

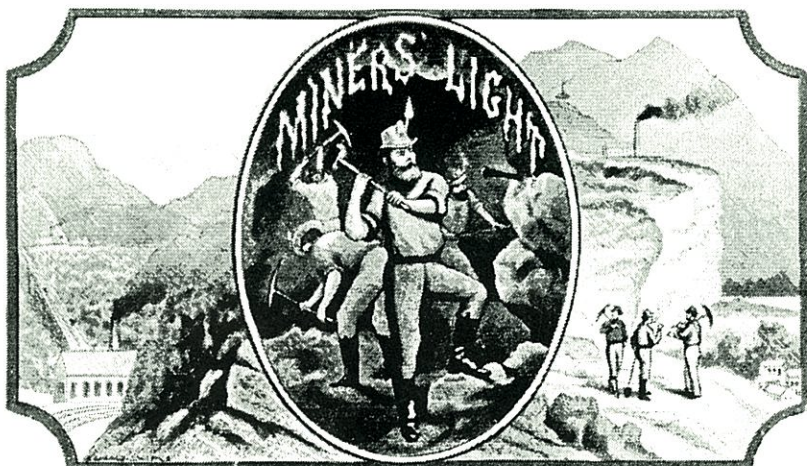
# EUREKA!

THE JOURNAL OF MINING COLLECTIBLES

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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:** Tobacco labels showing mining motif. (See article, page 9).

**Back Cover:** ACME lamp ad. (See article, page 7).



# EDITORIAL



## Rambling on...

As we approach the tail end of the twentieth century, it becomes a rare event when we can enjoy buying, trading or otherwise acquiring a mining artifact from its original owner. There is real pleasure in being able to talk with an old miner about how he used that lamp or tool, and then adding it to your collection. Now collectors have to haunt the flea-markets and auctions hoping to find second-hand treasures as close to the source as possible. But most of us, at one time or another, buy mining memorabilia from antique dealers.

Oh, those antique dealers.

The stereotype would go something like this: middle-aged male, secretive, apparently has no last name, definitely has no long-term memory. These individuals know just enough about everything to be dangerous. Their business philosophy does not include the concept of "regular customer," and they use collector's business cards to line bird cages. They do not use telephones.

Like most stereotypes, a grain of truth, and a bit of exaggeration. We deal with people at this level because we want them to sell us only really good items, cheap. The tradeoff is that we don't dare tell them which ones are the really good item. We may not even tell them we are collectors, and we hope that they won't ever meet another collector. The unspoken message is "I don't care where you got it, or how hard you worked for it, or how much it cost you, as long as you sell it to me and only me, cheap."

In fact, if you stop to talk to them, some dealers will work hard to find what you want, and promise to offer you first chance at any mining items they find.

And in too many cases, a collector will respond by treating the dealer like a mushroom: trying to keep their own personal source in the dark, and calling them a "picker," which is not necessarily a compliment. Inevitably, some rare and wonderful item will surface, and it will slip through all the promises, pass through the hands of the dealers or pickers, and land wherever fate meant for it to be.

This is no way to do business. If your definition of "hobby" is sharing an interest with other people, and having some inexpensive fun, this does not qualify.

And the result of this kind of business-as-usual is starting to hurt collectors. Reproduction and modern production lamps and downright fake artifacts are becoming more common, and some are good enough to fool not just the dealers, but the collectors who buy from them. Unscrupulous dealers (and collectors) do exist, and when both dealers and collectors are secretive about their sources, the bad guys can hurt a lot of us before we catch on.

In some very rare cases, a collector may develop an honest working relationship with a dealer that benefits them both. In these instances, the collector will share some of the finer points of mining memorabilia. He will point out the obvious fakes and reproductions that surface all too often these days. If the antique dealer can keep a promise, and at least offer first dibs to the collector, their business transactions can be almost as enjoyable as buying a lamp or other mining artifact from the original owner.

Once that mining artifact is in the hands of the collectors, we're playing by a different set of rules.

One of the assumptions when collectors buy, sell, or trade amongst themselves is a high degree of honesty and trust. We also assume that the other collector knows what he or she is doing. And there is the probability that you will deal with each other again. We take more care with our fellow collectors, because we want a good reputation within the hobby. We trade with collectors we enjoy dealing with, and avoid some others.

Why the double standard? Dealers have become an essential part of the mining memorabilia pipeline, and if we don't behave well towards them, they will not serve us well.

The bottom line is, a lot of us are interested in this hobby for the people as well as the memorabilia. We should probably do business with a few dealers we trust, and treat them as well as we treat our fellow collectors. At the same time, we should be wary of collectors who treat others as if they were just anonymous customers.

## ...And Other Stuff

The October issue of EUREKA! marks the fourth and final issue for 1993. We are enclosing a renewal form for 1994, and we hope our readers think EUREKA! is worth continuing. As the saying goes, "keep those cards and letters (and photographs) coming!" Many thanks to the collectors who contributed to this issue: Ken Rupp, J. Roger Mitchell, Craig Stolberg, Herb Dick, Dave DesMarais, Andy Martin, Mike Puhl, Manfred Stutzer, and Ray Morrison. Now, if some of our 300 or so other subscribers would try their hand at a short article, 1994 will be very interesting.

# Canary in a Coal Mine

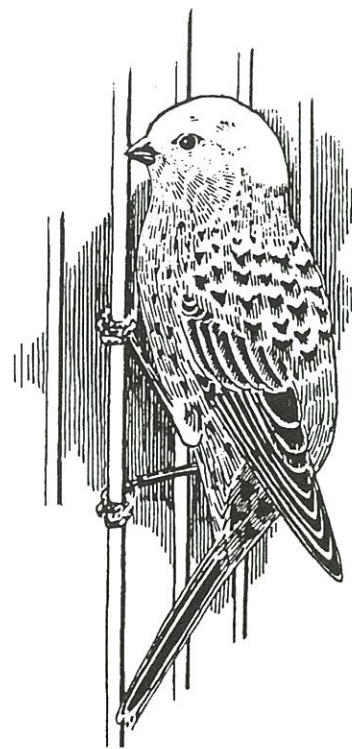
by J. Roger Mitchell

Since the mining of coal began, animals have played an important part of the daily operation. Though their roles varied, only one was used solely to save men's lives: the canary. Many a miner was heard to say "I am willing to go anywhere the canary survives." And for good reason. Many miners died from the unseen presence of carbon monoxide gas and with the aid of the canary he was able to detect it. Housed in the small wicker cages which we now collect, the canary deserves its place in mining history.

The need for detecting gases in coal mines has been known for hundreds of years. Many of the early superstitions were no doubt related to the mysterious, unseen gasses that were present in the mines and responsible for many deaths. Various methods were devised as a means of detecting inflammable gas in the workings. As early as the reign of James II in Midland counties of England the pre-shift examination of a mine consisted of lowering a dog into the shaft in a basket. He would howl when he got into unsafe gases. From that practice in the early mines, the gas examiner was known as the "doggy" and retained that name for many years. Later, techniques were developed using a candle and its reactions in gaseous environments but this proved dangerous because of methane and the risk of explosions.

Mine air does not differ from atmospheric air, except that in its passage through the mine, the ventilating current gives up certain amounts of oxygen to the coal and to the various processes of combustion (breathing of men and animals, burning of lamps, etc.) and receives a certain amount of other gases in place of it. The most common of these gases are carbon dioxide (black damp), methane (fire damp), and carbon monoxide (after damp). Because the breathing of carbon dioxide and methane have little effect on humans, a method to detect carbon monoxide was needed because it will kill humans. As a mine gas, carbon monoxide has probably caused more deaths, certainly more at one time, than have all the other gases combined. Carbon monoxide is usually associated with excessive blasting, underground fires or explosions of methane or coal dust. Because carbon monoxide was generally produced as a result of an explosion, rescue teams were the primary users of canaries.

Early canary history shows that about 500 years ago a ship sailing from Spain, bound for Africa, was wrecked off the coast of the Canary Islands, which are located off the coast of Africa. Their island of refuge was inhabited by birds they had never seen before and which had a beautiful song. The irresistible song of these birds caused the ship-wrecked sailors to capture some of them. They



placed them in little cages made from thin twigs and bound together with long grasses. In the years that followed, canaries gradually became the most popular song birds in Europe.

Germany was probably the first country to commercialize canaries in a big way, sometimes exporting them in lots of a hundred, a thousand, or even more, to just one customer. And, as they had hundreds of customers all over the world, it's easy to understand that millions of canaries have been exported from Germany over the years caged in little wicker cages reminiscent of the early Spanish cages. This is why today collectors find cages with the water bowls marked "Germany". The birds housed in these cages were the smallest and least expensive of the market which was convenient for the miners as many birds were needed. Later, during the war years, exportation of canaries from Germany was difficult and the birds were imported from other European countries such as

Holland. American breeders also supplemented the demand. Even today such varieties as the German bred "Hartz Roller" and the English "Gluck Canary" are still popular breeds.

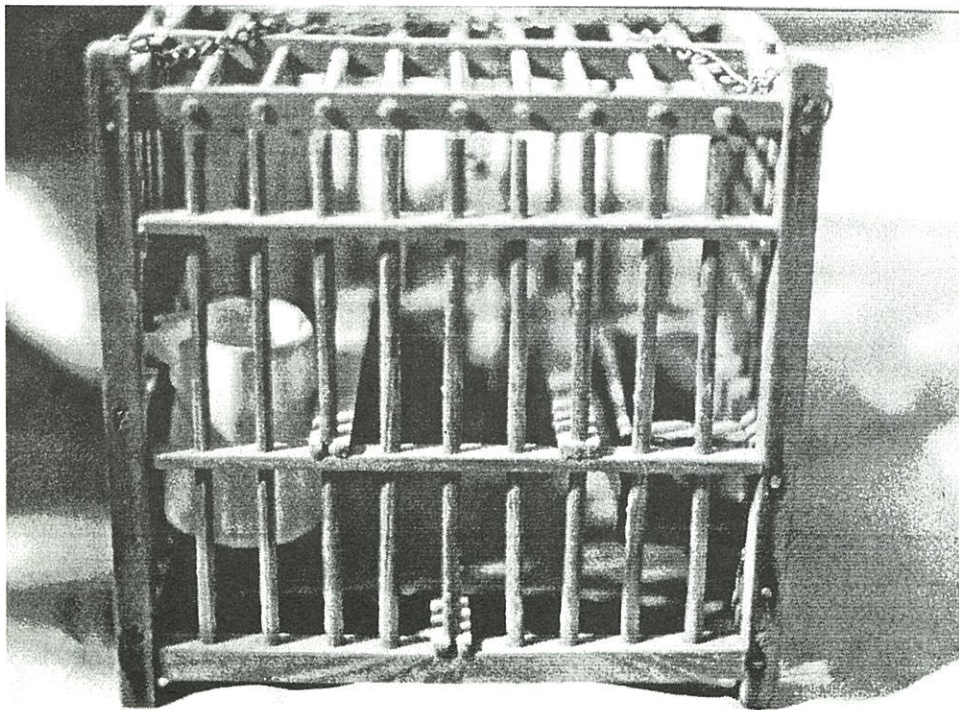
For years, small animals, particularly canaries and mice, were used as means of detecting carbon monoxide in the mines. This fact poses the most mysterious question: why canaries? History shows that the canary has been a popular household pet since the year 1610. Perhaps during the years of no electricity, a number of lamps burning in a confined room may have overcome the bird. This fact would have spread quickly and was possibly understood by the miners. Or, because all warm blooded animals are susceptible to carbon monoxide an understanding of the canary's metabolism may have been a clue and resulted in further testing.



*Miners use canary in simple cage to test for carbon monoxide.*

Canaries proved to be the best detectors of the presence of carbon monoxide as they showed signs of distress faster than other small animals.

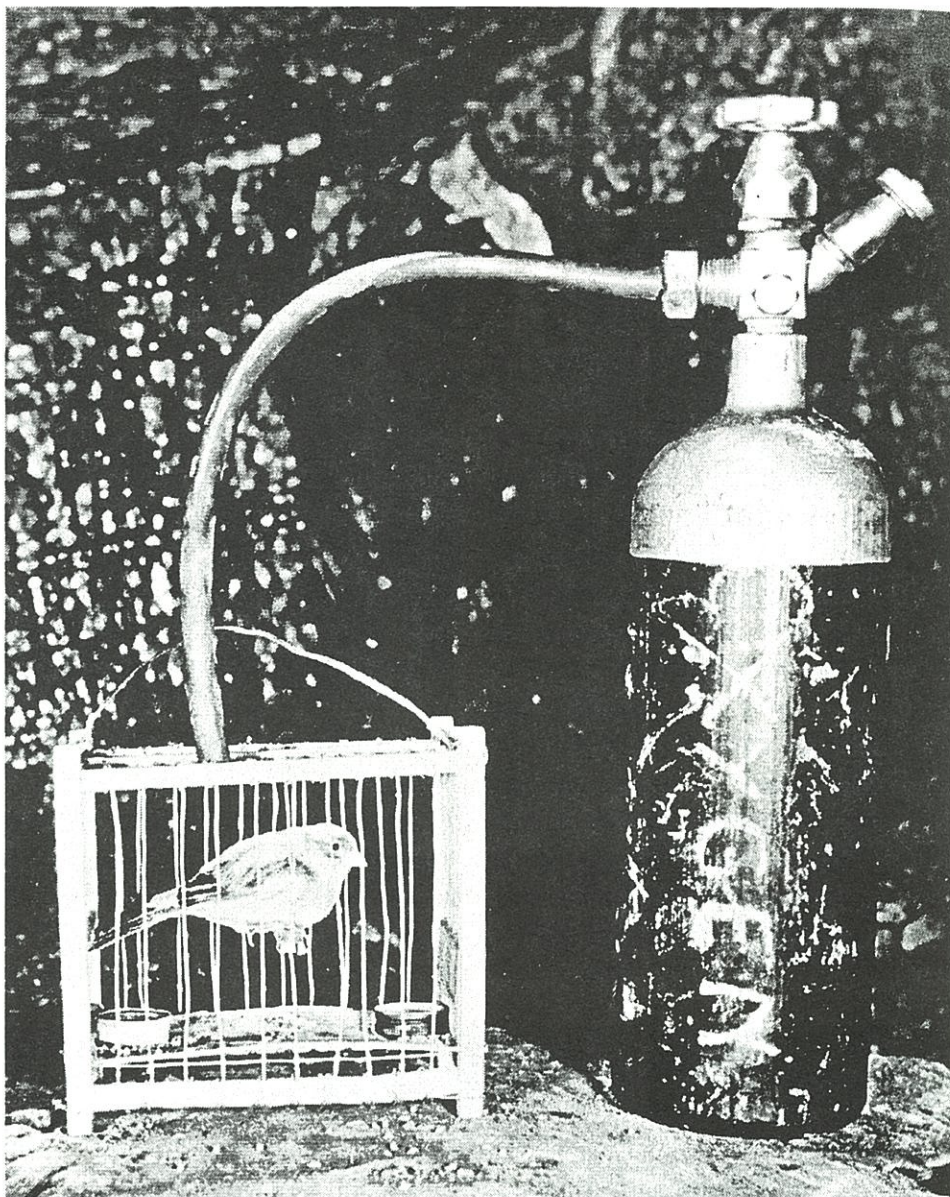
Through the years other animals were used and ranked in their effectiveness: canary,1; mouse,2; chicken,3; small dog,4; pigeon,5; English sparrow,6; guinea pig,7; and rabbit,8. Mice were ranked next to canaries in sensitivity, and a special breed, known as the Japanese waltzing mouse because of its continuous twirling movements, was found to be somewhat more sensitive to carbon monoxide than the canary. Mice generally moved very little in their cages so differences in their behavior were less noticeable. Therefore, canaries were preferred for several reasons. Because their metabolism was greater, they absorbed more of the gas and showed signs of its effects sooner. The canary could be revived if taken to fresh air and allowed to recover and then be used again. Also, canaries bred easily in captivity and were readily available from suppliers.



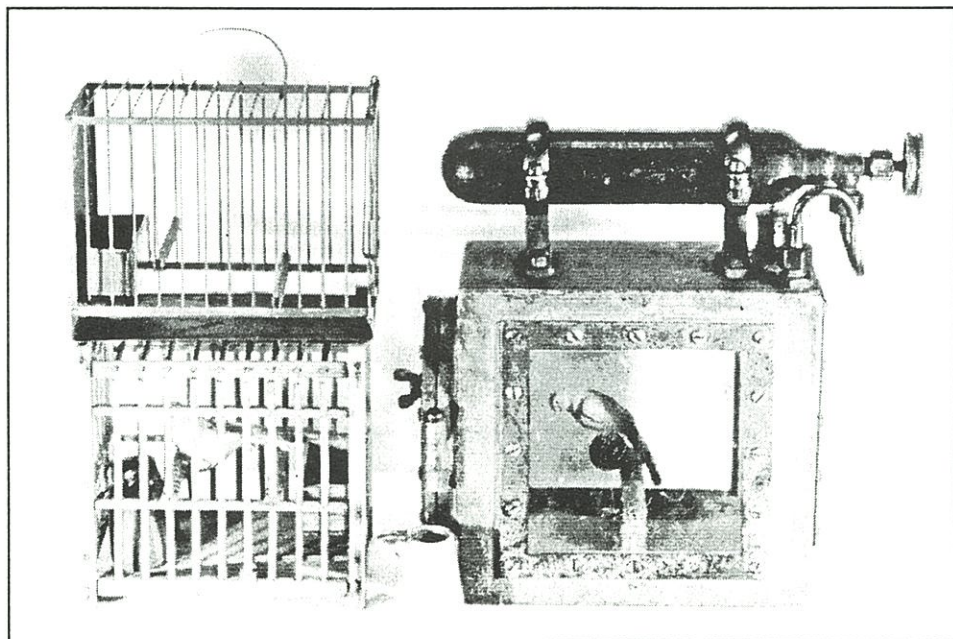
*A typical canary cage with bowl at side.*

The use of canaries also had drawbacks. Canaries of the same variety often reacted differently to the same percentage of gas present and some would even build up a tolerance to the gas upon repeated use. Another was they could not be relied upon to give indications of rather low concentrations of carbon monoxide that can produce very uncomfortable symptoms in man, particularly if the man is performing moderate to strenuous exercise while the canary is at rest in its cage. To overcome these shortcomings, rescue teams often only took canaries they knew reacted to low levels of gas through previous testing and usually took more than one canary into the mine at a time. It also took a well trained rescuer to be able to "read" the bird as often times the excitement of the rescue overshadowed the bird's reactions.

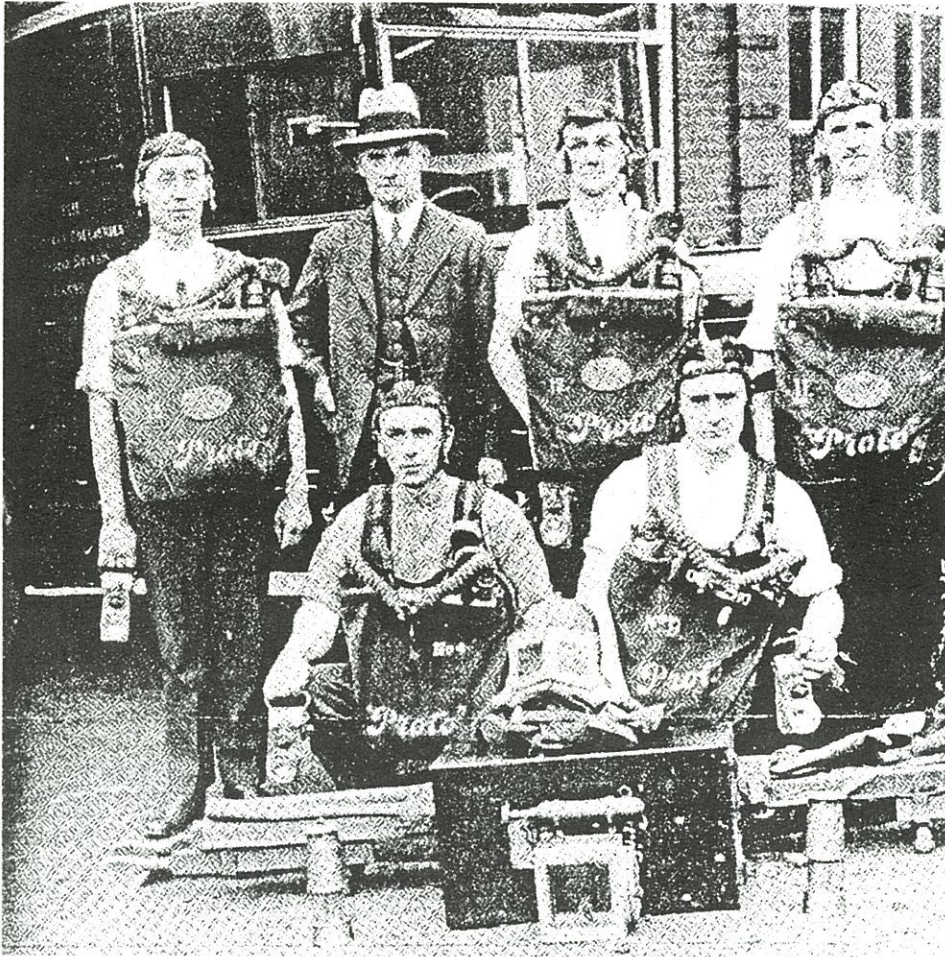
Generally speaking, most wooden canary cages found in mining antique collections are roughly the same size, 6 1/2" X 6" X 6", and of similar construction. Many variations of size exist but nearly all possess two perches, a water bowl, and a seed trough.



*Above: A simple canary testing apparatus with supplemental oxygen for resuscitation.*



*Left: Three different cages: a metal cage, a wooden cage, and a fully enclosed cage with oxygen cylinder.*



*A typical mine rescue team.*

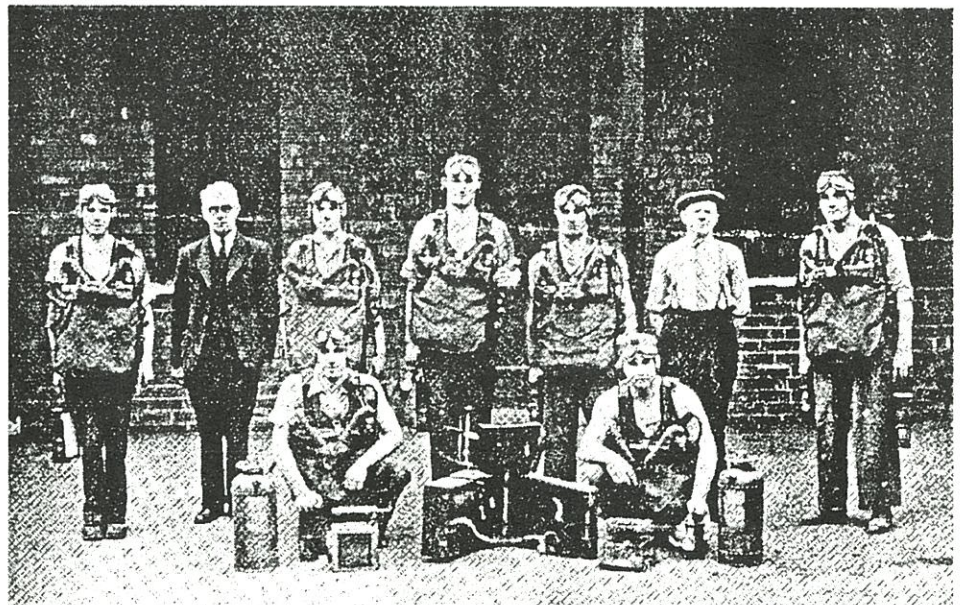
In researching this article, it was found that most European cages were much larger possibly attributed to different mining techniques. American coal seams were much more restricted and therefore required smaller equipment to be used in them. Canary cages were no exception. Some European cages were quite large and even made of metal. Because cost was always an issue, American miners no doubt opted for the smaller wooden cages of cheaper construction.

Tracing the cages back to one or even several manufacturers is nearly impossible as compared to other mining collectibles. Because of their simple construction, there were no doubt many, many makers of these

cages. The cages we call "miner's canary cages" were given out with the purchase of every canary whether

it be a miner or a bird fancier; like the plastic bag given out with the purchase of every goldfish. Imagine a hundred year from now trying to trace the origin of a plastic bag back to its maker. The same task is encountered with these wooden cages. Often times distributors were the Hartz Canary corporation and Justrite. Examples of these do exist but were likely resales and not the manufacturers of the cages.

To date, only one canary cage is known that was designed specifically for mining purposes. It was manufactured by the English firm of Siebe, Gorman and Co. of London, England in 1914. In the U.S. they were marketed through their agent, N.R. Elmer of Chicago, IL. Examples are known to exist but are extremely rare. This new cage was made of aluminum and had mica windows in the back and both sides for observation of the canary. It measures 12" X 12" X 6" and weighs 8 lbs. The front had an oval air-tight door with coarse wire mesh over it to keep the canary from escaping. The door was kept open during exploration of the mine to allow the



*The Wath Joint Rescue Brigade, November 1941.*

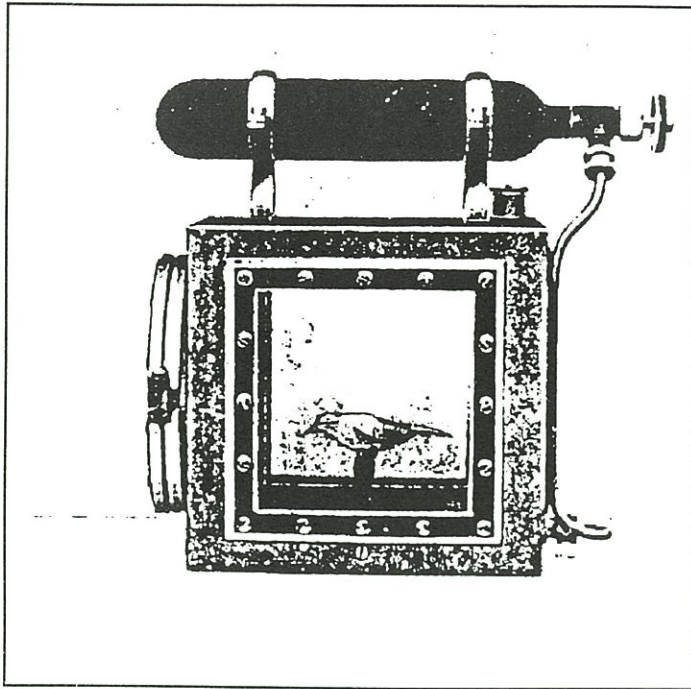


Photo No. 51

## The Animal Air Tester

Indispensable to Rescue Parties when Exploring Mines

Photo No. 51 illustrates a special form of box designed to carry out the recommendations of the late Professor J. S. Haldane, C.H., F.R.S., with regard to the use by men with rescue apparatus of small animals, such as birds and mice, for testing the air at any desired point of a mine, and localizing poison zones.

It comprises an aluminium airtight box with mica windows at the sides and ends, a hinged door which can be quickly opened and closed, a small cylinder of oxygen, which also forms a handle for carrying, and a relief valve and connections.

When it is desired to test the air at any particular point, the door of the box is opened to admit the surrounding atmosphere. If carbon monoxide be present, the animal will quickly become affected. Immediately this occurs the door should be closed tightly and the valve opened to admit oxygen to revive the animal, which is then safe and ready for testing the air at any other point of the mine.

Size 12 by 12 by 6 in. Weight: 8lb.

*This "canary cage", the only one made specifically for miners, was made by the Siebe Gorman & Company.*

mine air to enter the cage. When the door was closed, a little oxygen was released into the air-tight cage which would quickly purify the air within the cage and revive the canary so it could be used again. Excess pressure was vented by a valve at the top of the cage. The oxygen cylinder on top of the cage doubled as a carrying handle. This type of cage proved to be an essential part of most English mine rescue teams for many years but saw only limited use in the U.S.

Because most miners were reluctant to abandon proven techniques or equipment, canaries remained in use after the turn of the century even with the advent of improved safety lamps. Coal Age magazine released an exhaustive study on gas testing in 1915 that showed a canary could live in a 7% carbon monoxide environment that would otherwise be fatal to humans. However, under the same con-

ditions, a safety lamp was extinguished. This strengthened the use of safety lamps and would ultimately lead to the demise of the canary as a testing device. By the 1930's safety lamps were mandatory for use in detecting carbon monoxide by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Today, the little wooden cages that are found in most collections should not only serve as an antique of mining but as a reminder of how vital such a small animal was in such a large industry.

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3. *Mine Gases and Methods For Detecting Them* by *J.J. Forbes and*

*G.W. Grove*. Bureau of Mines Circular 33. March, 1954. p. 71-72.

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5. *Mine Gases and Gas Testing* by J.W. McTrusty. 2nd Edition.

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7. *Cage For Animal Air Tests* by W.C. Stump. Script Talk.

8. *The Canary Bird/Safety Lamp Controversy* by W.C. Stump. Script Talk.

Personal Communication: Hans-Joachim Glapa (Germany), Manfred Stutzer (Germany), Chuck Young, Tony Moon, Craig Hindman, Lester Bernstein.



# Justrite Acme Hand Lamps

by Len Gaska

As with the cap lamps of that period, Justrite hand lamps produced from 1913 to about 1921 were the most interesting in terms of variations, features, and styles. By 1921, the constant experimentation and sometimes oddball designs of the earlier years had disappeared. Primary to this change in company philosophy was the departure of Augie Hansen from Justrite in 1920.

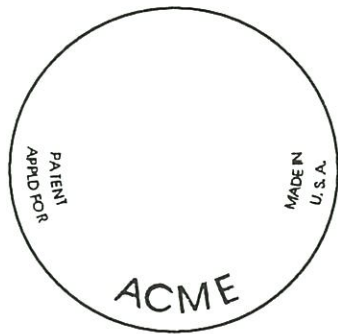


Fig.1



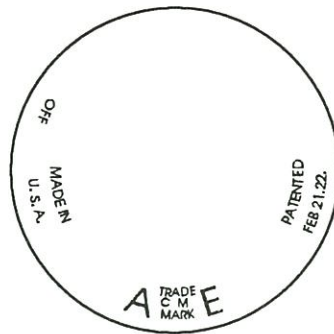
Fig. 2

The Acme (Justrite model Nos. 50, 50A, 56, 56A, and 80) hand lamps first appeared in Justrite Catalog No. 5 (circa 1922). Also first appearing in that catalog was the Victor cap lamp. I consider the Acme to be the “big brother” of the Victor since they share some design similarities. The Acme was a fairly radical departure from earlier Justrite hand lamps as it had a much more modern appearance and employed a round water door and either a wire feed or a polygon feed. Those features had been largely standardized in Justrite’s cap lamps by 1922. The Acme was also Justrite’s first steel hand lamp. Tony Moon wrote the definitive article on the Acme lamp in the *Underground Lamp Post* and much of the information in this article was first reported by Tony.



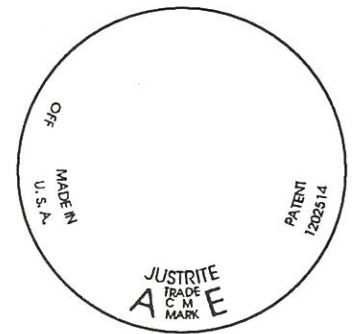
Type I

Fig. 3



Type II

Fig. 4



Type III

Fig. 5

The Acme was made in three basic styles. The No. 50 hand lamp (fig. 1) has a hook and bale and has a tinned finish. The No. 56 (fig. 2) has the same finish but has folding handles instead of a hook and bale. Finally, the No. 80 model is similar to the No. 56, but has a nickel-plated finish and was advertised as a superintendent's lamp.

The Acme was produced in three basic variations as described below.

Type I - This variation was produced from 1921 to 1925 and is marked on the top as shown in fig. 3. It was equipped with a 3 inch reflector and the Polygon water feed. The markings on the water lever are shown in fig. 7. Reflectors are marked "PATENT APPLD FOR - MADE IN USA" around the lighter hole.

Type II - This variation was produced after 1925. The top markings are shown in fig. 4. Reflector sizes of 3 and 4 inches were available. The height of the water tank is increased by 1/2 inch over Type I. A sub-variety with an unmarked 4 inch reflector was also produced.

Type III - This variation was also produced after 1925. Top markings are shown in fig. 5. Only 4 inch deep-dish unmarked reflectors are found on this variety. The height of the water tank is increased by 1/4 inch over Type II. It has a wire water feed marked as shown in fig. 6.

Other variations and characteristics observed are as follows.

1. Reflectors. Another variation in the reflector is the presence or ab-

sence of an indentation to prevent rotation found on Type III.

2. Water door. The Acme is found only with round water doors as seen on the cap lamps of that era. The major variation is in whether the water door is ridged with concentric rings on top or not. All the Acme water doors I have seen are nickel-plated brass. There were also two variations in how the water door was attached to the lamp body.

3. Finish. Although the tinned and nickel-plated finishes are standard, I have observed several models with painted finishes, although it is unknown if the paint was applied at the factory. One painted model in my collection has a black finish and the other is olive drab which might indicate it was used by the military. The olive drab example also has a flat strap fixed handle.

4. Size of water chamber. The water chamber was increased in height and diameter over time to increase the burning capacity from 5 to 8 hours.

**Reference:**

Development of the ACME carbide lamp. Tony Moon, *Underground Lamp Post*, Volume 2, Number 8 (Spring 1977).



Type I



Types I and II



Types II and III

Fig. 6

# Smoke and Chew: A Miner's Way of Life

by Jim Van Fleet

Over the years, we have seen a number of tobacco products that related to some mining theme. And although coal mining and open flames often didn't go together, it seems that the miner still longed for his smoke. At least one mining text from the

Ignoring such dangers, the tobacco products themselves advertised mining as a profession with a certain amount of glamour. One cigar box depicts the "Knight of the Mine," with his oil wick lamp and tools. A good cigar was the "Miner's Pal."

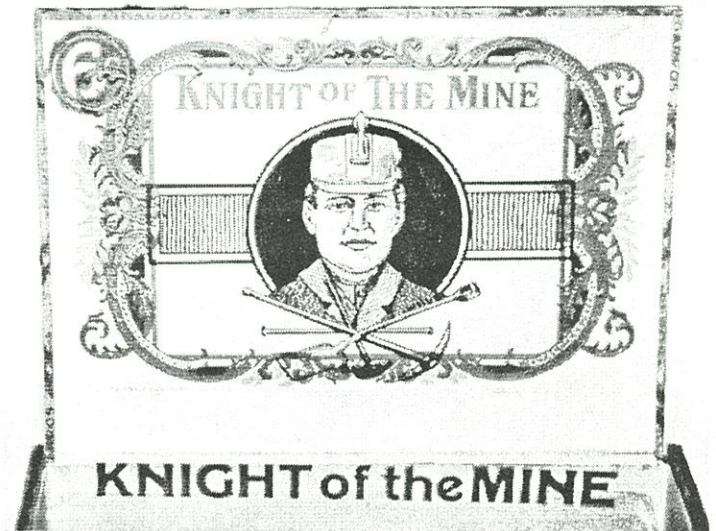


## No Smoking Allowed!

To prevent smoking in your mines you should install our **SAFE MINERS' SAFETY LAMPS** which are fitted with Hailwood's Patent **IMPREGNABLE MAGNETIC LOCK** having extra-strong spring; also **HAILWOOD'S PATENT** fool-proof, flame-proof, **UNDERGROUND LAMP RELIGHTING MACHINES**. Lamproom Lighting and Unlocking Machines; Lamp Cleaning Machines; Filling Machines; Iron Lampstands; Cleaning Benches, etc., etc.

early 1900's reports that coal miners used to light their pipes by sucking the flame through the gauzes of a safety lamp!

At least one major mining disaster has been traced to a lit pipe. The 1907 explosion of the United Coal Company Naomi Mine, in Fayette City, Pennsylvania, was probably sparked when a worker stopped in an inactive part of the mine for a smoke.<sup>1</sup>



*Knight of the Mine cigar box.  
(Thanks to Blair Keefer.)*



*Miner's pal cigar box.*

Other tobacco labels depict the miner striking it rich with a huge gold nugget.

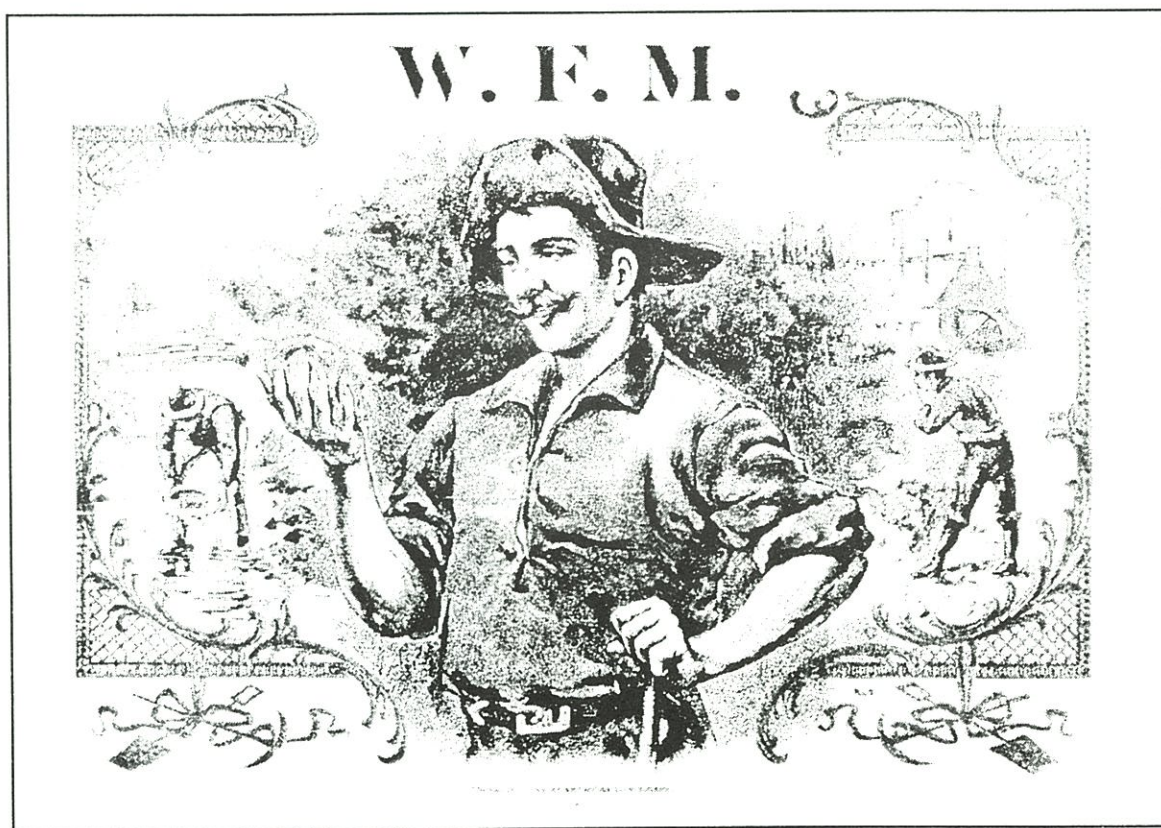
Some tobacco labels show a stylish miner with his oil wick lamp. "Miner's Light" brand labels are particularly desirable collectibles.



*Welcome Nugget cigar box label,*



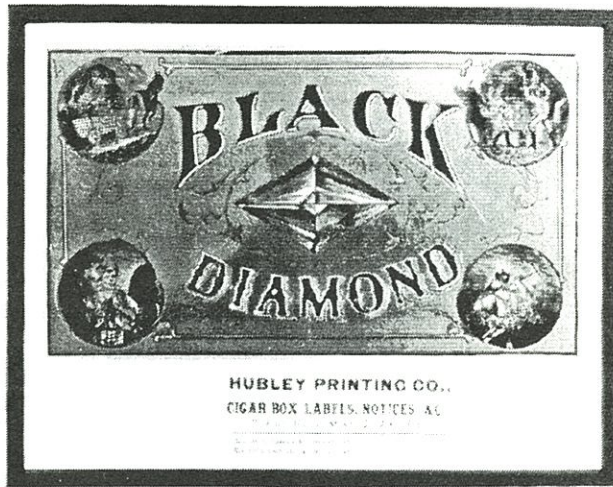
*Miner's Light tobacco label.*



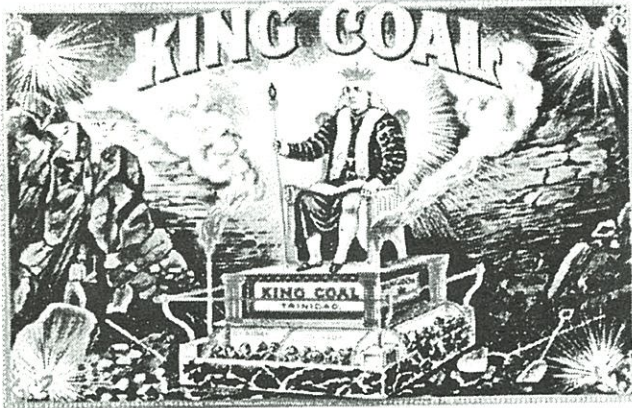
*1899 label showing a happy member of the Western Federation of Miners  
( from Bob Schroth collection).*

Still other tobacco brands celebrated the coal itself; anthracite was often known as “Black Diamond,” and “King Coal” was mined from Pennsylvania to Colorado.

Besides these beautiful paper products, smoking and chewing tobacco was also sold in cans. The King Koal tin shows oil wick lamps, tools, and mine cars. Other examples include “Miner King long cut,” or “Miners and Puddlers” tobacco, in both tin and cardboard containers (below).

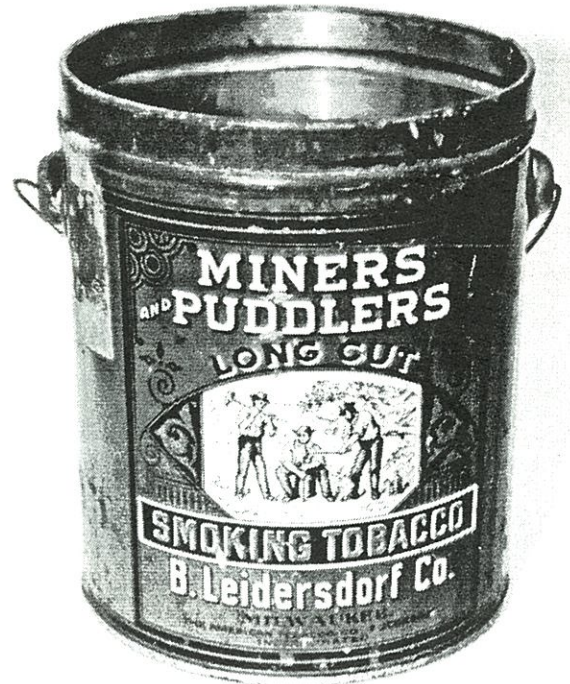


*Black Diamond cigar box label. (Special thanks to Neal Ressler, who loaned his tobacco labels to be photographed.)*

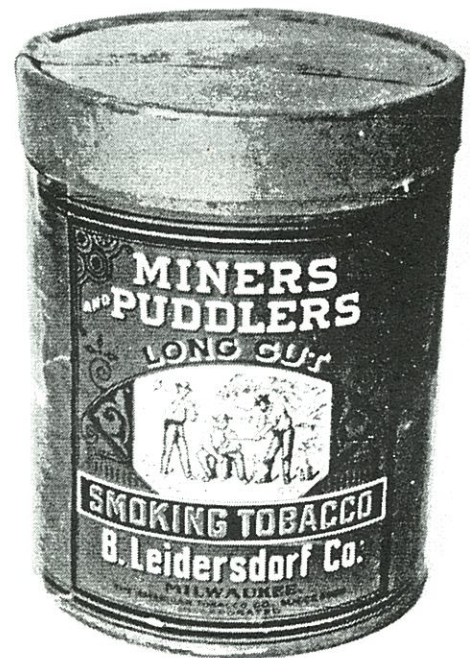


KING COAL CIGAR FACTORY MANUFACTURERS **KING COAL** TRINIDAD, COLO.

*King Coal label.*



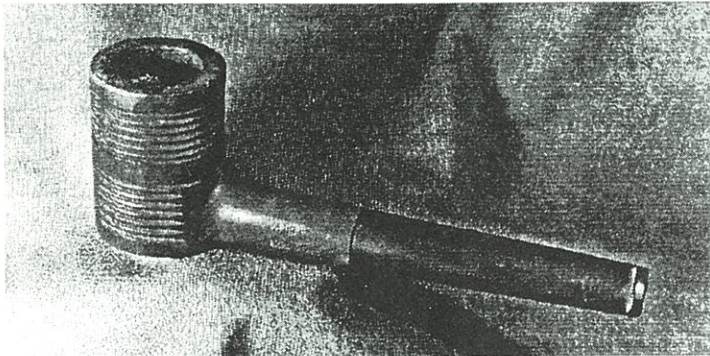
*(From Paul Johnson collection.)*





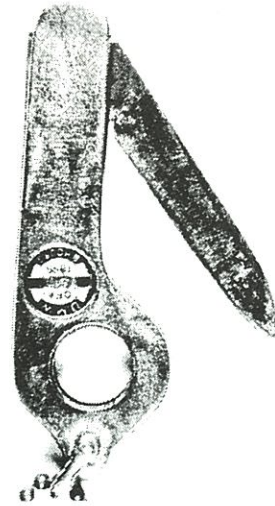
*King Coal tobacco tin.*

Finally, there are the tools of smoking themselves. As John Kynor reports, DuPont offered promotional pipes marked "DUPONT EXPLOSIVES," with the bowl for the pipe carved in the form of a blasting powder can! These pipes came with either a curved or straight stem. <sup>2</sup>



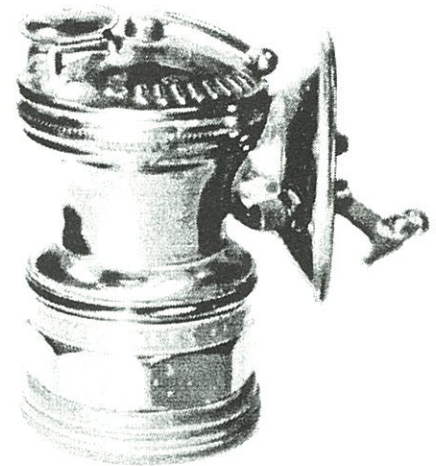
*Dupont pipe carved in the form of powder can.  
Lower photo shows stamping.*

Another unusual item is the U.M.W.A. cigar-cutter shown here.



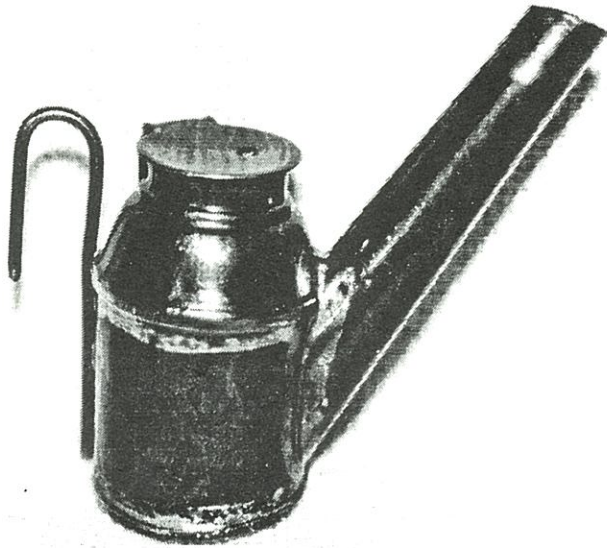
*Cigar cutter - Pen knife. Actual size 2 3/8 X 3/4 inches. Bill Lorah collection & photo. United Mine workers. From Cranberry Colliery Employee.*

My own favorite tobacco/mining items are actual mining lamps or imitation lamps adapted for use by smokers. The most famous is certainly the batch of Auto-Lite cap lamps that were converted into cigarette lighters for the "Lorain Dock and Coal Sales Co., Cincinnati, Ohio." Each "Auto-Lighter" bears a red and gold enamel band around the base with this company name. The base itself has lead poured into it to make it a suitable paper-weight and more stable as a lighter (below).

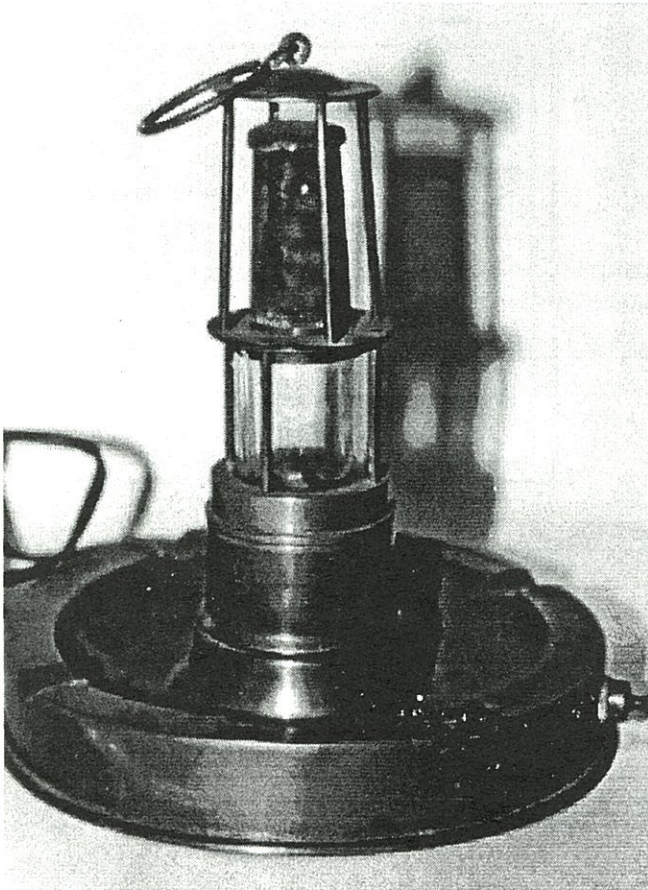


The water chamber of this lamp has been sealed off from the base, and filled with cotton so it can hold lighter fluid. The burner tip has been replaced by a wick, and an additional snap-lighter attachment was added to the reflector.

One famous lamp (below) is the oil wick marked “Smoke and Chew Shining Light Tobacco.” Several examples are known, although the stamping in these is consistently weak.



One of the most bizarre tobacco accessories I have seen is a safety lamp ashtray (below). It's wired or an electric bulb, and the lamp actually unscrews from the ashtray base.



*Above: Cast iron ashtray marked “Kaier’s Special Beer.”*

Last, but not least, is a bit of mining memorabilia that combines several vices. It’s a cast-iron ashtray marked “KAIER’S SPECIAL BEER” from Scranton, PA, showing a coal mine with a mug of beer (between smoke, no doubt!)

**Sources:**

1. Jackson Carlton, The Dreadful Month, Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1982.
2. Kynor, John “Smoke After the Shot”, Mining Artifact Collector, No. 15, Summer 1992, page 18.

Many thanks to Bob Schroth, Paul Johnson, Kelley Deem, Paul and Nancy Hyatt, Neal Ressler, Len Gaska, Bill Lorah, Nelson Ressler, and Blair Keefer for contributing photographs and information for this article.

# Ten Rare Tins Discovered

by Andy Martin

In my three previous EUREKA! articles I had the pleasure of introducing a total of 15 previously unknown tins to the collection community. This update is distinguished both by the number of tins involved (10), and the fine overall quality represented.

Perhaps the most unusual of the 10 is the 100 BLASTING CAPS, No. 6. This seems to be an early representative of the generic brand trend currently in vogue. Almost every cap tin gives the name of a dynamite com-

pany or blasting cap manufacturer, but not this one. Judging from the appearance of the bottom and the font used on the lid, the tin was probably made by Hercules Powder Company. For some reason the identity of the manufacturer had to be concealed. Perhaps some reader can shed more light on this mystery.

A tin of particular interest to me is the Brewster, No. 6, which was found in the abandoned mines of New Mexico sites on the dividing line of the commercial territory of eastern and west-

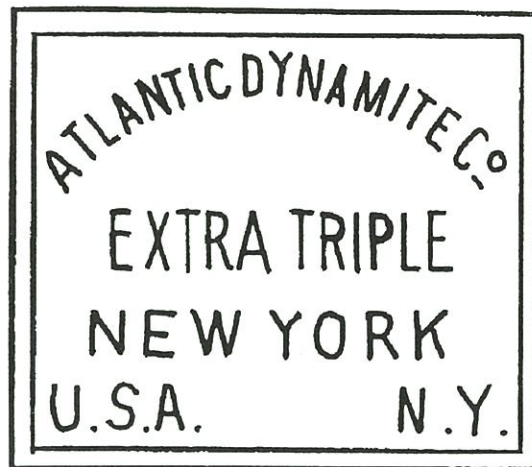
ern powder and cap manufacturers. The eastern Ajax, Aetna, and Metallic cap tins are also found in New Mexico, as are Jefferson, Aetna, and Climax dynamite boxes. These items were rarely, if ever, used in the mines of states further to the west. A final note - the meaning of B-S was "Brewster's Sure", rather than the present day "political oration".

The Illinois No. 8 tin is at present only a "catalog" item, since it is only known from the accompanying illustration. Let's hope Bob can find a real one soon and legitimize it.



**AETNA POWDER CO., No. 5, DETONATORS**

Painted dark green and black  
Reported by Bob Schroth



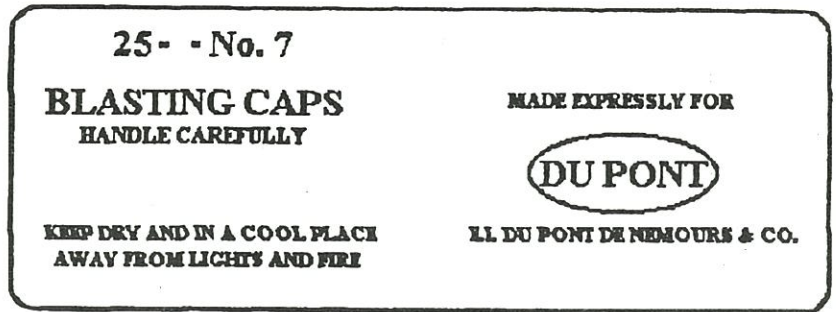
**ATLANTIC EXTRA TRIPLE**

Embossed lid  
Reported by Bob Schroth



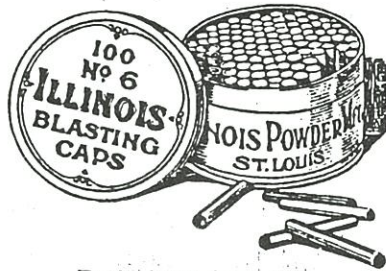


**BREWSTER, No. 6**  
Painted Yellow and Black  
Reported by Scott Altenbach



**DU PONT, No. 7, 25 Caps, paper label**  
Light brown and white, plain lid  
Reported by John Kynor

**BLASTING CAPS**



Packed 100 in a Box



**No. 6 Cap**

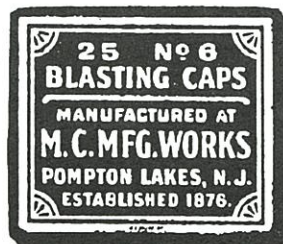


**No. 8 Cap**

**ILLINOIS, No. 8**  
Catalog Illustration  
Reported by Bob Schroth



**GOLD MEDAL, W'K'S, round**  
Painted Gold Gilt and Black  
Reported by John Kynor



**METALLIC CAP, No. 6, N.J., 25 CAPS**  
Painted white letters on orange red background  
Reported by Bob Richardson



MONTECATINI EDISON, No. 10  
 Painted Yellow and Black  
 Reported by Alessio Grimaldi



MONTECATINI EDISON  
 Illustration on bottom



No. 6, GT. BRITAIN  
 Red letters on yellow and white  
 Reported by John Kynor



100 BLASTING CAPS, No. 6  
 Painted white and light brown  
 Reported by Errol Christman

# Union Carbide Sign

by Jim Van Fleet

**W**e have a report of an amazing find out of Pennsylvania. The Union Carbide sign shown below was stored away by a private collector from eastern PA for many years. His collection was sold this summer in a series of auctions, and the sign was sold one Saturday in August. I was unable to attend the auction, but I did track this rare item to its present owner.

The search itself was a lesson in the ways of antique dealers: the day after

it was bought at auction, it passed through the hands of four different dealers (none of whom thought to contact yours truly)! It then wandered out of state, and by Thursday of the same week was in the hands of a serious collector. The lucky owner graciously provided this photograph.

The editors know of no other example of this sign. The stylized depiction of a Baldwin cap lamp, worn by a tough looking miner, and the early style Union Carbide can shown

here make this sign a real treasure! It has an "L" shaped flange next to the miner's head, for mounting on a wall, and shows the same miner and carbide can "reversed" on the other side. The "L" also bears the name of the sign manufacturers, "American Art Sign Co., Brooklyn, NY."

Now all of these clues should allow someone to do their homework and put a date to this item, but we believe it to be from about 1915.



# B Electric Oil Wick

*Dave Johnson*

Identical to the B FROSTBERG pictured on page 10 of EUREKA! #4, this B ELECTRIC oilwick has a cap that opens to the right while the B FROSTBERG opens to the left. Does anyone know the significance of the "B" in both brand names?



# Magic City Oil Wick

*Dave Johnson*

How many collectors have seen an oil wick lamp labeled MAGIC CITY? After several years of trying to track down the origin of this lamp, I still have no definitive answer. The most likely source of the name comes from Roanoke, Virginia. In 1890 there was a big business boom in Roanoke which resulted in the population increasing from just over 5,000 to 16,000 in one year. This population and business increase earned Roanoke the nickname of the Magic City.

The Roanoke City directory lists the Magic City Coal, Oil & Gasoline Co. and the Magic City Fruit & Produce Co. in the 1920's.



*(stamping on font)*

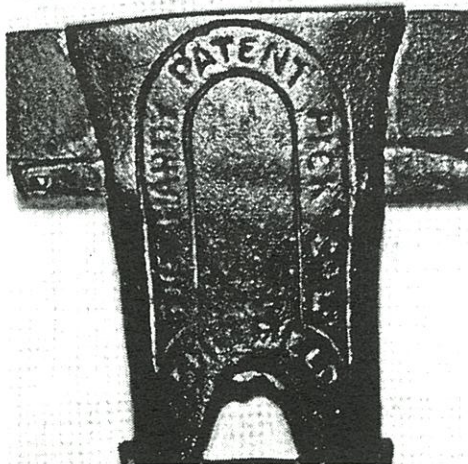


For coal mines the problem always existed of how to easily transport bulky bundles of coal picks to the surface for sharpening. The entire pick with head and handle was always difficult to transport from the workings to the surface. Numerous pick manufacturers devised ways to remove the head from the handles for easier transport to the surface.

One such manufacturer was the Hardy Patent Pick Co., Ltd. of Sheffield, England. The pictured pick head was made in three parts: 1) the pick shaft which held the blade; 2) the blade; and 3) a wedge, which held the blade in place.

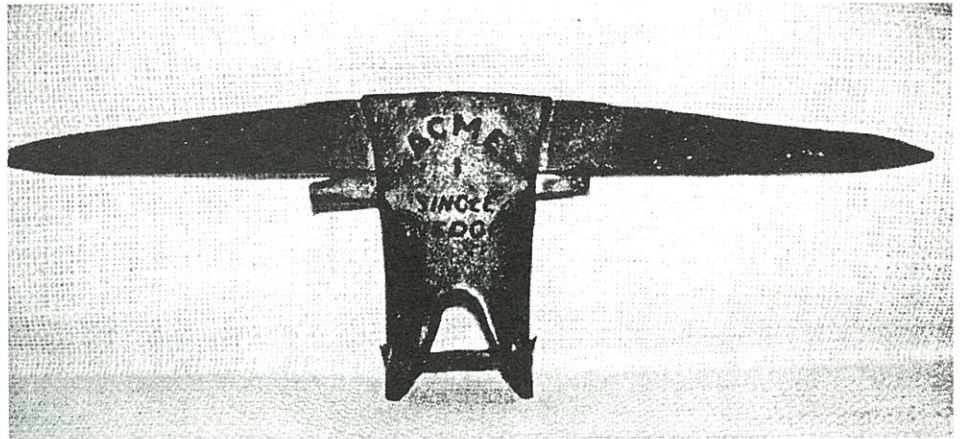
This arrangement allowed the blades to be easily removed from the shaft and handled for transport to the surface for sharpening. It also allowed for replacement of the blades when they wore out rather than the entire head.

As can be seen from the letterhead, the Hardy Patent Pick Co. produced a large number of items for the mining industry, as well as quarry, contractors, and agricultural tools. Judging by the size of the factory illustrated on the letterhead this was a major firm.



# Hardy Patent Pick

Dave Johnson



TELEGRAMS OR POSTAL ADDRESS: "HARDYPICK," SHEFFIELD. LONDON OFFICE: 22, QUEEN VICTORIA ST. E.C. London Telephone 1918. PHILADELPHIA. TELEPHONE No. 457.

CHILI 1875. SYDNEY 1875. CALCUTTA 1883-4. GLASGOW 1885. LONDON 1885.

**THE HARDY PATENT PICK CO. LIMITED**  
 PATENTEES AND SOLE MAKERS OF THE 'UNIVERSAL' AND 'ACME' PICKS

SHEFFIELD, Dec. 19th/1901/190

MR. F.G. Beddoes.  
 Ironr, Ironbridge, Salop.

Dear Sir,  
 In reply to yours of the 12th, as the price of raw material has fallen a little, we will in future allow you 25% discount off "Acme" blades and headed shafts, and 20% off boring machines.

Trusting to be favoured with your further orders, which shall have our best attention.

Yours truly  
 THE HARDY PATENT PICK CO. LD.  
 F. Parkinson

TRADE MARKS:  
 HAND & POWER ROCK & COAL BORING MACHINES.  
 PICKS, SPADES, SHOVELS, FORKS, HOES, AXES, HAMMERS, WEDGES, CROWBARS, &c.  
 STEEL, FILES & SAWS.  
 ALL MINING, QUARRY, CONTRACTORS' and AGRICULTURAL TOOLS.  
 SPECIAL TOUGH DRILL STEEL.  
 HICKORY HANDLES.  
 DISINTEGRATORS, CRUSHERS, SEPARATORS, CONVEYORS, ELEVATORS, ELEVATOR BUCKETS.  
 SCREENING & SIEVING MACHINERY.  
 DETACHABLE DRIVING CHAINS, SHAFING, PULLEYS, GEARING, And all APPARATUS connected with GRINDING, PULVERISING & SCREENING PLANT.  
 COAL WASHING MACHINERY.  
 SELF-LUBRICATING PEDESTALS FOR PIT TUBS.

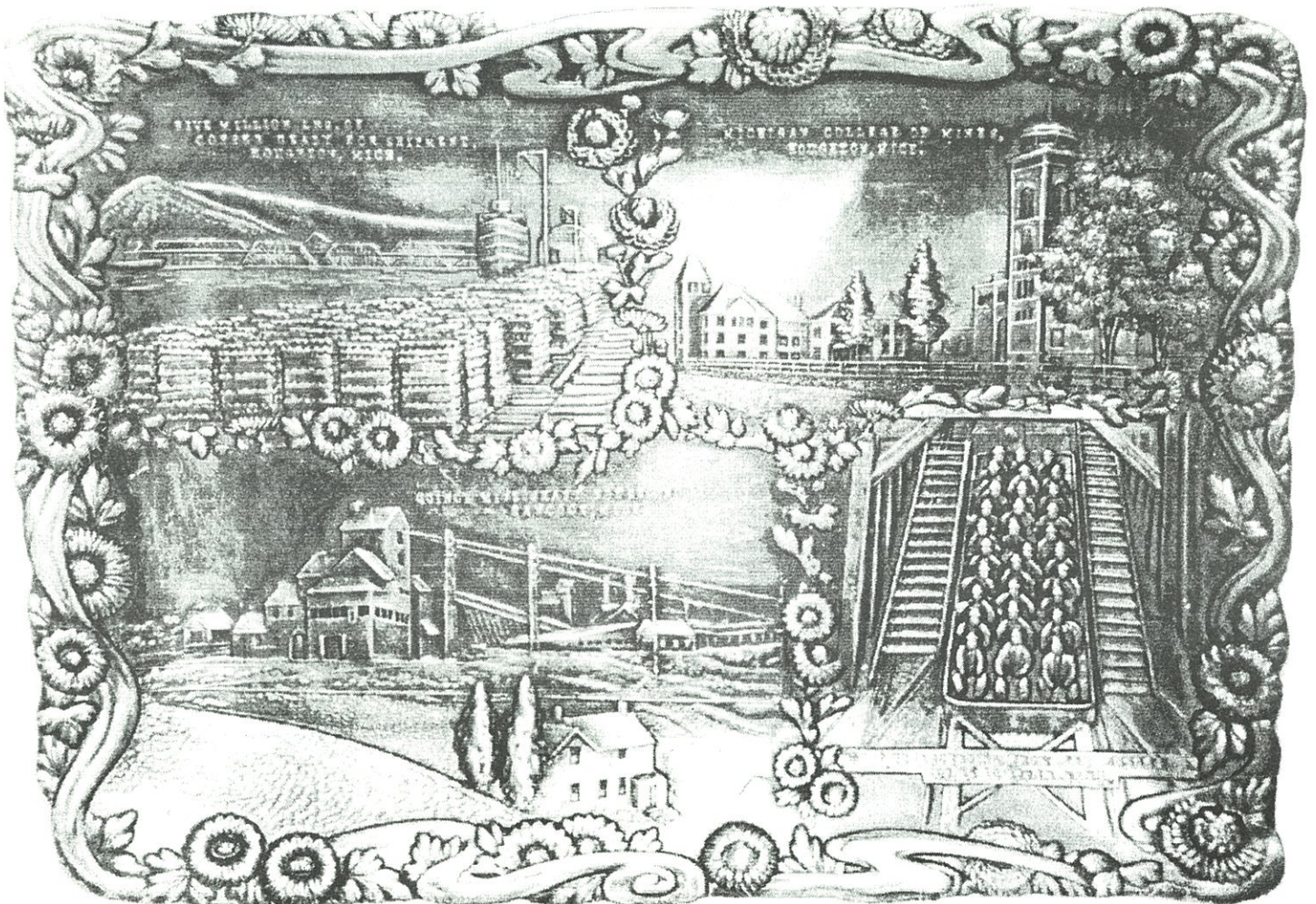
# Copper County Souvenir

*Dave Johnson*

The metal ashtray measuring 4" X 6" is one of many souvenir items produced related to Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula Copper County mining industry. The

four scenes depict (clockwise from upper left); 1) five million pounds of ingot copper ready for shipping at the Houghton docks; 2) the Michigan College of Mines in Houghton; 3) a

man-car full of miners ascending from the depths of a copper mine, this item is circa 1930's; 4) the Quincy Mine Shaft House No. 1 on Quincy Hill above Hancock.



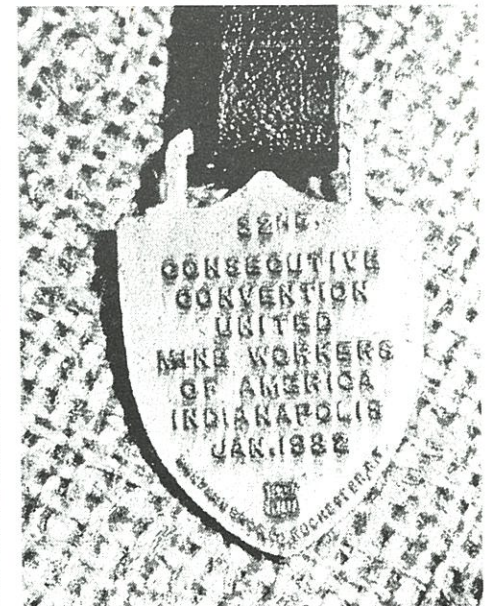
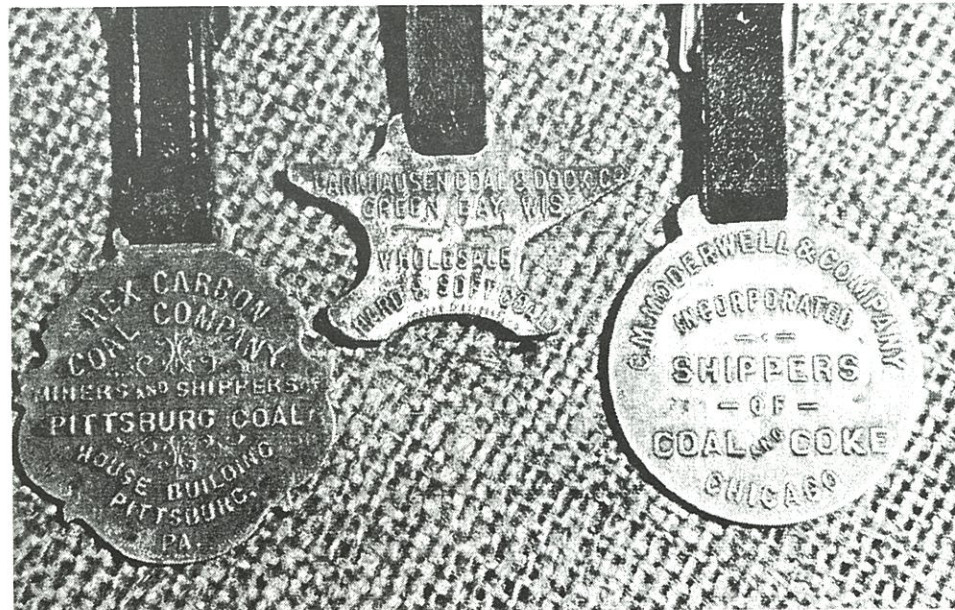
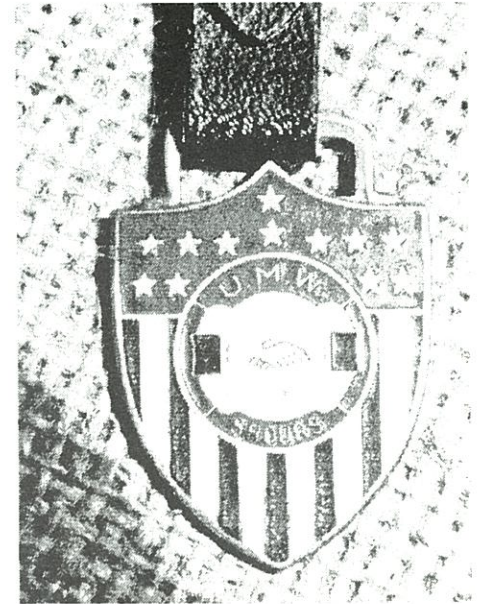
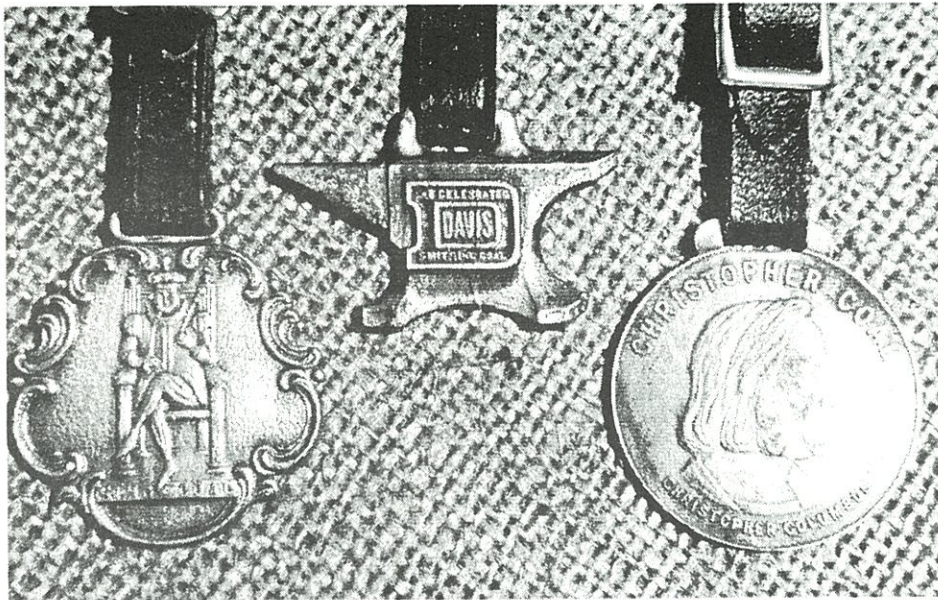
# WATCH FOBS

by Ken Rupp

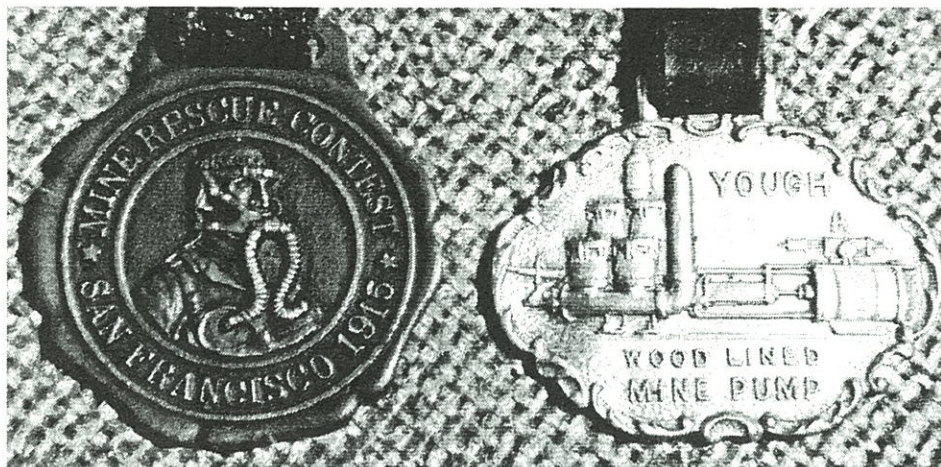
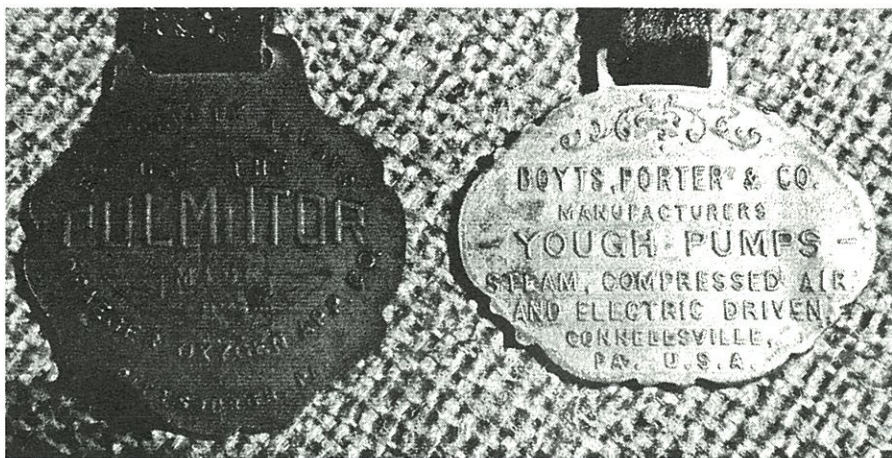
To make it easier to fish a watch out of a narrow pocket in a waistband or vest, a small dangling tag or fob was often attached. These fobs, valued by many collectors, were made in almost infinite variety. Some were sculptured forms, others were emblazoned with club emblems or commemorative inscriptions, and there are even fob silhouettes of political candidates.

Thousands of companies gave away fobs as advertising, commissioning designs in the shapes of their products - for example plows, paint cans and lanterns. Many men had fobs made specially for themselves. Most desirable to collectors are the industrial fobs, and in our case, those related to mining.

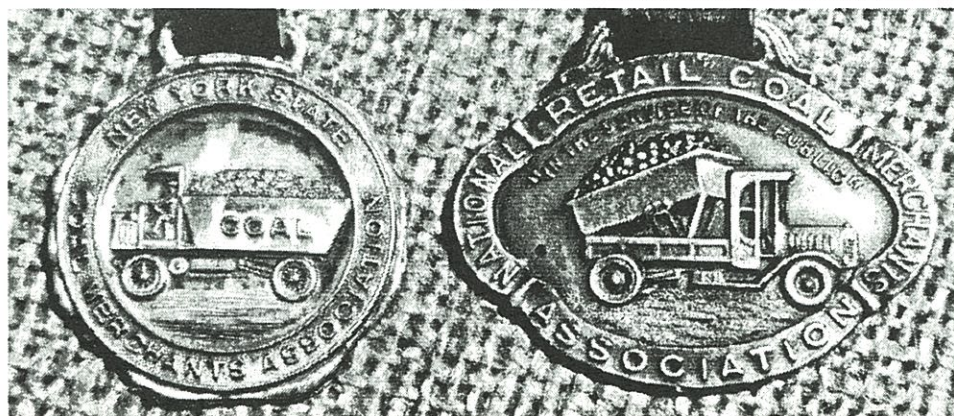
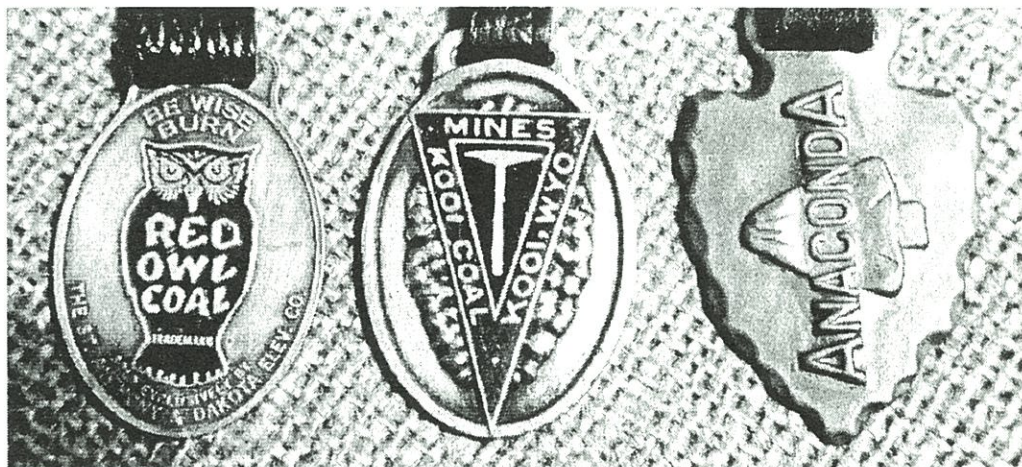
The three fobs shown here front and back were company give-aways promoting what the company had to offer. They show the unique shape and ornate work that went into early fobs. U.M.W.A. fobs were no exception. The majority of these were done in porcelain. The one below from Indianapolis (1932) is done in red, white and blue porcelain.



The next four fobs are equipment related: the first by Boyts Porter & Co. who manufactured Yough Pumps, and the second by Draeger Oxygen Appliance Co. of Pittsburgh PA, who produced this fob for a mine rescue contest that took place in San Francisco in 1915.



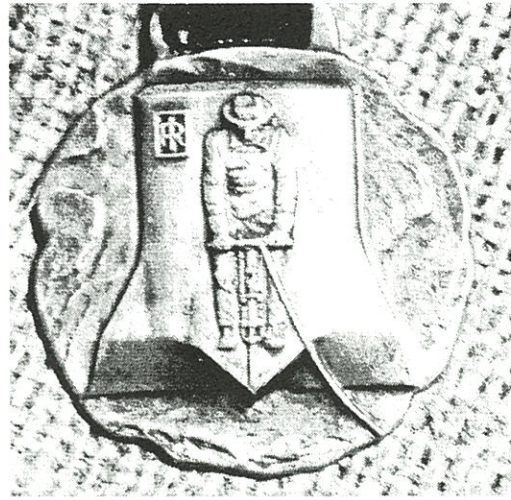
These five fobs show different styles and the detail that went into the making of them.





The fob to the right is from Ingersoll Rand - no second guessing what the company was trying to promote. (Editors note: I have seen numerous examples of this fob, but only realized as I looked at this photo that the background behind the driller is a rock bit!)

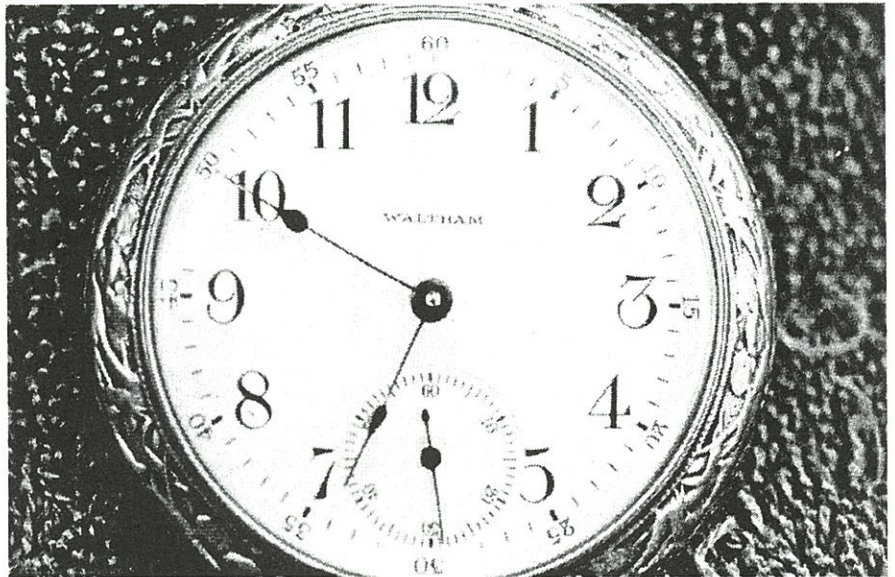
The collecting of watch fobs is a very old hobby, but to those with an interest in mining it has yet to stir much attention. Time will tell!



# A Miner's Pocket Watch

*Len Gaska*

I have long known that pocket watches with railroad motifs were produced, but this is the first pocket watch with a mining motif that I have seen. It was made by Waltham, a company still in business today, and has seven jewels. The person I bought it from, a watch collector, guessed that it was made around 1900. The embossed scene shows two miners working at a face and one has an oil lamp clearly visible. Yet another mining related collectible to search for!



# COMPLIMENTS OF CONSOLIDATION COAL

by Ken Rupp

The Consolidation Coal Company was chartered by the Maryland Legislature in 1860. Its organization was delayed by the turmoil of the Civil War years until April 19, 1864, when subscription books were opened at the office of Thomas Devecman in the city of Cumberland. Stock of the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad was accepted in payment for Consolidation stock.

In May of 1864 Consolidation acquired the following properties in exchange for stock:

1. Ocean Steam Coal Company
2. Frostburg Coal Company
3. Mount Savage Iron Company

Some of the interesting aspects of the Consolidation Coal Company works were as follows: Shaft, slope and drift mines producing industrial, gas, and domestic coals from seven different seams in all standard sizes. Coal veins as thin as 30 inches and as thick as 10 feet.

Consolidation employed safety crews, methods, and equipment which were "admittedly unsurpassed." For years Consolidation rescue crews won high honors at district, state and national mine rescue meets.



Consolidation owned 5,675 dwelling houses, 25 company stores, and two merchandise warehouses; a bakery, ice plant, ice cream plant, bottling plant; one auto service station, one hospital, eight company operated and seven independently operated recreation buildings, all of which provided suitable living quarters for employees and their families and met their needs. Employee welfare was in the hands of 18 full-time physicians, three dentists, and eight registered nurses, furnishing modern medical attention and nursing to employees and their families.

In the early 1940's Consolidation merged and became the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Company. The company is still in business, and is believed to be owned by Dupont.



Four well-known Consolidation trademarks.

The Consolidation Coal Company oil wick shown here was a company giveaway, provided during a time when the company was showing an increase in production. This example is unused. The spout, font, and cap are copper with only the hook being brass. There is one other known example of this lamp.



COMPLIMENTS  
OF THE  
CONSOLIDATION COAL COMPANY  
OF MARYLAND  
FROSTBURG, APRIL 29TH 1897

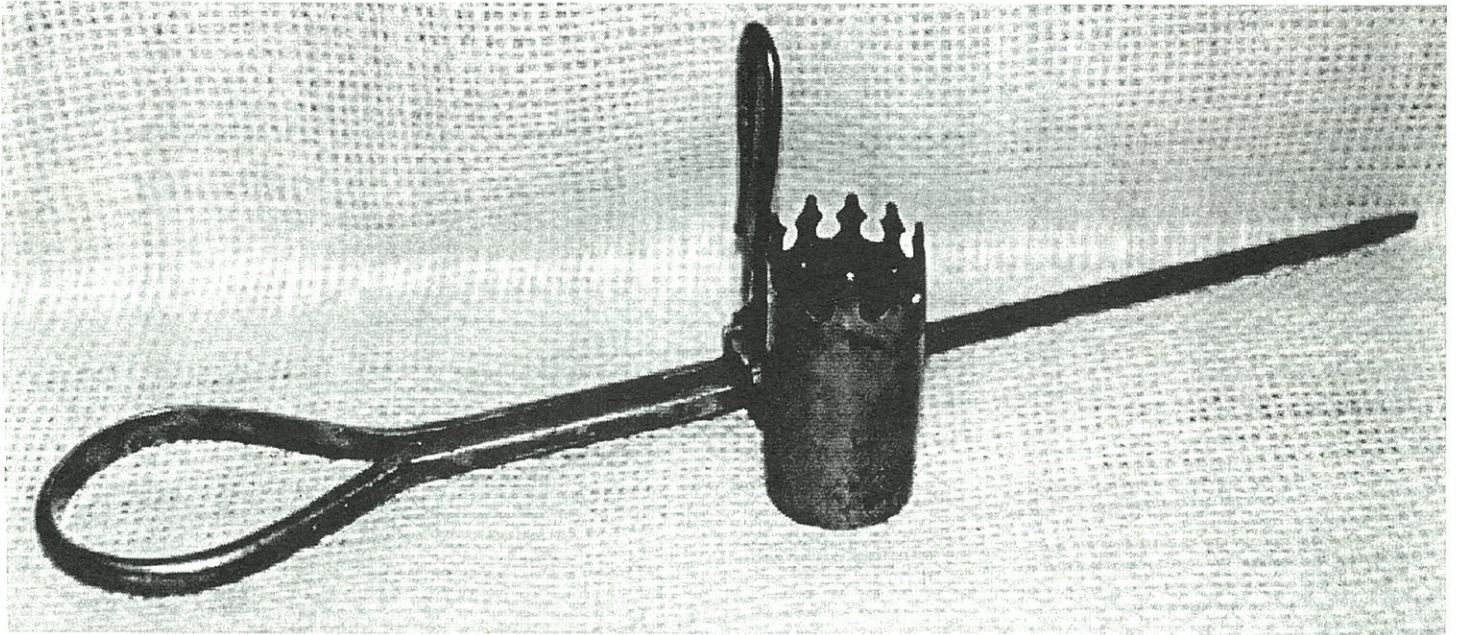
\*A special thanks to Nancy Hargosh and the Frostburg Public Library for their help.



LOCATION OF MINE PROPERTIES AND OFFICES OF  
THE CONSOLIDATION COAL COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES

# Miners' Candlesticks

*Dave Johnson*



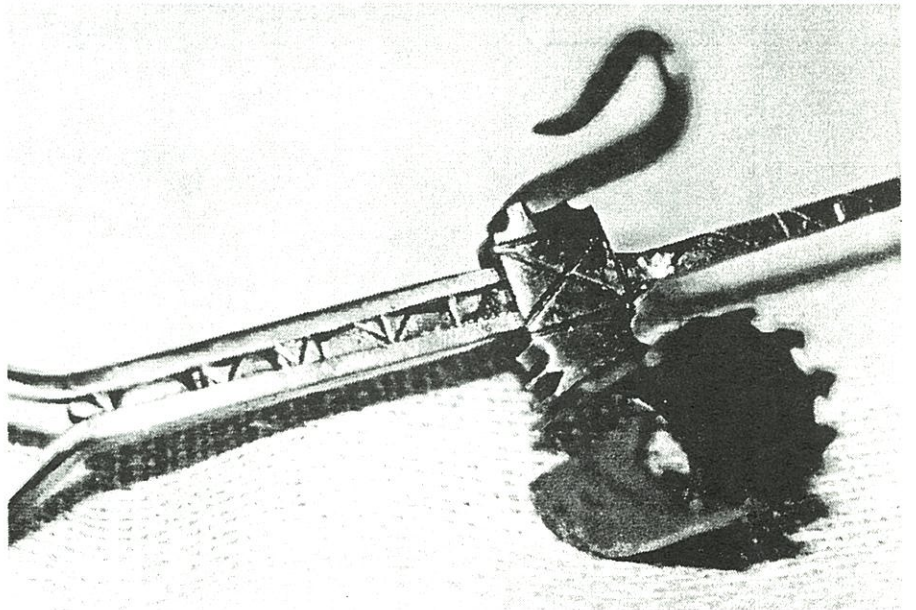
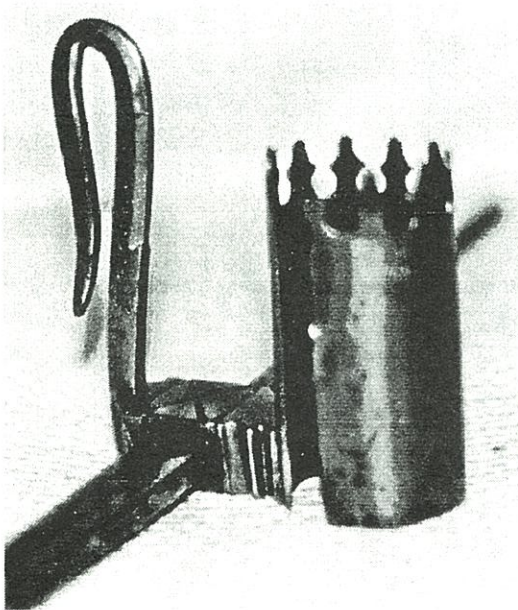
## A Bi-metallic Michigan Stick

The pictured candlestick was found in the Calumet area of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. Measuring 9" in overall length, the stick features a brass handle and handle neck. The

handle neck is split with the steel spike running down the center to the hook and thimble stems where it passes through continuing alone to the spike point.

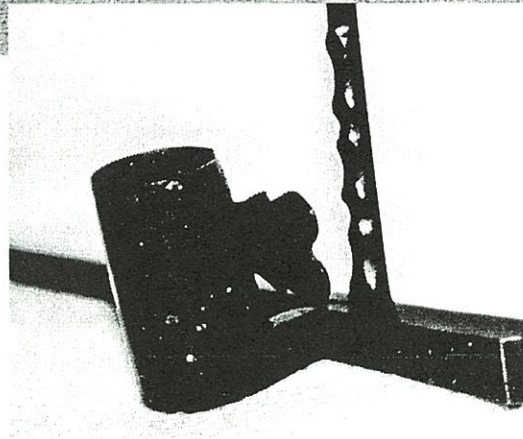
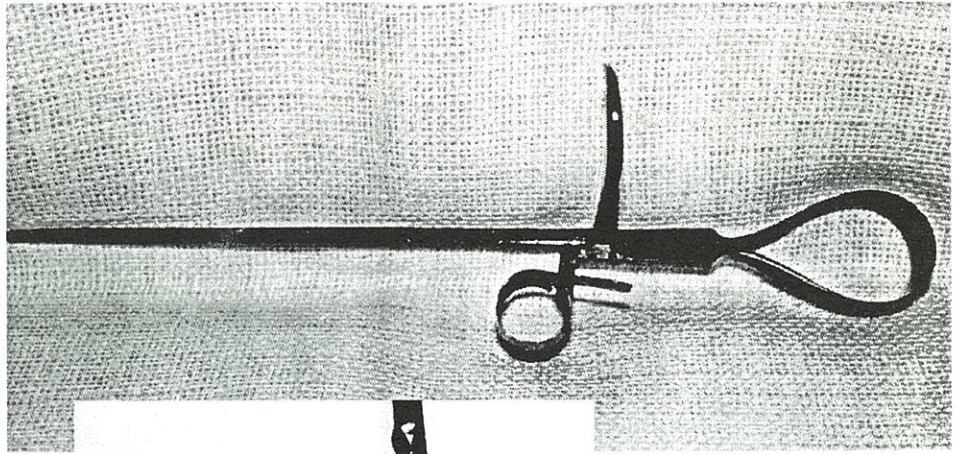
The 1 3/4" tall thimble is ornately castellated. The hook and thimble stem is ornately decorated with some

ornamentation appearing on the steel spike. The brass handle neck is pinned to the steel spike. The hook is the classic "Lake Superior" variety, common to the region. This stick was acquired from an estate auction and added to my collection more than 25 years ago.



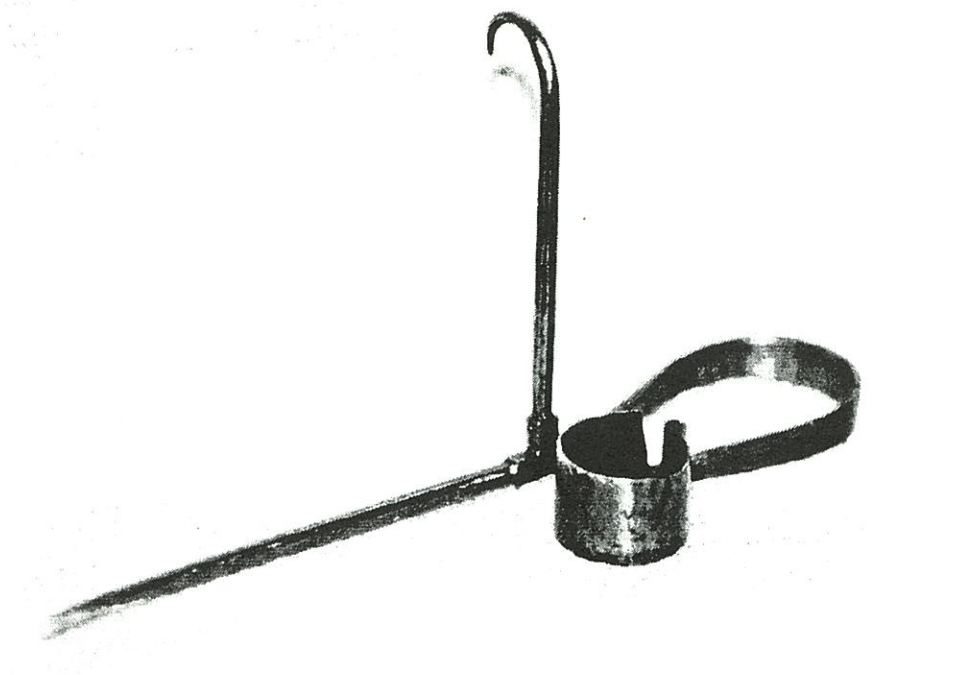
## An Idaho Stick

Acquired in the Coeur d'Alene area of Idaho more than 20 years ago, this excellent quality stick measures 11 7/8" in overall length. The unusually broad handle loop measures a full inch in height. Made of a single piece of metal, this stick features a 1 5/8" tall thimble with an ornamented thumb lever and a 3 3/4" tall ornamented hook. The handle neck is held together by two pins and has the name DAVIS applied by a series of punched dots appearing next to the thimble. Overall workmanship is superb.



## A Small Stick

This little stick measures just 6 1/4" in overall length and features a hook that is 3" tall. The stick is very delicately and lightly made. The spike is octagonal until just before the hook where it becomes square. The octagonal hook rises from a square base. The thimble is unusual in that it is only 9/16" tall and has no real thumb lever, just a roll at its end. This stick was acquired in the Butte, Montana area.



# MINERS' SUNSHINE

by Herb Dick



Herb Dick has recently added to his collection a rare bar of Miners' Sunshine oil wick lamp fuel, in its original wrapper. He provides the most complete description we have to date of the printing on the wrapper. The bar measures approximately 3" x 7" x 1", and is marked as follows:

## SIDE:

NET WEIGHT ONE POUND  
**MINERS' SUNSHINE**  
SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR  
**BURNING IN MINERS' LAMPS**  
The Atlantic Refining Company,  
Philadelphia Pittsburgh.

## ENDS:

BEWARE OF IMITATION  
USE MINERS' SUNSHINE  
THE BEST LIGHT TO PROTECT  
YOUR HEALTH.  
NO WASTE NO LEAKAGE  
CONVENIENT.

## FRONT:

To burn Miners' Sunshine successfully these directions should be followed.

1st A special Miners' Sunshine lamp is required. It is practically a copper lamp built inside of an ordinary lamp. The inside copper body conducts the heat of the flame to the Sunshine and keeps it in a fluid condition.

2nd When filling a lamp for the first time or putting in a new wick, melt the Sunshine to a fluid state in another pan or vessel, then pour the Sunshine into the lamp. Tilt the lamp towards the spout so that the melted Sunshine fills the spout and saturates the wick. Use a tight wick.

3rd When lighting hold the lamp upside down for a short time so that the flame will pass along the spout. The heat will melt the Sunshine quickly.

4th Before putting the light out raise the wick. This is necessary to relight the lamp easily. This is important - Caution - never set a lamp in water when burning Miner's Sunshine. The water chills the Miner's Sunshine and puts the light out.

## BACK:

All miners' oils make light but throw off more or less smoke and fumes. Smoke is injurious to health. Miners' Sunshine produces about twice as much light as either lard or cottonseed oils. The miners problem is - how to get the most light with the least smoke? Miners' Sunshine gives the largest brightest and cleanest light of all mine illuminants. There is practically no smoke. Miners' Sunshine can be used in the closest workings. Miners' Sunshine is sold by all first class dealers in miners supplies. If your storekeeper does not have it for sale send us his name and address and we will endeavor to have your wants supplied.

Inspected - contains less than 11/100 of 1% of soot and less than 3% of oil.

# Hendrick Mfg. Co. & the O'Keefe Patent

by Dave Johnson

**B**egun in 1876 by Eli E. Hendrick, a Michigander of Dutch parentage, The Hendrick Mfg. Co. of Carbondale, PA has continued in business for the past 117 years.

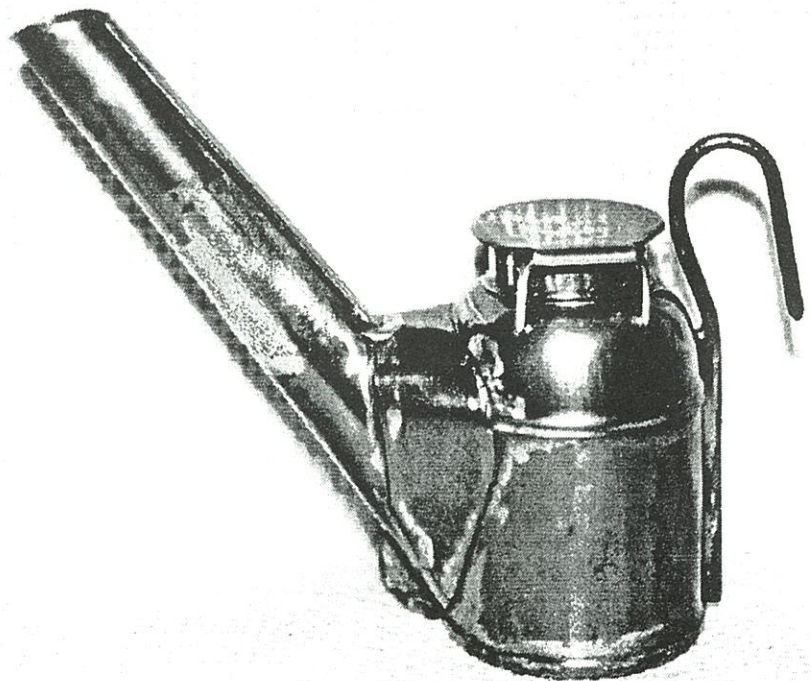
Eli Hendrick was born in 1832. As a young man he was apprenticed as a wood turner in his native Michigan. He later served as a Pony Express rider for the U.S. Mail before returning to wood turning. He moved to Franklin, PA in the 1850's.

An encounter with a Toronto con man set Hendrick back \$10 for a worthless formula for the manufacture of refined oil. This fleecing sparked an interest in that very same process. Developing his own formula, Hendrick was soon producing quality lubricating products for the railroad industry. In 1860 Hendrick opened a new refinery in Carbondale. He developed "Galena Signal Oil," an extra-fine kerosene for railway lighting and "Plumbolum," a lubricant for gear boxes. Business prospered to the point that Hendrick sold out to the Standard Oil Co. of John D. Rockefeller in 1879. At the same time he was engaged in the refining business, he had an idea for a new product. The oil refining process at the time utilized woven mats of wire and canvas in the filter presses. In this process, the wire was abraded to the point where it pierced the canvas, thus reducing the efficiency of

the filter. Hendrick believed that a perforated sheet of metal would have a longer life. Several attempts at drilling holes proved the idea would work but proved too costly. He then hit upon the idea of punching holes simultaneously in sheet metal. The metal punching machine Hendrick developed was the prototype of the modern perforating press and the foundation upon which the Hendrick Mfg. Co. was founded in 1876. Over the last 117 years, the firm has expanded from the oil industry to include coal, aggregates, steel, iron, paper, materials handling and other industries where perforated or slotted sheets of metal are required.

At least one oil wick lamp has been found with the E. E. Hendrick Mfg. Co. name. On July 21, 1896, the U.S. Patent Office awarded Patent No. 564,450 to Edward J. O'Keefe, of Vandling, PA assignor to the Hendrick Mfg. Co., Ltd.

The O'Keefe Patent incorporated a domed lid designed in two layers to prevent oil from spilling when the miner bent over. It also included a shield between the font and spout to provide an air space that prevents spilled fuel from igniting on the spout: an event which would melt the solder joint with the font. A third feature was designed to prevent damage to

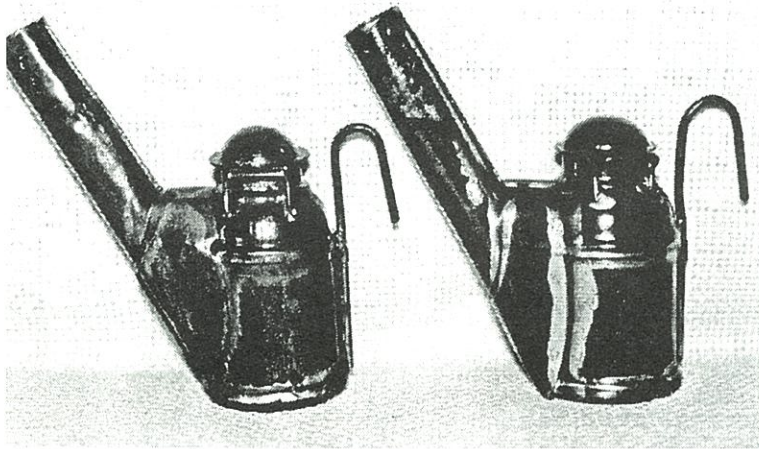


*E. E. Hendrick oil wick lamp.*

the lamp at the base of the font when it was struck by the miner attempting to raise the wick. While no single lamp is known to incorporate all three patent features, and no patent model was provided, several Trethaway Bros. lamps pictured here incorporated one or two of the patent features. Three Trethaway Bros. lamps in my collection are marked "O'Keefe Patent." Given its metal fabrication capabilities, the Hendrick Mfg. Co. could well have produced its own oil wick lamps. Why are they so very rare today? Could Trethaway have purchased the rights to the O'Keefe Patent from Hendrick before any number were produced?

THE HENDRICK MFG CO LTD  
 July 21  
 1896  
 CARBONDALE PA.

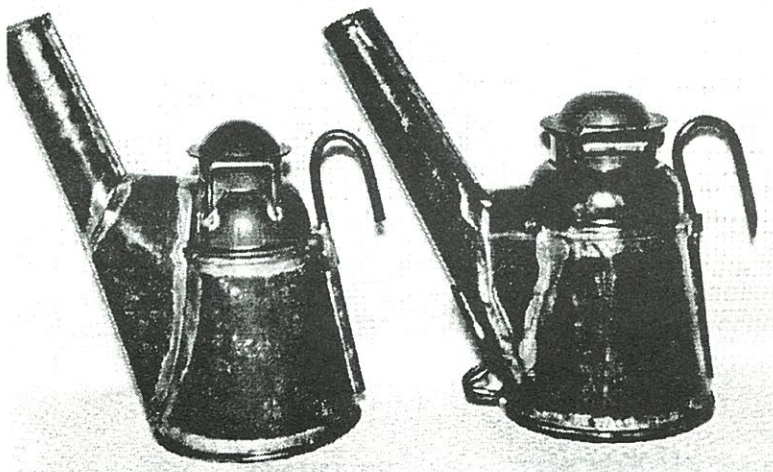
*Logo stamping on lamps.*



*Trethaway Bros. O'Keefe patent oil wicks.*



*Trethaway Bros. O'Keefe patent oil wick.*



*Trethaway Bros. O'Keefe Patent drivers' oil wicks.*



*Trethaway Bros. O'Keefe patent oil wick.*



# A Different Zais Oil Wick

*Dave Johnson*

Fred B. Zais of Frostburg, MD produced a line of quality oil wick lamps. The earliest known Zais lamp is marked Fred B. Zais, 1876, Frostburg. Later Zais lamps had the more familiar hieroglyphic logo above Frostburg in an oval.

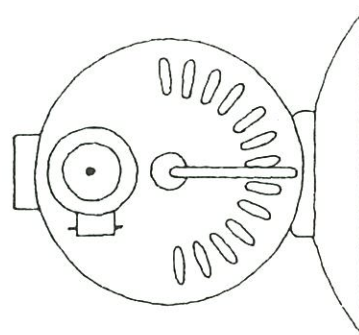
Previously known Zais products were of the classic slope-sided "Frostburg style" and "milkcan style" with flip lids. The lamp pictured here is a tin "milkcan style" with a screw lid. Does anyone else have a screw lid Zais oil wick in their collection?



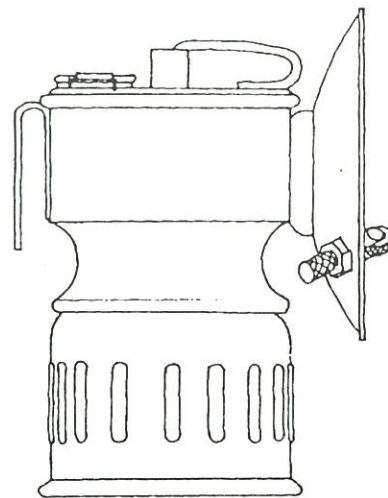
*This unusual Zais lamp has straight sides and a sharply angled shoulder with a screw-on lid.*

# South American Cap Lamp (more info)

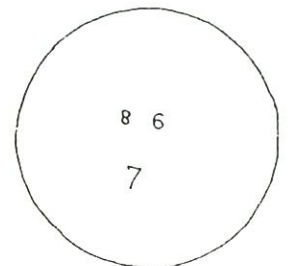
After the photos of a South American cap lamp were shown in last month's issue, Mike Puhl has sent us some additional information on his unfired version of the same lamp. Apparently this lamp was manufactured by a local craftsman for area miners in Boyaca, Columbia. Mike acquired his lamp and actually saw others being manufactured while visiting Boyaca several years ago. Who says the carbide lamp is dead?



*Lamp is very well made, with a few unusual features. It has a solid, machined brass tip, and a rubber felt retainer.*



*18 raised ribs.*



*(Illustration by Mike Puhl.)*

# FIDELITY ELECTRIC CO. A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

*Craig S. Stolburg*

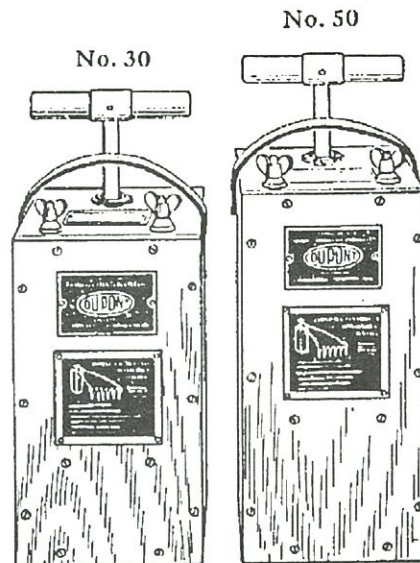
**F**idelity Electric Company was founded in 1895 at Lancaster Pennsylvania and incorporated as the George C. Towle Manufacturing Company. The name was changed in 1913 to Fidelity Electric Company, Inc.

The first products manufactured were direct and indirect-current motors and electric fans. The company adapted their various motors to both stationary and oscillating fans as well as inventing and patenting the first electric-powered ceiling fan.



*Fig. 1*

## BLASTING MACHINES

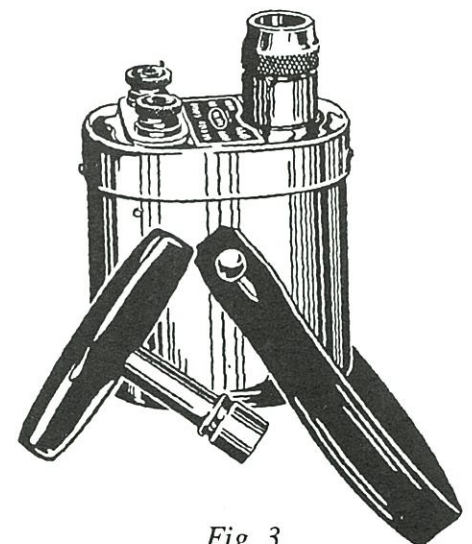


*Fig. 2*

The year was 1918 and Fidelity introduced its first blasting machine, a push-down model. (Figure 1.) This unit was of the series wound generator type and had a capacity of 10 blasting caps. It was during this period of time that Fidelity began supplying the major powder companies with blasting machines under such names as DuPont, Hercules, and Atlas. In addition 30 and 50 cap capacity machines were manufactured (Figure 2.). Later a 100 cap machine was added to the product line.

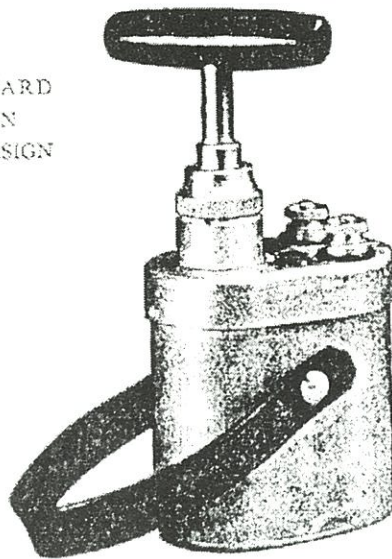
Fidelity continued making various motors and fans through out the 1920's. The year was 1929 and after

much research and development a hand held 10 cap blasting machine was introduced as a compact replacement for the much larger 10 cap push-down machine. It was a nickel-plated brass 10 cap capacity machine employing a twist motion to generate the electrical charge. (Figure 3.) What separated this machine from the earlier designs such as the Davis No. 1 hand held blaster was the use of a generator rather than a magneto to produce the electric current. The generator design allowed for greater shot firing capacity and reliability. Companies such as Hercules contracted with fidelity to produce this 10 cap unit for sale under the Hercules Powder Company name. An ad found in the March 1929 issue of *The Mining*



*Fig. 3*

A STEP FORWARD  
IN AMERICAN  
ELECTRICAL DESIGN



## The New HERCULES 10-CAP BLASTING MACHINE

The new HERCULES 10-CAP BLASTING MACHINE represents the latest development in American electrical machine design.

These important features make the Hercules 10-Cap Blasting Machine of outstanding interest to users of explosives:

1. It is light, compact, and small enough to slip in a coat pocket. It weighs only 4 1/4 pounds.
2. It is of the dynamo type, therefore long and constant use entails no loss of power.
3. A six segment commutator, newly developed, assures an even, non-pulsating current.

4. Rated to fire ten electric blasting caps, connected in series, it has a power reserve of 100 per cent.
5. It is sturdy and simple—built to withstand rough handling and to meet every field test.

The new Hercules 10-Cap Blasting Machine is convenient for all blasting where from one to ten shots are fired at once. For larger hook-ups, the Hercules 1 to 50 Hole Capacity Machine, an efficient push-down generator, is recommended.

Write us for booklets on Hercules Blasting Supplies and Hercules Detonators.

For information on other explosives and blasting supplies, see pages 170 to 172 of the 1928 *Nineteen Months' Catalog*.

HERCULES POWDER COMPANY 914 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware

Gentlemen:—  
Please send me additional information about Hercules Blasting Supplies and Hercules Detonators.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ 924

**HERCULES POWDER COMPANY**  
INCORPORATED

Fig. 4

Congress Journal announced the introduction of this machine as a new 10 cap Hercules Blasting Machine (Figure 4.). In addition Atlas and DuPont contracted with Fidelity for these machines as well. On July 29, 1930 the Fidelity Electric Co. 10 cap hand held blasting machine received a patent from the United States Patent

Office, thereby benchmarking itself as a pioneer in the development of compact and reliable modern blasting machines.

The 1930's saw advances in the design and production of more efficient motors. One such innovation was that of a motor that would change the

pitch of an airplane propeller to increase maneuverability while the craft was in flight. This gave the U.S. Army Air Corps a decided advantage during World War II. The war years saw the inclusion of the hand held 10 cap blasting machine on all U.S. built tanks as an alternate means of manually firing the main gun in the event of a power failure.

After the war, the company continued to make motors, but began to produce a variety of electric generators for use in commercial and industrial applications. The manufacture of the push-down blasting machine product line continued with only minor internal and external changes. The 10 cap hand held units underwent major changes affecting both its appearance and internal construction (Figure 5.). The most noticeable change was the inclusion of a black anodized cast aluminum top replacing the earlier brass top.

All blasting machines are designed to initiate a specific number of electric blasting caps. In doing so the designers incorporated sufficient margin should the blaster not deliver its full electric charge. Given this margin, a blasting machine operating at peak performance will initiate a significant number of blasting caps beyond its stated rating given ideal operating conditions.

Modern Blasting Machines produced by Fidelity range in capacity from 10 caps for the hand held unit to 30, 50 and 100 cap push-down models. The following table summarizes the specifications for the standard blasting machines which have been made over the years by Fidelity.

## Specifications of Blasting Machines Made by Fidelity

<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Activation</u>	<u>Case Dimensions</u>	<u>Height (*)</u>	<u>Weight</u>
10 Cap	Twist-Handle	3.5 x 4 x 5.5	8 in.	5.25 lbs.
10 Cap	Push-Down	5.5 x 7.25 x 9.75	13 in.	15 lbs.
20 Cap	Push-Down	6.5 x 8 x 11.25	14.25 in.	23 lbs.
30 Cap	Push-Down	6.5 x 8 x 11.25	14.25 in.	25 lbs.
50 Cap	Push-Down	6.25 x 8 x 13	16 in.	27 lbs.
100 Cap	Push-Down	7.5 x 9 x 12	17 in.	32 lbs.

(\*) The height includes the top of the handle.

The hand held 10 cap model was made of nickel plated brass and the 30, 50 and 100 cap machines were housed in either a mahogany or oak wood case. It is felt that this listing covers all the standard Blasting Machines produced by Fidelity, however one could encounter special purpose machines produced for specific customers.

A 1935 Mine and Smelter Supply Co. catalog No. 92 listed a 20 cap Push-Down unit. A 1979 Fidelity brochure listed a 20 cap Push-Down Blasting Machine which was the same size as the 30 cap model, but weighed less than the 30 cap machine. Today Fidelity as in the past builds special Blasting Machines for various customers. One example is the current use by the United States Military and it's NATO

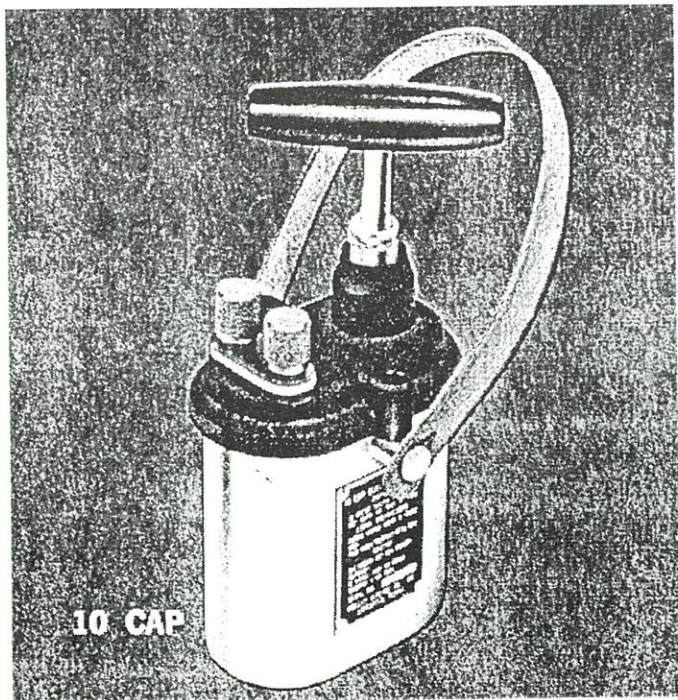


Fig. 5

Allies of the 10 cap hand held Blasting Machine on all tanks now in service as a main gun backup firing device.

At the present time Fidelity offers only the 10 cap hand held and 50 cap Push-Down Blasting Machines for sale.

In 1988 Fidelity Electric was purchased by the Klinge Corp., a Danish industrial company which eventually moved Fidelity from Lancaster to the

nearby town of York, Pennsylvania where a new and more modern manufacturing facility had been constructed.

This historical work on Fidelity Electric could not have been accomplished without the help of some very special people, first I would like to thank Mrs. Judie Ingersoll of Fidelity Electric for her tireless efforts at uncovering significant facts about the Company and assisting me in locating other people who could supply me with valuable information on the Company. Special thanks to Mr. Fred Suess and Mr. Jake Davis both former employees of Fidelity who provided valuable first hand information on the manufacture of the old Blasting Machines. One final note, if anyone knows of or has additional information on Fidelity or its products, I would appreciate hearing from you.

### REFERENCES:

Barab, J, Modern Blasting in Quarries And Open Pits”, Hercules Powder Company (Inc.), Wilmington, Delaware. 1927.

Du Pont Blasters Handbooks 1920, 1925, 1932, 1942, 1949, 1952, 1954, E. I. DuPont De Nemours & Company (Inc.), Wilmington, Delaware

Hercules Blasting Supplies Catalog, Hercules Powder Company (Inc.), Wilmington, Delaware, 1918.

The Modern High Explosive, Manuel Eissler, John Wiley & Sons, London, Chapman & Hall, Limited, 1905.



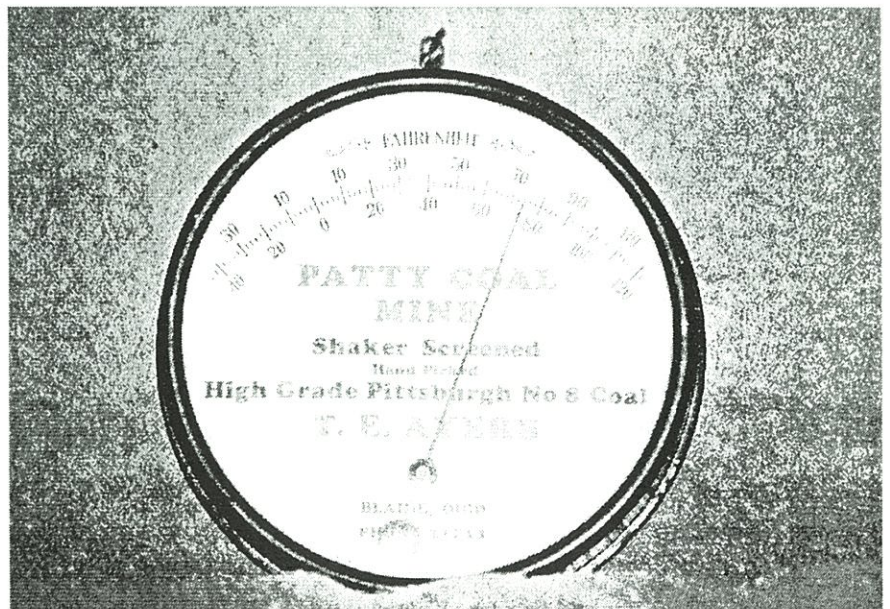
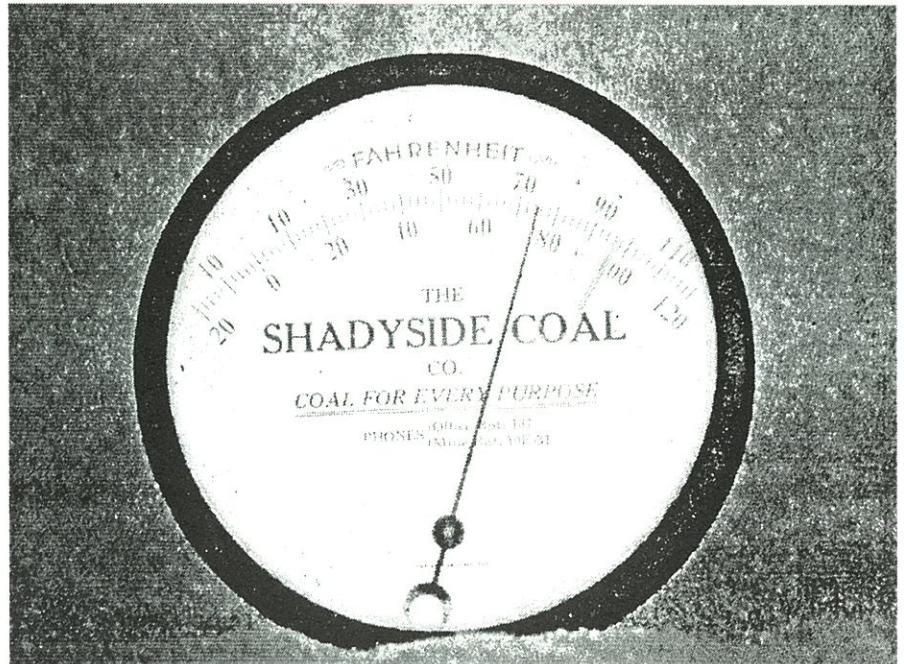
## Thanks to Ray Morrison

...and an apology. The article concerning the Grier 3-bottom carrier printed in issue #7 of EUREKA! was mistakenly attributed to Ray Settuer. In fact, it was just a small sampling from the many letters sent to me by Ray H. Morrison of Wheeling, West Virginia.

Ray is a faithful correspondent situated in a very interesting area of the country. His home in the West Virginia "pan-handle" is surrounded by the mining regions of western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and eastern Ohio.

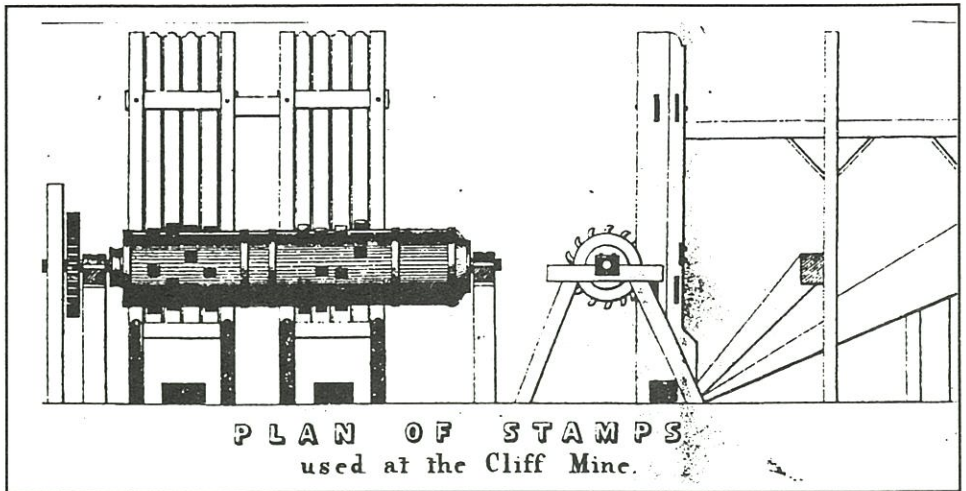
Most recently, Ray has been back out to Blaine, Ohio, to visit with retired miner Andy Telentiz, now about 85 years of age. As reported in our previous article, Andy ran a company store for the Lorain Dock and Coal Company up until the 1950's.

Ray sends me two beautiful photographs of old coal company mine office thermometers from the 1920's. These were from two small underground coal mines in eastern Ohio, just across the Ohio River from Wheeling. Andy Telentiz and his father had worked at the Patty Mine when he was a boy, 14-16 years old. The mine had only four coal loaders, and used a breast machine to cut the coal. The Patty Mine operated from 1922 to 1926.



## Cliff Mine Stamp Mill

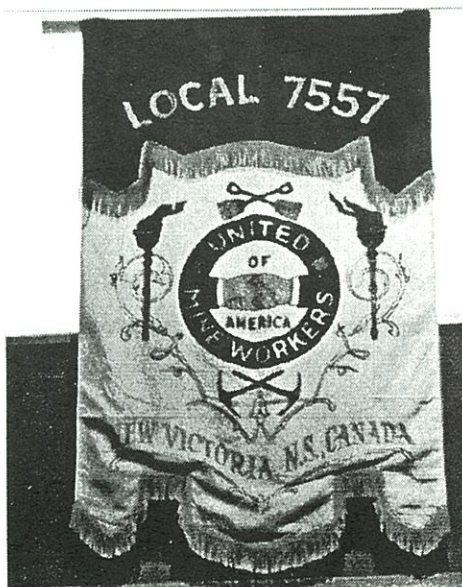
Chuck Voelker writes: "I recently came across this map of the Cliff Mine (1847), and was wondering if any other readers have information regarding the design and/or operation of early Cornish stamps, as represented on the map. Any help would be appreciated."



## Nova Scotia Artifacts

Your Managing Editor recently returned from a vacation in Nova Scotia, that charming island province in the North Atlantic with an extensive mining history! Visits to the local coal mining museums revealed these two stunning pieces of memorabilia.

The first is a UMWA banner from Local 7557, New Victoria, N.S. Canada. Also active in Nova Scotia in the mining labor movement was the PWA, or Provincial Workman's Association. Several PWA ribbons in the museum collection at Glace Bay rival our own beautiful UMWA badges.



The Museum at the "Tour A Mine," Springhill, Nova Scotia, site of the world famous mining disaster, contained a nice assortment of artifacts. I was surprised to see a number of items which had been donated by well-known American collectors! My impression was that the majority of cap lamps used in the Province were of American make. The gem of their display, though, is an Ashworth

safety lamp with what appears to be a manufactured accessory. Is this mystery item an alcohol gas tester attachment? or a fuel container/lamp filler? They definitely go together, and they even have their own specially designed tin canister container. The next visitor to Springhill should write ahead to the "Tour A Mine," and try to get permission for a closer look at this lamp!

## Wyoming U.M.W.A. Banner

Wyoming is one of the few western states that produced coal in any appreciable amount. And wherever coal was mined in the last hundred years, a United Mine Workers of America union local was present. I have been unable to learn anything about local 8078 of the UMWA or the town of Stansbury, Wyoming which is not located on modern maps. The only piece of information I have is that the banner was probably made in the early 1930's. The banner is factory made with much gold fringe and contains blue, red, brown, and other colors. Banners such as this are fairly rare and make a nice addition to a collection.

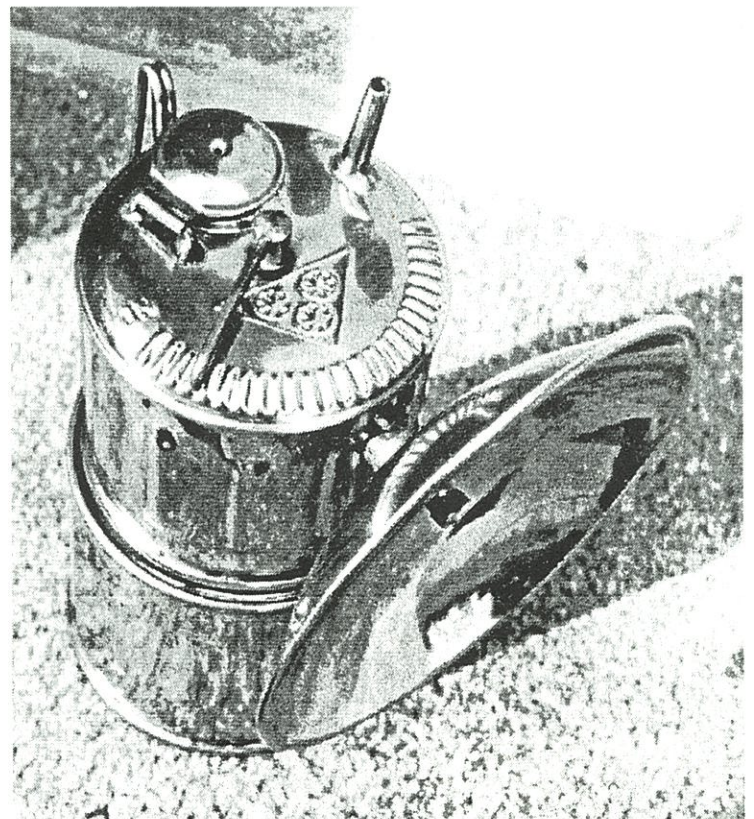
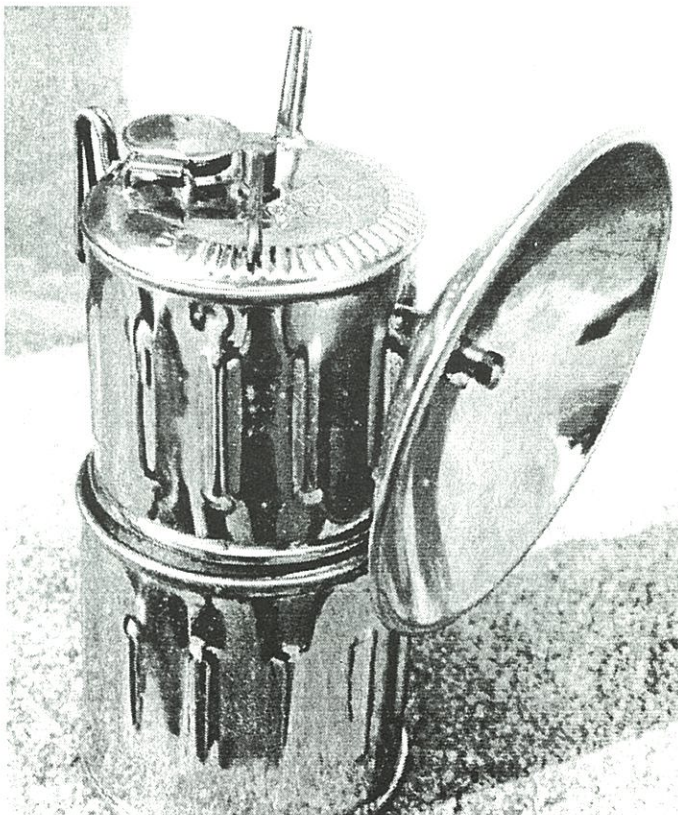
## Seeking Information

Any information on this lamp such as origin and value would be appreciated. Bottom is stamped LUXX.  
Ken Rupp, RD 3 Box 187, Altoona, PA 16601, tel: (814) 944-9307 5-9 EST.

*BREAKING NEWS!* Bob Schroth has identified this lamp as one currently manufactured in southeast asia (information from an acquaintance in Thailand). It is used as an area lamp, typically for back yard lighting at night. The

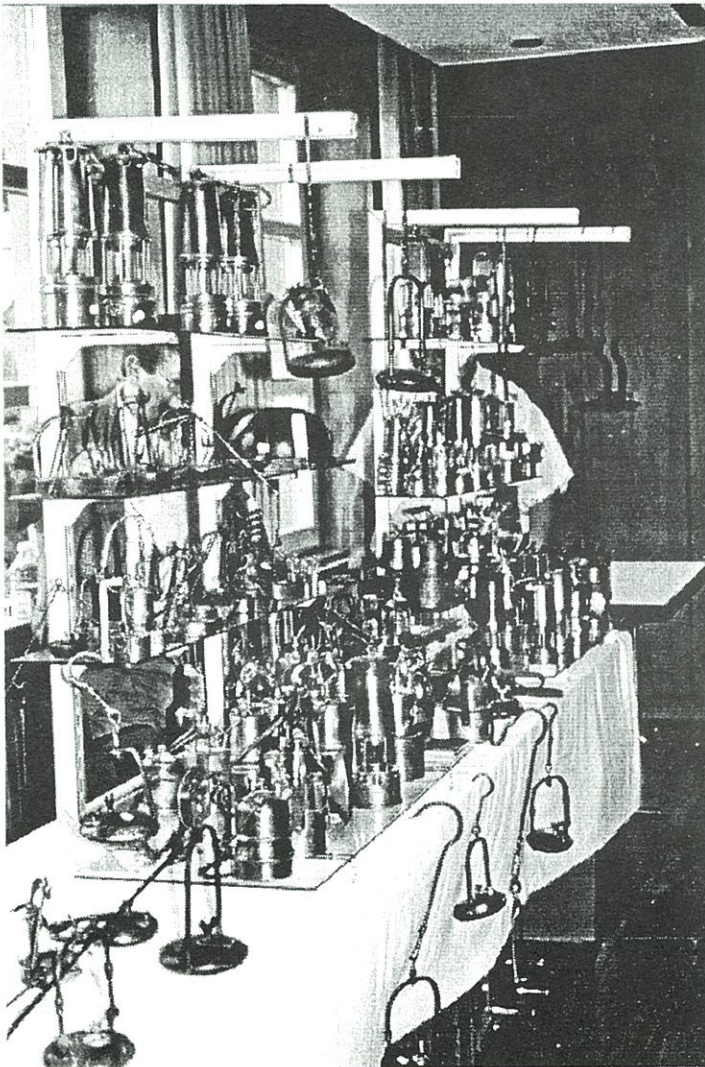
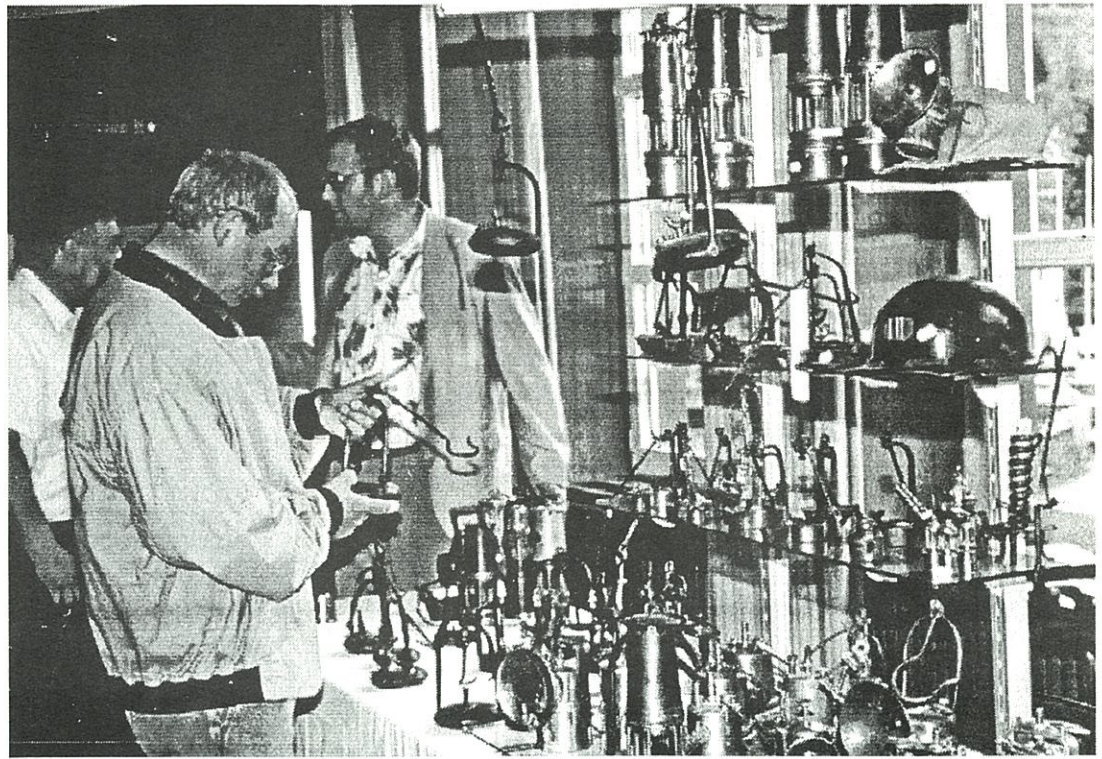


burner is actually the spout on top. Kenn's lamp (below) has had a false reflector and burner tip added



## International Lamp Fest

In June of this year, lamp collecting enthusiasts held a landmark event in Daaden, Germany. Their international display of mining lamps was undoubtedly the largest ever. *Over 1000 lamps were offered for sale!* The following photos were submitted by our old friend Manfred Stutzer whose booth is shown in the adjacent photo.







# 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.

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!

**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.

**For Sale or Trade:** National Carbide cans, 2 lb. size. These are cream and red, with a picture of a Wolf cap lamp on the can. New condition. Fred Gaunce 1064 Oak Moss Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30243 (404) 513-7819, call between 7-9 EST.

**Wanted:** Anything related to copper mining in Shasta County, CA. (vicinity of Redding, CA). Especially want photos, will accept photocopies. Frank Viscaino, 8921 Redbank Road, Redding, CA 96001.

**Trade:** Mining Stock Certificates. Send for list of Mining Stock Certificates for trade. Russell Filer, 13057 California St., Yucaipa CA 92399.

**Wanted:** Calumet & Hecla Minign Co. service medal, any condition would be welcome. For Trade: 2 books on early Michigan copper mining. 1849 C.T. Jackson report on the mineral lands of the State of Michigan, and the 1850 Foster & Witney report on the copper lands of the State of Michigan. Also, Pewabic Mining Co. copper ingots from 1865

shipwreck on Lake Huron. Chuck Voelker, 614 Harding, Plymouth, MI 48170. (313) 451-2261.

**Wanted:** Carbide lamps, any type, any condition and any other types of mining tools or oddities. William B. Vis, Madison Gardens Apt. 52 Bldg. 4, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

**Catalog:** Send for an interesting catalog of mining history books and photos. (Postage appreciated). If you have any books for sale relating to Michigan iron and copper mining please write to me. Robert Fox 1235 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

**Sale/Trade:** Small collection of premium quality mining artifacts including X-RAY, Force Feed, Vertical style Justrite, Little Giant, several nice oil wicks, and other misc. mining related items. Contact Jeff Shanks, 2003 Yardley Rd., Yardley, PA 19067 (215) 736-9107.

**Wanted:** Luminum hand and cap lamps. Justrite Jumbo, I.T.P. Float Feed cap lamp. Will buy or trade.

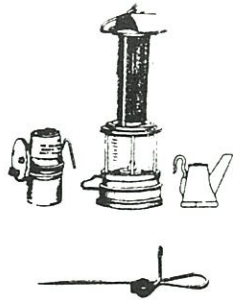
Todd Town, 38 Agazzia Terrace, Globe, AZ 85501 (602) 425-0423.

**Wanted:** Old leather miner's cap. Ed Blough, (602) 986-2405.

**Wanted:** Carbide cap lamps. Will trade rare miner's candlesticks or buy. Dave Thorpe, PO Box 477, Peoria, AZ 85380 (602) 997-4428.

**Trade:** Will trade the following rare carbide lamps for rare oil wicks I don't have: Anthracite, Britelite, Pathfinder, Coby, No. 50, Lu-minum cut-away, GEM, Defender, Grier pinchwaist, Maple City, Arnold Carbide Candle, Octagonal Wolf, Baldwin wet-mine lamp, and others. Dave Johnson, 8106 Barbour Manor Dr., Louisville, KY 40241, (502) 327-7559.

**Wanted:** Porcelain mine signs of any type, items related to Michigan and Wisconsin iron mine and copper country. Dave Johnson, 8106 Barbour Manor Dr., Louisville, KY 40241, (502) 327-7559.



JEFF SHANKS

2003 YARDLEY ROAD  
YARDLEY, PENNSYLVANIA 19067  
(215) 736-9107

•MINING LAMPS WANTED•  
CARBIDE LAMPS  
SAFETY LAMPS  
SPOUT LAMPS  
CANDLESTICKS

**WANTED**

**OLD WEST COWBOY COLLECTIBLES**

SPURS • CHAPS • HATS • BOOTS • GUNS • SADDLE BAGS

**RON BLEDSOE**

CALL COLLECT 510-820-7953

Mike Mostardi  
767 Old Westtown RD.  
West Chester, PA. 19382  
(215) 430- 8076

**Guano and Heap  
Mining Artifacts**

William Vis  
Madison Gardens Apt. 52 Bldg.4  
Old Bridge, N.J. 08857  
(908) 721- 1850

**CAP-TIN BOB**

Call me collect!

(If you have rare blasting cap tins or carbide cap lamps for sale.)

(909) 337-7102

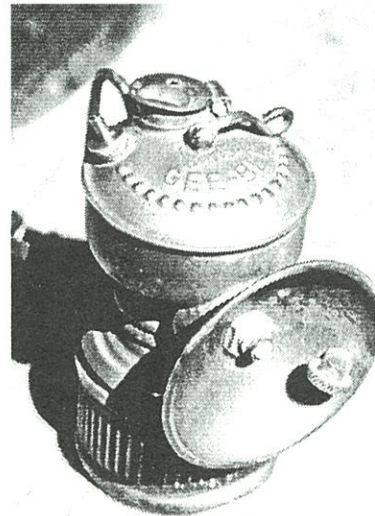


**Copper  
Queen**

Hand  
Lamp

*For sale  
or trade.*

Len Gaska, 1688 E. Corson St., Pasadena, CA  
91106  
(818) 405-0647



**GEE  
BEE**

Carbide  
Cap Lamp

*For Sale*

Has J & T tip cleaner. Lamp is complete and unfired, but has a dent on the bottom edge of base, and dents in the water door and edge of the reflector (all visible in the photo). Overall, the condition is excellent, with no stress cracks or discoloration.

Contact: Jim Van Fleet  
(717) 966-3308 (home)  
(717) 524-3235 (work)

# Ken Rupp

WANTED TO BUY  
MINING  
MEMORABILIA



MINERS LIGHTS,  
FLASKS, SAFETY  
LAMPS, CAP TINS,  
MINE RELATED ITEMS  
-NO TOOLS-

CALL: 814-944-9307  
AFTER 5PM  
ALTOONA, PA

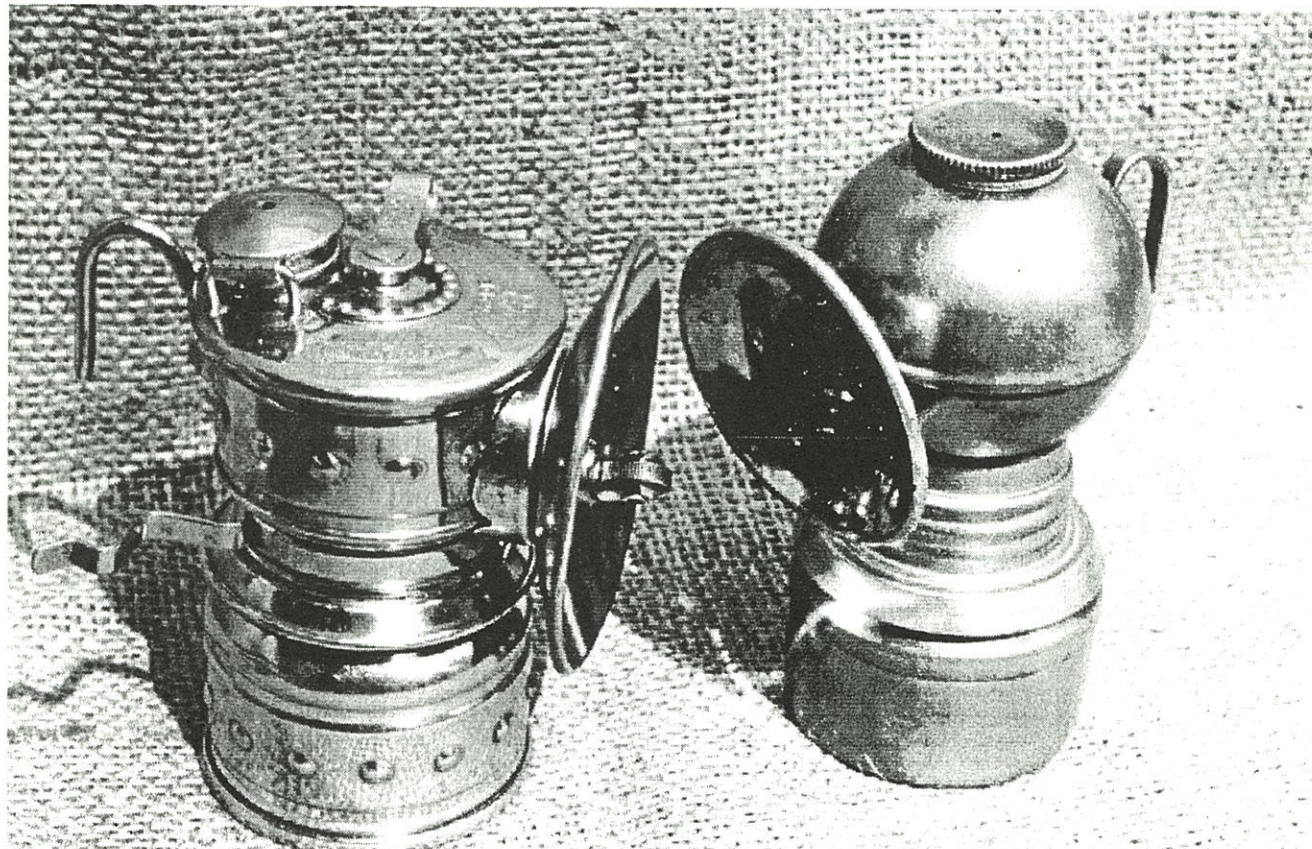
## Wanted:

Victor reflector brace and reflector  
American, Climax, Fort Pitt, and any better  
cap tins.  
Union Carbide hip flask  
Squarelite---Surelite---Duplex---Anthracite  
cap lamps  
Scranto bottom.  
Mine car Mfg. tags  
Coal Co. Police badges  
Any better oils or carbides

## Sale or Trade:

Scranton and Gem bottom -- trade only  
Leader and Hazelton hip flasks  
Atlas and Dupont blasters  
Justrite #2 parts box  
Lu-Mi-Num, Baldwins, Simmons cap lamps  
Liberty, Brass Trethaway, Copper Crown,  
and shielded oils.  
Justrite oval water doors

Trade only: Defender-syle X-RAY and EverReady (below)





***The ACME  
Steel Lamp***