

# *EUREKA!*

THE JOURNAL OF MINING COLLECTIBLES

ISSUE 6



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Mine Water Spraying Car

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**EUREKA!**

The Journal of Mining Collectibles

# EUREKA!



A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING,  
PRESERVATION, AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF  
EARLY MINE LIGHTING AND COLLECTIBLES

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**Front Cover:** This unusual water spraying car was used by Union Pacific Coal Company at Rock Springs, WY to keep down coal dust in the mines. (Courtesy of Bud Tebedo, New Studio, Rock Springs, Wyoming. Submitted by Bob Werner. See Rock Springs mining article, page 35).

**Back Cover:** Pencil drawing of bug lamp. Submitted by Jack Ramsdell.



# EDITORIAL



## Hunting Season

I'm writing this editorial in the dead of winter, in the middle of a week of continuous snowstorms which kept me from going out lamp hunting. Deep gloom and depression, since there seem to be no mining collectibles available to be found, anyway. Trust my friends and fellow collectors to save the day, with letters and phone calls, describing great finds and long sales/trade lists. Some of the news is reprinted here in *EUREKA!*, in hopes it will reach you in the first weeks of spring, and really get the sap flowing.

The news I like to hear best is the great find, the collector who stumbles onto an ugly, black, paint-covered carbide lamp, buys it, cleans it up a little, and discovers he now owns an unfired Brite-Lite! Or the careful, observant fellow, who sits in an auction room full of other lamp collectors, and bids up a Justrite parts box just a little bit higher than anyone else thinks it is worth -- and goes home with a dozen rare early-model tip cleaners which were buried in the bottom of the box.

The best story I've heard so far in 1993 will be told in full in a later issue. I'll only hint here that it involves a collection of UMWA badges handed down from the first president of the first district, until they landed in the lap of a local collector!

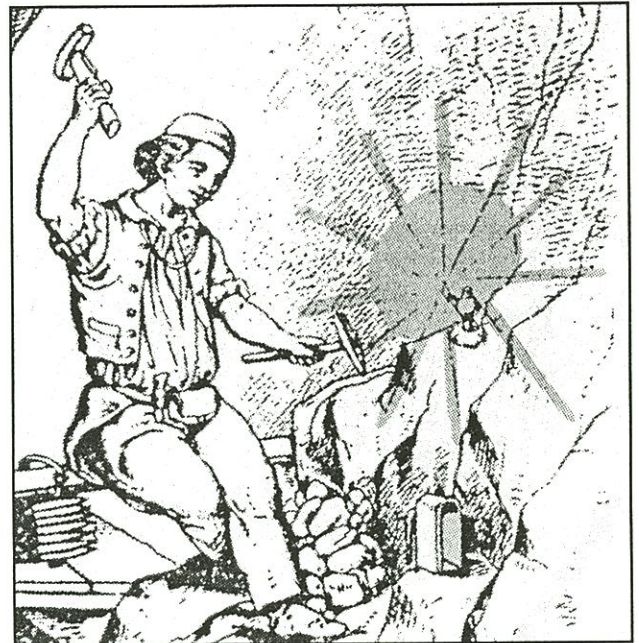
These are the kind of inspirational tales I needed to get me through the

winter, and I'm ready for the hunt. And I suspect I'm like the majority of collectors who subscribe to *EUREKA!* I'd rather go out and look hard and hunt up one bargain, unearth for myself one piece of real mining history, than pay top dollar for someone else's "stock".

## Gathering Season

On the other hand, I'm looking forward to getting together with other collectors, curators, and historians of mining this spring, to see what they have unearthed over the long winter, and to swap, buy, and sell. There will be plenty of opportunity! The first event that we can advertise is the spring Mineral Show and swap meet at the Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ. This year, you can set up a table on Saturday May 1. The Sterling Hill show has become an *eastern* Eastern Reunion, with only a few collectors selling from tables, but anywhere from 20-30 mining collectors showing up to look around, tour the mine and museum, and talk lamps. For more information, call Chester Lemanski (609) 893-7366.

Enclosed in this issue is a flyer for the next Western Swap meet, being hosted by Herb Dick in Sacramento, CA. And we have finally confirmed



a date for the 4th Annual Eastern Reunion, which will be held again in Morgantown, WV, on June 26.

Last, but not least, I received a flyer for the first ever International collectors meeting, for those who can afford a trip to Europe this summer! The event is on June 12, 1993, in Daaden, Germany:

WHERE: Burgerhaus  
5244 Daaden  
Tel: 02743/3300

INFO: Heinz Zander  
Auf dem Hof 1  
W-5241  
Emmerzhausen  
Tel: 02743/2709

Henner Schardt  
Tel: 02735/1712

# Wet Mine Lamps

Dave Thorpe

Some collectors call it the “matchbook reflector”. Its purpose is not obvious to those who think of reflectors as concave affairs. Some miners’ lamps (Scranto, XRAY, and Hansen) were made with reflectors that tilted forward so as to direct the light downward. The Baldwin Lamp Co. had a different idea in mind when these curious lamps were offered. According to advertisements, they were specifically designed for use in wet mines. There is nothing more aggravating than to have a perfectly burning carbide light doused by a single drop of water in its descent from the roof. What are the chances of this happening? Pretty good in a wet mine.

A concave reflector deep enough to shield against water droplets carries the disadvantage of blocking light thrown off to the side. Peripheral vision was thought to be of some importance, for very flat small reflectors were popular with coal miners. Many preferred *no reflector at all*.

The wet mine lamps were advertised in the various forms shown here during the 1909 - 1915 era. The lamps shown here are just a few examples of the variety made.

The earliest Baldwin model (shown on this page) has no top stamping,

but the base is stamped “PAT’D” on the bottom.

An oblong steel wire loop is soldered to the front of the tank. It acts as a retainer for the reflector which is easily slipped down in or removed from its slot. The hook and cap



*Early wet mine Baldwin lamp.*

braces are also steel. Fine etched lines in the brass encircle the water tank indicating that this part was formed by the more limited production process known as metal spinning rather than die stamping. The water door is single thickness con-

cave brass, attesting to its early 1910 era vintage.

The next example in the Baldwin line-up is from Dave Johnson’s collection (opposite page). The retainer has been changed to a flat brass strap, and the hook and brace are also brass.

Not a bad idea to prevent rusting in a lamp designed for wet mines. The reflector on this model is made of aluminum.

The latest Baldwin shown is from Len Gaska’s collection (opposite page). The retaining bracket has been done away with in favor of a push on reflector. Reflectors such as this one were advertised as separate accessories in early mine supply catalogs. If a box of these are found, many collectors will be able to assemble a complete wet mine Baldwin!

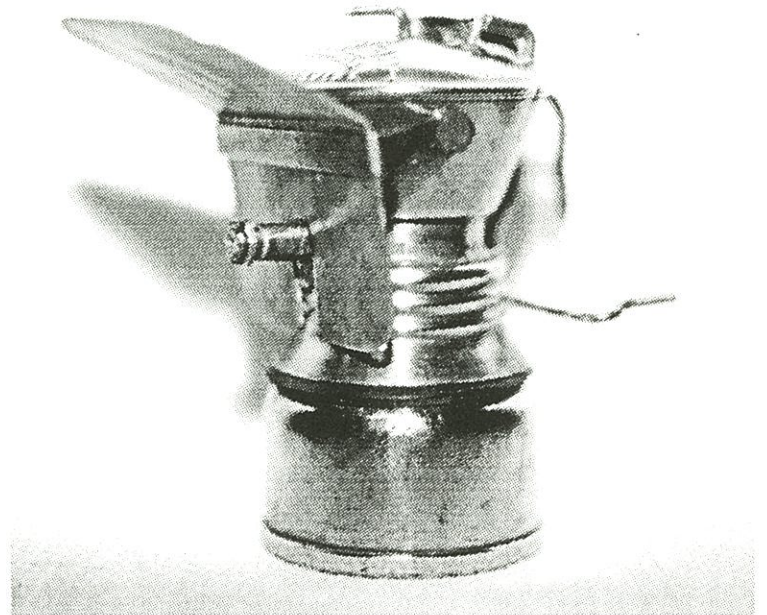
The last model was found in Sweden by a German collector (opposite page). Eventually finding its way to Dave Johnson, this lamp is clearly based on the Baldwin design. The steel reflector is small compared to the genuine Baldwin. It is soldered to the lamp.

Wet mine cap lamps are fairly rare and belong to the early-teens era. Their funky appearance makes them a must for the serious collector.

*RIGHT: Baldwin with push-on steel reflector(Len Gaska collection).*

*BELOW RIGHT: Baldwin with flat strap retaining brace and aluminum reflector (Dave Johnson collection) .*

*BELOW LEFT: Swedish lamp based on Baldwin design (Dave Johnson collection).*



# MINING CAMPS AND GHOST TOWNS

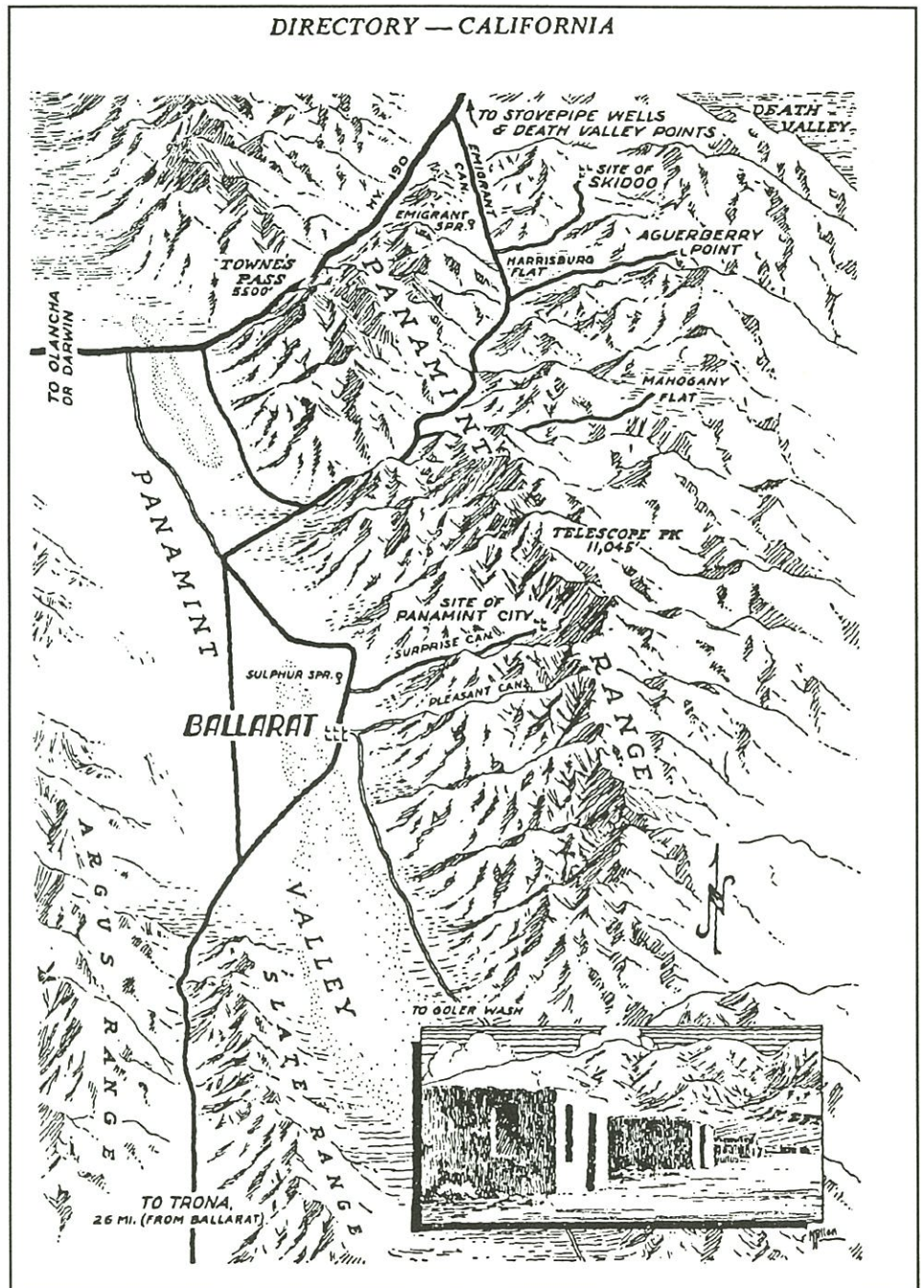
Bob Schroth

My collecting of mining related artifacts began over twenty years ago. The quest for adventure took me and my good friends out to the southern California desert. We had read many ghost town books about the mining camps and the remote areas they were located in. Rag Town, Steadman, Ludlow, and Calico were just a few of the towns our weekend trips took us to. Getting lost, fixing flat tires, and exploring what was left of these mining camps was all part of the adventure. When you're a teenager, it's funny how being stuck in a sand dune out in the middle of nowhere, with only yourselves to get out of that situation can be construed as fun. Now twenty-three years later, I find myself still going out, looking for remote mining camps, being a lot better prepared with a four wheel drive instead of a Datsun pick-up, but I still enjoy exploring the ghost town desert. As time passes, many of the camps that had standing buildings just ten years ago are now down, burned, or shot full of holes by vandals. Mining companies are forced to close open mine shafts, and in some states it is a crime to even go into an open mine. The BLM has closed many areas in the last few years, so finding new areas to explore is a very challenging task.

A mining camp located by the Death Valley National Monument called Ballarat is one of my favorite areas to

explore. I have been to this ghost town several times in the last 15 years, and it is amazing how many more mountain canyon washes there are still left to explore.

Ballarat was named after the gold center half a world away in Australia. The first visitors were some lost members of the ill-fated Bennett-Arcane Party who, in 1849, lost their way



and separated on an "every man for himself" basis. Panamint City was the substantial start of Ballarat. Early in 1873, a Wells Fargo bullion shipment was robbed in the west part of Panamint Valley. The robbers hid out in the steep narrow recesses of Surprise Canyon. This remote area was a great place to hide. When whiling away time waiting for the heat of the robbery to cool, one of the men found a ledge of pure silver that promised far more return than what the robbery had netted them. One of the robbers knew Senator Stewart of Nevada. Stewart then became the intermediary who arranged a deal in which they would return the loot in exchange for immunity from the law. Senator Stewart's price for his help was a piece of the mine action. This turned out to be a great deal for all involved. The mine claim soon proved to be a rich one and the Panamint Mining District was organized.

News of the silver strike spread quickly and scores of prospectors swarmed up the tortuous canyon. Torturous is a more accurate term. In 1978 a great flash flood swept down the canyon, wiping out the main road. I have hiked the 13 miles from Ballarat, elevation 1300 feet, to Panamint City, elevation 7500 feet. The remaining canyon road was little more than wheel tracks through brush and boulders. The town of Panamint was rough too. The isolation encouraged violence, and guns settled arguments. In the town's short lifespan, over fifty men were killed in acts of violence.

Panamint grew to an all time high of 5000 people. Remi Nadeau was a freighter who, tired of the robbery attempts, transported silver bullion

in 750 pound balls. The would be robbers would have a high time trying to load one of those balls in a saddle bag. Production of the mines reached its height in 1874-1875 with over 700 men working the mines. The first time I visited this area in 1976, many people were living in the old camp and in dugout hillsides, probably remnants of the hippie generation. The flash flood of 1978 moved them out, just as a flash flood in 1876 roared down this same canyon, destroying the lower part of Panamint City.

In nearby Goler Canyon, our old friend Charlie Manson was captured by the FBI. I've visited this area. Old graffiti painted on the rocks, like "Helter Skelter," "Death to Pigs," and "Black Death" is still visible. The Parker ranch is now a weekend getaway and the new owner will not even acknowledge the area's past.

After the silver stampede of Panamint City, gold was discovered a little way down the valley and up Pleasant Canyon. Ballarat became the main city for the workers of the Ratcliff Mine. The most prosperous years of the Ratcliff were from 1897-1903. This mine is really incredible. It is located on top of a mountain cliff and has a 76 bucket tramway over 1 1/2 miles long to service the mine. It took me over two hours to hike up to the first level of the mine. There is no road leading up to it. I don't know how they constructed the trams or got the materials up to build the tram towers. This mine has several levels on the hillside. After I got my breath, the climb was well worth it. The view was great and the mine was totally intact. There were cars still on the track, picks and shovels right where the miners left them, drill spoons and

jackhammers still in the drifts. One tag on an ore car said San Francisco Iron Works 1899. I found a wire miners candle holder and several other homemade mining items. We spent several hours cleaning up an old miners' shack and left some of our finds in it, like a small museum.

I am sad to say that a mining company built a new road up this remote canyon and gave the area access to many more people. In just two years, there is not one roof left on the buildings. The walls have been torn down and shot full of holes, and the mine on top of the mountain has been totally vandalized. The ore cars have been pushed off the cliffs and the buildings burned. I wish that I had taken video tapes of this area as it was when I first found it. In 1904 the Ratcliff Mine closed. Its rich ore had been worked by crude methods. Then, between 1927 and 1940, more than \$250,000 was secured by reworking the tailing from the old mill. Ballarat is no more. The town was declared a State Historical Site and dedicated December 3, 1949 by the Death Valley 49'ers organization.

#### References:

High Mountains & Deep Valleys, Western Trails Publications, Lew and Ginny Clark, 1978.

#### Personal experience:

Ken Kenaga  
Chip Hoffman  
Shawn Preston  
Bob Schroth

# The Rex Cap Lamp

Len Gaska



*The Rex Lamp: An English copy of the horizontal Justrite. Stamping on the left side is shown below.*



I first learned of the Rex lamp from the Newsletter of Australian Mining Collectibles.<sup>1</sup> I was immediately attracted to the Rex because of its similarity to horizontal Justrites, a specialty of mine. Imagine my surprise when several months later I was able to obtain a virtually mint Rex. Although the lamp I obtained (left) is very similar to the one Stephen McCabe illustrated, there are a few differences. The lamp I obtained has a wire hook and braces, as well as an oval water door, while McCabe's has a spade mount and round door. My example has no markings on the bottom and the water feed is different.

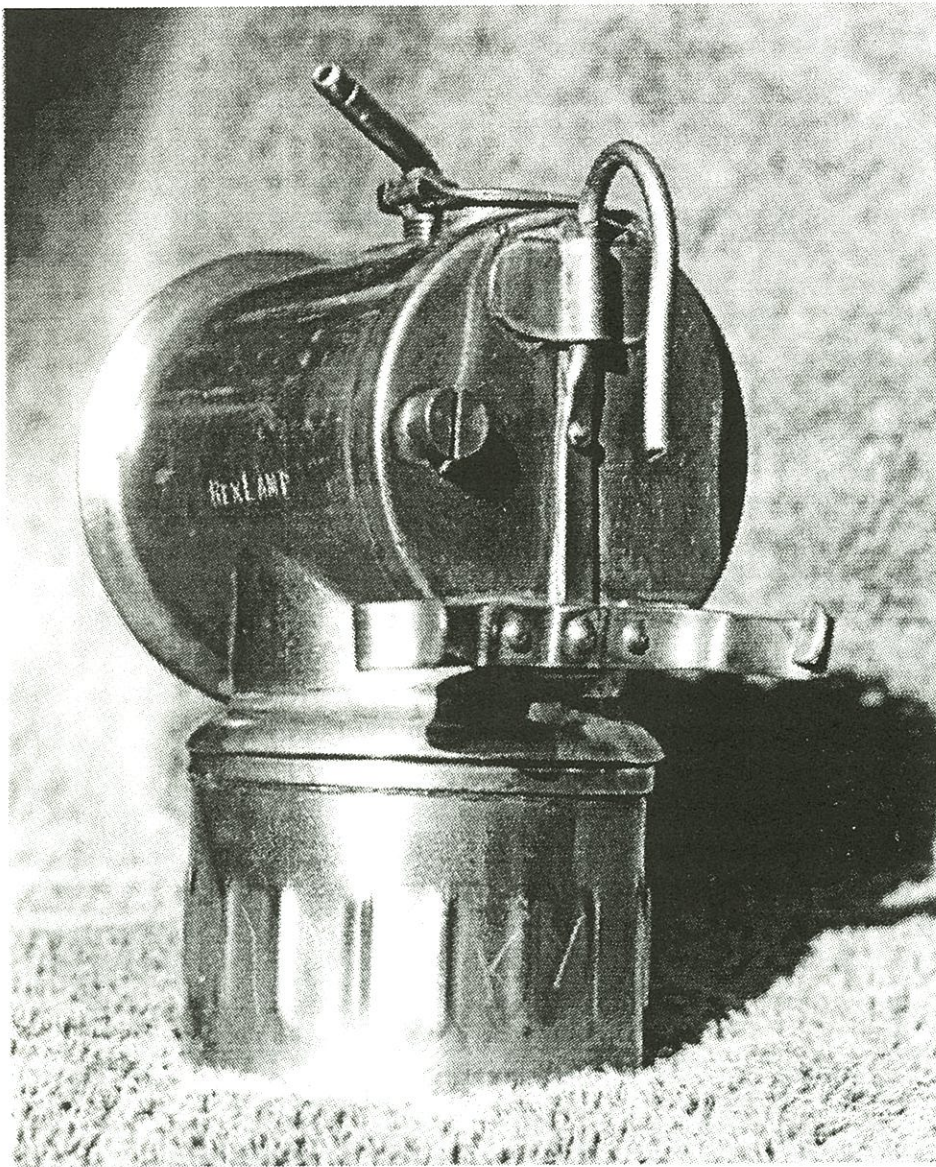
This Rex has a rather unique lighter in that it passes completely through the water tank. As seen on the following page, the small screw at the left side of the lamp is part of the lighter where the flint is inserted.

The Rex is made by the Premier Lamp and Engineering Co. which is still manufacturing carbide lamps today.

## References:

1. McCabe, Stephen, *The Newsletter of Australian Mining Collectibles*, Vo. 1 No. 1, Autumn 1992.





*Viewed from behind, the most unique feature of the Rex Lamp is the flint chamber which extends through the entire water tank.*

*Top view shows the company stamp, oval water door, and water lever notches.*



# The Justrite Specials

by Len Gaska

*Although it is unclear if the Special series were the first hand lamps produced by Justrite, they certainly were one of the first. They first appeared in the Justrite catalog number 2 (circa 1914) and ads dated 1914. The series consists of three similar lamps differing in their type of handle or attachment device.*

## The Arizona Special

(Justrite model No. 83)

This lamp has a typical bail and hook. Shown below are two varieties of the Arizona Special with a horizontal cap lamp for comparison. The two lamps differ in the location of the burner tube. Later models have the burner at the bottom of the reflector and earlier models have the burner tube centered within the reflector. The Arizona Special also has variations in the water lever; the earlier "upturned" lever and the later turned-under lever.

## The Western Special

(Justrite model No. 105)

The Western Special was a supervisors' lamp as evidenced by its hand handles (following page). Typical of that style of lamp, most are nickel-plated. The Western Special, like the Arizona, is found with both center mounted and low mounted burners. The Western Special is also known with a blackout hood (reported by Bill Spence in the *Underground Lamp Post* v4;n7 p4, Fall 1986).

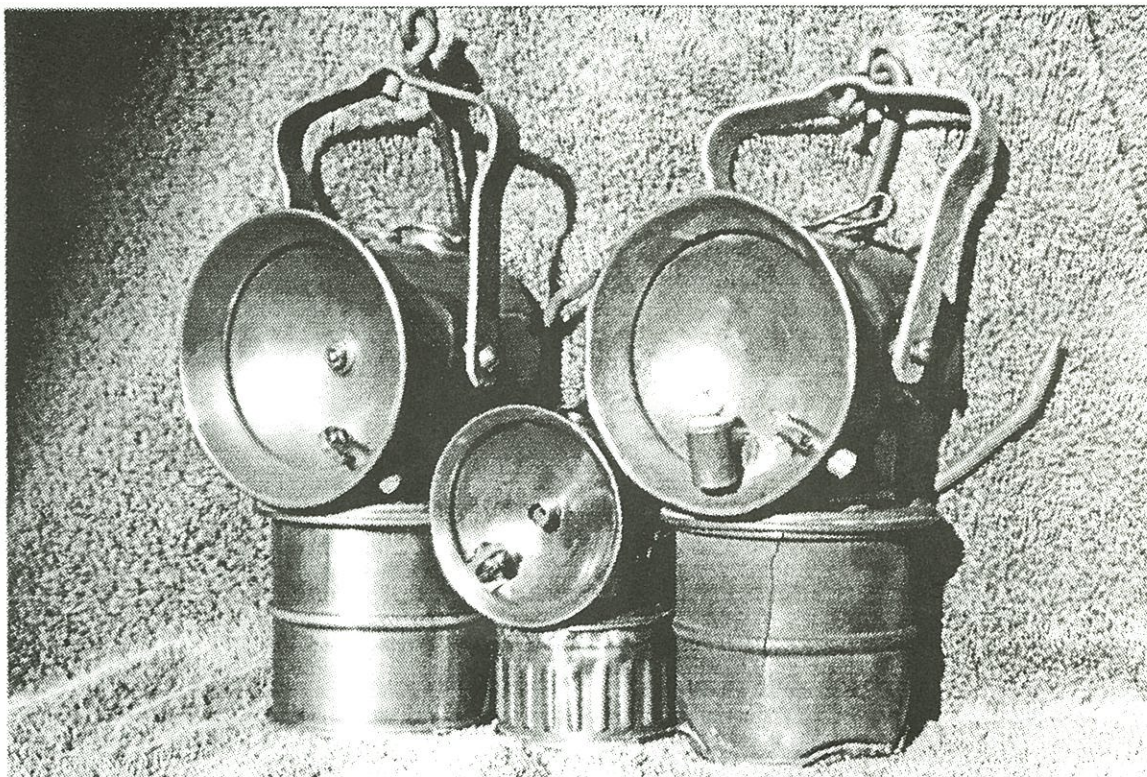
## The Anaconda Special

(Justrite model No. 83)

The Anaconda had only a steel hook on the back and was normally used with a lamp stick. Shown on the following page, the Anaconda Special is a larger version of the Justrite "candlestick" lamp which also had only a steel hook on the back. I do not know if both burner varieties are found on the Anaconda Special, but I assume that they are.

*Two Arizona Specials, identified by the bail and hook, are shown next to a standard sized cap lamp for scale.*

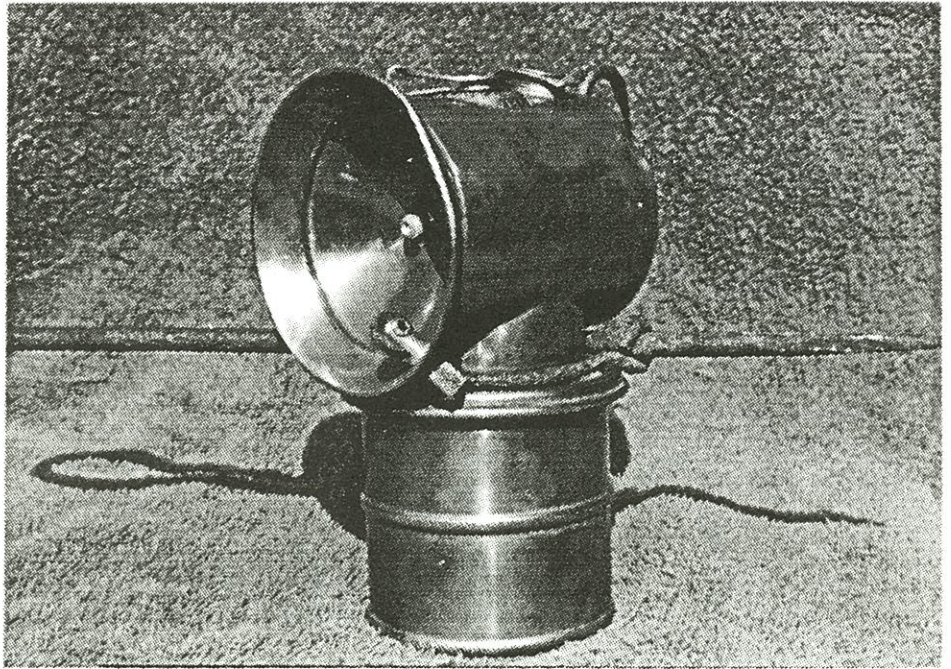
*The two Specials differ in the location of the burner: one is in the center, the other emerges from the bottom of the reflector.*



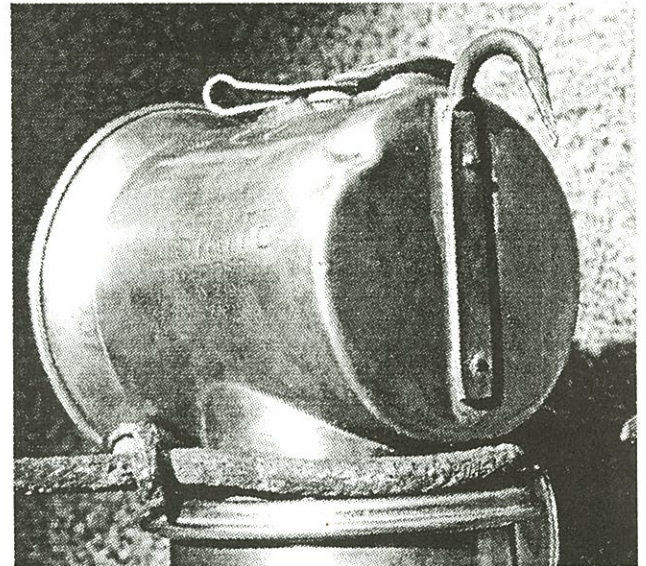
The Specials depicted in Justrite's Catalog No. 2 show only the center burner tip model. These hand lamps share an unusual feature with the Justrite Jumbo (see *Eureka!*, Issue 5, Winter 1993): the top attaches to the bottom via a threaded post.

*The Anaconda Special (right) was a metal miners' full-shift lamp.*

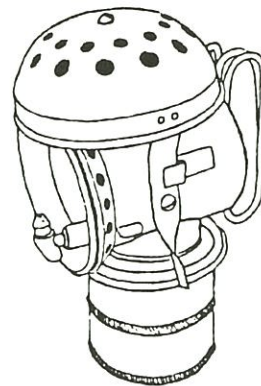
*The hard rock miner was accustomed to using candlesticks. Accordingly, lamps designed for these men carried a stick attachment with a pointed steel hook.*



*Western Specials are essentially eight-hour supervisors' lamps: most are nickel-plated, all have hand handles.*



*Rear view showing the Anaconda's steel pointed hook.*



*A version of the Western Special with the blackout hood has been reported (left, Dave DesMarais collection).*

# New Dynamite and Blasting Powder Book in the Works

*Eric R. Twitty*

The book I am currently composing describes the history of American dynamite and blasting powder companies. It will illustrate all of their existing kegs and boxes, assign the boxes and kegs a "rarity" rating, discuss the development of dynamite and powder, and relate both to mining history and mining processes. This is where I beg help on my hands and knees from the collecting community.

The help I need is identifying as many styles of boxes and kegs as possible and their repetition. I also need copies of bill-heads, stocks, and other paper items for illustration. The most useful way to represent your box or keg is with a photo or photocopy, no matter the quality. This is especially pertinent for rare items! This will eliminate ambiguity for accurate representation in the book. If the item appears in a photo with other unrelated thing these can and will be deleted. Credit will be given in print for a photo or illustration. The owner will be credited with ownership if desired. I can reimburse costs for copies of photos and mailing if the bundle of copies is large. Borrowed photos will be returned. Depending on the extent of cooperation and assistance **A REASONABLE DISCOUNT OF THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE.**

I will send on request to collectors who wish to help with the survey:

1. List of documented boxes.
2. Fill-in questionnaire (Dynamite boxes).
3. Fill-in questionnaire (Blasting powder kegs).

Send info to:

Eric Twitty  
5665 So. Galena St  
Englewood, CO 80111

# Miners' Badges

*Manfred Stutzer*

**T**hroughout Europe, badges or pins were issued to miners for local or regional mine festivals and celebrations. Typically these badges and pins had the crossed hammer symbol and/or some variety of mine lamp depicted on them.



The brass badge (above) with crossed hammers surrounded by a laurel wreath was issued in Poland. The nickel-plated brass badge (below) with crossed hammers, crest and frog lamp was issued in a famous old iron mining region of Germany, circa 1920. The badge with crossed hammers and a safety lamp (next page) was issued in the Soviet Union.

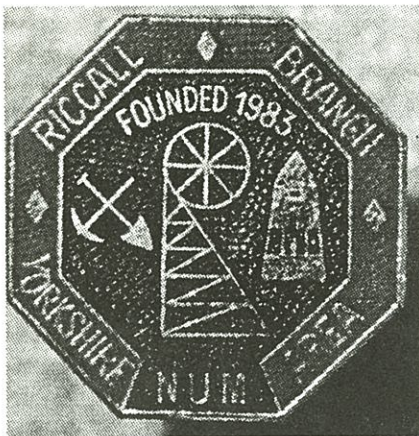


A specific type of badge has been sold to support striking miners and their families. In 1984 and 1985, a twelve month strike by coal miners in Great Britain resulted from the Government's attempt to close a large number of coal mines.

The N.U.M. (National Union of Mineworkers) fought for the survival of its members against the N.C.B. (National Coal Board). Pictured here are five examples of these brass and enamel fund raising badges from various regions of Great Britain. Recent stories from Great Britain indicate that there may be another attempt by the British Government to close many aging coal mines that are labeled as non-competitive or unprofitable. This action is sure to invoke a response from the N.U.M. and its members.



RIGHT: Badge from Bersham Colliery Branch in Wales  
LEFT: Badge from North Eastern Division near Doncaster, Yorkshire.



Badge from the Yorkshire England region.



RIGHT: Fife Unity badge.  
LEFT: N.U.M. Women's Action Group Badge.



Russian badge.

Note: All badges shown are from Manfred Stutzer's collection.

# New Oil Wick Brandnames

*Dave Johnson*

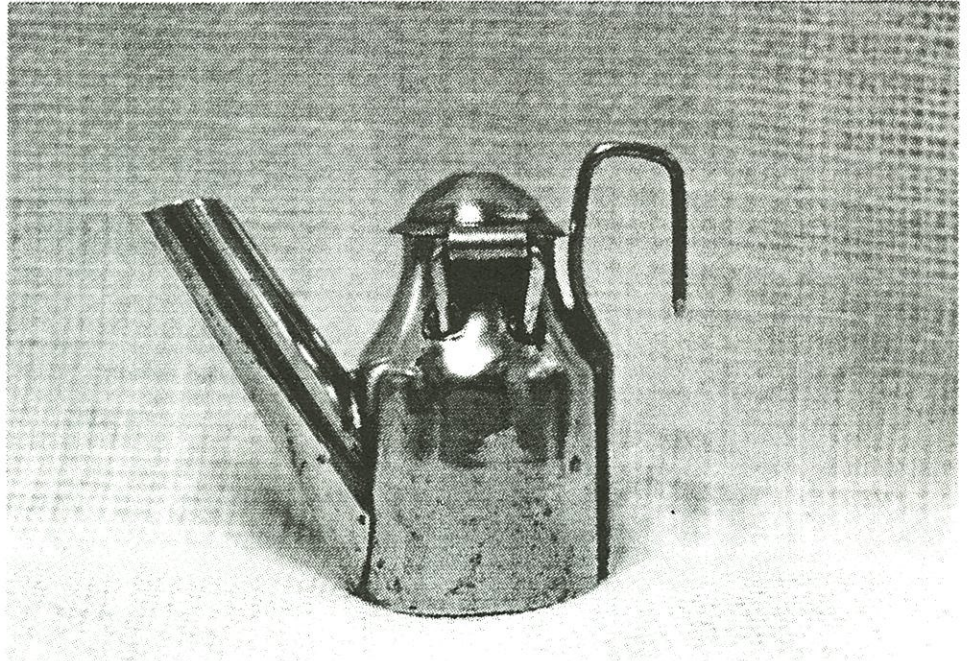
New oil wick brandnames appear on a quasi-regular basis. The two latest are the J. Jones and Wm. Isaac lamps pictured here.

The uniquely shaped lamp, with a dome lid resembling a World War I helmet, is marked J. Jones on the bottom. Most manufacturers names appear on the lamp font or spout, with the notable major exception being Crown trademark lamps which appear on the lamp bottom, along with patent dates that appear on the lids of some models.

This all brass lamp measures 1  $\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter, with a neck opening that measures 1" in diameter. The single spout measures 2  $\frac{7}{8}$ " in length and is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter at its end.

The rather common looking tin oilwick pictured here features the brandname Wm. Isaac enclosed in an oval on the side of the font. This lamp measures 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tall to the top of the lid. The font is 1  $\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter, with the neck opening measuring 1  $\frac{1}{8}$ " in diameter. The double spout measures 2  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length with an end opening of  $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

Is anyone familiar with these brandnames?



*J. Jones oil wick lamp.*



*Wm. Isaac oil wick lamp.*

# Unique Oil Wick Lamps

*Dave Johnson*

Most collectors have seen a one-of-a-kind candlestick made by a craftsman for himself or as a presentation piece. Even rarer are the one-of-a-kind oil wicks. The two specimens shown here are two of the finest examples I have ever seen.

The first example is brass and measures 3  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to the top of the handle on the cap. The cap handle, seldom seen on oil wicks, is an extension of the cap hinge. The cap is one-piece, with the number 916 stamped in front of the handle. The hook is exceptionally heavy, held in place by a contoured diamond-shaped overleaf, on which the initials W.F. appear.

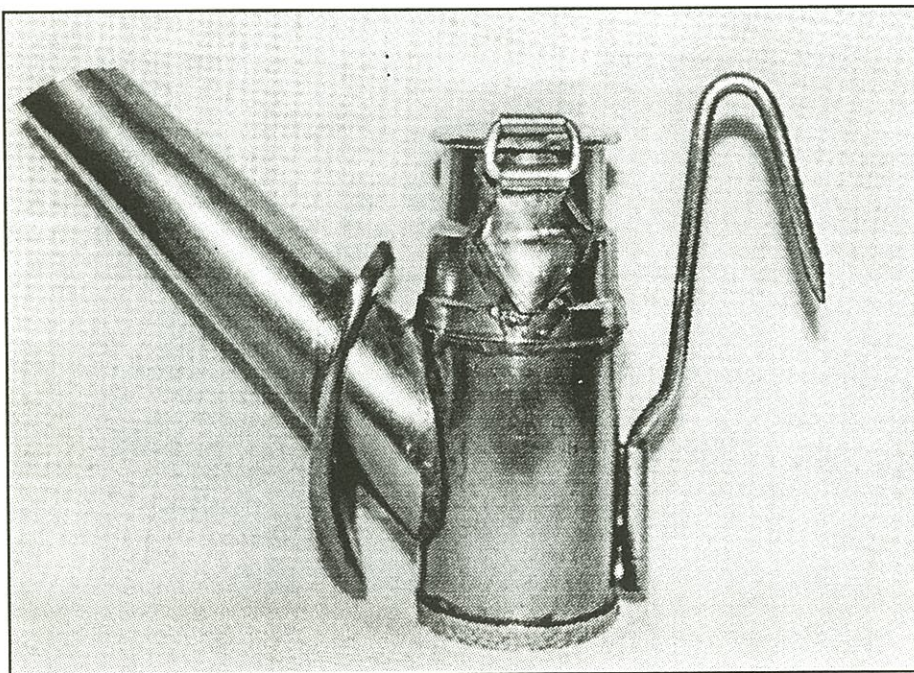
The font is flared, with a small hole at the base of the neck which holds a wick-pick attached by a chain to a piece between the font and the spout. The font is 2  $\frac{7}{8}$ " in diameter at the base and 1  $\frac{1}{8}$ " at the top of the neck.

The spout is 3" in length and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter at its end. A rarely seen accessory on the spout is the cap which is connected by a chain to the piece between the spout and font. Crossed hammers on the end cap suggest a European influence. Like

presentation candlesticks, I don't believe that this oil wick was ever meant to be used underground.

The second example of the lamp maker's craft is also brass, standing 3  $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall to the top of the cap. The font is 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter at its base and 1  $\frac{3}{16}$ " at the top of the neck. The spout is 4  $\frac{3}{8}$ " in length and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter at its end. There is a small decorative inverted tear drop shaped shield on the spout. The hook has an unusual configuration, being attached to the font at only the lower 1  $\frac{1}{8}$ " of its 4" overall height. This configuration gives the lamp very poor forward balance, but adds to its uniqueness.

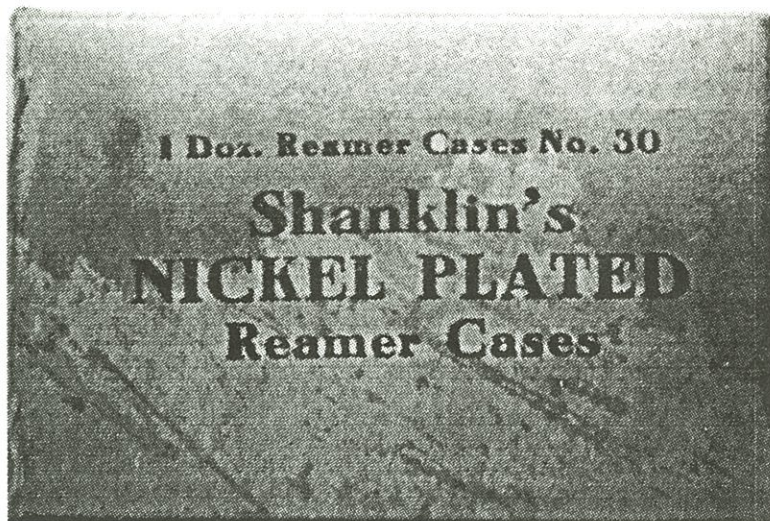
It has been my experience that at least five unique candlesticks exist for every unique oil wick in collections. Have other collectors had similar or different experiences?



# Boxed Shanklin Parts

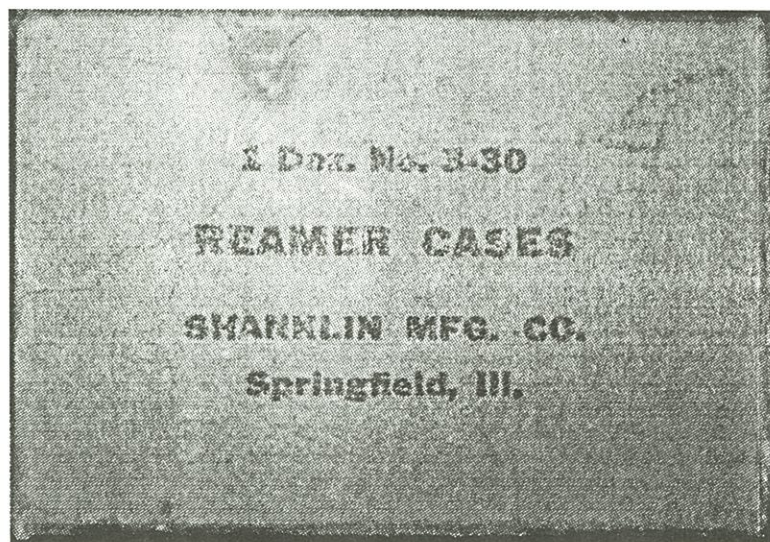
*Dave Johnson*

Most collectors are familiar with the small Justrite parts boxes that generally contain a dozen gaskets, flints, reamers, felts, felt retainers, or burner tips. The Justrite Manufacturing Co. was one of the big three manufacturers of carbide cap lamps, along with the Universal Lamp Co., which produced the Autolite cap lamp, and the Shanklin Manufacturing Co., which produced the Guy's Dropper cap lamp. While the boxed parts for Justrite lamps are relatively common, the parts for Autolite and Guy's Dropper are quite scarce.

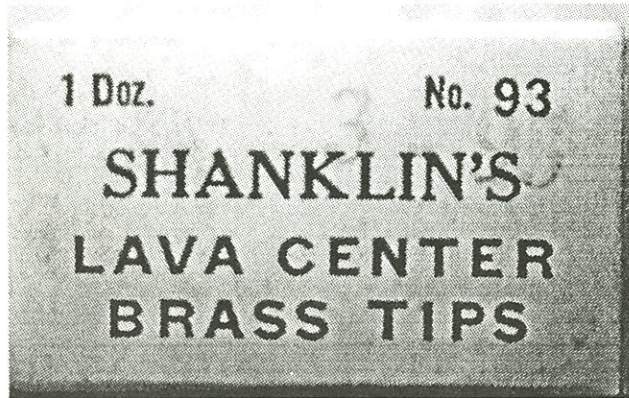


The No. 30 reamer cases came one dozen to the box. These were the cases only and did not come with reamers included, as did the No. 26 reamers which were reamers and cases together. Below is the same package in a more recent vintage as evidenced by the extended part number 3-30.

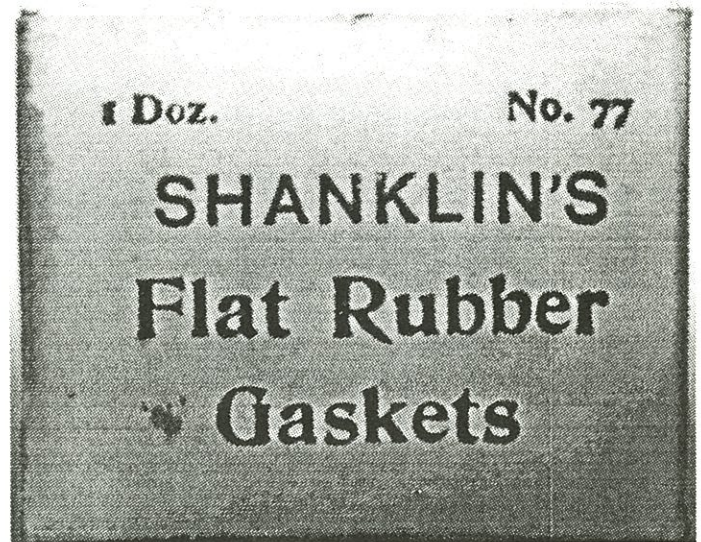
All of these parts boxes are cream-colored cardboard with blue lettering. These boxes are much plainer than the more common patterned Justrite boxes.



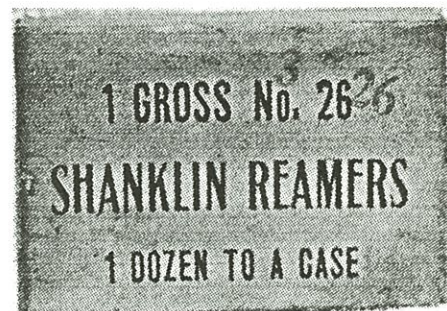
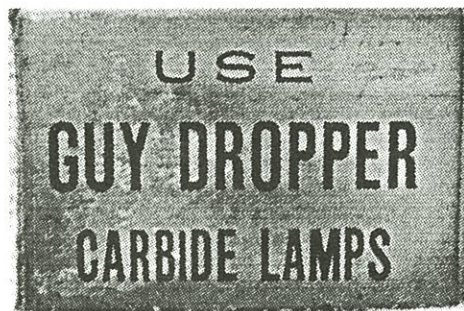




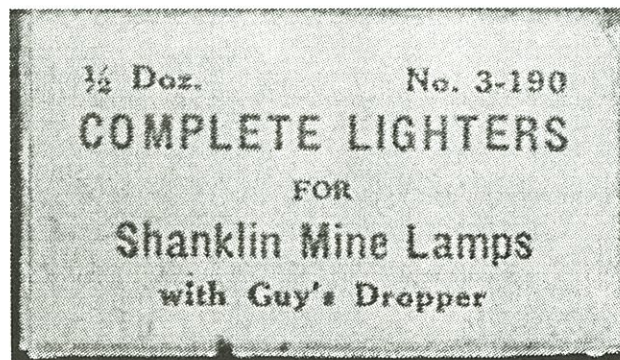
The No. 93 lava center brass burner tips came one dozen to a box. These are found in brass and nickel-plated varieties.



The No. 77 black rubber gaskets came one dozen to the box. Despite their age, the rubber gaskets in this box are as pliable as the day they were produced.



The No. 26 Shanklin parts box seen here has one dozen reamers in a nickel-plated brass pocket holder, slightly smaller than the diameter of a pencil and  $2\frac{3}{8}$ " in length. The back of the box contained an encouragement to use Guy's Dropper lamps.



The No. 3-190 is a box of nickel-plated lighter assemblies. The part number beginning with a "3 dash" again, represents a more recent vintage than the other boxes shown on this page.

# John D. Gill's Sons

Dave Johnson

The name of the Gill family firm in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania is unusual in that rather than being John D. Gill & Sons, indicating a firm begun by the father and including the sons, the firm's name was John D. Gill's Sons, indicating a firm operated by the sons using their father's name.

John D. Gill, Sr. was born in Pennsylvania in 1830, the son of Irish immigrant parents. He and his wife Priscilla had three daughters and two sons: John D., Jr. and Robert A.<sup>1</sup>

By 1890 John D., Sr. had already retired and his son John D., Jr. had established himself as a blacksmith in the area.<sup>2</sup> Brother Robert, older by 11 years, was known as a traveling

salesman as early as 1900.<sup>3</sup> Ten years later he was listed as a manufacturer of mining tools with his sister Emma as bookkeeper, for a mining manufacturing firm: John D. Gill's Sons.

A 1909 ad (below) for John D. Gill's Sons states that they were manufacturers and jobbers of all kinds of miner's supplies. Another 1909 ad (next page) pictures John D. Gill, Jr. and Robert A. Gill as well as their store, located at 420 N. Front St. in Philipsburg. The sign on the front of the store shows them to be manufacturers and jobbers of miners' supplies, roofing and spouting. The ad also pictures some of their products: picks, shovels, augers, drills, needles, caps, lunch buckets, canteens, pow-

der bottles, and of course oil wick lamps! Some of the same items are listed on the sign on the front of the store.

Many of the Gill products were manufactured in a rented section of the Gowland Manufacturing Co., on West Spruce St.<sup>5</sup>

A 1912 advertisement<sup>6</sup> reads:

**JOHN D. GILL'S SONS  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
MINER'S TOOLS, MINER'S LAMPS,  
TINWARE,  
and ALL KINDS OF TIN  
GALVANIZED and COPPER WORK**

**LARGE OR SMALL**

We can handle them all

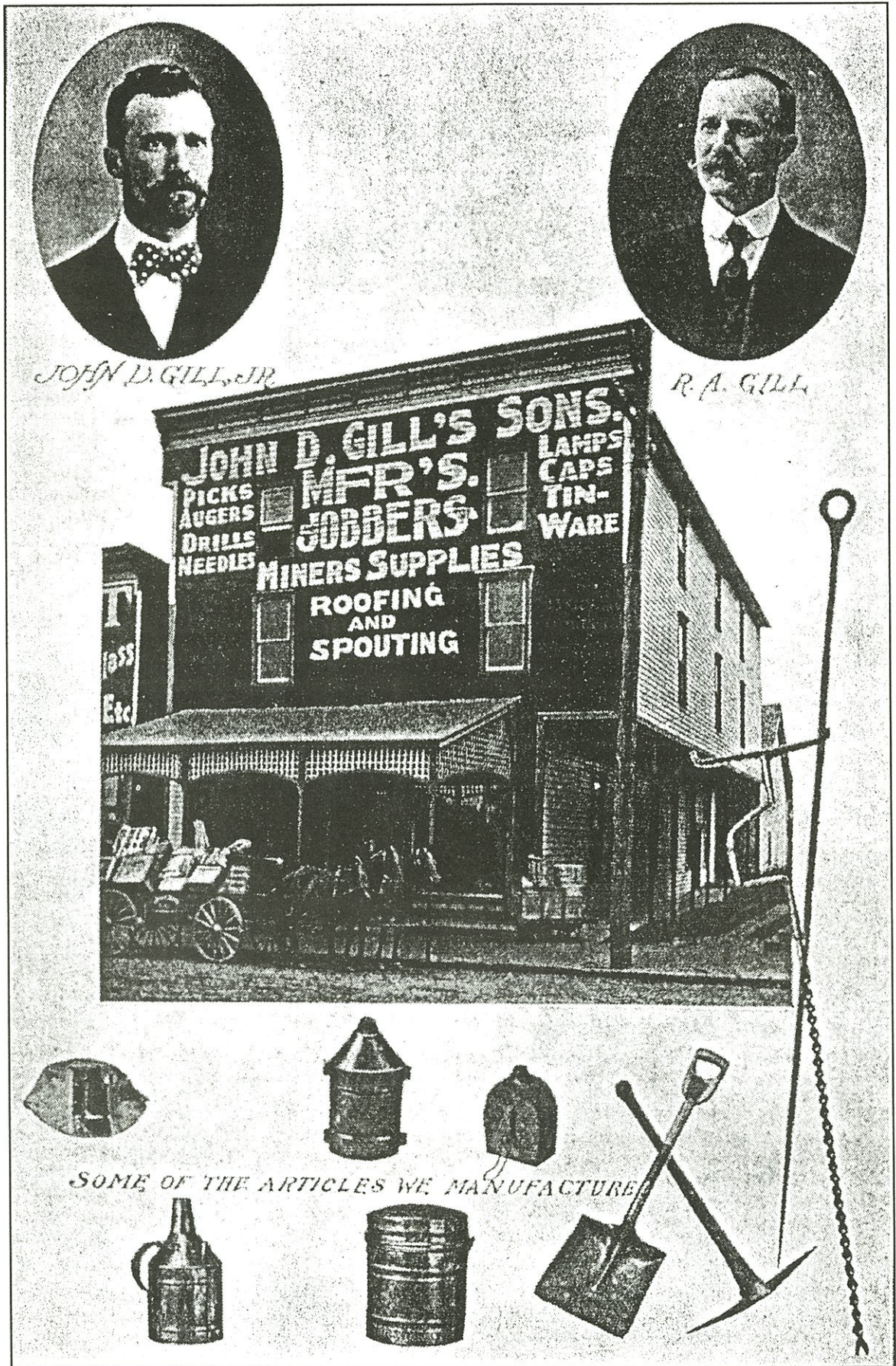
**JOHN D. GILL'S SONS**

Manufacturers and Jobbers of  
all kinds of

**Miners' Supplies**

**PHILIPSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

DO NOT FORGET US WHEN IN NEED  
OF ANYTHING IN OUR LINE



Picture from the Souvenir History Book of Philipsburg, published in 1909 by Grit Publishing Co.

**THE GILL LAMP**  
(Face lamp size)

John D. Gill's Sons produced quality tin, brass, and copper oil wick lamps under two trademark names. The greatest number and variety of lamps were produced under the name THE GILL LAMP.



*The Gill Lamp, in the face lamp size, exists in brass (above), copper (left), and tin (below). (Dave Johnson collection).*



*THE GILL LAMP*  
*Stamping*



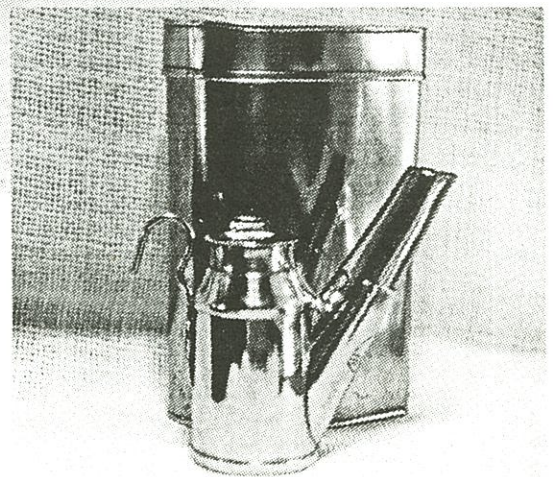
## THE GILL LAMP (Drivers' lamp size)

Several different drivers' lamp models exist that bear the "THE GILL LAMP" stamping.

Shown right is a slope-sided model made entirely of copper. It is hinged from the side.



Another drivers' lamp, shown here, is all brass. This model is of the "milk can style", and is stamped on the spout's reinforcing shield. It is also hinged on the side. This lamp was found with its own brass carrying case.



**THE GILL LAMP**  
(Bi-metallic drivers' lamp)

Two other unusual variations exist in THE GILL LAMP. One (right) is bi-metallic. The spout is copper, while the remainder of the lamp is tin. Like the face lamps, it has a sloped font (body), but this model hinges from the rear.



**THE GILL LAMP**  
(Mid-sized)

Finally, a mid-sized "milk can style" model is shown (left). It is all brass, stamped on the the font, and hinged from the rear. Noting these differences, I am sure other models exist.

## JOHN D. GILL'S SONS (Face lamp)

Less commonly seen, but not as aesthetically pleasing, are the lamps marked JOHN D. GILL'S SONS. The lamp shown right is all tin. I have heard of this lamp in a drivers' style, but have not confirmed its existence. The stamping incorporates the STAR name, suggesting the possibility of another manufacturer such as Grier.

I was unable to find any information on what year the firm began or ceased operations, however advertisements, directory listings, and census information provide a rough time frame of 1900 through the teens. Information about the family is very sketchy.



### References and Notes

1. U.S. Census (1890, 1900, 1910) notes the following children were born to John D., Sr. and Priscilla Gill: Robert A., born in 1859, Annie E., born in 1862, John D., Jr., born in 1870, Emma B., born in 1876 and Edith P.
2. 1890 U.S. Census listings.
3. 1900 U.S. Census listings.
4. 1910 U.S. Census listings.
5. Souvenir History of Philipsburg, 1909, Grit Publishing Co.
6. 1912 Philipsburg Directory.

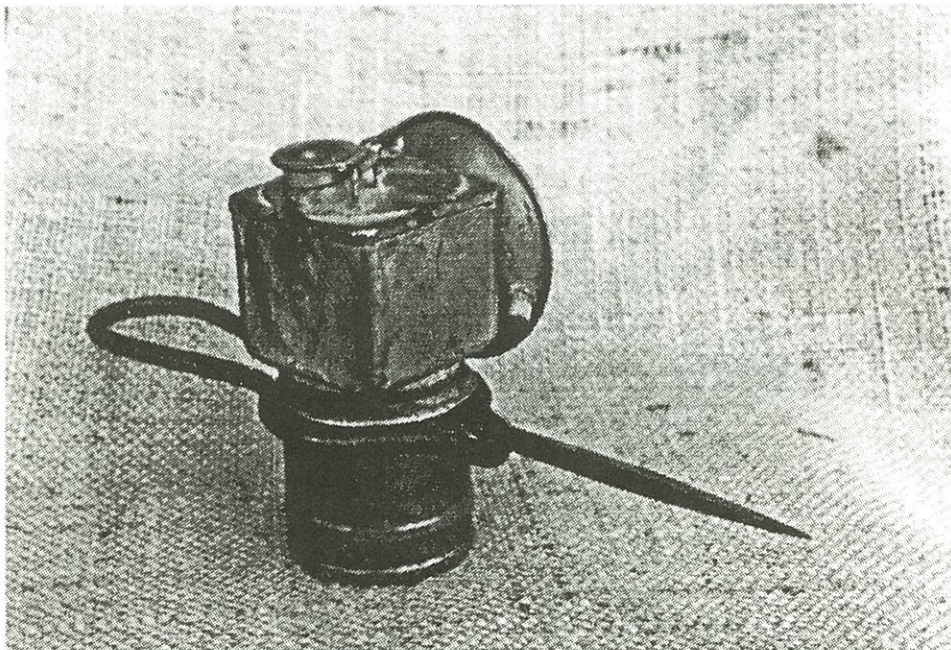
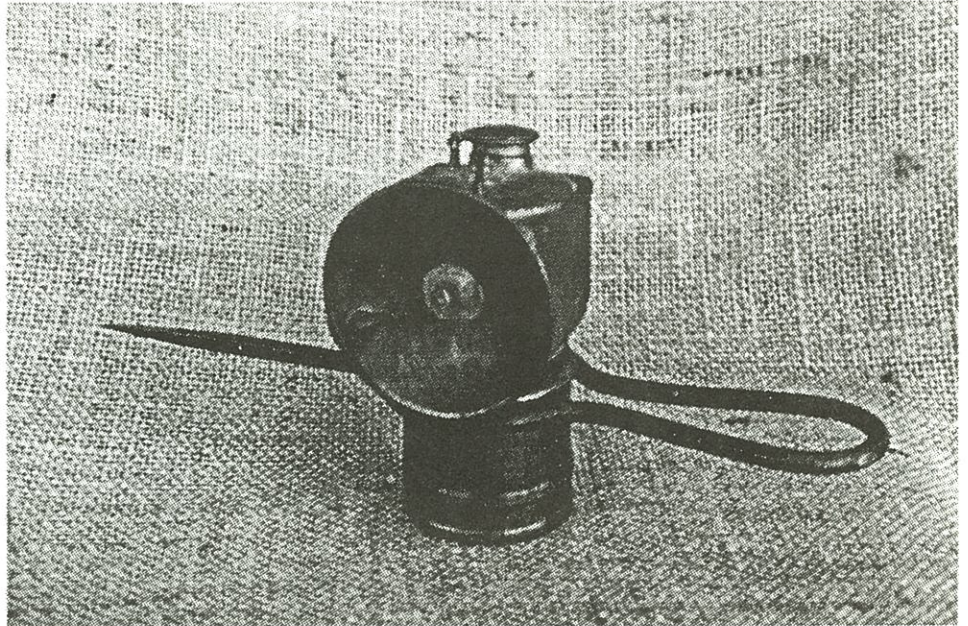


*JOHN D. GILL'S SONS  
stamping.*

# Squarelite Stick Lamp

*Tony Moon*

I really enjoyed the article on the Squarelite in the Fall 1992 *EUREKA!* and would like to make known yet another variety. The photos show a stick lamp that I have had in my collection for some time. I found it in Butte, Montana in the 1970's with a Justrite style stick on a clamp haywired to the lamp. I put on the Shanklin stick which I also found in Butte (these were all over Montana at one time, together with the Baldwin style stick - they made good traders!)



The lamp has much of its gold paint and has a pointed *steel* hook, much the same as Justrite's stick lamp. The reflector is 2  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter, and overall height is 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches to the top of the water door. The carbide container is 2 inches in diameter and 2  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches high to the top of the threads.

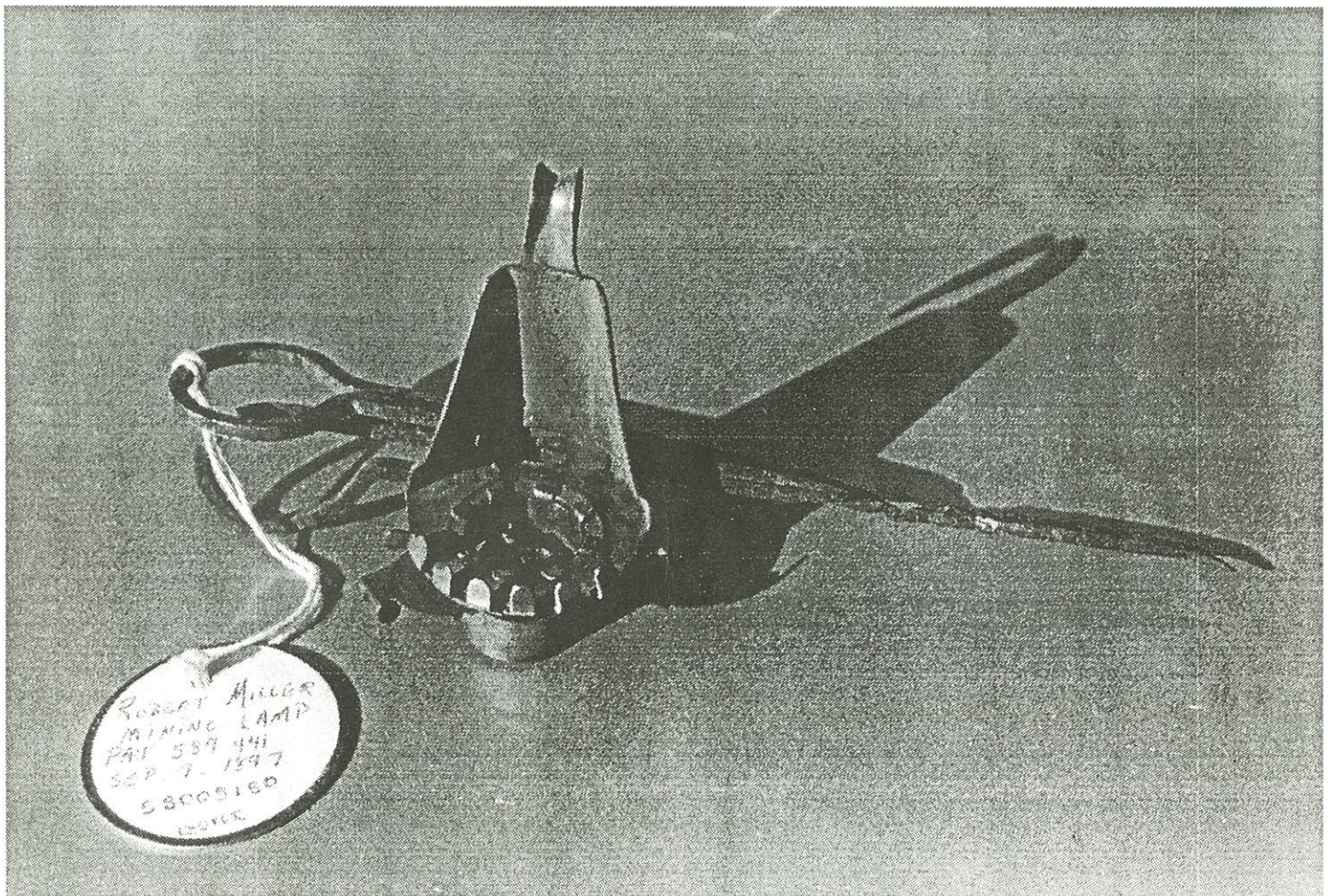
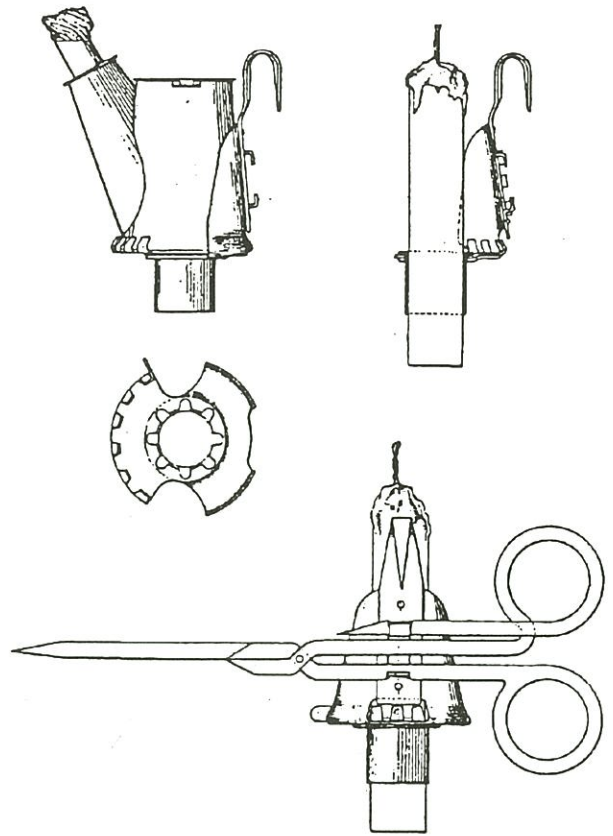


# Miller Patent Candlestick

*Ron Bommarito and Jack Ramsdell*

This patented candlestick is from Ron Bommarito's collection. As far as we know, it is the only example of its kind to surface. Although the scissors-type handle is corroded, the sheet metal thimble is remarkably well preserved. Shown right is the patent drawing of Robert A. Miller (Menominee, Michigan). This "Mining Lamp" was patented on September 7, 1897, and assigned No. 589,441.

The thimble will accommodate either an oil wick lamp or a candle. Though other oil wick sticks are occasionally found, this is by far the most sophisticated.



# Blasting Cap Tins Discovered in 1993

*Andy Martin*

Before describing the tins recently reported by collectors, I would like to give a special thanks to "Cap-Tin" Bob Schroth, who gave helpful leads in tracking down several of them. Leave it to Bob to know where the rare ones are lurking.

The pick of the litter for this crop is the Arthur Kirk & Son tin. Not only was this tin unknown to me, but I had never even heard of the company, and initially supposed they were British. However, the comprehensive reference book "History of Explosives Industry in America" once again came through, and provides the following details. Arthur Kirk was a wealthy Pittsburgh businessman who

established Arthur Kirk & Son in 1887. This firm sold mining machinery, Aetna dynamite, and Austin, Hazard, Ohio, and Oriental black powder. In 1890 he went into partnership with three other men, and started the Climax Powder Manufacturing Co. for the purpose of making dynamite. This company did well, and was bought out by Du Pont in 1903, who also purchased Kirk & Son at this time.

The Kirk cap tin has a tabbed bottom construction, which might indicate that the tin and contents were actually made by the Metallic Cap Manufacturing Company. It is interesting to note that Climax also sold caps in

a paper label tin with a tabbed bottom. Perhaps the Kirk tin was discontinued prior to 1903 in favor of the Climax model.

Now let's turn to the "illegal alien" of our group, namely the attractive Davey, Bickford, Smith tin. In 1831 Thomas Davey, William Bickford, and George Smith started a fuse manufacturing company in Cornwall England. They became very successful, and opened foreign factories in America (1836), France (1839), and Germany (1844). Evidently they later opened an Italian subsidiary with a plant at Taino. This factory subsequently was owned by Nobel, and finally by Montecatini before being closed.



**DAVEY - BICKFORD - SMITH (8)  
MILANO**

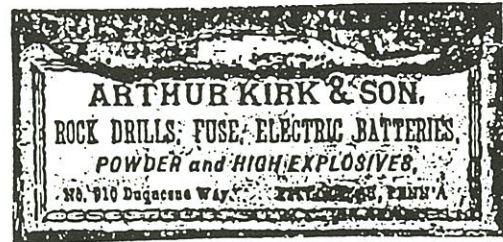
Painted red, with unpainted letters  
Reported by Alessio Grimaldi



**ATLAS, N° 8, 10 CAPS**  
Painted green, black, and gold  
Reported by John Podgurski



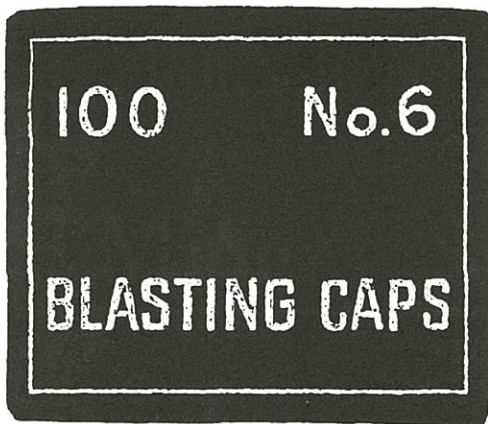
**ARTHUR KIRK & SON (top)**  
 Violet letters on buff paper  
 Reported by John Podgurski



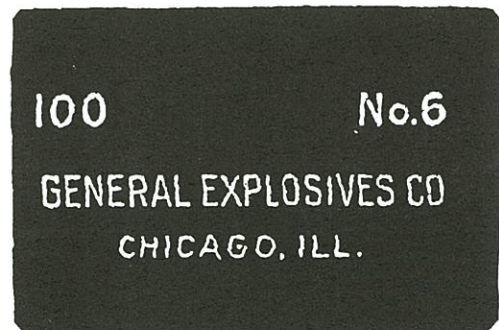
**ARTHUR KIRK & SON**  
 Paper label on bottom



**ARTHUR KIRK & SON**  
 Paper label on bottom



**GENERAL, No. 6**  
 Top of tin



**GENERAL, No. 6**  
 Painted maroon with gold letters  
 Reported by "Pappy" Yeats

# Daylight

Dave Thorpe and Dave Johnson

Cap lamps stamped with the "Daylight" name are occasionally found by American collectors. In every instance they have been originally acquired from Europe or Australia. Two distinct models exist: one resembling the

U.S. made Autolite lamp, the other roughly comparable to Justrite's vertical style cap lamp. Recently, we have received old advertising that identifies the origin of manufacture for each lamp as England.

## The Dargue Acetylene Gas Co. Ltd.

The Dargue Acetylene Gas Co., from Newcastle-on-Tyne, manufactured a cap lamp that looks very much like the common Autolite. The tank is a bit taller, and the base is ringed with two bands of rope-style knurling.

Examples are known with either oval or round water doors. The reflector on some models appears to be chrome plated. Dargue also advertised an eight-hour miners' lamp of a fairly plain design.

One advertisement (next page) displays their own patented household acetylene table lamp, which may have been more prominent in their product line.

OPPOSITE PAGE (ABOVE):  
Advertisement confirming Dargue's use of the Daylight name and showing their acetylene table lamp.

OPPOSITE PAGE (BELOW LEFT):  
Daylight cap lamp with oval water door (Errol Christman collection).

OPPOSITE PAGE (BELOW RIGHT):  
Daylight cap lamp with round water door (Manfred Stutzer collection).

LEFT: Advertisement for Dargue's cap lamp and 8 1/2 hour lamp (courtesy Manfred Stutzer).

## Acetylene Lamps for Mines.

They are simple in construction.  
They are easily managed.  
They are well made and do not wear out readily.  
They cost far less to maintain than oil lamps or candles.  
They give a bright cheerful light of much higher candle power than oil lamps or candles.

They prevent Nystagmus.

The printed report of the Committee which investigated the cause of Nystagmus shows the advantages of using Acetylene Lamps to overcome this complaint.

### CAP LAMP.

This is a neat well made lamp in polished brass. Will burn 3 to 4 hours on one charge and can be made to last a full shift by having an extra Carbide container filled with a spare charge.

Weight	.....	.....	under 5 ozs.
Height	.....	.....	3 1/4 inches.
Price	.....	.....	4/6

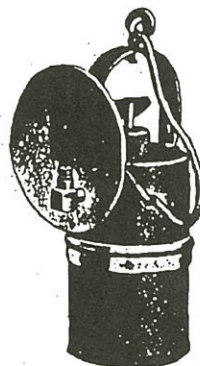
Extra Carbide Container, 9d.



### HAND LAMP.

Made of Sheet Metal. Strong, compact and easily carried. Will maintain a 16 C.P. burner for 5 hours or a 10 C.P. burner for 8 1/2 hours.

Height	.....	.....	8 inches.
Diameter	.....	.....	3 inches.
Lamp Suspended	.....	.....	13 inches.
Weight empty	.....	.....	1 1/2 lbs.
Price	.....	.....	8/6 each.



### CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

We can supply this material from 32 Depots, situated in different parts of the Country. Lowest current prices will be quoted on application.

Patentees and Sole Manufacturers

**THE DARGUE ACETYLENE GAS CO. LTD.,**

57 & 59, GREY STREET,  
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Telegrams:  
"Carbide, Newcastle-on-Tyne."

## The "Daylight" Acetylene Cap Lamp for Miners

of British Manufacture.

They are simple in construction.

They are easily managed.

They are well made and do not wear out readily

They cost less to maintain than oil lamps or candles.

They give a bright cheerful light of much higher candle power than oil lamps or candles.



### THEY PREVENT NYSTAGMUS.

The printed report of the Committee which investigated the cause of Nystagmus shows the advantages of using Acetylene Lamps to avoid this complaint.

This is a neat well made lamp in polished brass. Will burn 3 to 4 hours on one charge and can be made to last a full shift by having an extra Carbide container filled with a spare charge.

Weight	.....	.....	.....	under 5 ozs.
Height	.....	.....	.....	3 1/4 inches.
Price	.....	.....	.....	3/9

Extra Carbide Container, 9d.

## The "Dargue" Patent Acetylene Table Lamp.

As will be seen from the various illustrations, the "Dargue" Lamp can be adapted to any need by means of different fittings. It can be hung from the ceiling, fixed to the wall or placed on the sideboard or table.



HANGING HARP, for Hall, Kitchen or Garage. Complete, 35/-

BRACKET LAMP, for attachment to Wall of Room or Passage. Complete, 27/-



The TABLE LAMP fitted complete with 12" Silk Shade and Brass Stand. 35/-



The "POPULAR" LAMP, with Art Metal Triple handle Carrier. Complete, 22/-  
The Lamp is of solid brass, fully guaranteed, and the same in each case. With Burner alone it costs 17/6. This page illustrates four methods of fitting, but it is supplied fitted for every need. It gives a clear white light, without smell, smoke or attention (after once being charged and lit) for 5 to 8 hours (according to size of burner used).

We shall be glad to send fully illustrated Catalogue of the above lamps on application.



## Powell & Hammer, Ltd.

The P. & H. "Daylight" Cap Lamp originates from Birmingham, England. It is very well made of a very heavy gauge brass. As the advertisement indicates, it was available with two different sized reflectors as well as with round-hook or spade mount.

Powell & Hammer boast that they have been engaged in the manufacture of acetylene lamps for over 40 years, suggesting that the lamps of this style were made fairly late in carbide light history, probably the late 1940's. The rubber base protector is also indicative of a late manufacture.

LEFT: P. & H. Daylight cap lamp from the Bob Schroth collection.

BELOW: Undated advertisement for Powell & Hammer miners' cap lamp (courtesy Manfred Stutzer).



**THE "DAYLIGHT" CARBIDE CAP LAMP.**  
(For Miners and Sportsmen).

The No. 72 "Daylight" Cap Lamp has been designed by practical expert users of Miners' Lamps, and made by a Firm engaged in the manufacture of Acetylene Lamps for over 40 years. This combination guarantees the ideal lamp, and one which will give you every satisfaction in recommending to your friends.

Made throughout of heavy gauge brass, and lacquered.

Is fitted with a self-cleaning type of valve, the flow of water removing any foreign substance that may be round the outside of valve.

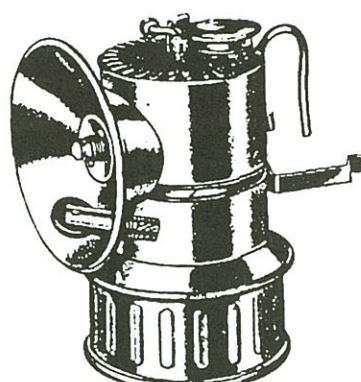
Fitted with non-splash filler cap, so that the lamp may be used in all positions without loss of water through same.

An extra strong, properly focussed reflector is fitted to the lamp by means of a screwed thread, there being no loose parts to lose when detaching reflector.


Can be supplied with either type of bracket as illustrated, and with standard or 4in. reflectors as below. State model when ordering.

No. 72	...	...	...	3/6
No. 72L (fitted with 4in. reflector)	...	...	...	4/-
No. 72H (Flat Hook fitting)	...	...	...	3/6
No. 72HL (Flat Hook fitting with 4in. reflector)	...	...	...	4/-
Rubber protector for carbide chamber	...	...	...	3½d.

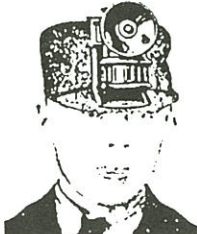
☞ The Mechanical Lighter fitted to this P. & H. "Daylight" Miner's Lamp is exempt from Excise Duty only when used in mines in the British Isles, and same is sold on the express understanding that it is intended for this purpose only.



No. 72.



No. 72 H.L.  
Showing 4" reflector flat hook fitting and — Rubber protector for carbide chamber.



Showing position on cap.

# Baldwin Look-alikes

*Dave Johnson and James Van Fleet*

Frederic E. Baldwin patented the first miners' acetylene lamp manufactured in the United States in 1900. Baldwin is known to have had a brief partnership with Albert H. Funke, of New York City. "After Baldwin received his patent in August of 1900, Funke obtained a license to the Baldwin patent rights to manufacture a mine acetylene lamp." (Clemmer, 1987). The Full Moon carbide lamps were advertised in the *Engineering and Mining Journal* in that same year. Baldwin himself incorporated in Pennsylvania in 1907 as the Baldwin Lamp Co., which became in 1909 the Scranton Acetylene Lamp Company.

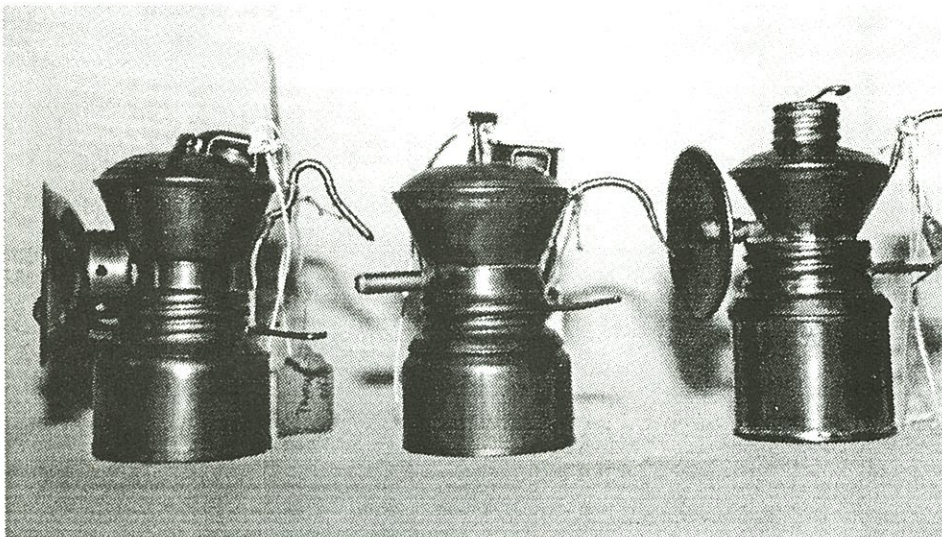
Other attempts at marketing his product include the short lived F.E. Baldwin Manufacturing Co. of New York, 1909. Throughout this period, Frederic Baldwin was probably contracting out the manufacture of lamps and lamp parts. Some tin-can style Baldwin lamps bear the monogram WV&B on the water feed lid. This was probably William Vogel and Brothers, tinsmiths from Brooklyn, NY.

Sometime in 1906, Baldwin entered into an arrangement with the John Simmons Co. of Brooklyn, NY for the manufacture and distribution of his carbide miners' lamps. The Sim-

mons Co. proved to be a good choice to guarantee the success of the carbide lamp. John Simmons and their agents in San Francisco and Montreal aggressively marketed the new lighting device. Dozens of advertisements for the Baldwin cap lamp appear in *Engineering and Mining Journal* between 1909 and 1915, including several cover ads.

Simmons also defended the product and the Baldwin patents in court, and a legal case from 1914 gives a description of the marketing and packaging of the Baldwin Carbide Pit Lamp for miners:

"There was difficulty in introducing the lamp to the intended users. Miners were not familiar with acetylene, and had to be taught its uses. Miners supply stores did not carry calcium carbid [sic]. The carbid on the market was usually in lumps too large for use in a cap lamp, and in some states mining inspectors would not permit the use of acetylene lamps in the mines. These difficulties, however, appear to have been largely... overcome in mines where safety lamps are not required, and the plaintiffs have sold the Baldwin lamp to the number of 900,000 or thereabout. The Baldwin lamp was packed in a pasteboard box with an extra carbid container... and equipped also with a wire for the purpose of cleaning the small opening of the gas burner, which wire was attached to a flat



*The radical evolution of Baldwin cap lamps, 1906 - 1912. From the Smithsonian Museum Collection.*



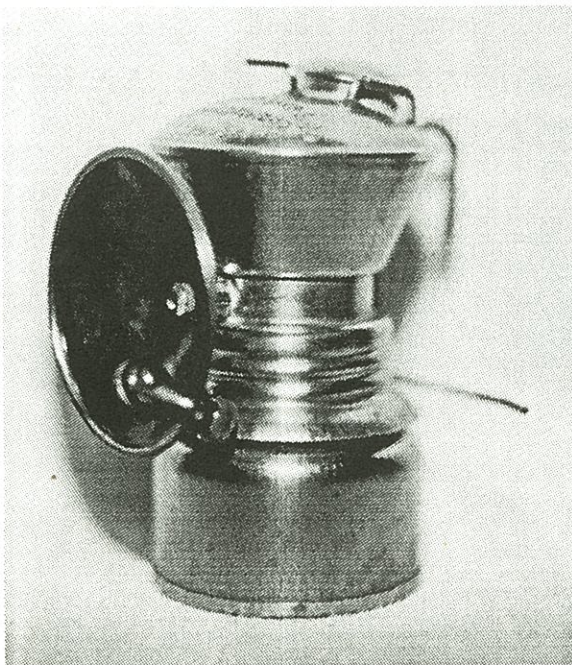
*Baldwin lamp ca. 1911 with original box and shipping package. Note the burner tip cleaner on the metal disc. From the White brothers collection. Photo courtesy Dave White.*

piece of metal of singular shape with a hole through it...In the box with the lamp and the extra carbid container and the cleanser was a circular, containing printed instructions to users in four or five different languages."

Simmons advertised an offer to send free samples to mining engineers and mine superintendents, packaged as the lamp previously described and shown in the photo above.

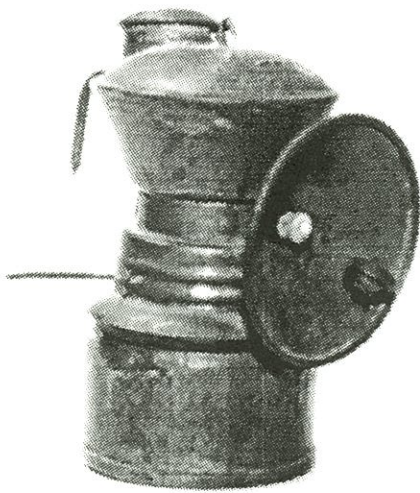
A very interesting sidelight on the Baldwin lamps is the reason for the legal case cited above. John Simmons Co. sued Grier Brothers Manufacturing in October 1913 for unfair competition, because:

"Some time in the ...year 1913, the defendant began the manufacture and sale of its lamp, called herein the "Grier" lamp. That lamp was designed to imitate the Baldwin lamp. This conclusion cannot be resisted from a careful consideration of the testimony and of the exhibits. It is similar in design. It was packed in a similar box. It contained the extra carbid container. It contained the cleanser, even with the piece of metal attached thereto, with a hole in it, and it contained an almost verbatim copy of the circular which accompanied the Baldwin lamps... [It] is true that there appears stamped in the brass which forms part of the top of the Grier lamp the name 'Grier Brothers, Pittsburgh, Pa.,' with a star, yet such stamping is on the same part of the lamp as the stamping of the Baldwin lamp."

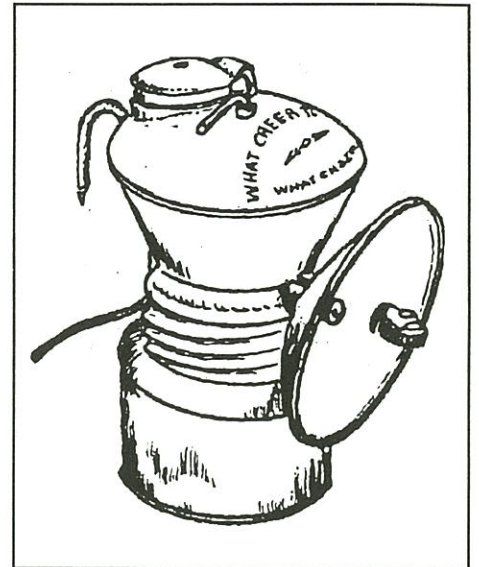
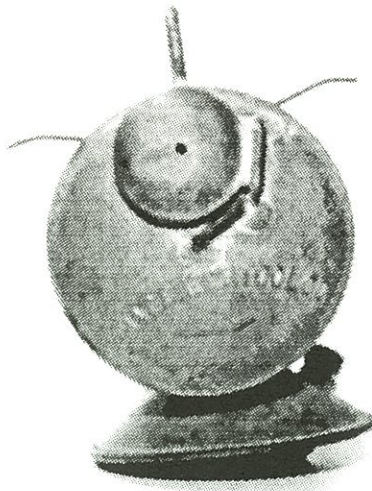


*"Exhibit A." Grier's imitation of the Baldwin Pit Lamp. (Dave Johnson collection).*





*What Cheer Tool Co. lamp. Photo by Jim Van Fleet.*



*What Cheer lamp (illus. by Pohs)*

Baldwin and John Simmons won their unfair competition suit, forcing Grier Brothers to remove the lookalike lamp from the market in January 1914.

Meanwhile, several other American carbide lamp manufacturers were apparently taking advantage of the success of the Baldwin/Simmons cap lamp, and producing virtual imitations. The What Cheer Tool Co. of Iowa sold such a cap lamp. Subtle

details suggest that Grier Bros. manufactured this piece for What Cheer just as they had done with their oil wick lamps. Funk Brothers Manufacturing Co. of Chicago Heights, Illinois also marketed their own stamped Baldwin look-alike. Though Funk Brothers (no relation to Al Funke) were listed in the 1914 Thomas Register as acetylene lamp manufacturers, the Grier connection is possible here as well.

It's hard to say if Baldwin himself profited from his arrangement with John Simmons. By 1913 he had set up his own company to manufacture the Zar lamp, and after 1917 and his last lamp patent, Frederic Baldwin disappears from the historical record.

**References:**

Baldwin et. al. v. Grier Bros. Co. 215 *Federal Reporter* 735, July 7, 1914.

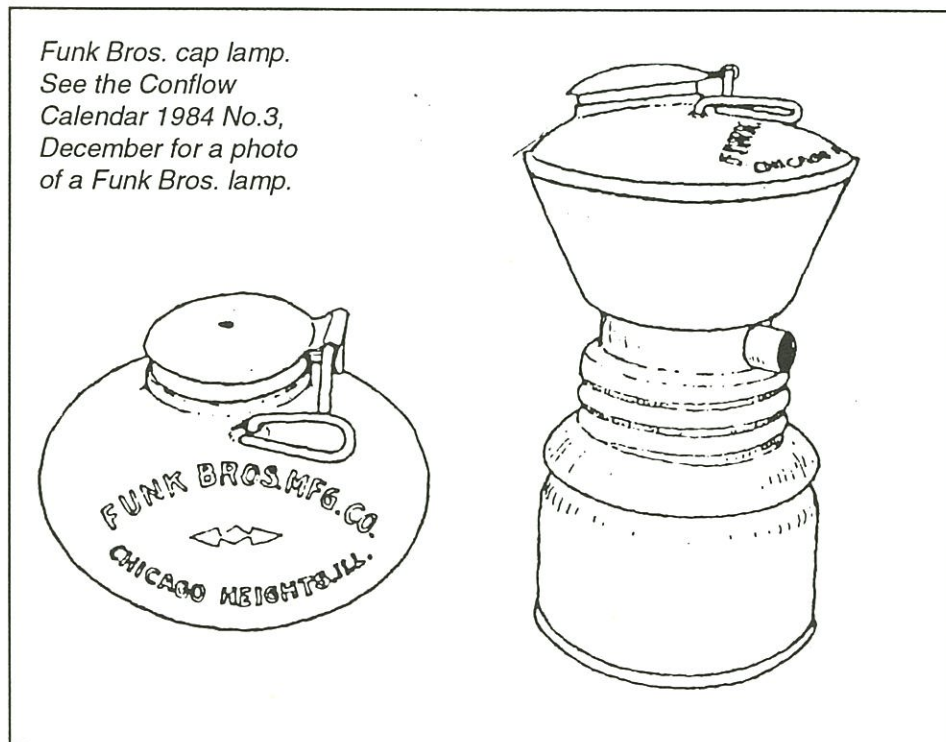
Clemmer, Gregg, *American Miners' Carbide Lamps*. Tucson, AZ: Westernlore, 1987.

Pohs, Henry. "Carbide Lamp Discoveries." *Underground Lamp Post*. v.3 n.6, Spring 1981, p. 1.

Pohs, Henry. "What Cheer Tool Co." *Underground Lamp Post*. v.4 n.3, Fall 1984, p.1.

Thorpe, Dave "Another Grier Carbide Lamp." *Underground Lamp Post*, v.4 n.6, Spring 1986, p. 1.

Thorpe, Dave. "Baldwin, Scranton, Victor and the Monogram 'WV&B'." *Mining Artifact Collector*. n.3, Spring 1989, pp.4-5.



*Funk Bros. cap lamp. See the Conflow Calendar 1984 No.3, December for a photo of a Funk Bros. lamp.*

# U.M.W.A. Badges

Mark Ballard

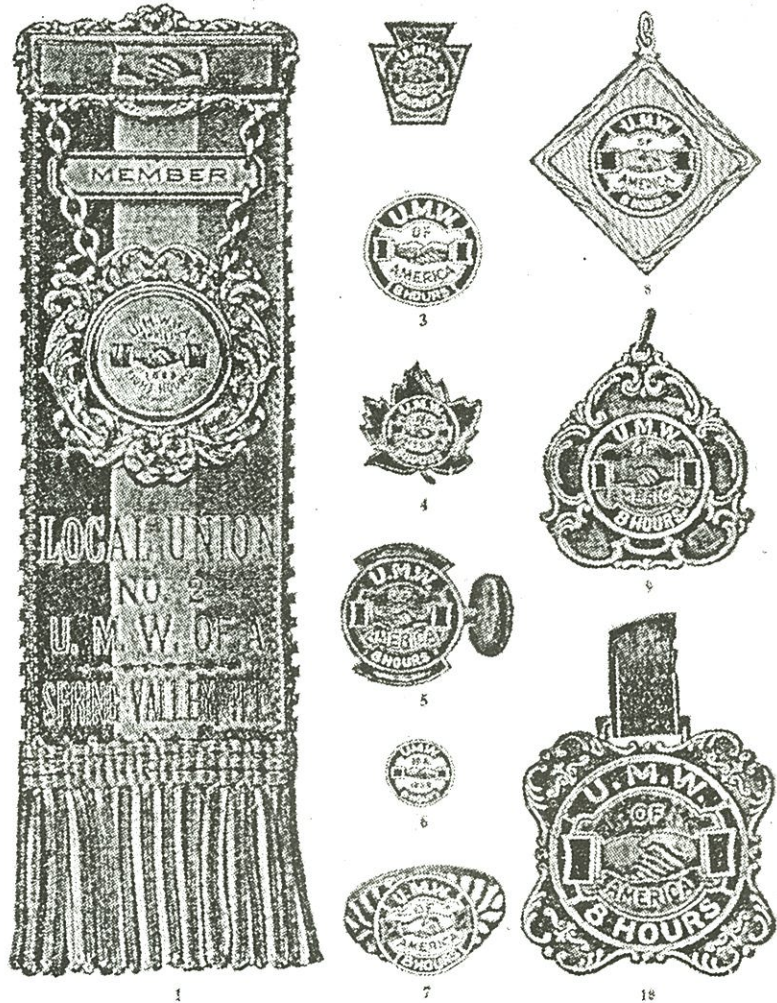
For those interested in collecting artifacts from the United Mine Workers of America, there is a vast array of items available: badges, ribbons, oil wick lamps, posters, advertisements, letters...even ash trays!

While no item can be considered common, the easiest by far to acquire are the convention badges. On the other hand, local union badges are fairly difficult to find as the number of union members at an individual mine was not great. Officers' badges are also rare since an entire mining district would have only one overseeing officer for a particular job. I have collected and studied U.M.W.A. badges for over 15 years.

Flea markets and shops are fine places to pick up these items, but the old miners are your best bet. At U.M.W.A. conventions today money clips, key chains, watch fobs, pins and photos are still distributed as they were years ago.

I have been asked several times what the numbers on the local union badges signify. Does a lower number indicate an older badge? This does not seem to be the case. In any state there can be several local unions, old and new. The mine I worked at (Orient #4) was sunk in December, 1951. Our local number is 9878. A mine sunk here in southern Illinois two years ago was given number 70.

## Mine Workers' Emblem Jewelry

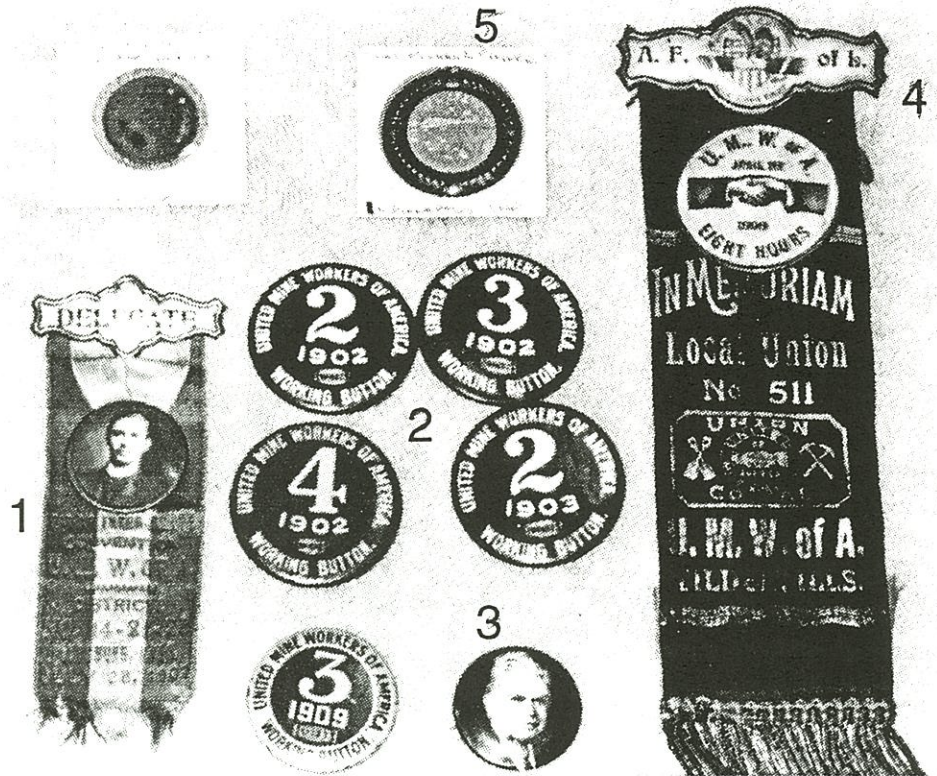


1. Reversible Badge. Ribbon trimmed in gold or silver braid and fringe to match. Metal parts finished in gilt, silver or copper oxidized finish.
- |                |          |                  |            |
|----------------|----------|------------------|------------|
| One badge..... | \$1.50   | 50 or more ..... | \$9.65 act |
| 2 or more..... | 1.25 act | 100 " " .....    | .62 "      |
| 5 " " .....    | .82 "    | 250 " " .....    | .69 "      |
| 12 " " .....   | .71 "    | 500 " " .....    | .53 "      |
| 25 " " .....   | .56 "    |                  |            |
2. Reversible design for Pennsylvania. Finished in fine grade white hard enamel, official emblem in colors. Price, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
  3. 5/8-inch Regulation Round Emblem. Gold Plate, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
  4. Maple Leaf (design for Canada). Made in the beautiful colors of the maple leaf. Price, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
  5. Cuff Buttons. Gold plated quality, especially designed for Mine Workers. Per pair, 50 cents; \$5.00 per dozen.
  6. 5/8-inch Regulation Round Emblem. 10 Karat Solid Gold, 60 cents each; \$6.00 per dozen.
  7. Rings. 10 Karat Solid Gold, Emblem enameled, each \$2.00.
  8. Charms. Gold filled, French hard enamel, new design, each \$1.25.
  9. Charms. Rolled Gold and French hard enamel, each \$1.00; 10 Karat Solid Gold and French hard enamel, each \$5.00.
  10. Pins. Special design—Medallion Gold finish with French hard enamel emblem, same colors as cost button. Price, 25 cents each; \$2.50 per dozen.
- Badges and emblems are strictly UNION MADE. Send orders with remittance in full to

Many badges have a black side. At funerals, union members would wear the black side out. There was a \$1.00 fine for not attending a funeral.

An advertisement in a 1916 U.M.W.A. Journal (previous page) shows prices for various badges. A local shop in southern Illinois, The Herrin News, made and took orders for these items. Several of the badges in my collection are from The Herrin News.

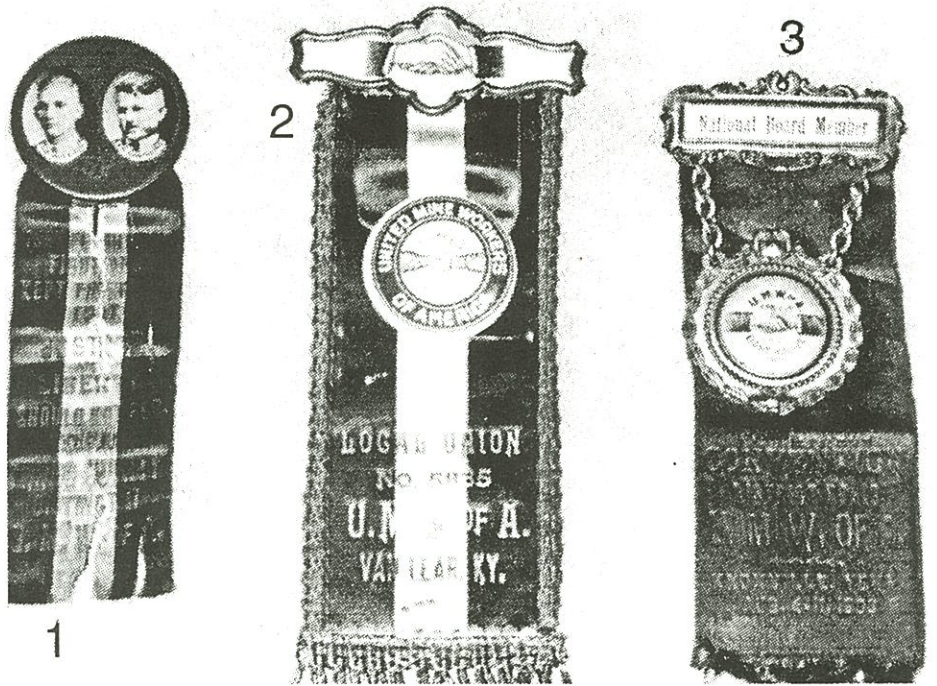
If one of our readers needs help identifying a badge they have found, I would be happy to assist. I am also cataloging badges from all states and labor organizations. Your help would be appreciated.



1: John Mitchell, 1902, Pittsburg, KS. First Interstate Convention.  
 2: #2 for February, # 3 for March, #4 for April, etc. 3: John L. Lewis photo. 4: U.M.W.A. Local 511, Tilden, IL. Note the A.F. of L. logo at the top. 5: Indiana convention (no date),

Listed below are district numbers and their corresponding states:

#	State
2	PA
4	PA
5	OH
6	OH
11	IN
12	IL
14	KS
15	CO
17	WV
18	Canada
20	AL
22	UT
23	Madisonville, KY
26	Canada
28	VA
29	WV
30	WV



1. Sid Hatfield & Ed Chambers, Mingo County, WV District 17.  
 2. Van Lear, KY 5835 Local Union. This is Loretta Lynn's father's local.  
 3. National Board Member Badge. U.M.W.A., Knoxville, TN 1903.

# American Ores & Asbestos Co. by Todd Town



Along the southern crest of the Sierra Ancha Mountains, eight mile north-northeast of Roosevelt Lake in Arizona, lie 29 unpatented asbestos mining claims. They were originally located by Charles Watkins in 1914. Mining started in 1916. In 1917, Charles F. Sloane acquired the property and organized the American Ores & Asbestos Company. By the end of the 1920's the limit of most known ore was reached and mining ceased.

During the period of greatest activity at the mine, about 275 men were employed. The average production by the skilled miners amounted to 75 pounds of fiber per man per day.

In 1923 W. G. Shanley acquired the property through lapsation of assessment work, and organized the International Asbestos Company. Mr. Shanley confined his operation to experimenting with milling methods, designed to enhance asbestos production at the mill end, from the rock discarded on the dumps, and used to fill slopes. Shanley recovered 65 tons of fiber, and made shipments.

The deposit of asbestos was unique for fiber that was of exceptional length. Some specimens were 14 inches and are believed to represent the longest cross fiber chrysotile yet found in the world.

10,000 feet of working lay dormant until the early 1950's when Mr. Ed Town leased the property from Mr. Shanley. The mine once again was in

operation. The underground workings were yielding fiber once again and a portion of the ore bearing property was open pitted. A mill was set up and shipments of asbestos were made. After only a few years, the mine-able fiber was again depleted. The mine was abandoned, the mill was dismantled, and assessment work was allowed to lapse.

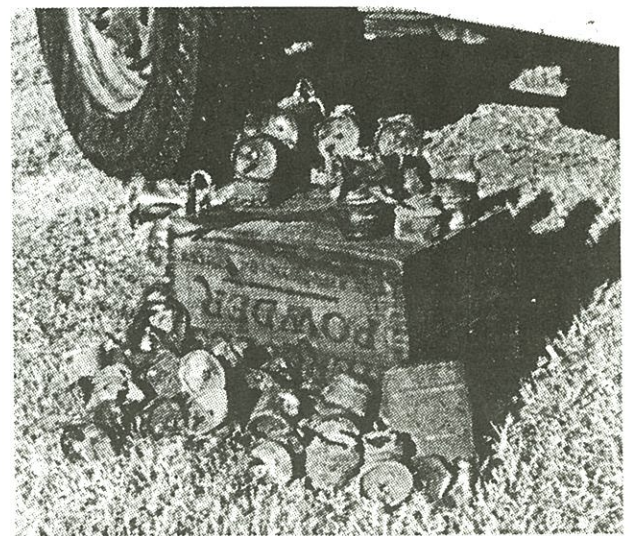
In visiting the mine site on many occasions, my wife and I stumbled onto the town site of the early miners. It consisted of dry stack rock foundations on which tents were used as shelter. At least three permanent wood structures once stood: the largest being a kitchen and mess hall, with two stoves still in place. The other two wood buildings were used as the pay office and the foreman's quarter. After breaking out the metal detectors and finding the usual tokens, coins, and trash dumps, our attention soon turned to the many lamps, and parts and pieces of lamps, that started to come out of their sleep.

The lamp of choice of the early miners was clearly the Justrite cap lamp, beaded base, lever feed. Three Justrite No. 35 candle-stick attachments were found, one still attached to the lamp. Several Inspectors' lamps were unearthed, two being nickel-plated. The only evidence of hand lamps being used were two tops off canister type Wolfs.

Three company time checks showed up (photo above), one unrelated to American Ores and Asbestos Company.

Justrite was a durable lamp and did the job, but the casualties were many. Hooks and hat braces broken off or mashed flat were the norm. Concave permanent reflectors were just that: very concave. Lighter attachments didn't stay attached, and hinged oval water doors found themselves unhinged.

But the early miner at the American Ores Mine had one indispensable ally, definitely an after-market *add on*. There was as much wire on some lamps as there was lamp. Wire was used for hinges, handles, feed levers and hooks. It must have been a constant struggle to keep the lamps in a working manner. American Ores Mine to us was a classic hard rock mine rich in history and plentiful in well used mining artifacts.



# A Chest of Wolf Safety Lamps & Parts

Bob Werner

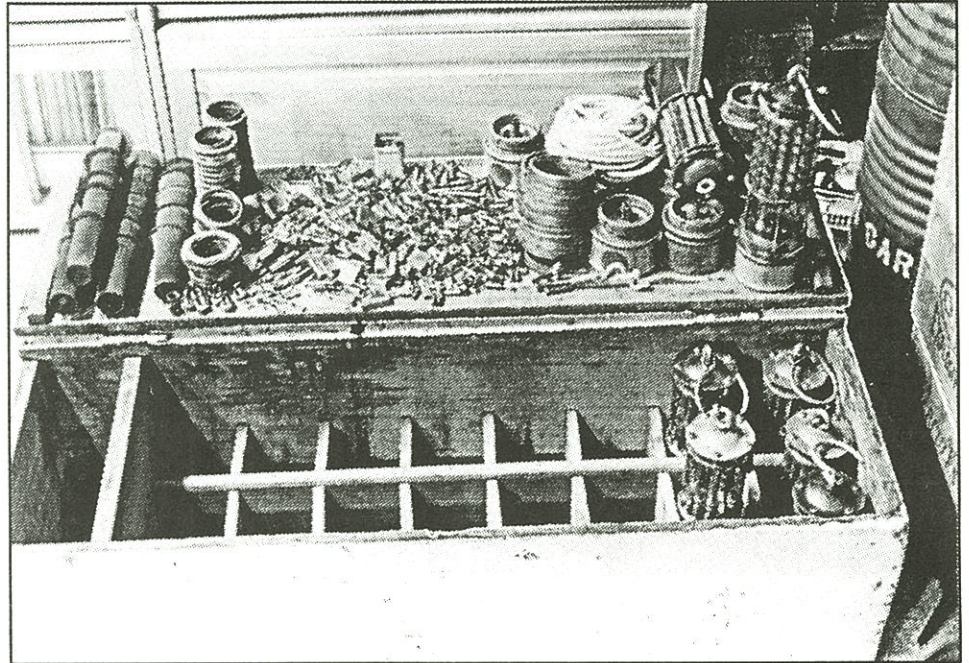
Motorists traveling Interstate 80 tend to pass through Rock Springs, Wyoming as fast as possible, stopping only for gas or a meal. The eroded, wind-swept landscape is barren and desolate with wintertime temperatures sometimes falling to forty below zero. At an elevation of 6271 feet, Rock Springs seems an unlikely location for a town. The area is, however, rich in history, as the town lay in the path of the Union Pacific Railroad as it pushed west over the continental divide in the 1860's.

Howard Stansbury reported coal from the area in his 1849-50 survey of the Great Salt Lake and Southwestern Wyoming for the Bureau of Topographical Engineers. In 1862 the Overland Trail Company established a stage station here adjacent to a spring in the rocks, hence the name Rock Springs, and by 1868 with the arrival of the railroad, the first coal mine was opened. The town and surrounding area became a major coal producer with numerous mines operated by The Union Pacific Coal Company. Coal mining flourished here until diesel locomotives forced the closure of the mines in the 1950's-60's. By 1965 the last mine had closed and except for a recent resurgence in mining activity, very little remains today to remind us of that early heritage.

In the summer of 1990 I met a retired scrap dealer in Rock Springs who had the salvage contract for the UP mines in the 1960's. Most of the mining equipment in the area eventually wound up in the melting ovens

of steel mills. A few items however, had been salted away and I had the good fortune to examine a garage with possibly all that remains to be discovered today of that coal mining era. Buried in a pile of blacksmith tools and assorted mining implements

hard bargaining, I was able to give the chest and its contents a new home. The mice, however, have had to find other quarters and have surely died of lung cancer by now!



was a wooden chest which caught my attention. Extracting it from a nearly floor-to-ceiling pile of treasures, I found that it contained a number of Wolf Model 100 Flame Safety Lamps and hundreds of lamp parts, not to mention being home to a family of mice. The glass, which is often the first part to go, was in short supply: only eight remained. The mice had chosen the asbestos gaskets for nest material in preference to a new roll of wicking and bundle of cotton wadding for the fonts. Nearly all other parts were in abundant supply, especially the relighter assemblies which totalled nearly 100. It was a fortunate find and after some

## References:

1. The Union Pacific Coal Company, *History of the Union Pacific Coal Mines 1868 - 1940*, 1940.
2. A. B. Hooker, *Construction, Care, and Use of Permissible Flame Safety Lamps*, WSBM Circ. 44, 1944.
3. A. Dudley Gardner, Verla R. Flores, *Forgotten Frontier - A History of Wyoming Coal Mining*, 1989.
4. Craig Storti, *Incident at Bitter Creek*, 1991.



## Book Review (D. Johnson):

Hardrock Gold, A Miner's Tale

Author: Tom Morrison

This exceptionally well written account of the experiences of a young miner is presented in the third person. Tom Morrison began his mining career in a tin mine in his native England where he was a student at the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. Working first as a timberman's mate, he progressed to machineman's mate, and then to machineman. Unlike most mining engineers, the author learned the *practical* side of mining by working underground for 15 years, progressing from shift boss to mine captain, before actually working as a mining engineer.

We follow the author in his travels as a tramp miner from Cornwall, to Rammelsberg in the Harz Mountains of Germany, to Porcupine and Yellowknife in Canada, to Cripple Creek, and finally to New Foundland.

The author vividly brings to his readers the realities of underground mining, the excitement, and the danger. He brings to life the eccentric characters who daily face the uncertainty, darkness, dampness, heat, and cold of underground mining. This book is a must for those who want one man's explanation for what draws men to toil in the depths of the earth.

Published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1992, this book is available from the Book Lode.

## Aurora Mine Cigarette Case

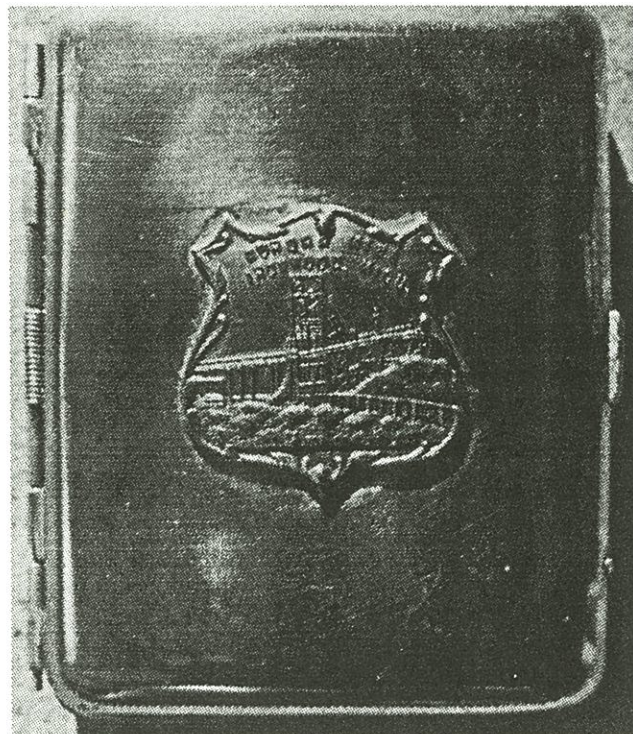
Mining related oddities continue to surface for those willing to really search the deep recesses of the collecting world. Looking closely at items that one generally would not expect to have a mining theme can often reveal an exceptional mining collectible. I have obtained pens and pencils with the names of mining companies, padlocks marked with mining company names, knives, and belt buckles with a mining theme, advertising pocket mirrors from mining companies and any number of other oddities.

I recently purchased this cigarette case in Ironwood, Michigan. The case is made of nickel-plated brass.

Was this item produced as some type of company award or was it something that was sold in local stores as a souvenir?

The raised plaque on the front of the case shows the headframe and ore piles of the Aurora Iron Mine, located in Ironwood, Michigan, on the Gogebic Iron range. The Aurora Mine was owned by the Oliver Iron Mining Co., a subsidiary of U.S. Steel.

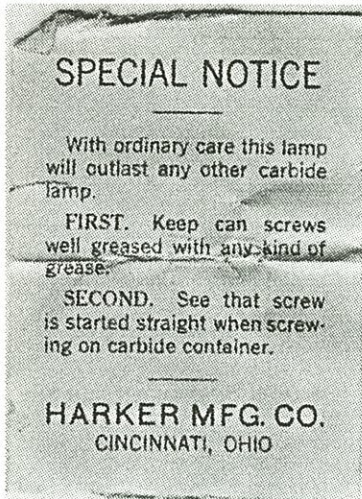
I found this particular item buried in a small showcase in a local junkshop, after asking the owner if he had any mining related items and being told that he had recently sold everything that was related to mining.



Cigarette case (Dave Johnson collection).

## Britelite Instructions

A rare bit of lamp-related ephemera, the instructions found in the bottom of an unfired Harker Brite-Lite carbide cap lamp.



## Canadian Mine Bell Sign

**STANDARD SIGNALS**  
DISTRICTS OF THUNDER BAY AND RAINY RIVER  
The following code of signals shall be used in conjunction with the code of signals required by The Ontario Mining Act:

**CODE OF LEVEL SIGNALS**

TOP DECK, SKIP or BUCKET DUMP	
IN HEADFRAME	
SHAFT or WINZE COLLAR	
1st. LEVEL	2 - 1
2nd	2 - 2
3rd	2 - 3
4th	2 - 4
5th	2 - 5
6th	4 - 1
7th	4 - 2
8th	4 - 3
9th	4 - 4
10th	4 - 5
11th	5 - 1
12th	5 - 2
13th	5 - 3
14th	5 - 4
15th	5 - 5
16th	6 - 1
17th	6 - 2
18th	6 - 3
19th	6 - 4
20th	6 - 5
	7 - 1
	7 - 2

20" X 13"

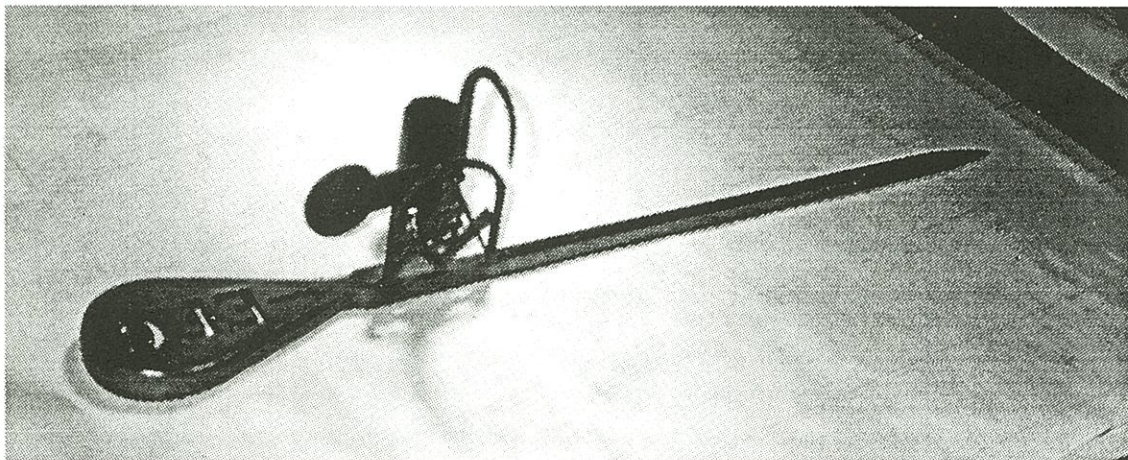
This blue on white porcelain bell signal sign is from the Canadian Mining Districts of Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

The Thunder Bay District, on the northern shore of Lake Superior, had copper deposits on Battle Island, east of Thunder Bay, on St. Ignace Island in Nepigon Bay, at Black Bay on Shebandowan Lake, at Pointe-aux-Mines and elsewhere. The Thunder Bay Mining District also included the extremely rich silver mine on Silver Isle in Lake Superior.

The Rainy River Mining District, lying east of Lake of the Woods, had copper deposits, but most mining activities were centered around the District's fissure gold veins.

## EFG Candlestick

Dave Gresko has acquired this presentation stick. It is 14" long and the workmanship is superior. He will consider trading it for several rare carbide, oil or safety lamps.



# F.W. Braun Catalog 1911

## MINING CANDLES

The lighting section of the F.W. Braun Co. of Los Angeles is made up of three pages. As the catalog date is 1911, a relatively early time for acetylene lighting, it is a very interesting informational piece.

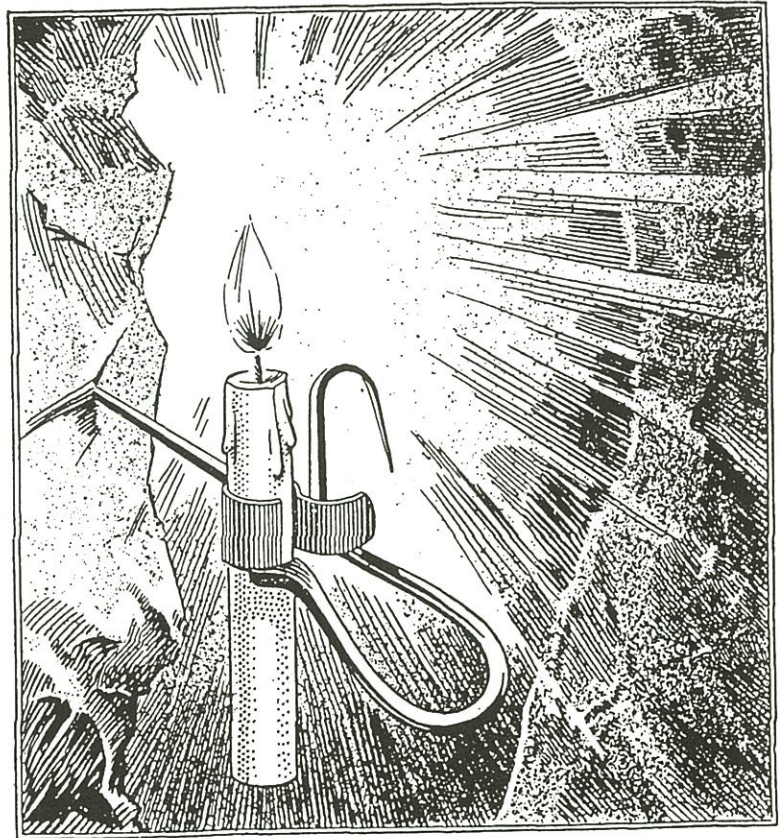
The illustration on this page advertises their "Western Brand" candles. The Type A candleholder appears to be a Varney style, while Type B is very close to the Ludlow-Saylor "California". Perhaps sticks stamped with the "Western" name will be found.

On the following page is the earliest advertisement thus far for a Milburn acetylene hand lamp. It is very bizarre.

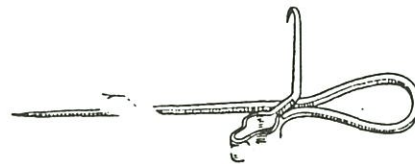
Below the Milburn is an array of Baldwin lamps including the pinchwaist model adapted for use with a candleholder.

The F.W. Braun Co. appears to be a subsidiary of the Braun-Knecht-Heimann Co. of San Francisco.

The catalog illustrations were submitted by Bruce Beck, of Phoenix Arizona.



R 5422 B



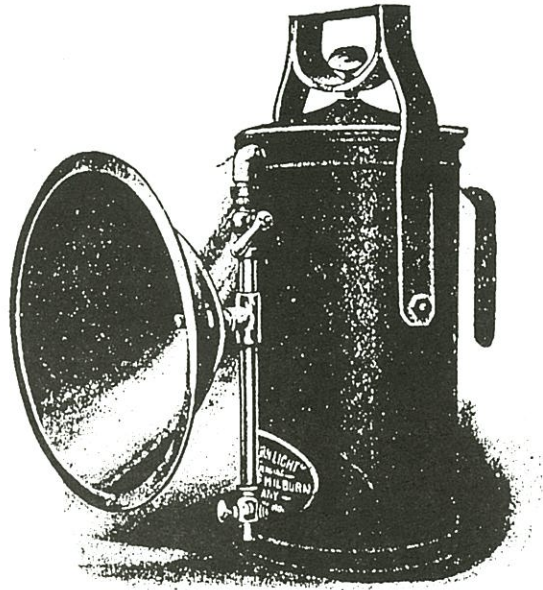
R 5422 A

MINING CANDLES—We are headquarters for the "Western Brand." Its reputation for quality is unexcelled. Made in two grades; stearic acid and adamantine. Prices quoted on application.

- |         |                                      |              |              |        |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| R 5422A | MINERS' CANDLE STICKS—Western No. 1. | Hand forged. | Each . . . . | \$ .50 |
| R 5422B | MINERS' CANDLE STICKS—Western No. 2. | Hand forged. | Each . . . . | .50    |



## MILBURN LIGHTS

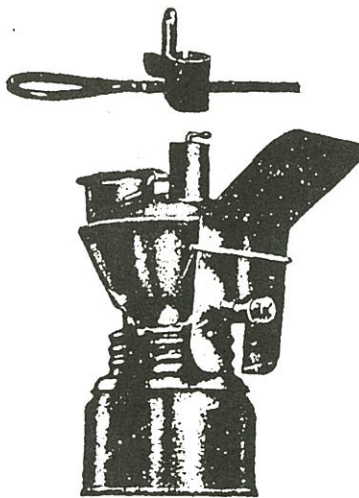


R 6205 - 6210

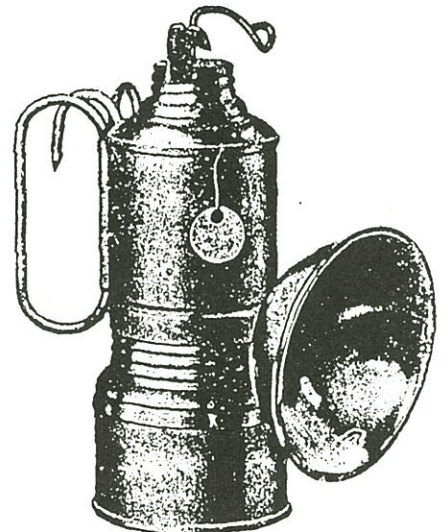
## MINER'S LAMPS



R 5422 C



R 5422 D



R 5422 E



# TRADES & SALES



## RATES

Ads up to 75 words labeled "For Trade" or "Wanted" are free to subscribers. Ads with items for sale, up to 50 words, and business cards will be published at the rate of \$6. For subscribers, quarter-page ads are \$25, half-page \$50, and full-page ads \$95. The fee for non-subscribers is \$15 for ads up to 75 words. For larger ads, add \$25 to fee for subscribers. Fee includes custom computer layout. Members of the editorial board are charged for all sales advertisements.

**Eureka! will not publish prices on items for sale. Contact seller for prices.**

**No reproductions of any type will be knowingly advertised unless so stated.**

**No member of the staff will act upon an advertisement in EUREKA! prior to its mailing.**

## CONDITIONS

Ads must be submitted for each issue in which they will appear. Send all ads to Jim Van Fleet prior to Dec 10, Mar 10, Jun 10, and Sep 10 for publication in the following issue. Ads are accepted on a space available, first-come first-served basis. We reserve the right to refuse any ad. Eureka! assumes no responsibility or liability for the contents of ads; however, every effort will be made to assure a high standard of honesty in advertising.

If any advertiser is contacted about an item in their ad prior to the publication being mailed, they are asked to report the incident to the Editor in Chief. Remember that it is to the advertiser's benefit to wait until Eureka! is in the hands of all subscribers before disposing of a trade or sale item. Please keep in mind that a trade or sale conducted through the mail is not complete until both parties are satisfied!

**Wanted:** Lid for Atlas No. 6, round, globe "B" cap tin (see p 14 of Cap Tin Catalog). Must be in good cond. Will Moats, 8409 Fairmont Dr. NW. Albuquerque, NM 87120. (505) 899-1163

**Sale/Trade:** Carbides, oil wicks, safeties, and miscellaneous mining items. For complete list send SASE to Dave Gresko, 4134 Forest Lawn, Toledo, OH 43623 (419) 841-7521

**Trade/Sale:** Wolf carbide cap lamp, brass, Simmons Pioneer cap lamp, Simmons Pioneer "short tank style", American Mining Tool Co. face oil wick, Trethaway Surveyors' wick lamp (tin), Trethaway face lamp (tin), J. Anton face lamp (brass and tin), Unmarked aluminum Clanny, "Nesco" squib container, Hercules No. 6/100 cap tin, Hercules No. 6/25 cap tin. Jeff Shanks 2003, Yardley Rd., Yardley, PA 19067 (215) 736-9107

**Available:** Carbide lamps, oil lamps, sticks, stocks, transits, dynamite boxes, scales, weights, tokens, postcards. Wayne Roberts, PO Box 558, Chino Valley, Arizona 86323 (602) 636-2345

**Wanted:** Anything relating to the Upper-Mississippi Valley Lead/Zinc district: artifacts, mineral specimens, books, map, documents and (especially) photos. Book on history of this district now in preparation; would like opportunity to photograph or copy any items "not for sale." Mark & Lynn Langenfeld, 2020 Harley Dr., Madison, WI 53711 (608) 274-8242

**Trade:** Ashworth-Hepplewhite-Gray, Clowes, and Pieler safety lamps. Lester Bernstein, 4212 Washington Ave. S.E., Charleston, WV 25304

**Needed:** Water doors for Justrite Little Giant & Uncle Sam; Carbide chamber screw cap for Hardsocg 3-compartment carrier; Grier 3-rib bases for cap lamp. Paul & Nancy Hyatt, Box 481, Port Ewen, NY 12466 (914) 338-9131.

**Trade:** Unfired ZAR. Early style with nameplate. Few very minor dents. Top frozen on bottom. Square German style carbide hand lamp with glass window front and sides, black painted steel. Larry McReynolds 703-762-7318

**Books & Bindery:** Out-of-Print Earth Science Material. Hand Binding & Repair. Jerry Pressler P.O. Box 1014, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924 (916) 274-2665

**Sale Trade:** Brass Pocahontas carbide cap lamp. Exc. cond. Wanted UMWA items. Mark Ballard 1204 Anderson Dr., Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-8482

**Wanted:** Michigan Copper Mining stock certificates, books, and related paper. Chuck Voelker, 614 Harding, Plymouth, MI 48170 (313) 451-5911


**NEW FREE CATALOG!** with photos OF OVER 150 ANTIQUE STOCKS and BONDS. Please send name, address and collecting interest if any. We want to **BUY OLD**

1. **STOCKS and BONDS**, especially Mining
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Goldenrod, Fl. 32793  
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**GREAT BASIN MINERAL CO.**



**BOB & CAROLE WERNER**  
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GREEN RIVER, WY  
82935  
(307) 875-4748

## Unfired Antons For Sale



Early Brass Mines' Lamp

Several varieties:  
All brass with drip spout.  
Brass and tin.  
All tin.

Jim Van Fleet  
(717) 966-3308

## Mining Stock Certificates

*For Trade or Sale*

*Send for free descriptive lists of old mining stock certificates, issued periodically. Each mining stock certificate researched and described as to type, history, location of the mines, and description of vignette on certificate.*

Russell Filer  
13057 S. California St., Yucaipa, CA 92399  
(714) 797-1650

## Ken Rupp Artifacts

814-944-9307

### Trade or Sale

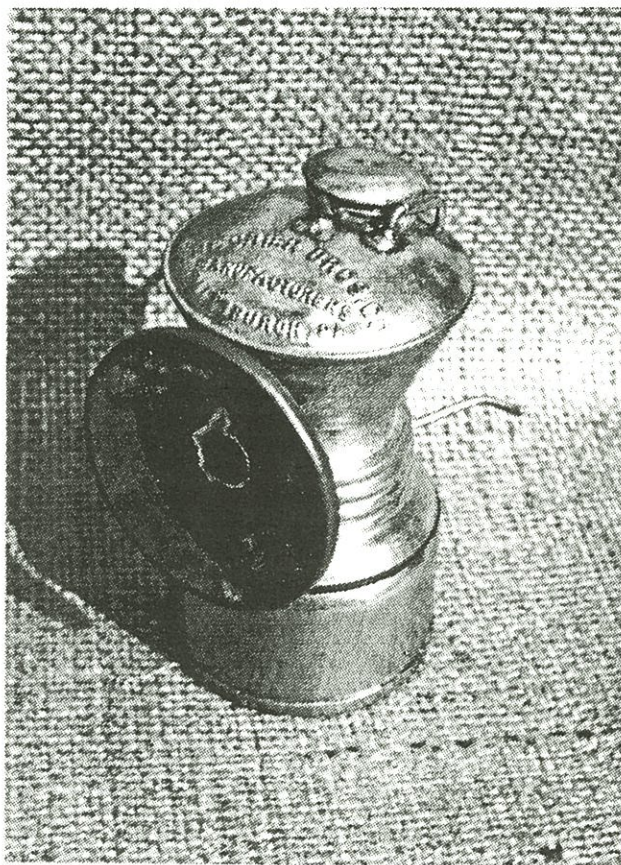
Dunlap oil wick lamps (in original boxes).  
Gem bottom  
Baldwin Bottom  
Boxed Guy's Dropper  
Boxed Baldwin  
XRAY box

### For Sale

2 lb. Union Carbide Cans (mint, red & cream color)  
American Safety Lamp & Mine Supply Co. Clanny lamp  
Early Justrite Victor cap lamp, brass  
Simmons Pioneer cap lamp  
Leader carbide flask  
Oil wick lamps  
Atlas Midget Blaster  
Brass Colliery shift whistle  
Company Store chit books

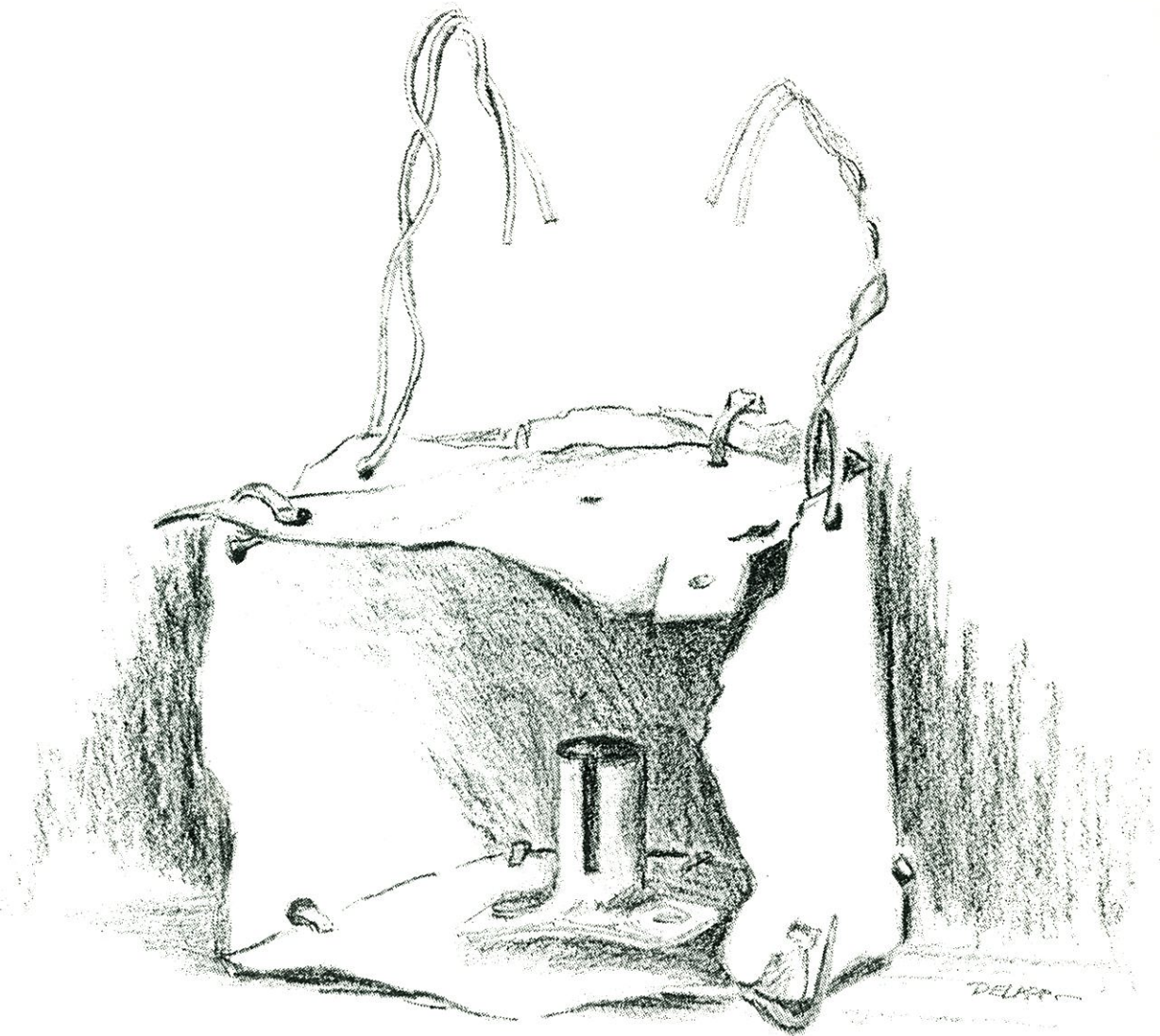
### Wanted

Carbide 3-compartment "service stations"  
Elkhorn, Springfield (or Springfield base),  
EverReady, other rare carbide lamps  
Union Carbide hip flask  
Baldwin style conical-shaped reflector w/ striker  
(Grier pinch-waist).



### Trade Only

Grier pinch-waist carbide cap lamp with flat push on reflector. (See photo above)



*Candle Lantern - Eberhardt Mine, Nevada*

*Most open faced candle lanterns (bug lamps) were modified tin cans, i.e. lard pails, coffee cans, tobacco tins or the favorite "Log Cabin" syrup can. The Eberhardt candle lantern is unique in that it is assembled from three pieces of sheet metal joined together with horseshoe nails. Rather than the usual "X" pattern cut in bottom of can to accommodate the candle, a 1 1/2 inch high candle socket is riveted to the bottom of the lantern with two 1/4 inch iron rivets. This does not allow for any candle height adjustment and limits candle length to six inches.*