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EUREKA!

The Journal of Mining Collectibles

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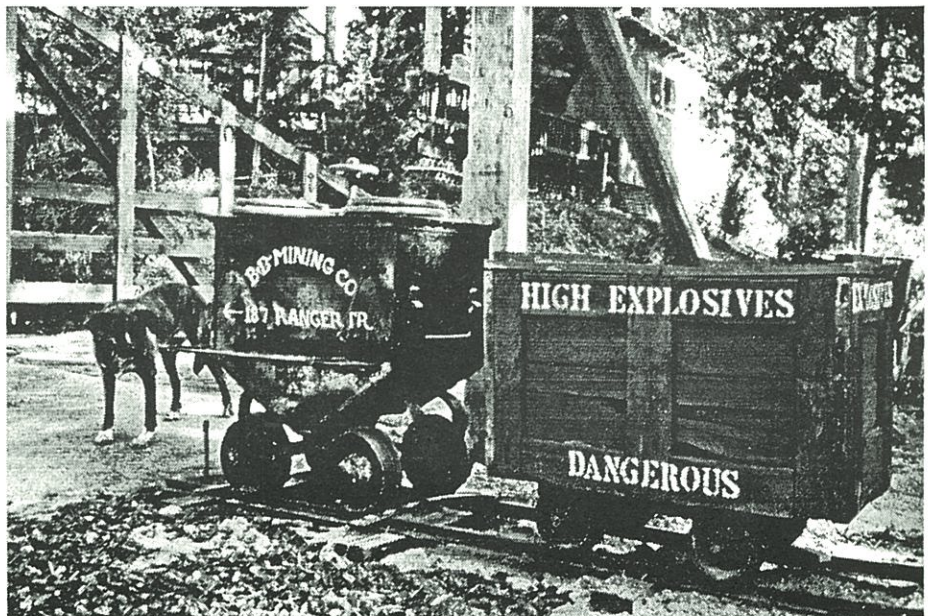
A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING,
PRESERVATION, AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF
EARLY MINE LIGHTING AND COLLECTIBLES

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Front Cover: Guy's Dropper cap lamp as seen under X-Ray.
(compliments Trick Howard)

Below: Bob Schroth's proud display of his miners' potty car.





NEWS



CHANGES

Eureka! is starting 1994 with some important changes. First, the Board of Directors, our "editorial staff," has changed. Mark Ballard informed us that he wished to resign as an editor effective September 1, 1993, citing a very heavy work schedule. At the same time, we received inquiries from several collectors about the possibility of serving on the *Eureka!* Board.

Our bylaws provide for an election to determine the Board of Directors, and a ballot was distributed to the current Board members. The result was the addition of Dave Des Marais, J. Roger Mitchell, Mike Puhl, and Manfred Stutzer to our staff.

Errol Christman will not continue on the *Eureka!* Board of Directors, but we hope that he and Mark will continue to submit information and offer their unique perspective to the collecting community.

We expect that *Eureka!* will also continue to evolve and change, and give collectors the opportunity to contribute to YOUR magazine.

Another important change, although it may seem like nit-picking, is that Jim Van Fleet is now designated the "Managing Editor." Editor-in-Chief was not an accurate or appropriate title for my part of the job of putting together *Eureka!* It really is a group effort, and we all work at putting out an entertaining, exciting, and factual magazine for collectors and historians.

In that spirit, this is no longer called the Editorial page, and instead of wracking my brains for some controversial gem of "wisdom," I can concentrate on reporting the latest news from the collecting community.

REUNIONS, ETC.

There is another important item I would like to clear up. We mentioned on our subscription renewal form that Dave Johnson would be hosting a collector's reunion in Louisville, Kentucky in the summer of 1994. As in the past, these reunions are hosted by individual collectors who have the desire and energy to put them together.

The 1994 reunion is not being hosted by *Eureka!* While we will try to report on all such events (see Brad Ross' advertisement in the back of this issue), we never have been an "official sponsor" of a convention or meeting.

We hope that this summer there will be the usual assortment of western swap meets, eastern scrip shows, and perhaps the third annual Coal Mining Cultural Heritage Day at West Virginia University in Morgantown. There will also certainly be the big antique shows, mineral shows, caver's conventions, and important auctions, which are all becoming "collector's reunions."

Eureka! will report on each of them, and try to provide information for folks who want to attend. The more the merrier!

HAND LAMP SURVEY

Dave Des Marais would like to thank all of the collectors who responded to his Hand Lamp Survey from issue No. 7. In fact, he was ready to publish the results in this issue, but we just plain ran out of room! Dave graciously agreed to hold his article until the April issue.

Any collectors who responded to the survey, or do so before February 1st, can contact Dave Des Marais and receive a summary of the results.

MISCELLANEOUS

The December 1993 issue of *Compressed Air* magazine includes a long and very interesting article on mining "Montana Sapphires," pages 19-25. As usual, the article is well illustrated with color and black & white photographs, and drawings.

The article outlines the history and geology of the Yogo Dike, one of the most unusual mineral deposits ever mined. Although it is a rather specialized trade publication, *Compressed Air* regularly runs feature articles on mining history and artifacts. The industry has come a long way from the compressed air "widow-maker" drills used by the old time hard rock miners.

One of our readers, Deric English, has rediscovered the articles on mining collectibles printed in *Relics* magazine way back in the spring 1969 and June 1971 issues. These are a great read for nostalgia buffs; remember when candleholder's could be bought in antique stores for \$8.75, and carbide cap lamps might run you \$3 to \$5 each?

BACK ISSUES

We still have available back issues of *Eureka!* No. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. At the moment, we are desperately seeking original copies of issues 2 and 5, in order to fill subscription requests from folks who "joined us late." If anyone happens to have an extra copy of either of these issues, we would be glad to buy it back or swap you for it!

Please contact Jim Van Fleet if you can help us. You'll be helping another collector!

Guy's Dropper Cap Lamps

by David H. Thorpe

A miner's cap lamp known as the Guy's Dropper was widely used by miners throughout the early 1900's. Invented by Frank Guy, a coal miner from Springfield, Illinois, it developed a faithful following of miners due to a grass-roots devotion to one of their own.

Initially manufactured by Shanklin Mfg. Co., the lamp evolved in various forms from around 1910 through 1932, at which time Universal Lamp Co. assumed its manufacture and made a much "watered down" version that remained unchanged until its demise in 1960. A collector possessing one or a number of the Shanklin lamps seems always plagued with the question of where their particular lamp stands in the design evolution. This is not a terrible question to answer for Justrite or Auto-Lite cap lamps, since the former

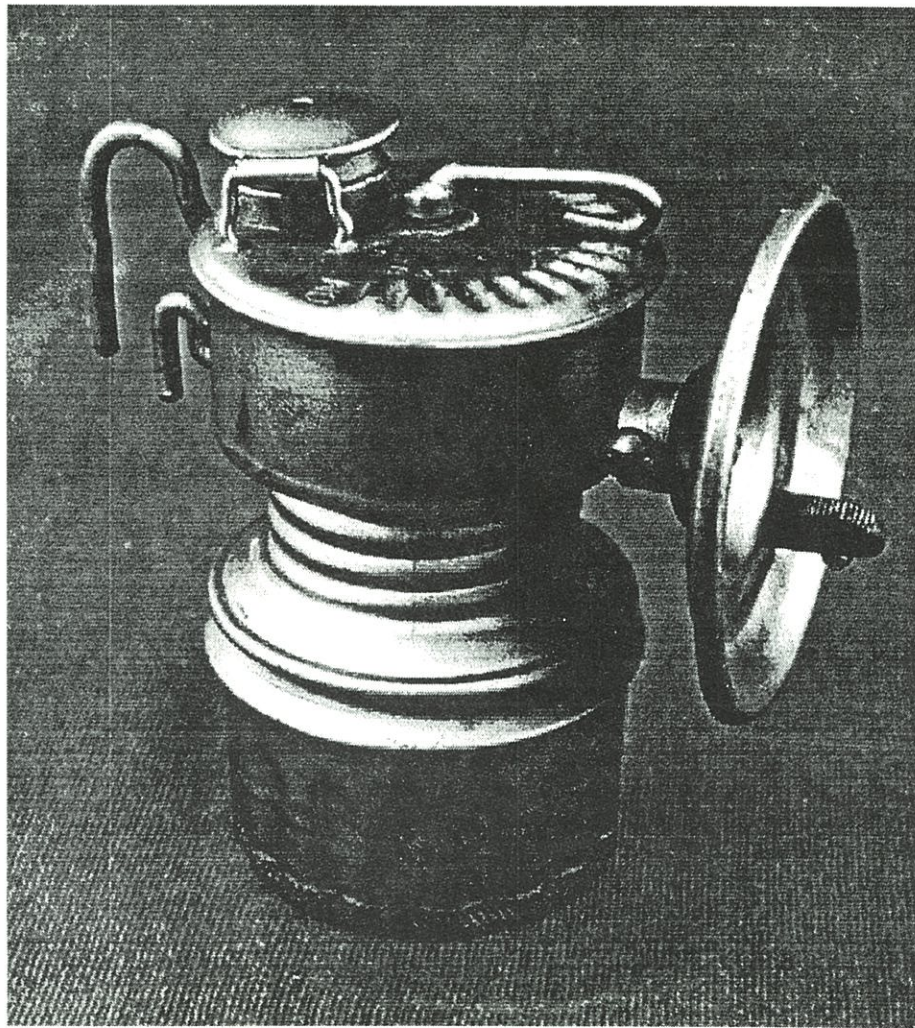
was heavily advertised in journals, as well as in many of their own catalogs. The Auto-Lite, though less well advertised, followed a much more orderly line of evolution.

But the Guy's Dropper has been problematic to follow. There were many changes in design, both ornamental and functional. What limited adver-

tising existed, was notoriously inaccurate in representing the actual design manufactured at the time.¹ Additionally, some of the older designs (such as the set-screw reflector and hexagonal base) were carried on in the product line to appeal to the miner who was resistant to change. In order to present some order to the many design variations, I have studied and

recorded a great number of lamps in collections around the country. Although this article will not enable one to pinpoint the year of manufacture for a particular lamp, it should place any lamp in its respective position along the evolutionary tree.

A table of all the examples studied is contained at the end of this article. As the various examples are described, the reader may refer to the particular lamp in the table so as to note its general chronology with reference to other Droppers.



*Guy's Dropper cap lamp.
(Dave Thorpe collection)*

I. Early Series

The early series consists of three lamps...none of them bears the rotating-sleeve water dropper associated with later Guy's Droppers. Instead, they used a more conventional one, identical in all respects to Meyer Stein's "button dropper" seen on his Springfield lamp. This dropper was, in fact invented by Frank Guy and copied by Stein. Guy brought a law suit against Stein December 7, 1916...and lost, for he admitted that this dropper had been in use for two years prior to his patent application March 1, 1911. This information leads to the conclusion that Guy's first "prototype" lamps saw use as early as 1909. However, according to Frank Guy's testimony: "The first lamp embodying my invention was completed and used by me in the Klondike Mine, Springfield, Ill., about February 1, 1907."²

The Original (~ 1911 - 1913)

There may have been earlier prototypes, but the lamp shown here represents the earliest manufactured Guy's Dropper known to collectors.

Distinguishing Features:

Smooth-sided base (no stamping)

Top-stamping (straight lettering):

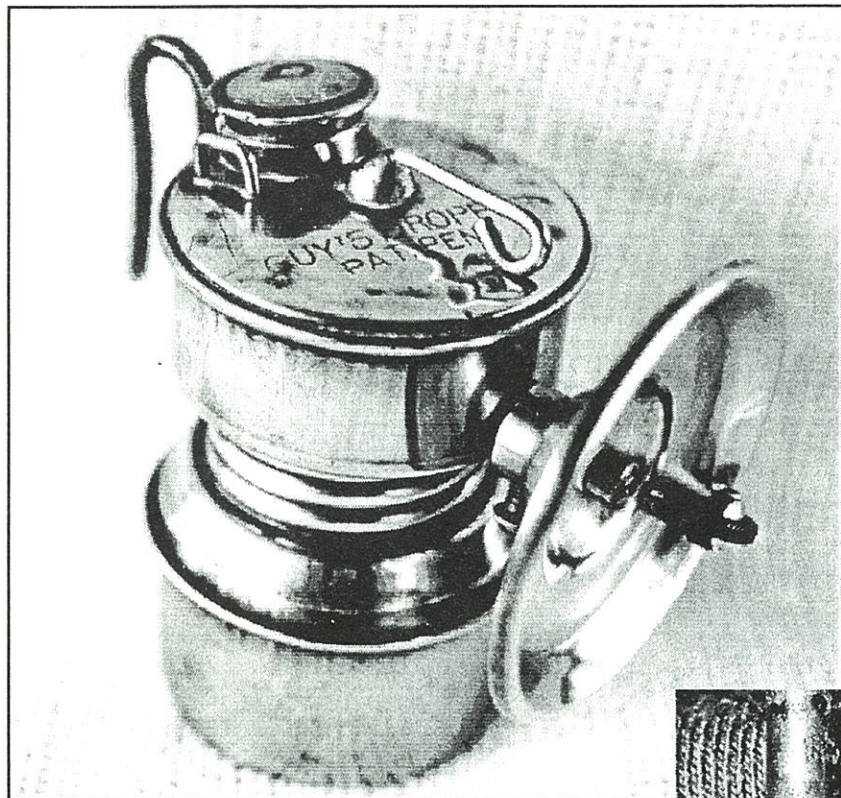
GUY'S DROPPER
PAT. PEND.

Hook penetrates tank

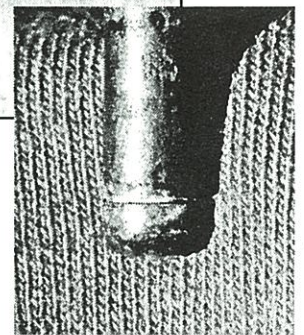
Water door:

1. Vent hole in top is punched upward
2. Only one vent hole in bottom
3. Narrow hinge posts
4. Water door collar is an applied sleeve.

Dropper: Conventional dropper, not the patented rotating sleeve seen with later Guy's Droppers.

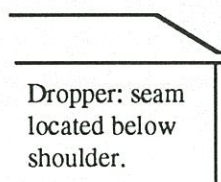


Above: The earliest Guy's Dropper. Stamped Pat. Pend. Smooth base. (Dave Johnson collection)

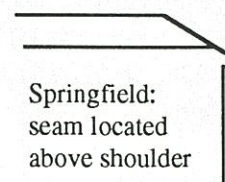


Right: The original 1914 patented Guy's water dropper, copied by Meyer Stein for his Springfield Lamp.

How to tell an early smooth Guy's Dropper base from an early smooth Springfield:



Dropper: seam located below shoulder.



Springfield: seam located above shoulder

The Early "One-Date" Model (~ 1914)

This appears to be the next design evolution. Aside from the patent date of May 26, 1914, which is stamped into the top in straight lettering (later models used a curved lettering), there were functional changes. Note that there is now a tab of sheet metal under the water lever. It is used to place spring loading or tension to the water lever so as to hold it in the position set. Later lamps would use notches in the tank for the same purpose. Many of these lamps (all that I have observed) are found with the narrow spade and the 5-bump base. A simple button dropper is still used. This model introduces the much sought-after "five-bump" base. The lamp shown below is painted in a gilt gold finish as were many of the one-date and virtually all of the later two-date lamps



Early "One-Date" Guy's Dropper with 5-bump base and narrow spade mount (Dave Johnson collection.)

Distinguishing features:

Five-bump base (no stamping)

Top-stamping (straight lettering):

GUY'S DROPPER
PAT. MAY - 26 - 14

Hook: Only narrow-spade models observed thusfar.

Water door:

1. Vent hole in top is punched upward
2. One vent hole in bottom
3. Narrow hinge posts
4. Water door collar is an applied sleeve.

Dropper: Conventional dropper

The Late "One-Date" Model (ca. 1914)

This model differs so much from its two predecessors *or its followers* that it is more of an anomaly rather than a product of evolution. Two features place it in the early series: a) the single patent date and b) the early dropper. Most of these lamps used the set-screw reflector as shown, however, some are seen with the newer design reflector held on with a nut over a threaded gas tube against a reflector brace.

The lettering now is in a curved layout and the lamp uses notches to locate the water lever. The lamp marks the first use of the wire cap brace. Notice the early style bend to the ends of the brace. Later models were much more angular. The double-ringed "Arrow-style" base belongs only to this style lamp.

Of particular note is the collar for the water door. It is no longer applied as a separate piece to the tank, but is pushed up from the tank itself. This collar style was discarded on all subsequent lamps through the late teens and early twenties in favor of the earlier separately applied collar, only to be revived in the late twenties with the modern "six-date" lamps.

Clemmer notes that a second manufacturing facility was used in Litchfield, Illinois (Litchfield Lamp Company) around 1913 - 14. It is possible that this lamp, so different from other early Drop-pers, is the product of dies used at this facility.⁴

Distinguishing features:

Double-ringed "Arrow-style" base

Base found in both stamped and unstamped varieties.

Top-stamping (curved lettering):

GUY'S DROPPER
PAT. MAY 26 - 14

Hook soldered to outside of tank

Cap braces: early style with wavy bend to ends

Water door:

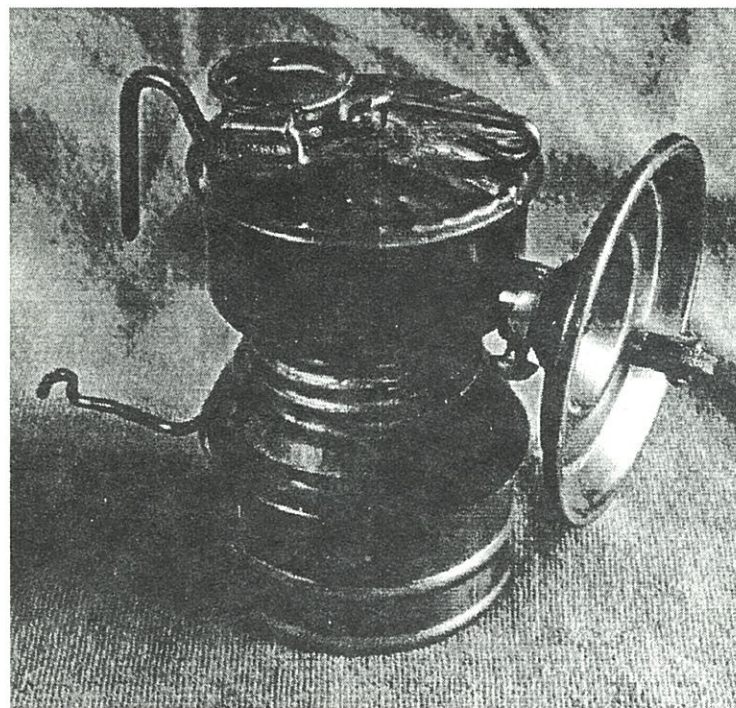
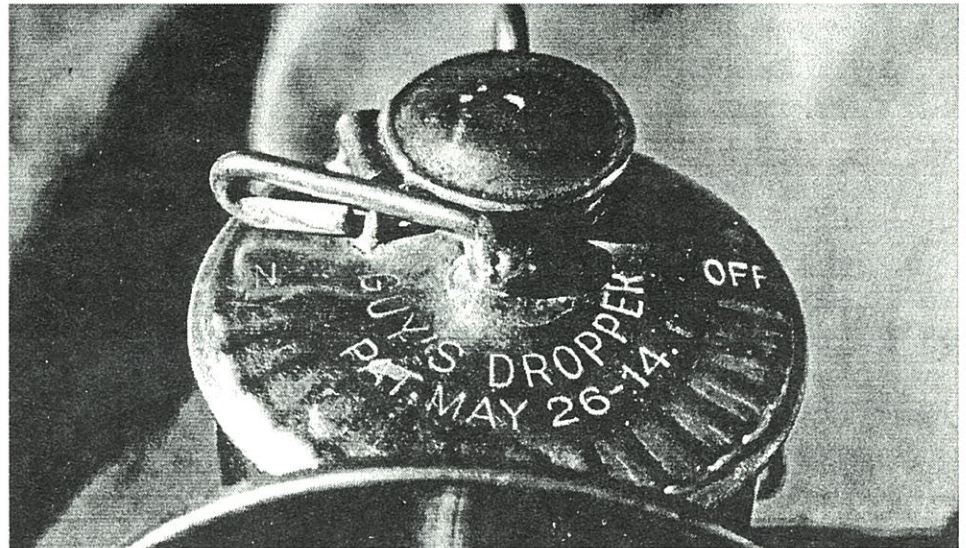
1. Vent hole in top is punched downward
2. One vent hole in bottom
3. Wide-spaced hinge posts
4. Water door collar is stamped up from tank

Dropper: Conventional dropper



Left: Base stamping (some bases of this style are unstamped.)³

Below: Top stamping in curved lettering.



Late "One-Date" lamp with set screw reflector
(Tony Moon collection.)



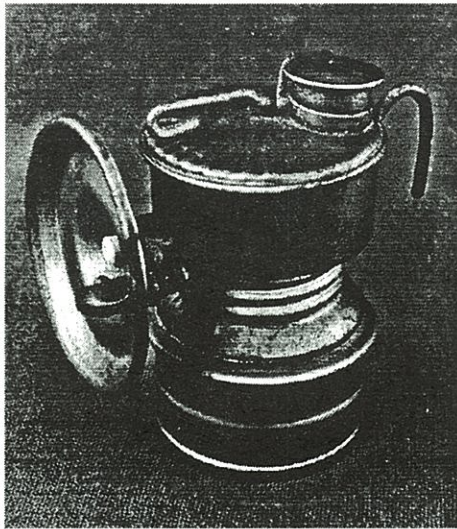
Late "One-Date" lamp with clamp-on striker
(Dave Thorpe collection.)

II. "2-Date" Series

A new generation of Guy's Dropper began shortly after 1916. The legal battle over the early dropper had been lost and a new rotating sleeve dropper was patented that was considered by many to be unequalled. The new 1916 patent date was added to the stamping on top, and the "2-Date" series was born. The tank portion of this lamp remained essentially unchanged, however a variety of bases evolved, and the dropper itself underwent its own transitions.

The lamp was offered with either a set-screw reflector (as in earlier models), or with the new reflector and brace, held on with a nut over a threaded gas tube.

None of the 2-date *set-screw* lamps were equipped with cap braces, while *all* of the threaded-tube models were. Once again marketing strategy did not forget the conservative resistant-to-change miner who, in selecting the older set-screw model, may have considered the wire brace to be a nuisance.

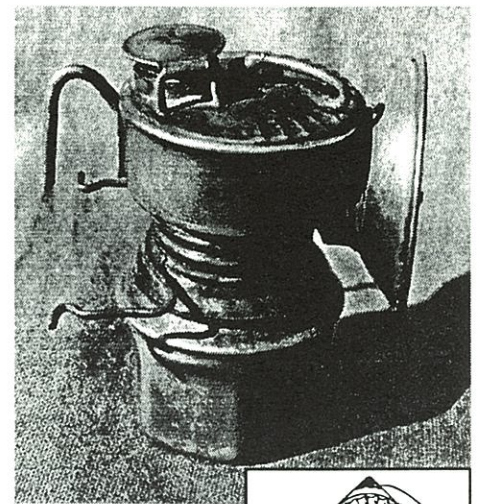


The Classic

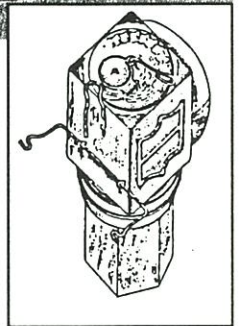
With diligence, most collectors can obtain the lamp shown at left. It is relatively early, as evidenced by the set-screw reflector and represents an attractive classic vintage Dropper style. It introduces the double ringed base (cross-hatched knurling) which was the precursor for all modern bases to come. Like all other set-screw Dropper lamps, there are no cap braces. The water dropper is the *second* transition of the new series: it has *two* knurled bands about it.

The First "Hex-base"

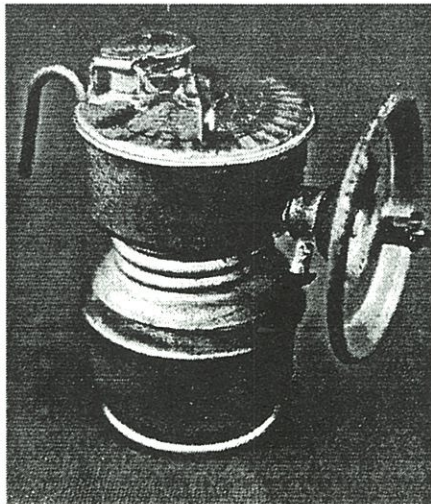
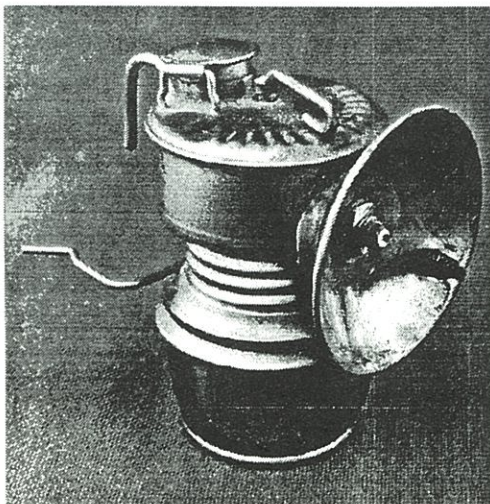
The early straight-sided hexagonal base was first seen in a 1916 patent for the Guy's Dropper Squalite. It was also seen on some of the early Guy's Dropper cap lamps. The model shown right introduces not only the "hex-base", but is one of the earliest models to sport the new nut-secured reflector. The cap braces are of the early bend and the dropper is the first of the new series. It is identified by a *single* band of knurling around the rotating sleeve.



Right: 1916 patent for Squalite



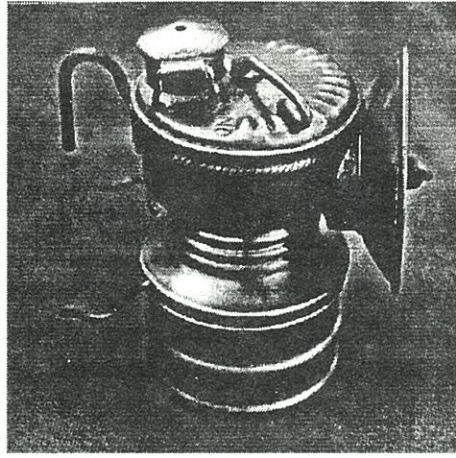
Later "Hex-base"



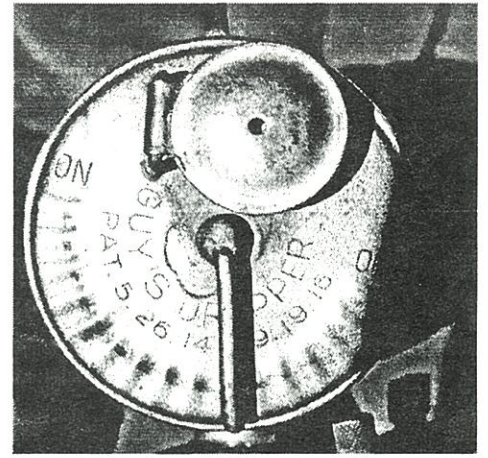
A hexagonal base with straight-walled sides is vulnerable to damage to the sharply angled bottom edge. The Guy's Dropper hex-base was therefore changed to be curved inwardly at the bottom edge. The lamps shown left are examples. Note that the set-screw *and* regular reflectors were found with hex-base lamps. The more recent design (left) utilizes the final transition of the water dropper: a hexagonal rotating sleeve.

Stamped and Unstamped Tops

Some lamps of this vintage are found with unstamped tops. Most of these examples have a peculiar angled knurling around the tank (referred to as “rope-knurling” by collectors). These are thought to have been special-order lamps for a large firm. The example shown right has a factory-painted red reflector, indicating its intended use as a tail lamp. (The base on this model is probably not Guy’s Dropper.)



2-Date style lamp with unstamped top (Dave Thorpe collection.)



Standard stamping of 2-Date top.

Transitions of the “Corrugated Base”

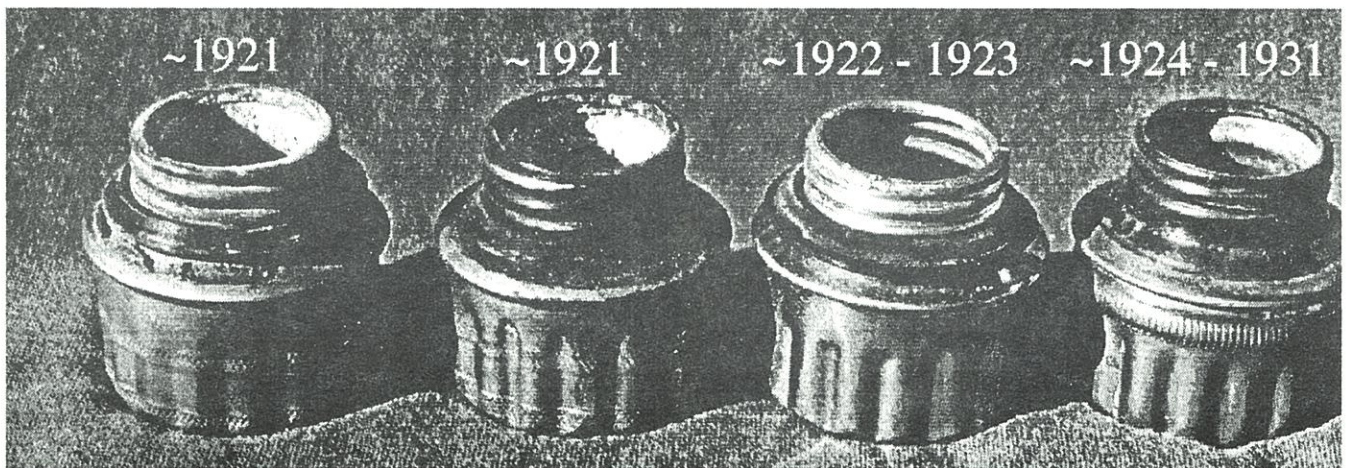
1921

The shallow cross-hatched knurling of the double ringed base offered little if any grip. Hence the “corrugated” (inset ribs) base was introduced. It appears that old stock of the double knurled bases were used up in the manufacture of the corrugated style since the earliest versions had both the knurling and superimposed corrugations. A transition of base styles is shown below.

1924

1924 is a major turning point in the design of the Guy’s Dropper. A patent was applied for that year introducing several new features. A wide knurled band was added high on the base as well as on the water tank. It was initially done with a fine knurl (as in photo below), and later with more coarsely stamped splines. Additionally, the cap brace was now a circular affair that clipped out of the tank flange. These patent innova-

tions were not the work of Frank Guy or the Shanklins, but two men named Frost and Zacharias. In 1924 the set-screw reflector was finally discarded. These changes are coincident with the company being taken over by Theodore Hoffacker, whose marketing decisions hastened the business’ failure. Interestingly, post-1924 lamps are not regarded with the same interest and enthusiasm by collectors as those made previously.



The Corrugated Base displayed in chronologic transition. The simple corrugated design (3rd from left) was patented July 21, 1925 (Design Pat. No. 67,859 Appl. Dec 2, 1921.) The base design at far right is associated with a lamp patented Feb 10, 1925 (No. 1,525,579 Appl. March 21, 1924.)

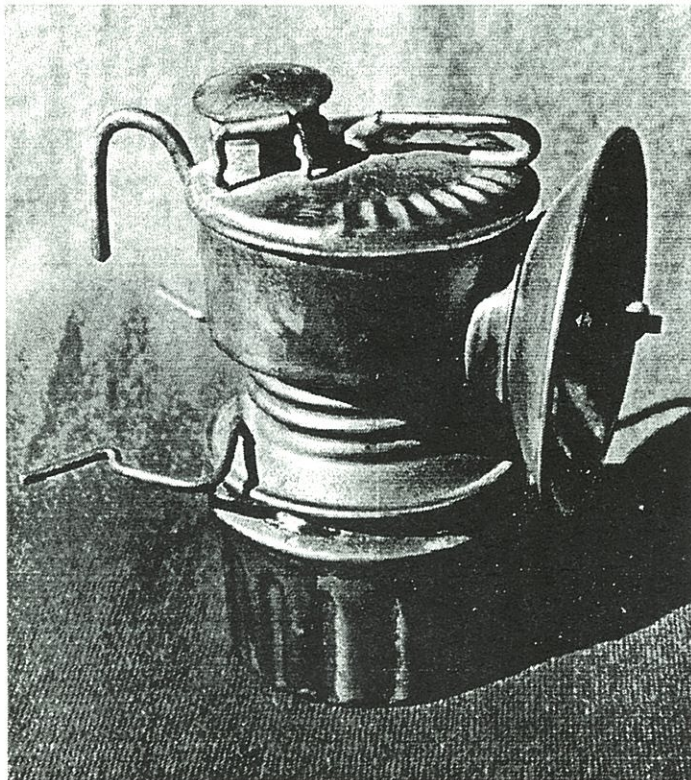
Corrugated "2-date" Examples



Corrugations over knurling. Three-inch saucer reflector with "wind-proof" tip.



Corrugations over knurling. Guy's Dropper set-screw accessory blaster's reflector. Note: set-screw models never found with cap braces.

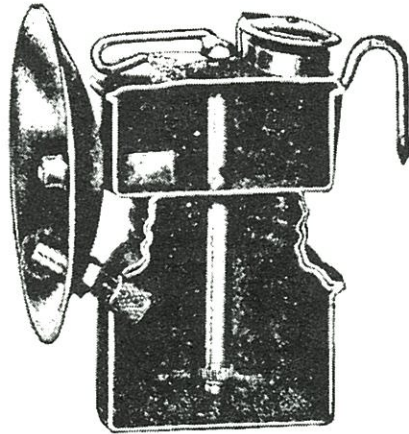


Corrugations only.

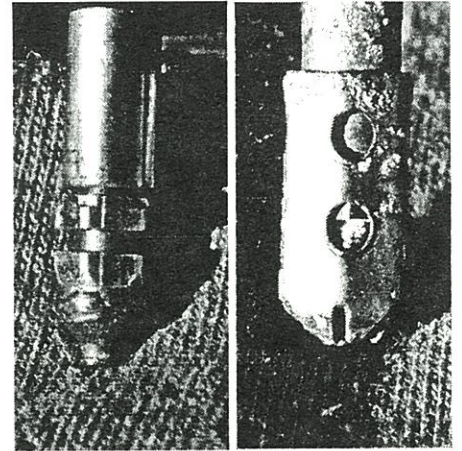
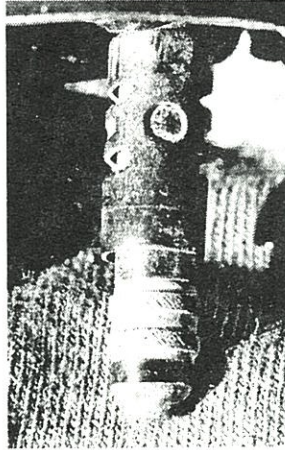


Late corrugated example. The knurled band uses the heavier stamping. Cap brace now is clip-in style.

Transition of Water Droppers



Guy's Patented Water Dropper



Three chronologic variations of the 1916 patent water dropper. The dropper in the center is shown with a sliding protective shroud which itself was patented (No. 1,357,596 Appl. May 24, 1918 Pat. Nov. 2, 1920.) The dropper shown right is often found with the perforated end-cap. All three are seen on 2-date series lamps.

“Low Roof” Model

A 2-date Guy's Dropper with a form fitting reflector (no reflector brace) was advertised in the 1920's for use in mines with a low roof. The reflector was less likely to become damaged due to its low profile.



Bottom Stamps for 2-Date Lamps

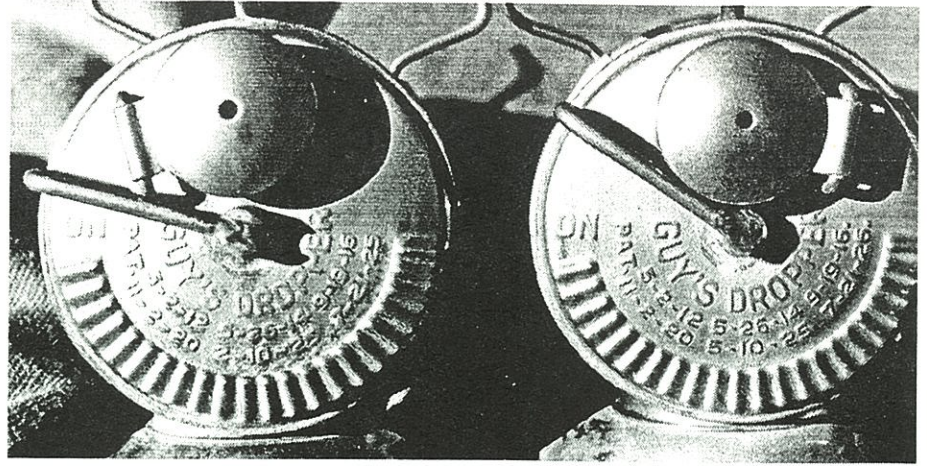
In addition to the bottom stamp shown previously (oval surrounding lettering), these two stampings are also found on the bases of two date lamps. They have similar sized lettering. The later stamp includes “U.S.A” at the bottom.



III. Six-date Series

(~ 1926 - 1930's)

A full set of six patent dates were now stamped into the top of the lamps. The first of these lamps were identical to the last 2-date models except for the top stamping. They had the heavy-band corrugated base.



“Wrong-date” Model

This anomalous 6-date lamp (right) bears an incorrect patent date of 7-21-26 instead of 7-21-25. Every one of these lamps also has its water door hinged from the left instead of the usual right location. A quality control problem? The “wrong-date” model is not particularly uncommon.

6-date tops. Example on right is “Wrong-date” model.

More Base Changes

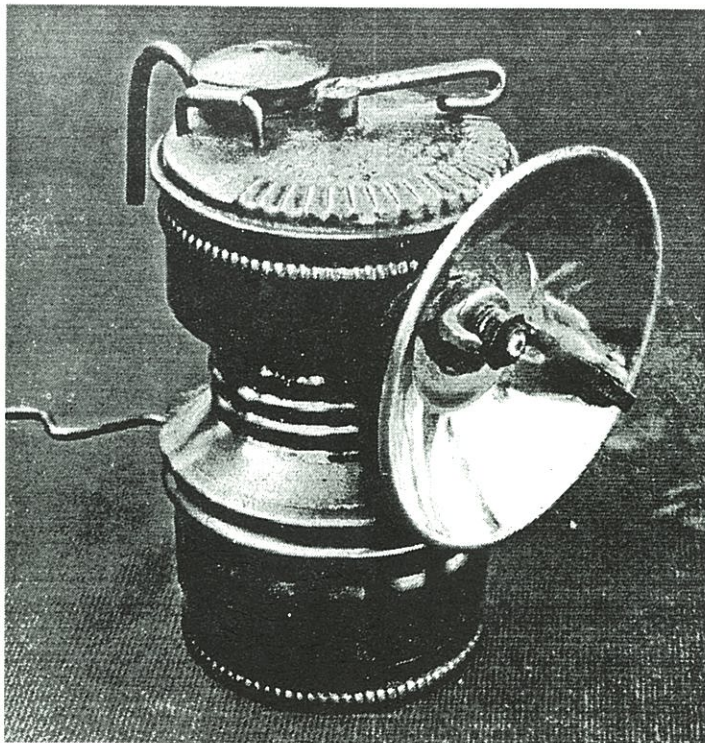
The corrugated design would finally be dropped in favor of the more conventional ribbed base. The first ribbed models were knurled at the very bottom of the base. A similar knurled bead was added to the hex-base. Just prior to the take-over of Shanklin Mfg. Co. by Universal in 1932, the knurling disappeared entirely from the base.



Above: “Wrong-date” models belong with late corrugated base.

Left: First ribbed bases had knurling at very bottom.

Below: With the 6-date series a larger letter stamping was introduced.



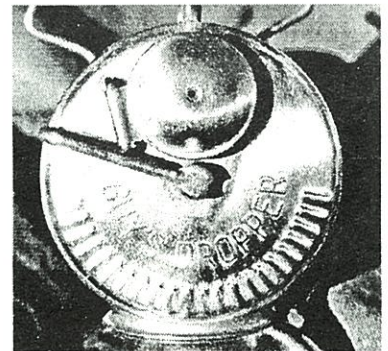
IV. Universal Dropper

(mid-1930's - 1960)

The glossy sheen of thin brass, the absence of patent dates, and the chintzy plastic bumper grip around the base all make this “No-date” dropper an eyesore in any collection. It was made by Universal Lamp Co. (maker of Auto-Lite) after they assumed manufacture of the Guy's Dropper in 1932. Notice that the reflector is the same as that of recent vintage Auto-Lites.



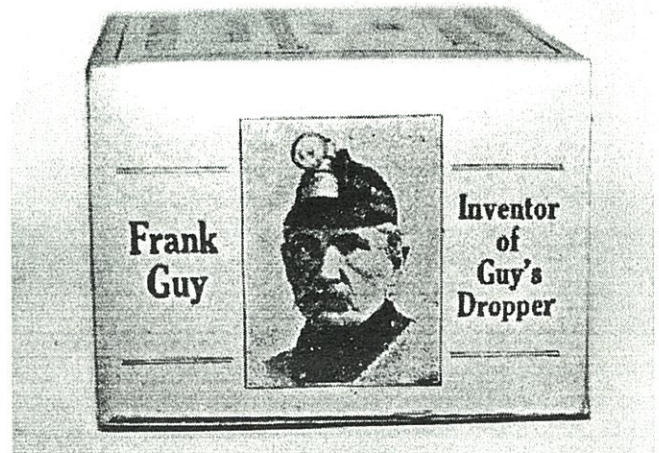
Above: Universal Dropper with spade mount. Lamp borrows Auto-Lite's reflector, wing-nut and Bumper-grip.



Left and right: Top and bottom stampings.⁵

References and Notes

1. Many ads depict the Guy's Dropper lamp with a domed top similar to the Pocahontas. Many of the early bases are never seen as they were advertised.
2. Federal Reporter 239, Guy et. al. v. Stein, Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. December 7, 1916. pp. 729 - 734.
3. This stamping is referred to as “Base mark 1” by Paul Kouts. Additionally, he has noted a similar stamping *without* the oval (mark 2), and yet another one *with* the oval, but including “U.S.A.” below the stamping (“Base mark 5.”) Neither of these were found in this study.
4. Clemmer, Gregg S., American Miners' Carbide Lamps, Western Lore Press, 1987, p. 85.
5. A similar stamping exists without the word “Patented” in the mark.



Guy's Dropper cap lamp box
(photo by Van Fleet.)

Table of Variations of Guy's Dropper Cap Lamps

Top Stamp	# Notches	Top Drpr	Top knurl	Tank Flange	ON OFF	Door	Door holes	Door collar	Fin	Refl	Nut	Refl Br	Cap Brace
Pt. Pnd.	0	Butn	Sm	Sharp	-	Flat edge	1t(u)-1b	Ring	B	St scr (l)	-	-	-
1-dt (st)	Strap	Butn	Sm	Sharp	-	Flat edge	1t(u)-1b	Ring	G	St scr (l)	-	-	-
1-dt (st)	Strap	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	-	Flat edge	1t-1b	Ring	B	Saucer	Knurled	Rem	-
1-dt (cv)	16	Butn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-1b	Flange	B	St-scr	-	-	Early
1-dt (cv)	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-1b	Ring	G	Saucer	Knurled	Soldered	-
2-date	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-1b	Ring	G	Saucer	Knurled	Soldered	-
2-date	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Knurled	Soldered	Early
2-date	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan	Knurled	Soldered	Late
2-date	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Saucer	Knurled	Soldered	Late
2-date	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Knurled	Soldered	Late
2-date	16	2-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Knurled	Soldered	Late
2-date	16	2-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Knurled	Soldered	Late
2-date	16	2-Kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-Scr	-	-	-
2-date	16	2-kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	16	2-kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Knurled	Soldered	-
2-date	16	2-kn	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Saucer	Knurled	Rem	Late
2-date	16	Hex	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Saucer	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Hex	Rem	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Sharp	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Saucer	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Saucer	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr (DB)	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr(DB)	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	St-scr	-	-	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Wing	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Wing	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On/Off	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan	Wing	Rem	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan	Wing	Rem	-
2-date	15	Hex	Sm	Roll	On	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	G	Pan	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll	On	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	B	Pan	Hex	Rem	Late
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	B	Pan	Wing PP	Rem	0
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	L	Pan	Wing PP	Rem	Clip
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	L	Pan	Wing PP	Rem	Clip
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	L	Form-fit	Wing PP	-	Clip
2-date	15	Hex	Fine	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	N	Pan (n)	Wing PP	Rem	Clip
2-date	15	Hex	Heavy	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	L	Pan (n)	Wing PP	Rem	Clip
6-dt wrong	22	Hex	Heavy	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Flange	N	Pan (n)	Wing	Rem	Clip
6-dt wrong	22	Hex	Heavy	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Flange	N	Saucer	Wing	Rem	Clip
6-dt wrong	22	Hex	Heavy	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Flange	L	Pan (n)	Wing	Rem	Clip
6-date	22	Hex	Heavy	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Flange	L	Pan (n)	Wing	Rem	Clip
6-date	22	Hex	Heavy	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Flange	L	Pan (n)	Wing	Rem	Clip

No stamp	15	Hex	Rope	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	B	<i>Red pan</i>	Wing PP	Rem-N	Clip
No stamp	16	1-Kn	Sm	Sharp	-	Flat edge	1t-2b	Ring	B	St-scr	-	-	None
No stamp	15	Hex	Rope	Roll (N)	On	Full dome	1t-2b	Ring	B	Pan	Knurled	Rem	clip

Table of Variations of Guy's Dropper Cap Lamps

Hook	Btm Stmp	Base	Door hinge	Owner
Penetr	none	All smooth	R-Str (n)	C, J
N. Spd	none	Five bump	R-Str (n)	C, J-F91
N. Spd	none	Arrow style	R-Str (n)	Vels
Unriveted	Ov(-)Lg	Arrow style	R-Str (n)	C, M, T1
N. Spd.	Ov(-)Lg	Arrow style	R-Str (n)	G396
N. Spd.	Ov(-)Lg	Arrow style	R-Str	G 396
Rivet	none	Straight hex	R-Str	T4
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Str	G 407
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Str	G 485
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Str	G 227
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Knk	G 234
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Knk	Schr
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Knk	Vels
Rivet	none	Tapered hex	R-Knk	Vels
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	2-ring-hatch	R-Str	T2
N. Spd	Ov(-)Lg	2-ring-hatch	R-Knk	Schr
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	Tapered Hex	R-Knk	J F74
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	2-ring-hatch	R-Knk	MC182
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	2-ring-hatch	R-Knk	T3
Dbl w/Riv	Ov(-)Lg	Tapered hex	R-Str	G 222
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	Tapered hex	R-Knk	G 235, T
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	Tapered hex	R-Knk	T5
Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg	Corug & hatch (shal)	R-Knk	MC181
Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg	Corug & hatch (shal)	R-Knk	T7
Dbl w/Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg	Corug & hatch (shal)	R-Knk	T6
Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg	Corug & hatch (deep)	R-Knk	T8
Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg(-D)	Tapered hex	R-Knk	J F43
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/no knurl	R-Knk	G 441
Dbl w/Overleaf	Sm	Corug/no knurl	R-Str	MC179
Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg	Tapered hex	R-Knk	G 349
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/no knurl	R-Knk	T10
Dbl w/Overleaf	Sm	Corug/no knurl	R-Knk	T9
Overleaf	Ov(-)Lg	2-ring-hatch	R-Knk	J F30
Overleaf	Sm	Corug-no knurl	R-Knk	JF25
N. Spd	Sm	Corug/no knurl	R-Knk	G 445
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/no knurl	R-Knk	G 226
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/fine knurl	R-Knk	G 231
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/fine knurl	R-Knk	G 223
Dbl w/Overleaf	Sm	Corug/fine knurl	R-Knk	T12
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/fine knurl	R-Knk	G 220
Overleaf	Sm	Corug/fine knurl	R-Str	T13
Overleaf	Sm(usa)	Corug/fine knurl	R-Knk	T11
Overleaf	Sm(usa)	Corug/fine knurl	R-Knk	G 212
Overleaf	Sm(usa)	Corug/hvy knurl	R-Knk	T14, MC184
Overleaf	Sm(usa)	Tapered hex	L-Str	Schr
N. Spd	Lg(usa)	Tapered hex	L-Str	MC 186
Overleaf	Lg(usa)	Corug/hvy knurl	L-Str	T15
Overleaf	Lg(usa)	Corug/hvy knurl	R-Str	T16
Overleaf	Lg(usa)	External-ribs	R-Str	T17, MC 159
Overleaf	?	(?)	R-Knk	T
Rivet	Ov(-)Lg	Tapered hex	R-Str	G 444
All md	Sm	Corug no knurl	R-Knk	J F20

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:

Top Stamp: Pt. Pnd.= Pat. Pend., 1-dt(st) = One date stamped in straight line, 1-dt (cv) = One date stamped in curved layout, 2-date= Two patent dates stamped on top, 6-dt wrong = Six patent dates stamped on top that includes the incorrect date of 7-21-26, 6-date = Six patent dates stamped on top.

Notches: Strap: A sheet metal strap under the water lever provides tension in place of lever notches.

Drpr(Waterdropper): Butn = Simple dropper similar to the Springfield "Button Dropper", 1-Kn = Rotating sleeve with one row of knurling, 2-Kn = Rotating sleeve with two rows of knurling, Hex = Rotating sleeve with two hexagonal nuts,

Top Knurl (Decorative knurling around water tank): Sm: Smooth, no knurling, Fine: A band of finely notched knurling, Heavy: A band of heavy knurling.

Tank Flange: Sharp: Bottom edge of water tank below threads comes to sharp edge, Roll: Bottom edge is rolled, Roll (N): Bottom edge is rolled with cut-out notches for cap brace.

Door holes (waterdoor): 1t(u)-1b = One hole on top stamped upwardly and one hole in the bottom, 1t-1b = One hole on top and one hole in the bottom, 1t-2b = One hole on top and two holes in the bottom.

Fin (finish): B = Bare brass, G = Gilt paint, L = Clear lacquer, N = Nickel-plated brass.

Reflector): St scr(l) = Set screw reflector with long screw, St scr = Set screw reflector, Saucer = 3" simple curved reflector, Pan = Smaller reflector with flattened center section, St-scr(DB): Bell-shaped set-screw reflector, Pan (n) = Nickel-plated pan reflector.

Nut: Knurled = Round knurled nut, Hex = Hex nut, Wing = Wing nut, Wing PP = Wing nut with Pat Pend stamped into nut.

Ref Br (Reflector brace): Rem = removeable from lamp, Soldered = Soldered to tank.

Hook: Penetr = Hook penetrates tank, N. Spd. = Narrow spade, Rivet = Hook is riveted to tank, Dbl w/Riv = Double hook rivited to tank, Overleaf = Brass overleaf over hook.

Btm Stmp (Bottom stamping): Ov(-)Lg = Large letters inside oval stamp with dashes between lines, Ov(-)Lg(-D) = Same as previous but instead of the usual word "Manuf'd" the stamping is "Manuf", Sm: Small letters with no oval, Sm(usa) = Same as previous but with "U.S.A" added, Lg(usa): Same as previous but large letters.

Door hinge: R-Str (n) = Hinges from the right with straight narrow posts, R-Str = Hinges from the right with straight normal width posts, R-Knk = Hinges from the right with kinked posts, L-Str = Hinges from the left with straight posts.

Scranton and Scranto Cap Lamps

by David J. Des Marais

Northeastern Pennsylvania contributed some of the most interesting and sought-after early carbide cap lamps. As discussed earlier by Dave Thorpe,¹ much of the history of the Scranton, early Victor, Black Diamond and Pathfinder lamps is still uncertain. The present article traces the evolution of the Scranton and Scranto lamps by describing the numerous small design changes which created at least 12 varieties.

Llewellyn M. Evans, a state mine inspector in Scranton, started the "Baldwin Lamp Company" in 1907.¹ It is not clear what relationship his business had with the activities of Frederic E. Baldwin or his partner, John Simmons. However, in 1908, the John Simmons Company opened a branch office in Scranton.² In July 1909, Evans changed the name of his company to "The Scranton Acetylene Lamp Company."³ Was the name change caused by the arrival of Simmons in Scranton and the threat of a lawsuit over the use of the "Baldwin" trademark? After all, Baldwin and Simmons began their business

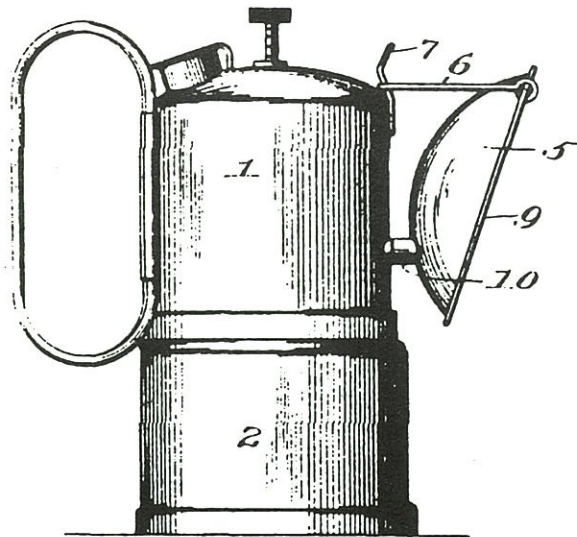
association in 1906 and their Baldwin lamps had already gained wide acceptance² before Evans started his company.

As early as January 1910, Francis H. Coffin & Company served as a general sales agent for Scranton lamps.³ By May 1911, The Scranton Lamp Company had taken over its own marketing, but, sometime before April 1914, it designated the A. L. Derry Company of Scranton as its general sales agent. The Scranton Acetylene Lamp Company was sold in 1916 to the American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Company of Scranton, which continued lamp sales until the early 1920's.³

Two patents were associated with the Scranton Acetylene Lamp Company. The first, No. 1,002,890, was granted on September 12, 1911 to David A. Williams. According to U.S. Trademark No. 85,772, both this patent date and the "Scranto" name were first used on September 11, 1911.³ The patent date first appeared in advertisements in 1912. The lamp depicted in the patent draw-

ing does not strongly resemble either Scranton or Scranto lamps, except for the externally-soldered cap hook, the water door, the idea of a slanted "wet-mine" reflector, and the water feed with its relatively thick, blunt bottom end and its knurled finger wheel at the top. The second patent, #1,081,899, was granted to Llewellyn Evans on December 16, 1913 and closely resembles the Scranto hand lamps with their removable reflectors and supervisor handles. The patent drawing embodies many of the features seen on the later Scranto cap lamps, such as their water feeds, reflectors and body proportions.

The accompanying photographs, table, and advertisements document the changes which occurred in the design of the lamp. Five clearly distinguishable variations of the Scranton lamp and six variations of the Scranto lamp have been identified. The Abercrombie and Fitch lamp, a seventh variation on the Scranto, differs from the Scranto Type III only in the stamped name of that well-known outfitting company. The lamp types are described below.



*Drawing for second of two patents for the Scranton/Scranto series.
Patent No. 1,081,899, Dec 16, 1913. Appl. Sept. 11, 1912.*

Scranton I.

This first variety in the series introduced all of the characteristic features of Scranton lamps. It is most clearly distinguished from all later varieties in two ways: it lacks any stamping of brand or patent information, and the burner tube emerges only 0.67 in. above the bottom edge of the water tank. In later varieties, the tube emerges about 0.85 in. above the bottom edge. This first Scranton also has pronounced vertical striations in the water tank and base, reminiscent of the ones on non-Justrite Victor lamps. These striations are much more subdued in later varieties of Scranton lamps.



Scranton II.

This variety is distinguished from all others by the stamping PAT. APPLIED FOR, which is oriented vertically on the water tank.



Above: Scranton I. lamp (Ken Rupp collection.)

Left: Scranton II. lamp (David J. Des Marais collection.)

The "Scranton" Acetylene Mine Lamp

is very simple. All you have to do is half-fill the retainer with carbide, fill the reservoir with water and regulate the patent valve to feed from ten to twenty drops of water per minute. The result is a brighter flame, one that can be positively regulated, raised or lowered at will and that burns longer without recharging.

Write for particulars and prices.

Francis H. Coffin & Co.
Board of Trade Scranton, Pa.



Above: *January 1911.* This ad appeared from June, 1910 to January, 1911. The lamp resembles Scranton styles II. and III.

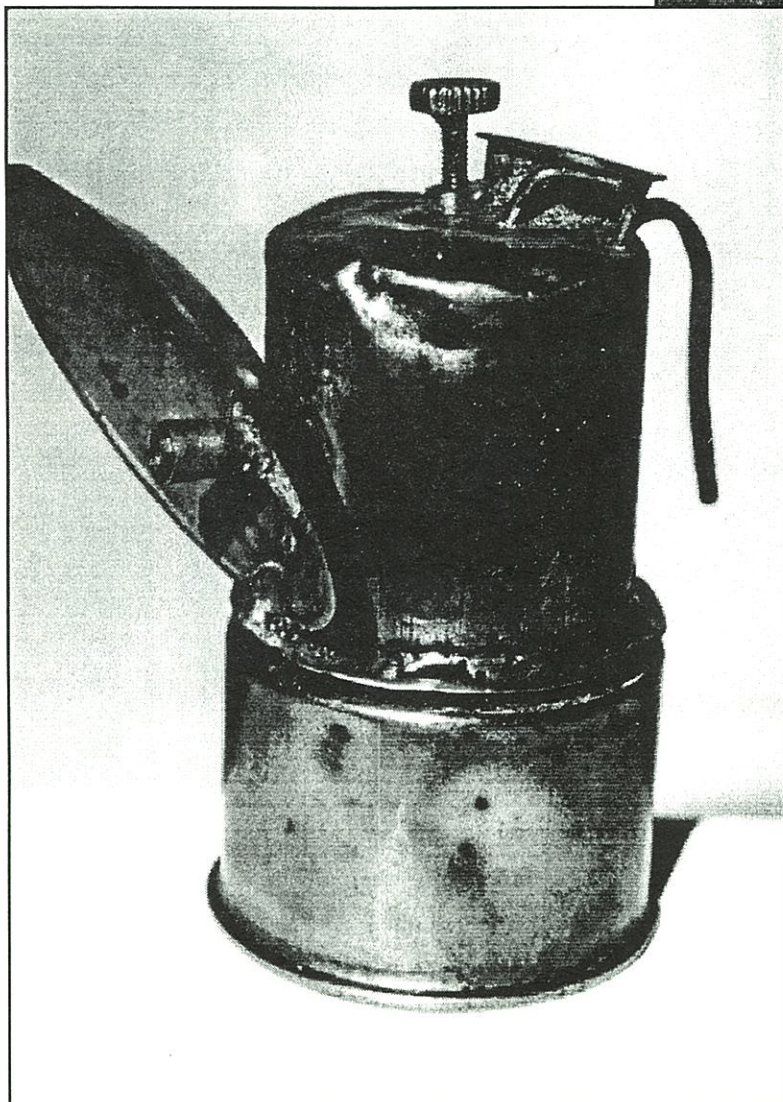
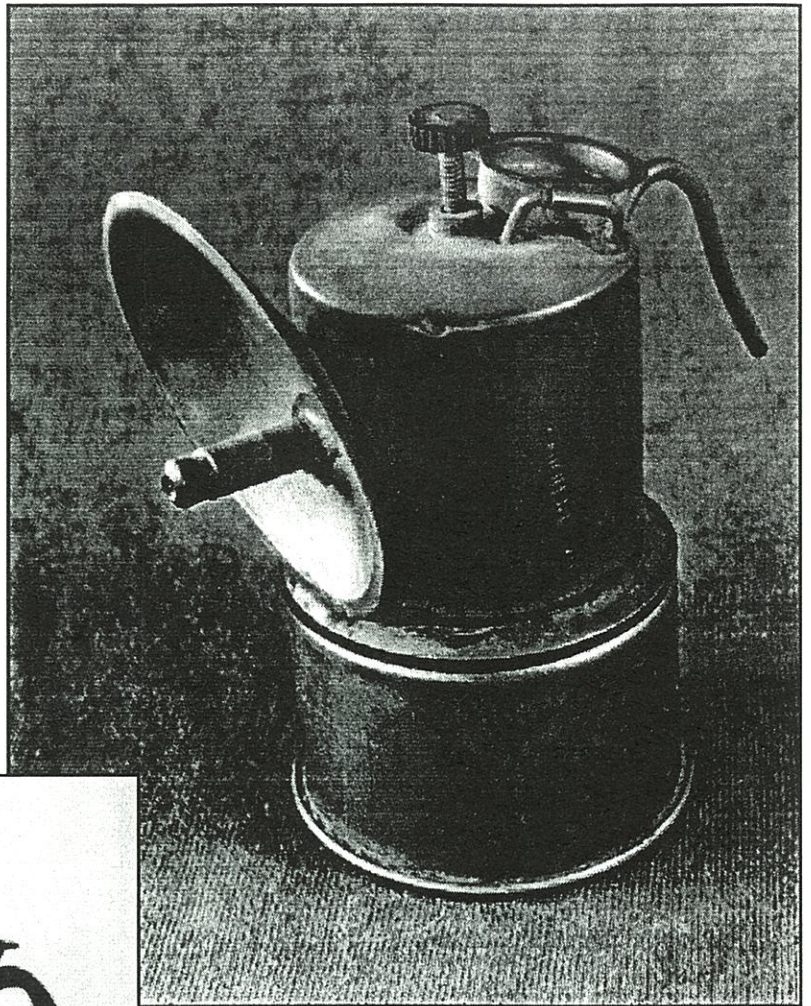
Scranton III.

This variety bears only the stamp
PAT. PENDING.

*Right: Scranton III. lamp (Dave Thorpe
collection.)*

*Below left: Scranton IV. lamp (John
Podgurski collection.)*

Below right: Scranton IV. stamping.



Scranton IV.

This variation is identical to Scranton III except
for the label "SCRANTON" which appears on the
water tank next to the label "PAT. PENDING."



The Scranton Acetylene
MINE LAMP Covers Many Fields
of Usefulness

As a miner's lamp it is the peer of all. Eliminates smoke, sparks, soot, grease and the danger of fire. Consumes minimum of oxygen. Eighteen candle power light, instantly regulated, and at lowest operating cost.

Indispensable to Farmers, Plumbers, Machinists, Automobilists, Hunters and Campers.

WRITE FOR OUR BOOKLET

THE SCRANTON ACETYLENE LAMP CO.
147 Belmont Terrace, SCRANTON, PA.

Above: May 1911. This lamp style appeared in advertisements between May, 1911 and April 1912. It resembles Scranton style IV.

Scranton V.

The last lamp to bear the Scranton label is the first to include a nickel silver reflector which very much resembles those with the Scrantos. A reflector brace appears for the first time, and is soldered both to the reflector and to the top of the water tank.

Below: Scranto I. lamp (Mike Puhl collection.)



Above: Scranton V. lamp (Mike Puhl collection.)

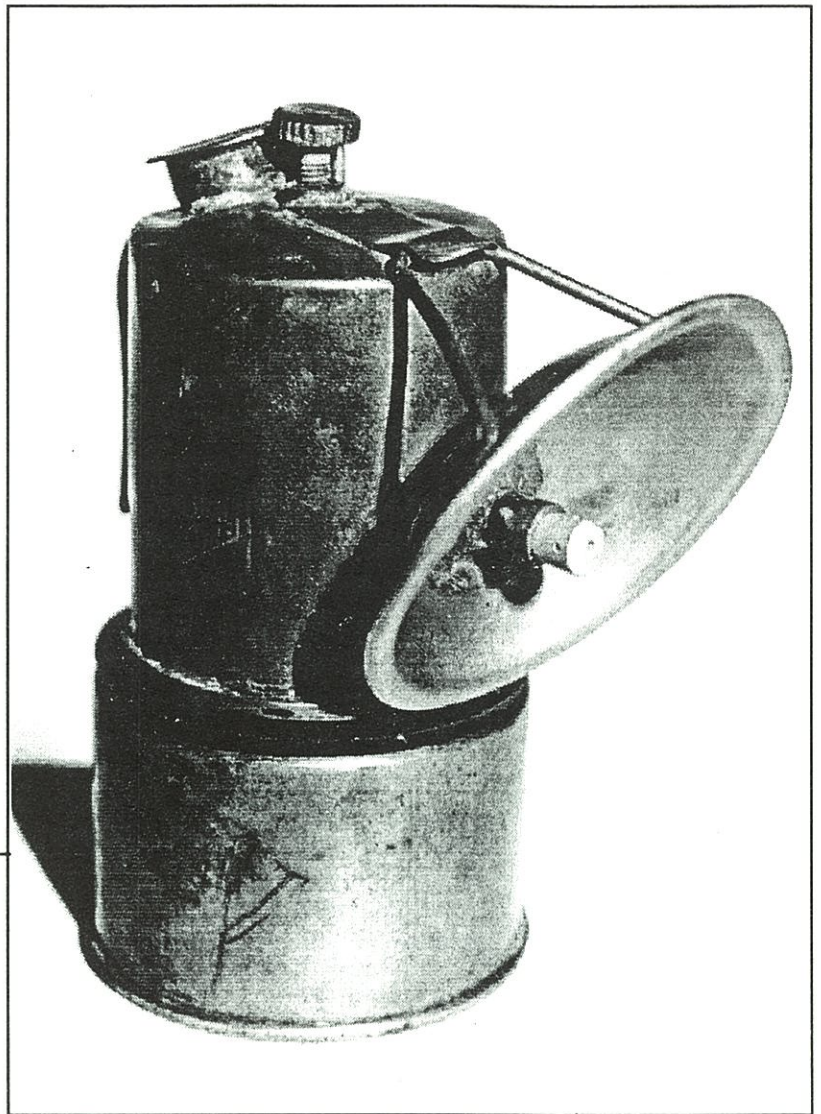
Scranto I.

The first of the Scrantos actually resembles the earlier Scrantos more than the later Scrantos. It is identified as a Scranto only by the vertically oriented SCRANTO stamp and the patent date SEPT. 12, 1911. Unfortunately the only known example of this lamp, which is shown in the photo, lacks its original reflector (it also lacks the original cap hook). Though this example has no reflector brace, it is likely that it once may have.

Scranto II.

Like its predecessor, this variety has the vertically-oriented stamps SCRANTO and the patent date SEPT. 12, 1911. However, some key changes are evident. First, the water door is smaller than in previous versions. Second, the water tank is joined at the bottom to the threaded insert by a rolled seam instead of a simple soldered seam. In addition, the lamp has the characteristic Scranto nickel silver angled reflector which is soldered both to the gas tube and to the reflector brace. A unique feature of this lamp is that the brace is secured against the water tank by a metal strap soldered to the tank top.

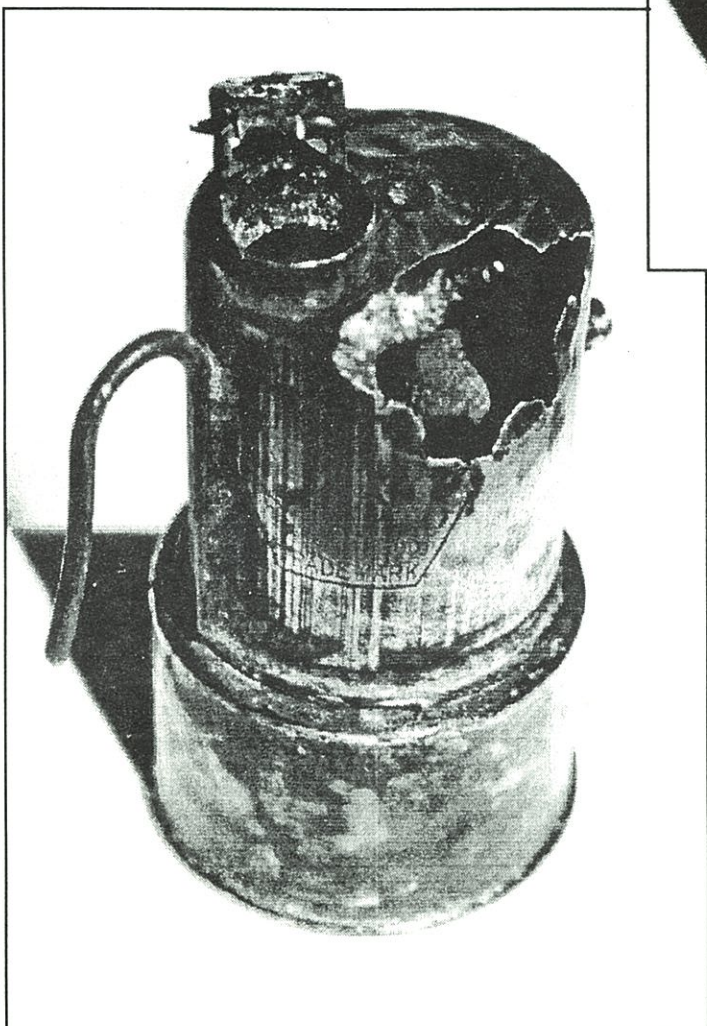
Right: Scranto II. lamp (David J. Des Marais collection.)



Scranto III.

This lamp resembles the Scranto II. except for the reflector brace, which was attached to the reflector by a loop-in-hole configuration. The brace was secured to the lamp by a wire loop which penetrates the water tank. The brand label and patent date are oriented horizontally for the first time.

Left: Scranto III. lamp (John Podgurski collection.)



Abercrombie and Fitch

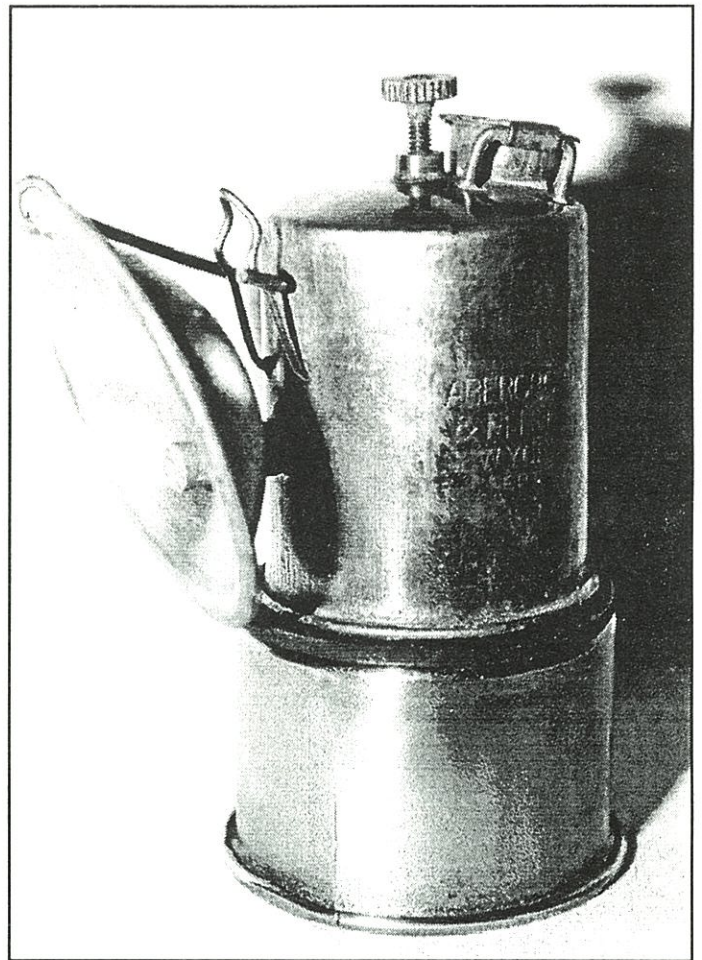
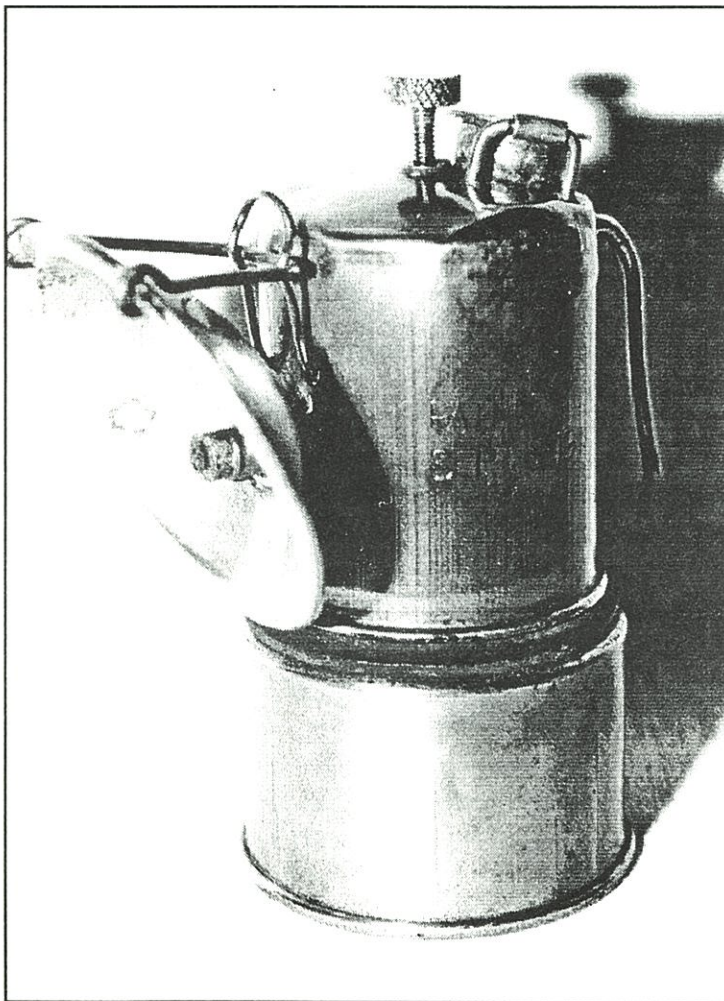
Of the three Scranto III lamps known to the author, two are stamped with the name of this well-known outfitting company. At least one of these two lamps is also stamped with the SCRANTO emblem.

Right: Abercrombie and Fitch lamp (Dave Johnson collection.)

Scranto IV.

This variety closely resembles Scranto III, except that the cap hook wire penetrates the water tank. However, this general resemblance masks a profound change in the lamp's dimensions. Both the water tank and the threads joining the top and base have larger diameters. The change in thread size is sufficiently great that earlier bases will not fit the Scranto IV and later varieties.

Below: Scranto IV. lamp (Dave Johnson collection.)



THE
PROGRESSIVES

Mine lamps always constructed according to the latest and best knowledge of the art. Write for information about SCRANTO Lamps.

Manufactured by the first company ever organized for the manufacture of Acetylene Mine Lamps: always Pioneers; always Progressives.

Mine Lamps—UP-TO-DATE.
Model No. 1 Cap Lamp.
Model No. 2 Hand and Hanging Lamp.

The Scranton Acetylene Lamp Co.
150 Belmont Terrace, Scranton, Pa.

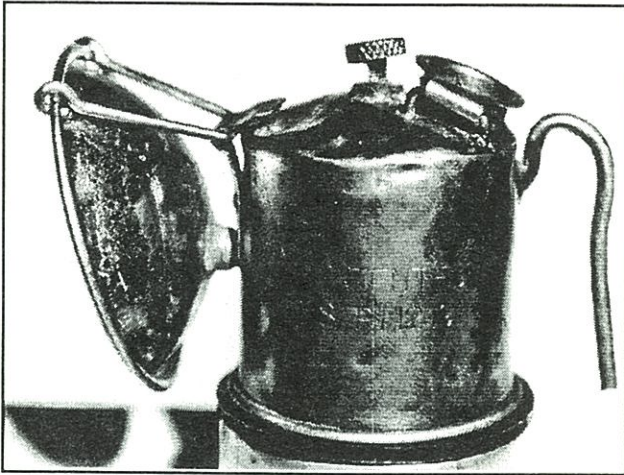


SCRANTO
REGISTERED
TRADE MARK

Above: February 1913. This lamp appeared between September, 1912 and February, 1914. It resembles Scranto style III, style IV., and the Abercrombie and Fitch lamp.

Scranto V.

The major change is in the reflector and brace. The reflector edge has a flattened rim, and the reflector brace is secured to the water tank by a metal strip instead of the hairpin wire.



Scranto V. lamp (John Podgurski collection.)

Scranto Acetylene Lamps Cheaper Than Candles or Oil

The practical lamp for the miner.

Leaves the air clear and free from soot, sparks, smoke or noxious gases.

Send for circulars and prices.

A. L. Derry Co.

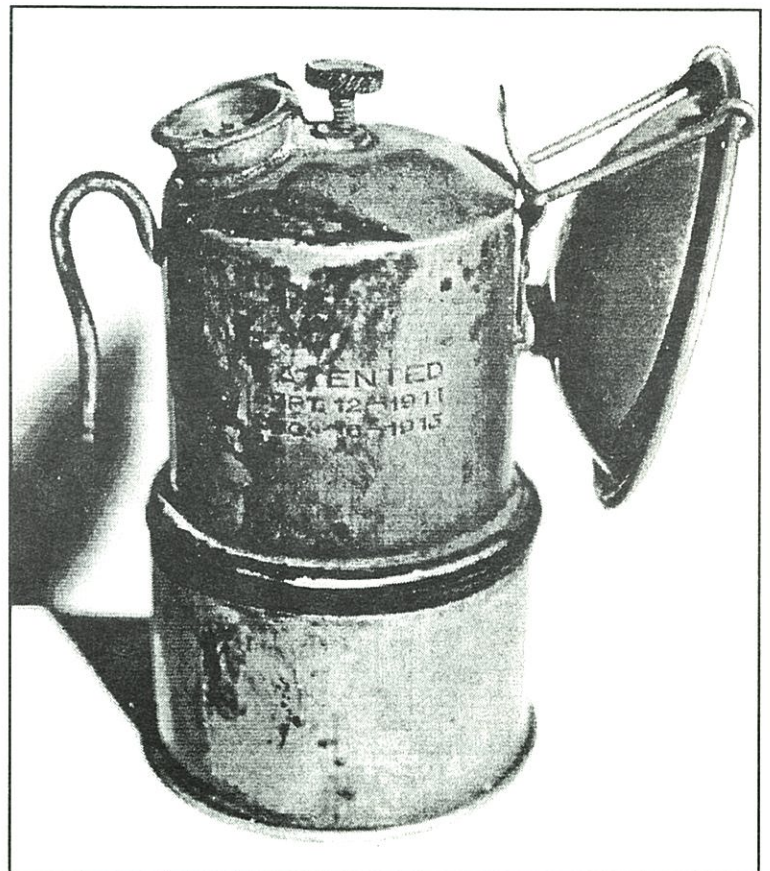
Gen'l Sales Agents
524 Connell Bldg., Scranton, Pa.



Above: June 1914. This lamp style appeared between April 1914 and the year 1921. It resembles Scranto styles VI.



Scranto VI. lamp (Errol Christman collection.)



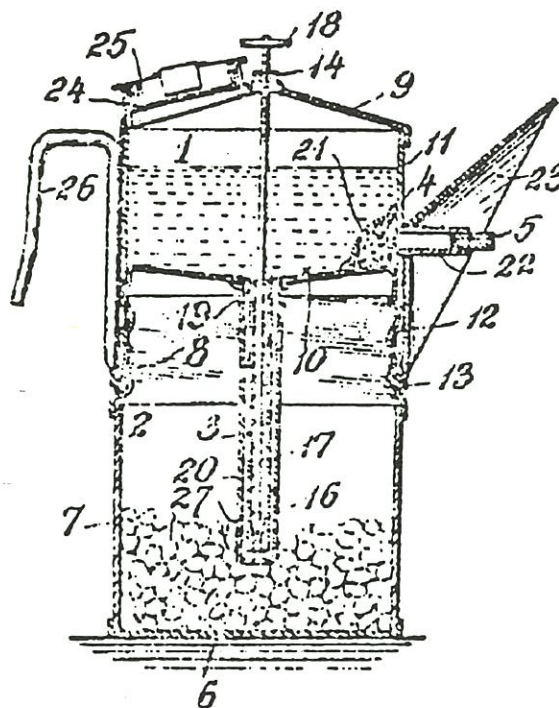
Scranto VI. lamp Neal Ressler collection.)

Scranto VI.

The final and most common Scranto has a seam at the base of the water tank which flares out more prominently to make a better support for the rubber gasket. Also, the lamp shows two patent dates: SEPT. 12 - 1911 and DEC. 16 - 1913. The cap hook on some lamps is a thin metal strip instead of a wire.

If only the chronology of the advertisements is used, the dates of manufacture for these lamp varieties are somewhat uncertain. The first appearance of a style in ads might have postdated its first manufacture, and a given body style was probably retained in ads sometime after manufacturing changes had been made. However, the patent dates can improve the estimates. The Scranton Type I lamp has a low gas tube which differs from the gas tube depicted both in the September 1911 patent and in all later lamp styles. As the 1911 patent was first submitted to the U.S. Patent Office in July 1909, it seems likely that the Scranton Type I lamp was manufactured between 1907 and 1909. Furthermore, the Scranton Type II and III lamps appear in advertisements between June 1910 and January 1911. In the advertisements between May 1911 and April 1912, the flange at the base of the water tank is more subdued and resembles the flange in the Scranton Type IV lamp. Scranto-brand lamps began officially with the September 12, 1911 patent. Therefore it is assumed that Scranto I and II lamps were manufactured between September 1911 and the summer of 1912. This short time interval for manufacture perhaps explains why these two types are so rare; the author is aware of only one example of each. The Scranto Type III lamp clearly appears in ads from September 1912 to February 1914. The Abercrombie and Fitch lamps probably were also produced during this period. Because the Scranto Type IV and V lamps

show only the one 1911 patent date, it is likely that they too were produced before 1914, as the second patent was granted on December 1913. Therefore the Scranto Type VI lamp, with its two patent dates, was manufactured after 1913 and is



First patent for the Scranton. Patent No 1,00,890 Sept 12, 1911. Appl. July 2, 1909.

depicted in advertisements from April 1914 until the early 1920's, when production of the lamp ceased. This relatively long six- to eight-year production period indicates why, today, the Scranto style VI. is the most common of the Scranto lamps.

As with other companies such as Justrite, the Scranton Acetylene Lamp Company was actively experimenting with lamp designs in the pre-World War I era. The most important structural changes to Scranton/Scranto lamps were the

attempts to strengthen the fragile early reflectors and their bracing, to improve the seam on the water tank, and to strengthen the lamp body and simplify its manufacture. Unfortunately, compared to lamps like the Justrite or Auto-Lite, the Scranton/Scranto reflectors were fragile, the water feeds temperamental, and the thin sheet metal prone to cracks. These features, together with the declining market and the successes of the larger manufacturers, probably assured the demise of Scranto lamps by the early 1920's. Still, the Scranton/Scranto lamp family offers both a glimpse of Pennsylvania mining history and also an interesting challenge to all serious collectors of early mine lighting.

I thank Errol Christman, Dave Johnson, John Podgurski, Mike Puhl, Neal Ressler, Ken Rupp and Jim Van Fleet for information and permission to photograph lamps.

References

- ¹Thorpe, D. (1992) A brief review of Scranton, Victor and Black Diamond. Eureka! 4, 11-13.
- ² Clemmer, G. S. (1987) American Miners' Carbide Lamps, Westernlore Press, Tucson, AZ, p. 66.
- ³ Clemmer, G. S. (1987) American Miners' Carbide Lamps, Westernlore Press, Tucson, AZ, pp. 84-85.

	SCRANTON					SCRANTO					
	I	II	III	IV	V	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Flange on threads	Simple flare below a soldered seam										
Tank diameter, inches	1.68	1.67	1.67	1.68	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.77	1.78	Flared roll'd seam
Water door outer dia., in.	0.87	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.88	0.88	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75
Cap Hook	Wire soldered on outside of tank										
Label	None		Scranton			Scranto		Scranto or Aber & Fitch		Wire penetrates tank	
Patent information	None		Pat. appl. for			Pat. pending		1 date - 9/12/11		Scranto	
Label/patent orientation	Vertical										
	Horizontal										
						9/12/11		12/16/13			

BASE

Diameter, inches	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.03	2.02	2.03	2.04
Total height, inches	1.97	1.95	1.94	2.05	1.96	1.97	2.03	2.00(a)	1.93	1.99	1.95
Thread, O.D. inches	1.58	1.59	1.56	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.59	1.56 (a)	1.7	1.69	1.71

REFLECTOR

Composition	Brass		Nickel silver		? (b)		Nickel silver	
Edge	Simple creased edge		Simple rolled edge		? (b)		Simple rolled edge	

REFLECTOR BRACE

Connection to reflector	No brace		Solder		? (b)		Solder		Wire loops through holes in reflector rim	
Mounting on lamp	None		Solder on top		? (b)		Strap on lamp top		Wire clip on front of lamp	
									Metal strap on front of lamp	

Footnotes in table:

- a Dimensions measured from Abercrombie & Fitch
- b Original reflector and bracing are missing.

Miners' Flask *by Dave Johnson*

When travelling to the mine, and while working, the miner had to have a means to carry enough fuel for his oil wick lamp to last through the shift. Many firms produced pocket flasks and belt mounted flasks, also known as cadgers, for this purpose. These oil flasks were mainly manufactured of tin and occasionally of brass or copper.

On April 20, 1893, John Zweig, of Bellaire, County of Belmont, Ohio filed application for a patent for "a certain new and useful miners' flask."

A patent, No 518,203, was granted on April 10, 1894 to John Zweig, assignor of one-half to Harry Venison, also of Bellaire.

The object of the patent was "to produce an improved flask for miners' use, by which his lamp, and wick, matches, and oil enough for an entire day's consumption may be conveniently carried about his person."

The flask, as manufactured, measures 4 5/8" tall. The oval shape measures 4 1/4" by 1 3/4" across. The cap to the oil reservoir measures 1/2" in diameter. The oval lid has a match striker and is stamped:

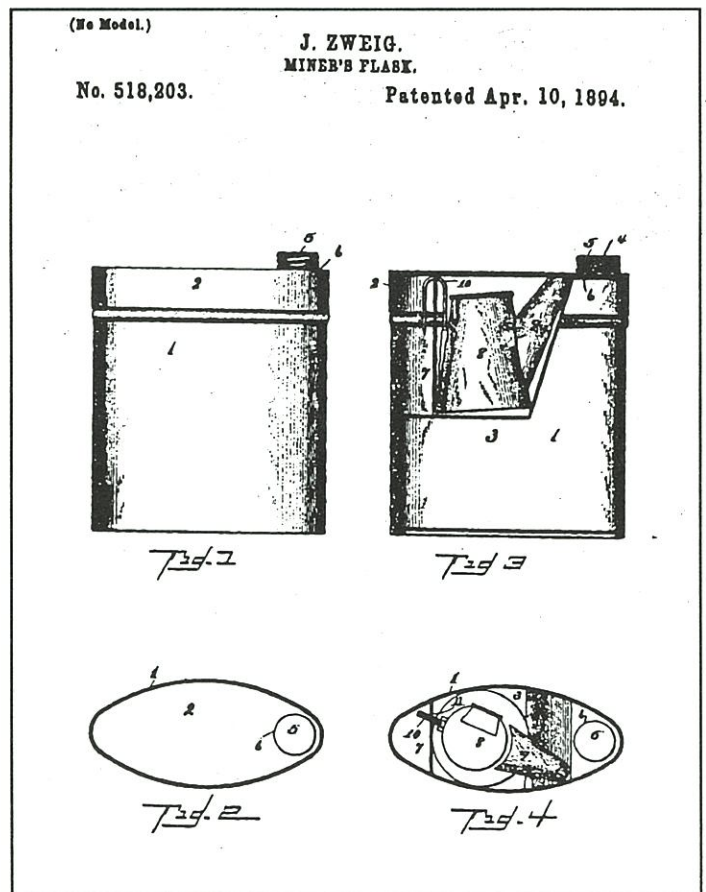
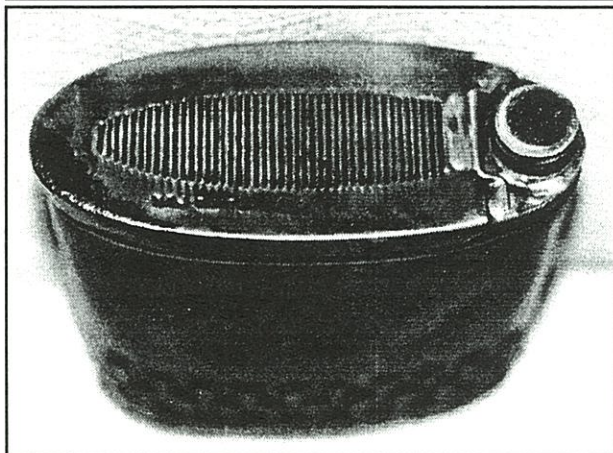
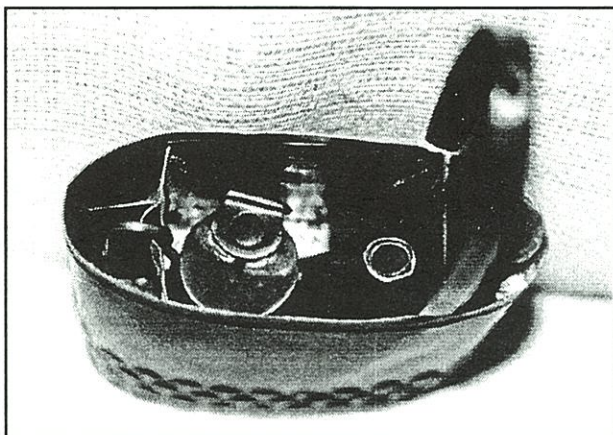
PATENT APPLIED FOR

The patent drawing does not show the match striker on the lid. The flask has three compartments under the lid: one beveled for the lamp, one for



matches, and one for wicking. The oil reservoir is exactly as indicated in the patent drawing. The patent drawing does not indicate the three rows of hexagonal bumps that form a hand grip around the lower third of the flask.

This rare item is a great addition to anyone's collection.



Collectable Miners

by Manfred Stutzer

While not true mining artifacts, statues depicting miners are highly collectable and sought by many collectors. These miner statues were produced in many forms in Europe and the United States from the mid-1800's to the present. Statues depicting miners have been produced in bronze, pot-metal, pewter, ceramic, plaster and wood. The most sought after pieces by collectors are the painted wooden European pieces from the mid-1800's and the bronze pieces of any age. Utah sculptor Gary Prazen has produced a series of lifelike action miners over the last decade that capture the essence of his subjects.

Many European miner statues feature ceremonial uniforms and, like statues from the United States, depict miners with lamps - safety, carbide, oil wick, blend, and frog, as well as with various tools.

Some European miner statues were produced in pairs, one depicting a male miner with a pick and lamp, and one depicting a female "coal woman" with a shovel. Some statues made in the U.S. were produced as liquor bottles.

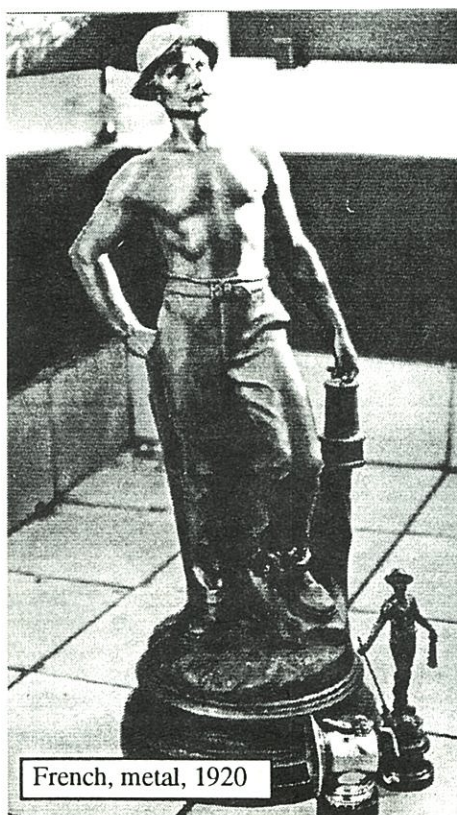
Due to the relative rarity of these statues, they seem to command a premium price, especially the bronze pieces, both old and new. The pieces pictured here are a relatively small sampling of the variety of statues available to collectors.



Saxony, wood, 1885



Saxony, wood, 1890



French, metal, 1920

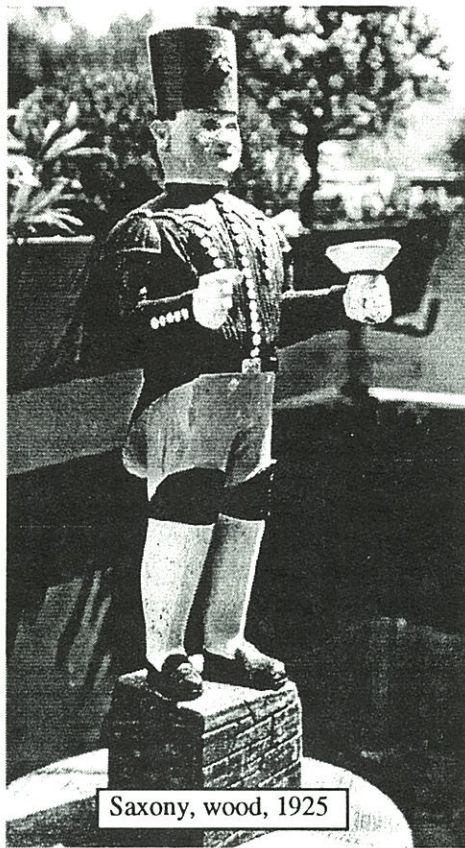


U.S.A.,
liquor
bottle,
1980

OLD TIME
COAL MINER



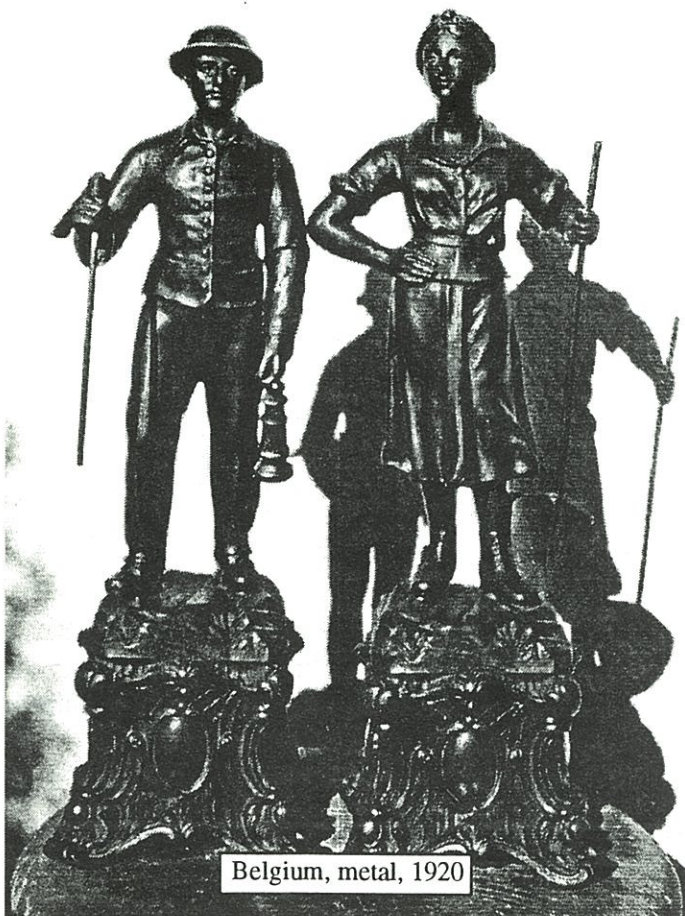
Saxony, wood, 1925



Saxony, wood, 1925



Saxony, wood, 1850



Belgium, metal, 1920



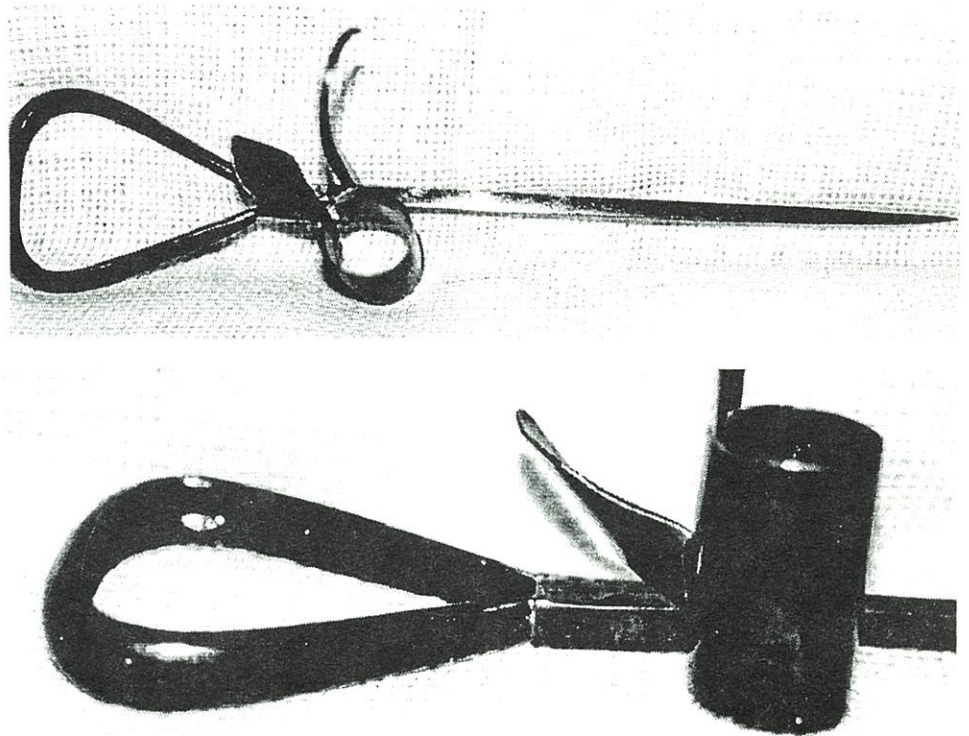
Saxony, metal, 1910

Candlesticks

by Dave Johnson

An Arizona Stick

In September, while visiting Arizona, I acquired this nice stick which had recently been found in an old home in the mining town of Jerome. Measuring 9 3/4" in overall length, this very well made stick features a thumb lever that turns 45 degrees from thimble to end for a surprisingly comfortable feel when pressed. Rather than the usual teardrop loop, the half-rounded handle has a rounded triangular shape hollowed out in the manner of a "high-grader" handle. In reality it is too small to actually serve that purpose. The spike is square for its entire length as is the hook. Overall workmanship is excellent.



Split-thimble Candlestick

The stick pictured here has the split thimble indicative of the "Comstock style." A very simple design, this style stick is identifiable in early pho-

tos of the Comstock Lode in Nevada in the 1860's. This style of candlestick has the thimble located on the centerline of the spike, rather than

being offset like most sticks. There is no thumb lever on the thimble and no hook. Overall length of this stick is 7 1/2". Overall workmanship is good to very good.



Acme Cap Lamp

The Editors

L. H. Smith
Woodenware Co.

GENERAL CATALOGUE
No. 28

Importers and Jobbers
Wholesale Exclusively

4-6-8-10 Eighth St., Pittsburgh, PA

ACETYLENE MINER LAMPS



Made of brass. Nicked reflector. Brass screw top carbide can with each lamp.

The valve does not extend down into the carbide and block the water supply. The valve stem is larger than any other lamp. It has a ground seat and shuts off the water absolutely; can be opened to the desired amount, giving a steady light of the desired quantity of the best quality. Every lamp is tested and warranted perfect.

Doz.
Acme Carbide Lamp.....\$16 00

Along with a page of oil wick lamps for sale in the L.H. Smith catalogue is a miners' carbide cap lamp listed by the name "ACME". Mike Puhl recalled a lamp (below) which he photographed from Al Quamen's collection which matches the lamp advertised to a tee. It is almost certainly made by the same manufacturer as the early "Victor". Evidence supporting this is the hook penetrating the tank, the number "2" stamped below the hook (Victors are found with "1" and "3" stamps), the water control knob, and the little bit of metal snipped from the tank flange. The appearance of this name in a variety catalog is reminiscent of another hardware company catalog from Philadelphia which listed the "anthracite" cap lamp as a "Britelite."



From Al Quamen's collection (Mike Puhl photo.)

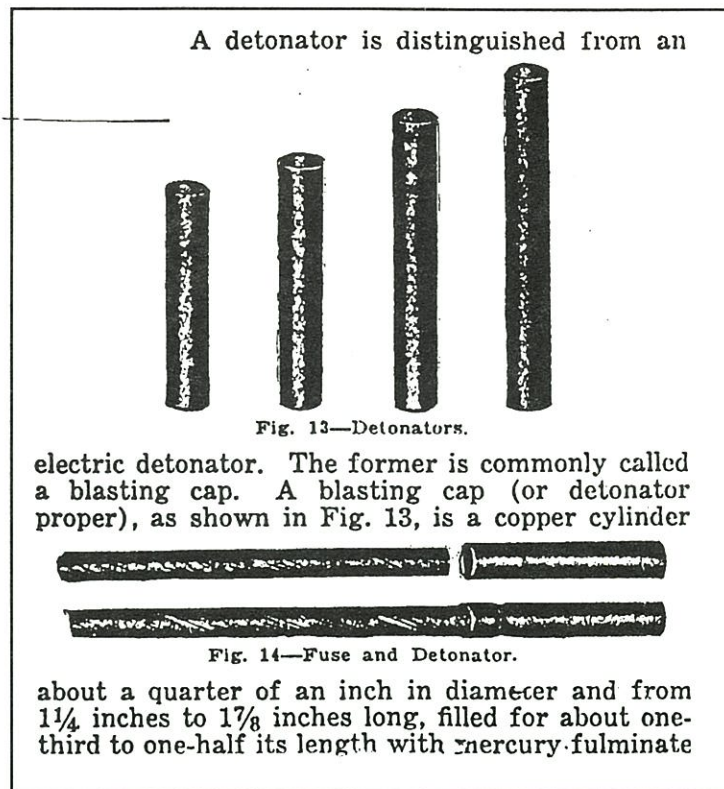
*Acme cap lamp as seen in the L. H. Smith
Woodenware Co. Catalogue (photocopies provided by
Harry Cairns.)*

Cap and Fuse Blasting

by Bob Schroth

I have been asked many times, why some miners used electric blasting caps instead of cap and fuse. I recently found a 1914 issue of the *Dupont Magazine*, and this issue had a article of the advantages and disadvantages of cap and fuse versus electric caps:

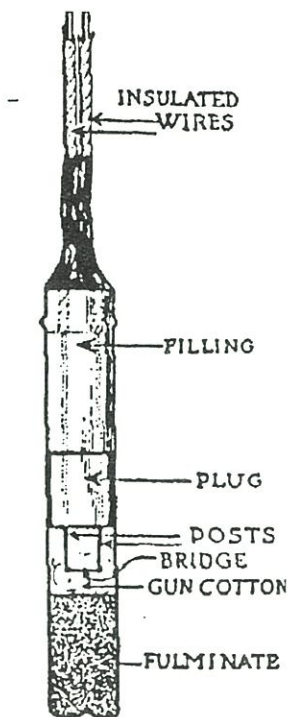
Many coal operators and miners are adopting Permissible Explosives for blasting coal and rock instead of Blasting Powder, because of the greater safety to life and property. How many are using electric blasting caps (instead of fuse and caps) to detonate the permissible explosives, thus insuring further safety?



Blasting caps and electric detonators compared.

Some of the disadvantages of cap and fuse blasting in dusty or gaseous coal mines are:

may detonate before the miner can reach a place of safety, either injuring or killing him.



Sectional view of electric detonator.

1. From mistaken economical reasons, many miners use a short fuse, sometimes called "skin-em-backs," i.e., a fuse about a foot long. They do not place any tamping material on top of the explosive charge in the bore hole and consequently waste a considerable amount of explosive energy. If the charge was properly tamped, much less explosive would be needed, to do the necessary work. There is considerable danger to the miners in the use of "skin-em-backs." The fuse must be lighted before the primer cartridge is properly placed in the bore hole, else a misfire may occur which would leave unexploded dynamite in the remainder of the bore-hole or scattered among the broken pieces of coal. If the primer cartridge is placed in contact with the main charge of explosives the entire charge

2. Any gas present when the fuse is lighted may be ignited by the lighting flame, or by the "spit" of the fuse when it starts to burn.

3. The fuse, when burning in the borehole, may spit out of the side and ignite a gas feeder.

4. Where cheap and unreliable fuse which does not burn regularly is used, the side spit occur much oftener than when higher grades of fuse are used.

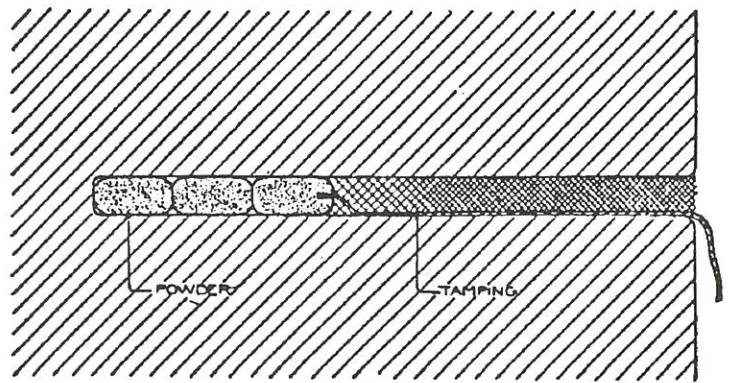
5. After the fuse is lighted, no one can tell exactly when the charge of explosives is going to detonate.

6. Burning fuse adds smoke and fumes to the dust laden air which the miner must breath, and consequently to some degree, affects health.

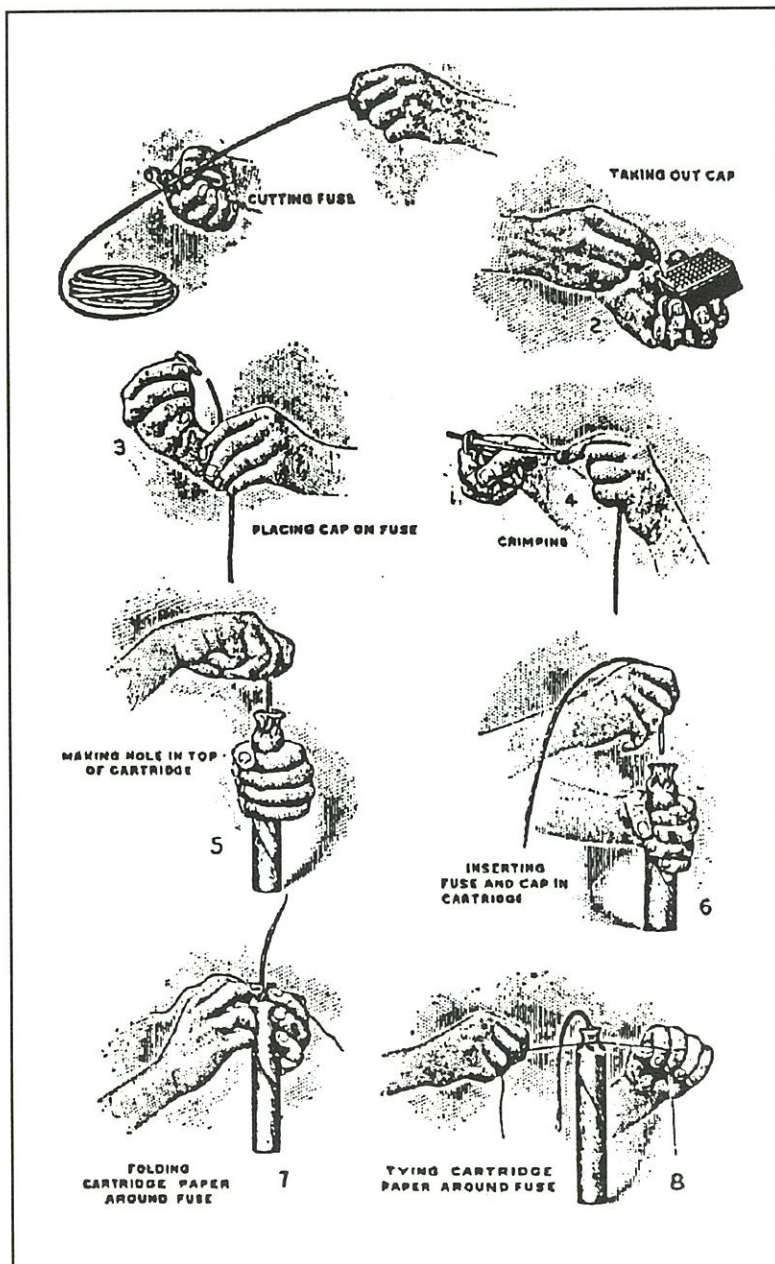
The advantages of electric blasting caps are:

1. They give off no flame on detonation outside of the borehole and consequently cannot ignite mine gas.

2. The miner will naturally tamp the boreholes full of tamping above the explosives charge, because he cannot fire the charge any quicker by reducing the length of the wires.



Drill hole showing fuse in place.



Preparing the cap and fuse.

3. The charge or charges of explosives can be detonated when desired, and that is when certain that every one is out of the danger from flying coal and rock.

4. By connecting the electric blasting caps in a series, more than one charge of explosives can be detonated at one time. This is of material benefit as it reduces the amount of explosives per borehole, as each charge assists the other.

5. If the necessary special equipment is provided all firing can be done from the surface when men are out of the mine, and should a mine explosion occur, there would be no loss of life.

6. Firing when all miners are out of the mine eliminates breathing of the dust-laden air and thus reduces diseases.

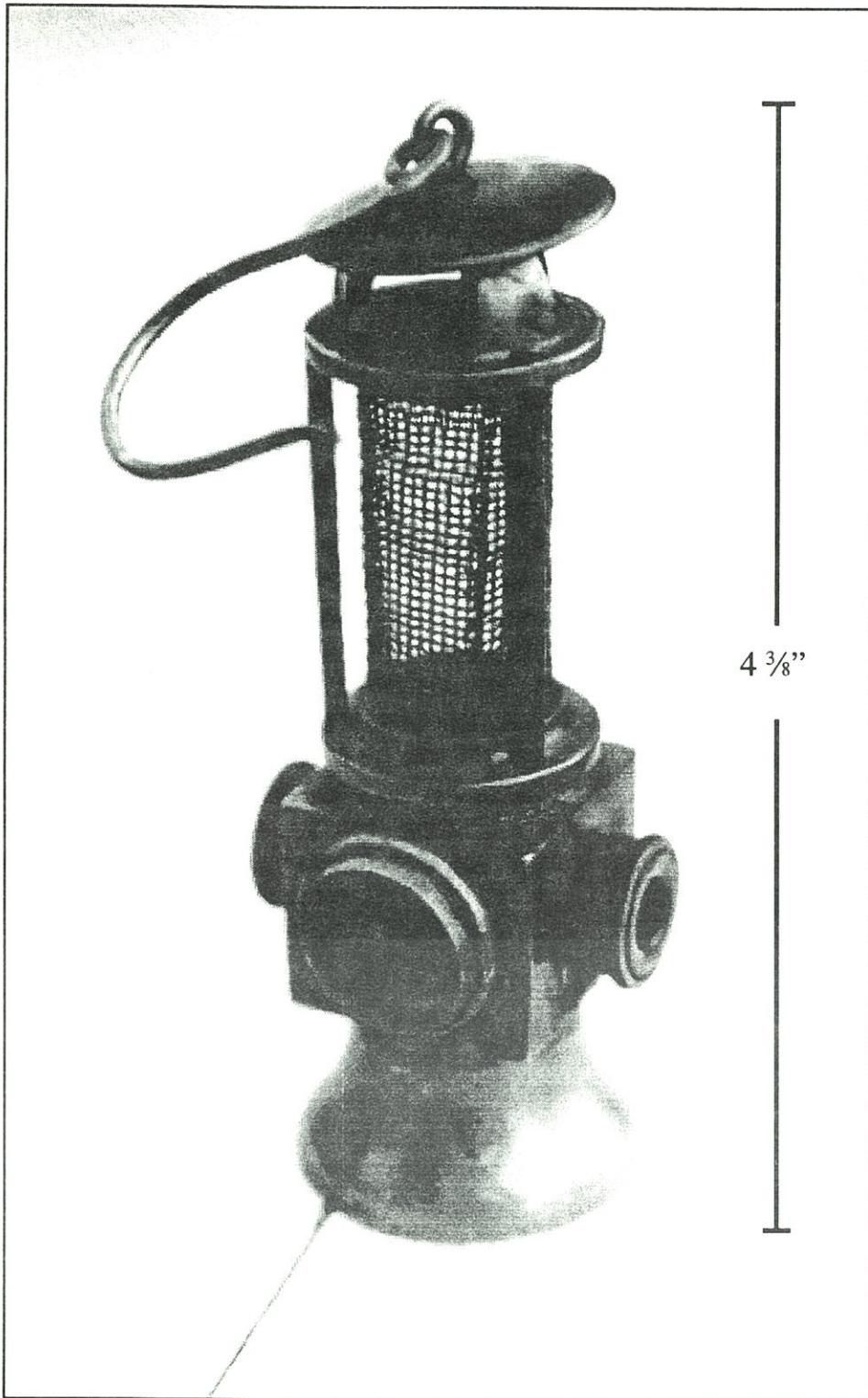
7. Electric blasting caps, when stored in a damp mine, do not deteriorate as quickly as blasting caps, because the end of the blasting cap copper capsule must of necessity be left open.

8. The danger of hot candle grease or burning wicks falling into the electric blasting cap and causing an explosion is eliminated.

The above text was taken from the *Dupont Magazine*. I believe western area mines and miners mostly used cap and fuse blasting, because of weight and cost considerations. The cost of electric blasting caps were almost double that of fuse caps.

Miniature Safety Lamp

by Nelson Ressler



Finding any good mining artifact will always be a thrill to an avid collector. It is always such a satisfying reward at least in our own eyes, for the countless times we go out and find nothing - or worse - we find something that we normally wouldn't buy and lug it home anyway! Most of us have a box stashed away in the attic or basement full of junkers, clunkers, and worthless miscellanea, usually mining related, but not always.

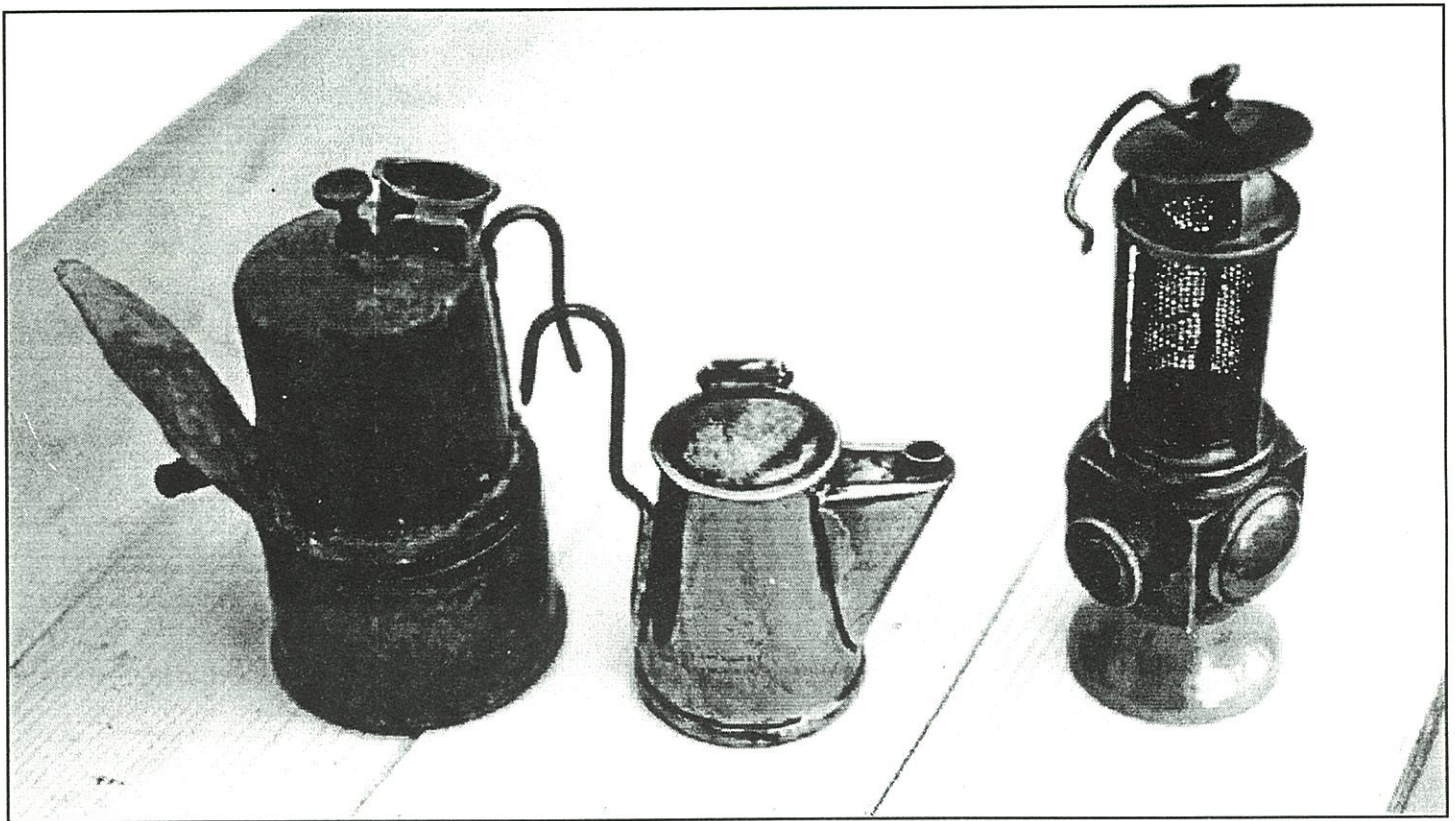
Recently, I had the thrill of a collector's lifetime when the opportunity to purchase a one of a kind mining artifact was afforded me by a friend who deals in antiques. That artifact was a miniature "surveyor's" safety lamp after the R. Mauchline patent.

This beautiful, remarkably well made lamp stands $4 \frac{3}{8}$ " from the base to the top of the "floppy disc" (see photo), is $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter at the base and $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter at the top disc. Unlike the full size models with which I'm familiar, the body of the lamp (that housing the lens, reflective mirror, and side vents) is a square casting as opposed to the horizontal cylinder-like castings of both the Everhart and Quirin examples. The body measures $\frac{15}{16}$ " high by $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide by $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep with the lens being $\frac{13}{16}$ " in diameter - the same diameter of the mirror opposite it.

There are, however, several striking similarities between this lamp and both the Quirin and Everhart examples which I have seen. The most obvious being the triple-arch cast top with the floppy brass disc. The brass "bullseye" casting which houses the reflective mirror is also very much like its aforementioned counterparts, as are the gauze covered side vents, which thread on and off, just like the full-sized version.

It can logically be theorized that there is some connection between this miniature and the full-sized Everhart and Quirin lamps. It has been speculated by some of the more advanced and knowledgeable safety lamp collectors who have examined this lamp that it is perhaps a patent model or prototype model.

The search goes on for more information as I still have some leads to follow up on but, as you all know, one never knows whether leads on such things will ever pan out. If anyone has any information not previously published concerning this or any other surveyor safety lamp, the collecting community would be forever indebted to you if you submit it to *Eureka!* for future publication and the further edification of our collective information network. Good hunting, you may be next!



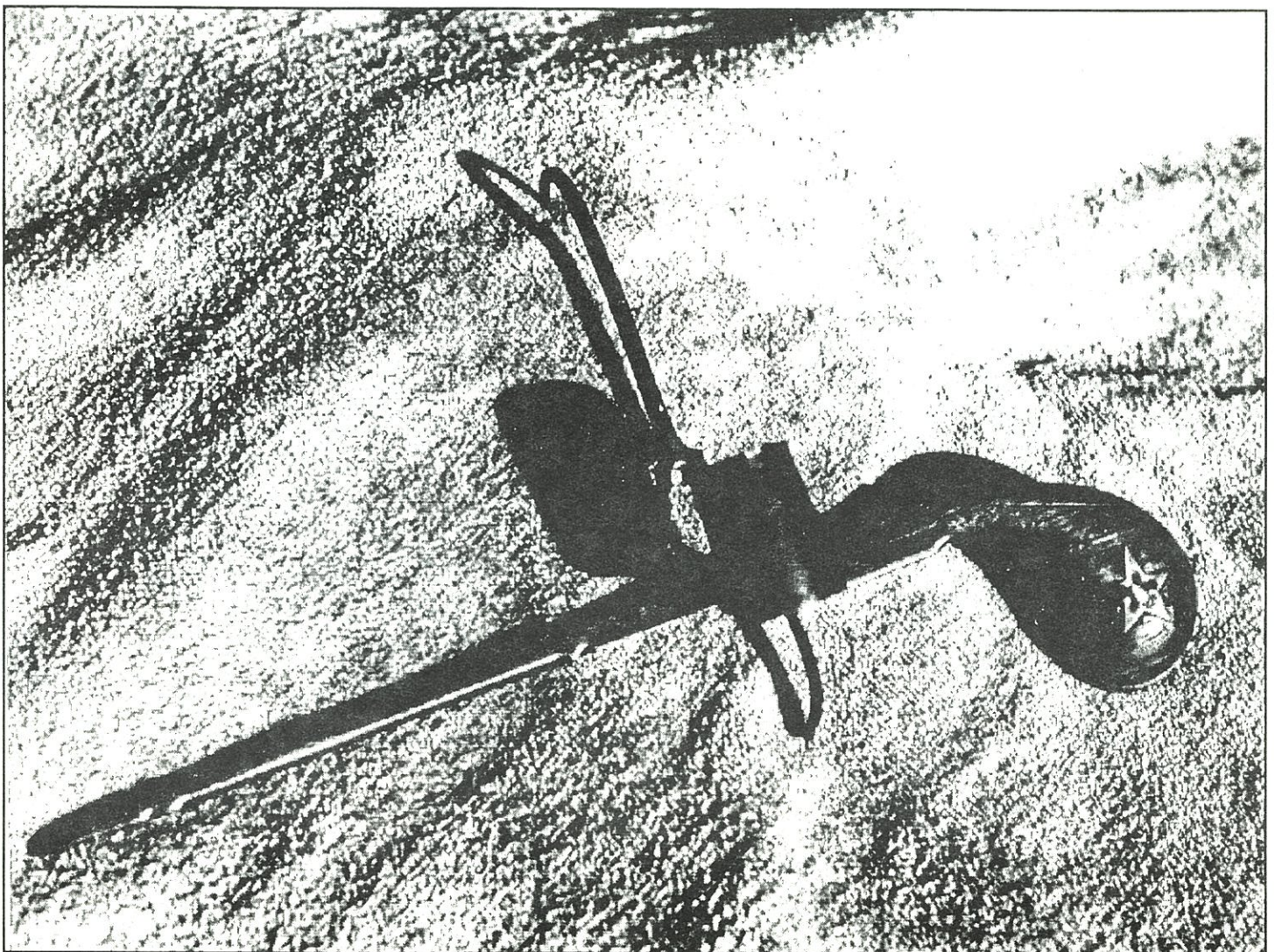
Miniature safety lamp shown next to a carbide cap lamp and an oilwick lamp for scale.

*P*istol-grip Candle Stick

by Bob Schroth

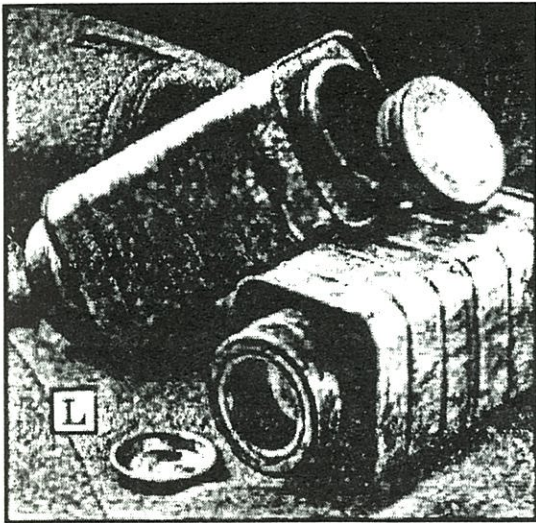
This miners' candle stick is very unique, it is functional and beautiful at the same time. The trigger opens the candle holder and the wooden grips make a very nice handle. The stick is made entirely from one piece of metal, nicely filed and finished. The silver stars holding the wooden grips in place are the perfect touch adding to the maker's skill and workmanship. I have seen few pistol grip sticks made this well.

I located this stick at the Brimfield Antique show in 1990. Unfortunately the seller did not have any information on the maker or the owner. I am sure that this stick was a custom-made piece and was used by the miner, judging by the wear and burn marks on the handle. The only tool the miner usually owned himself was his source of light and a unique stick like this would put the owner in a respectable position with the other miners.





BITS



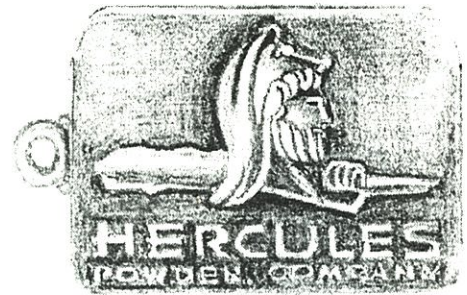
WWI Condiment Can

One of our correspondents recently found the item shown here in a catalog of military surplus supplies. The tin condiment can frequently turns up at Eastern U.S. flea markets and antique shows labeled as "carbide cans." Some may have been used as such - check for spent carbide before you buy!

Excerpt from catalog reads: "(L) These condiment cans date back to the WWI Era, around 1917 - 1920. They'll show some age, but they're genuine and truly a rare collectible. The two-compartment container is believed to have been issued to soldiers in trench warfare. Aluminum. Made in France. Measures 6 3/8 X 2 1/2 X 2 1/4 (16 X 6 X 6 cm). Limited quantity. "

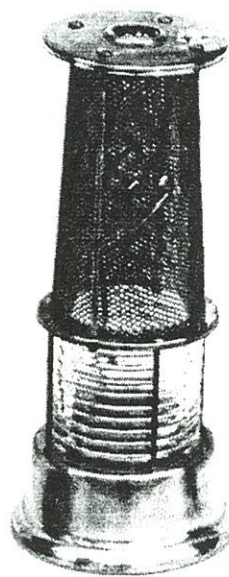
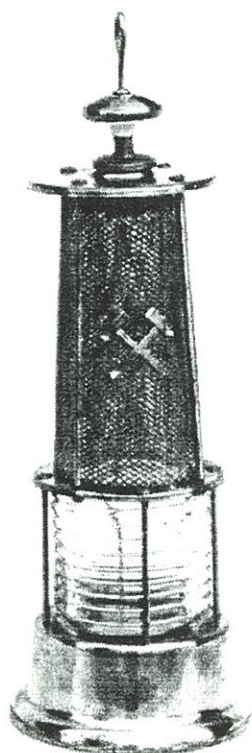
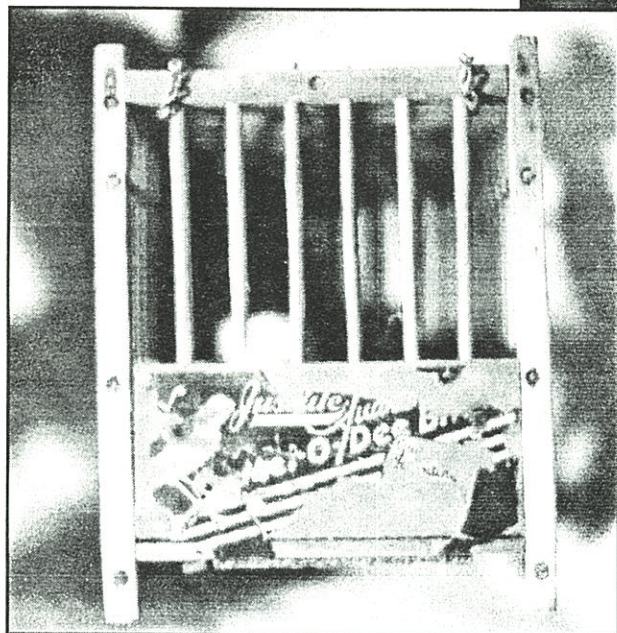
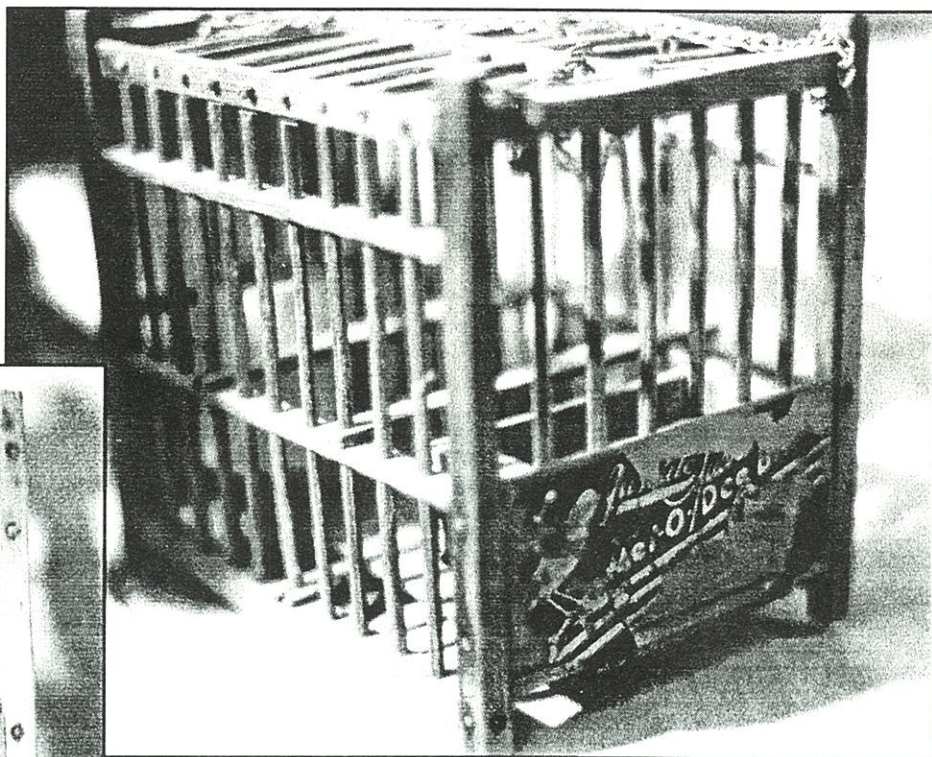
Key Chain Fob

We've seen the watch fobs, we've seen the commemorative letter openers and ashtrays...but here's a first. This is a genuine Hercules Powder Company Fiftieth Anniversary key chain fob. The pencil sketch shown right was submitted by Jack Ramsdell, of Carson City, NV. Actual size is 1 1/4 by 7/8 by 1/8 inches. It is made of brass.



Justrite Bird Cage

The tattered remains of a label indicate that Justrite Mfg. Co. even sold bird cages. To supplement the definitive article on miners' bird cages (*Eureka!*, Issue 7, October 1993), Roger Mitchell has obtained these photos from the collection of Craig Hindman.



Safety Decanter

It's 12" high, all brass and plays "How Dry I Am." The internal glass is a bottle that extends up inside the gauze to the stopper at the top. I talked to a music box specialist who dated the movement to the 1960's. Anyone else ever seen one? A decanter collector/dealer never has. He assured me it wasn't put out by a major manufacturer, but rather by a novelty producer. Neat, huh? It was sold as a "Lighthouse decanter." I don't think so. Hook missing?

J. Roger Mitchell

Abercrombie & Fitch

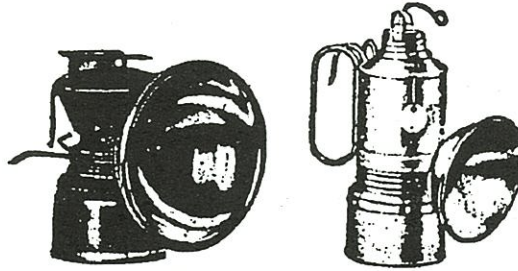
Bill Spence found a 1910 Abercrombie and Fitch catalog in an antique shop. It appears that they sold Baldwin lamps during this time period. Just a few years later they had begun to sell Scranto lamps with their own name. One must wonder if the lamps shown were also stamped with the A & F name. Bill seems to have a knack for coming up with some interesting hard data. And to complicate matters worse, we have reviewed legal documents indicating that Justrite was once sued by Baldwin for making a "copy-cat" Baldwin...that was marketed by Abercrombie and Fitch!

64

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO.

ACETYLENE GAS LAMPS.

Made on an Entirely New Principal of Construction. Strongly Recommended and Absolutely Safe.



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—a leaky can of kerosene means a ruined outfit. and brilliant and under perfect control.

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The principle of construction in these lamps is simplicity itself, and they are very strongly made. There are no delicate parts to break, no "do-funnys" to balk and get out of order, and no bothersome valves.

Its operation is as follows: Unscrew the bottom, or carbide container, fill about half full of "quarter-inch" carbide, and screw on tight. Open filler cap on top and fill with water—the lamp is then ready to light. The extra bottoms or containers, which have screw covers, are intended to carry an extra supply of carbide in the pocket for quick replenishing. When carbide in lamp is exhausted the container is removed and the fresh one inserted. The contents of dead container are emptied and the cover screwed on, keeping the pack or pockets clean.

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For Trade of Sale: Old Mining Stock Certificates. Send for free list of old Mining Stock Certificates. Each certificate described, giving history of mining company, where located, and vignettes. Russell Filer, 13057 California St., Yucaipa CA 92399. Phone (909) 797-1650.

Wanted: Miners' Carbide Lamp Vol 10 Justrite Lamps by Paul L. Kouts, Miners' Carbide Lamp No. 3 Guy's Dropper by Paul L. Kouts. Can pay in US \$\$ or exchange mining books from Europe. Tony Oldham, Rhychydwr, Crymych, Dyfed, SA41, United Kingdom.

Wanted: Ignition Pull Bar for a Wolf Safety Lamp made by the American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Company, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Chester Kulesa, RD 2, Box 92, Carbondale, PA 18407.

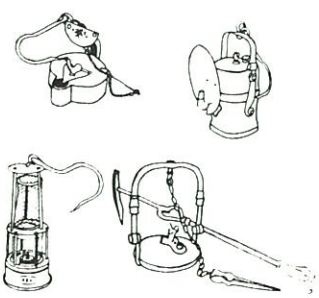
Catalog: Send for an interesting catalog of mining history books and photos. (Postage appreciated.) If you have any books for sale relating to Michigan iron and copper mining please write to me. Robert Fox 1235 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

For Sale: Several Trojan No. 7 - 25 cap Cap Tins, excellent condition. Bill Lorah, 331 Spruce St., Walnutport, PA 18088 (215) 767-4577.

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
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(908) 721- 1850



Manfred Stutzer
Madenburgstr. 6
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☎ 06 21/57 36 62

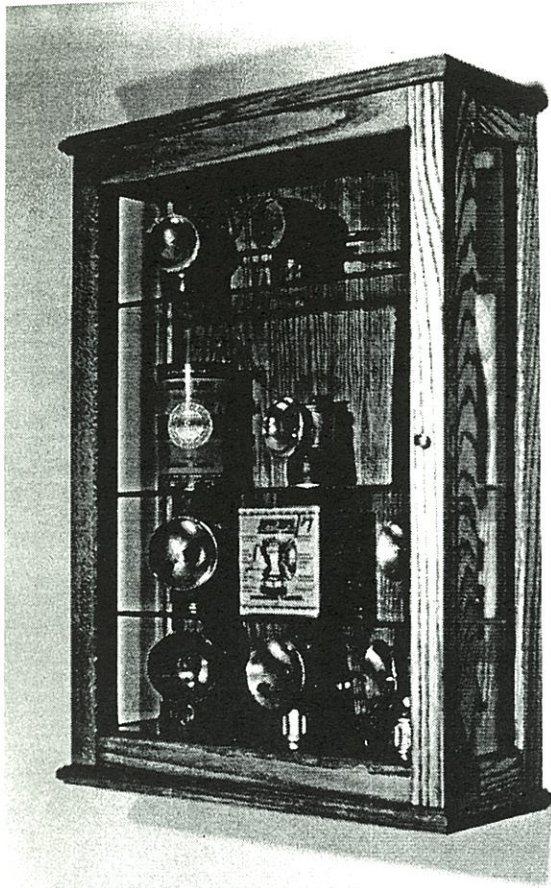
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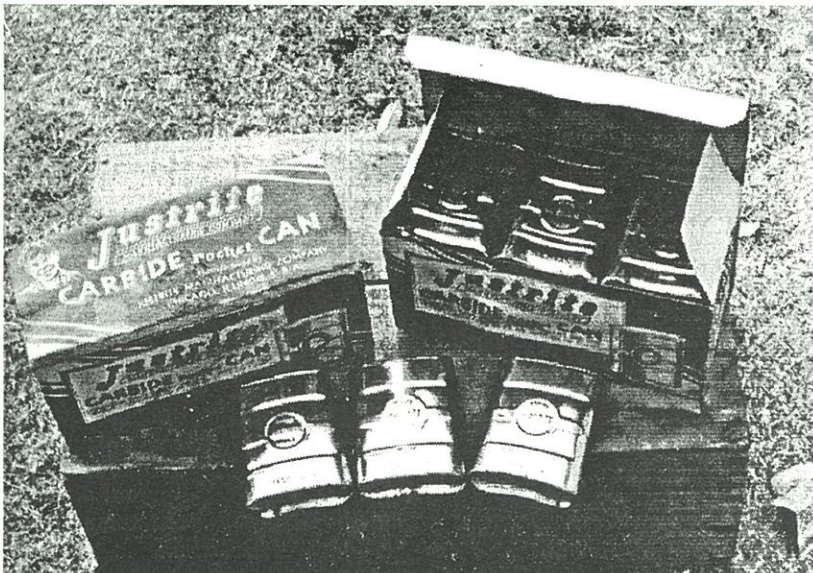
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Deric English, 24261 Sage Ave., Boron, CA 93516
(619) 762-6208



This find is from the Golden Queen Mine warehouse. It was purchased before World War II and then placed in the Whitmore Mine Warehouse in Mojave, California. It has been kept in a shed for the last 50 years.

1 Justrite Jewel Tips Box (One Gross No. 28):
12 small boxes in a gross box, one small box missing, one small box missing 4 tips.

5 Justrite Gaskets Boxes (One Dozen No. 61):
four boxes in fair condition, one box has only 7 gaskets, poor condition.

8 Justrite Felt Packing Boxes (One Dozen No. 62):
near mint condition.

7 Justrite Felt Boxes (One Dozen No. 52):
fair to good condition, one box has only 10 felts/poor condition.

12 Justrite Gaskets Boxes (One Dozen No. 60):
Fair to very good condition.

1 Justrite Carbide Pocket Can Box (One Dozen):
Bottom of box is in poor condition and the remainder is in fair to good condition.

17 Justrite Carbide Pocket Cans: Very light surface rust on top sliding pieces.

11 Hat lamp brackets: Black painted type.

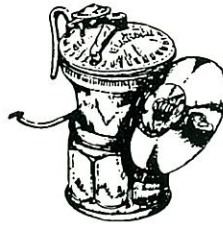


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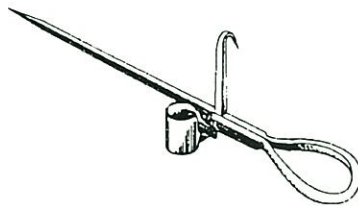
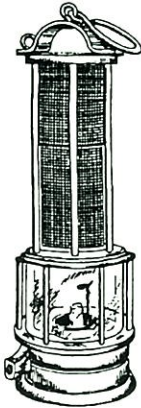
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Room 141

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(we will be there through February 12,
1994)

Mining Artifact and Geologic Instrument Collectors Reception

3:00 - 4:00 P.M. Feb 6, 1994

Pool side - Executive Inn

Tucson, Arizona

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May 1994

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(Hosted with the Black Hills Mining
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For More Details Contact:

Brad and Linda Ross

Fox Hills Fossils

913 Clarion Drive

Gillette, WY 82718

phone (307) 686-7070