

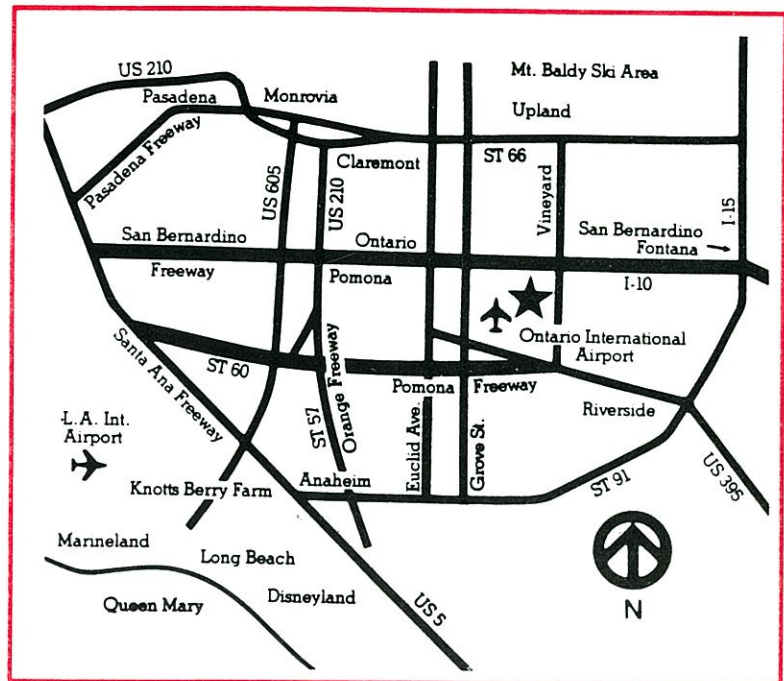
The Seventh Annual Mining Artifact Collectors' Reunion

The Seventh Annual Mining Artifact Collector' Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 27, 1992, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 1801 G Street, Ontario, California. The Holiday Inn is conveniently located near the Ontario International Airport. Shuttle busses travel to and from the airport and the Holiday Inn every half hour. Tables for exhibits, trade and sale items are **FREE** and will be available on a first come, first served basis. A grill for lunch and snacks is conveniently located near to the exhibit area.

As always, there will be many items for trade and sale. Bring your extra mining artifacts a perhaps you will leave with something new for your collection.

Also at this years reunion:

- A free drawing for an early Nevada cloth mine bell sign mounted in its original frame.
- A free one year subscription to the Mining Artifact Collector to the person who travels the furthest distance.
- Everyone attending will receive a 7th Annual Mining Artifact Collectors' Reunion button and all first time attendants will also receive last years 6th annual commemorative button.
- A slide show will be given the night before on underground mine exploring.



SEE YOU THERE!

To get the special room rate, you must call **714-986-0334**, Monday thru Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. **seven days in advance of the reunion**. Ask for Lucy and tell her that you are attending the Mining Artifact Collectors' Reunion.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ted Bobrink
12851 Kendall Way • Redlands, CA 92373
714-794-5518

MINING

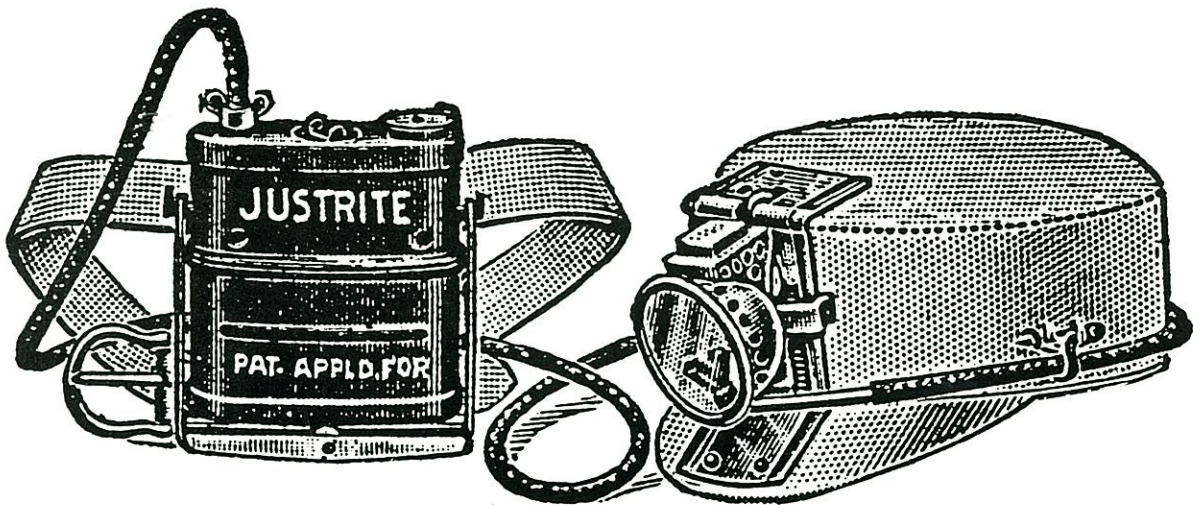
ARTIFACT

COLLECTOR

Issue Number 14 Spring 1992

44

Justrite
TRADE MARK



For drivers, motormen, miners, etc.; will not blow out; self lighting attachment, no matches required; burns ten hours on one charge, eight ounces of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch carbide; generator fastens on belt around the waist.

Per Dozen
NO. 44—Weight Complete, $1\frac{7}{8}$ Lbs. \$63.00

VISITORS' FIRST IMPRESSION OF BISBEE



Enlargement of an early postcard from Bisbee, Arizona (Gene Wright collection).

Mining Artifact Collector



NOTES from the EDITOR

Wendell E. Wilson 2

ARTICLES

Frog lamps - part II
Wendell E. Wilson 3

Nevada's Manhattan Mining
Company scrip
Douglas McDonald 10

Mining cigarette cards
John Neilson 17

Mining company corporate seals
Ted Bobrink 18

A new Korean candlestick
John Kynor 20

Mining-related match safes
Bob Schroth 21

An aluminum oil-wick identified
Tony Moon 22

The Simmons "Pioneer" lamp
Mark Bohannon 23

The Arnold Carbide Candle
cap lamp
*Wendell Wilson and
Mark Bohannon 27*

The Justrite No. 77 stick lamp
Tony Moon 28

Iowa mine bell sign
Ted Bobrink 30

Carbide superintendents lamps
Ted Bobrink 31

The Union Carbide pocket can
Mark Bohannon 32

Underground surveying illuminating
the plumb line
Tony Moon 33

A new powder company
Lane A. Griffin 34

The Koehler safety lamp
Tony Moon 35

COLLECTOR'S TALK . . . 37

TRADES & SALES . . . 39

Spring 1992 • Number 14

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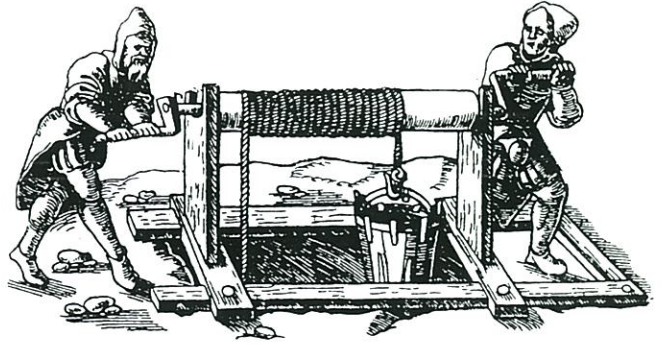
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Subscriptions
*One year (4 issues): \$25 U.S.,
\$35 foreign
Two years (8 issues): \$50 U.S.,
\$70 foreign*

Back Issues
*All back issues are currently
available at \$6 U.S. (\$8.50
foreign) each, but supplies are
limited. Order from
Ted Bobrink*

Notes from the Editor



SEASONAL ISSUES

Isn't it amazing how Fall becomes Winter before you know it? That is exactly what happened with MAC #13. Several readers noticed that the issue is labeled "Fall 1991 • Number 13" on the title page, but "Number 13 - Winter 1992" on the front cover. The intention was simply to make the first issue of everyone's annual subscription also equal the first issue of the calendar year, so number 13 was delayed a bit and redesignated as the Winter (first) issue of 1992. Except that we forgot to correct it on the title page. In any case, all subscriptions are now synchronized with the beginning of the year, so think of your subscription as a little Christmas present to yourself, and be sure to write a renewal check each December.

ERRATUM

On the inside front cover of the last issue, the person identified as Walter Goetz is actually Bill Wade.

WESTERN REUNION

Be sure to make your plans to attend the 7th Annual Mining Artifact Collectors' Reunion on **Saturday, June 27**. It is being held at the same location as last year (see enclosed flier) at the Holiday Inn, 1801 East G Street, **Ontario, California**. Great lamps, great deals and great conversation will be had by all, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some people show up the night before for a little early action.

A block of rooms have been reserved for reunion attendees. If you wish to make a reservation for a room, please tell them that you will be there to attend the Seventh Annual Mining Artifact Collectors' Reunion. **See you there!**

EASTERN REUNION

The 3rd Annual Eastern Mining Artifact Collectors' Swap Meet and Reunion will take

place **Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26**. It will be held in the foyer of the Comer Building on the Evansdale Campus of West Virginia University, right near the Comer Museum (which includes exhibits of mining artifacts). Thirty tables will be available. To reserve a spot, contact Gary Bindocci, Mining Extension Service/Comer, P.O. Box 6070, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6070 (Telephone 304-293-4211).

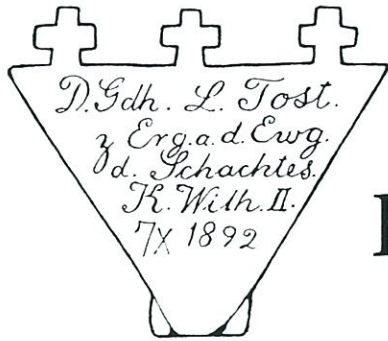
For the convenience of attendees, a block of rooms has been reserved just a half mile away at the Morgantown Holiday Inn, 1400 Saratoga Avenue. Call 304-599-1680 to reserve a room and tell them you're with the Mining Artifact Collectors' group; you'll receive the group rate of only \$42 for a single or double room.

Morgantown is an hour south of Pittsburgh. Take the Star City exit No. 155 off of Interstate 79, then follow the signs to US 19 and proceed east. The motel and the University are right on US 19.

APRIL FOOL'S ISSUE

Yes, it's Spring again and the sap is rising in the editorial staff. This phenomenon reaches a peak around April Fool's Day, just as the Spring issue is being assembled each year. The result is that somewhere within the Spring issue of every volume there is a ringer, a little article fabricated to deceive the gullible and give everyone else a good chuckle. So don't say we didn't warn you.

Actually, there is something of a tradition behind this kind of mendacity, especially out here in the Wild West. Cowboys and miners refined the telling of tall tales to an artform, and there was always a contest in progress as to who could tell the most outrageous but superficially plausible lie, and how long some greenhorn would be taken in before it got just too ridiculous. Far be it from us to flout tradition.

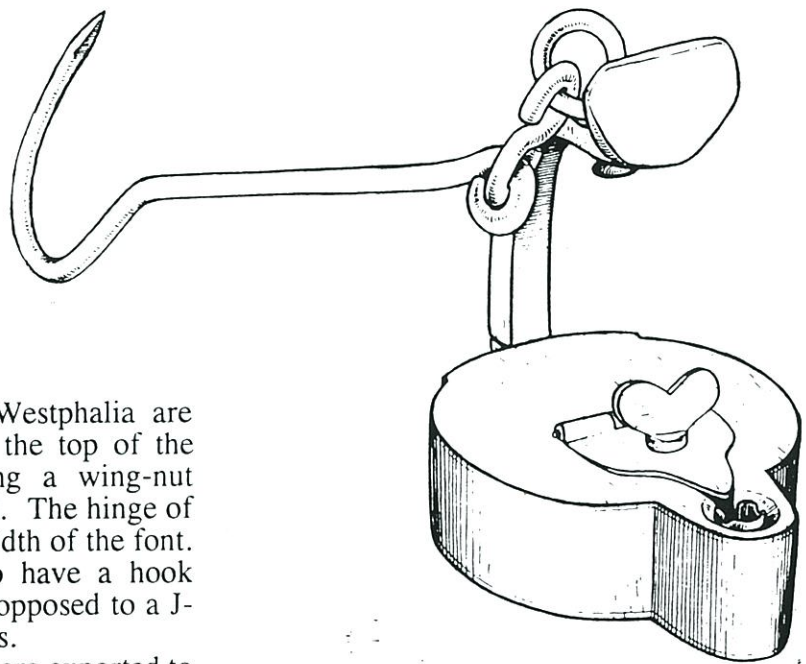


FROG LAMPS



PART II

by **Wendell E. Wilson**
4631 Paseo Tubutama
Tucson, Arizona 85715



WESTPHALIAN FROGS

Most frog lamps from Westphalia are characterized by a small lid in the top of the font. The lid is opened using a wing-nut connected to a latch under the lid. The hinge of the lid traverses about half the width of the font. Westphalian lamps also tend to have a hook shaped like a question mark, as opposed to a J-shaped hook on the Hessen lamps.

Westphalian-style frogs were exported to America and are the most common type found here.

Figure 20. Apparently an inexpensive economy model, this frog has only a crudely formed iron shield and no markings of any kind. The absence of rivets or solder on the shield proves, at least, that it did not have a brass cover plate at one time. However, the simplicity and common design of this frog make it among the least valuable types.

Figure 21. Erhard Reusch Frog. Reusch frogs are among the few German frogs whose maker is definitely known. The shield shape as shown here is characteristic, as is the two-holed latch handle resembling a gull or bird of some type. The Reusch family of Daaden also manufactured carbide lamps and coffee grinders. An excellent book on the Reusch lamps entitled A. E. Reusch, Daaden, written by Henner Schardt and Heinz Zander, was published in 1989. (Schardt's address is Malscheider Weg 28, Struthutten, D-5908 Neunkirchen 3, Germany.)

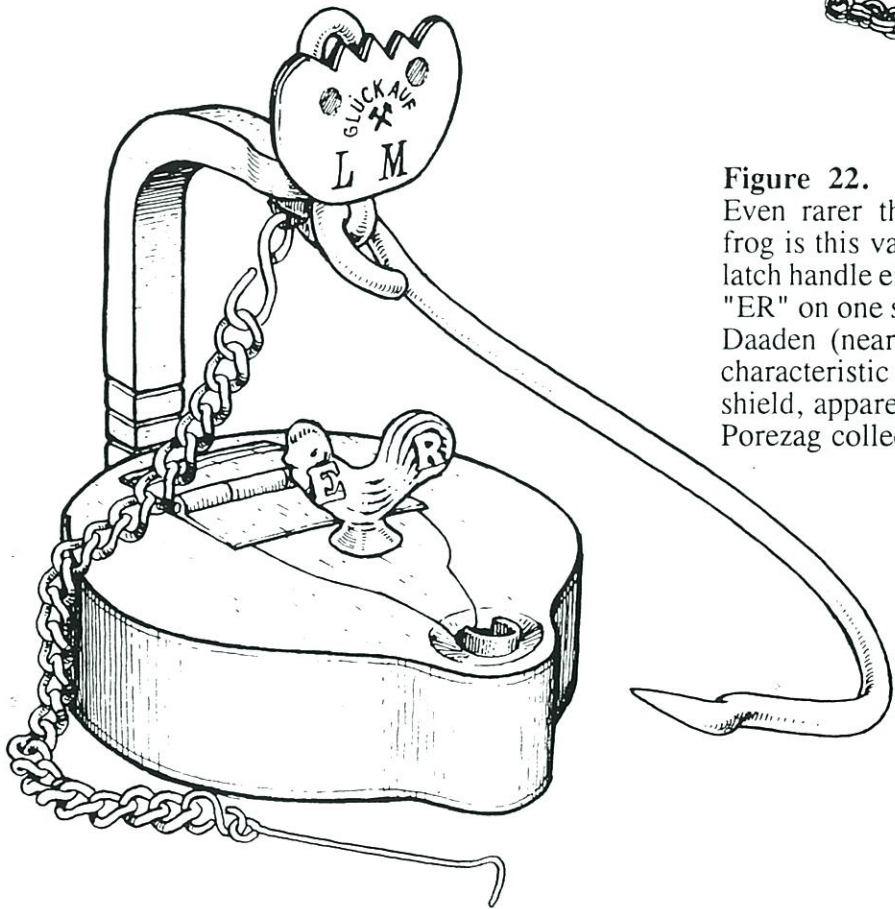
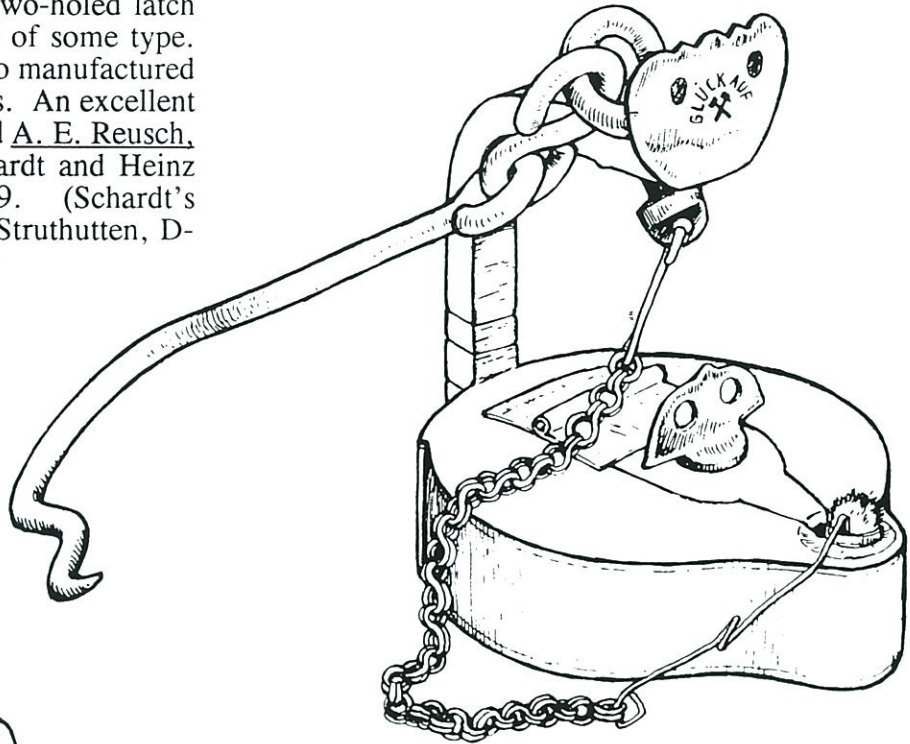


Figure 22. Erhard Reusch Rooster Frog. Even rarer than the previously shown Reusch frog is this variety which carries a brass rooster latch handle emblazoned with the maker's initials "ER" on one side and a "D" for his hometown of Daaden (near Siegen) on the other side. Also characteristic is the single-dot umlaut on the shield, apparently due to a broken die. (Karsten Porezag collection)

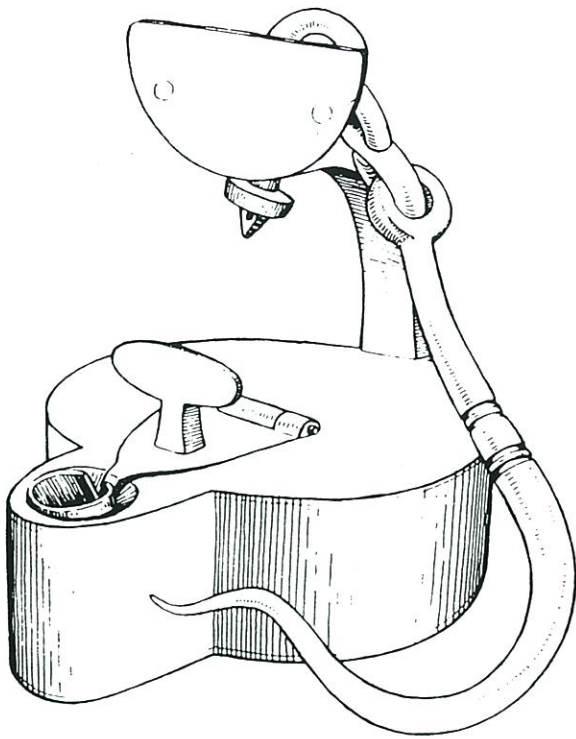


Figure 23. The interesting feature of this frog is the unusual shape of the latch handle. Otherwise the lamp is of common design. The brass shield plate is unmarked. . . perhaps the lamp was never sold. It shows no evidence of wear at the typical points: the bail ring, the S ring and the hook eyelet. This example was found in the U. S.

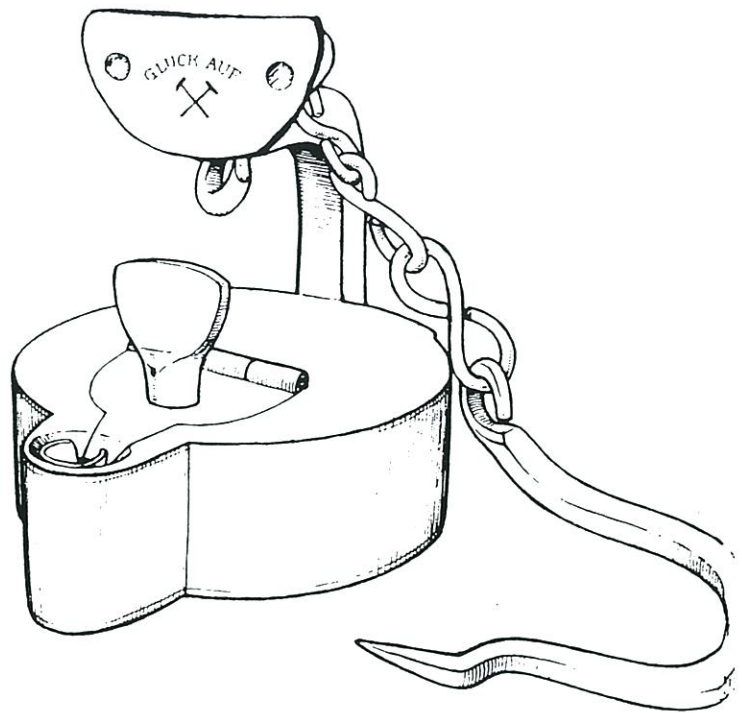


Figure 24. Surveyor's Frog. Supposedly the extra links on the hook assure a perfectly straight hang for surveying purposes. Personally I have doubts about the actual utility of this feature for surveying. Nonetheless, it is an interesting lamp with nicely hand-forged hook and triangular latch handle. Only the shield is in brass.

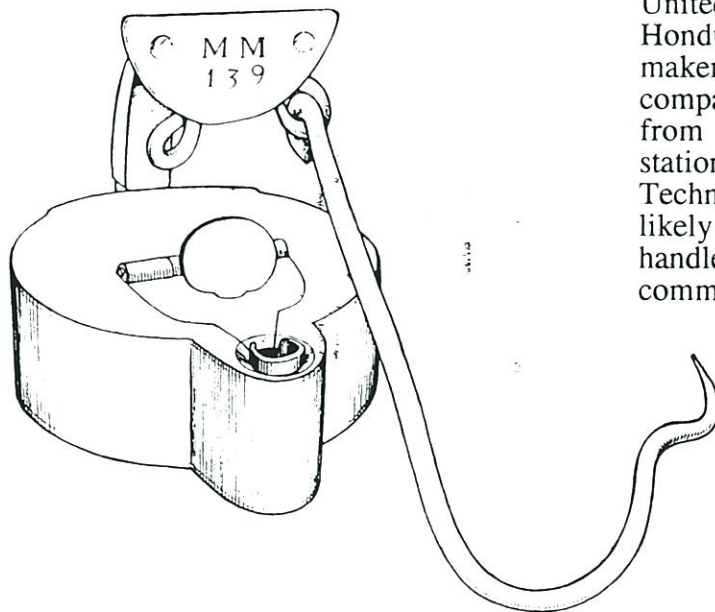


Figure 25. Honduran Frog. Frog lamps were used more extensively in Mexico and Central America, for some reason, than they were in the United States. This common style was used in Honduras, probably ordered from a German maker by a Honduras-based German mining company. All such frogs thus far brought back from Honduras by a geologist-lamp collector stationed there (Dr. Richard Finch, Tennessee Technological University) carry two letters, most likely initials, and a number. The circular latch handle on this one is unusual . . . most are the common heart shape. (Henry Pohn collection)

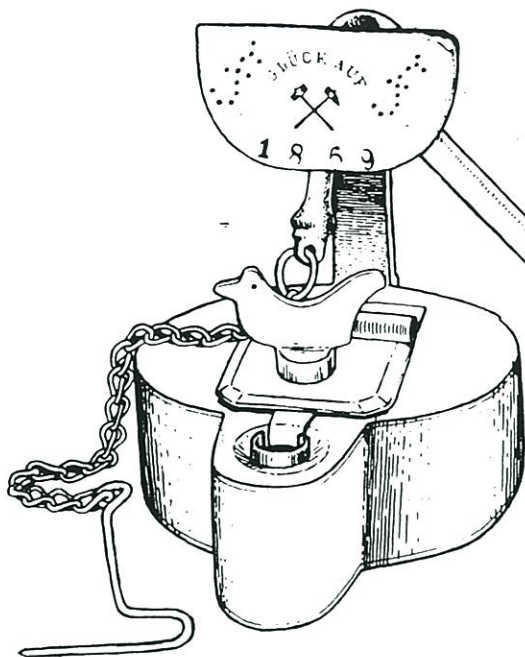


Figure 26. Rooster Frog. The rooster on this interesting frog is flat rather than sculpted in three dimensions. The front lid plate is brass, as is the shield. The shield is filled with markings: the miner's initials "F F," the date "1869," and the usual "GLÜCK AUF" and crossed hammers. The pick and chain are probably replacements.

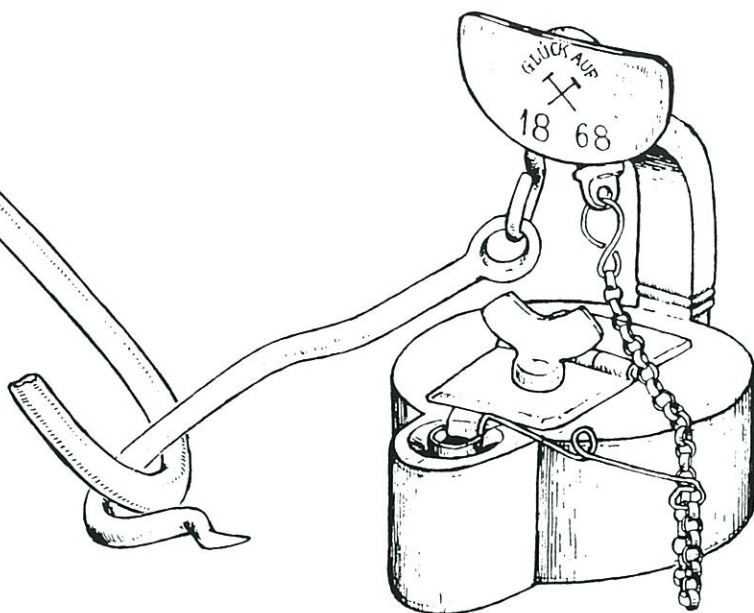


Figure 27. This attractive example is typically Westphalian in design except for the unusual U-shaped latch handle. The rectangular brass front door is a late innovation found on frogs of the latter third of the 19th century. (Karsten Porezag collection)

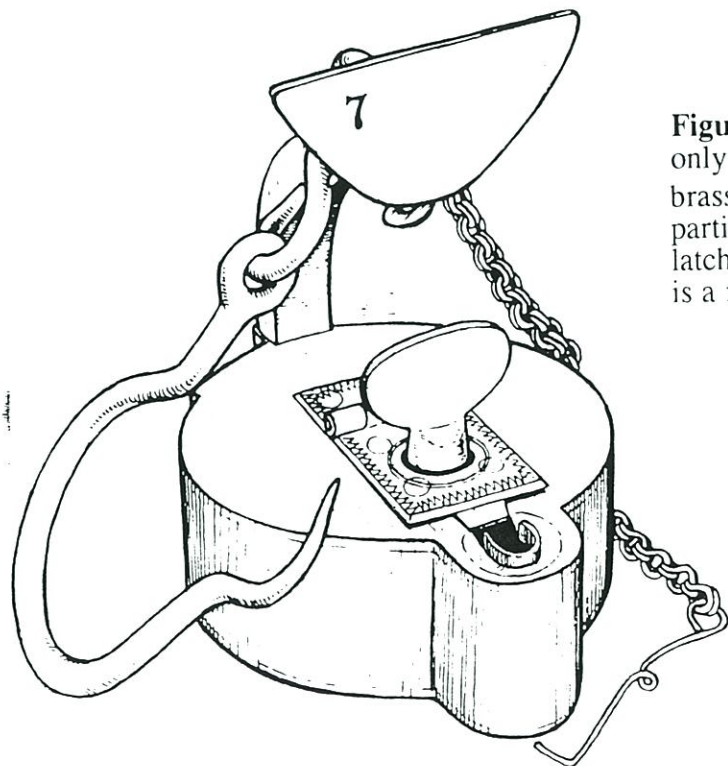


Figure 28. The over-sized brass shield marked only with the number "7," and the engraved brass lid plate with copper rivets make this a particularly attractive frog. The oval-shaped latch handle is unusual as well, though the chain is a replacement.

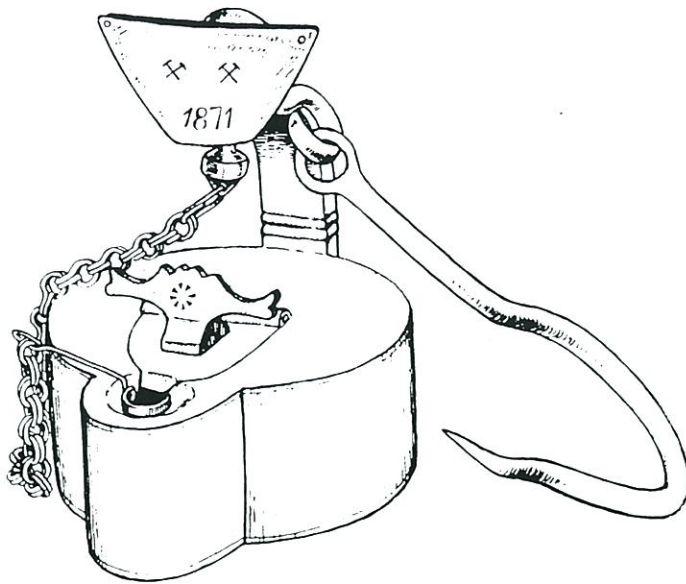


Figure 29. Crocodile Frog. The name for this frog derives from the unusual shape of the latch handle which vaguely resembles a crocodile's head. The two sets of crossed hammers on the shield are unusual. The chain is a replacement. Probably made near Nassau or Bad Ems. Though this example was found in Germany, crocodile frogs have been found in the United States. (Karsten Porezag collection)

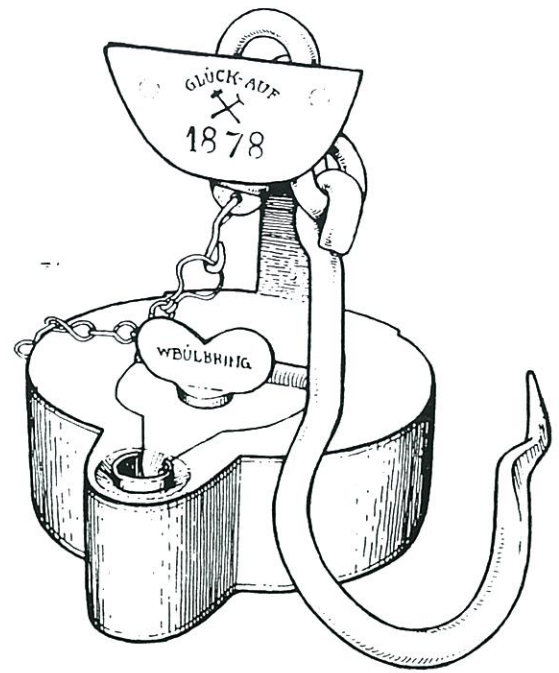


Figure 30. Bülbring Frog. As mentioned previously, few frog lamps are signed by the maker. The example shown here is stamped with the name "W BÜLBRING." Examples stamped "R BÜLBRING" and "C BÜLBRING"

are also known. Unfortunately nothing has yet been discovered about the Bülbring family, or where they lived (there is indirect evidence that they were located near Hanover). But they did date their frogs in most cases, and produced at least two models: the one shown here, and a similar model with rectangular brass font door. Details of the "GLÜCK AUF" stamp can serve to identify Bulbring frogs if the name on the latch handle is not legible; note particularly the large left foot or serif on the A, the spiked serif on the L, and the shape of the K. The frog is iron, with a brass shield. This example was found in the United States.

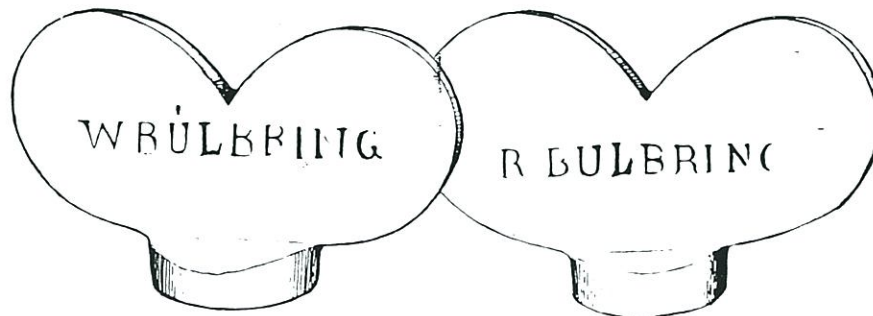


Figure 31. Detail of stamping on two Bülbring frogs.

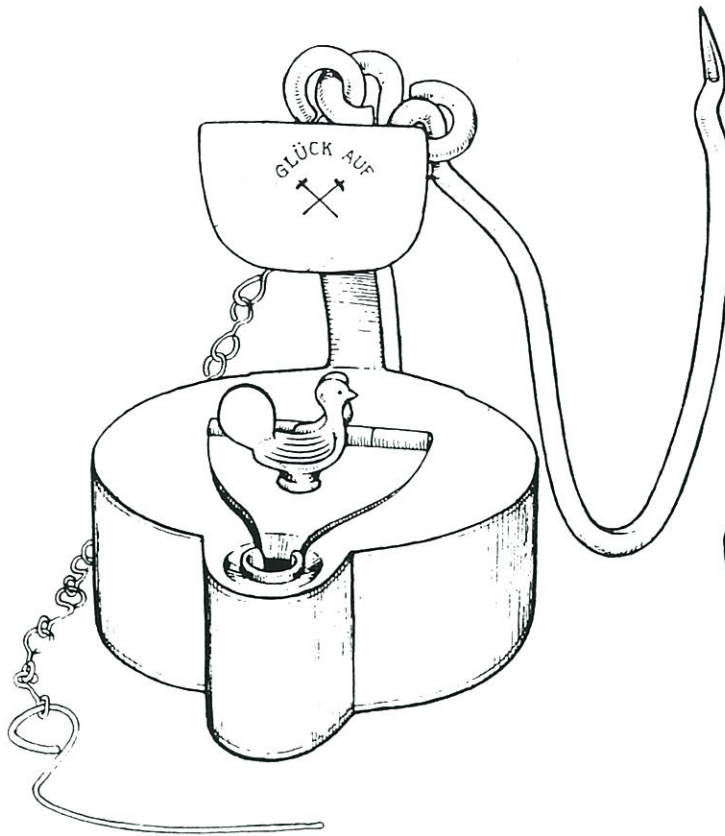


Figure 32. Rooster Frog. This frog carries a brass rooster clearly different from that of a Seippel frog. In addition, the shield is nearly square in shape, the hook is very large, and the pointed pick is on the right instead of the left. This particular example, though most likely of German manufacture, was brought to the United States in 1880 by an Austrian miner, Alaysius Gutfelder, and subsequently passed down to his descendants. Iron body, brass shield. (Colorado School of Mines collection)

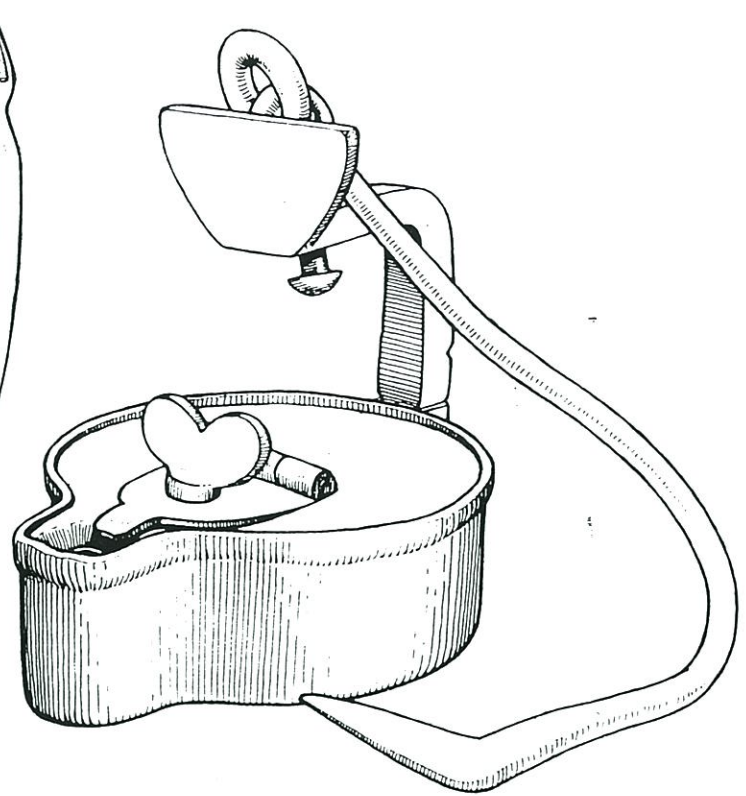


Figure 33. Die-Cast Frog by Friemann und Wolf (Zwickau in Saxony). Most frogs (except the open-font variety) have a font constructed from three pieces (top, bottom, sides) which are brazed or soldered together. The example pictured here, however, has a two-piece font. The bottom and sides were created from one piece of sheet steel by pressing it into a mold under high pressure. Then the top was dropped in and the edges crimped around it. The bail is cast in one piece with the plain iron shield, rather than being forged from square stock.

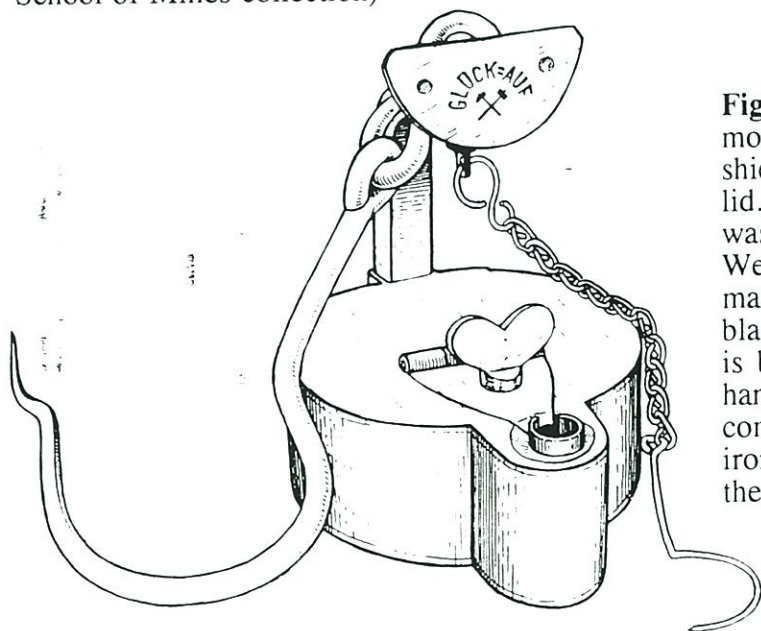


Figure 34. Seippel-Type Frog. This is the most common style of frog lamp: semi-circular shield, heart-shaped latch handle and small font lid. The most prolific manufacturer of this type was the firm of Wilhelm Seippel in Bochum, Westphalia, founded in 1858. Many other makers, from large companies to small-town blacksmiths, made this type as well. The shield is brass, as are the wick pick chain and latch handle, though the latter two parts are just as common in iron. The font, bail and hook are iron. The addition of a year date or initials on the shield is also common with this type.

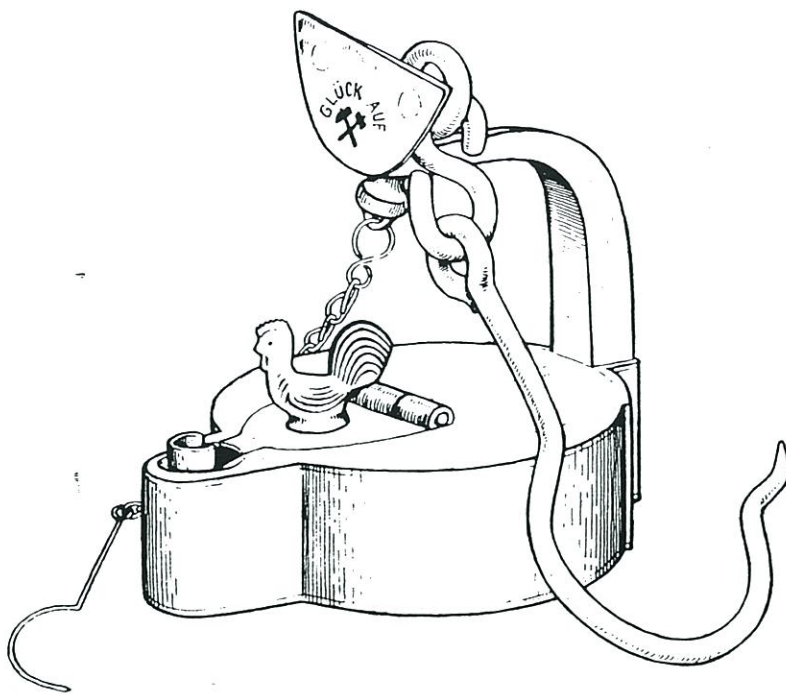


Figure 35. Wilhelm Seippel Rooster Frog.

The Wilhelm Seippel company in Bochum, Westphalia, made at least two varieties of frog lamp: iron body and heart-shaped shield (model No. 32), and brass body and brass rooster-shaped latch handle (model No. 33). The sculpturing of the rooster is characteristic, and serves to distinguish a Seippel rooster frog from those of other manufacturers. Also, Seippel always placed the pointed pick (on the shield) on the left, whereas some other makers placed it in the preferred position on the right.

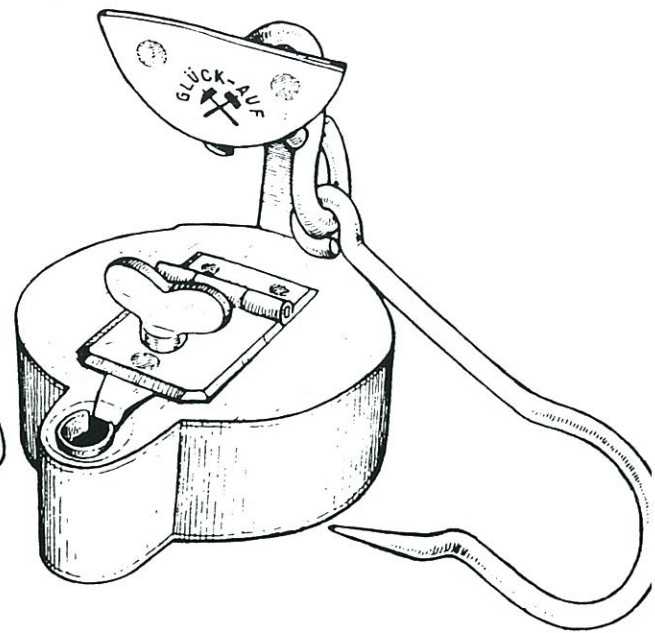


Figure 36. Seippel-Type Frog. A minor refinement also in the design of the Seippel type of frog lamp is the addition of a rectangular brass plate over the front door, as shown here.

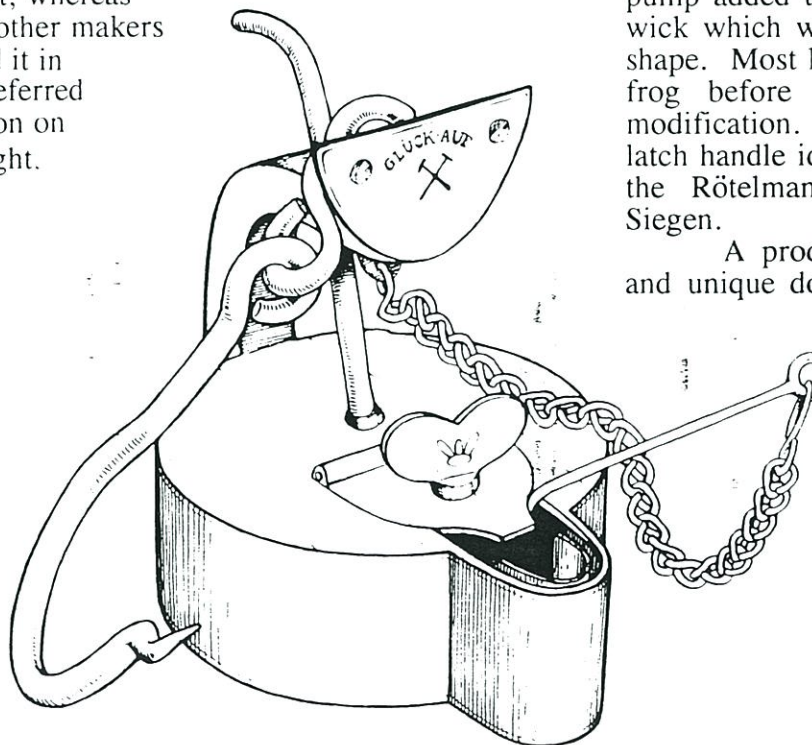


Figure 37. Rötelmann Frog with Air-feed (Luftzuführung). A better flame can be produced if a flow of air is provided from below the wick. This example has a home-made air pump added to the front, and space for a large wick which was folded into a semi-cylindrical shape. Most likely it was an ordinary model of frog before someone made this makeshift modification. The little crown stamped on the latch handle identifies this frog as one made by the Rötelmann company in Werdohl, near Siegen.

A production model frog with air-feed and unique double half-bail was originated by August Ark around 1897, though examples are extremely scarce. (Karsten Porezag collection)

NEVADA'S MANHATTAN MINING COMPANY SCRIP

by Douglas McDonald
P.O. Box 20443
Reno, Nevada 89515

Private paper currency or scrip was issued in many parts of the U.S. during the nineteenth century, but only a handful of firms ever attempted this measure in the "hard-money" West. This was especially true throughout the silver and gold mining regions of Nevada. The few issues that did exist were at best short-lived and at worst dismal failures. Today surviving notes are generally rare with the exception of those printed for the Manhattan Silver Mining Company of Austin. While never issued, these well-executed bills are vivid reminders of a little-known conflict in Western economic history.

Austin was only 12 years old when these colorful notes were created. Discovered in May 1862 by a stage station employee chasing runaway horses, the rich silver mines of the area promoted the "Rush to Reese River" the following year. Soon the new town of Austin boasted a population of more than 2,000 people and was determined to become as famous as Virginia City.

As mining locations were discovered in central Nevada, Austin also became a supply center for outlying camps. Mills were built, schools and churches were established and the frantic days of the initial rush gave way to the steady activity of a successful mining community.

While the Comstock boom primarily drew its investors from the Pacific Coast, especially San Francisco, Austin's initial rush attracted quite a bit of Eastern capital. Nevada had been a state less than a year when New York financiers purchased the North Star, Oregon and Southern Light mines located just over the hill to the north of the town. These properties were united with other later acquisitions under the name of the Manhattan Mill and Mining Co., which in 1865 was renamed the Manhattan Silver Mining Co. of Nevada.

The "Rush to Reese River" also attracted the pioneer Virginia City banking firm of Paxton &

Thornburgh. Their Austin branch, opened in 1863, became the banking house of Paxton & Co. five years later when John A. Paxton bought out his partner.

As the Manhattan Mining Company continued to grow and prosper, buying up most of the major mines in the Reese River Mining District, it first began shipping bullion through the local express company. "This afternoon some 30 large bars of bullion from the Manhattan Co. were delivered at the office of Wells, Fargo & Co." reported the *Reese River Reveille* in 1867, "but the circumstances received no more notice from the passers than would a load of bricks. They were used to it."

Gradually the firm began to do more of its business through Paxton's bank, especially as the shrewd banker had quietly begun to purchase stock in the Manhattan Company as early as 1868. By 1872 Austin was the second largest city in Nevada when Allen A. Curtis, superintendent of the Manhattan Company, became Paxton's partner, changing the bank's name to Paxton & Curtis. So successful was this partnership that within two years they had acquired a controlling interest in the Manhattan Company, spending a reported \$500,000 in the process.

By 1875 John Paxton was a well-respected businessman and financier, although he lived full-time in California and only occasionally visited his far-flung banks and mines which stretched from Hamilton to Lida to Reno. It was Allen Curtis who really controlled the partners' eastern Nevada businesses. Besides managing the huge Manhattan Mining Company and supervising the region's most active bank, he was also elected county treasurer and town alderman.

Yet while the banking house of Paxton & Curtis was a strong, well-managed firm, it suffered from the same lack of hard coinage as did the rest of the West. From the earliest days



For Value Received I hereby assign and transfer to Thomas Sherman
 100 Shares of the above mentioned Stock and do hereby constitute and appoint
J. Augustus Taylor Attorney to transfer the same on the Books of the Company
 Witness Henry Wood hand and seal this 21 day of March A.D. 1866
J. Augustus Taylor

small change was nearly unknown. Silver dimes, called "shortbits" were occasionally seen. The smallest coin usually encountered was the quarter, as that was often the price of a shot of decent whiskey. To compound this problem, much of the small change which did find its way to Nevada was counterfeit.

"Spurious ten-cent pieces are circulating along the line of the railroad," reported the *Reese River Reveille*. "No fear of their doing any harm if they are introduced in Austin, as such insignificant coins are not recognized as money here. In our highest social circles they are used as poker chips." Not long afterward Paxton & Curtis received "a new-fangled contrivance for detecting counterfeit silver coin," which bank cashier C.P. Soule stated, "works like a finger in a knot-hole."

Paper currency was another problem. Ever since its introduction during the Civil War and its subsequent discounting in relation to silver and gold coins, westerners had consistently refused to accept federal paper money. Privately-issued currency, such as was common in Eastern states from the late 1700's through the 1870's, was shunned outright in the Far West. A few attempts were made to issue private scrip in California in the 1850's, but all failed or were extremely short-lived. Only the private currency issued by the Mormon Church and affiliated Utah companies seems to have been actually circulated and only in an extremely limited region.

So repugnant was the concept of private paper currency, considered "flat money" with no intrinsic value, that the Nevada Constitution specifically prohibited its use. "No bank-notes or



Austin Library and Historical Society

paper of any kind shall ever be permitted to circulate as money in this state," wrote the Constitutional drafters in 1864, "except the federal currency and the notes of banks authorized under the laws of Congress."

Such was the situation facing Allen Curtis early in 1875 as an expanding payroll caused an increasing demand for gold and silver coin. However, the "Crime of '73" had demonitized silver two years earlier. This, coupled with the increased production from other Nevada mines and the failure of many European countries to maintain a silver standard, forced the price of silver down and imposed a discount on its value as well. U.S. mints ceased production of silver dollars; the newly-established mint at Carson City was only striking pitifully small quantities of coins, and the larger mint at San Francisco could not begin to keep up with the demand for gold and silver coinage throughout the "hardmoney" West.

Curtis couldn't create gold coins out of thin air, but he thought he had found a way to continue to meet payrolls. Instead of issuing true private scrip, which was not only abhorred in the West but was illegal in Nevada as well, he

designed what amounted to bearer checks payable on his bank, denominated in seven values ranging from \$1 to \$100. The existence of these notes was kept secret until they had been printed by Major & Knapp in New York and shipped to Austin.

To introduce Austin's citizens to this new money, Curtis planned a Silver Picnic on May 31, 1875, where the guests would each be presented with a little silver brick. As the mining company's "silver checks" were payable in "merchantable" silver, he intended prominent merchants and businessmen to be able to hold a sample of the mine's product in their hands. Two days before the event several Austin businesses advertised in the local newspaper that they would accept "merchant bullion checks at par."

Probably Curtis believed that getting merchants to accept this form of money would be the major hurdle to overcome, and this seemed to have been accomplished with some ease. The miners were another aspect, though. Previous union successes in Virginia City and Gold Hill should have made him more aware of their strength.

Shortly after 6 p.m. on May 31, 1875, the

streets of the peaceful mining camp of Austin began to fill with disgruntled miners. Within an hour more than 400 men had gathered. They were quietly determined to shut down the area's major mine if its owners actually followed through with their insidious scheme to undermine the workers' economy.

At 7:30 the men peacefully filed into the International Hall where they quickly organized a miners' union. Their first act was the passage of a resolution demanding that all members be paid the standard miner's wage of \$4 per day and only in gold coin. A committee was then appointed to appear before the superintendent of the Manhattan Silver Mining Co. to tell him that a strike would be forthcoming should their demand not be met. Worse yet, the miners only guaranteed to operate the pumps for another 48 hours, after which the underground workings would quickly fill with water and completely shut down the giant operation.

When the new Austin Miners' Union met with Curtis on the morning of June 1, they were quite capable of causing the complete ruin of the Manhattan operation. If the pumps were allowed to fall idle, thus flooding the underground workings, the company might not be able to weather the huge expense needed to reopen the mines at a later date.

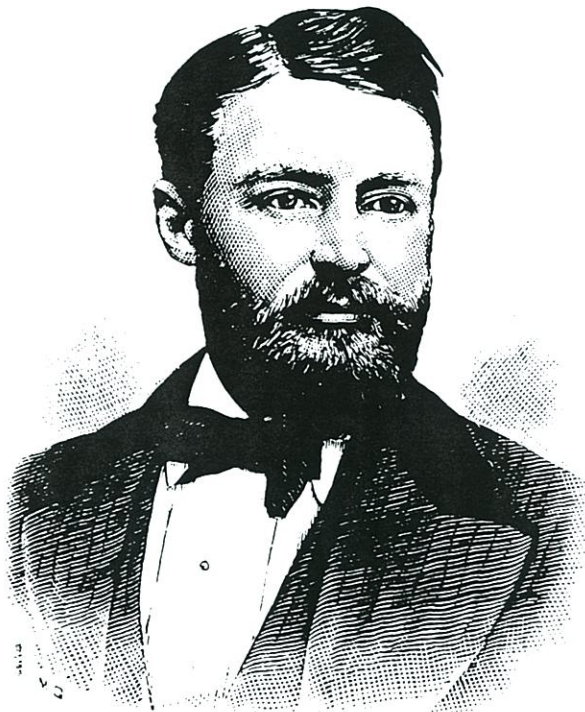
Curtis tried to buy some time to explain his reasoning to the irate miners. "He had no desire or intention to reduce wages," reported the

Reveille, "but as the company suffers from the existing large discount on silver bullion, he thought he could divide the loss among the community in such a manner that it would not be felt by any individual. The checks he proposed to issue in lieu of coin would pass at par for all purposes of trade, and the only ones who would suffer loss would be those who would send money out of the country, who would be obliged to pay five per cent for drafts or bills of exchange."

When several hours of intense discussions had no effect on the determined men, Curtis was finally forced to accede to the miners' demands of \$4 per day in gold. "it is not looked upon by them as 'backing down' or 'taking water,' but simply a pursuance of the wisest course open to him under the circumstances."

Obviously, the miners were protesting more than just the introduction of despised paper money. They were also fearful that the decrease in the price of silver, and the corresponding decrease in the value of silver coin, would result in a decline in the buying power of their fixed wages. For several years other companies throughout the West had been buying up half dollars at a discount, then paying them to their laborers at par. In 1875 trade dollars began to be used for this purpose, with merchants responding by advertising "Silver Taken at Market Value." In turn, merchants had to pay most of their wholesalers in gold coin, forcing





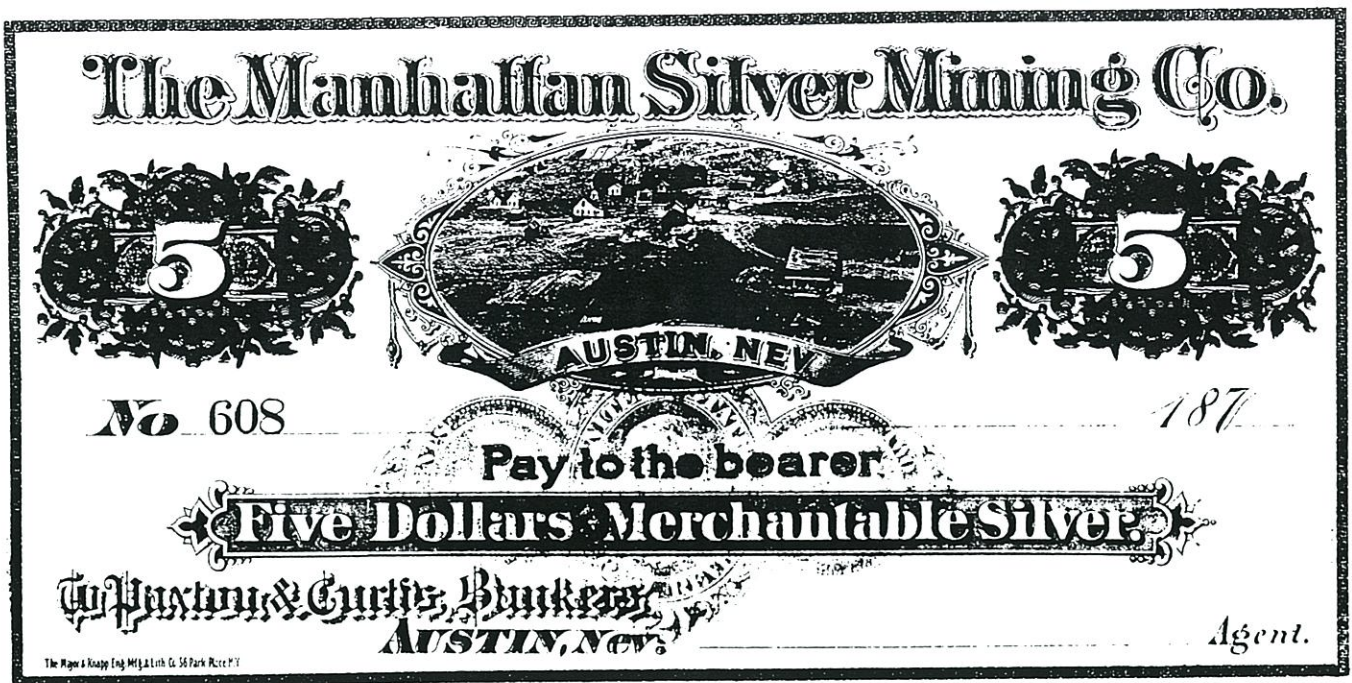
W. Paxton & Curtis

them to either absorb the loss or raise prices to compensate for transactions made with silver coin.

The miners' refusal to accept paper money put the Manhattan Co. in a jam. The company's payroll was \$33,000 per month, all 115 pounds of which had to be shipped to Austin in the form of gold coin from San Francisco. The failure of the Bank of California two months later put an even greater strain on Curtis, and he was forced to delay the September payday by more than two weeks. Curtis finally came through with the gold, and it was business as usual for a while.

A reporter for the *Reveille* was in Curtis' bank on the December 17 payday, six months after the miners' protest. "for upwards of three fourths of an hour a steady stream of miners poured into the bank, each in turn presenting his check and following each other so closely as to keep Mr. Soule, who's no slow counter of money, busily engaged in handing out the bright, jingling coins."

Curtis managed to keep the monthly gold shipments flowing into his bank for payroll, but the profitable years were fading for silver mines all throughout the West. Increasing strain on the company's finances and a shrinking silver market forced Paxton and Curtis to place Manhattan stock on the open market for the first time in 1876. The stock's first assessment was levied two years later. Curtis became involved in the building of a street railway in Austin and the Nevada Central Railroad which connected Austin



with the Central Pacific Railroad in Battle Mountain, but the pair's activities in silver mining gradually declined.

The Manhattan Company shut down in 1887, after producing some \$19.2 million in silver, although new owners managed to reopen the extensive property under a different name. Two years later the Paxton & Curtis bank was sold. John Paxton retired to his estate in Healdsburg, California, while Allen Curtis turned his involvement to iron mines near Puget Sound and partial ownership of two banks in Eureka, California.

The reorganized but greatly diminished Manhattan Company was again sold in 1891. It completely failed in the nation-wide financial panic of 1893 and struggled through the early years of this century under the name of Austin Manhattan Consolidated Mining Co.

Serial numbers indicate that Curtis had ordered 2,000 notes of each denomination printed in 1875, and these were eventually placed in storage. Over the years the bulk of these remainders were dispersed to dealers and collectors throughout the country. The \$3, \$50, and \$100 notes, while printed in quantities of more than 2,500 each denomination, are today scarce as most are still held in private hands.

Although none of the Manhattan notes are known to have been issued, four notes are proving difficult to trace. These notes were recently found, fastened together with an old rusted straight pin, bearing the Paxton & Curtis



John A. Paxton



bank's proper canceling imprinting on the reverse. One note even had "cancelled" stamped in the lower right signature block. The only problem is that the date these were supposedly cancelled is three years prior to their proposed issuance!

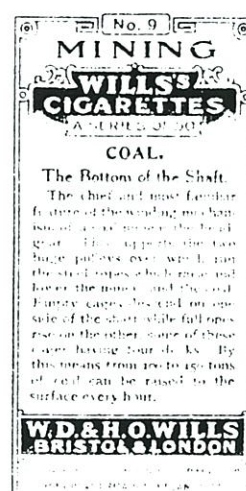
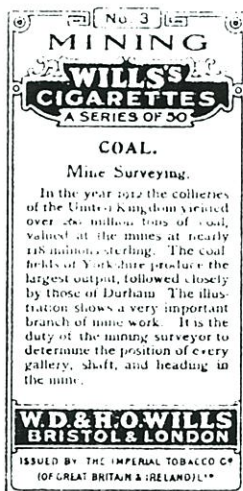
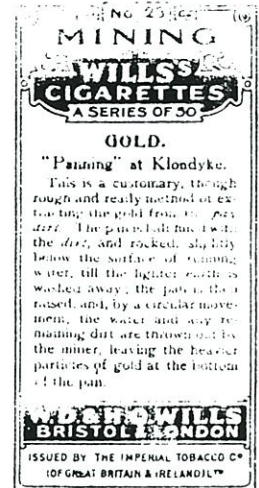
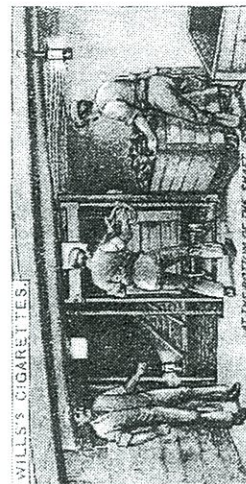
Perhaps if Curtis had created these "bearer checks" payable in gold coin at his bank, they might not have created such a furor. Yet even this measure would probably not have satisfied the anti-currency miners. Westerners, as a rule, and most especially Nevadans, continued to demand hard money over paper until there finally was no

hard money to be had.

When the San Francisco Mint ceased production of gold coins for a short while in 1911, the *Coast Banker* magazine commented, "the people of the Pacific Coast will be educated to use paper money instead of gold coins." Perhaps they did elsewhere, but Nevadans demanded gold coins until production was halted in 1933. They insisted on silver dollars until they were permanently withdrawn from circulation in 1964 and have never, to this day, accepted privately-issued paper scrip.

MINING CIGARETTE CARDS

by John Neilson
33307 Willow Tree Lane
Lake Elsinore, California 92330



In 1916, the Imperial Tobacco Company (of Great Britain and Ireland) issued a series of mining related cigarette cards. These cards were sold with each pack of Wills's Cigarettes. The series of 50 cards are in color and are extremely detailed. The cards depict various types of mining from all over the world. These cards

illustrate a variety of mining activities such as surveying, drilling, dredging and panning for gold. The cards show a variety of mining equipment such as stamp mills, but the only mining lamps shown are the Clanny type safety lamps. Finding a complete set of 50 cards in mint condition is rare.

A NEW KOREAN CANDLESTICK

by John Kynor
4404 14th Ct. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Shown in the photograph is a beautiful candlestick showing many hours of work by a miner, blacksmith or silversmith. The stick was noticed in a local junk shop, and since it was not in my field of collecting, I gave it a quick look and walked on. Later, I recalled that the stick had a date and also had some sort of engraving on it. I was bothered by this until I returned to the shop and looked at the stick again.

This time I noticed what I thought were Chinese characters--ah ha!--maybe a name? Not knowing Chinese, and less about candlesticks, I thought I better take a gamble on this one.

Once home, I cleaned the stick in a couple of spots and determined that the markings were done by silver inlay. Additional cleaning revealed a very fine inlay pattern that covers the

entire stick. With help from Leo Stambaugh, the stick was thought to be Korean, not Chinese. The 1906 date on the stick matched with the information that Leo had found.

I then contacted an elderly Korean gentleman who cooks at one of my favorite eating spots. He advised me that the characters on the stick were indeed Korean and a type of writing that has not been used for about 100 years. After studying the writing on the stick, he advised me that he could translate the writing on the top of the stick (not shown in the photo), but that he could not put the other writing on the side of the stick into English words. What he could translate was: "North Unsan." According to Wendell Wilson and Ted Bobrink's (1984) Collector's Guide to Antique Miners' Candlesticks, candlesticks like this were probably made for the Oriental Consolidated Mining Company in Korea, which operated the Unsan mines beginning in 1901. Like mine, the examples they show are all steel with damascened silver inlaid designs and one of theirs is also marked "North Unsan." According to Ted, two more have turned up elsewhere recently, making a total of eight known Korea candlesticks.

Figure 1. Recently discovered Korean candlestick.

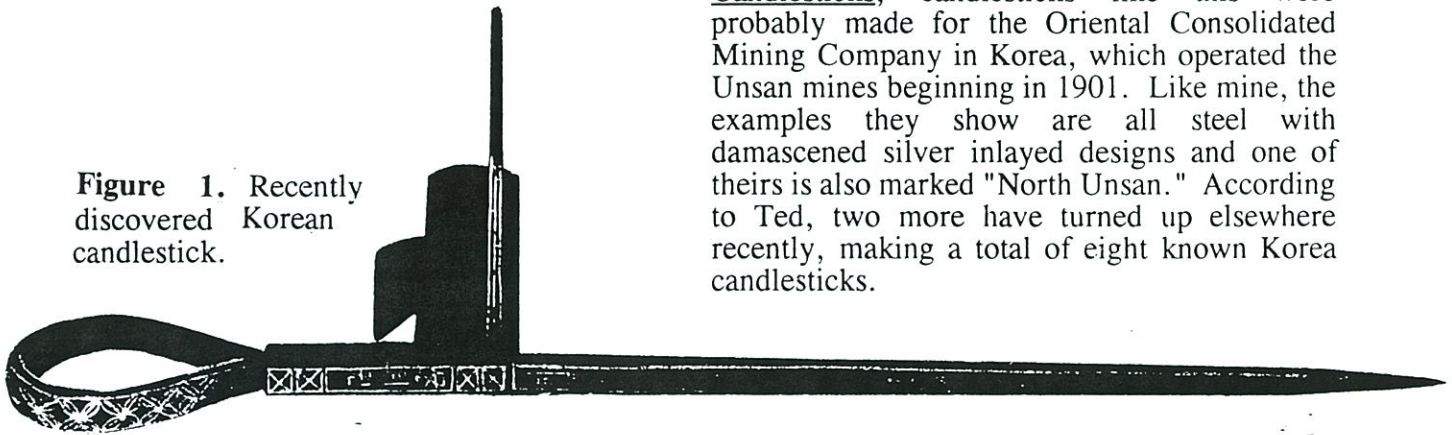
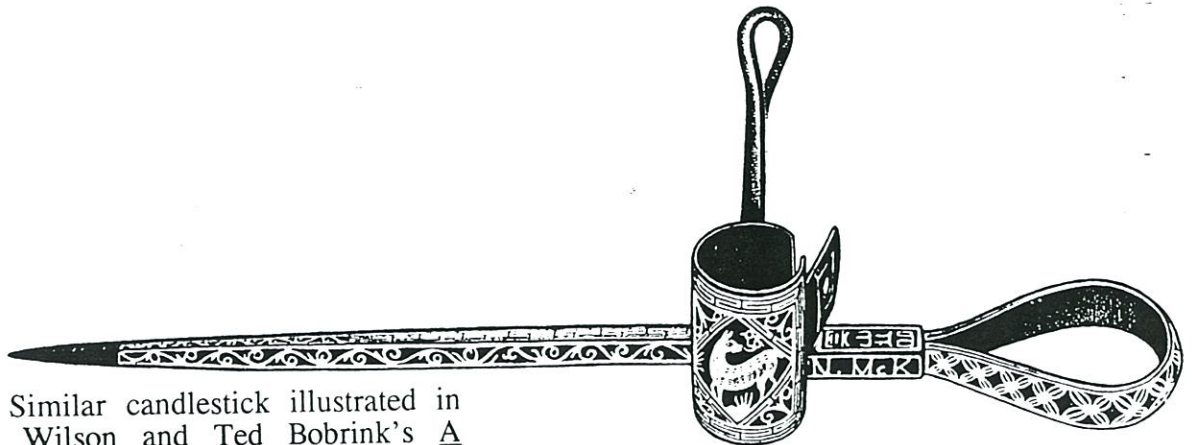


Figure 2. Similar candlestick illustrated in Wendell E. Wilson and Ted Bobrink's A Collector's Guide to Antique Miners' Candlesticks,



MINING-RELATED MATCH SAFES

by **Bob Schroth**
 P.O. Box 687
 Twin Peaks, California 92391

My wife and I love to hunt for a wide variety of antiques, each of us collects a different specialty. We recently returned from a ten day antiquing trip to the southern U. S. without finding much. An interesting item I did find was a neat mining-related advertising match safe (Figure 1). This new match safe pictures a miner on the front and has the following written on the back. "In all the world there is no money more honest or more free from usury or injustice than that which is taken out of the ground where nature has secreted it." This match safe was given out by Douglas Lacey & Co., Bankers and Brokers, New York. It is made of celluloid

plastic and has a metal strike plate on the bottom and a metal flip top lid. Also shown below are some other mining-related match safes.

These advertising match safes were probably given out as promotional items by the companies. Other advertising items I have seen are rulers, ash trays, pens and pencils, and mirrors. With the uncommon mining collectibles getting harder to come by, this is one more collecting area to explore and hunt for.

If you come across a different style match safe than has been shown, please submit an illustration of it to collectors talk, we would love to hear about it.

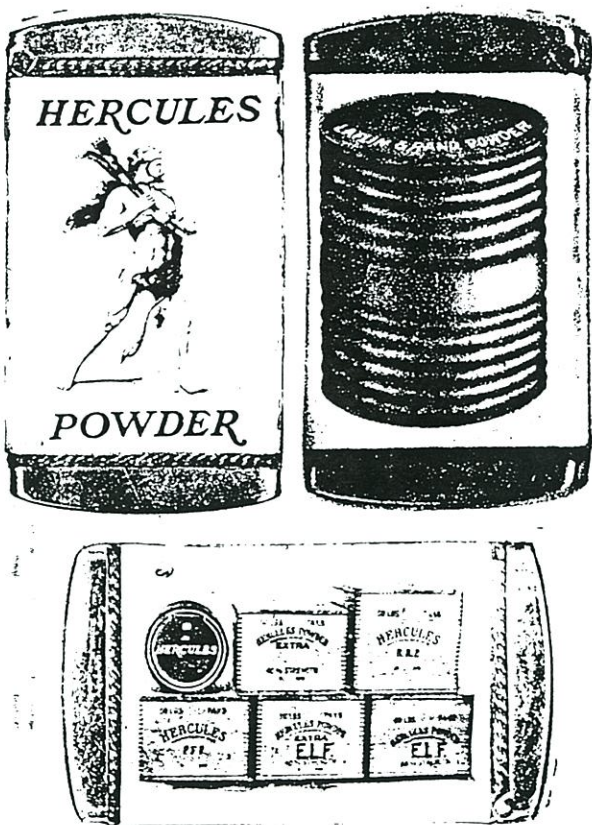


Figure 1. Hercules Powder Company match safes showing the two different back styles. (Larry Kuester (center) and Mark Bohannan (right) collections)

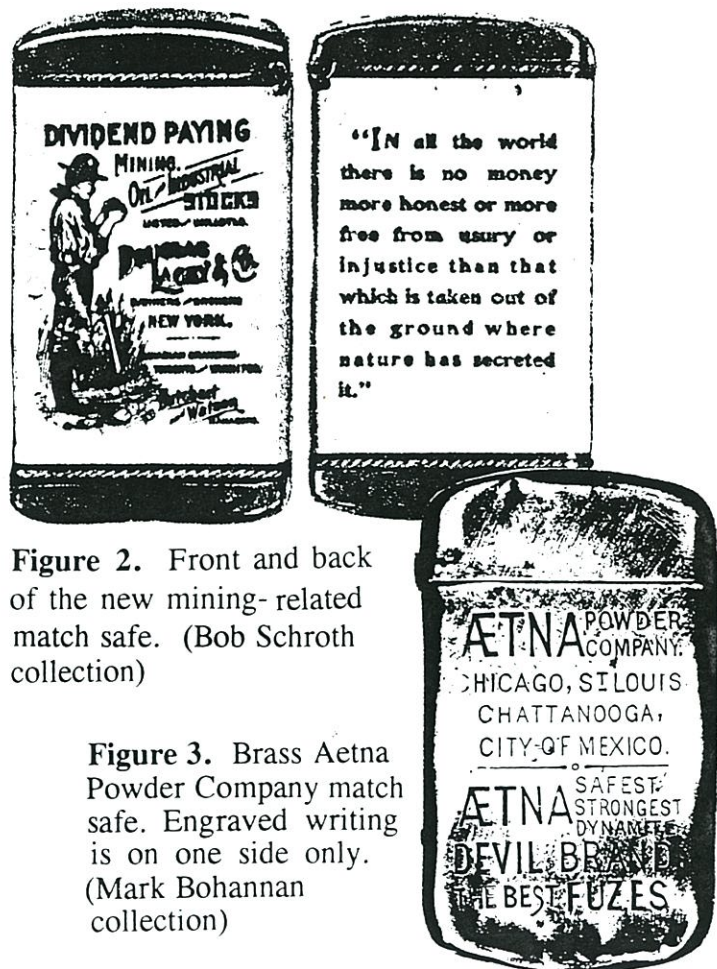


Figure 2. Front and back of the new mining-related match safe. (Bob Schroth collection)

Figure 3. Brass Aetna Powder Company match safe. Engraved writing is on one side only. (Mark Bohannan collection)

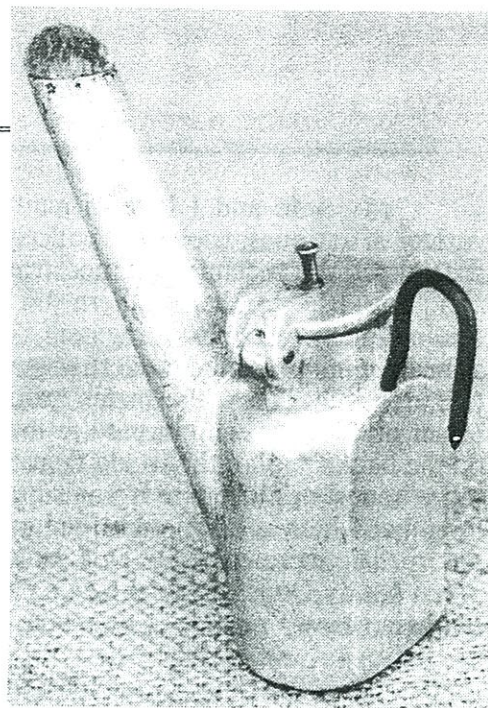
AN ALUMINUM OIL WICK IDENTIFIED

by **Tony Moon**
2763 E. Willow Wick Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

I recently acquired the unmarked aluminum oil-wick lamp shown in Figure 1, with its distinctive flat back. The lamp has a steel hook, a brass vent tube on the lid, is 2.75 inches high at the lid and 4.1 inches high at the spout. The advertisement shown in Figure 2 indicates that the lamp was made by the American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Co. of Scranton, Pennsylvania. A second advertisement from the company from 1912 (Figure 3) shows a similar, if not the same lamp, with the name "Indestructible" and a price of 50 cents. This was some three or four times the price of a tin lamp. No wonder aluminum lamps are hard to find--only the more affluent could afford them!

Now, who made the more commonly found aluminum lamps marked "PAT APD FOR" and who made the NO MELT?

Figure 1.
Aluminum
oil-wick
lamp.
(Author's
collection)



SAFETY LAMPS, ALL TYPES.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURE.

EVERY LAMP GUARANTEED PERFECT.

GLASSES, IRON OR COPPER GAUZES, AND ALL PARTS FOR ANY MAKE OF SAFETY LAMPS.

REPAIRING PROMPTLY DONE.

Seamless Aluminum Head Lamps

CAST IN ONE PIECE.

No Spout or Hooks to Melt Off.

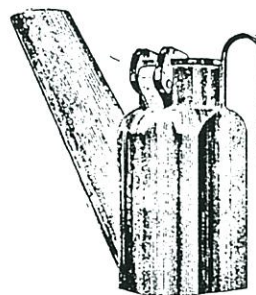
GREASE CUPS.

Brattice Cloth, Pneumatic Signal Gongs, Cotton Duck, Mine Whistles, General Brass and Aluminum Work.

Send for Catalogue.



American Glanny
Bonneted.



Seamless Aluminum Head Lamp

AMERICAN SAFETY LAMP & MINE SUPPLY CO.,
SCRANTON, PA.



Headlamps that Last a Lifetime

Your ordinary tin headlamp doesn't last very long. In fact, in a very short time, it is pretty well worn out, leaky and unreliable.

The "Indestructible" is all that its name implies--it cannot be broken, barring accidents, the spout and hook cannot be melted off, and it never leaks.

It is made from aluminum, holds the heat well and burns solid and semi-solid illuminants as well as ordinary oils.

The price is 50c each, postpaid--higher than tin lamps, of course--but then, they last a lifetime!

American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Co.
SCRANTON, PA.

Figure 3. Ad for a "seamless aluminum head lamp cast in one piece" in the April 1896 issue of *The Colliery Engineer and Metal Miner*, vol. 16, no. 9.

Figure 2. Ad for the all-aluminum "Indestructible" in the May 1912 issue of *Mines and Minerals*.

THE SIMMONS "PIONEER" LAMP

by Mark Bohannon
 Star Route Box 107E
 Oro Grande, California 92368

A wide variety of lamps were manufactured by the John Simmons Company, such as the "Baldwin" pinch-waist lamp, the "Miner's Lighting Bug" lamp, the "Pioneer" lamp, and the "Hold-A-Lite" lamp.

The Simmons Pioneer lamps consist of three basic variations as shown below. The lamps are, for the most part, fairly common. In the results of the carbide cap lamp survey conducted in 1989 by the Mining Artifact Collector, (Issue 5 Fall 1989, p.4) the John Simmons lamps were the third most common lamps--excluding the Justrite, Auto-Lite and Guy's Dropper lamps.

The history of the John Simmons Company's roll in the miner's carbide lamp business is still rather vague. Most of the history that is known has been researched by Gregg Clemmer.

The John Simmons Company was formed around 1870, and became a large manufacturer

and distributor of plumbing fixtures, gas and steam pipe fittings, machinery and tools. The company seems to have prospered up until the 1930's, but the company's main lamp production was probably limited to the years 1906 to 1921.

In 1906, the John Simmons Company began to manufacture and market the lamps that Frederic Baldwin had invented in 1900. These lamps were the Baldwin "pinch-waist" style lamps.

In 1913, Frederic Baldwin left the John Simmons Company to form the Zapp Manufacturing Company.

Probably around 1914 or 1915, the John Simmons Company started to market the "Pioneer" style miner's carbide lamp, since the first advertisements showing these lamps appeared in 1915.

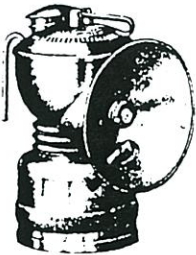
In 1918, the John Simmons Company bought 17 patents from Frederic Baldwin, even though they were in the process of shutting down

JOHN SIMMONS COMPANY 1917

San Francisco, Cal.NEW YORKMontreal, Can.

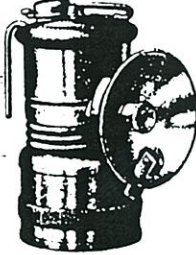
Manufacturers

Pioneer Carbide Lamps for Mine Use



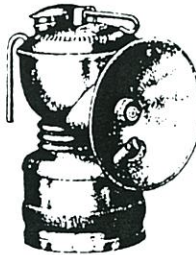
No. 125

No. 125—Bottom valve feed—Weight, 5½ ounces; Height, 4 inches. Burns 3 hours on one charge. Notches on top of lamp holds lever in position. Lamp equipped with spark lighter. Price, complete\$1.25



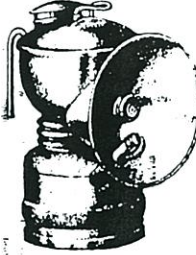
Hold-A-Lite

Hold-A-Lite—Bottom valve feed—Weight, 5¾ ounces; Height, 3¾ inches. Burns 2½ hours on one charge. Notches on top of lamp holds lever in position. This lamp equipped with spark lighter, wind shield and carbide container. Price, complete\$1.25



No. 130

No. 130—Automatic water feed—Weight, 5½ ounces; Height, 4 inches. Burns 3 hours on one charge. This lamp operates similar to the No. 132 but is equipped with a water shut-off. The valve on this lamp is constructed so that the light is not effected by the swing of the miners head as are other lever feed valve lamps. Price, complete, \$1.25



No. 132

No. 132—Automatic water feed—Weight, 5 ounces; Height, 4 inches. Burns 3 hours on one charge. The No. 132 is fitted with the patented Automatic Water Feed. The automatic regulation of the water makes hand regulation unnecessary. Lamp equipped with spark lighter. Price, complete\$1.25



Figure 1. Standard Simmons Pioneer without notches on top of water tank (4" Tall).



Figure 2. Standard Simmons Pioneer with notches on top of water tank (4" Tall).

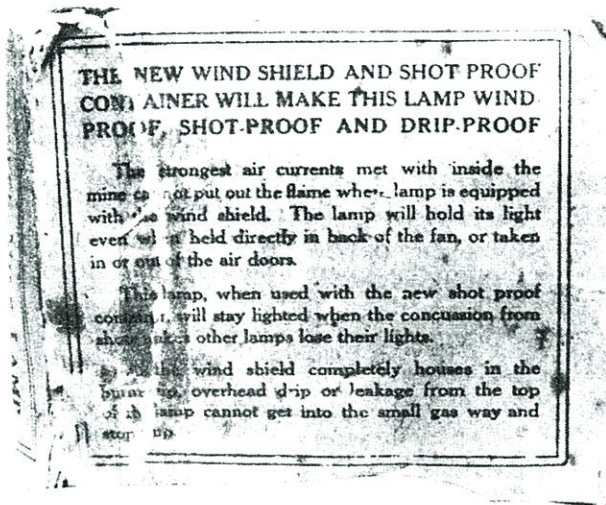


Figure 3. Front and back views of a Simmons Pioneer Lamp box (4.25" x 3.75" x 2.5") with blue lettering that held a standard Pioneer lamp with notches. (Mark Bohannon collection)

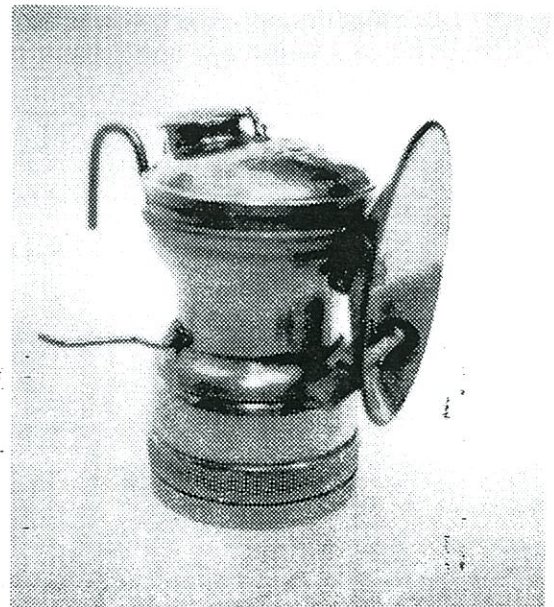
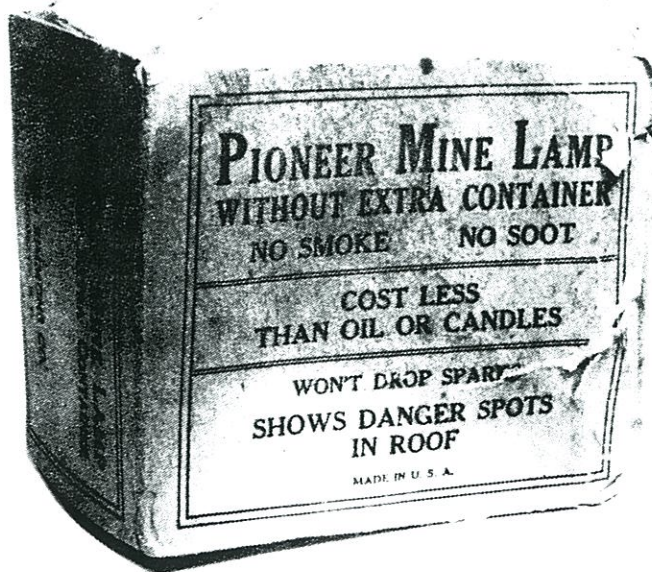


Figure 4. Intermediate Simmons Pioneer without notches (3.625" Tall).



Figure 5. Simmons Pioneer superintendent's lamp (4.25" Tall).

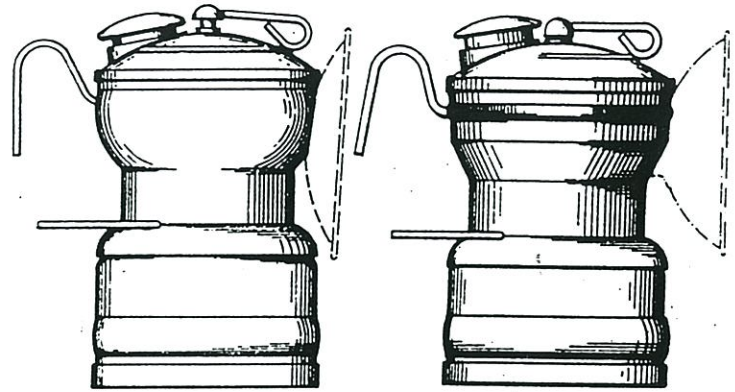
DESIGN.

H. T. SPERRY.

MINER'S LAMP.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 10, 1919.

Patented Mar. 23, 1920.



54,786.

54,787.

Figure 7. Design patent number 54,787 was patented on March 23, 1920 by Henry T. Sperry of Waterbury, Connecticut. The patent was assigned to the Chase Companies Inc. of Waterbury, Connecticut, who probably manufactured the lamps for the John Simmons Company. This design patent looks very similar to the intermediate style Pioneer lamp. If so, it would mean that the intermediate Simmons Pioneer lamps were produced towards the end of the John Simmons Company's carbide lamp operations. This would explain why this lamp is the rarer of the Simmons Pioneer lamps.

July 10, 1923.

1,461,572

J. M. BROCK

ACETYLENE LAMP

Filed June 23, 1920

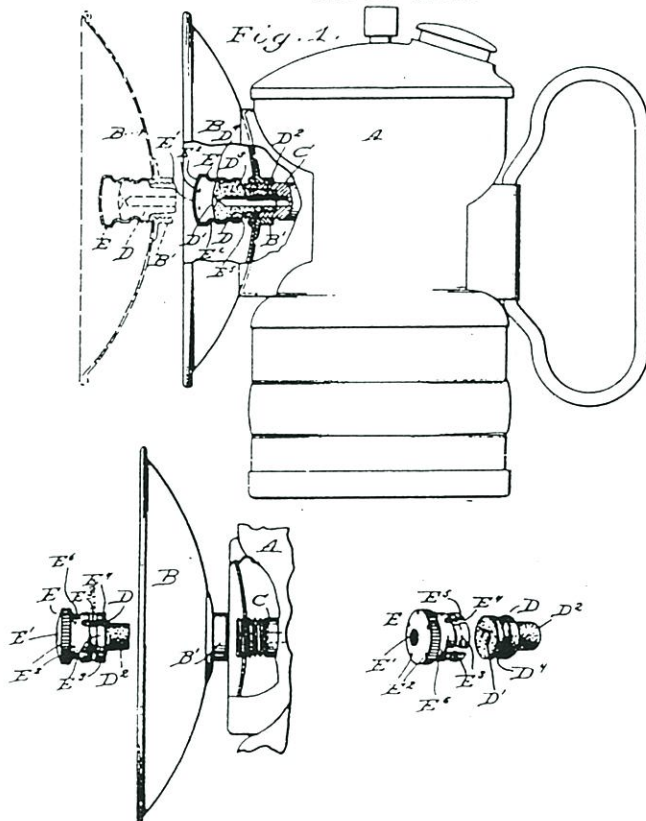


Figure 6. Patent number 1,461,572 was patented by John M. Brock of Brooklyn, New York, on July 10, 1923. This patent dealt mainly with an improvement in the burner tip of the lamp.



Figure 8. Simmons Hold-A-Lit

J. M. BROCK
ACETYLENE LAMP

Filed Oct. 8, 1919.

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

J. M. BROCK
ACETYLENE LAMP

Filed Oct. 8, 1919

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 1.

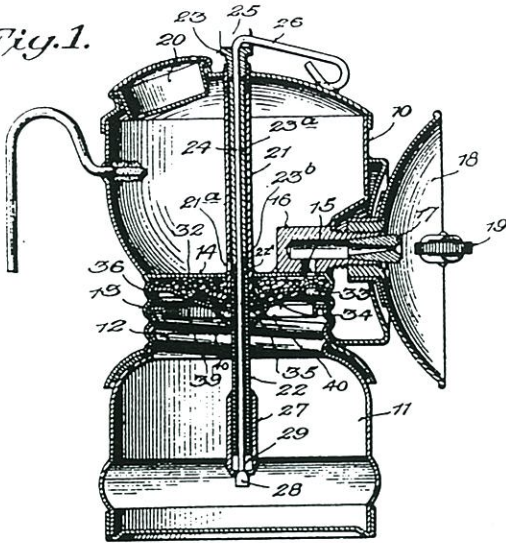


Fig. 5.

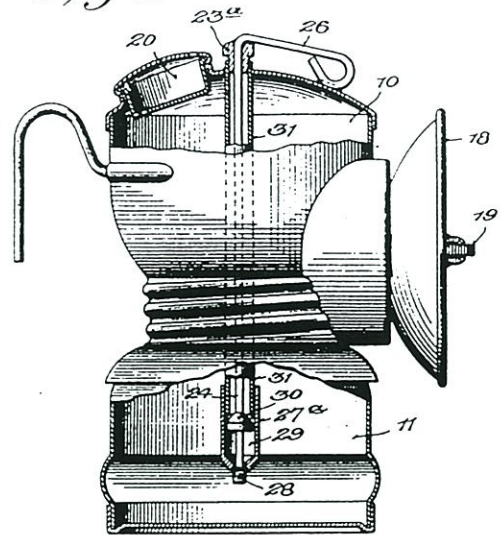


Fig. 2.

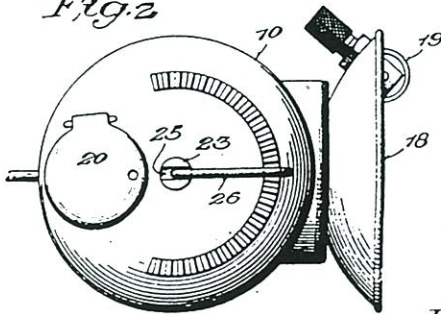


Fig. 3.

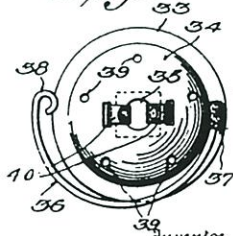
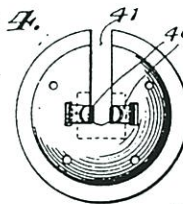


Fig. 4.



Witness
Chas. L. Gristauer

John M. Brock,
Inventor
By [Signature] Attorney

Witness
Chas. L. Gristauer

Inventor
John M. Brock,
By [Signature] Attorney

Figure 9. Patent number 1,493,802 was patented by John M. Brock on May 13, 1924. This patent was filed on October 8, 1919 towards the end of the John Simmons Company's carbide lamp operations. This patent dealt with improvements in the water feed and felt holder.

their carbide lamp operations. By 1921, the John Simmons Company had almost completely exited from the carbide lamp market.¹

The Simmons Pioneer lamp was manufactured in two distinct styles, the Standard style (Figs. 1 and 2) and a shorter Intermediate style (Fig. 4). Each style was also manufactured with the top water tank markings as shown in Figures 1 & 2.

The Simmons Pioneer lamps were

produced in both brass and nickel-plated brass. They came with (1) a wire hook soldered to the interior of the water tank with a fixed wire hat brace--and sometimes with no hat brace, or (2) a wire hook with superintendent's hand handles, or (3) with a narrow spade mount. None of the Pioneer lamp bottoms are known to be marked. All of the Pioneer lamp reflectors are of the screw-on type and range from the deep-dish type to a flatter, standard type reflector.

1. Gregg S. Clemmer, American Miners' Carbide Lamps, (Tucson, Arizona: Westernlore Press, 1987), pp. 63-65.

THE ARNOLD CARBIDE CANDLE CAP LAMP

by **Wendell E. Wilson**
4631 Paseo Tubutama
Tucson, Arizona 85715

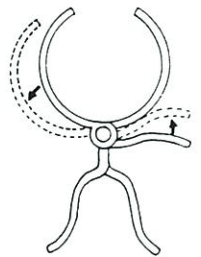
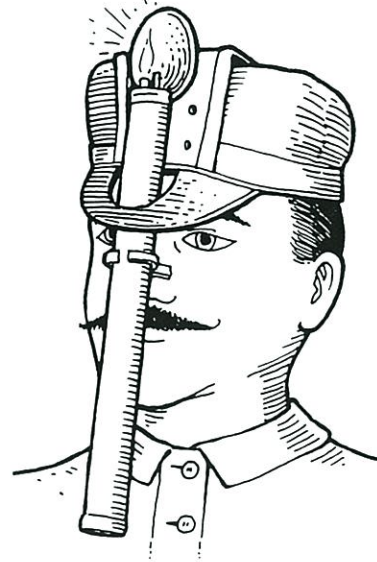
and **Mark Bohannon**
Star Route Box 107E
Oro Grande, California 92368

From long-time reader and carbide collector Ima Hokes comes the accompanying information on an unusual item we've never seen before. Most carbide collectors are familiar with the very rare and desirable Arnold Carbide Candle, a long, narrow, cylindrical brass carbide lamp made to resemble the proportions of a wax candle. Each example has a small hook, and it has been assumed that this was for hanging the lamp on a beam or ore-car. However, it seems that the Arnold Carbide Candle could also be worn on the cap.

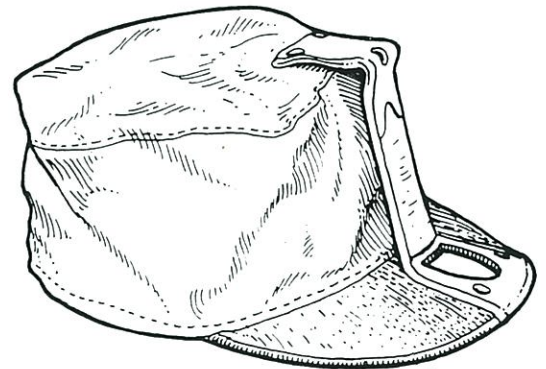
This information came to light as a result of Ima's recent discovery of a modified cap (with a hole in the brim) and a special attachment clip known as the "nose brace." The lamp is hooked to the miner's cap just as a normal carbide lamp or oil-wick lamp would be. But because the Arnold Carbide Candle is so long, it must extend downward through the brim-hole, and must be braced against the miner's nose using the special attachment.

The modified caps and the Arnold lamps with attachment are rare because of their understandable unpopularity with miners. Many miners complained of going cross-eyed; and the lamp tended to heat up and burn the miner's nose. Jason Stemple, mine manager at the Arcadia gold mine in Tuolumne County, California, attempted to require all of his miners to use the device in 1915; however, he was subsequently injured in a serious miner's rebellion only months later, and required the services of a proctologist to remove the Arnold Carbide Candles which had been returned to him.

Perhaps the saddest recorded incident involving the hat-mounted Arnold lamp took place in 1914, when Bisbee miner Jose Buscadero left for his shift. His wife, fed up with Jose's predilection for Brewery Gulch bars and bar girls, slipped a stick of giant powder into his Arnold Carbide Candle (it fit perfectly) before sending him off to work. He lit up at the



PATENT REFUSED
APRIL 1, 1916



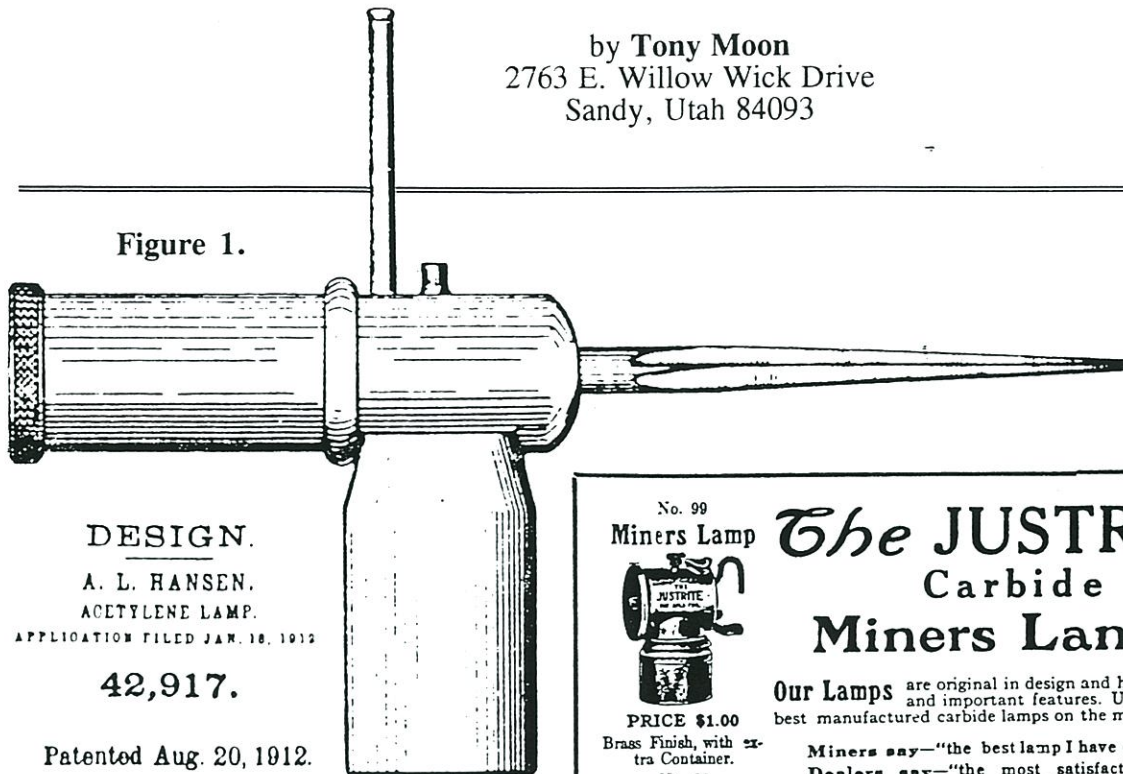
35th level cage station; his head was later found on the 6th level.

Despite these problems, severe though they were, the Arnold Carbide Candle was the most successful of Arnold's various lamp inventions. Among the very rarest mining collectibles today are the few surviving examples of his other brainchild: the Arnold Carbide Cigar.

THE JUSTRITE NO. 77 STICK LAMP

by Tony Moon
2763 E. Willow Wick Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

Figure 1.



DESIGN.

A. L. HANSEN.
ACETYLENE LAMP.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 18, 1912

42,917.

Patented Aug. 20, 1912.

Figure 2.

No. 99
Miners Lamp



PRICE \$1.00
Brass Finish, with extra Container.
No. 88
Nickel Plated, - \$1.25

The JUSTRITE Carbide Miners Lamps

Our Lamps are original in design and have many new and important features. Undoubtedly the best manufactured carbide lamps on the market.

Miners say—"the best lamp I have ever used."
Dealers say—"the most satisfactory selling lamp we have ever handled—there are no complaints or come-backs."

No. 100
Superintendents Lamp



PRICE \$1.50
Nickel Plated, with hood, extra Container and repair parts—wood case.

No. 77
Stick Lamp



PRICE \$2.50
Burns 5 to 5½ hours.
Heavy Brass shell and hook, sharp pointed steel stick.

One of the most unusual and rare carbide lamps made by Justrite was the No. 77 stick lamp. The lamp was patented in 1912, and was probably only manufactured for one year, as it was not listed in Justrite's first catalog dated December 10th, 1913. Augie Hansen filed for a design patent in January 1912, and on August 20, 1912 design patent No. 42,917 was granted. A copy of the patent drawing is shown in Figure 1. Interestingly enough, the patent was not assigned to Justrite, even though regular patents by Hansen in the same time period were assigned. One can only speculate on the significance of this, if any!

The only advertisement for the lamp that I have been able to find is shown in Figure 2. It confirms the 1912 manufacturing date. This ad was in a publication directed at the coal miner, although the stick was obviously intended for the metal miner as a replacement for his candlestick.

Figures 3 and 4 show the example of this lamp that is in my own collection; it is one of three known to me. Unfortunately this example has been repaired, with the original carbide bottom threads being attached to a plain nickel-plated bottom from a larger-sized Justrite

reflector Hood prevents light from shining in the miners eyes, when working close to the Hood. The Hood is adjustable and overcomes the only objection made by the miners to the use of carbide lamps. It is original with us and can be used only on Justrites. This is a very important improvement and will edily increase the sale of the carbide lamp.

led by Leading Jobbers Everywhere

placing your next order for Carbide lamps, be sure and write us for descriptive circular es of the jobbers handling our lamps in your vicinity.

The Justrite Manufacturing Company
n and Van Buren Streets CHICAGO, ILL.

Black Diamond Year Book & Directory (1912)

superintendent's lamp of slightly later vintage. The center of the lamp, which forms part of the water chamber, is a brass casting with JUSTRITE in raised letters. The steel hook is crimped into a brass socket and the 5-inch steel spike appears to have been threaded into the front of the casting. The rear half of the water chamber is made of heavy-walled brass tubing screwed into the back of the casting. It has a heavy-threaded knurled brass water door. The water chamber is marked PAT APP'D FOR on both sides; once again confirmation of the 1912

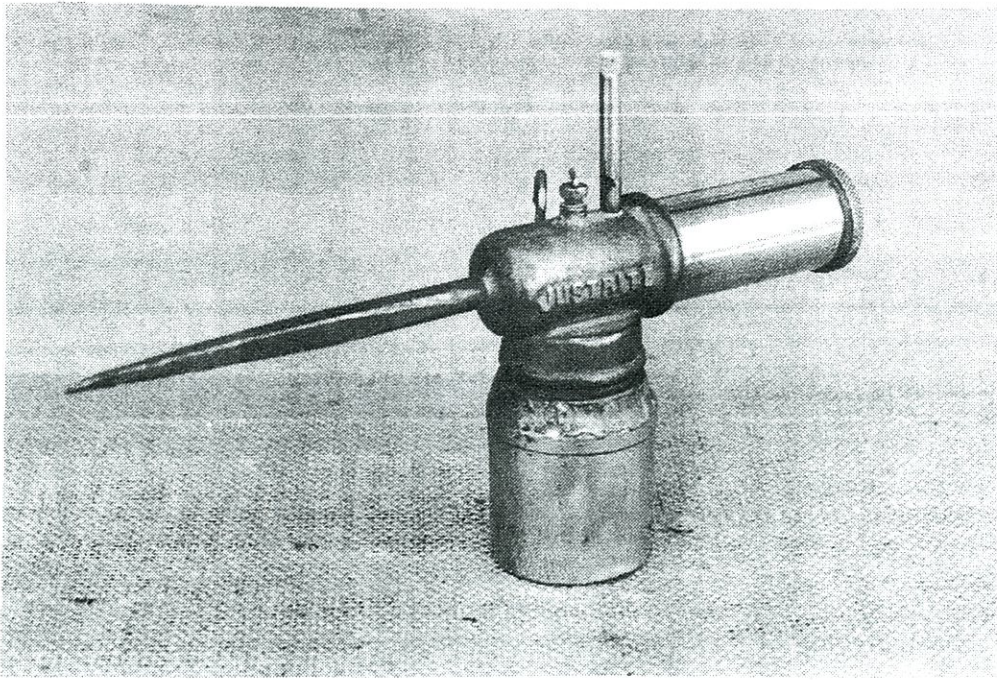
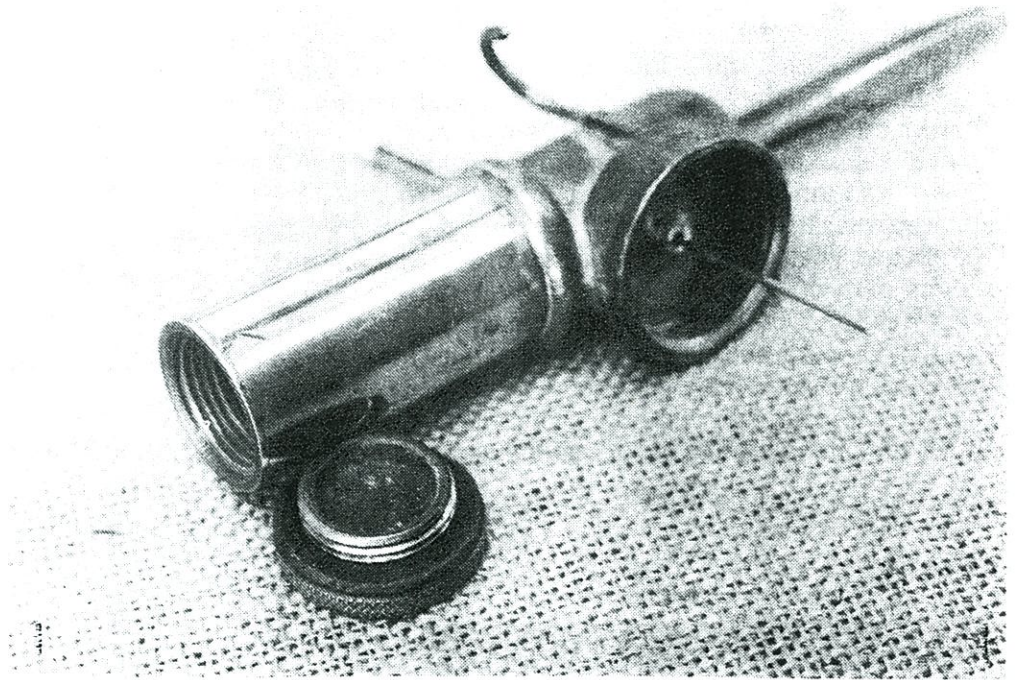


Figure 3. One of only three known surviving examples of the Justrite No. 77 stick lamp. (Tony Moon collection)

Figure 4. View of the Justrite No. 77 stick lamp disassembled. Note the machined threads.



manufacturing date. The overall length of the lamp is 10 inches, and the height to the tip is 6 inches (4.5 inches to the wire water feed).

The water feed is a wire similar to those found on "THE JUSTRITE" cap lamps of the same period. The burner tip is plain lava. All threads were machined and not rolled like the majority of carbide lamps. Everything about the lamp is heavy duty, and this was reflected in its

original price of \$2.50; the only lamp that was more expensive was the No. 10 lantern. The idea of a separate clamp-on stick attachment (at a price of 15 cents) was a far more practical and cost-effective way to provide the metal miner with his familiar spike. One was available by 1913, and the No. 77 stick lamp quickly faded into history.

IOWA MINE BELL SIGN

by Ted Bobrink
12851 Kendall Way
Redlands, California 92373

I have to admit--being from California--that when I think of the state of Iowa, the first thing that comes to my mind is corn. Well, they must have a fair amount of coal mining there because I found this advertisement for a mine bell sign manufactured by the Stonehouse Sign Company in Denver, Colorado. I know that we have a few subscribers from Iowa, and maybe one of them will write to us about some of the mining districts there.

As are all the other Stonehouse bell signs that I have seen, this sign--when ordered in porcelain--would have most likely been blue with white lettering. The most unique thing about this sign is the code for "SIX RINGS or WHISTLES" that calls for the reversal of the fan. This must have something to do with the ventilation system, and I bet that one of our readers can explain the meaning of this to us.

As I am sure you have noticed by now, I am always asking for answers from our readers. No matter what the question is, or from what mining district, one of our readers will be the most qualified person to answer the question. So, if you see a question in the MAC, and you know the answer, please get involved and help us share the information about this fantastic hobby that is the one thing that we all have in common.



IOWA STATE CODE OF MINE SIGNALS

CODE OF SIGNALS

IN ALL MINES OPERATED BY SHAFT, SLOPE OR DRIFT-WHERE MACHINERY IS USED IN THE OPERATION OF THE PLANT, THE FOLLOWING CODE OF SIGNALS SHALL BE USED BETWEEN THE ENGINEER AND OTHER EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATION:

ONE RING or WHISTLE shall signify to hoist coal or empty cage; and also to stop when the cage is in motion.

TWO RINGS or WHISTLES shall signify to lower cage.

THREE RINGS or WHISTLES shall signify that employees are coming up; when return signal or **ONE RING or WHISTLE** is received from the engineer employees shall then be permitted to enter the cage, but not before, when **ONE RING or WHISTLE** shall be given to start.

FOUR RINGS or WHISTLES shall signify to hoist slowly; **IMPLIES DANGER.**

FIVE RINGS or WHISTLES shall signify **ACCIDENT** within the mine and a call for stretcher and supplies.

SIX RINGS or WHISTLES shall call for a reversal of the fan.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

ONE RING or WHISTLE shall signify all ready, get on cage.

TWO RINGS or WHISTLES from Top to Bottom shall signify send away empty cage, which shall be answered from the bottom with **ONE RING or WHISTLE** and the cage may then be moved.

THE STONEHOUSE STEEL SIGN CO. DENVER

To the left is a porcelain sign that is red with white lettering. It is 10" x 7" and was collected by Robert Hauck at the Sterling Hill Zinc Mine at Ogdensburg, New Jersey.

CARBIDE SUPERINTENDENT'S LAMPS

by Ted Bobrink
12851 Kendall Way
Redlands, California 92373

Carbide "superintendent's lamps" are a specific category of lamp characterized by a number of features. The most obvious is the handle, consisting of two elongated and hinged loops large enough to admit four fingers. Between these loops there is typically also a hook. Superintendents could afford to hold a lamp in one hand, because they were supervising rather than partaking in the heavy two-handed work of the miner.

Most superintendent's lamps are also about twice as large as the average cap lamp, but definitely not large enough to qualify as an eight-hour lamp. They are the intermediate size, and typically carry a somewhat larger reflector than a cap lamp (up to 7 inches across on some models). The larger reflector throws a broader beam for inspection purposes.

Nickel plating is also typical of superintendent's lamps, probably for no other reason than that it looks better and is more expensive, signifying higher rank.

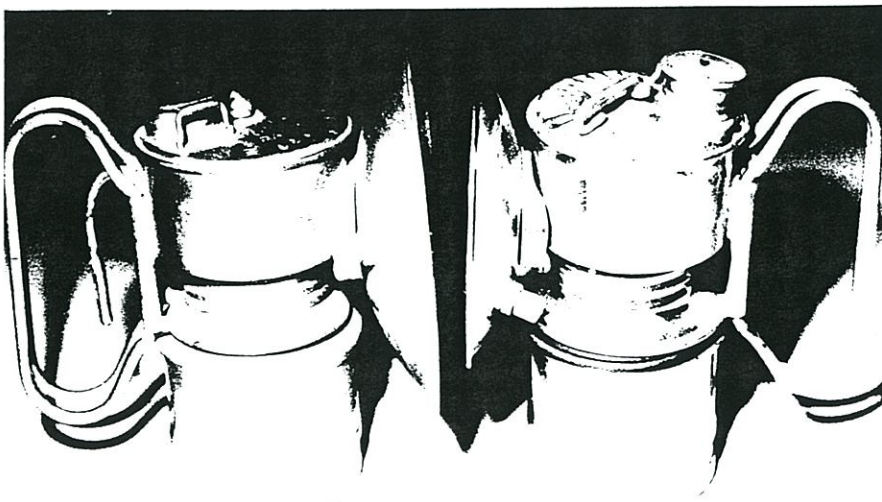
Many models of superintendent's lamps are adaptations of standard cap lamps, made by the substitution of handle loops and perhaps a larger reflector or a taller carbide chamber. The early



Ted Bobrink collection



Mark Bohannan collection



Guy's Dropper "Tall Boys,"
Wendell Wilson collection

Baldwin, Justrite, Gee-Bee, Gem, and Simmons models are all the same size and shape as the corresponding cap lamp by the respective manufacturers. Others, like the ITP shown here, are independent mid-size lamps not incorporating cap lamp body parts.

The pictured ITP lamp was found recently with its original black and white box with printed instructions. It was made by the John Simmons Company of Brooklyn, New York. Stamped in

red ink over the John Simmons name is "Dewar Mfg. Company 28-30 35th St. Brooklyn, N.Y." This suggests it was part of stock taken over when the Dewar company purchased two original Baldwin patents from Simmons in 1921. The lamp is 4.75 inches tall and has a 3.12 inch reflector. Although this particular example is unmarked, some were stamped "ITP" ("It's Trouble-Proof") on the bottom and carry the Baldwin patent date of August 8, 1916.

THE UNION CARBIDE POCKET CAN

by **Mark Bohannon**
Star Route Box 107E
Oro Grande, California 92368



Most carbide cap lamps will only burn for about 2 1/2 to 3 hours on a charge of carbide, so they must be refilled two or three times during a shift. In order to accomplish this, the miner must carry extra carbide with him underground. The carbide pocket can is one such way of doing this. The carbide pocket can is a small, usually concave container designed to fit in the miner's boot or hip pocket.

The UNION CARBIDE pocket can is one of the few cans that are lithographed. It measures 3.9" high to the top of the cap, 3.4" wide, and 1.5" deep. There are quite a few different color shades and wording variations found with this can, but they are all lithographed in gray, blue and white. The bottom and top (including the cap) are electroplated with cadmium and the top is also embossed as shown.

UNDERGROUND SURVEYING ILLUMINATING THE PLUMB LINE

by Tony Moon
2763 E. Willow Wick Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

Previous articles in the MAC have detailed various lamps that provide targets for underground surveying, where the flame itself is sighted through the transit. Most underground surveying used an ordinary plumb bob hung from a station in the back (or roof) but this required that the plumb bob string be illuminated. Early pictures show both candles and oil wick lamps being held behind or to one side of the string, and the carbide lamp was used for the same purpose. However, a 1912 article¹ describing the virtues of the "new" acetylene lamp for surveying describes the inherent hazard of using flame lighting to illuminate a string: "The lamp offers one real disadvantage for work around a transit. The intensely hot jet of flame, accidentally licked across the plumb bob cord cuts it instantly. This helps neither the plumb nor the transit." One can imagine the expletives that rang down the tunnel as the plumb bob headed toward the floor!

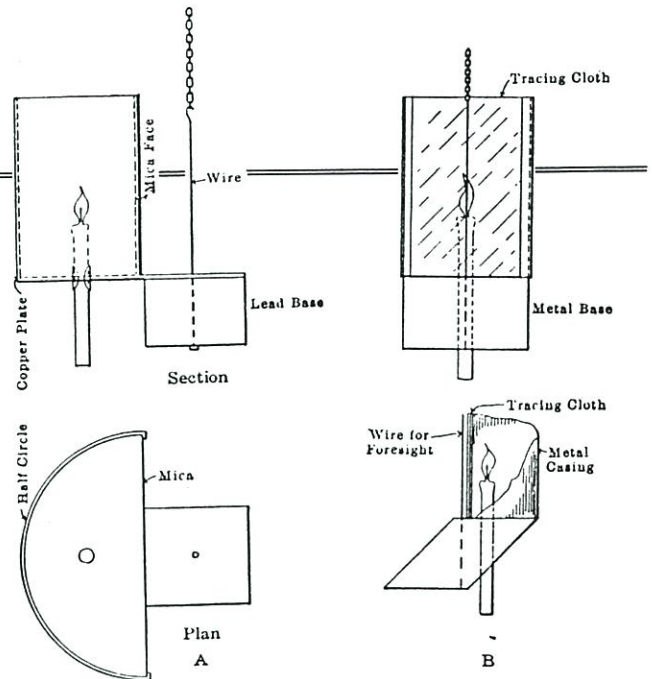


Figure 2. Candleholders known as "Butte backsights," designed to illuminate a surveyor's plumb line. (From L. M. Trumbull's *A Manual of Underground Surveying*, 1910)

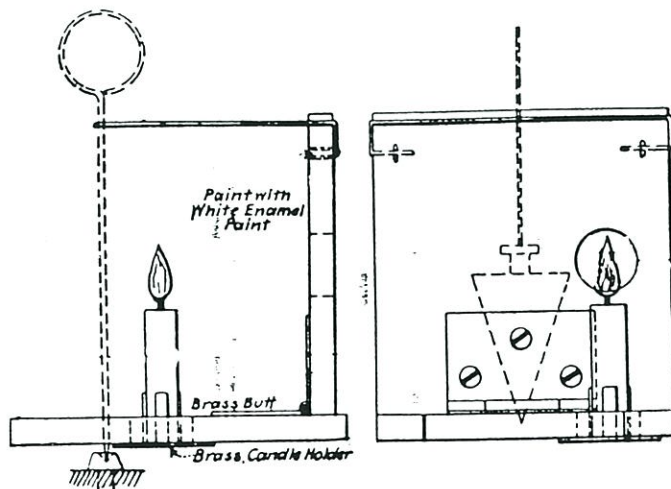


Figure 1. Candleholder for illuminating a surveyor's plumb line. (From E. B. Durham's *Mine Surveying*, 1913)

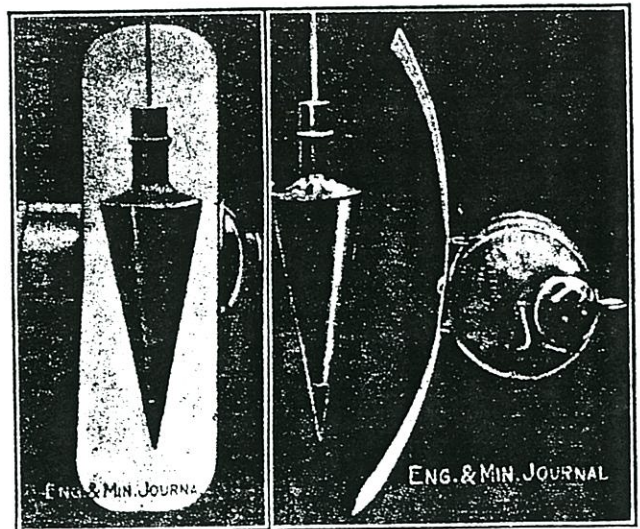


Figure 3. Simmons-made reflector to adapt to a Baldwin cap lamp for plumb bob illumination. (From *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 1914)

Various ingenious "home-made" devices were used to illuminate the plumb line with candles. Three are shown in Figures 1 and 2. The use of oiled paper, tracing cloth, or ground glass provided a more diffused light behind the string and was a necessity for longer sights. The simplest "lamp," using tracing cloth, was a modification of the tin can "bug" light. Two cans one inside the other with holes cut in the flat bottoms of both were used to hold the tracing

cloth, and the whole device was mounted on a tripod which was then placed behind the string.

The only factory-made lamp that I have found in the literature² which was specifically designed to illuminate a plumb bob or plumb line is shown in Figure 3. In 1914 John Simmons offered this special reflector for the Baldwin cap lamp. The reflector was 2 inches wide by 7.5 inches long. It was bent into an elliptical curve and was painted with white enamel.

1. L. O. Kellog, "The Acetylene Lamp Underground," Engineering and Mining Journal, Dec. 12, 1912.
2. "Surveying Reflector for Acetylene Lamp," Engineering and Mining Journal, Feb. 21, 1914.

A NEW POWDER COMPANY

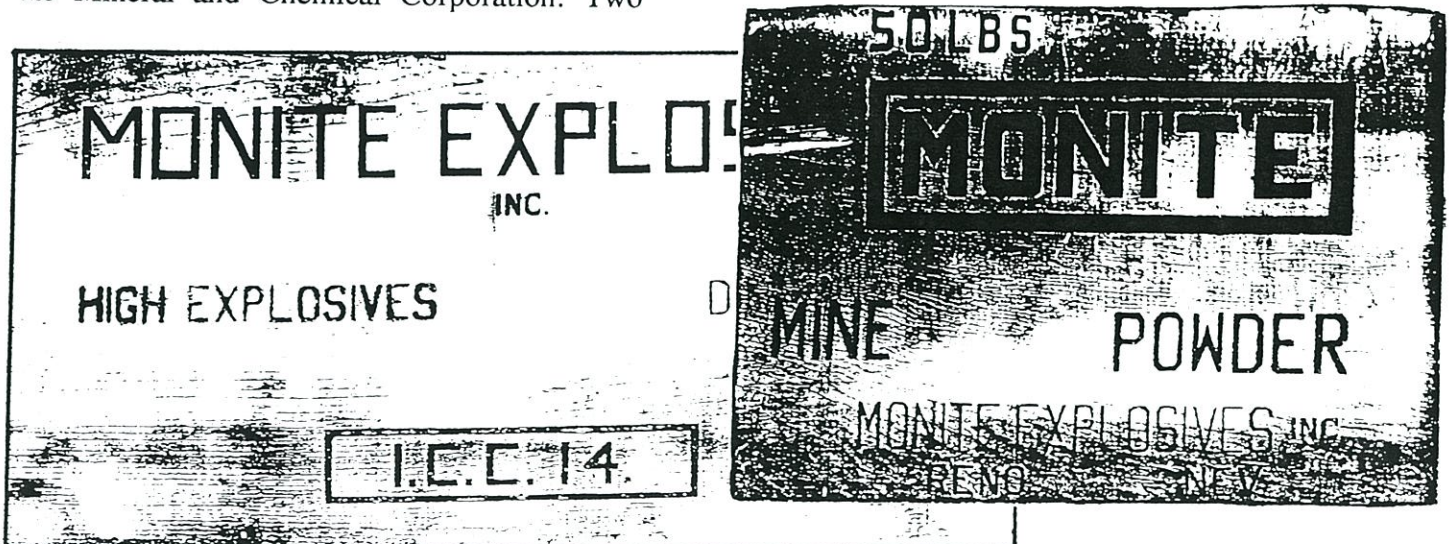
by Lane A. Griffin
4600 Kietzke Lane #145
Reno, Nevada 89502

Remnants of a powder box that bear the inscription Monite Explosives Inc., were discovered in a mine last year by Martin Jensen. The company was apparently a short-lived corporation located in Reno, Nevada, that produced explosives locally.

Jensen's research revealed that the company was incorporated January 18, 1927, as the Mineral and Chemical Corporation. Two

months later its name was changed to Monite Explosives Incorporated located at 15 Front Street, Reno, Nevada. No other historical data was available.

A side piece, 17.5" x 8.5", and an end piece, 12.5" x 8.5", of a 50-pound box were recovered which have plain black lettering as shown in the illustrations.



THE KOEHLER SAFETY LAMP

by **Tony Moon**
2763 E. Willow Wick Drive
Sandy, Utah 84093

By 1914 the patents for the Wolf safety lamp had expired. The Koehler Manufacturing Company of Malboro, Massachusetts, started production of safety lamps patterned after the Wolf lamp, although general improvements were claimed. An updated version of the lamp is still in production today. Examples of both the original and the latest version are shown in Figure 1, and cross-sections of both versions are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Several versions of the lamp were offered in 1914,¹ including: (1) steel with either a screw or magnetic lock, and both bonnetted and unbonnetted versions; and (2) model No. 7 which was some 2 inches taller than the standard model and with a glass 1 inch taller. It was designed for use in ship holds, coal bunkers and oil refineries.

A Koehler catalog dated November 1916 lists three basic models (Nos. 1, 2 and 4) with either paraffin (friction) or pyro igniters; in steel, brass or aluminum; key locks or magnetic locks; and finally, with and without a bonnet. With all the permutations and combinations, a total of 18 different varieties were available! Model No. 3 was not mentioned and evidently Model No. 7 was no longer available. The catalog also listed parts and tool kits for Wolf lamps!

The United States Bureau of Mines (USBM) was established in 1910 and studied flame safety lamps as part of its prime responsibility to increased safety in mining. In 1915 the Bureau issued its first schedule (Schedule 7) on safety lamp testing. The first lamp approved under this schedule was a Koehler bonnetted steel lamp with two gauzes and a flat wick on August 15, 1915. This was followed in 1918 with the second approval for the same style lamp but with a round wick. In 1919 Koehler obtained approval for two aluminum lamps, one with a flat wick and the

¹Coal Age, February 14, 1914.

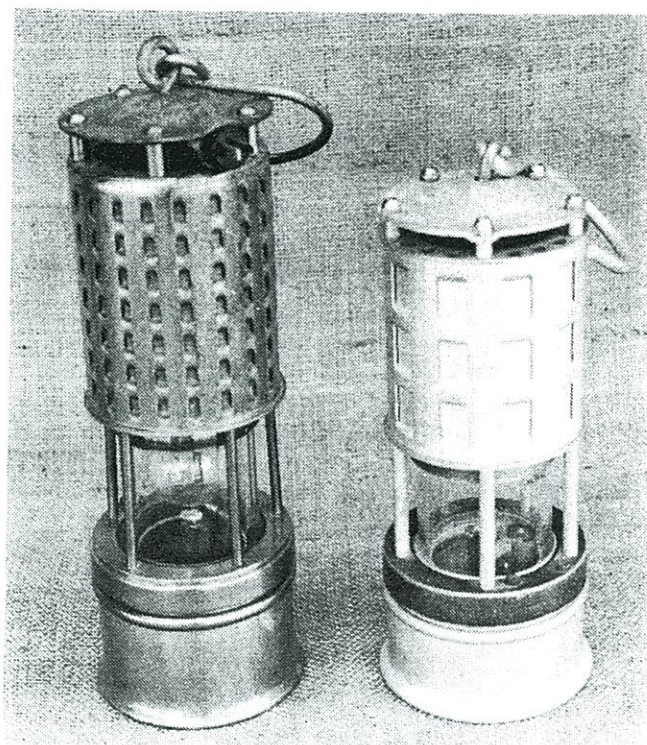


Figure 1. Original steel Koehler lamp (left); this example is marked with a Fox Studios property number and has been modified for electricity (note bulb and plug). It is said to have been used in the movie "How Green Was My Valley." At right is an example of the latest all-aluminum Koehler lamp. (Both in author's collection)

other with a round wick. The four approved lamps all had magnetic locks and differed only in the size and shape of the wicks and in the materials of construction. The approval stamp was placed on the hood above the bonnet and shows the USBM seal and approval number. The same lamps were manufactured with a key lock, and a brass lamp with a key lock was also available.

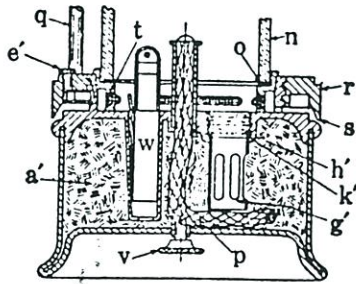
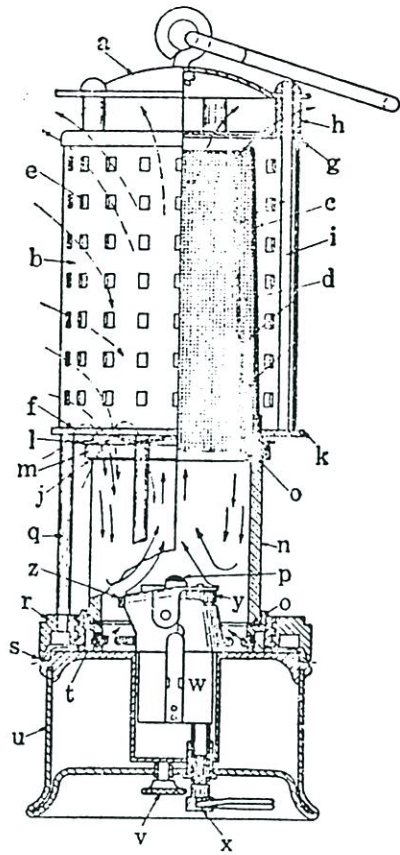


Figure 2. Cross-section of an early Koehler lamp.

In the 1950's Koehler redesigned the lamp, making it approximately 2 inches shorter. It was available in either aluminum or brass. The aluminum version was approved by the USBM and had a magnetic lock. The brass version had a key lock. The safety function of

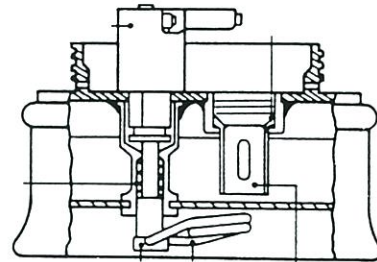
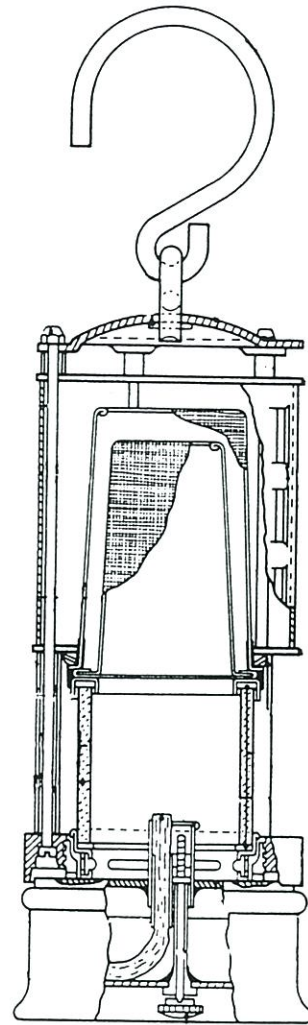


Figure 3. Cross-section of a modern Koehler lamp.

the USBM was transferred to MESA and then to MSHA. The current versions of the lamp are being manufactured by the National Mine Service Company and are approved by MSHA. They are manufactured in aluminum and brass and both have magnetic locks.

Collector's Talk

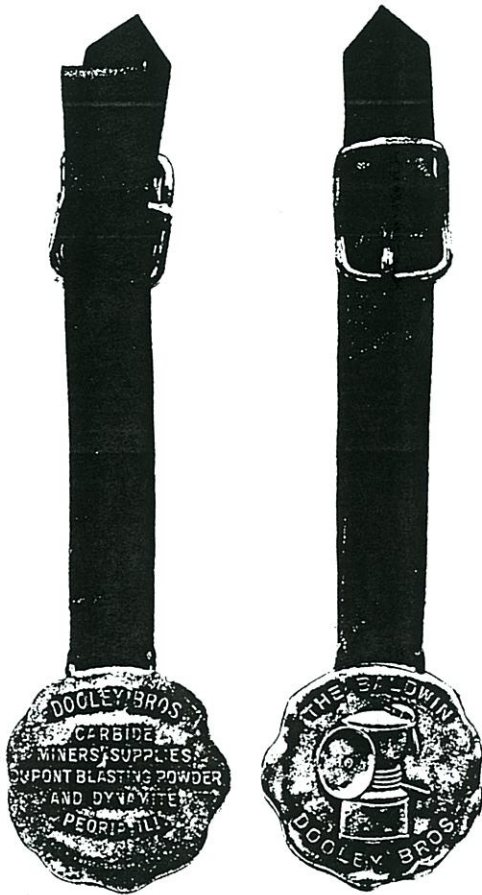


Pin Back

On a recent trip to Globe, Arizona, I found this nifty yellow and black pin back. The pin is .875" in diameter and says: "ARIZONA SMALL MINE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION." In the center of the pin there is carbide hand lamp and a crossed pick and hammer.

On the back it says: Made by the St. Louis Button Co., St. Louis, Mo. If anyone knows anything about this mining association, we would like to print your comments in the next MAC.

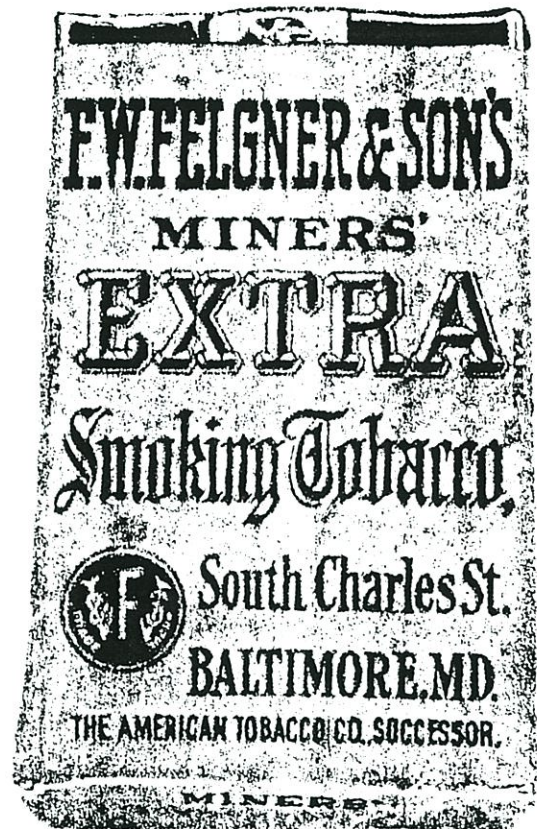
Ted Bobrink



An Unusual Watch Fob

Bob Hooks of Pasadena, California, sent us the information on his outstanding watch fob from the Dooley Bros. Mining and Supply Company of Peoria, Illinois. It is made of pewter, is 1.5" in diameter, and has a Baldwin pinch-waist cap lamp in the center. On the back it says:

DOOLEY BROS
CARBIDE
MINER'S SUPPLIES
DUPONT BLASTING POWDER
AND DYNAMITE
PEORIA, ILL.



Mining-Related Tobacco Item

I recently picked up this soft pack of smoking tobacco. The pack is blue with black lettering and has a 1926 Tax Stamp.

Bob Schroth



Mining Music

Jerry Spintig, of Hastings, Nebraska, sent in a copy of the cover of some sheet music related to the United Mine Workers. Jerry says that the song was copyrighted in 1906 and is three pages long. It extols the advantages of

joining the union--eight hour days, decent wages, etc.--and "be a Johnnie Mitchell man."

John Mitchell was the president of the United Mine Workers of America from 1899 to 1908.

Trades & Sales

Advertising Rates

Rates (per ad per issue) are: Full page, \$100; half-page, \$50; quarter-page, \$35. Ads must be submitted camera-ready; we are not

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Winter Issue—Dec. 15
Spring Issue—Mar. 15
Summer Issue—June 15
Fall Issue—Sept. 15

FOR TRADE OR SALE: Mining stock certificates. Free descriptive lists of old mining stock certificates issued periodically. Each certificate described, giving brief history of company, location, and vignettes. Russell Filer, 13057 California St., Yucaipa, CA 92399. (714)797-1650.

WANTED: Previously unpublished stock, correspondence, pictures or solid memorabilia relating to, or connected with the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company. Send description and price to - H. Mason Coggin, 317 East Griswold, Phoenix, AZ 85020. (602)944-3763.

FOR TRADE OR SALE: Baldwin nickel plated cap lamp (NOT superintendent model with handles, 90% of nickel left, no reflector), Wolf model 905a carbide hand lamp with oval brass nameplate (missing part of lever on end of water valve stem, nice shape), Justrite model 88 carbide lamp (belt generator and headpiece with belt and headstrap), German target lamp (brass, missing internal reflector, very nice, marked F. A. Schulze), Blacksmith candlestick (9" with unusual hook location on handle), Washington stamped candlestick by Ludlow-Saylor Wire Co., Hardsocg canteen for carbide or water with belt loop (missing screw lid, marked). Tony Moon, 2763 E. Willow Wick Dr., Sandy, Utah 84093. (801)943-2091.

WANTED: Portable assay balances. Contact: Dan Novak, 2813 Ong, Amarillo, Texas 79109. (806)373-5119.

FOR SALE: Nash candlestick, Pat. June 2, 1896 in Georgetown, Colorado (See MAC #6), \$225. Wills mining cigarette cards, complete set of 50 issued in 1916, excellent condition, \$230. **WANTED:** Mining stocks, checks, books, invoices, or old photos of the Good Hope Mine or Luckey Strike Mine in Perris, California. John Neilsen, 33307 Willow Tree Ln., Lake Elsinore, CA 92532. (714)674-4951.

FOR TRADE: Alaska and Western mining stocks, mercury flasks, blasting items and other good stuff. Looking for more of the same as well as WFM and UMWA union memorabilia. Dale McNee, Box 926, Pendleton, OR 97801. (503)276-1384.

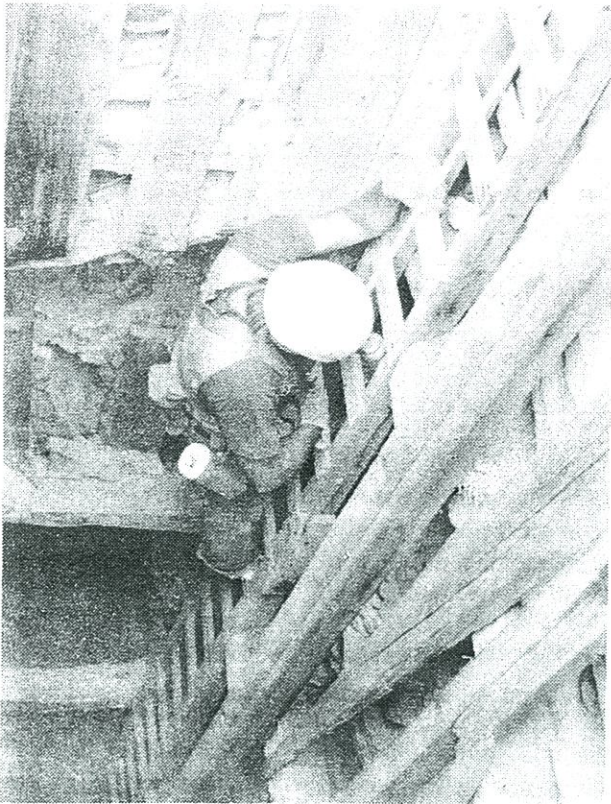
WANTED TO BUY: Collections, all or part, lamps in very good or better condition. Especially looking for: Gem, Elkhorn, Maple City, Hanson, Brite-lite, Grier Bros. with J & T tip cleaner, early Grier Bros., early Justrites, N/P Sunray bottom, reflector end to a Justrite belt generator, Surveyor's lamp, and any of the better oil wick lamps (foreign or domestic). Have items for trade also. Call--Ken Rupp, (814)944-9307 between 5 and 8 PM. EST.

FOR TRADE: Very rare Korean candlestick, well made stick with fine silver inlay (90% +). Stick is dated 1906 and has old Korean writing inlaid. Will trade for CAP TINS needed for my collection. Will hold stick until 7/30/92 for responses. All letters will be answered. This stick will be displayed at the MAC Reunion on June 27th. I have some cap tins that I'll trade for tins I need. Also looking for cap crimpers and Blasters Handbooks. Want list available. John Kynor, 4404 14th Ct. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. (505)344-4368.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Excellent condition carbide cap lamps. Maple City with knurled water door, first (early) style nickel plated Buddy, Arrow, Victor, Lu-Mi-Num. Ted Bobrink. (714)794-5518.

FOR TRADE: Two different styles of Huges Bros. (Davey type) safety lamps, Vertical Justrite cap lamp (brass), and 25 different blasting cap tins. Will trade for other cap tins or for carbide lamps. Bob Schroth, P. O. Box 687, Twin Peaks, CA 92391. (714)337-7102.

FOR TRADE: Carbide lamps--X-Ray, Simmons Pioneer, Shanklin Metal Products, N/P Baldwin, Early Auto-lite, N/P Baldwin "Miner's Lighting Bug," N/P Gee-Bee (top only), green label Werk candle box, some common oil lamps and blasting cap tins. Will trade for--or buy--early carbide lamp boxes (especially looking for Elkhorn, Buddy, Springfield & Zar Boxes), lamp repair boxes, or unusual parts boxes. Mark Bohannon, Star Rt. Box 107E, Oro Grande, CA 92368. (619)246-4418.




I'M ON MY WAY DOWN TO FIND YOU THE BEST MINING ARTIFACTS AVAILABLE. SEE MY NUMBER 3 CATALOG SENT WITH THIS ISSUE OF THE MAC.

TED BOBRINK

Michael Dennis Cohan
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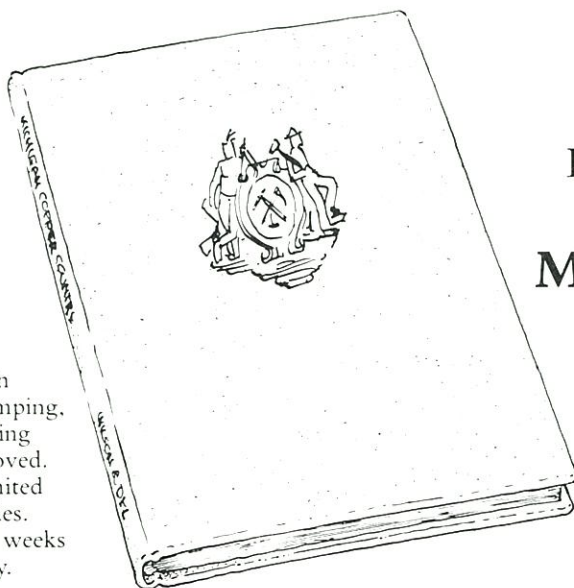
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