

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



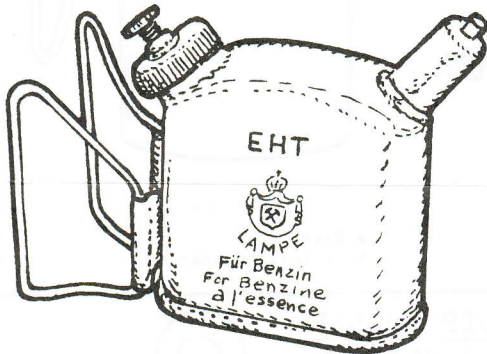
- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

Vol. V, No. 7

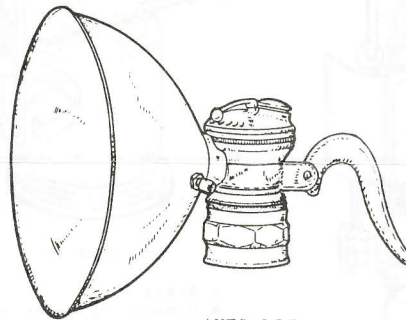
Fall, 1991

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

Lamps and More Lamps - Illustrated here are a number of strange and different lamps most of which lack information other than what is shown. Anyone who can add to this data is encouraged to send it in.

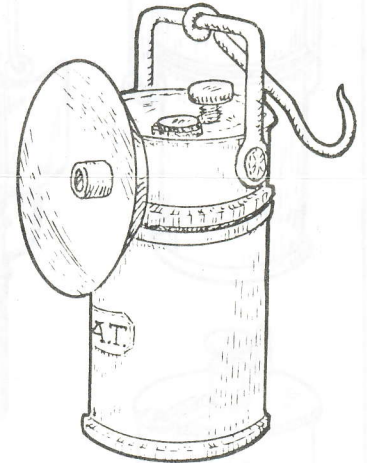


All brass; 1-1/4 in. (31.75 mm) wide x 2-7/8 in. (73.03 mm) long x 2-7/8 in. (73.03 mm) tall font. 5/8 in. (15.88 mm) diameter spout. Crossed hammer and pick in the etched emblem.



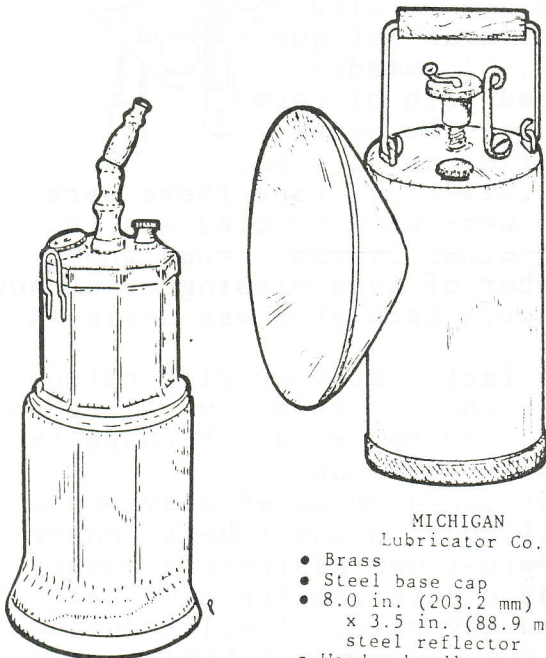
AUTO-LITE

- Brass
- 7.0 in. (177.8 mm) diameter reflector
- Flint self-lighter
- Bakelite handle



A. T.

- All brass
- 6.0 in. (152.4 mm) tall
- 3.0 in. (76.2 mm) diameter
- 3.5 in. (88.9 mm) diameter integral brass reflector
- Hand-wrought brass bail and hook

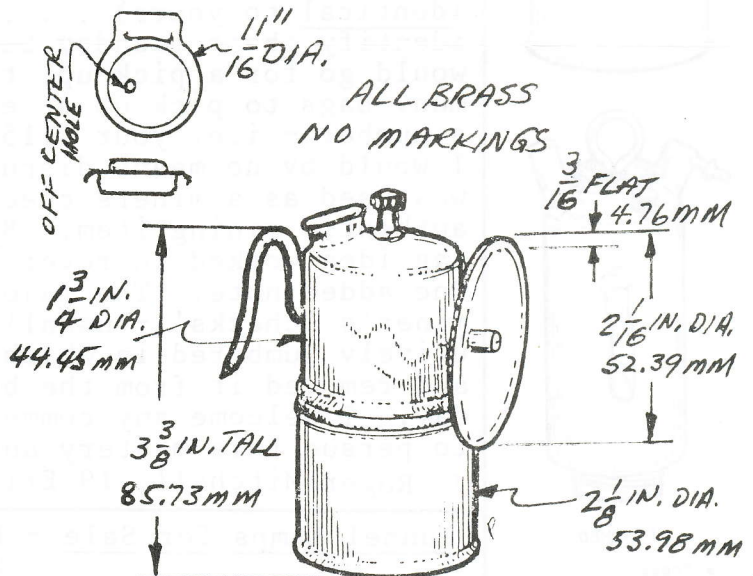


MICHIGAN Lubricator Co.

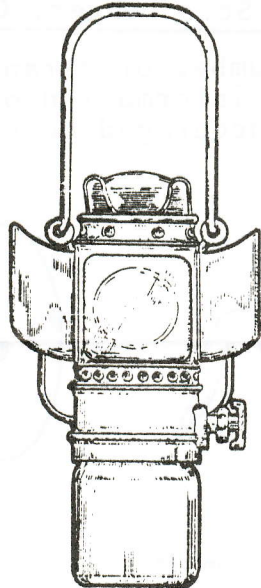
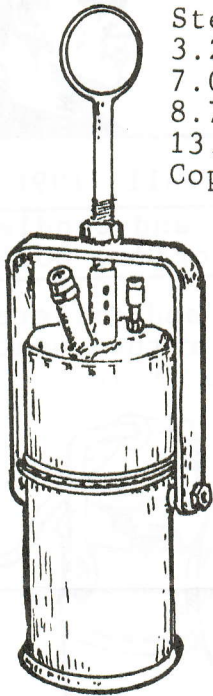
- Brass
- Steel base cap
- 8.0 in. (203.2 mm) diameter x 3.5 in. (88.9 mm) deep steel reflector
- Wooden handle

UNNAMED

- Cast brass
- 3.625 in. (92.1 mm) diameter
- 6.375 in. (161.9 mm) tall



Brass body made from a WWI artillery shell
 Steel bale and screw
 3.25 in. (82.55 mm) diameter
 7.0 in. (177.8 mm) tall
 8.75 in. (222.25 mm) over bale
 13.0 in. (330.2 mm) over loop
 Copper burner tube

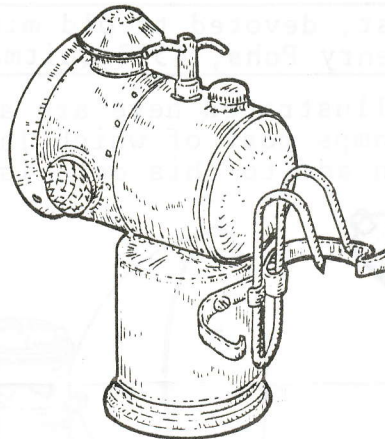
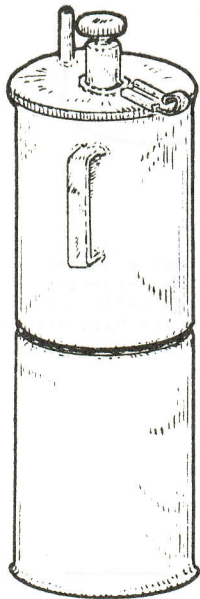


RIEMANN

- Brass
- 6.25 in. (158.75 mm) tall
- 2.25 in. (57.15 mm) diameter
- Folding doors over lens

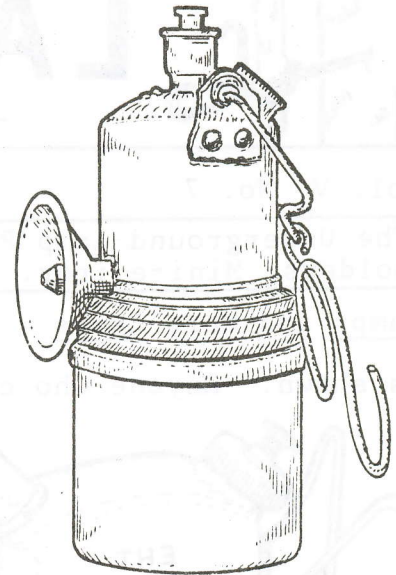
Lunkenheimer Valve Co.

- Brass
- 10.0 in. (254.0 mm) tall
- 3.125 in. (79.375 mm) diameter
- Belt loop
- Gas connection tube
- Sliding water door



UNNAMED

- Brass
- Dimensions unknown

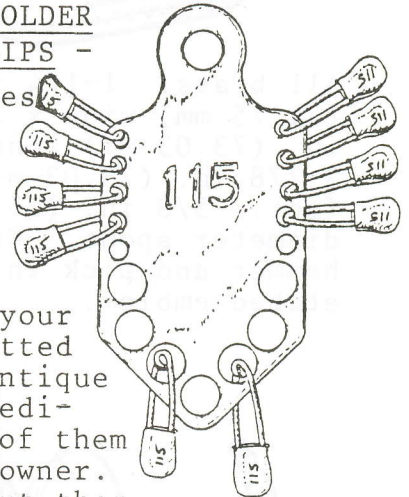


UNNAMED

- Brass
- Dimensions unknown

CLIP HOLDER
 and CLIPS -

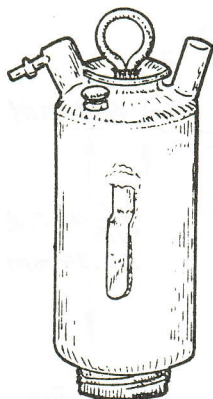
Roger Mitchell writes about the clips and clip holder of Howard Myhre as shown in the last issue of the Lamp Post. "About two weeks after seeing your "clipholder", I spotted two of them in an antique mart nearby. I immediately grabbed both of them and headed for the owner. After inquiring about them, he told me this . . . (and these were



identical to yours) . . . These were used by cleaners to identify their laundry bags and other linens. When they would go for a pick-up, the number of tags missing meant how many bags to pick up at each stop. Each stop was assigned a number - i.e. your #115.

I would by no means dispute the fact that your clip holder was used as a miners check, only that it probably is not an authentic mining item. But, I could be wrong. Perhaps the tag idea worked in reverse; Mining to cleaners. One added note. The majority of mines employed a system of miner's 'checks' - usually small round brass tokens consecutively numbered in which each miner was assigned a number and removed it from the board upon entering the mine each day. I welcome any comments you may have. I will continue to persue this mystery and let you know what I find.

J. Roger Mitchell, 19 Eric Lane, Glen Riddle, Pa., 19037.



UNNAMED

- Brass
- Dimensions unknown

Tunnel Lamps For Sale - Bob Guthrie, 870 Prospect Blvd,
 Waterloo, Iowa, 50702, (319) 291-
 6488, has lenticular tunnel lamps for sale. Call or write.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINING JOURNAL. Johannesburg, June 4, 1910.

P.O. Box 1111.
Phone No. 40.

10 HARRISON ST.,

Tele Add.;
"HERACLETUS"

JOHANNESBURG.

THE HERA LIGHT, LTD



The Original Light,

The many efforts to imitate it are its
Strongest Recommendations.



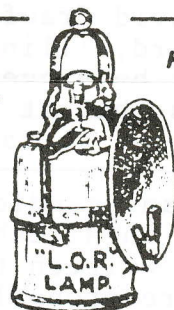
LAMP
No III
10
TO 12
HOURS.

ALL SPARE PARTS

KEPT IN STOCK.

THE MANAGER'S HAND LAMP.

With New and Simplified
Method of Locking.

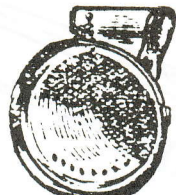


Call and inspect
our collection of
British, American,
French and German
Lamps.



LAMP No V
8 TO 10 HOURS

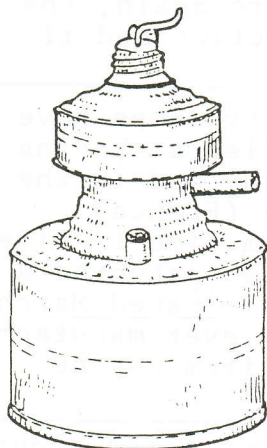
POINTS TO
BE NOTED.
Their CHEAPNESS
combined with
SIMPLICITY,
SAFETY and
STRENGTH



Reflector Burner

We guarantee to supply the best Swedish Calcium Carbide in South Africa.

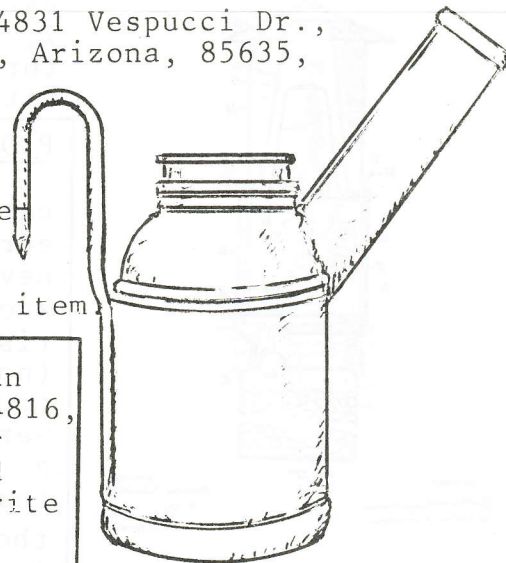
ASK FOR HERA "ALBY" BRAND



Not So Strange Lamps - This sketch was included in our last issue with a request for identification. Several readers have written to assure us that this is a Baldwin lamp. Anthony Glab, 4154 Fall Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21211, has sent several colored slides showing this lamp. It is steel with black paint and red pinstriping. Anyone knowing more about this lamp is encouraged to write Anthony about it. The next question is whether it has a name on it.

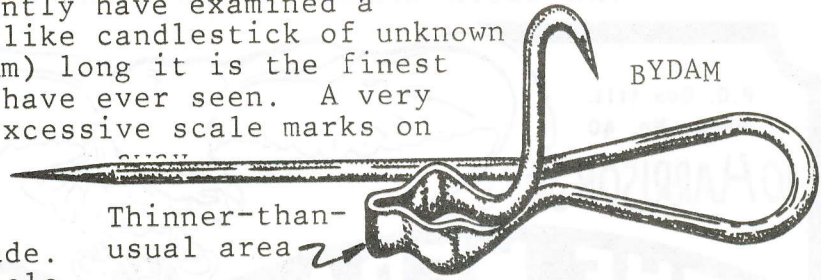
Wick Cap Lamp - Dick Sears, 4831 Vespucci Dr., Sierra Vista, Arizona, 85635, calls this a "strange" wick lamp because of the spout emerging from the "milk can" shoulder. It is clearly

marked B. E. LEONARD, Scranton, Pa. The single walled spout is 2-3/16 in. (55.56mm) long and the base-to-lid height is 2-1/2 in. (63.5mm). Certainly, someone can shed more light on this item.



For Sale - Bill Spence, 2381 Homewood Drive, San Jose, California, 95128, (408) 247-4816, has five (5) bicycle/carriage carbide lamps for sale . . . Magic, Dazzler, Solar, Columbia, and Lucas. He will sell them as a lot. Call or write for condition and more information.

Varney Candlestick - We recently have examined a Varney-like candlestick of unknown origin. At 11-1/2 in. (292.1mm) long it is the finest example of suspect Varneys we have ever seen. A very thin candle thimble area and excessive scale marks on that thin area are all that give it away. The square shaft, the octagon handle and the round hook are all well made. In fact, only the excessive scale marks are suspicious. Careful and successive examinations suggest that the octagon handle may be just a hair out of scale and that the piece could have been made from square stock rather than octagon as in the authentic, historical Varneys. Why someone would go to all the trouble to make such a candlestick and then make the thimble so thin will remain a mystery. So, too, will be the reason for stamping it it awkwardly with the single letters BYDAM as shown.

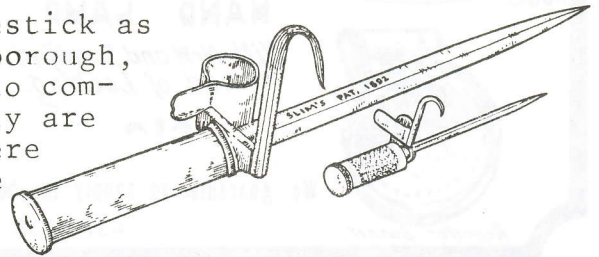


BYDAM



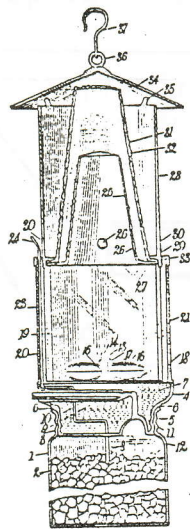
Iowa Lamp - David Crawford, 1808 Harlem Blvd., Rockford, Illinois, 61103, has sent this trade mark from what he suggests is a "non-WHAT CHEER TOOL CO" lamp. He says that it appears to be a basic GRIER lamp. Write David about a trade for it.

"Slim's" - Last issue showed a giant candlestick as described by Bob Craft in Hillsborough, California. Several readers have written to comment about it. It seems that there probably are more than one of this kind and that they were made within the past few decades. They are genuine collectables or collection conversation pieces, not made for any deceptive purposes, but crafted as store displays which were eventually passed into the commercial market. Here again, the old adage serves well . . . "if it looks good in your collection and if you want it there, it should, indeed, be there."



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERIC E. BALDWIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.
 ACCEPTED FOR PATENT.
 1,174,112. Specifications of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 7, 1916.
 Application filed September 2, 1911. Serial No. 64,302.



WITNESSES
 Walter Hansen

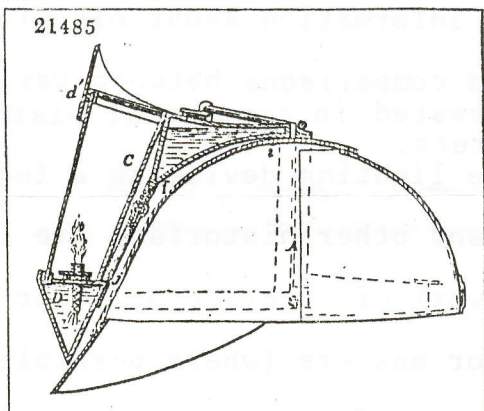
INVENTOR
 Frederic E. Baldwin
 Myerson Co.
 ATTORNEYS

Carbide Safety Lamps - Carbide safety lamps have been identified as having been manufactured by WOLF (in Germany and in the U. S.), SEIPPLE (Germany), and ARRAS (France). Good specimens of these show up from time to time. Frederic E. Baldwin in the u. S. also patented a carbide flame safety lamp, 1,174,112 issued March 7, 1916. The question is, were any ever manufactured and sold? We'd wish to hear from anyone with information on this subject.

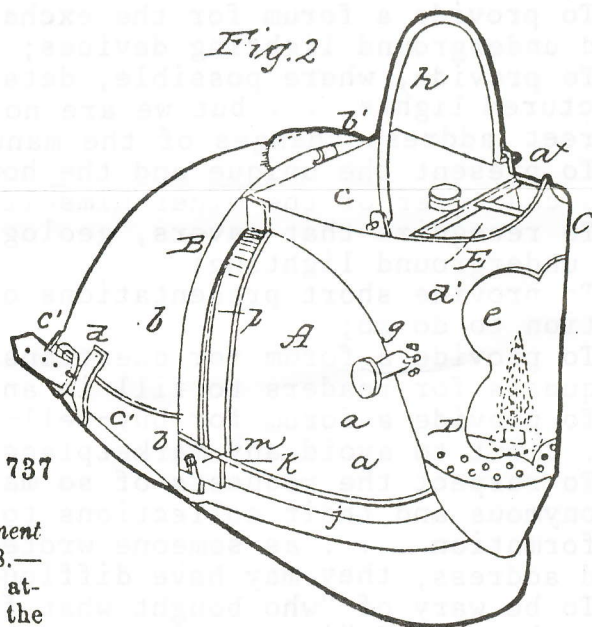
PIONEER - Q. We have been asked many times about Pioneer lamps. What is a Pioneer carbide cap lamp? A. We're not sure what a Pioneer carbide cap lamp is supposed to be. We have never seen a lamp marked "Pioneer." What we do know is that the name "Pioneer" was used in advertisements by the John Simmons Co. The drawings (not photos) used in these advertisements appear to be the same as used for SIMMONS lamps which were marked SIMMONS. Once again it appears that a manufacturer used the printed word to imply that his lamp line was older than or better than the competition, but never put that word on a lamp.

Wick Lamp Trades - J. Roger Mitchell, 19 Eric Lane, Glen Riddle, Pa., 19037, (215) 891-0947, writes that he occasionally has lamps for trade. Due to the scarcity of oil wick lamps in his area, he must buy to acquire new (to him) lamps rather than make trades. He asks that readers keep him in mind when they have oil wick lamps to trade. Upon request, Roger will send a list of his traders and another list of what he wants to trade for. He also wants copies of wick lamp catalogs; he will pay copying costs and postage. He also needs a 1 lb. Auto-Lite carbide flask.

Safety Lamps - Graham McCrohan, 8a Robey Crescent, Coal Point 2283, N S W, Australia, writes that he has safety lamps for trade. He specifically needs a hydrogen cylinder for an Ashworth-Hepplewhite-Grey lamp. We assume that is similar to the cylinder on the STOKES-type lamp.



21485
V.—CALORIFICS.



737

No. 21,485.—JOSEPH C. CARY, of New York, N. Y.—*Improvement in Lantern Attachment to Caps.*—Patent dated September 14, 1858.—This invention consists in a peculiar manner of constructing and attaching a lantern to an elastic or adjustable skull-cap, whereby the

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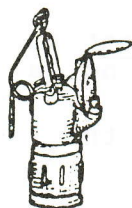
738

V.—CALORIFICS.

lantern is perfectly adapted to the cap, and allowed to burn equally as well as if held by the hand, and the cap made to fit varying sized heads, the whole forming a perfect device for railroad conductors, miners, and others who, at certain times, require a light and the free use of both hands.

Claim.—The lantern C constructed as shown, to wit: the fountain C and lamp D, connected by the tube f, and enclosed within the case d¹, which is provided with the handle or bail, and straps i j for the purpose of being attached to the cap A.

Another Patent - Here we have another odd looking patent illustration and description which probably didn't make it to market. But patent drawings are deceptive . . . the product did not have to look like the patent drawing as long as it worked like the written mechanical description.



DEWAR - Thanks to all who sent I-T-P and DEW-ER-LITE advertising materials. Unless someone soon finds a Dewar ad, we can begin to assume that there no lamps actually named Dewar.

**MINING ARTIFACTS BOUGHT & SOLD
MINING ARTIFACT ESTATES LIQUIDATED**

JOHN W. COONS
1127 ADAMS STREET
DENVER, CO 80206
303-399-5176

POSTAGE and HELP THANKS - POLICY - We owe appreciation and thanks to many correspondents who over the years have made the Underground Lamp Post possible and who have sustained its non-commercial character and purpose. From time to time there always has been a major contributor appear just at a time when such help is needed.

Now is such a time. After a kind Minnesota reader had sent us a large

box of envelopes, we had to borrow to pay for printing and postage for the Spring, 1991, issue. Contributions since that last issue have not yet covered that loan. We are thankful for postage help from Kansas, Iowa, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Washington, Illinois, California, Indiana, New Mexico, Canada, Massachusetts, and Florida. Now a long-time Lamp Post reader and correspondent has offered to print this issue for us FREE! That will be a significant budget relief, but we still will have to borrow for the postage for 350 domestic and 75 foreign mailings. Even though our new Social Security budget is now very limited, we have decided to continue with the newsletter.

Conditions certainly have changed since the first issue of the Lamp Post 23 years ago. To answer all recent inquiries, our purpose remains as follows:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of information about old mine lamps and underground lighting devices;
- To provide, where possible, details and comparisons between various manufactured lights. . . but we are not interested in commercial histories or street address changes of the manufacturers;
- To present the unique and the home-made lighting device as a facet of the character of the miner himself;
- To recognize that cavers, geologists, and other historians are interested in underground lighting;
- To provide short presentations of the work of others upon their authorization to do so;
- To provide a forum for questions and for answers (where possible) and/or requests for readers to fill in answers;
- To provide a forum for buy-sell-trade notes from readers at their request . . . but to avoid any marketplace endorsement of prices;
- To respect the requests of so many who wish their information to be anonymous and their collections to be private, but also wish to dispense information . . . as someone wrote, "If the uninvited doesn't have your name and address, they may have difficulty finding you and your assets."
- To be wary of "who bought what from who", of "what has been traded and where", and of "inventories of the collections of others" . . . reports which contribute little to the body of knowledge;
- To remember that if a shop or a company tooled up to make a brass carbide cap lamp, an elaborate mechanical candlestick, a safety lamp assembled from many parts, or a wick lamp with a roll-stamped legend or trade mark, they probably made lots of them, not just one or two; and to recognize that these enterprises then left little in the way of historical records we might like to see now; generally, there were only two types of important written records that were "saved" . . . profit and loss records for the owners and tax records for the government;
- To humbly respect the facts that we will never "know" it all, that our "known" information is limited, that someone else always has "known" what may be forgotten now, and that our readers really provide the access to more of the "known" information every time we open an envelope;
- To resist the suggestions to "go commercial" and to tie the Lamp Post to a publication schedule and to a subscription rate . . . hey, this is not a business; it's supposed to be fun!

Again, sincere thanks to all who have made the past 23 years of the newsletter rewarding. We apologize for the length of this editorial presentation, but that's how it is. Most of these thoughts were our original intent; some have grown over the years as we learned more.

With the proliferation of communications, publications, and information, perhaps the Lamp Post has reached its destiny. If you still like it, let us know. If you have other comments or suggestions, we'd like to hear them, too. Seasons Greetings.