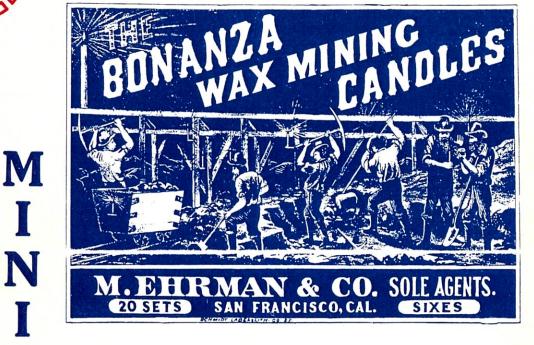


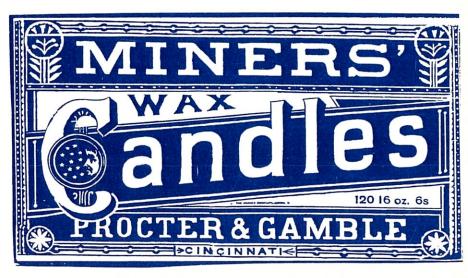
Issue Number 8 Summer 1990



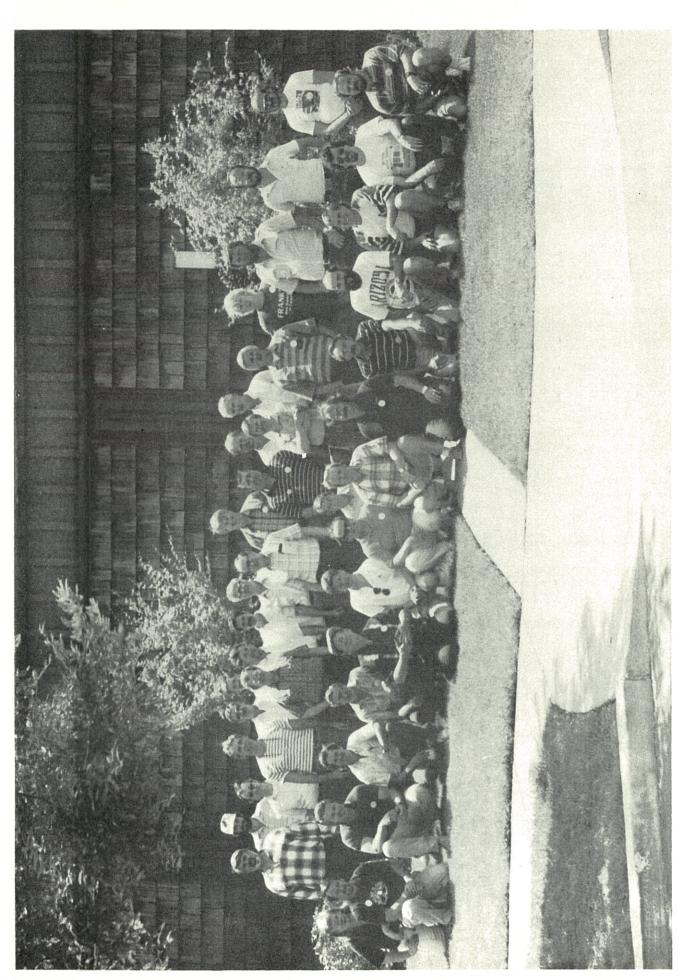




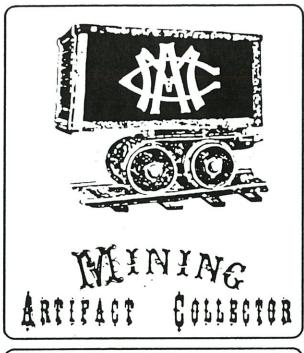
N G



C A N D L E S



Back Row Left to Right: Dennis Crisp, Dave Gresko, Tony Moon, Jeffrey Millet, Steve Scott, Larry Kuester, Dave White, Tim Callaway, Steve Eady, Cliff Krueger, Leonard Piszkiewicz, Jim Stolburg, Errol Christman, Tom Martin, Dave Evitt, Paul Schweizer, John Slenter, Dave Front Row Left to Right: Stephan Moon, Rick Yarborough, Glen Schweizer, Dave Thompson, Don White, Pappy Yeats, Bill Spence, John Coons, John Johnson, Phil Casdorph, Randy Marcotte, Herb Dick, Ted Bobrink, Bob Schroth, Jim Steinberg, John Neilson. Thorpe, Mark Bohannan, Bill Collins, Lenny (Hit Man) Gaska.



On the Cover

Ends of Bonanza and Procter & Gamble candle boxes. See article on collecting candle boxes in this issue.

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Subscriptions

The MAC journal is published four times a year in the months of January, April, July, and October. The rate is 825 for domestic delivery and 835 a year for overseas airmail 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 92373 Back issues are available for \$6 domestic delivery and \$8.50 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 month of publication.

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 deadlines for ads are December 15, March 15, June 15, and September 15 and acceptance is subject to availability of space.

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.

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

The Editor's Page(s)

by Len Gaska

Everyone's Subscription is Now Due!

Remember, dear reader, that ALL subscriptions run from the fall issue to the summer issue. Note that our subscription rate has increased to \$25. With the loss of many of our advertisers and the increased price of printing, we had a choice of either raising the subscription rate or cutting the quality of the MAC. Believing that any job worth doing is worth doing well, we choose the former. The loss of advertisers is simply due to the scarcity of good mining collectables. We aren't finding them nearly as often and neither are they.

New Editor on Board

We welcome Tony Moon to the staff of the MAC as our new Safety Lamp Editor. Suggestions, information, and articles about safety lamps should be sent to Tony at: 125 Brandywine Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (415) 939-0522.

Fifth Annual Mining Artifact Collectors Reunion

We want to extend our heartiest thanks to Tony Moon, Ruth Moon, Rick Yarborough, and Kitty Yarborough for hosting the Fifth Annual Mining Artifact Collectors Reunion which was held on June 9 in Concord, California. A report on this great event appears in this issue.

Congratulations to Dave Johnson!

I guess Dave was tired of hearing about the yearly reunion held in California and not being able to attend. So, he graciously made the effort to set up and host the First Annual Eastern Mining Artifact Collectors Swap Meet to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 9. A flyer is enclosed in this issue. Contact Dave Johnson 6807 Homestead Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46227 (317) 786-8667 for further information.

Keep it Fun, Guys!

Over the past four years, I have heard quite a few complaints about the current state of mine artifact collecting. Virtually all of them fall into one of four categories.

- 1. Prices are too high.
- 2. I just can't find much anymore.
- 3. Some collectors are just too aggressive.
- 4. It isn't fun anymore.

High prices are a fact of life these days as it eventually becomes when any type of collecting "matures." I have talked about high prices many times before and personally consider the

subject more or less closed. I can personally attest to the fact that mining artifacts are getting more difficult to find. Still, many things are showing up every year and it is usually the diligent collectors who are finding them. As in every aspect of life, those who work hard at building a collection will almost always succeed.

I suppose that there are almost as many reasons for collecting as there are collectors. Likewise, there exists a wide variation on the degree of interest or amount of time devoted to any hobby. Personally, I kind of follow the advice of a wise old friend who states: "Anything worth doing is worth doing to an excess." That attitude leads to a singular devotion of time and money to the hobby of mining artifact collecting. But it is all for one purpose, and one purpose only. And that is for the enjoyment of collecting. I sometimes wonder about a few collectors I have known. They are the types who are addicted to the hobby. If you have been collecting for very long, you probably know the type. They miss something at a flea market and their day (or week or month) is ruined! They get grumpy or simply pout. Granted, we all get a bit peeved when we miss a good item, but most of us forget about it shortly thereafter and are off to the hunt once again. Then there is the type of collector who has to have his weekly or monthly "fix" and becomes impossible-to-live-with if he doesn't get it. Finally, there is the type of collector that feels jealous when someone else finds a prized artifact. Well, people are free to collect for whatever reason they wish, but in some cases, I believe they are missing out on the true enjoyment of collecting.

So let's keep it fun, guys! Remember that the things we collect are just objects that have no real value except what enjoyment we may get out of collecting them and sharing with other collectors. There is no lamp or candlestick worth causing yourself grief because you missed it. We at the MAC staff collect, talk with other collectors, and share information because we enjoy it. If and when that is no longer possible, we will all quit collecting.

Complaint Department

Among the hundreds of letters we have received during the past two years, only two have voiced complaints about certain policies of the MAC. However, we do get some second-hand reports of subscribers voicing objections to our content. We must, of course, discount those reports as they are all second-hand and names are never given. We wonder what is the point of only complaining to parties that have nothing to do with the publishing of the MAC? If you have problems with an auto repair shop, complaining to your paperboy is fruitless and of no value. If any of you do have objections to the content of the MAC or just have suggestions for improving it, by all means let us know. We welcome any and all constructive criticism and suggestions. Name calling or nasty comments will be summarily ignored and filed in the circular file.

Kudos

To all the contributors to this issue. In no particular order, they are John Podgurski, Robert Fox Jr., Steve Eady, Jeff Millet, Jim Van Fleet, Bill Spence, Herb Dick, and Wendell Wilson for his usual superb drawings and his continuing support of the MAC.

Meyer Stein's 1913 Patent ... and the Lamps that Followed

by Dave Thorpe

Patent Applied For

"I claim the ornamental design for a lamp, as shown", declared the Springfield, Illinois machinist ^{1, 2} on July 2, 1913. ³ Six months and seven days later, the U.S. Patent was granted, and Meyer Stein's new career as designer and manufacturer of carbide lamps was formalized.

The patent was unique *only* for its tank design which tapered on an inward curve to a narrow waist. The compound curvature resulted in an exceptionally strong and functional chamber.

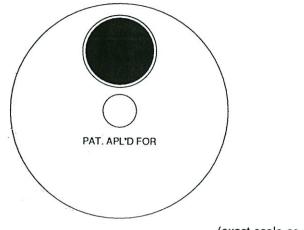
Prior to being officially patented (Dec. 9, 1913) two different lamps were produced, as indicated by the "Pat. Apl'd For" stamping. They were identical to the lamp shown in the patent design, and to each other, except for their top marks. (see below)

These pre-patent lamps incorporate features typical of other "early development" lamps. Their hooks penetrate the water tank and are soldered inside. They have simple indented waterdoors. The water control lever is straight and rides free of any notches. The unreinforced reflector is of tinned steel and simply pushes on (Baldwin-style) over a smooth gas tube. The tank flange comes to a sharp unrolled edge and the smooth sided bottom lacks any provision for gripping.



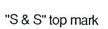
1913 Pre-patent Stein Lamp

As the two lamps would have been produced only in the six month period between July and December of 1913, they are understandably rare. The lamps were apparently manufactured by Meyer in his brother Philip's clothing store.⁴ Thus, the "S & S" lamp probably represents the initials of Stein and Stein.



(exact scale as shown)





S & S PAT APL'D FOR

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MEYER STEIN, OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

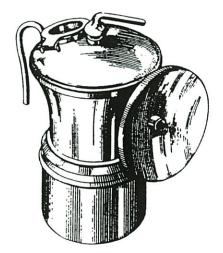
DESIGN FOR A LAMP.

45,028.

Specification for Design.

Patented Dec. 9, 1913.

Application filed July 2, 1913. Serial No. 777,090. Term of patent 7 years.



To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Meyer Stein, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Sangamon and State of Illinois, have invented a new, original, and ornamental Design for Lamps, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part thereof.

I claim:

The ornamental design for a lamp, as

MEYER STEIN.

Witnesses:

ED EMSON, JAMES REILLY.

Meyer Stein,
Wictor J. Evans

The Springfield Lamp

By 1915 Meyer Stein had established his own business location ⁵ and operated as the "Meyer Stein Manufacturing Co." Concurrently, the lamp was stamped and advertised as "The Springfield Lamp". It passed through various stages of refinement. The waterlever became bent under. Early models possessed unthreaded gas tubes, while later ones were threaded (the reflector being held against a collar by a large hex nut). Later yet, reflector braces were utilized. All reflectors were of the double concave style, with early ones being sharp edged, and later ones rolled. The hook became soldered to the exterior, the waterdoor changed to a double thickness dome, and the bottom developed an octagonal grip design.



Early Style Springfield Lamp



Late Style Springfield Lamp

Though the details are unclear, shortly after 1920, Meyer Stein began to revert to a primary role as designer and machinist, while brother Philip assumed business and manufacturing responsibilities.⁶ Meyer went on to develop two more patents which he sold to Ashmead Mfg. Co. (Ashland, Kentucky). At one point, he worked for them as design consultant. ⁷



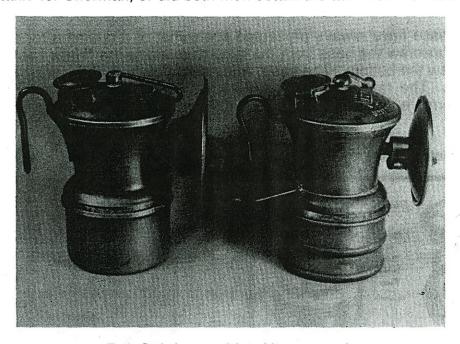
"The Spingfield Lamp" top mark

The Early Auto-Lite

Not far away, in Staunton, Illinois, Jacob S. Sherman marketed a lamp very similar to "The Springfield Lamp". Like Meyer Stein, he began to manufacture lamps in 1913, and by 1915, had both a patent and a trademarked name for his product: the "Auto-Lite".

It is reported that Sherman assembled the lamps from parts made elsewhere, and that Chase Brass of Waterbury, Connecticut was a main supplier. Indeed, the early double-ringed Auto-Lite base is identical to that seen on the "Arrow", a lamp design patented by the Chase company.⁸

The Auto-Lite tank, however, is *identical* in dimension and form to the unique tank patented by Meyer Stein. There is little question that both were stamped from the same dies. Did Stein manufacture the tank for Sherman, or did both men obtain the tank from Chase brass?



Early Stein lamp and Auto-Lite compared

Footnotes and References

- 1. Circuit Court of Appeals, Dec 7, 1916. In a lawsuit of Guy v. Stein, it is disclosed that in 1908, Meyer Stein began repairing lamps for miners and inserting dropper mechanisms in lamps previously equipped only with raking wires.
- 2. 1914 Springfield city directory lists Meyer Stein as machinist, 1915 lists him as manufacturer of carbide lamps.
- 3. U. S. Patent Office, Design Patent # 45,028. Application filed July 2, 1913. Patented December 9, 1913.
- 4. 1914 Springfield city directory shows Meyer Stein's machinist listing to be at same location as brother Philip Stein's clothing store. Association of addresses noted by Paul Kouts in MCLR Volume IV,1982.
- 5. 1915 Springfield city directory lists Meyer Stein at new address of 117-121 North 11th Street. Information supplied from Gregg Clemmer's American Miners' Carbide Lamps, 1987, p. 89.
- 6. See summary of City Directory title listings as summarized by Paul Kouts, MCLR Volume IV, 1982.
- 7. Patent # 1,376,654. Sold to Ben Williamson of Ashmead on August 15, 1922. Digest of Assignments August, 1922. Original research done by Gregg Clemmer.
- 8. Auto-Lite history derived from: Gregg Clemmer, American Miners' Carbide Lamps, 1987, p. 90.

Justrite's "Jiffy" Container

by Dave Thorpe

Between 1915 and 1919, Justrite cap lamp bases were manufactured with two rows of beads for gripping. Justrite considered the "Jiffy" to be their upscale base as evidenced by their catalog descriptions and the elegant bottom stamping (photo right). With the "Jiffy" Container, Justrite did away with conventional screw threads, replacing them with the "Helix Locking Device". Instead of unscrewing the base in the usual way, the miner needed only to twist half a turn. The "Jiffy" base, is usually found with the "Duplex Feed" water dropper and was advertised this way in the Justrite catalog shown below (ca 1915-16) as well as the large and more familiar 1919 catalog.

Lamps with this base have always presented somewhat of a dilemma for collectors to display. One must either unscrew the base from the lamp to examine the "Helix Locking Device", or pick the lamp up to view the bottom. The base, when displayed with the unique screw-cap, however, speaks for itself. The row of beads on the screw cap immediately identifies it as a "Jiffy" container. Furthermore, laid on its side, it proudly displays the fancy bottom stamping.

From a Justrite Catalog (ca. 1915-16)



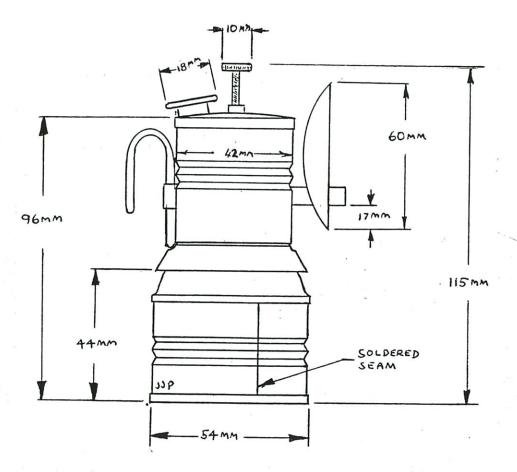


Unidentified Carbide Cap Lamp

by John Podgurski

I recently picked up the cap lamp pictured below and, after discussions with several collectors regarding its identity, have yet to come to any conclusion. Having observed several varieties of Scrantons, Scrantos, Non-Justrite Victors and other unidentified lamps, I believe the lamp shown is earlier in vintage than any of the lamps mentioned. From the illustration, similarities can be seen in the design of waterfeed, waterdoor, oilwick cap lamp style hook, and the fixed soldered reflector. The construction of the water chamber and base, however, indicate earlier, more primitive methods. The fancier rolled crimp of both parts and the soldered *vertical* seam present in both water chamber and base, lead one to believe that the lamp parts were formed and assembled by hand. This is in contrast to the seamless construction of the lamps mentioned above.

The lamp was found in the Anthracite Coal Fields of Pennsylvania which by itself is no indication of the lamps's origin. The author, however, has a spare bottom for the same lamp. This bottom was found over 10 years ago when my uncle was cleaning out his garage. Having also visited the Smithsonian Institute, and observing a majority of the collection in storage, lamps of similar construction are present in the collection. These lamps however, are mainly identified through tags listing patents. In fact, many lamps in the collection may be the only one in existence. It was common practice for inventors to submit the actual item in conjunction with the various patent drawings for verification. These patent items are now in the Smithsonian Collection. Many of the items obtaining patents were never manufactured in quantity.



The sketch (above) is included with dimensions for comparison to any other unidentified lamps in private collections. If anyone can help with the identification of the lamp, or wishes to discuss the theories presented, please forward your reply to myself or Dave Thorpe.

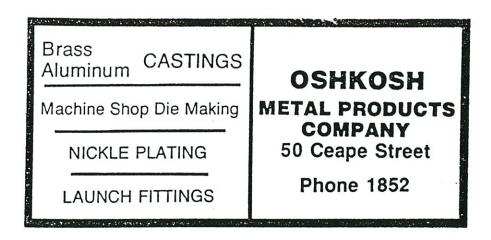
Oshkosh Carbide Lamps

by Robert L. Fox Jr.

After purchasing Knippenburg Manufacturing Company on January 4, 1912, Oshkosh Metal Products Company continued the manufacturing of the Husson candlesticks and oil lamps. In addition, Oshkosh Metal Products also did electroplating and carried a line of boat supplies.

The forward in Oshkosh Metal Products Company catalog stated: "We have recently leased the Knippenburg Manufacturing Company and have taken up the manufacturing of the line of miner's lamps formerly made by them. The factory has been completely overhauled and our facilities for making miners lamps illustrated in this catalogue are all meeting a very good demand and we believe that your wants will be well taken care of in our hands."

Oshkosh Metal Products Company continued to expand their business with the addition of a brass and aluminum foundry. Was it their intention to utilize the brass foundry for the production of lamps or to enter into the marine hardware business? Note the advertisement which appeared on the front cover of the 1912 Oshkosh City Directory advertising their brass and aluminum casting as well as launch fittings and nickel plating.



Advertisement on front cover of 1912 Oshkosh City Directory

It is a logical assumption that by 1914 the sales of the oil wick lamps were seriously deteriorating due to the effects of insurance companies, state legislatures, as well as the growing popularity of carbide and electrical lamps. Many strong competitors were also making miner's lamps ii 1914, including Justrite, Universal, and Shanklin. I can only theorize that Oshkosh Metal Products was facing stiff competition and ultimately did not find the carbide lamps to be a profitable venture. The production of lamps was ceased and the decision was made to concentrate on marine hardware.

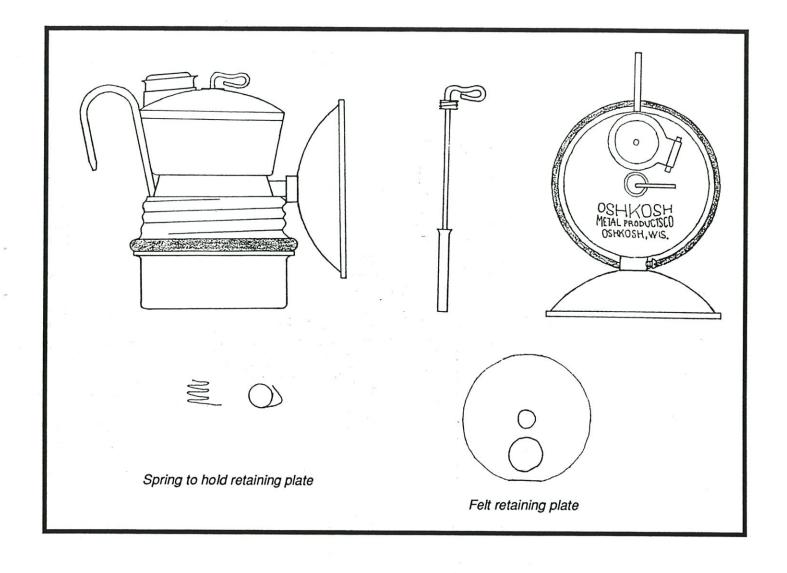
Bibliography

Fox, Robert L. Jr. <u>Husson Miner's Lamps Manufactured in Oshkosh</u>. 1985

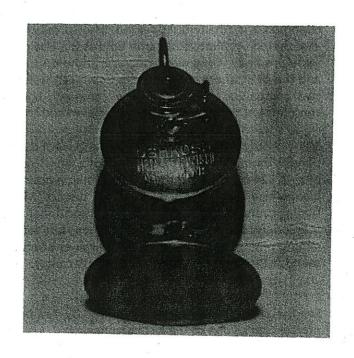
Oshkosh City Directory. 1912

Oshkosh Metal Products Catalog. 1912

Pohs, Henry A. The Underground Lamp Post. Vol. 3 No. 7, Fall, 1981.







Drawings above (70% reduced) and photos below by Mike Puhl. Oshkosh lamp from his collection

The Copper Queen Mine Warren Mining District, Bisbee, Arizona

by Steve Eady

The story of the Copper Queen Mine of Bisbee, Arizona started in 1877 when an Indian tracker named Jack Dunn was leading Lt. Anthony Ricker and a group from the cavalry on a search for Indian marauders. They camped in a canyon of the Mule Mountains where they found a spring. The water turned out to be bad, so Dunn went looking for another spring. After finding one, he began working his way back to the group when he found some pieces of malachite (copper ore) which had washed into the canyon. Copper did not interest him, but his trained eye detected the presence of silver. Later, he and Rucker located the first claim in what was to become Bisbee some years later. Dunn was too busy to work his claim, so he grubstaked a prospector named George Warren to do the job for him. Warren eventually went to the area and found rich outcrops of copper and the possible presence of silver. He filed eleven more claims, but none in Dunn's name. Now that claims were filed, the occasional prospector came into the canyon. Two of these prospectors "jumped" the Halcro claim which Warren had located and in 1878 they changed the name to the Copper Queen since more copper was present than silver. The Copper Queen claim changed hands several times before 1880. It was finally bought by a San Francisco group, Bisbee, Williams and Company which formed the Copper Queen Mining Company and began to produce copper. While others were competing for the Copper Queen, George Warren, the original locator, was living a lazy life in the valley, sleeping and drinking. Through a roundabout fashion, he had reacquired a ninth interest in the "Queen." On one Fourth of July, when his patriotism had been augmented by alcohol, he bet a friend that he could run to a post some hundred yards away and return faster than the other man could cover the distance on a horse. Both finding themselves short of cash, Warren staked his interest in the "Copper Queen" against his friend's horse. Amid wild cheering from the spectators, Warren led around the post, but the horse slowly gained and passed him on the home stretch. The ultimate value of Warren's staked was to be estimated at \$20,000,000. Pity was taken on Warren and with a small pension from the mining company, he spent the rest of his life sweeping saloon floors and cleaning cuspidors. He died about 1895 and was soon forgotten. Today we remember him because the entire mining district has been named for him, the Warren Mining District.

In 1881, Dr. James Douglas, a mining engineer, came to town to investigate the areas. He later returned on hire with Phelps Dodge & Co. of New York to acquire the Atlanta claim immediately adjacent to the Copper Queen. He did so and when the title cleared in 1883, mining began. After 2 years of looking for ore, Phelps Dodge finally struck a huge ore body of malachite (25% copper). During that same 2 years, the ore on the Copper Queen had dwindled and finally disappeared, after producing 90,000 tons and paying dividends of \$1.25 million in a four year period. At almost the same time as the Phelps Dodge discovery on the Atlanta, the Copper Queen found the same ore body. They were, however, now on the Atlanta claim. With the prospect of litigation over apex laws and the debt of ore mined by the Copper Queen on the Atlanta claim, negotiations were begun to combine the two companies. In 1885, a new company, the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Co., was formed and consolidated the Copper Queen Co. claims and the Phelps Dodge claims.

Many other mining companies came and went during the 100 years of mining in Bisbee. Phelps Dodge eventually bought them all. Almost 2000 miles of tunnels were driven. Over 7 billion pounds of copper, 355 million pounds of zinc, 324 million pounds of lead, 3 million ounces of gold, 100 million ounces of silver, and 11 million pounds of manganese were produced from the district. Mining from the open pit was intermittent from 1920 to 1974. Underground copper mining went on continually until 1975. Contract gold mining continued until 1985. When the underground mining stopped, it was not for a lack of ore. The high price of labor associated with antique mining methods which rendered the mines uneconomical. Much ore remains to be mined and much more to be found in Bisbee, the queen of the copper camps.

See the article titled "Mine Bell Signs" by Ted Bobrink in MAC issue number 5, Fall 1989 for a description of a private tour of one of the Bisbee mines.

The Copper Queen Mine Lamp

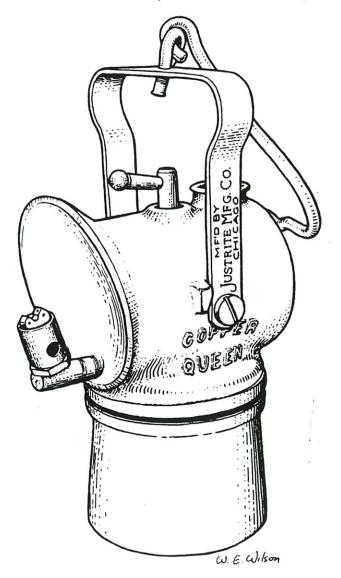
by Ted Bobrink

In 1912, the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company was having a difficult time convincing the miners to convert from their candlesticks and candles to the new carbide lamp. Carbide was considered less expensive as a source of light than the use of candles and much safer in regards to starting underground mine fires. Underground fires had been a real problem in the Bisbee Mining District due to the extensive use of square-set timbering. A burning candle left in a candlestick unattended in a square set stope could melt down and fall to the wooden floor below causing a fire that might shut the mine down for months. Such a fire could certainly trap or kill miners just from the smoke of a fire hundreds of feet below or above them.

Miners had been using candles with their own personal candlesticks for over thirty years in the Bisbee mines and resented the mining company's attempt to force them to change to the carbide lamp. Just the fact that they had to buy the lamps themselves at a cost of over four times that of a candlestick didn't make the change any easier. The Copper Queen Mining Company knew their miners were putting up a big fuss and decided to try to ease the situation by ordering 500 special Justrite cast aluminum hand lamps with the name "Copper Queen" instead of the usual name, "Little Giant" cast into the left side of the lamp.

Today, the Copper Queen hand lamp is the most sought after hand lamp in the United States. Even collectors who only collect cap lamps consider the Copper Queen a real prize to own. Many collectors consider the Copper Queen to be somewhat rare, but not impossible to acquire, especially in the western states. There are several things to look for when collecting the Justrite Copper Queen Lamp. The round brass water door is held in place by a strong coiled spring attached inside the water chamber. To add water to the lamp, you had to lift the water door up and over to one side. The fact that the spring was inside the water chamber made it vulnerable to corrosion and caused it to often break. Therefore, about half of the Copper Queens and Little Giants found have a missing or repaired water door. The burner tube with its burner tip and screw on wind screen are almost never found complete. It seems the burner tip didn't hold up well so the miners had to improvise as best they could. Thus one will find a variety of hand made burner tips on the Copper Queen.

If you own a complete Copper Queen lamp or even one with one or both of the problems mentioned above, consider yourself lucky. You own the one and only known carbide miner's lamp that was named after a specific mining company.



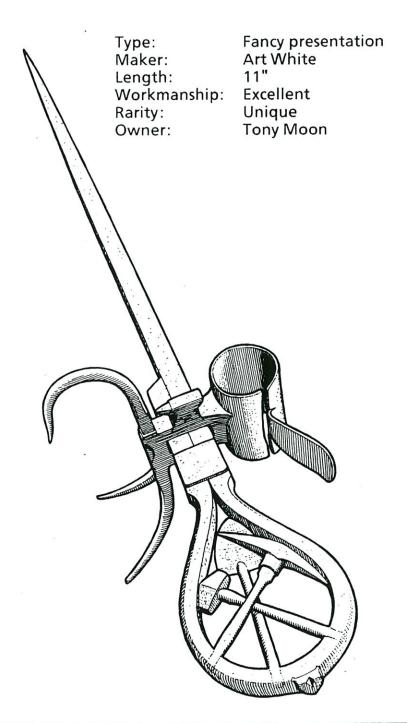
A Fancy Candlestick from Butte, Montana

by Ted Bobrink

Those of you who have seen a copy of A Guide to Antique Miner's Candlesticks will no doubt remember this fantastic presentation candlestick owned by Tony Moon, of Walnut Creek, California. The miniature tools inside the handle as well as the anvil between the detachable hook and thimble are attached by dove-tailing in the metal. The two lower hooks of the claw serve as braces to keep the candle vertical when the upper hook was used. The stick is polished steel and the anvil and a retaining plate just in front of the handle are made of silver. A small heart dove-tailed into the back of the handle is made of copper. This candlestick is said to have been presented in 1914 to Harry Tembly of the Anaconda Mining Company of Butte, Montana. No other information is known about this candlestick.

In May of this year, I received a call from a friend who found a that candlestick is identical to the one owned by Tony Moon. Two drill steels are added into the handle next to the pick, shovel, and singlejack. The anvil is facing the opposite direction than the one owned by Tony. The newly found candlestick was made in 1912 by Art White, a blacksmith in Basin, Montana, and presented in 1932 to Ernest Frazier, a miner in Butte. Mr. Frazier who now lives in Lincoln, Montana said that Art White died in 1938.

Hopefully, there are other collectors out there who have an unusual or unique candlestick similar to one that someone else has, with information as to where it was made and by whom.

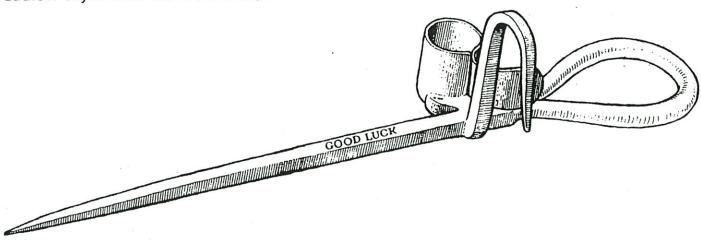


The Good Luck Candlestick

by Ted Bobrink

Bob Schroth of Lake Arrowhead, California recently acquired a new brand-name candlestick while visiting Brimfield, Massachusetts.

The name "GOOD LUCK" is gang-stamped on top of the spike just forward of the hook. It is approximately 10 1/4 inches in length and is identical in construction to the well known "CALIFORNIA" stick. Both sticks are of cast steel constructions with a sheet steel thimble fastened by brazing. These candlesticks with their unique construction were made by the Ludlow-Saylor Wire Co. of St. Louis, Missouri.



Type:

Standard

Stamping:

GOOD LUCK

Length:

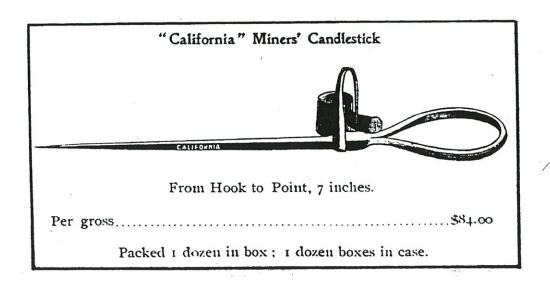
10 1/4"

Workmanship: Rarity: Very good Unique

Owner:

Bob Schroth

An ad from a 1912 Ludlow-Sayre Wire Co. catalog.



A Candlestick from Silverton, Colorado

by Ted Bobrink

The candlestick at the top our our foldout was made in 1909 at the Intersection Mine and Milling Company in Silverton, Colorado by a blacksmith named Mickey Burns. It was presented to Mr. Hyrom Greffetds, the owner and superintendent of the Intersection Mine, to commemorate the completion of the hoisting house that covered the headframe of the main shaft. This story was told to me by Mrs. Edna M. Goulet of Voorheesville, New York. Hyrom Greffetds was Mrs. Goulet's uncle who emigrated to the United States from Wales and was involved in mining of all kinds all over the United States and Mexico.

This unique candlestick is well made. It is over 15" long and has a thimble 2 1/2" high with a very unusual drilled pattern. With the exception of its unusual long length, the most unique feature of this candlestick is the scalloped scroll work on each side of the thimble.

I have been told that unusually long candlesticks were made for mine bosses to check for dry rot in the underground mine timbers. Some of the mine timbers were over 30" in diameter and by sticking the shaft of the candlestick through the soft dry rot until you hit firm wood, you could tell how much of the timber was still good.



A Candlestick from Belleveue, Arizona

by Ted Bobrink

At the bottom of our foldout is illustrated an interesting candlestick recently found at an estate sale in Sedona, Arizona by Bill Kidwell of Prescott. Aside from being quite long (over 14") and extremely well made, the first thing you notice is the extensive stippled lettering along both sides of the spike. I cannot remember seeing a candlestick with so much information stamped into it.

On the right side of the spike is the lettering EIRK HOFFMAN, BELLEVEUE, ARIZONA, 1913 and an Indian arrow stippled in. The left side of the spike has a pointing hand (a common symbol in those days) and the lettering MADE, DECEMBER, 24,TH 1913, IN, POWERS, GULCH. On the thumb lever appears the letters E H, on the thimble a row of dots, and what appears to be an upside down heart are inlaid with copper plugs.

At first I thought that this candlestick had been made for and presented to Erik Hoffman possibly as a Christmas gift. But why give the name of the owner, where he lived, the date, and when and where it was made without giving the name of the maker?

The answer to that question came following several phone calls and looking through all the Arizona ghost town books I had. I found that Belleveue (sometime spelled Bellevue) Arizona was a small town 5 miles southwest of Miami. Supported by the Gibson copper mine, Belleveue came into existence in the early years of this century. At one time the town and neighboring vicinity reported about three hundred inhabitants.

More research turned up the name of Erik Hoffman in a 1912 Globe-Miami Arizona directory. He was listed as a blacksmith in Miami doing business in Powers Gulch. Powers Gulch must have been an area of Miami in which all the blacksmith shops were located. It would be my guess that this candlestick was made by Erik Hoffman as an example of his talent as a blacksmith.

Collecting Mining Candle Artifacts by Ted Bobrink

Mining candles and the wooden boxes in which they came are very rare for two basic reasons. The candles were issued to the miners outside of the mine in limited numbers to last only for the duration of the shift. Usually, five or six candles were used during the shift, depending on the brand and how fast they burned. Even if a miner was able to save an extra candle, he would have most likely taken it home to use in his tent or cabin.

Since candles were issued outside, the boxes were not taken into the mine were they would be preserved. In over fifteen years of exploring abandoned mines, I have only found about a dozen nice and complete candle boxes.

Candles were shipped in 20 lb. and 40 lb. boxes usually with an attractive colored label on one end or plain black-stamped lettering. Box ends by themselves make attractive wall displays and are much more common than complete boxes. Unfortunately, most of the companies that made mining candles did not use the word "mining" on their boxes. A complete candle box or just an end with the word "mining" is a real find.

Most candle boxes have the word "sixes" on the front to denote that the candles were wrapped in bunches of six. Candle wrappers are desirable items to collect and are usually found by persons who explore old mines. Most of the wrappers I have seen are blue with black writing and advertise how good the candles are. The wrappers were glued together around the six candles and if you are very lucky, you may find one that was slid off the ends. But virtually all candle wrappers are found torn as this was the usual way to remove the candles.

It is unusual to find candles, candle wrappers, and candle boxes in fine condition. These items are always at least 80 years old and were treated as trash when discarded. If you are fortunate enough to have a mining candle, especially a stamped one, it will most likely have a few cracks. The boxes are going to be well used and if it has a paper label, do not be upset if some of the label is missing or torn. The wrappers will probably be found torn in half and will most likely show signs of being walked upon as they were tossed on the floor of the mine.



Lithographed paper label candle box end. Circa 1895.



Stamped candle box side. Circa 1895.

A Safety Plummet Lamp

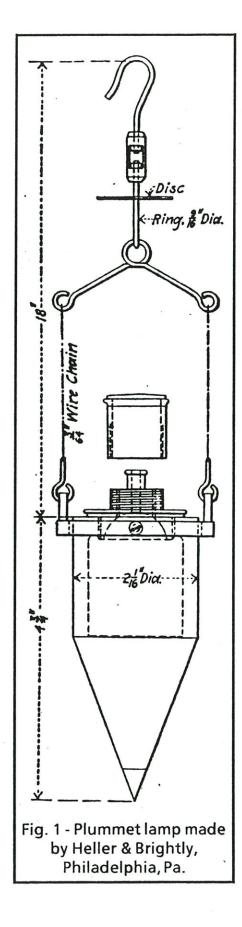
by Tony Moon

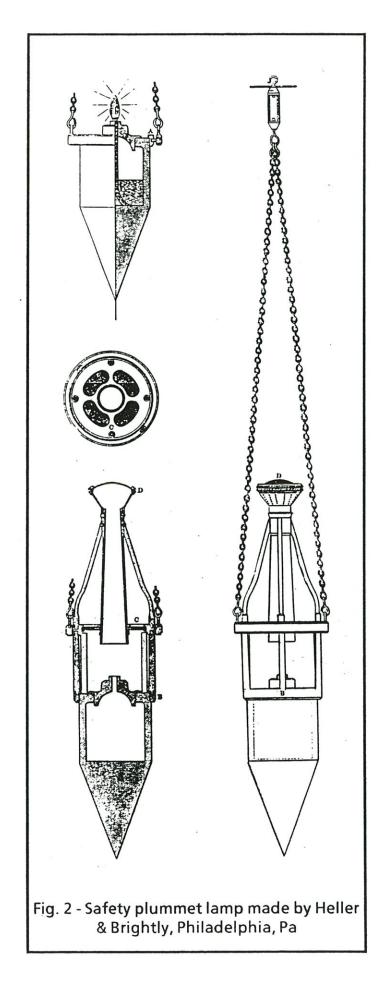
Certain underground surveying techniques require that a plumb bob line be sighted using a transit. Several ingenious lamps were devised to illuminate the plumb bob line or plummet lamps were used and the lamp flame itself was sighted through the transit. The first reported use of plummet lamps in the United States was in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania in 1871 ⁽¹⁾. The first plummet lamps were made by Heller and Brightly of Philadelphia; they were similar to the one shown in Figure 1. Other surveying instrument manufacturers made or sold similar lamps and the author has seen lamps by Buff, Leitz of San Francisco, and Kueffel and Esser (K and E). Oil wick plummet lamps were still available in 1910 and eventually electric plummet lamps were made.

The open flame plummet lamp could not be used in coal mines where there was a danger of fire-damp (methane). In 1874 a safety plummet lamp was designed and manufactured by Heller and Brightly ⁽²⁾. This lamp is shown in Figure 2. The lamp is similar to a Muesler type in that it has a chimney. Air enters the lamp through four holes protected by double brass wire gauzes mounted in a ring (C) above the flame. A chimney is mounted in the center of the same ring. Air leaves the lamp through the top of the chimney which has a perforated inverted cone lined with gauze and a gauze dome (D). The flame is surrounded by tempered glass. The lamp is made of brass except for the tip of the plumb bob which was probably iron. The lamp was described as "a beautiful piece of work" and is one of the most unusual safety lamps every produced. This lamp, or one similar to it, was still available in 1913 ⁽³⁾. I have one unconfirmed report that a surviving example is in an instrument collection.

References:

- (1) Raymond, R. W., "Remarks on a mining transit and plummet lamp." Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, Volume I, 1871-1873.
- (2) Coxe, Eckley B., "Improved form of plummet lamp for surveying in mines where fire-damp may be met with." Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, Volume III, 1874-1875.
- (3) Durham, E.B., (1913) Mine Surveying, McGraw-Hill, page 33, 1913.





Blasting Cap Tin Collecting

by Mark Bohannan

One of the most rapidly growing areas of mining artifact collecting is blasting cap tins. Although there are many blasting cap tins from Canada and other foreign countries, most collectors only collect tins manufactured in the United States.

Blasting cap tins are found in a number of different shapes, sizes, and styles. Most tins are either rectangular or round, although there are a few oval tins also known. Early blasting cap tins have either embossing or a paper label on the lid. Later, almost all tins had lithographed lids. Blasting caps were sold in three quantities: 100 caps, 25 caps, and 10 caps, the most common size being the 100 cap tin.

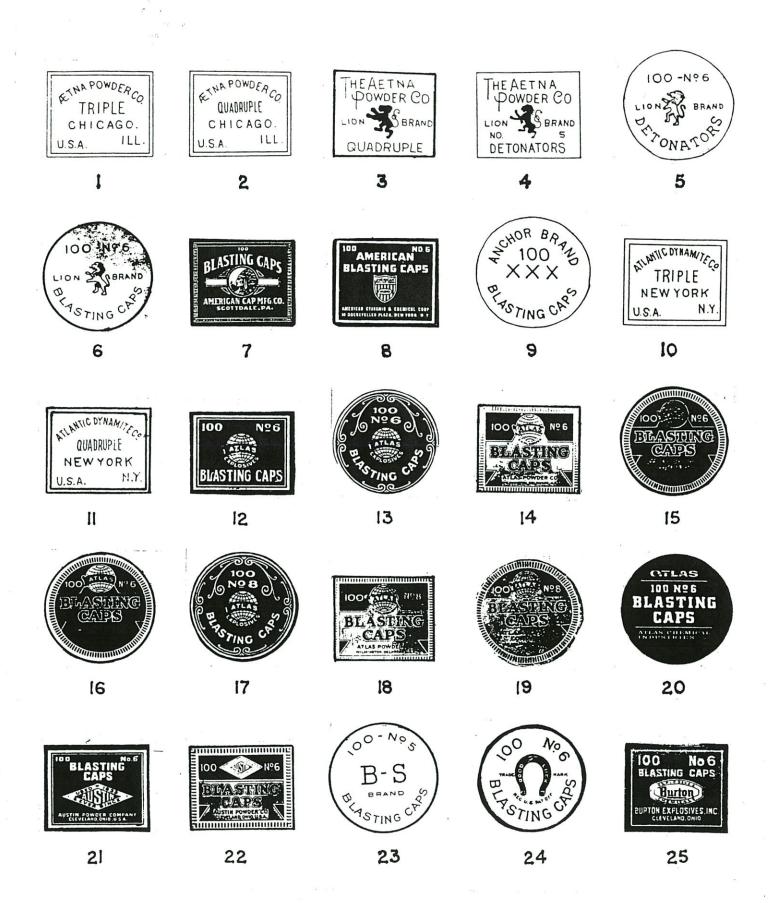
There are also a number of major and minor variations among many of these tins such as color variations, additions or deletions of lettering, wording changes such as city names or lettering style, and dimensional differences. Some of these variations can be seen by looking closely at the tins illustrated on the following pages.

The number on the tin, i.e. No. 6, No. 8, etc., designates the cap strength. Blasting cap strengths range from No. 3 (weakest) to No. 8 (strongest) with No. 6 being the most common.

By far the most pleasurable aspect of blasting cap tin collecting is the beauty and variety of the colors of the lithographed tins.. Colors range from metallic reds, oranges, turquoise blue and dark blue, to greens, browns, and yellows.

Along with the blasting cap tins, there are a number of related items that can also be collected. These include the cardboard and wooden boxes that the tins were shipped in and also the instruction or inspection papers that were inserted into some tins.

Part of this article includes a blasting cap survey on the back of the subscription form. I hope that everyone who has any cap tins in their collection will take the time to fill out the survey. Results will be published in the next issue. The cap tin illustrations used in this article and in the survey are from my files and Andy Martin's cap tin book.











A Brief Look at the

"Miners Improved Gold Scale Manufactured Expressely for California"

by Jeffrey R. Millet

"Gold! Gold! Gold on the American River!"

The words rang throughout the empty mountain valleys of northern California in early 1848, downstream past Captain John Sutter's fort at New Helvetia and all the way to the sleepy bayfront town of Yerba Buena, later renamed San Francisco. Eventually the cry was heard in the streets of Boston, New York, Paris, and Liverpool, and in countless far-distant places around the globe. It unleashed a tide of humanity unlike any known to history before or since.

California's Gold Rush was on! Thousands swarmed to this pastoral wilderness just won from Mexico, so many that by 1850 the only recent dream of America's "Manifest Destiny" had become reality. In just two short years California would go from a dim awareness in the minds of most of the population to the thirty-first-and-richest-state in the Union.

The lure of this new golden empire and its sudden wealth was irresistible for many who were possessed by visions of picking up rocks of solid gold from the ground, free for the taking. Free, that is, to those with the dash and the daring to get there. But, as California's gold regions were unsettled, they would need to bring with them everything for the task at hand: food, clothing, woolen underwear, broad-brimmed hats to shield their eyes from the intense California sun, India-rubber boots to insulate their feet from the icy waters of its gold-bearing streams, patented gold-washing machines, picks, pans, and of course, scales with which to weigh their "dust."

Naturally, the so-called argonauts wanted to identify with and to be identified with their great adventure. Soon a flood of special "California Goods" was on the shelves of tent stores in every river port and mining camp in the Sierra foothills. California boots, knives, brandy and gold amalgamators appeared as well as the subject of our story, the fascinating "Miners Improved Gold Scales - Manufactured Expressely For California."



GREAT BARGAINS!

MINING TOOLS, &c.; BUILDING MATERIALS, &c.

Cradles, Shovels, Spades, Hues, Picks, Axes, Hatchets, Hammers; overy variety of Workman's Tools, Nails, Screws, Brads, &c.

SUPERIOR GOLD SCALES.

MEDICINE CHESTS. &c.

Superior Medicine Chesta, well assorted, together with the principal Important Medicines for Dysentory. Fever and Fover and Ague, Seurvy, &c.

N.B.-Important Express Arrangement for Miners.

The Subscribers will run an EXPRESS to and from every Steamer, earrying and returning Letters for the Post Office and Expresses to the States. Also, coaveying "GOLD DUST" or Parcels, to and from the Mines to the Banking Hounes, or the several Expresses for the States, insuring their safety.——The various NEWSPAPERS, from the Eastern, Western and Southern States, will also be found on sale at our stores, together with a large stock of BOOKS and PAMPHLETS constantly on hand.

Excelsior Tent, Mormon Island, January 1, 1850.

TETA CALIFORNIA PRESS.

WARREN & CO.

These pocket-size gold scales have long been favorites among mining and western Americana collectors. Their colorful oval tin boxes with fancy gilt decoration and "California" lettering uniquely echo the flavor and history of the pioneer mining days of so long ago.

As with many items used during the Gold Rush, the "Miners Improved" scales were imported. A few are marked "Germany" on their lid, fewer still on the brass balance beam. Occasionally the small brass weights are stamped with the name, "Hammel Riglander & Co. Germany." Perhaps this gives us a clue to the maker of the scales as well. Construction is uniformly good, of soldered tin with a single hinge at the rear. Little is known about them otherwise, but they apparently date from the 1850s, and perhaps into the 1860s.

While some variations exist within the "Miners Improved" scales, such as lettering size and hinge style, they nevertheless appear to be the product of one maker. Two basic sizes are seen, the larger box measuring about 7 1/4 by 3 3/8 inches and the smaller size about 6 1/8 by 3 1/8 inches. Exteriors are painted in a variety of colors, designed no doubt to catch the eye and the fancy of the young and energetic Forty-Niners: apple green, dark green, black, translucent royal blue, dark blue, dark yellow, ocher brown, dark brown, red, and maroon examples are known. Perhaps the more common exterior colors seen by collectors are the red, brown, and dark green; certainly rarer colors are the translucent royal blue, dark yellow, and black -- the latter known only in the smaller size, at least to this writer. Any "Miners Improved" scales are rare and desirable, however.

Interiors are frequently painted a contrasting color from that of the outside and have a separate tin compartment, often with a hinged lid, to hold the troy weights ("troy" being the common measure for weighing gold). Excepting the iron pointer (sometimes seen in brass), the scales themselves are of brass construction throughout: balance beam, suspension chains, and double pans.

Interestingly, one apparently earlier version has been observed, though not personally by the author. On the lid was the legend, "Miners Gold Scale -- Manufactured Expressely for California." Note that it does not include the word "Improved," and that the difference was in earlier style string pan suspensions rather than brass chains.

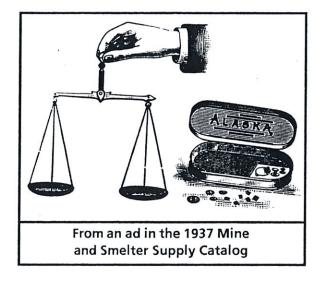
Markings on the domed, oval-shaped box lids are uniform in both sizes. A single line border surrounds the legend 'MINERS IMPROVED GOLD SCALE" and in quotes, "'manufactured expressely for California'" in two arched lines above and below a classic American spread-wing eagle. The eagle clutches an olive branch and three arrows in his talons and bears a shield across its breast.

Perhaps the most frequently encountered versions have the word "JMPROVED" spelled with a "J" instead of "I" as the first letter. This was apparently a common German usage of the period, as it has been noted elsewhere. These examples also have the word "Expressely" spelled with a third "e," and together these spellings have been observed on both the large and small boxes. Later the maker corrected these misspellings, as seen on a large-size example in the author's collection. This example also has the word "Germany" centered below the corrected "Expressly."

Far more common, but likely made by the same firm, are those boxes made without the lettering but having the same eagle and line border. Variations are seen in the border designs: "vine and leaves" and "holly and berries" styles have been noted. While these may have been used for other weighing needs, apothecary, for instance, no doubt many found their way to the stream beds, stores, and saloons of the Gold Rush.

Another, and doubtless later, version of the "Miners Improved" gold scales is known, -- the rectangular box having rounded corners. It too is seen in both the large and small sizes, of the same approximate dimensions as the oval boxes. Chief differences, aside from the shape, are the absence of quote marks, block lettering with an apostrophe added to "MINERS'," and the large, horizontal flying eagle, which holds in its claws a riband bearing the patriotic legend, "E Pluribus Unum." Inside, a wooden block held in place by pins encloses five cylindrical brass weights with finger knobs. With the exception of a slightly larger brass beam and hanger on an example in the author's collection, the scales themselves are unmarked and virtually identical to those found in the oval boxes. All noted specimens of the rectangular box, incidentally, have been the same color inside and out: a medium forest green with gold lettering and trim.

Similar, even larger examples of scales in flat, oval green boxes are also known to collectors, some bearing the bold word, "Alaska" in gold, others with "Seattle Hardware Company" in gold or a mustard-yellow color. Usually there is a raised, oval border stamped into the lid, as well. These were obviously intended for sale and use during the great Klondike Rush of 1897, when hundreds of hardy men and women headed "North to Alaska" to pursue yet another golden dream.



Though not "Miners Improved," another early type of gold scales falls within the scope of this article, and is of great collector interest. This is the "Miner's Companion" scale, of which only a handful of examples are known. Of the several known to this writer, all are virtually identical: a rectangular wood box having rounded corners, paved with red leather, and measuring approximately 7 $^{3}/_{8}$ by 4 $^{1}/_{4}$ inches by 1 $^{1}/_{2}$ inches deep. On the lid is a single-line border with filigree corner designs, and the large block letters "MINERS COMPANION" in either block or gold. The inside is lined with deerskin and has fitted compartments for the large, brass-beam scales, eight special-size cylindrical brass weights, and a small brass-lidded compartment for small weights. The lid is closed by a latch with a brass button release on the outside. In any condition, "Miner's Companion" scales are rare and desirable.

Yet, no matter which type of pocket scale you own, all are colorful relics of a compelling and bygone era. Fortunate indeed is the collector who has several sizes and colors of "Miners Improved" scales in his collection, or even knows the whereabouts of a "Miner's Companion." And the "Alaska" marked specimens are increasingly popular as interest in the Klondike Gold Rush grows. Each provides a fascinating window to our historic western and mining past, deserving of continued research and study. I hope this article provides a small start in that direction.

Jeff Millet is a lifelong collector of California Gold Rush and western history. He lives in southern California where he is a partner in Graphic: Publishers, specializing in the publication of collector, civic and educational books. If you can add to the information in this article, please write to him at PO Box 6506, Santa Ana, CA 92706.

The South Eureka Bell Sign Revisited

by Ted Bobrink

Most of our early subscribers will remember our first article on mine bell signs in MAC Number 1, Fall, 1988. In that article I explained the use of mine bell signs, the different types, and how to collect them. However, I failed to talk about the sign illustrated in that article.

This sign is one of my favorite as it is from a very famous gold mine in one of the nicest towns in the California Mother Lode. The South Eureka Mining Company of Sutter Creek, California, was first developed in 1891. Its nextdoor neighbor to the north, the huge Central Eureka Mine had an incline depth of 4, 855 feet. These two mines along with the Argonaut and Kennedy of Jackson, are probably the four most famous mines in California.

The South Eureka bell sign is porcelain steel, white with black lettering, 22" long and 14" wide. This sign follows the California State Codes to the letter and you can compare it with the California State bell sign covered in MAC Number 6, Winter 1990, page 34.

Some of the codes in the South Eureka sign are unique and were designed specifically for this mine. One of the codes leads to a very interesting question and can be found on line 10. 2 & 2 & 2 BELL TO LOWER SKIP TWO LEVELS & SCT. I have been unable to find an explanation of what SCT. means. It can be seen again on lines 13, 14, and 15. If anyone knows the meaning of SCT, I would very much like to hear from you and will print your reply in the next issue of the MAC.

HOISTING & STATION SÍGNALS ATONEIDA SHAF SOUTH EUREKA MINING CO. BELL TO HOIST SKIP .. LOWER .. " STOP " IF IN MOTION. .. HOIST .. WITH ORE OR WASTE FROM CHUTE. 3 & I BELL TO HOIST SKIP WITH MEN RUN SLOWER THAN WITH ORE. LOWER .. 3 & 3 & I BELL TO HOIST SKIP VERY SLOW 3 & 3 & 2 ., .. LOWER TO NEXT LEVEL 2 & 2 & 2 TWO LEVELS & SCT. 1 & 2 FROM STATION TO CHUTE " Hoist " 281 TO NEXT LEVEL OR FROM CHUTE TO STATION 28281 TWO LEVELS & SCT. 28181 TO THE NEXT CHUTE & SCT. 2 a 2 a l a l .. LOWER 3 & 2 & 1 BELL READY TO BLAST, ENGINEER MUST SHAKE SKIP OR BUCKET TO INDICATE THAT HE IS READY TO HOIST WHEN GIVEN THE SIGNAL. 1200 LEVEL 3 & 3 BELLS 2400 - IST. WINZE LEVEL 5 & 4 BELLS 1300 3 a 4 2600 - 2ND. 5 & 5 1500 4&3 5 & 6 2800 - 3RD. 1700 484 3000 - 4TH. 5 & 7 •• 1800 4 & 5 3200 - 5TH. 5 & 8 •• **99**00 5&1 3400 - 6тн. 5 & 9 •• 2000 5 & 2 3600 - 7TH. 5 a 3 2200 CALLING THE DIFFERENT LEVELS BY TELEPHONE WILL BE RUNG AS THE LEVELS ARE INDICATED ABOVE, FOR EXAMPLE (1200 LEVEL) 3 & 3 BELLS ON THE TELEPHONE WILL CALL THE 1200 LEVEL. SUPERINTENDENTS OFFICE I LONG & I SHORT BELL MASTER MECHANIC " BELL ENGINEER SAW-MILL SKIPTENDER SOUTH EUREKA MING. CO. WM. H. SCHMAL. SUTTER CREEK, CAL. SUPERINTENDENT. MARCH 15T. 1916.

The Fifth Annual Mining Artifact Collectors Reunion

by Len Gaska

The Fifth Annual Mining Artifact Collectors Reunion which was held on June 9 in Concord, California was a great success and I hope that everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. We want to extend our heartiest thanks to Tony Moon, Ruth Moon, Rick Yarborough, and Kitty Yarborough for hosting it. The location, at the Sheraton Hotel, was really classy, perhaps too classy for a bunch of crusty collectors! And by the way, if you haven't yet noticed, a group picture is featured on the inside front cover of this issue.

The personal high point of the meet was meeting three generations of the Frank Guy family. Their picture is at the bottom of this page. They were very gratified to learn that there are collectors and historians who are preserving the history and artifacts of of the mining industry.

Sales and trades were brisk, candlesticks being a very popular item. Phil Casdorph sold three folding sticks, Ted Bobrink sold an almost mint Maple City carbide, Dave Thorpe sold many desirable carbides, and Don and Dave White sold a nice mine bell sign, just to name a few of the many transactions. Dave Gresko flew in from Toledo, Ohio and had several boxes of items for sale. When Dave was opening boxes, the crowd around his table was about three people deep. My, we collectors are a hungry lot!

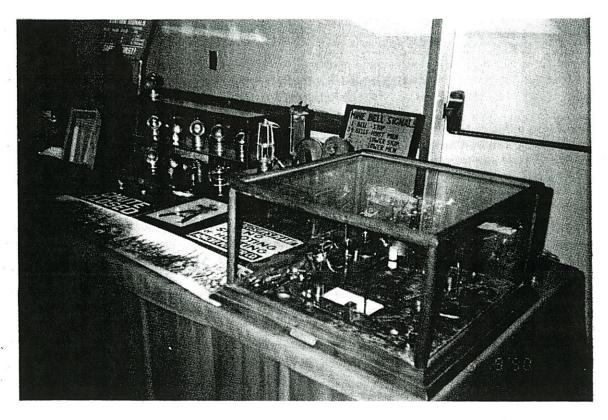
We hope that the eastern version of the meet to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 9, and hosted by Dave Johnson, will also be a great success. Look for a flyer on this event in this issue.



Relatives of Frank Guy. From left to right: Fran Stanton (great-granddaughter), Dorthy Kuznik (granddaughter), Anthony Kuznik (Dorthy's husband), and Shari Rodrigues (great-great-granddaughter).



Dave Gresko's Table of Goodies



Ted Bobrink's Display

Coppertown U.S.A. by Robert L. Fox Jr.

A tour through Coppertown U.S.A. museum will take you back in history to when copper was king in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. Located in Calumet, Michigan, the museum building was originally part of the Calumet & Hecla complex. In fact, the museum building was once utilized by Calumet & Hecla as their pattern shop. The purpose of Coppertown U.S.A. is to tell the story of the mines, communities, and people who contributed to making the Keweenaw a world famous copper mining district.

The story of Michigan's copper industry began thousands of years ago when ancient miners attacked exposed veins of pure copper with large hammer stones. The tools and techniques used to mine the copper advanced over the centuries and is captured in a series of exhibits.

Mining displays include an exhibit showing the development of hand-held drill bits to one and two man drills. A mine lighting display shows the changes in mine lamps from candlesticks to Sunshine lamps to carbide lamps. Another display depicts a mine official's office complete with roll top desk and balance scale. A simulated mine provides a brief glimpse of the mine's world. Other displays relate to the mine blacksmith as well as to the importance that railroads played during the mining era.

Mounted on the walls of the museum are patterns made from wood which were used to manufacture products such as copper and brass fittings, bushings, grates, pipes, and tubing. Some of the products were used locally while others were shipped throughout the country.

A visit to historic Coppertown U.S.A will give you a glimpse into the past of a great American mining boom.

References:

Brochure, "Historic Coppertown U.S.A." May, 1983 Brochure, "Historic Museum: Coppertown U.S.A."

Mildon, Bob, "Guide to Michigan's Copper Country," Hancock Michigan, Keweenaw Publishing Co. 1984



Michigan Iron Industry Museum

by Robert L. Fox Jr.

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum presents the history of Michigan's three iron ranges and the people who worked in the mines. The iron ranges include the Gogebic, Marguette, and Menominee. The museum opened to the public in May, 1987 and is located three miles east of the city of Negaunee amidst the forested ravines of the Marguette Iron Range. It overlooks the site of the Carp River Forge, the first iron forge in the Lake Superior region.

At this location, from 1848 to 1855, the Jackson Iron Company manufactured wrought iron from the local ore. This enterprise was to be the beginning of Michigan's iron industry that flourished for 125 years and continues today, supplying approximately one quarter of the iron ore that is mined in the United States.

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum not only tells the story of the iron industry, it also tells the story of American manufacturing and the people, towns, and companies of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

You will see an excellent selection of mining tools and equipment from hopper cars to pick axes, as well as informative pictures, mining artifacts, iron specimens, and numerous other interesting displays.

Reference: "Michigan Remembers the Iron Industry," brochure, no date.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

by Jim VanFleet

Here's the museum for the enthusiast of hard rock mining. They have gone beyond the standard exhibits of miner's lunch buckets and lamps in display cases (although they have these too, and occasional special exhibits prepared with the assistance of collectors). The Western Museum of Mining and Industry is downright industrious. They have a guided tour in a full scale simulated mine, with tour guides using carbide lamps, and demonstrating drilling and blasting techniques using restored machinery. There is a working blacksmith shop, assay office, and ore processing mill. The working machinery includes a Corliss steam engine with a 17 ton flywheel, and a Fraser-Chalmers 10 stamp mill, circa 1890. Ear plugs are distributed on "Stamp Mill Day," and the 800 pound stamps are set to crushing ore.

The museum offers hands-on classes in blacksmithing, and gold prospecting and panning. They sponsor many mining related movie showings, and social and cultural events like the Pike's Peak Engine and Tractor Gas-up (as in "gas it up and go"). There is an often overlooked emphasis in the Western Museum on the miner's social life and background. The exhibits include a restored mining camp bar, and a slide show presentation on the social history of western mining.

Finally, there is a place here for researchers and historians, with a 2,000 artifact "study collection," and a library with over 8,000 volumes. The museum is located on 27 acres of land, in four large buildings, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, off I-25, just outside the gates to the Air Force Academy. The Western Museum is open daily, except major holidays, and charges a very reasonable entry fee. Membership has enough privileges to make it worth while for any visiting collector.



Mining History Association

by Len Gaska

The Mining History Association is a new organization devoted to the researching and preservation of this important facet of our heritage. The dues are \$10 per year which go towards the publication of a newsletter and defraying the cost of meetings. The first annual meeting is scheduled for October 17-21 in Reno, Nevada.

To join, send your \$10 to:

Mining History Association PO Box 150300 Denver, CO 80215

And from their first newsletter, for the mining artifact collector that has everything, the mining ghost town of Shiny Rock, Oregon is for sale! Contact Todd Fiebig at (206) 623-2935

New Reference Book Available

The National Scrip Collectors Association (NSCA) recently published a valuable reference book named **Explosive Control Catalog** authored by David Schenkman.

The book lists virtually every exploder token known to the token collector community and has been in preparation for some time. Whether you collect exploder tokens or not, every reference book relating to mining collectables should be in every mining artifact collector's library.

The price schedule is as follows:

Special Collector's Edition \$50 postpaid Regular edition, non-NSCA members \$22 postpaid Regular edition, NSCA members \$18 postpaid

Send orders to:

NSCA Catalog Committee 152 Kawga Way Loudon, TN 37774

Or call (615) 458-9427 for further information.



Information Wanted!

Those of you who have read the report on the Fifth Annual Mining Artifact Collectors Reunion in this issue already know that the attendees were graced by the presence of three generations of survivors of Frank Guy, the inventor of the Guy's Dropper carbide lamp. It is all too common that the early history of families are often lost or forgotten. After all, who would have thought that miners' lamps would be of intense interest to anyone? Well, we all know that they are and the relatives of Frank Guy are gratified to see that some of us are attempting to learn and preserve the history behind Frank Guy and other lamp manufacturers.

If you have run across any information on the early manufacture of Guy's Dropper lamps or of the history of Frank Guy, the family would very much appreciate your sharing the information. Virtually all the information they currently have on the invention and manufacture of carbide miners' lamps by Frank Guy has come from the patent office and Gregg Clemmer's book American Miners' Carbide Lamps. You may contact the MAC or send the information directly to:

Shari Rodrigues 477 Turguoise Hercules, CA 94547

Collector's Talk

Bill Spence, one of the top researchers in the lamp collecting community, sent in the following comments on the last issue of the MAC (Issue 7, Spring 1990).

Regarding the excellent Grier article, the so-called Western branch was, I believe, Jacobsen & Turga. I suspect they got a distributorship for the Western U.S. in exchange for rights to the tip cleaner patent. J&T were from Michigan, and the only ads that mention the Western branch also feature the tip cleaner. As far as Gem Mfg. Co. goes, city directory ads feature Gem carbide lamps only in 1925 and 1926. The 1927 and later ads do not mention carbide lamps. I am confident that Gem carbide lamps were a 2 year product.

In the article on the Lu-Mi-Num, the dates reported by Clemmer might well be wrong. The Lu-Mi-Num was introduced with much fanfare in the mining press in August 1924, not 1923. The original 1924 model had a threaded connection verified by photos within articles. An article in October 1925 "Engineering and Mining Journal" states that the bayonet mount was introduced that year to eliminate problems with the threads on earlier models. Thus the threaded models of Lu-Min-Nums were the original design and lasted for a year or less. The Lu-Mi-Num hand lamp was introduced in late 1925 per the same article, not in 1924 with the cap lamp. As for the 1937 ad, Fred Belt was still in business at that time so The Mine and Smelter Supply Co. was selling current stock.



MINING AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS

August 6, 1921



ARIZONA ASSAY OFFICE

(F. W. Libbey)

Assayers, Chemists and Metallurgists

CONTROL AND UMPIRE WORK

305-307 N. First St., Phoenix, Arizona

Herb Dick of Woodland, CA sent us a photo of a really nice brass sign in his collection. We were unable to reproduce it, so the crude sketch shown does not do it justice.

The Arizona Assay office sign was acquired by an antique dealer in the midwest in an estate sale. It was purchased by mail by a Northern California collector and was subsequently obtained from him. It is all brass and measures 28" by 16". A small brass overlay sign was added by the last owner to cover the Neall-Libbey names.

ARIZONA ASSAY OFFICE
J.S.NEAL -- F.W.LIBBEY
CUSTOM ASSAYING
CHEMICAL DETERMINATIONS
ORES SAMPLED & PURCHASED

The first appearance of the Arizona Assay Office is a listing in the 1912 Phoenix city directory. During the early years the address was variously listed as 305, 307, and 315 N. 1st St., Phoenix. This building was later razed. The site became a bus station, and later was a public fountain, and at present is a modern office building. of a Phoenix newspaper chain. The last location of the office was 5 blocks away and is now also the site of a modern office building. The sign was probably attached to the outside of the buildings near the door.

Sale and Trade Ads

Trade, Sell, and Buy: Mining stock certificates. Send for free descriptive list of old collectable mining stock certificates for trade or sale. What mining stock certificates do you have for sale or trade? Russell Filer, 13057 S. California St., Yucaipa, CA 92399. (714) 797-1650.

For Trade: Montana, South Dakota, and other misc. stocks; California mining and other paper; Varney candleholders and some blasting items. Interested in trading for stocks, books, papers, and prospectuses from South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana; also carbide lamp parts and candlesticks. Bob Otto, 516 Miners Ave., Lead, SD 57754, (605) 584-1552

For Trade: Old (1900-1920) original engineering drawings of aerial tramway equipment. Wooden foundry patterns for old mining equipment. Pictures of old mining equipment and some catalogs and equipment name plates. Trade for lamps, candlesticks, mining equipment, catalogs, nameplates, or ?? Jim Cox, 7295 So. Xanthia St., Englewood, CO 80112

For Sale: Arizona Commercial Mining stock; 1920's, miner with drill vignettes, \$5.00 each. Phillip Zink, 7590 E. 52st. Lawrence, IN 46226

For Trade: Water vessel for wood bird cage, excellent condition. Cupel for gold assay from Haile Gold Mine, Lancaster Co. SC, lots of spare parts for Justrite and Auto-Lite lamps. Seeking cap, powder, and carbide tins. J. Roger Mitchell, 19 Eric Lane, Glen Riddle, PA 19037 (215) 891-0974

For Trade: Nevada mining stock certificates. Send S.A.S.E for list. Wm. J. Metscher, Box 664, Tonapah, NV 89049

Books: We buy and sell books, publications, and paper on mining, milling, mineralogy, prospecting, and geology. Please call or write if you have items for sale or if you want to receive bimonthly catalogs. Silia Pettem and Ed Raines, The Book Lode, 3060 15th Street, Boulder CO 80304 (303) 443-0714

Wanted: California gold rush memorabilia - "Miners Improved" and "Miners Companion" scales, pokes, belts and vests, boots, maps and photographs. Jeffrey R. Millet, PO Box 6506, Santa Ana, CA 92706 (714) 543-7255

Wanted: Early carbide lamp boxes. Will buy or trade carbide lamps for boxes I don't have. Also interested in unusual parts boxes or repair kits. Mark Bohannan, Star Rt. Box 107E, Oro Grande, CA 92368 (619) 246-4418

For Trade: Explosive boxes. Mostly Trojan, some Atlas and Hercules. Will trade for other brands or old mining or blasting artifacts. 12460 Sluice Box Rd., Penn Valley, CA 95946 (916) 432-2517 evenings

For Trade: Arnolds carbide candle. Unused, no tip, reflector has small dent. Original box, sack tube, and two sacks included. Want candlestick(s) or Colorado mining items of comparable value. Leo Stambaugh, Box 984, Georgetown, CO 80444

For Trade: Early Grier Bros. push-on brass reflector. Complete with striker and in excellent condition. Need a Gee-Bee reflector. Will trade other mining items or pay cash. Mike McLaughlin, PO Box 607, Spotsylvania, VA 22553

For Trade: Wolf Jr. safety lamp, Pathfinder 8 hr. carbide, ITP 8 hr. carbide with brass plate, Wolf pinchwaist 8 hr. carbide, German 8 hr. carbide, Michelob brass safety lamp, and other items. Want Arrow cap lamp. Jim Ewing (502) 895-7044

For Sale or Trade: 25 candlesticks (Sholder, Montana, Ideal, Husson, etc.), safety lamps, carbide lamps, and paper items. Send SASE for list or call (317) 786-8667. I collect all mining related items. Dave Johnson, 6807 Homestead Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46227

For Trade: Hercules, Atlas, and Apache Powder dynamite boxes; National Carbide can; Auto-Lite carbide cap lamp; miner's lunch buckets, 1 aluminum, 1 enameled steel. Wanted: eastern or northwestern area dynamite boxes, blasting equipment, candlesticks, carbide lamps, or ??. Bob Allgood, PO Box 1368, Jamestown, CA 95327

For Trade: Wick lamps: Trethaway, Chirry, Anton Globe, Husson #4 with copper heating rod, Frostburg, Felix, T.F. Leonard, Leonard Bros. Other: ASL&MS Davy lamp, Justrite horizontal spiral feed, Gem oil flask, Guy's Dropper carbide flask, Mercury crock (small), Water vessel for bird cage, Hercules 25 cap blasting cap tin, Trojan 25 cap blasting cap tin, UMWA 8 hour pin, Jos. Jame Bottling Works - Red Jacket, Mich. Jeff Shanks, 1351 Apple Blossom Drive, Yardley, PA 19067 (215) 493-1090

For Sale: An 1887 issue of 'Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining and Concentrating Co.' stock certificate, signed by F. W. Bradley 1907, with smelter vignette; 1965 issue of 'The Bunker Hill Company' stock certificate signed by Charley Schwab, with a mine, mill, smelter, and two Spartan guardian vignettes; and a two page 1885-1990 history of the Bunker Hill Mining Company. \$25.00 postpaid for all three items. Bob Weldin, West 3015 Weile, Spokane, WA 99208, (508) 327-2897

For Trade: Always available for trade: European safety lamps, carbide hand lamps, and oil lamps. Ask for details. Interested in American-made lamps. Manfred Stutzer, Madenburgstr. 6, 6700 Ludwigshafen 15, Westfalian, Germany

Gaskets Available (for rare carbide cap lamps)

New black neoprene made to original specifications for:

Grier (will fit Baldwin too)
Maple City, "Anthracite," and other Maple City Lamps
Pathfinder

\$1.50 each (minimum order of 10) Dave Thorpe, PO Box 477, Peoria, AZ 85380-0477

For Sale/Trade: Send for large list of items for sale and trade. Carbides, oil wicks, books, tokens, misc. available. LSASE appreciated. Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 405-0647 evenings (818) 351-2351 extension 2912 working hours

Wanted: Mine surveying instruments of all types. Also, gimbaled plumb-bobs, assay related instruments and kits, early microscopes, and goniometers. Dale Beeks, Box 2515, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 (208) 667-0830

For Trade: Mining stock certificates for candleholders. Several Tom Reed Gold Mines Co. Will trade one for any style candleholder. Numerous other more common certificates. Send SASE. Fred M. Johnson, Box 2162, Durango, CO 81302

Free Service: If anyone has any black and white coal mining pictures they would like copied, they can send them to me by certified mail. I will copy them at no charge and return the original plus a copy. Jon S. Koenig, 205 South Main St., Fort Branch, IN 47648 (812) 753-4008

Wanted: Reflector and brace for 8 hour Uncle Sam, any condition. Water door for Copper Queen or Little Giant. Early Guy's Dropper square [Editors Note: six-sided (hexagonal) ??] bottom stamped "Manuf'd By Shanklin Mfg. Co., Springfield, III." John E. Neilsen, 33307 Willowtree Lalee, Elsinore, CA 92330 (714) 674-4951

For Trade: Gold claims, ancient channel 240 acres, one 40 acre near Sierra City, CA. Also mining memorabilia, books, maps, old claim photo, crystals, etc. from California, Nevada, and Arizona. Trade for gold land, motorhome, truck, Cat, or ?? Jerry Wentling, 386 Navihopi Road, Sedona, AZ 86336 (602) 282-5433

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. Continuing trade or sale ads should be resubmitted for guaranteed publication. We cannot guarantee publication of general "wanted" ads unless they are paid for at the same rate as for-sale ads.

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| \bigcap | 233 | ve Gresko 11 Shoreland #129 | (1) | Can 1. | dleho Field cond Shol |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | | edo, OH 43611 9) 729-4577 | | 3. | Lind |
| | Oil V | Vicks Trethaway, tin w/ brass dome lid, mint. Chirry, tin w/ copper lining, mint | \$95 \$85 | Safe 1. 2. | "Dav "Wo very |
| | 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. | T. F. Leonard, tin, unfired Same as No. 1, used, good Husson A, tin, mint | \$65 \$80 \$65 \$125 | 3. | "Pro good |
| | 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. | Crown, brass, very good Star, Grier Bros, driver's, tin, unfired Geo. Anton USA Eagle, brass, good Dunlaps, face lamp, good Same as No. 9, very good Imperial Hardsocq, early Grier style, good but some p | \$50 \$100 \$40 \$45 | Mis- 1. 2. 3. 4. | cellan Bald Orig Atla: U.M. 1930 |
| | 12. | Rare! Unmarked "High Spout", w/dome lid, very good, unus | \$60 sual. \$75 | 5. 6. | "Doi |
| | 14. 15. 16. 18. | Unmarked, brass, good Patented, Sept. 9, 1879, Vogel type, tin, unfired, rare! Monongahela Valley, fair Husson No. 2, unmarked w/ narrow flat hook, mint, like finish. | \$55 \$75 \$35 | 7. 8. 9. 10. | Arro Tin s Woo Turt |
| | Cark 1. 2. 3. | oide Lamps Sun Ray, radial ribbed ref, ni-plated, excellent Simmons, brass, excellent Guy's Dropper, 2 date, ni-plated, double hook, very go | \$225 \$200 ood \$65 | 12. 13. | Enar CRO BAR BOSS |
| | 4. 5. 6. | Wolf, No. 856, canister lamp w/ aluminum reflector Same as no. 4 but without reflector Frieman Wolf canister type lamp, brass, missing ref water door and tip, but excellent display lamp and ran | \$125 \$80 lector, | 14. 15. | "Sha "Gib rescu |
| | 7. | Justrite No. 44 belt generator, totally complete an | | | \A/: |

good. Rare!

| 2. 3. | dleholders Fielding-Peterson, folding type, some rust, but condition Sholder Pat., mint with most of the original nickel. Lindahl, complete and in very good condition \$500 |
|---|--|
| Safe 1. 2. 3. | "Vold" early tall model with parafin striker, iron & brass, very good "Protector No. 6" brass & stainless steel, well used but in good condition \$50 |
| Misson 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. | Rellaneous Baldwin carbide carrier, unmarked, mint Original oil wick lamp wicking (in balls). Price for 3 Atlas cap tin, mint U.M.W. of A. w/ C.I.O symbol metal license plate tag. 1930's-40's, mint "Double Safety" canvas cap, new-old stock, mint "Anton Miner's Patent Lamp Wicks" complete box with wicks Atlas No. 3-50 blasting machine, excellent Arrow brass bottom w/ lid, unfired, mint Tin squib carrier, mint Wood blasting cap carrier Turtle-Shell type hard hat, good M.S.A self-rescuer, 1920's-30's, good Enamel 14" x 8" sign, "WARNING, DO NOT PASS LAST CROSS BAR WITHOUT SETTING SAFETY POST, STAND UNDER BAR AND REACH TO MAKE GAS TEST, EXCEPT FOR FIRE BOSS EXAMINATION, SHOT FIRER - ALWAYS HANG THIS SIGN ON LAST CROSS BAR AFTER SHOOTING," unused, mint \$65 |
| 14. 15. | "Shawinigan" 2 lb. carbide tin, unopened "Gibbs" self-contained breathing apparatus for rescue, totally complete and rare. 1920's \$18 mine \$350 |
| | |

Will trade. Will also buy one piece or an entire collection.

Please Help!

I am searching for old LEVI STRAUSS CO. products and related items. As you know, LEVI STRAUSS CO. began supplying miners with blue jeans in the mid-19th century. I will pay \$500 for a 19th century pair of these jeans in ANY CONDITION. I will pay \$200 for pairs pre-dating 1922. Pre-1922 jeans had suspender buttons, and often no belt loops, BUT GENERALLY ALL LEVI'S DATING BACK TO THE 1860s LOOK MUCH THE SAME IN CUT AND STYLE AS THEY DO TODAY.

I will pay a REWARD for information leading to the successful purchase of any old LEVI products. I would also like to locate any pairs, even if not for sale. So if you know of any PRE-1922 LEVI'S in collections, archives, or museums, I would very much appreciate the information.

I also purchase almost ALL new and old Levi jeans, jeans jackets, and products pre-dating 1960. Jeans and jeans jackets before 1950 all had a small belt-and-buckle in the back and thus are easy to identify.

I am interested in acquiring pre-1922 photos of miners wearing LEVI'S. Also old paper goods (letters, documents, advertising, catalogs, etc.) or other items related to pre-1960 LEVI products are always of interest.

Jeff Spielberg PO BOX 5178 Santa Monica, CA 90405 (213) 396-1663 (call collect in the evening)



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Philip R. Casdorph 28340 Live Oak Canyon Road PO Box 1794 Redlands, CA 92373 (714) 798-3491

- Fielding and Peterson Patented August 4, 1903. Wilson and Bobrink #275 \$800
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- Wire Husson Made by Knippenberg Mfg. Co. Wilson and Bobrink #25 \$150
- Square Husson Made by Knippenberg Mfg. Co. Wilson and Bobrink #28 \$185

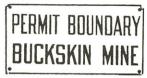
- Ludlow-Sayre Wire Co. Wilson and Bobrink #30. Stamped California, Montana, Crescent, Washington, Mt. Shasta \$125/\$200
- 7. Steel Coil Wire Stick Wilson and Bobrink #50 \$75
- 8. Lightning Mfg. by Henry Boker. Stamping - rough \$100
- 9. Bismere Style Blacksmith nice \$75
- 10. Highgrader's Handle blacksmith stick, 12 1/2" long. Slotted thimble \$90
- 11. Blacksmith Stick 12" long, 5" hook. Stamped A.B.D. \$175
- 12. Varney Styles Small Varney, L.A. Sayre & Son, Imperial, Varney, Clean-Cut, Bonanza, Small unmarked, Sierra, Russell, and Royal From \$65 to \$150

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- 1. MANWAY Porcelain blue and white 24X4, Stonehouse.
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- 4. SHAFT BELLS Red, black, and white porcelain,16X15
- BUCKSKIN MINE Black and white porcelain16X5.
- 6. TO 1600 Red, black, and white 10 X 8 wood.
- 7. 100 LEVEL Black and white 10 X 8.

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I have these and may others. Prices on request.













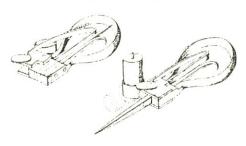




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2. **I.T.P** Float Feed, nickle, excellent \$285.00
3. **ACME** Hand lamp very nice condition \$125.00

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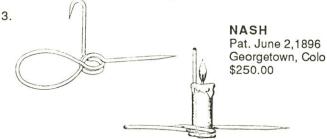


1. HUME & TATE
Colo best offer

Folder, Pat. Apr. 4,1882 Leadville,

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- HUGES BROS. Clanny, excellent \$250.00
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MISCELLANEOUS

Just returned from a mine exploring trip from Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico and have the following for sale.

| 1. | MINERS'S DRILL SPOONS 40 inches, make nice wall hangers | \$30.00 |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 2. | SHAFT BUCKETS from 18 inches to 3 feet all very nice | \$100.00 to \$200.00 |
| 3. | END DUMP ORE CARS some with original tags all very nice | \$400.00 to \$600.00 |
| 4. | TIMBER CARS with spoked wheels, very early, make nice coffee tables | \$400.00 |
| 5. | JIM CROW RAIL BENDERS for bending the small #18 rail | \$150.00 |

Ted Bobrink, 12581 Kendall Way, Redlands, CA 92373 (714) 794-5518

Mineralogical Record BACK ISSUES!



v.8/#6 California Issue Benitoite, Gold, L.A. County Museum, Himalaya mine



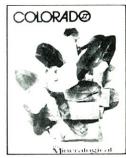
v.9/#3 Kalahari rhodochrosite, Paterson-NJ, Brumado district-Brazil, Bosch Coll.



v.9/#5 Turkish Kämmererite, Afghan pegmatites, Chuquicamata-Chile



v.10/#5 Thomas & Wah Wah Ranges-Utah (famous for Topaz, Red Beryl, etc.)



v.10/#6 Colorado-II Issue Locality Index, Amazonite, Mt. Antero, Sweet Home



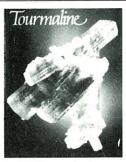
v.12/#4 Mineral Fakes. Mineral Fraud, Leadhills-Wanlockhead England



v.16/#1 Nevada Issue Getchell, Comstock, White Caps, Steamboat, etc.



v.16/#3 Colorado-III Issue Leadville, Rico, Pikes Peak Cresson Vug, CSM Museum\$9



v.16/#5 Tourmaline Issue History, Mineralogy, Calif., Elba, Nepal, Pakistan, ME \$12



v.17/#3 Knappenwand, Laurium, Tucson Show, Senaite-Brazil, New Zealand, Italy



v.17/#4 Tip Top-Black Hills, Stoneham-Colorado Barite, Tuscany-Italy



v.17/#6 Bleiberg-Austria, Oklahoma, Romania, Australia, Author's Guide



v.18/#1 Gold-II Issue Australia, Breckenridge, Venez., CA, GA, AL, NC, England \$14 Photographer's guide



v.18/#3 Minerals of the United States-Books List,



v.18#5 Peking Museum, Colorful Vanadium Minerals, Cal. Inesite, Kunzite



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