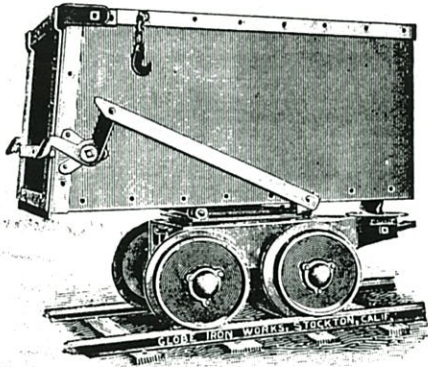
SOME OF OUR MONEY-SAVING CARS AND EQUIPMENT

THE TRUAX MANUFACTURING CO. DENVER, U.S.A.

SOME OF OUR MONEY-SAVING CARS AND EQUIPMENT

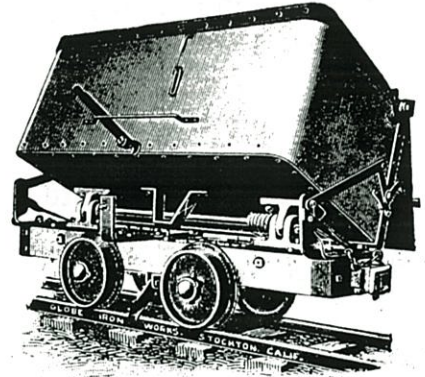
# TRUAX ORE CARS

STANDARD



Constructed of Best Quality Steel and Wrought Iron, with Malleable Iron Fittings and Self-Oiling Cast Iron Wheels with Chilled Treads and Flanges and Malleable Iron Dust Caps. Door, with Patent Indestructible Hinge, Opens and Closes Automatically. Provided with Malleable Iron Hook and Chain to Hold Door Open when Necessary. Malleable Iron Axle Clips Prevent Shearing of Axle Bolts.

SIDE DUMP



Four different styles of brass Truax Ore Car tags from the Ted Bobrink collection.

## Mine Bell Signs by Ted Bobrink

The Colorado State mine bell sign illustrated to the right was found recently by Steve Eady of Bisbee, Arizona.

Printed on cloth, the lettering is black on a white background. The sign is 34" long and 13" wide.

The name Walter E. Scott, Commissioner of Mines from 1934 to 1947, can be found at the bottom of the sign. The extensive use of bold lettering makes this sign somewhat unique and one of the most attractive cloth mine bell signs I have seen.

If you own or know about a mine bell sign you would like to see illustrated in the MAC newsletter, send us a clear closeup black and white photo and a complete description.

# BUREAU OF MINES

STATE OF COLORADO

Code of Signals adopted by the State Bureau of Mines in accordance with Section 303, Chapter 110 Colorado Statutes Annotated 1935

# SIGNALS

**1 Bell, HOIST**

**1 Bell, STOP, (if in motion)**

**3-3 Bells, CAGE RELEASE**

**2 Bells, LOWER**

**3 Bells, MEN ON**

**7 Bells, Shaft Accident and Danger Signal**

The cage or other shaft conveyance must not be moved until further signals are given by means of 8 Bells, which shall signify conveyance is again free.

**3-3-1 Bells, Hoist Slowly and with Great Care**

**3-3-2 Bells, Lower Slowly and with Great Care**

**3-4 Bells, Tools, Timber or Other Material on; Run Slowly**

**3-5-3 Bells, General Danger and Fire Alarm**

This should be flashed on the electric lighting circuit as well as on the signal system.

**3-2-1 Bells, Ready to Shoot, In or Near Shaft**

Engineer shall observe rule 3-2-1; raise cage, skip or bucket two feet and lower again and remain at this point until final signal is given and command executed.

The system of using one bell for release will be retained on smaller operations, especially shafts with pull bells

## LEVEL SIGNALS

1-1 Bells	1st Level	4-3 Bells	13th Level
1-2	2d	4-4	14th
1-3	3d	4-5	15th
1-4	4th	5-1	16th
1-5	5th	5-2	17th
2-1	6th	5-3	18th
2-2	7th	5-4	19th
2-3	8th	5-5	20th
2-4	9th	6-1	21st
2-5	10th	6-2	22d
4-1	11th	6-3	23d
4-2	12th	6-4	24th
		6-5	25th

Approved:

**WALTER E. SCOTT, JR.,**

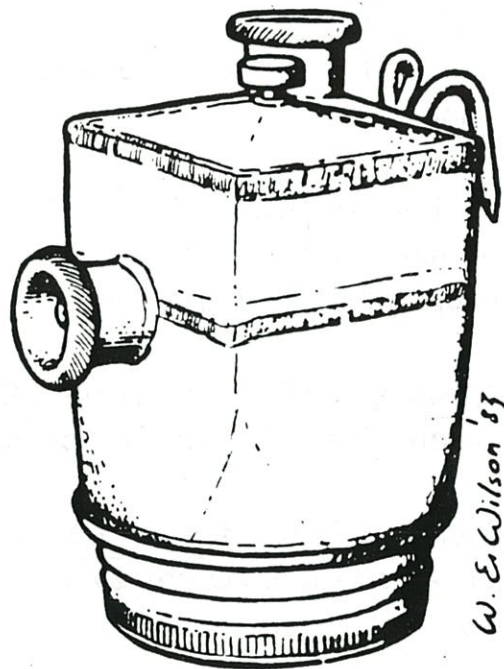
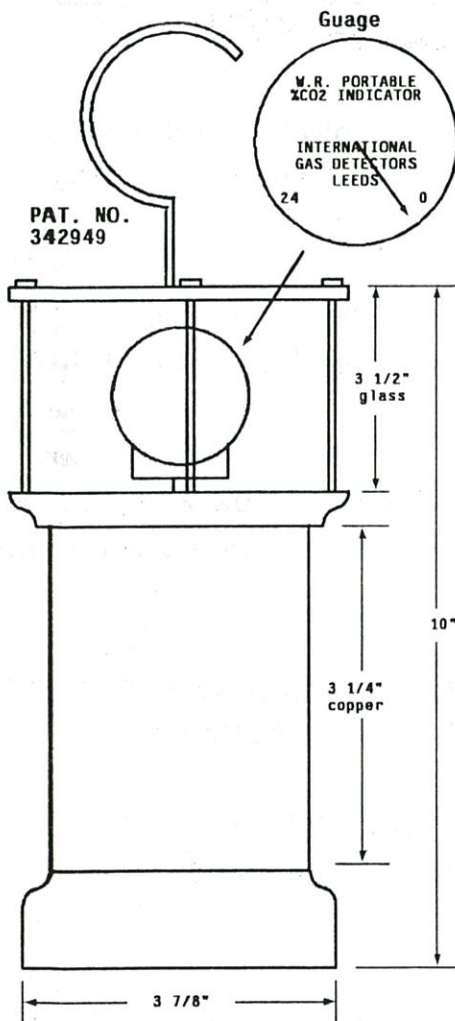
Commissioner of Mines

## Ask Dr. Lampbottom

Well, our readers came up with two questions that ol' Doc Lampbottom couldn't answer, so the good Doctor deferred to the vast knowledge base that we have out there. And that is none other than the collecting community itself. If you have any information on these two items, please contact the appropriate collector or the editors of MAC.

The gas detector illustrated to the left is in the collection of John Baz-Dresch, 912 Highland Dr., Wenatchee, WA 98801. It is marked "W.R. PORTABLE % CO<sub>2</sub> INDICATOR, PAT. 342949, INTERNATIONAL GAS DETECTORS LTD., LEEDS." John didn't have any specific questions on this item, but I would bet he would appreciate any information, including how old it is.

The odd looking lamp to the right was first reported in **The Underground Lamp Post**, Fall 1983 and was drawn by Wendell Wilson. The lamp is in the collection of Dave Johnson, 2415 S. Villa, Indianapolis, IN 46203. The hook on the lamp is of the classic "Anthracite" design. Dave would appreciate hearing from anybody with any information on this lamp, including any lucky soul that also has one of these gems in their collection.



## The Mine Artifact Collector's Library by Len Gaska

The following list is by no means complete, but represents most of the mining artifact references currently available. Contact the publisher for availability and prices. If you know of other references currently available, please let me know and I will pass the information on to our readers.

1. **Early Underground Mine Lamps**, Henry Pohs, Arizona Historical Society, 949 East Second St., Tucson, AZ 85719. This is an excellent introduction to mine lighting throughout history and contains extensive lists of known carbide, oil wick, and safety lamp brands.
2. **A Collector's Guide to Antique Miner's Candlesticks**, Wendell Wilson and Ted Bobrink, Mineralogical Record, PO Box 1656, Carson City, NV 89702. The definitive guide to miner's candlesticks including patented and handmade models.
3. **American Miner's Carbide Lamps**, Gregg Clemmer, Mineralogical Record, PO Box 1656, Carson City, NV 89702. Contains a great deal of history regarding the use and manufacture of American carbide miner's lamps.
4. **Cap Tin Catalog**, Andy Martin, PO Box 94, Piscataway, NJ 08855. A must for collectors of blasting cap tins and other explosive related items. Contains a good deal of basic history of explosives companies.
5. **Underground Lamp Post**, Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman, Denver, CO 80212. A semi-annual newsletter on mine lighting. Has been published for over 20 years. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope when making inquiries.
6. **The (Nearly) Complete Bottom Guide for Carbide Cap Lamps**, Wendell Wilson, 4631 Paseo Tubatuma, Tucson, AZ 85715. Identification guide for carbide cap lamp bottoms.
7. **Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Store Scrip, Volumes I and II**. National Scrip Collectors Association, PO Box 29, Fayetteville, WV 25840. Listing and rarity guide for nearly all known coal company scrip.
8. **Miner's Candlestick Patents**, Wendell Wilson, Mineralogical Record, PO Box 1656, Carson City, NV 89702. A complete listing of patented miner's candlesticks with the patent drawings.

## Sale and Trade Ads

**For Trade:** Blasting cap tins. I have a good collection of tins for trade. Most are California Cap Company and some are in excellent condition. Interested in trading for tins not in my collection (want list available on request). I am always interested in information on rare tins and the companies that made them. I also collect powder boxes and candle boxes. Andy Martin, PO Box 94, Piscataway, NJ 08855 (201) 699-6131.

**For Trade:** Fielding and Peterson folding candlestick complete and in excellent condition. Very nice hi-grader handle blacksmith candlestick. Very nice split-thimble candlestick. Leonard oil wick lamp with 4" spout in excellent condition. Tony Moon, 2763 East Willow Wick Drive, Sandy, UT 84092

**For Trade:** The following items are for trade by Dave Thorpe, PO Box 477, Peoria, AZ 85345

PARTS FOR TRADE	MISC.	WATERFEEDS
<b>BOTTOMS</b>	(7) Shanklin reamer cases	(1) Water feed for Maple City, unused
(1) Wolf, brass	(4) Baldwin screen filters	(2) Auto water-feed with lever
(1) Ashmead, bottom seam (flared)	(12) Hansen tips	(4) Justrite early raking wires
(1) Justrite double bead bottom, unfired	(3) Early Justrite raking wires	(3) Justrite spiral feeds (one without-spring style)
<b>REFLECTORS</b>	(5) Round brass waterdoors (Justrite, Guy's)	(3) Justrite wheel-cutoff feed for early style
(1) Guy's 2", brass, unused	(3) Old style, Justrite brass tip cleaners	(3) Luminum waterdoors, unused
(2) Justrite 198, 2" brass, unused	(6) Screw-caps for high profile Grier J&T tip cleaner	
(2) Pioneer, unusual cross-slot on inner nut, unused	(1) Hansen reflector brace w/ waterdoor, missing side braces	<b>LAMPS FOR TRADE OR SALE</b>
(1) Sunray, radial ribbed, unused	(1) Buddy reflector brace	Grier vertical, unfired
[1] XRAY unused	(6 boxes) Justrite gaskets	Simmons, intermediate, unfired
(1) Autolite deep dish setscrew, unfired	<b>TIPS</b>	Elkhorn
(1) Autolite early flat setscrew, unfired	(~50) Krakerjack ceramic	Justrite Streamline, unfired in box
(1) Guy's form-fitting type, unfired	(21) Simmons nickled cross-slot screw-on	Autolite, modern style, unfired in box
(1) Guy's set-screw, flat, unfired	[1] Gee Bee cross slot flame protector	Justrite, streamline w/ 9" refl, unfired in box
(4) Boxes of Justrite 3" nickle reflectors	(6) Hooded brass Shanklin tips	XRAY
	(4) Justrite burner hoods	

**For Trade:** Mining stock certificates. Send for free list. Will trade for (or buy) mining stock certificates. Also books on mining, mineralogy, mining company prospecti, old mining photographs (non-coal only), etc. Mining, 13057 S. California St., Yucaipa, CA 92339.

**For Trade:** Carbide hand lamps. English Premier "Crestella" with grey metal water tank and brass reflector. English Premier "Crestella" with brass water tank and brass reflector. Pinnacle No. 5, all aluminum and made in Melbourne, Australia. Have a number of the above lamps. Mining scrip from Broken Hill, Australia dated 1890 to 1910. Gerry Dillon, 16, Warramunda Cres., Banksia Park, Adelaide, South Australia 5091

**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 95035 (408) 273-9095

**For Trade:** Trojan #6 cap tin. Atlas #6 cap tin. DuPont letter opener. Hercules rules and instructions pamphlet. Dreadnaught fuse wrapper framed with sample of fuse. Other miscellaneous blasting items. Will trade for a Grier Bros. clip on reflector, brass Buddy bottom, and explosive related items, especially from eastern U.S. explosive companies. Mark Bohannan, Star Rt. Box 107E, Oro Grande, CA 92368. (619) 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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**All For Trade, Some For Sale:** Copper Queen carbide hand lamp, fair condition. Lu-Mi-Num carbide cap lamp, very 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. Almost mint vertical Grier cap lamp with J&T tip cleaner. Semi-fancy candlestick. Nobel blasting cap tins. Two fire assay molds. Denver Fire Clay Co. Catalog, No. 12. Want carbides and related items. Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA 91106. (818) 405-0647

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**For Sale or Trade:** Candlesticks: Nice fancy model, 14" long with tooling and brass inlay on spike, unusually tall thimble and elegant thumb tab. Montana pistol grip (#106 in Wilson-Bohrink candlestick book). Two Werk Co. stearic acid mining candle boxes, one red, one blue. Original Powell Co. mining candles, 10" long. Cap crimpers: Atlas Powder Co. #2, Dupont Powder Co. #1. Cap tins: U. S. Standard #6. Peerless Wilkes-Barre #6. Carbide cap lamps: Arrow, Gee-Bee, and early Np Auto-Lite with set screw reflector. Other: Crown all brass surveyor's oil lamp (Rare!). Alaska gold rush guide book, 1897, 550 pages, mint. Ted Bohrink, 12851 Kendall Way, Redlands, CA 92372 (714) 794-5518

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**For Trade:** Boxed unfired Auto-Lite, boxed unfired Guy's Dropper cap lamp, Justrite vertical style cap lamp, Justrite belt generator with fancy headlamp, Justrite spiral feed cap lamp, Milburn No. 22 area lamp, unfired Wolf safety lamp, Justrite No. 2 repair kit box, plain wrought iron miner's candlestick from Honduras, miner's stearic wax candle. Trade for carbide lamps. Also have copy of Greg Clemmer's book American Miner's Carbide Lamps for trade for lamp parts. Rich Finch, Tennessee Technological University, Box 5062, Cookeville, TN 38505

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**For Trade:** Coal mining postcards, brochures, D & H Coal advertising, and "Blue Coal" uniform patches. Tom Stranko, 2478 Stephanie Lane, Binghamton, NY 13903

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**For Trade:** Dynamite boxes, California Cap Tins, and other miscellaneous mining items. Will trade for mining items or other antiques. Gary or Mark Parker, PO Box 114, Randsburg, CA 93554

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**For Trade:** Early metal Arizona mine bell sign. Menlo candlestick (Varney style), Alaska Klondike photos. Dave Thompson, 18732 Via Palatino, Irvine, CA 92715.

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**For Trade or Sale:** Hand-held air drill (similar to Gardner-Denver S45) used in gilsonite mines. I.C.S. Reference Library volume on mining (placer, ore, assaying, etc.). Beall Brothers picks (coal and contractors), no handles. Brilliant Search Light "1911 Model," headpiece only. Desire Columbia Model C cap lamp with belt generator and other carbides. Bill Collins, 512 N. 300 W., Vernal, UT 84078.

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**For Trade:** American Safety Beard-Mackie safety lamp without indicator, Everhart Davy lamp, brass Simmons cap lamp, Brass Wolf safety lamp, canary cage, water can (brass or tin), early Concordia electric trip lamp, Davis anemometer, Brad and Linda Ross, 107 Westminster Dr., St. Clairsville, OH 43950. Telephone 614-695-1468 between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm EST.

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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:** 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 Sale or Trade:** Fielding and Peterson folding candlestick, excellent condition - \$895.00. Miniature oil wick lamp, unmarked, very good condition - \$175.00. Miniature oil wick lamp, marked C. George Hazleton on bottom, excellent condition - \$195.00. Ashmead Buddy brass cap lamp, very good condition, cap broken - \$175.00. Nickel plated Sunray cap lamp, fair condition with dings - \$75.00. Montgomery Ward candlestick, excellent condition, very nice - \$85.00. Coors porcelain miniature mortar and pestle for field assay kit, unused - \$20.00. John Coons, 1127 Adams St., Denver, CO 80206 (303) 399-5176.

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**For Sale or Trade:** F. W. Braun gold mold. F. W. Braun assayer's oven. Nice early stoper drill (widowmaker). Phil Casdorff, 28340 Live Oak Canyon Road, Redlands, CA 92373

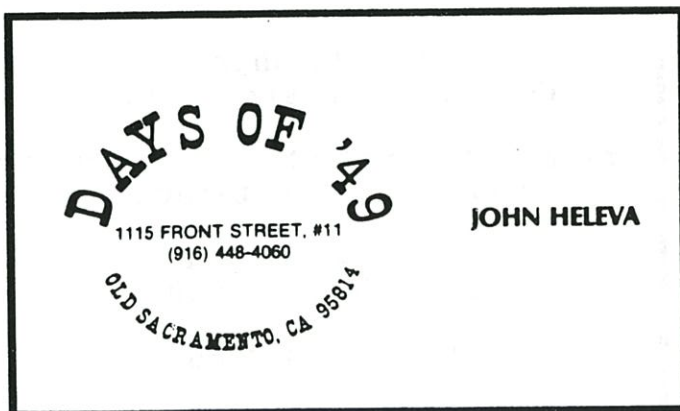
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**For Trade:** Nice winze bucket. Mining flat car. Bert Irish, 7205 El Cerrito Road, Corona, CA 91720

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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. Trade ads **MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED FOR EACH ISSUE.** Send ads to the editor: Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA 91106.

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Miner's Lamps, Candlesticks, and Other Hardware***

Featured Items:

1. De Re Metallica, Georgius Agricola, 1912 translation by Herbert Hoover. Original, not a reprint - \$650.
2. Gold Bar Mine, Bullfrog, Nevada silver medallion - \$25.
3. James G. Fair signature on colorful check, 1870's - \$27.
4. John MacKay check - \$40.
5. Nevada Fairview Mining Company colorful claim map. 24" x 24" on cloth, dated 1905 - \$350.

**WILLIAMS MINERALS**  
P.O. BOX 1599  
IDAHO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80452  
(303) 567-4647

The following mining artifacts are now all currently available for sale or trade. We also offer several types of Gold Scales including Hand Held, Assay Button Balances, and large Bullion Balances. We will send Polaroid photos for any items upon request.

- Colorado State Code of Mine Bell Signals Sign, Porcelain Lettering, J. W. Stonehouse, Victor, Colorado - \$425.00
- Atlas Blasting Machine No.2, Wilmington, Delaware. Turn key, hand-held type, 10 cap, all brass - \$275.00
- W. & L.E. Gurley Surveying Alidade Model #181342. Brass field instrument w/carrying case, includes field plane table and folding tripod - \$1,800.00
- USGS Monograph XXXI Atlas, Geology of the Aspen District, Colorado, J. E. Spurr, 1898 - \$425.00
- Prof. Butler's Portable Apparatus Blowpipe Kit, University of Arizona, circa 1905 (some parts missing) - \$450.00
- Gimbaled Headley Brand Mining Compass with inclinometer, c. 1890, J. & W.E. Archbutt, London, #1515 - \$1,800.00
- Blasting Machines "Wooden Plunger Types": Reliable No. 4 - \$350.00, Gold Model, 50 cap - \$350.00, Dupont Reliable No.2, 11 inches tall - \$400.00
- "Winze" Ore Bucket, like new, Aspen District, Colorado, 15 in. high x 16 in. diameter - \$395.00

**MAPS - All framed w/acid-free matting:**

**Outside Dimensions (O.D.)**

1. Fred Hills color coded Mining Companies of the Cripple Creek Mining District, circa 1900, O.D. 30-1/2 x 33. - \$450.00
2. Gilpin County, Colorado Mineral Belt, color coded topo map, circa 1900. Double-sided framing; front map side, back side info on production of District. O.D. 27-1/2 x 21-1/2 inches. - \$400.00
3. Mining Claims of Leadville, Colorado, C.A. Bohn, M.E. Circa late 1890's, shows major ore zones and cross section of mineral faults for District. O.D. 30 x 20-1/2 inches. - \$395.00

**CANDLEHOLDERS:**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. 13 inches standard "hi graders" stick                            | \$175.00 |
| 2. W.H. Pleasants, Victor, CO, Pat. March 28, 1899                  | \$350.00 |
| 3. 13 inches standard "hi-graders handle" stick with wide handle    | \$195.00 |
| 4. Justrite 8-1/2 inches long, #35 carbide holder stick             | \$125.00 |
| 5. Fancy Tool Model 8-1/2 inches (with sledge hammer inside handle) | \$850.00 |

**CARBIDE CAP LAMPS:**

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|--|----------|
| 1. Ever-Ready, all brass, mint condition, complete             | \$875.00 |
| 2. Grier Bros., all brass, complete                            | \$150.00 |
| 3. Trade Mark S. Simmons, brass with steel reflector, complete | \$125.00 |
| 4. Luminum brand, all cast, mint condition                     | \$350.00 |

**CARBIDE LAMPS:**

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Hand-held type, Wolf, all brass presentation, mint condition, complete | \$650.00 |
| 2. Luminum Brand, Hand-held type, complete, mint condition                | \$375.00 |
| 3. Uncle Sam cast aluminum with original reflector                        | \$275.00 |

**OIL WICK LAMPS:**

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|---|----------|
| 1. A. Roth & Son, No. 1, all copper with 2-3/4 inch spout, complete | \$275.00 |
| 2. T. F. Leonard, Scranton, PA with 4-1/4 inch spout, complete      | \$95.00  |