

EUREKA!

THE JOURNAL OF MINING COLLECTIBLES

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General Information

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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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Cover: Thought by some to be the finest cap lamp in existence, this unfired round Anton was in Errol Christman's collection until it was *stolen* last year from his home. It is the *only* known example. Any information on its whereabouts should be directed to Errol himself.



Inkwells

A lamp collector walks into an antique mall scouring the endless shelves of Coca Cola signs. His eyes systematically scan and reject the cluttered silhouettes, none of which conform to anything of interest. He has trained himself to search robot-like with alert functions that are activated only when his visual cortex has locked onto an item with certain recognizable features: a reflector, a horizontal brass cylinder, a little brass hook. Perhaps half a dozen times in a large mall the red light flashes in the back of his head when he spies a target, only to be mildly irritated that he has been temporarily brought to human attention for a worthless Butterfly lamp. He has been disturbed, but quickly reverts back to scan mode. Sometime later the light flashes again, and this time an alarm sounds. He has identified a figure. His pulse quickens and he feels the air rush into his throat as he attains full alertness and homes in on his prey: a shiny spare base with screw-cap. The base is in his hand now and he turns it over to read the tag on the bottom: INKWELL \$12.00.

Thankfully most antique dealers don't recognize the spare cap lamp base for what it is. More often than not their best guess is an inkwell.

On the way to the Eastern show this year, Tony Moon found a nickel-

plated Justrite base marked this way, and last year Bob Schroth found an unfired Anthracite base with an "inkwell" label.

Collectors Selling

It may be old news to some, but editor *Dave DesMarais* is selling his entire large collection of mining lamps. Many have sold already, but there are scads left. He has one of the better assortments of carbide hand lamps in addition to many rare cap lamps. To contact Dave regarding prices, see his phone number and address on the adjoining masthead page.

John Podgurski is cleaning out a load of lamps from his collection. For a three page list of what's available for trade or sale, write:

John Podgurski
24 Hemlock Lane
Elysburg, PA 17824

(717) 672-9725 (6-9 PM)

Editor Moving

Len Gaska will soon be relocating to the Boulder, Colorado area from his current Pasadena home. This came about through a change of employment. Other than the hassle of moving, he is happy with the change. Len is a "Small Talk" computer programmer.

Internet Mining Collect

In the upcoming month, the mining-collect Internet stewardship will be transferred from Len Gaska to Dave Thorpe, as the server operates only in Arizona and California.

If you have a computer modem and access to the Internet, you can still get on the list by sending an e-mail message to:

miningcollect@primenet.com.

There is no charge, and you will receive many colorful and informative posts by the likes of Cap-Tin Bob Schroth, Al Quamen, and many others. Errol Christman is threatening to sign on! Errol is known for inventing half of the terms listed in the Collector's Glossary as well as being quite a talker on the phone.

Eureka

A few months ago, when the price of paper increased by about 25%, we had some anxiety about being able to continue to offer *Eureka!* at the same price. We were relieved when Jim Van Fleet negotiated a deal with Bucknell University to have it printed at *less* than the old price. Our solvency is now guaranteed through the near future, and you will still receive the best magazine for collecting mining items every three months!

Dave Thorpe

Several Dedicated Mining Company Fuse Cutters

Harold L. Bailey, Jr.

The acquisition of mining artifacts that can be traced to the original user is somewhat unusual. The two fuse cutters shown in Fig. 1 are directly traceable to the mining company that originally acquired them. The top cutter is from the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's Butte operations, while the bottom cutter is from the Climax Mine of Climax Molybdenum Company.

The Anaconda Cutter

When originally acquired, the Anaconda cutter shown in Figure No. 2 was one of those "what is it" tools. It supposedly made its appearance in the Butte underground mines in the 1950's but its use was ill-defined and according to the miners was used by the electricians more than by the miners. As a result, most of these cutters will be found with damaged cutting edges due to their use as wire cutters. The actual intended use of the cutter was for Bunch Blasting as shown on the training posters in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. These original Anaconda posters define the procedure with the first poster showing the use of a pocket knife. This poster is dated 1948. The poster pertaining to the fuse cutter is not dated. As can be seen from the poster, the nose cutter is used to end split the fuse, the internal cutter to diagonally cut the fuse as a splitter, and the large circular cutter cuts, at one time, a bunch of from 6 to 15 fuses.

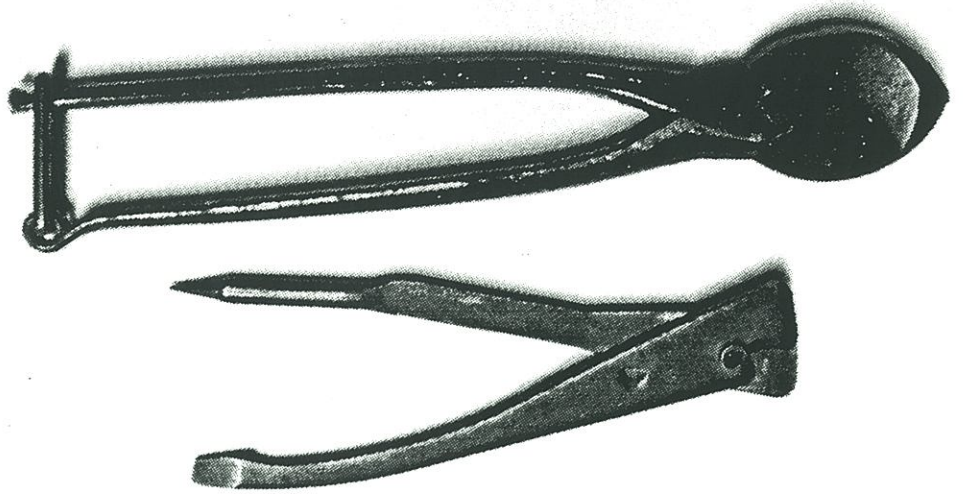
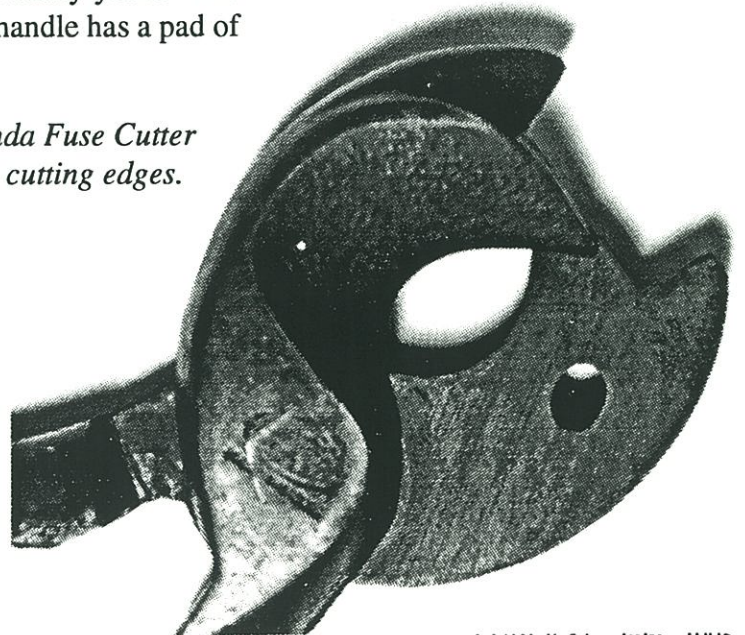


Fig. 1. Anaconda (top) and Climax (bottom) fuse cutters.

The cutters are nine and one half inches long and were made by the Peck, Stow, and Wilcox Company, and are stamped with the PEXTO logo on the center pivot. The Montana Hardware Company, a subsidiary of the Anaconda Company, sold PEXTO tools for many years. The underside of the handle has a pad of

brazing which was stamped with a property number though some were not numbered. A safety ring was installed to keep the cutter closed when not in use. Painted black, it was a finely made tool.

Fig. 2. Anaconda Fuse Cutter showing three cutting edges.



The Climax Cutter

The Climax Mine is located on Fremont Pass at an elevation of 11,318 feet in the central Colorado Rockies. At one time, it was the largest block caving operation in the world. The fuze cutter shown in Fig. 5 is from Climax and is believed to have been used in the 1970's. A fairly large quantity were found in recent years when some of the surface facilities were demolished. It is believed that the cutter was used to cut the small diameter Ensign Bickford type plastic detonating fuse or Nobel type fuse. The diameter of the cutter is such that it will not accept cloth-bound fuse. Climax miners of the period cannot recall using the cutter. It is, therefore, in the "what is it" category. The cutter is similar to the No. 4 Dupont crimper/cutter without the crimper and with the enlarged flat cutter head. As with the No. 4, it is a stamping that has a riveted pivot in lieu of the screw pivot.

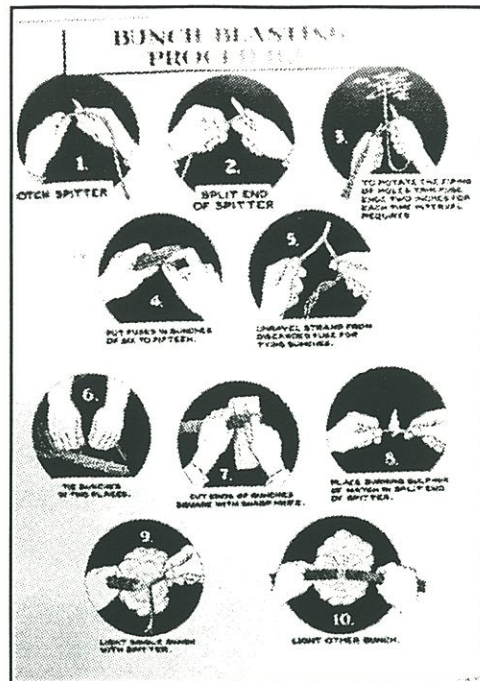


Fig. 3. Bunch Blasting using a pocket knife.



Fig. 4. Bunch Blasting using PEXTO fuse cutter.

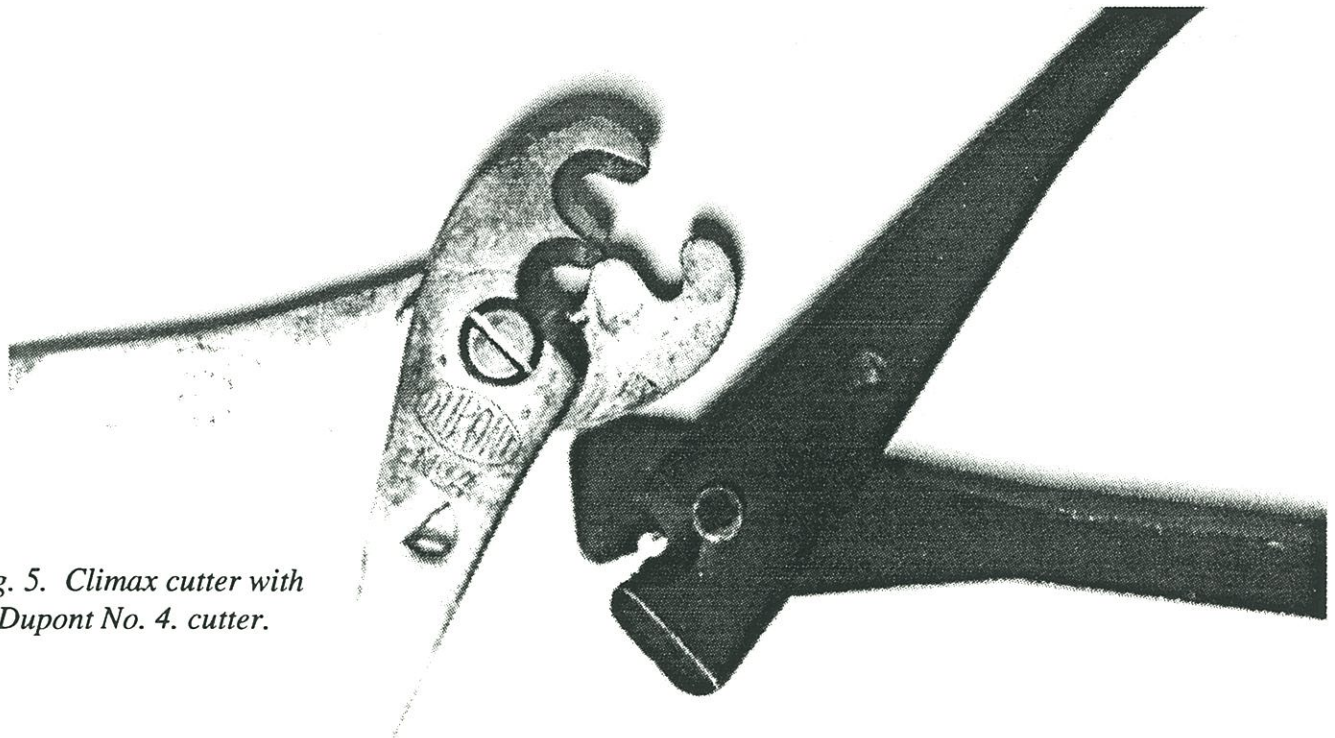


Fig. 5. Climax cutter with Dupont No. 4. cutter.

Columbia Powder Co. 1935 - 1958

Eric Twitty

The Columbia Powder Co. was incorporated in 1935 through F. W. Olin's Equitable Powder Co. to supply loggers, miners, and land developers in the Pacific Northwest. Its manufacturing facility and sales offices were in Tacoma, Washington, but it shared main offices with Equitable in East Alton, Illinois.

The Columbia Powder Co. manufactured all types of dynamite. Its product line included straight and extra dynamite, a free-flowing dynamite, a permissible explosive, and blasting powder wholesaled from Equitable. Its most popular products were several varieties of gelatins and a "Stumping Powder". Its main market was in the Pacific Northwest, but it was distributed as far afield as Utah, Idaho, and Montana.

The outbreak of World War II boosted the demand for Columbia's products as reclamation projects were pushed

to completion, mining of strategic metals in the west increased, and logging was heavy.

In 1944 F. W. Olin retired from running his small explosives empire and turned his assets, including the Columbia Powder Co., over to his sons. His sons merged them into Olin Industries, Inc. The charter for Columbia was maintained until 1958, although by the early 1950's Columbia's products were only sold under the Olin Explosives name.

Special gelatin was perhaps Columbia's most common product. On the following pages, is a chronology of boxes for this type of explosive that illustrates changes in labeling format.

COLUMBIA
EXPLOSIVES
Battle Mount

COLUMBIA POWDER COMPANY
 TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Herb Dick Prop. LaChance Family
Montana Powder & Equipment Co.
 12 EAST LAWRENCE HELENA, MONTANA
 Butte Montana—708 W. Galena Billings, Montana—3425 1st Ave. S.
 Missoula, Montana—P. O. Box 1312 Great Falls, Montana—2011 1st Ave. S.

High Explosives

- Stumpings
- Special Dynamites
- Special Gelatins
- Coyote Bag Powder
- Free Flowings
- Permissibles
- Ditching
- Black Blasting Powder

Western Blasting Caps

Regulars and Electric

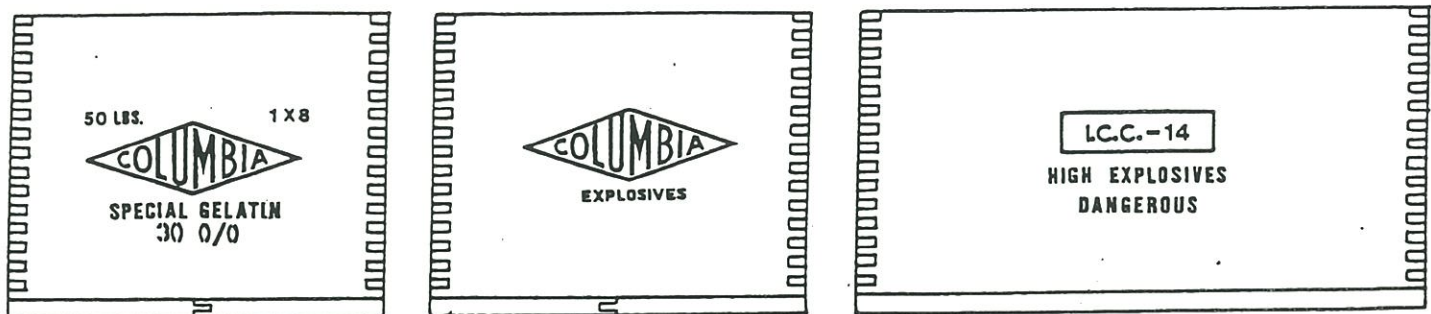
Safety Fuse

Coast and National Brands

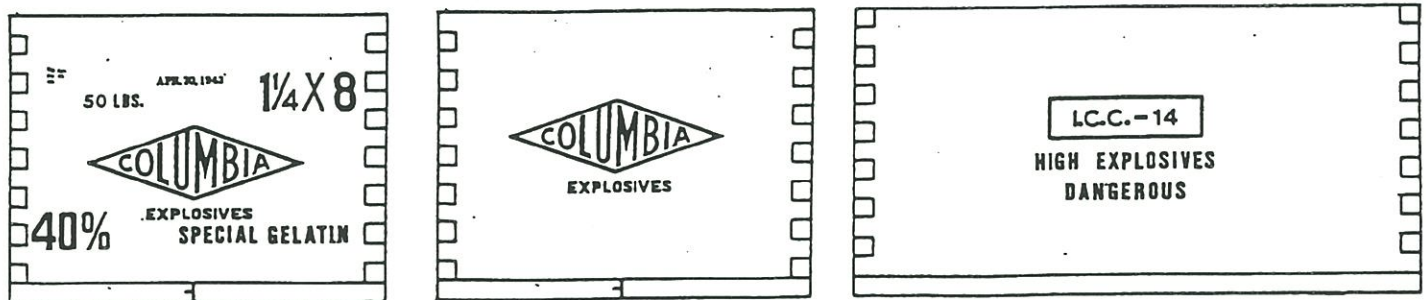
Accessories

- Blasting Machines
- Circuit Testers
- Rheostats
- Cap Crimpers
- Lead and Connecting Wire

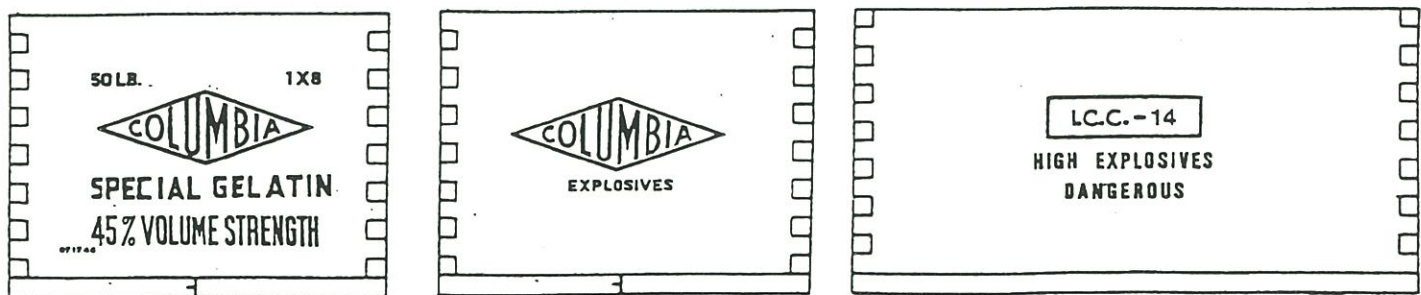
Advertisement. Herb Dick collection.



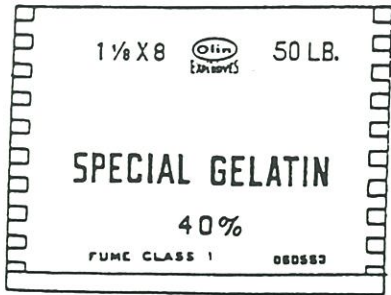
AGE: 1935 - late 1930's. SCARCE. Earliest style, note stenciled percentage strength. Author.



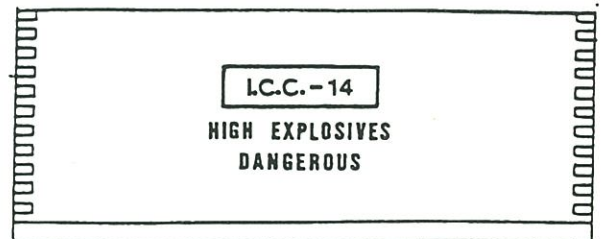
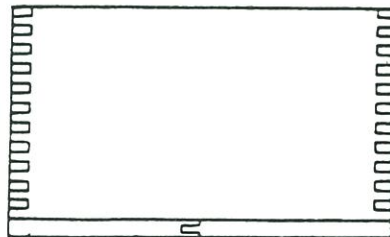
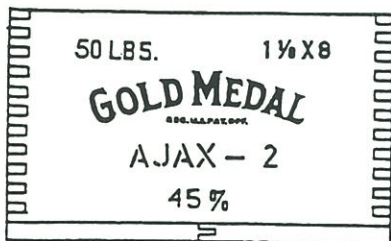
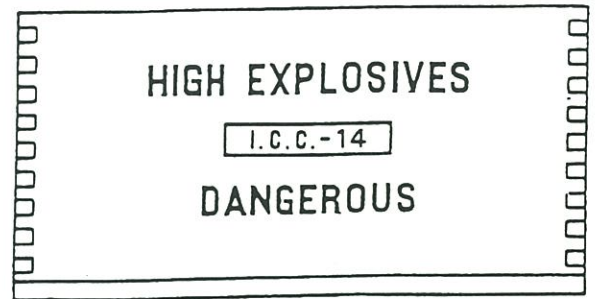
AGE: late 1930's - late 1940's. SCARCE. Author.



AGE: late 1940's - early 1950's. SCARCE.



AGE: 1951-1959. UNCOMMON - SCARCE. This is what Columbia's box format ultimately evolved into when it was consolidated into Olin Explosives. Author.



AGE: 1940's. RARE. Historically F. W. Olin and the Illinois Powder Mfg. Co. were on friendly terms and occasionally wholesaled each other's products when the need arose. This box, a well-established Illinois product name, was made by Columbia for Illinois on a contract basis and was sold in the West. Author.

Liberty Powder Co. 1931 - 1959

Eric Twitty

Despite the economic ravages of the Great Depression, enough demand existed in Pennsylvania's coal fields to support explosives company start-ups. One such outfit was the Liberty Powder Co. organized in 1931. Its dynamite plant built near Pittsburgh manufactured a variety of high explosives, and it wholesaled other blasting supplies, such as caps and fuse, from DuPont.

Liberty's main markets were coal mining in the Anthracite Region, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. A significant chunk of its business was selling permissibles sold as "Liberty No. 1", "No. 6" and "Liberty Gel", but it also made a complete line of nonpermissible explosives including straight and special dynamites, straight and special gelatins, semi-gelatin, and dynamites for surface work including "Quarry Gelatin", "Liberty Quarry", and "Blasto". The Liberty Powder Co. plugged away making and selling explosives

during the Great Depression, but business was not as good as its financiers had anticipated. By 1939 its financial situation was so poor that the company was forced to close its doors. Several years later it went out of business, F.W. Olin bought the defunct dynamite plant, refinanced the Liberty Powder Co., and got it fired up again. By the early 1940's Liberty's full line of explosives was back on the market throughout the eastern states.

In 1944 F. W. Olin retired from the explosives business and handed his empire over to his sons, John and Spencer who began to combine all of their holdings in Olin Industries, Inc. Curiously, the Liberty Powder Co. was one of the only companies not dissolved at this time. When Olin Industries, Inc. was merged with the Mathieson Chemical Co. in 1958, the Liberty plant was shut down and Liberty's charter was voided in 1959.

LIBERTY POWDER COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS OF EXPLOSIVES

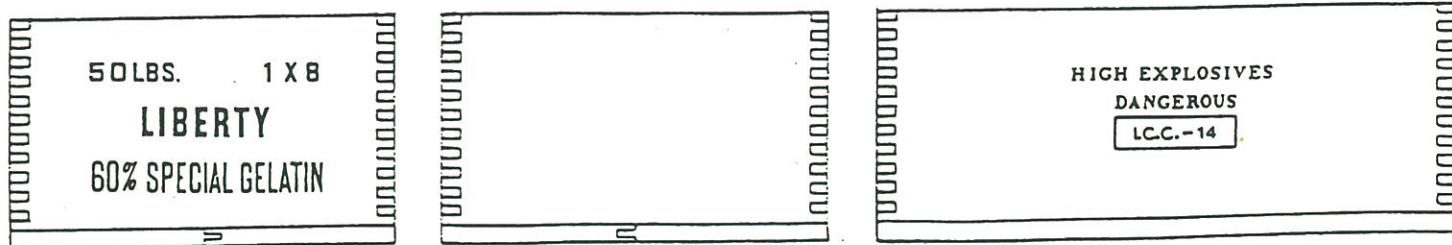
KOPPERS BUILDING

PITTSBURGH, PA.

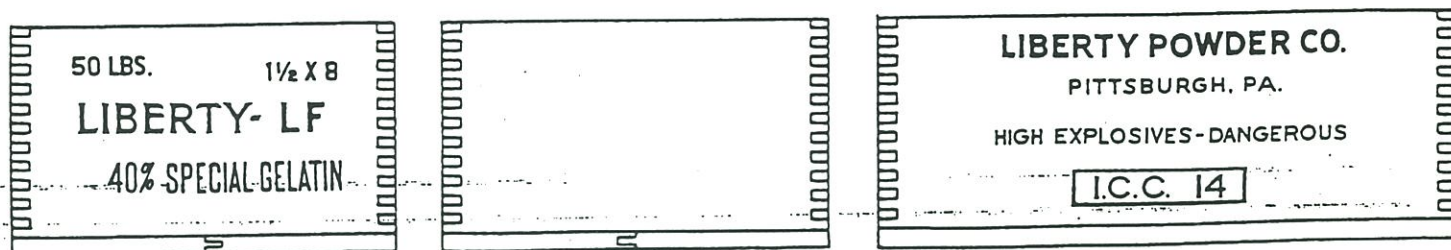
Scranton, Pa.,
Oct. 2, 1934.

*Liberty letterhead, 1934. Hagley Museum &
Library, Wilmington, DE.*

Special gelatin was one of Liberty's better selling explosives and the boxes illustrated below show their changes over time.



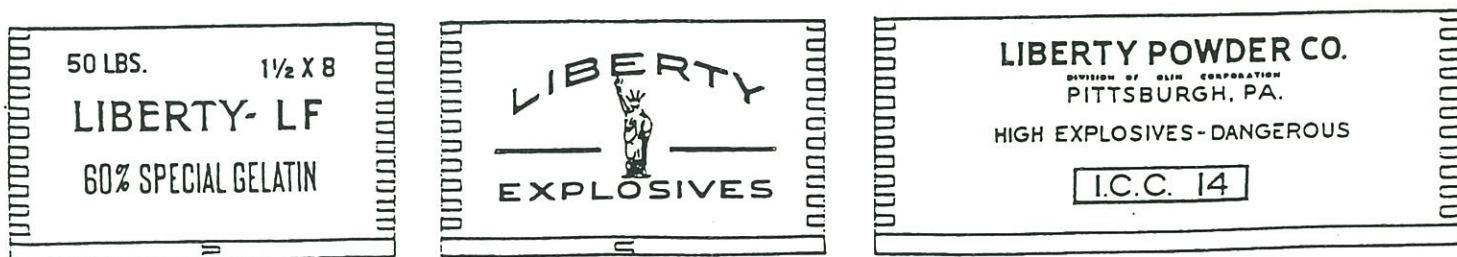
AGE: 1931 - 1939 RARE. Dates to earliest operations. Author.



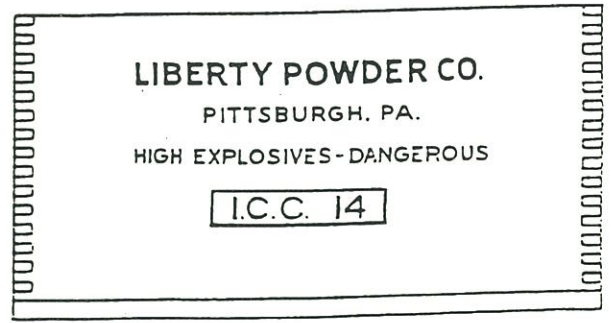
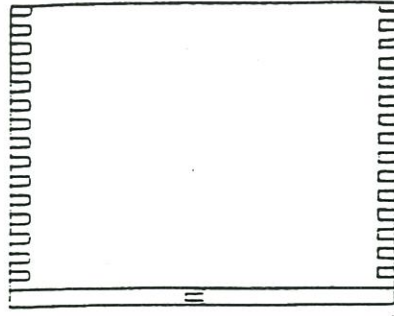
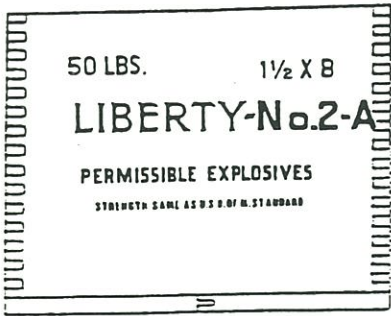
AGE: 1939 - early 1950's. SCARCE. This follows Olin's buy-out. Author.



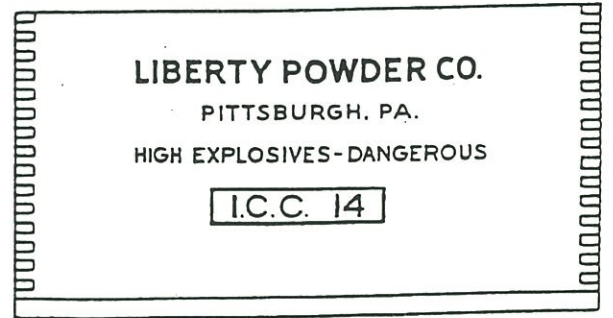
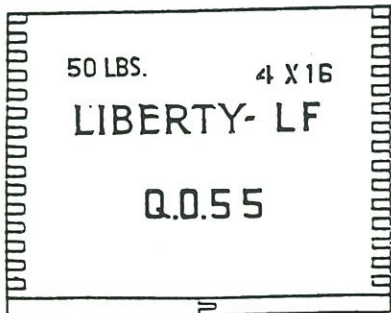
AGE. 1939 - early 1950's. Although this style is scarce, it is more common than above. This style also follows Olin's buy-out.



AGE 1951 - 1958. This style is the most common, but still scarce.



AGE: 1939 - early 1950's. SCARCE. Although Liberty sold alot of permissibles, not many of its boxes survive. Dan Lockard.



AGE: 1939 - early 1950's. RARE. This product was for surface blasting as suggested by the cartridge size, and was probably a special order for a large company. Steve Rush.

Miners' Blasting Tools

Dave Johnson

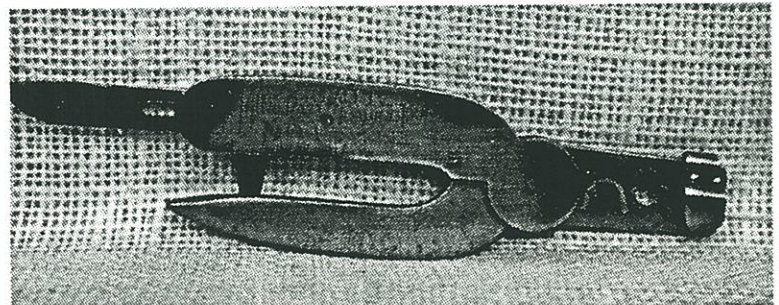
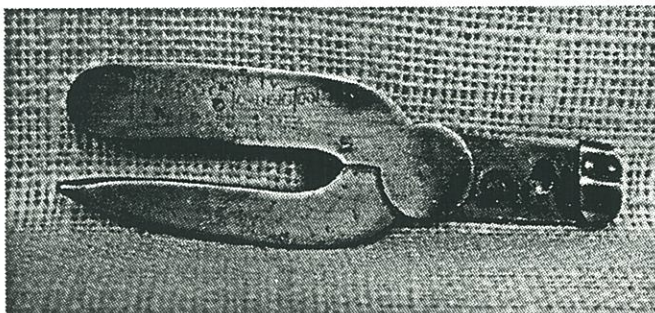
Miners needed specialty tools to cut and split fuse, crimp blasting caps and punch dynamite. These tools were patented as miners' combinations tools, miner's knives, miners' implements and miners' fuse pliers. Today most collectors merely refer to these specialty blasting tools as cap crimpers. However, most patented tools did more than crimp blasting caps.

The earliest patent I have found was granted to William Rosecrans, of San Francisco, on February 24, 1880. This simple tool had the stated purpose of cutting off the fuse and crimping the cap to the end thereof. The next patent I was able to find was granted to John Jones, of Oregon City, Oregon, on January 9, 1883. This patent was for a more sophisticated tool which had a stated purpose of splitting and compressing the fuse and for securing the cap on the end of the same. The latest patent I found was granted to John Yourek, Jr. and Stephen Yourek, of Thayer, Illinois, on March 17, 1925. It is noteworthy that not a single patent originates East of the Mississippi River and all are from hard rock mining regions.

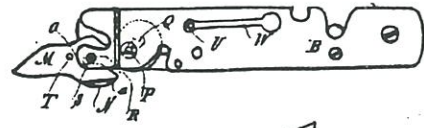
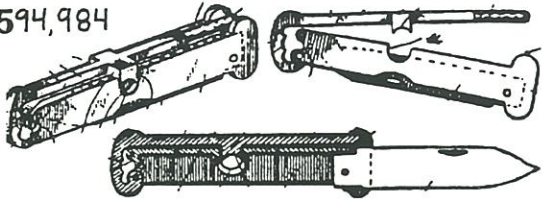
In all I have located 17 patents for these specialty blasting tools. These are:

224,957	William Rosecrans, San Francisco, CA	February 24, 1880
270,315	John Jones, Oregon City, OR	January 9, 1883
309,637	Isaac Martin, Ouray, CO	December 23, 1884
313,414	George Freund, Durango, CO	March 3, 1885
463,912	Richard McVitty, Snohomish, WA	November 24, 1891
567,068	George Bergen, Leadville, CO	September 1, 1896
572,808	Martin Killian, Central City, CO	December 1, 1896
580,235	Alfred Strum, Wickes, MT	April 6, 1897
594,984	William Chapman, Yellville, AR	December 7, 1897
613,698	Harry Martin, Salt Lake City, UT	November 8, 1898
692,637	Alfred Des Moineaux, Silverplume, CO	February 4, 1902
725,420	Alfred Des Moineaux, Silverplume, CO	April 14, 1903
753,048	Alfred Des Moineaux, Silverplume, CO	February 23, 1904
883,648	George Landers, Boise, ID	March 31, 1908
1,047,910	Clements Aragon, Ely, NV	December 24, 1912
1,184,746	Ole Lanson, Lead, SD	May 30, 1916
1,529,857	John Yourek, Jr., Thayer, IL	March 17, 1925

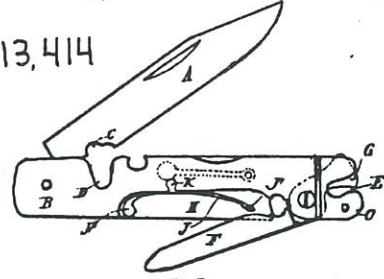
The question for collectors is how many of these patents were actually put into production. The accompanying photo of the Des Moineaux Miner's Safety Loading Tool demonstrates that at least one patent was actually produced. This example, from my collection, features a punch, fuse splitter, fuse cutter, crimper and retractable knife blade.



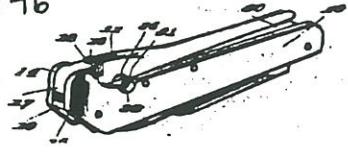
594,984



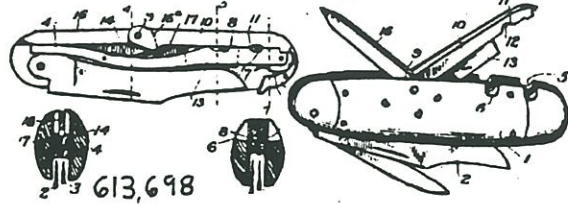
313,414



1,184,746



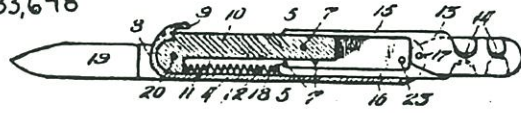
725,420



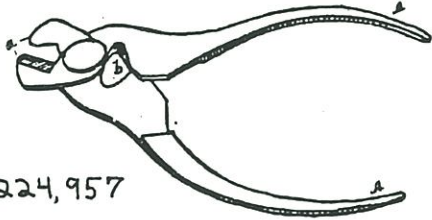
753,048



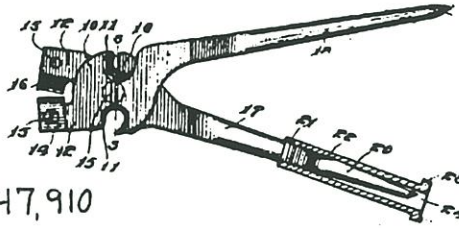
883,648



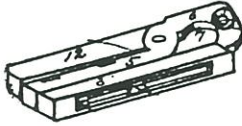
224,957



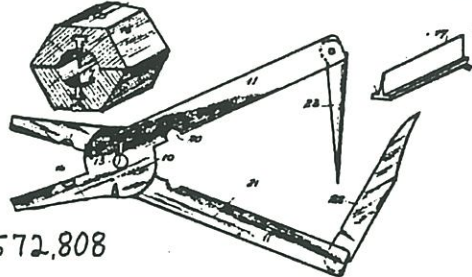
1,047,910



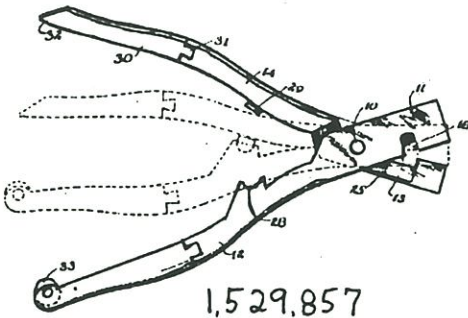
580,235



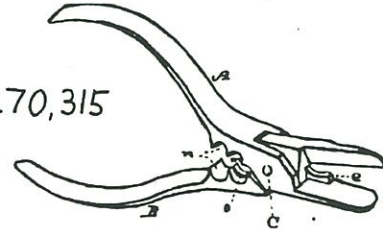
572,808



1,529,857



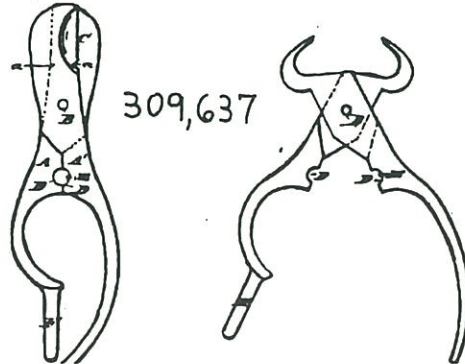
270,315



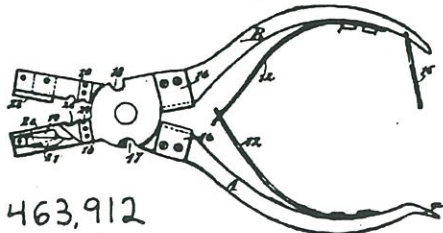
567,068



309,637



463,912



692,631



Logan-Gregg & Co.

Dave Johnson

In 1829 John T. Logan arrived in Pittsburgh, at age 21, from Lancaster, after having served a 2-year apprenticeship with hardware business owner George Mayer. After 2 years working as a salesman for Hoag Hardware, Logan convinced his cousin, Robert T. Kennedy, to establish their own hardware business. Thus, in 1831, Logan & Kennedy Hardware opened their doors for business.

In 1848, after 17 years in business, the firm changed its name, when senior partner, John Logan formed a partnership with Philip Wilson and Edward Gregg, to Logan, Wilson & Co. Gregg had begun his association with the firm in 1836 as a stock boy.

This partnership lasted until 1857, when Thomas A. Parke became an additional partner and the firm's name was changed to Logan & Gregg. The firm continued under this name until 1867, when the firm name

became Logan-Gregg & Co. The firm continued under this name for the duration of its existence.

John T. Logan died in 1871, Robert T. Kennedy died in 1875, and Philip

Wilson died in 1877. This left Edward Gregg as senior partner with George B. Logan and Thomas B. Parke as the active partners.

In 1879 the firm was located at 52 Wood St., in a 4-story warehouse, where they were engaged in the wholesale hardware business. The firm dealt in general wholesale hardware and cutlery, with an annual sales volume of \$150,000-\$175,000, employing 10 clerks and salesmen. Their business was generally conducted in Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. However, they did ship as far as Michigan, Utah, Colorado and Nevada. They specialized in belting, mill and mine supplies, and building hardware.

The firm doubled its warehouse capacity in 1887 by adding to the original building. By 1888 Logan-Gregg & Co. had added supplies and equipment for coal and coke works. Mine supplies had become a larger part of the business by this time as well. This expansion

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CENTENNIAL. 3

ESTABLISHED 1831.

LOGAN, GREGG & CO.

306 & 308 Wood Street,

Hardware and Cutlery.

SPECIALTIES:

Barbed Fence Wire,
Plain Fence Wire,
Wire Rope, { Agents for Washburn & Moon
Mfg. Co.'s Make.

OUTFITTING AND SUPPLIES
FOR

Coal and Coke Mines, T Rail Cars,
Ferries, Scales, Tools, &c.

MILL, MACHINE SHOP AND TRADESMEN'S TOOLS,

Keamey & Foot Co.'s Files and Rasps,
Morse and Standard Twist Drills,
Best Oak Tanned Leather Belting,
Jackson Mfg. Co.'s Steel Barrows.

CAREFUL PERSONAL ATTENTION TO ALL MAIL ORDERS.



Souvenir of Allegheny County Centennial, 1888.

allowed for the addition of machine shop tools and supplies.

A 1912 Logan-Gregg catalog, Number 30, in Nelson Ressler's collection, lists George B. Logan as President and Treasurer, P.L. Logan as Vice-President and Robert Repp as General Manager. The firm's address in 1912 for the offices and warehouse was 125-131 7th St. in Pittsburgh. This catalog pictured Logan-Gregg (Crown), Anton, Winfield, Dunlap, Zais and Monongahela Valley oil-wicks, Baldwin and Black Diamond carbide cap lamps and two Simmons handlamps, as well as mining tools and supplies.

According to the 1912 catalog, no less than eight varieties of miner's oilwick lamps were produced under William Tunnessen's Crown patent with the Logan-Gregg, Sterling Hardware label, two of which are shown here. Seven of the lamps pictured in the catalog are standard Crown trade-

Right: Advertisement from Logan-Gregg catalog, 1912.

Below: Brass Logan-Gregg face lamp with drip ring and boot kick.



LOGAN-GREGG HARDWARE COMPANY 249

STERLING MINERS' AND DRIVERS' LAMPS

No. 101 and 10 No. 99 No. 20

No. 101—Sterling miner. Charcoal tin. Double tube spout.....	No. 99	Per dozen \$ 1.50
No. 10—Sterling miner. Charcoal tin. Copper lined. Double tube spout. "Miners' Sunshine".....		Per dozen 2.50
No. 99—Sterling miner. All brass except lid and hook. Single tube spout with drip cup.....		2.50
No. 20—Sterling miner. Copper body. Double tube. Tin outer tube, lid and hook. Adapted to use "Miners' Sunshine" and the most serviceable lamp ever produced.....		Per dozen 4.50

No. 102 Nos. 101D and 10D No. 99D

No. 102—Sterling driver. Charcoal tin. Double tube spout. Large lamp and spout.....	Per dozen \$ 2.50
No. 101D—Sterling driver. Charcoal tin. Double tube spout.....	2.50
No. 10D—Sterling driver. Charcoal tin. Copper lined throughout. Double tube spout. Adapted to use "Miners' Sunshine".....	Per dozen 4.00
No. 99D—Sterling driver. Copper body. Double tube. Tin outer tube, lid and hook. Adapted to use "Miners' Sunshine" and the most serviceable lamp ever produced.....	Per dozen 5.50

No. 99D No. 99DH

No. 99D—Sterling driver. All brass except lid and hook. Single tube spout with drip cup.....	Per dozen \$ 4.00
No. 99DH—Sterling driver. With reflector. Per doz. 4.00	

Distinctive sterling features: full sized bodies and spouts; indestructible hinges—no solder used, the lid crimped to a brass collar and the collar in turn double seamed to the body; wire wick knocker and flat hook cleat. Highest grade material and workmanship throughout and every lamp absolutely guaranteed. Illustrations about two-thirds actual size.

One dozen in a box.

"STERLING BRAND FOR QUALITY STAMPS"

mark driver and face lamps with drip rings and/or boot kicks. The eighth is a shielded Crown. Also in my collection but not pictured in the catalog, is the pictured copper threaded lid oil-wick, which looks very much like the original Winfield patent, including the riveted hook and threaded lid. The Logan-Gregg stamping appears on the bottom of all examples I have seen rather than on the side of the font as the catalog displays.

The Sterling stamp on their oil-wicks and other products denotes, according to the 1912 catalog, "goods covered by our personal guarantee and are strictly first quality."

A 1925 catalog, in Jim Lackey's collection, is the latest material I was able to find on Logan-Gregg.

Sources:

Souvenir of Allegheny County Centennial, 1888.

Industries of Pittsburgh, 1879-1880, Richard Edward, Publisher & Editor.

Catalog No. 30 Logan-Gregg Hardware Co. 1912.



Brass Logan-Gregg driver's lamp with drip ring and boot kick.



Copper Logan-Gregg with tin threaded cap.

Puddling

Dave Johnson

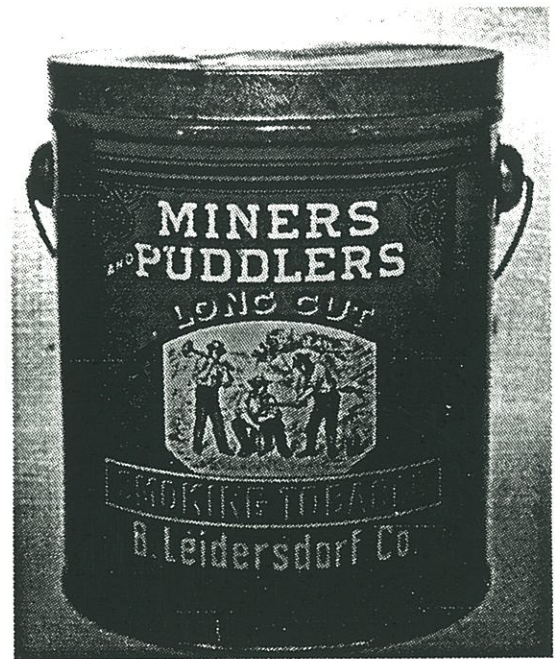
Many collectors are familiar with the Miners and Puddlers tobacco tins. I have been asked many times what a puddler was. While I knew it had something to do with the processing of iron, that is all I knew until I acquired a book titled, "Iron Brew: A Century of American Ore and Steel", written by Stewart H. Holbrook in 1939 and published by the MacMillan Co. of New York. This book chronicles 100 years of iron mining in the Lake Superior Region and iron and steel processing in Pennsylvania and Alabama.

In his book, Holbrook describes for us the puddling process, and something about puddlers. The following excerpt is taken from the book. "A puddler was quite a fellow during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The puddling furnace was a brick oven with two compartments - one, a receptacle into which some 500 pounds of pig iron was put at a time; the other, a fuel chamber where melting heat was generated. Drafts were so arranged that the flames swept directly upon the surface of the iron.

With the pig iron in its place and the heat turned on, the puddler went to work with a long rod. Through a hole in the furnace door he began stirring the mass of iron in order to bring as much of it as possible into contact with the air. Heat brought out the impurities in the iron, and these, in the form of slag, rose to the top and were drawn out of the furnace through a hole called the cinder notch.

The temperature kept mounting, and gradually the mass began to solidify into granules, something like butter in a churn. It was at this point that the puddler started to show his skill. Yes, and his brawn. With his stirring rod through the sweltering hole, he worked the mass of iron into 3 balls, each about the size of a bushel basket. These were taken out of the furnace with iron tongs suspended from a trolley. The tongs carried the balls of red hot iron to the squeezer, where the remaining slag was forced out and the iron formed into a bloom, which was a bar 3 to 4 feet long.

As the bloom fell from the squeezer, it was grabbed in tongs by a "rougner", the man who shoved it into the rolls



Miners and Puddlers tobacco tin, author's collection.

of the roughing mill. This was to compress the iron still more and to remove any slag the squeezer had missed.

It was all a hard and colorful business. As the bloom hit into the rolls of the roughing mill, there was a crash to deafen, while a shower of sparks flew over everything. On the other side of the rolls, the bloom emerged slightly longer in shape and was caught by the "catcher" in his tongs and put through an ever tighter roll. So the bar passed back and forth until it had gone through the last and tightest opening. It was then known as a muck bar." Such bars were reheated in a furnace, and rolled again into "merchant iron", the finished iron of commerce.

"Puddling iron was done in a temperature hotter than an African jungle. It called for constitutions as tough as merchant iron itself, and killed off the others in no time. Working one change was called a "heat". It required from two to three hours. Five heats were considered a days work. Two, sometimes three, men took turns at stirring the hot metal. Puddlers drank enormous amounts of beer at their work, ate much salt to supply what they lost in the heat and even worked in puddles of sweat. Working always in high temperatures, puddlers had a high mortality rate from pulmonary diseases.

Making merchant iron by the puddling process was big business in Pittsburgh of mid-century. Puddlers were the most important men in an ironworks."

P. S. Co. Oil-wick

Dave Johnson

Since publication of the latest list of oil-wick brandnames in Eureka, I have added yet another previously unpublished name to my collection. The marking on the lamp font is P. S. Co. The cap has the California Fruit Jar Co. initials and the Mar. 30, 58 and Mar. 30, 72 patent dates also found on Winfield Patent lamp caps. The brass cap measures just $3/4$ " in diameter at its top and $1\ 5/32$ " at the bottom of the flare below the thread, much smaller than the Winfield lamps. The threads on the lamp are brass and flare below to extend half-way down the sloped shoulder.

The lamp measures $3\ 1/16$ " high and the spout is $2\ 7/8$ " long. The font is $1\ 3/16$ " in diameter and, along with the spout, is tin. The hook is of a smaller than usual diameter wire stock and makes its reverse curve much sooner than most oil-wicks which usually turn at cap level or higher. This feature makes the lamp more unbalanced, causing it to tip forward more easily when hung by its hook.

I have absolutely no idea what the initials P. S. stand for. Since there is no town specified with the name there is no place to start looking for hints other than the fact that the lamp was found in Pennsylvania.



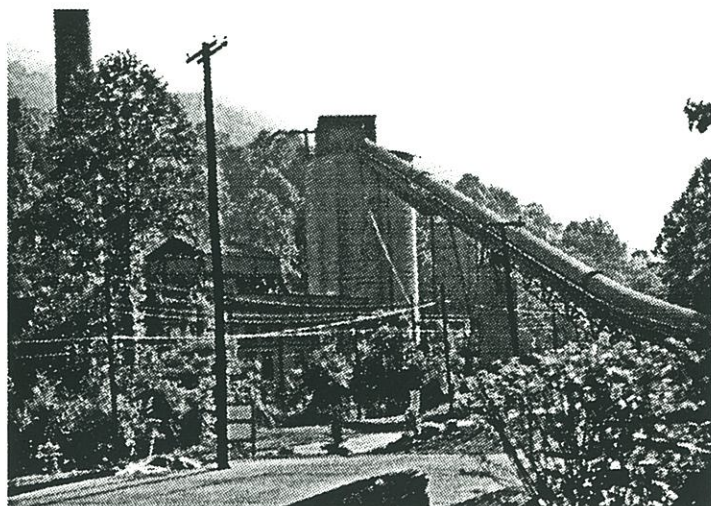
Kentucky State Coal Mining Museum

Dave Johnson

The small Southeastern town of Benham, Kentucky, located in Harlan County, is home to the Kentucky State Coal Mining Museum and Coal Miner's Park. The present town of Benham was named in 1911 by the International Harvester Corporation when their subsidiary the Wisconsin Steel Company, Incorporated opened the Benham Coal and Coke Works. By 1920 there were 408 cokeovens in continuous operation and a population of 3,000.

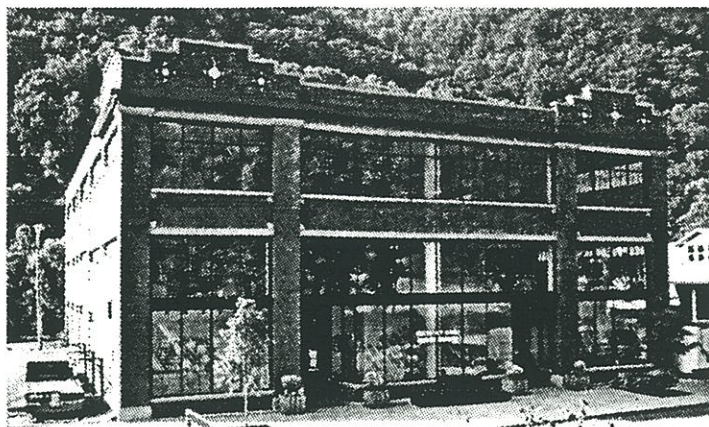
Originally named Yowell, Benham was a small isolated mountain community in 1910 when IHC purchased a large tract of land to mine the exceptional quality coking coal found there. The railroad reached Benham in July of 1911 and the first coke ovens went into operation January 1, 1912. The coke was shipped to the Wisconsin Steel Company furnaces in South Chicago.

The museum is housed in the former Benham Coal and Coke Works company store, a large well kept brick structure. The museum as designed to exhibit the lifestyle in the mining community and the equipment used in coal mining. Exhibits include mining tools and lighting, a company medical clinic, a home parlor, organized labor items and a children's crawl-through exhibit. Admissions \$4 for adults. The hours are Monday through Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 1-4.



Tippel, Lynch, Kentucky.

EUREKA! July 1995



Kentucky Coal Mining Museum. Benham, KY.

The small Coal Miner's Park next door has an old wooden railroad caboose open for children to climb through, along with picnic tables for a picnic lunch before proceeding on to nearby Lynch.



Mine Portal. Lynch, Kentucky.

Lynch was founded in 1917 when United States Steel opened its coal mines there. At one time Lynch was the largest coal camp in the U.S. with 1,000 structures and 10,000 people, with 38 different nationalities represented. Today you can take a walking tour of the town and see the company store, school, lamp house, bath house, firehouse, water plant, tippel and mine portal 31, as well as the post office and railroad depot. Each building has a sign explaining its history and function. None of the buildings are restored by appear as they were when the mines closed.

Both Benham and Lynch are worthy of a visit if you are in the area. I passed through the day before the Huntington Show, having taken the day to travel through the southeastern Kentucky coal region. For anyone not liking narrow winding mountain roads, this drive is not for you. The roads leave much to be desired. Once there, the sights are enjoyable.

The Story Book of Coal

Jim Van fleet

In all my years of mine lamp research and historical reading, I have been struck by how little attention the authors generally pay to mine lighting and other details of mining work.

I have finally discovered a beautiful little book that makes a attempt, at least, to highlight the details of a miners' work and his essential tools. Ironically, the title is a children's book!

The Story Book of Coal was written and illustrated by Caldecott Medal-winning authors Maud and Miska Petersham, and was published in 1935 by the John C. Winston Co. of Philadelphia. The slim red hardcover book is only 32 pages long, but includes a color cover plate, color illustrated dust jacket, and 24 painted color illustrations with the text.

The book was an instant acquisition when I saw the dust jacket, a dramatic drawing of two miners wearing what appear to be carbide cap lamps, checking the health of their canary in his cage. It only adds to the book's charm that the illustrators have appar-

ently added electrical wires running from the obvious open flame carbide lamps to imagined belt battery packs.

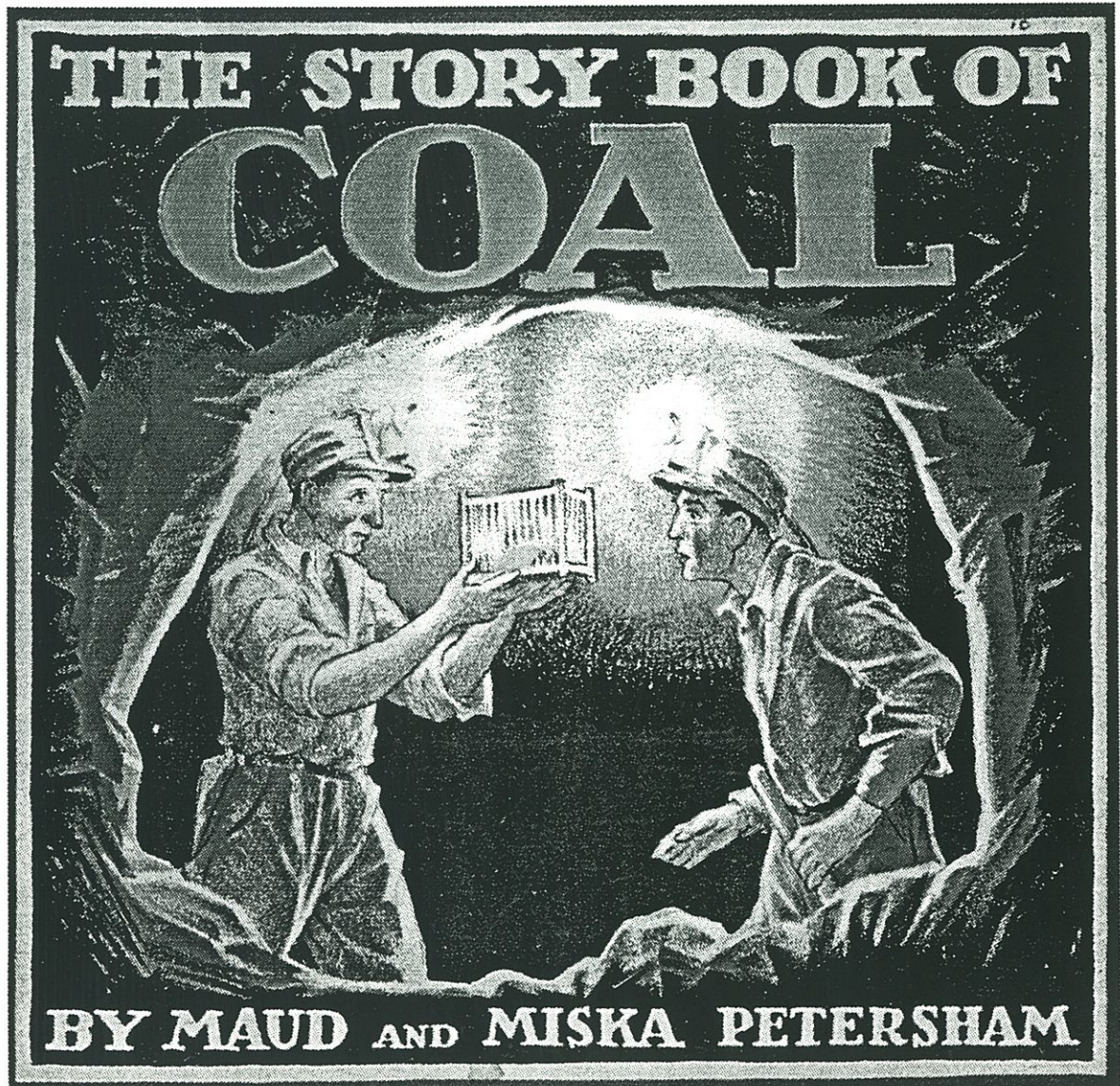
The cover plate illustration, repeated on the title page, shows a miner checking the air with a Davy safety lamp. The book actually has four paragraphs on the dangers of mine gases, and testing for gas with a safety lamp or canary. There is an accurate drawing of the original Davy safety lamp!

I can truthfully report that this is

more information on mine lighting than most 400 page textbooks of mining present.

The Story Book of Coal also includes illustrations of an "Undercutting Machine", of miners "Preparing to Fire the Shot", and a comparison of a miners mule with an "Electric Motor."

Simple, interesting, and (mostly) accurate, this little book is a gem, and one my kids will be reading.



Games About Mining

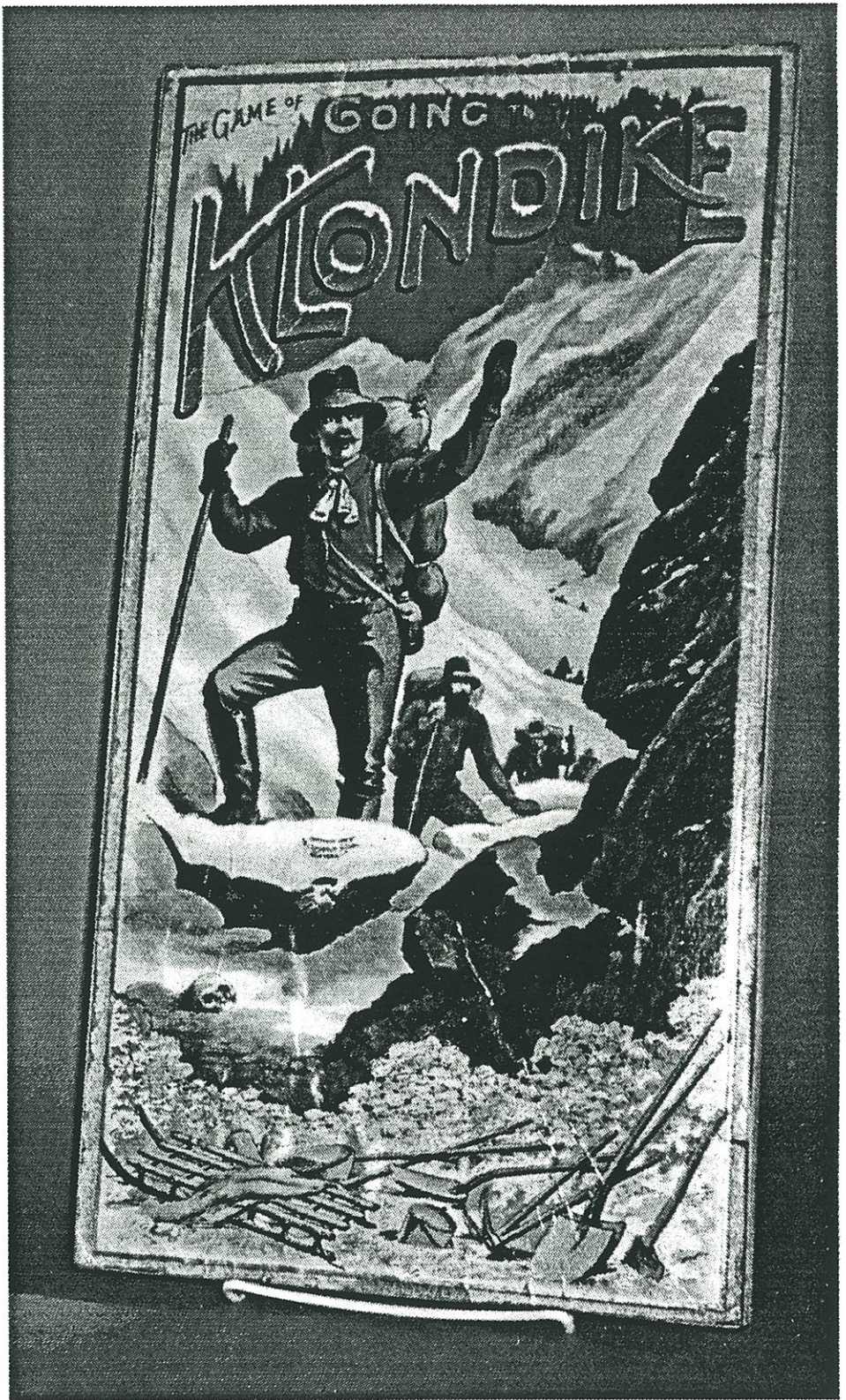
Jim Van fleet

The mining industry is not noted for its fun and games, and few would consider mining work as representative on an enjoyable pastime. However, the promise of wealth and the lure of adventure deep underground or in frozen, far-off places are an undeniable part of mining history and lore. And as with most phenomena that have seized the imagination of humans young and old, the mining theme found its way into games.

This article is by no means an exhaustive history or even a complete listing of games about mining. For an excellent start, I surveyed the members of the American Game Collectors Association, and Bill Alexander searched his computerized Game Catalog for the words "Klondike" and "gold." I retrieved the following listings related to gold mining. I've added brief annotations for games I am familiar with:

Game of Going to the Klondike

McLoughlin Brothers, 1898. 10" X 19". Roy and Grace Olsen were kind enough to send me information and photographs of two large and beautiful games. This game box bears a beautiful and dramatic lithograph of miners crossing a snowy mountain pass, and stumbling upon the remains of a miner's camp; shovels, picks, gold pan, and *heaps* of gold nuggets. Almost lost in the splendor of it is the forlorn skull of the previous owner. The board itself is the typical track game, showing various routes to the Alaskan gold fields.



Game of Going Klondike (box). Roy and Grace Olsen collection.

The Klondike Nugget Game

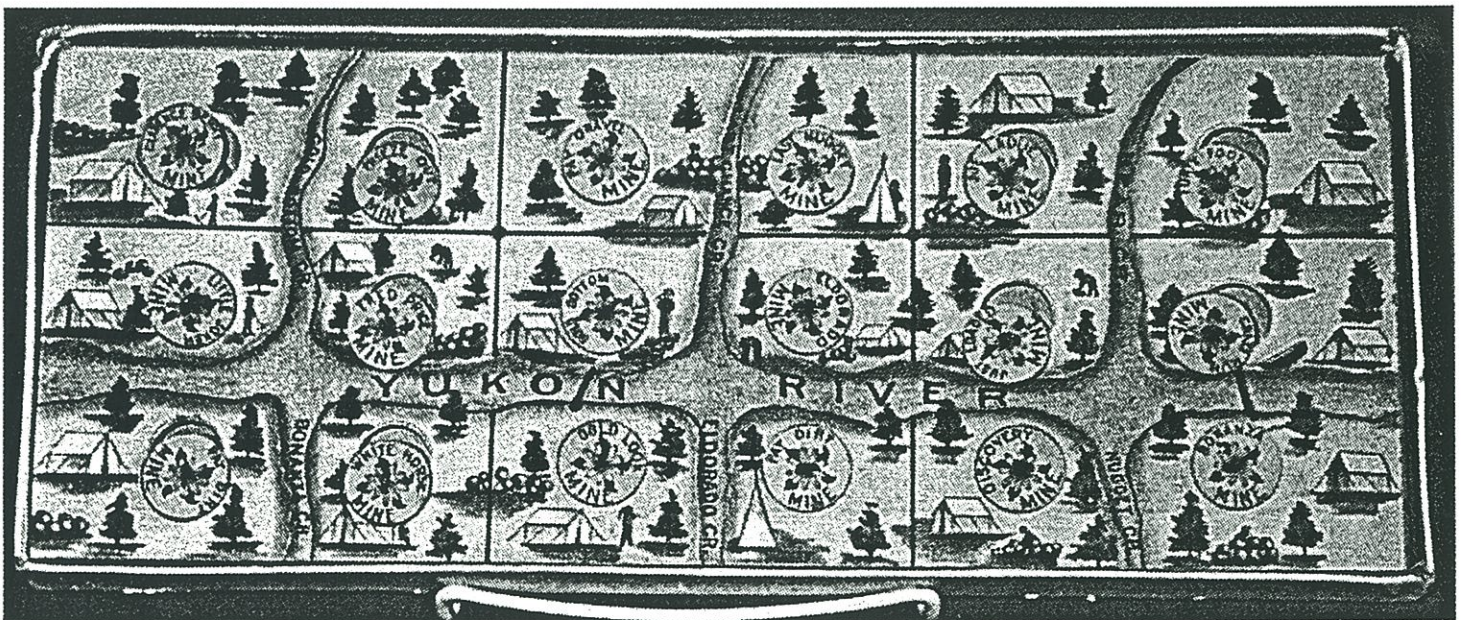
Maker and date unknown, c. 1895. 15" X 6". It can be seen that the fascination of the gold rush and the call of the Klondike at the end of the last century held a special appeal, and many parlor games tried to capture this excitement for those who had to stay at home. Most of these

games had little to do with the actual experience of mining in the Klondike and Yukon territories in 1895. The **Klondike Nugget Game** has a board which depicts mining camps neatly lining the Yukon River, into which flows such fanciful tributaries as "Eldorado Creek," "Bonanza Creek," and "Nugget Creek." The cover shows that same lucky miner, still

hauling around "The Boss Nugget". The sunset over the mountains is nothing less than an aurora proclaiming "GOLD". This game might have actually been fun to play; the instructions describe the board setup, with hidden gold nuggets and "mine covers." Players took turns opening the mines with small "pick axe" implements.



The Klondike Nugget Game (box). Roy and Grace Olsen collection.



Klondike Nugget Game (board). Roy and Grace Olsen collection.

KLONDIKE GOLD



Klondike Gold: game box (above), cards (below left), and board (below right).

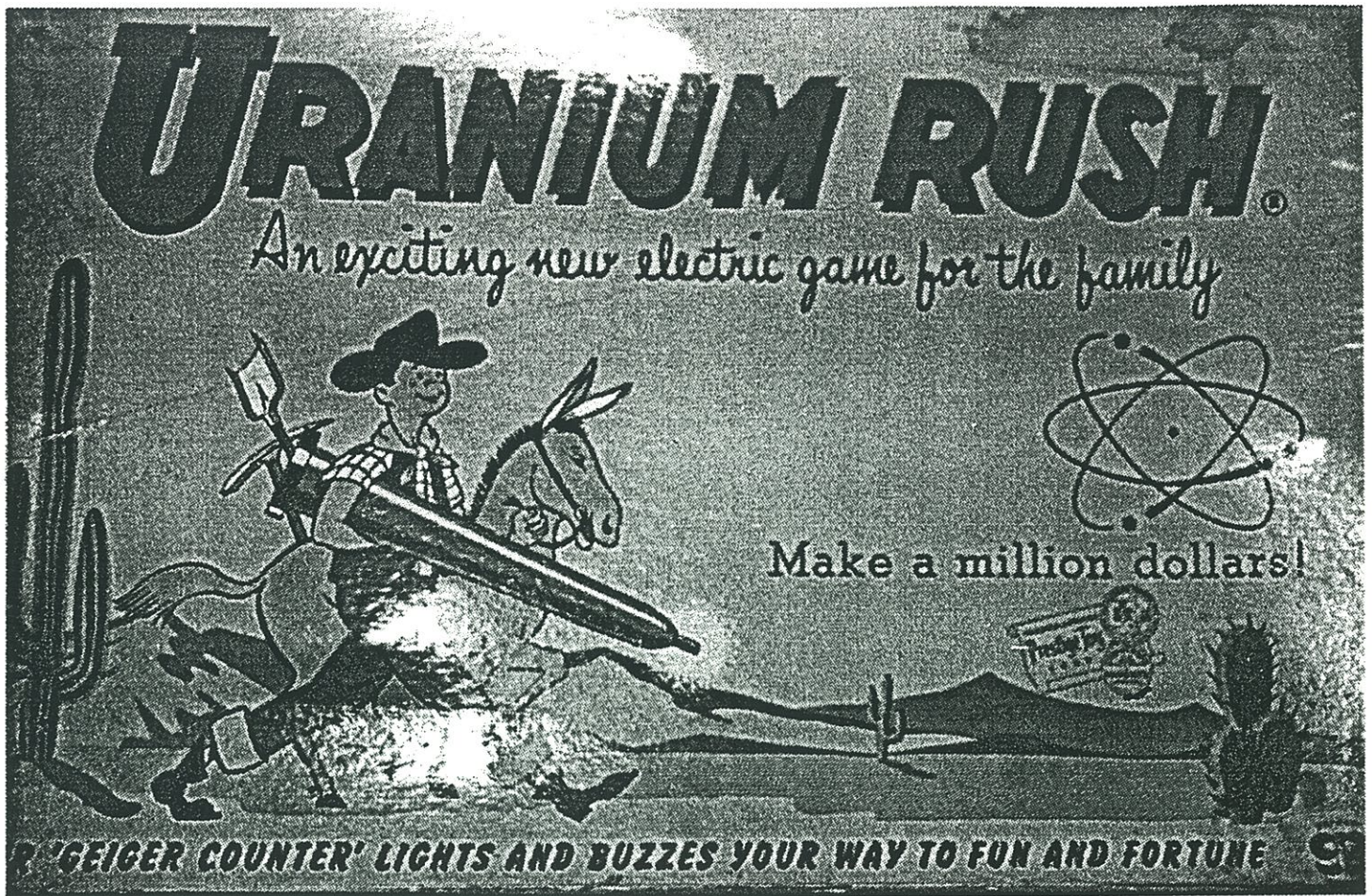
Klondike Gold

Corey Game Co. (Division of Quality Paper box Co.), Boston, MA, 1943. The large game box (15" X 22 1/2") has rather garish artwork, and shows more blue sky than a Klondike miner probably saw in a year. The game is a typical track game, from the Alaskan port town of Skagway, over the Chilkoot Pass and on to the Klondike.

The playing cards for this game caricature the hardships and necessities of the prospector's life; high prices

for essential goods and supplies, the danger of claim jumpers, and the need for a good saloon!





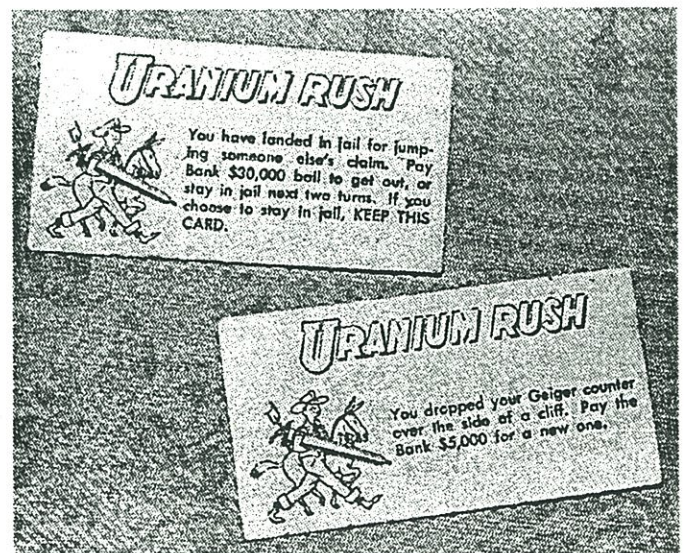
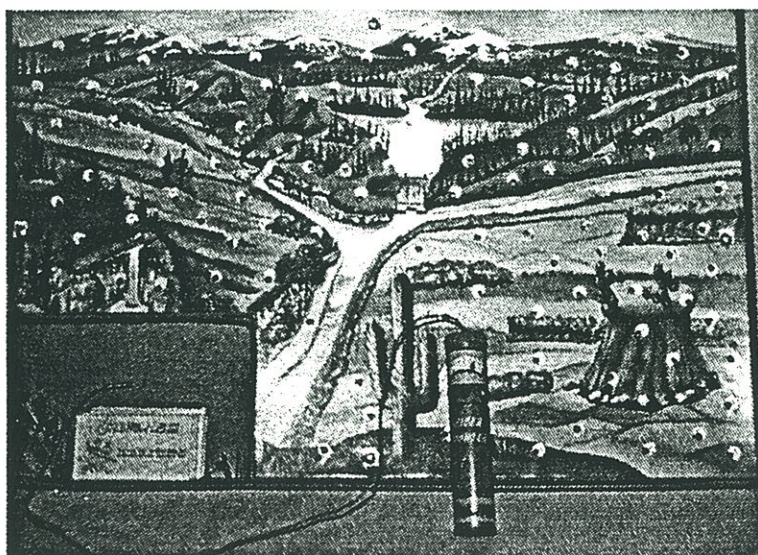
I have Bruce Whitehill, AGCA member, author, and self-styled "big Game hunter," to thank for a much more recent entry into the category of mining games, reflecting more modern tastes in precious minerals:

Uranium Rush

Gardner Games, Chicago, c.1955. 14" X 21 1/4". This is an

electric game, complete with a geiger counter" implement for checking the radioactivity of the holes in the board!

The playing cards show that even as late as the 1950's, the problems and hardships of the miner still revolved around claim jumping, staying out of jail, and taking care of some pretty expensive equipment!



Klondike Puzzle

Novelty Capsule Co., c. 1880. Thanks to Erika Wilson for a description of this game. The box measures 2 5/8" X 6 1/4", and reads:

The object of this game is to get the three gold bugs into Klondike through the pass.

K
L
O
PUZ N ZLE
D
I
K
E

Patent applied for
Novelty Capsule Co.
Alliance, O.
Price 10 cents

"This puzzle is a family piece and must have been my grandfather's when he was a child in the 1870's. It is made of quite sturdy cardboard, with yellow paper glued over.

The inside floor of the box has a little naturalistic colored geographical print with the following labeled: Skaguay [sic] Trail, Chilcoot Pass, Yukon River. The raised, gold cup in the center - made of cardboard - is gold painted and lettered KLONDIKE inside.

Only one of the original gold bugs survives, a lead-weighted 'jumping bean.'"

Game of Klondike or a Trip to the Gold Fields of Alaska

(by Chas. W. Kennard)
American Toy Co., c. 1897.

The Klondike Miner

Milton Bradley, c. 1900.

The Gold Hunter

Milton Bradley, c. 1900. The small box depicts a lone miner panning for gold.

The Gold Rush

Gold Mine Card Co., Fenton, Michigan, [nd]. This card game may be unique, in that the dark blue box cover accurately depicts a miner wearing a cloth cap and oil wick lamps, as used by Michigan miners.

Game of Klondike

E.I. Horsman, 1897. Roy and Grace Olsen sent a photograph of this card game, with numbered cards showing famous gold-camp personalities and the necessary tools of the trade.

One could not make it over the winter passes to the Alaskan gold fields without card No. 5, that essential pack animal, the "burrough" [sic].

The Gold Hunters: a Game of Adventure

Parker Brothers, c. 1902. This is typical of the glamourization of the quest for gold. The 13 3/4" square box lid shows the obligatory vignette of a miner who has panned out a huge nugget of gold. There is a second vignette of a hardy northern hunter or guide, and the background is scenery around the Yukon River.

Klondike

Parker Brothers, 1895.

Klondike Puzzle

Parker Brothers, 1898.

Coal mining, much less glamorous than the search for precious metals, is depicted in very few games. The major game manufacturers probably saw little profit to be made from a game idealizing the gritty, dangerous occupation of mining coal. Of course, this is my own favorite historical subject, and I still hope some of our readers can advise me of any board or card games depicting coal mining. The only item in my collection is a wooden sliding puzzle advertising the products of a local coal company.

Acknowledgments:

Thanks again to AGCA members Bill Alexander, Toy and Grace Olsen, Bruce Whitehill, and Erika Wilson for their assistance, information, and interest.

References:

Alexander, Bill, Game Catalog. Bartlesville, OK: Bill Alexander, 1989.

Denis, Lee. Warman's Antique American Games, 1840-1940. Elkins Park, PA. Warman, 1986.

Whitehill, Bruce. Games: American Boxed Games and Their Maker, 1822-1992, with Values. Radnow, PA: Wallace-Homestead Books, 1992.

Wilhelm Seippel

Bochum in Westfalen/Germany

Manfred Stutzer

It is fair to say that the firm of Wilhelm Seippel was the second most important German miners' lamp manufacturer after Friemann & Wolf, Zwickau. The founder of the company, Friedrich Wilhelm Seippel, was born in 1832 in Spenge, Westfalia. In 1858, he started his own hardware store with a locksmith's trade in Bochum, Westfalia. Bochum was a small town of under 9,000 inhabitants, located in the Ruhr region.

The Ruhr became a center for coal production during a period of rapid industrialization, and more and more deep coal mines were opened.

The first lamp produced by Wilhelm Seippel was a miners' frog lamp, sometime before 1900. These were the classic Westfalia style frog lamps, with either a heart- or rooster-shaped handle on the lid.

Seippel also produced the so-called cast iron Geisser lamps. Advertisements show lamp model No. 34/1 was cast in one piece, No. 34/2 was manufactured with an attached wrought iron shackle. Model No. 34/3 seems to be identical to the Wells No.16 hanging lamp, and it is possible this oil lamp was a resale lamp.

Soon after producing frog lamps he began to produce and sell safety lamps for gassy coal mines, not only in Germany but to all countries where coal mining operations made protection against firedamp necessary.

In 1901 Seippel expanded his production, and a new plant was built in Bochum. In 1906 Wilhelm Seippel died, and his son Robert Seippel was his successor.



The Seippel registered trademark was the dwarf or gnome, who has a carbide hand lamp in his left hand.

By 1908 the company was also producing carbide lamps in large quantities for ore, slate, and potash mines. Again a new production facility was erected. On this anniversary, fifty years after the founding of Wilhelm Seippel, a special sales catalog was issued.

Seippel miners' lamps were now sold in France, Belgium, Russia, Japan, Spain, and the United States. Their product line included entire lamp room setups, cleaning machines for lamps, and tools for safety lamps.

In 1919, after the war, more and more electrical lamps were introduced into the mines. The German company CEAG (Concordia Electricity Company), already had much experience in electrical lighting for mines, and in that year overtook the Wilhelm Seippel Company as the leader in the field.

G. Offene Lampen für Oel- und Petroleumbrand, für schlagwetterfreie Gruben.

No. 32.

Eiserne offene Bergmannslampe

10 stündig

24 stündig

Preis per Stück

Gewicht: 0,48 kg.

Höhe: 95 mm.

*

Gewicht: 0,75 kg.

Höhe: 115 mm.

No. 33.

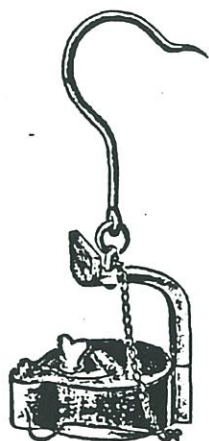
Messingne offene Bergmannslampe

10 stündig

Preis per Stück

Gewicht: 0,48 kg. Höhe: 95 mm.

Dochte hierzu per Pack



No. 32



No. 33

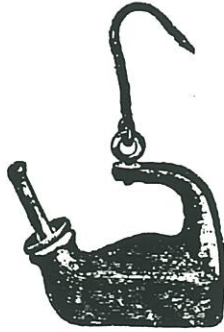
The first lamps produced by Seippel were frog lamps. Ad is from 1908.

Production continued under the name Wilhelm Seippel GmbH, Bochum. In 1926, Seippel introduced the first electromagneto air-pressure lamp for mines.

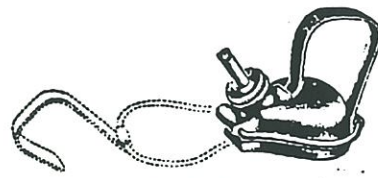
Following World War II, the company still produced carbide hand lamps and benzine safety lamps. The range of products decreased and the company offices moved to Dortmund, Westfalia. Today one benzine safety lamp with an internal electrical igniter is still in production.

Giesser- oder Gruben-Lampen.

Diese Lampen werden mit kräftigem Messing-Brenner ausgestattet und schwarz lackiert — gewöhnlich ohne Docht — auf Wunsch aber auch mit Docht geliefert.



No. 34/1
mit drehbarem Haken
Gewicht: 0,9 kg.
Höhe: 105 mm.

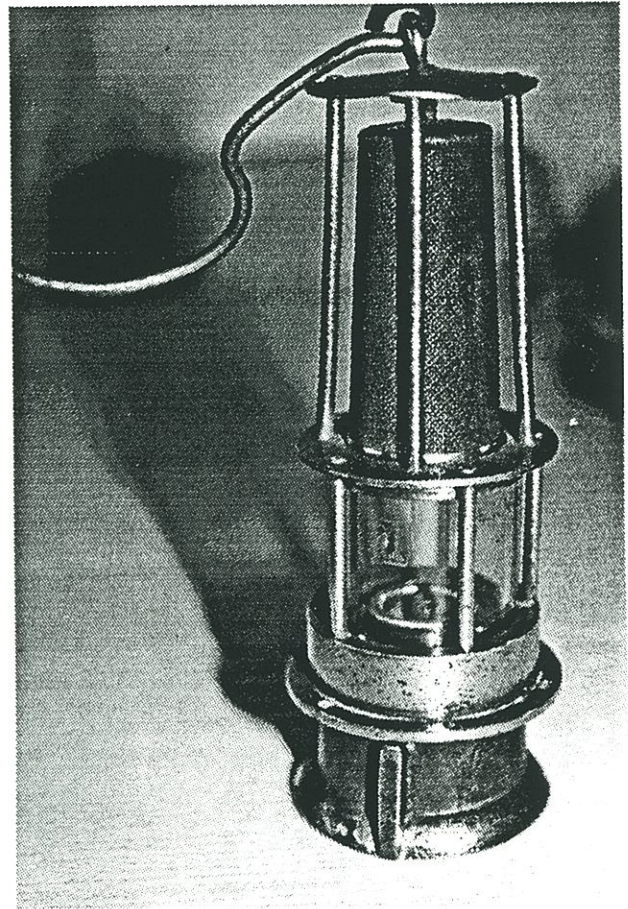
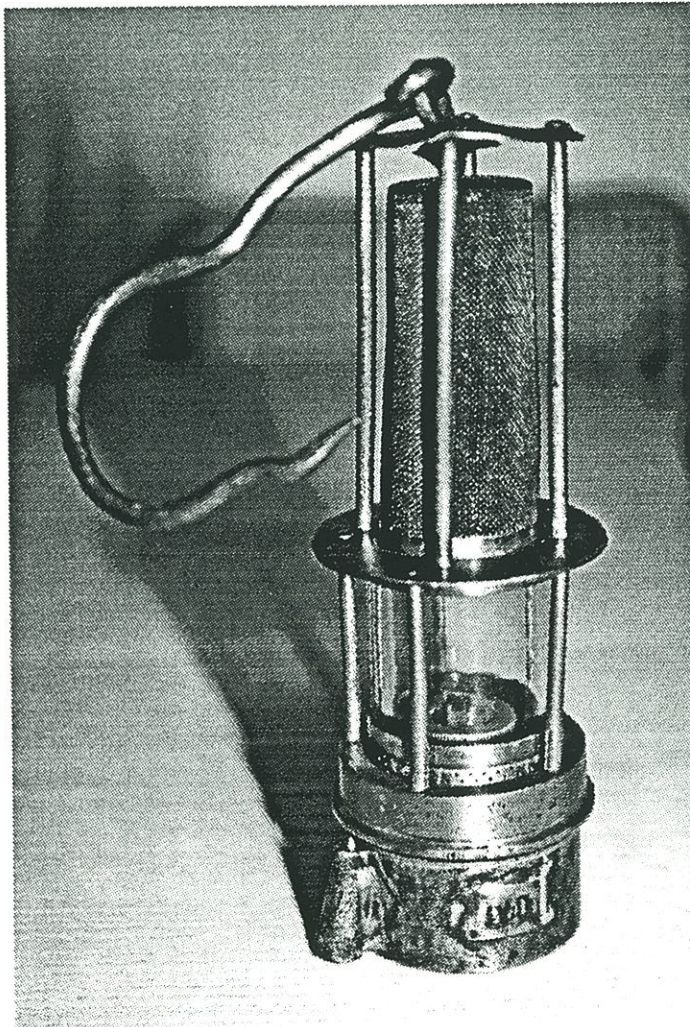


No. 34/3.
mit aufklappbarem Doppel-Bügel
(als Hand- oder als Hängelampe zu
gebrauchen)
Gewicht: 0,8 kg. Höhe: 100 mm

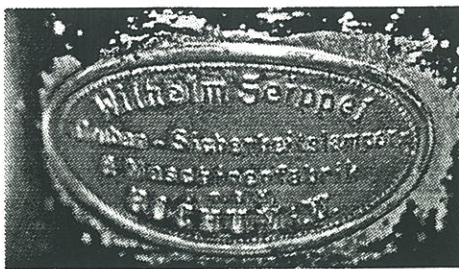
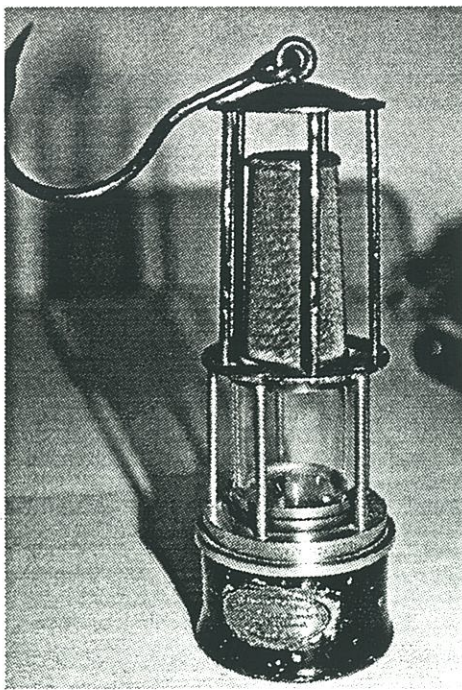


No. 34/2
mit schmiedeeisernem Hals
und drehbarem Haken
Gewicht: 0,85 kg.
Höhe: 140 mm.

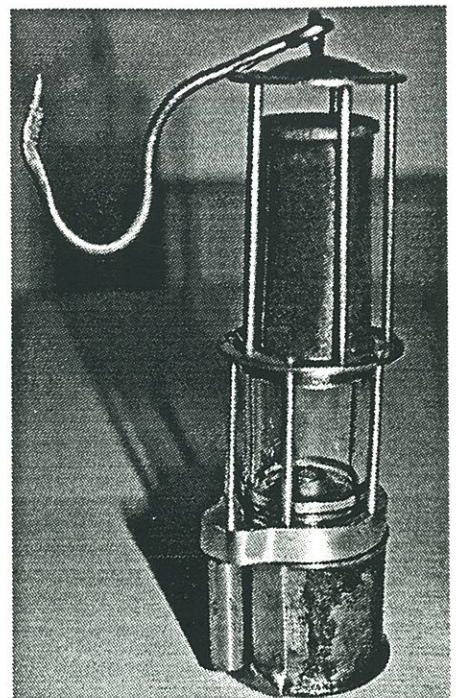
Seippel produced cast iron Giesser-lamps. No. 34/1 was cast in one piece, No. 34/2 was manufactured with an attached wrought iron shackle. No. 34.3 seems to be identical to the Wells No. 16 hanging lamp. Ad is from 1908.



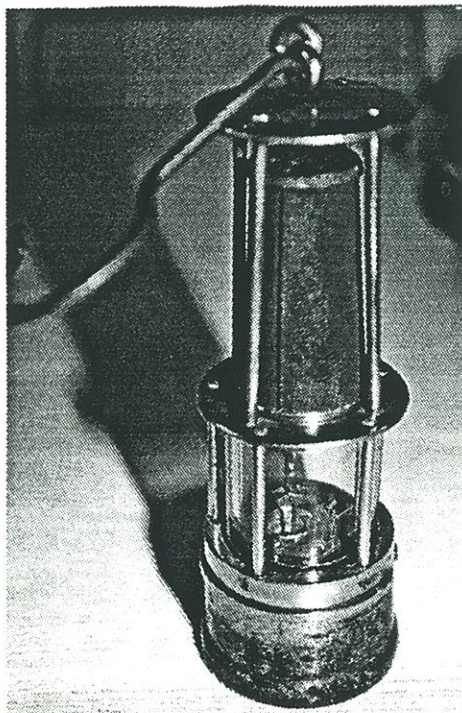
Two early oil safety lamps with different locking devices, 1880. Stamping of second lamp with cross-hatched hammers is shown right.



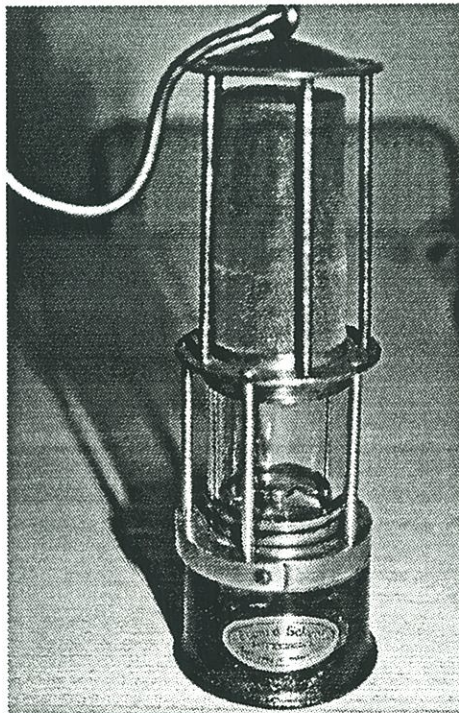
(left) Benzine safety lamp with igniter No. BI. Enlarged brass badge from same lamp shown above.



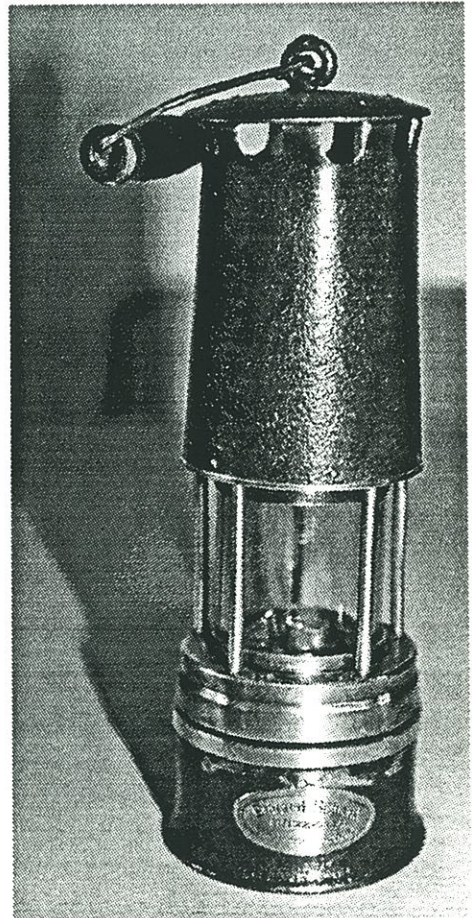
(right) Benzine safety lamp No. 9 with electro-magnetic pin locking.



Early oil safety lamp with paper strip igniter.



(above and right) Two benzine safety lamps made by Seippel. Brass badge on bottom indicates U.S. distributor: Eduard Schenk, Pittsburgh, PA, 404 House Building.



Excerpts From Seippel 1908 Catalog

JUBILÄUMS-SPECIAL-KATALOG
DER FIRMA
WILHELM SEIPPEL

Gruben-Sicherheitslampen- u. Maschinenfabrik
Vernickelungsanstalt
BOCHUM IN WESTFALEN

Telegraph-Adresse Wilhelm Seippel, Bochum. Fernspreche
Aelteste und leistungsfähigste Fabrik, mit den neu-
Specialmaschinen für Kraftbetrieb eingerichtet.
Im Jahre 1858 gegründet.

Cover.

Wilhelm Seippel, Bochum in Westfalen.

Acetylen-Gruben-Sicherheits-Handlampe

System „Seippel“ Nr. 100 a und b.

Mehrfach patentiert und patentamtlich geschützt.

mit Beagid-Patronen-Speisung

unbedingt betriebssicher, laut Prüfungstest der Berggewerkchaftlichen Versuchsstrecke in Gelsenkirchen.

Gewicht: 1,75 kg. Höhe: 300 mm.

In der Praxis finden bereits Acetylen-Gruben-Sicherheitslampen Verwendung, welche mit Roh-Calcium-Carbid gespeist werden. Diese Lampen weisen aber derartige Mängel auf, dass sie zu einer allgemeinen Einführung nicht gelangt sind.

Ich habe nun eine Acetylen-Gruben-Sicherheits-Handlampe konstruiert, bei welcher ich kein Roh-Calcium-Carbid verwende, sondern ein fast geruchloses, ungefährliches, in Patronenform gepresstes imprägniertes Carbid, welches patentiert ist, und „Beagid“ genannt wird. „Beagid“ hat den Vorteil einer langsamen und kühlen Vergasung, sowie einer weit herabgeminderten Empfindlichkeit gegen Feuchtigkeit. Es ist dies ein bedeutender Vorzug, da ich auf Grund der Beagidpatrone die Lampe überaus einfach gestalten konnte. Die äussere Form der Sicherheitslampe habe ich beibehalten und dieselbe mit Innenzündvorrichtung und Magnuerverchluss versehen. Meine Beagid-Acetylen-Sicherheits-Handlampe besteht aus drei Hauptteilen,



Nr. 100 a.



Nr. 100 b.

Carbide safety lamps. Lamp on left is fitted with an additional water regulation.

Wilhelm Seippel, Bochum in Westfalen.

Die Figuren 1, 2 und 3 zeigen ferner einen neuen, vereinfachten und verbesserten Paraffin-Reib-Zündapparat No. 100 s, welcher seitlich aufklappbar ist.

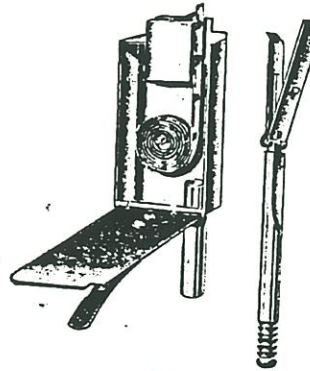


Fig. 1.

Das Neue besteht darin, dass die schenkelartige Reibfeder, siehe Figur 1, mit Anschlagknaggen versehen ist.

Infolge der Federkraft sitzt dieser Knaggen immer so, dass er sich beim Vorschub der Reibfeder an einen Gegenknaggen, wie oben im Gehäuse des Zündapparates sich befindet (siehe Figur 1), verfangt und so den Hub reguliert. Andererseits ist die Reibfeder ihrer Zugstange leicht aus dem Gehäuse dazu zu entfernen, dass man die Feder beim Heben nach oben erfasst und zusammendrückt (siehe Figur 2). Die neue Reibfeder ist also auswechselbar und ermöglicht einen leichten Aufbau des Zündapparates. Figur 3 zeigt den kompletten Zündapparat No. 100 s.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

Wax friction igniter.

Wilhelm Seippel, Bochum in Westfalen.



A.

Eine weitere vereinfachte Ausführung meines Schlagzünd-Apparates ist hier unter A' abgebildet. Das Zündband wird bei diesem Apparat von einem Wirbel vorgezogen, wobei der Wirbel gleichzeitig die Schloßfeder in Tätigkeit setzt. Das abgeschlossene Zündband wird hierbei nicht, wie bei dem anderen Apparat aufgewickelt, sondern bei jedesmaliger Umdrehung des Wirbels abgerissen.



B.



B.



B.



B1.



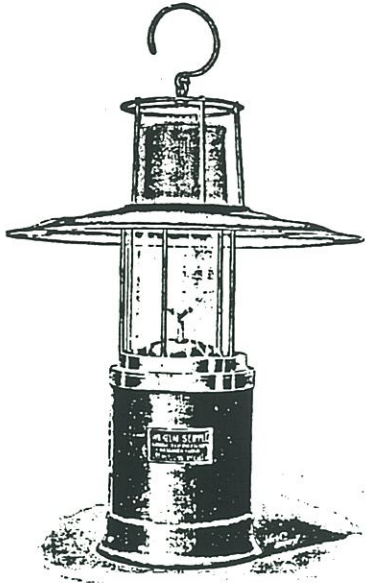
Horizontal friction igniters.

Acetylen-Gruben-Sicherheits-Lampe

System „Seippel“ Nr. 101

mit Beagid-Patronen-Speisung,

für Schacht- und Füllortbeleuchtung, mit Doppelbrenner und abnehmbarem äusseren Schirm-Reflektor. — Mehrfach patentiert und patentamtlich geschützt.



Very large carbide safety lamp for lighting large excavations. This lamp was produced in two sizes (18 and 25 inches high).



Carbide cap lamp, brass, made by Seippel. This lamp is very similar to the Friemann & Wolf so-called "Toennchen", which means small barrel or keg.

Acetylen-Sicherheits-Lampen

für Gruben-Lokomotiven

mit Scheinwerfer, Innen-Zündapparat, Magnetverschluss und Luftzuführung,

System „Seippel“ No. 104

mit Beagid-Patronen-Speisung.

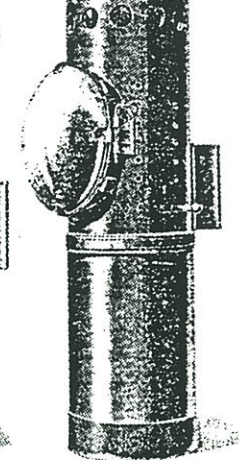
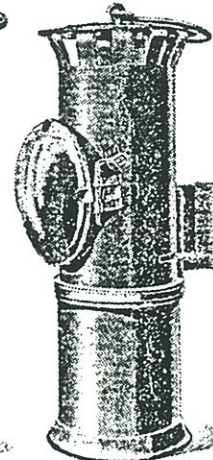
Mehrfach patentiert und patentamtlich geschützt.

Diese Beschreibungen der Sicherheits-Lampen Nr. 104a, b und c für Grubenlokomotiven dienen hauptsächlich zur Beschreibung in Denkwirkentafeln.

Nr. 104a.

Nr. 104b.

Nr. 104c.



Gewicht 12 kg Höhe 240 mm

Gewicht 16,5 kg Höhe 270 mm

Gewicht 14 kg Höhe 240 mm

Carbide safety lamps for mine locomotives.

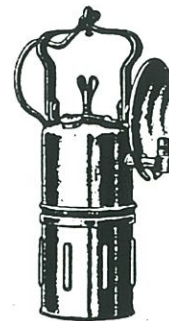
Azetylenlampen mit angeschraubtem Karbidbehälter



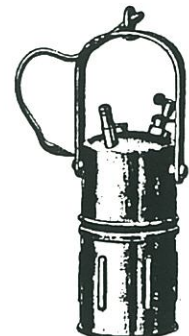
Nr. 130 mit Reflektor



Nr. 132 mit Reflektor



Nr. 131 mit Reflektor



Nr. 133 ohne Reflektor, mit schräg hochstehendem Brenner auf dem Wasserbehälter

Advertisement from 1930 showing four carbide hand lamps, produced mainly for the export market (America).

The Trail of the Miner's Candlestick

Ruby T. Scott

Editors Note: the following was discovered by Jim Lackey in the March 1937 issue of Antiques magazine. We reprint it here as it was originally published, including the following comments of the magazine's skeptical "Editor."

Note. Some gentle readers of Antiques may be shocked by the revelations afforded by the following brief but convincing article. Let us confess that we have hitherto regarded the curious iron weapons described by Miss Scott as contrivances wrought by fairly oldtime blacksmiths. In fact, we suspended acceptance of Miss Scott's article until the author had topped other evidence in the case with the group portrait here reproduced. We have since recalled the log-built abode of a forest ranger in the Canadian Rockies with whom we once found a day's escape from heavy rain and a leaky tent. The one-room establishment boasted a lamp whose precious fuel had to be reserved for periods of reading. Ordinary illumination was provided by candles flickering in iron sockets whose rapierlike shafts were thrust into cracks in the surrounding log walls.

Still, it is fair to enquire whether the candlesticks that played so important a part in the life of the metal miners of the West, even within the past forty years, were originally designed for the purpose that they so well served both in shaft and in shack. Do far earlier prototypes survive? If so, when and where were they made?

— The Editor

Enter almost any secondhand thrift store in almost any town on the western slope of the Rockies, and poke into the box of old iron sure to be reposing in some obscure corner. Each year the findings become fewer, but even yet you stand a fair chance of uncovering a slender piece of twisted ironwork about ten inches long, with a sharp point at one end and a loop at the other. On one side, just below the loop, the iron has been flattened and curved into a circlet of candle diameter; then it recovers its slender shape and rises into a

sharp hook. The aspect of the contrivance suggests a serpent with up-lifted head, ready to strike.

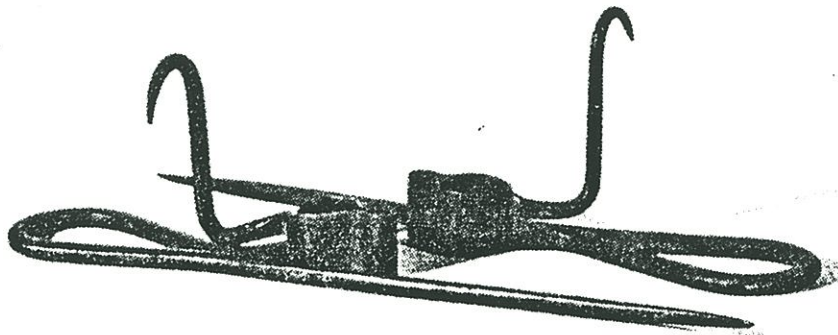


Fig. 1 Miner's Candlesticks (nineteenth century) Stamped Varney. Wrought from a continuous strip of iron ingeniously curved, flattened into a collar to accommodate a candle, and then continued in the form of a hook.

"What's that?" you may ask the shopkeeper. And he will answer, "Oh,

that? That's a miner's candlestick. In the early days out here, every miner carried one. Regular part of

his outfit. Pretty handy, too. This long point he could stick into a bank somewhere, or he could hang the thing over a ledge by the hook, or hand it on his hat if he wanted to. He carried it on his finger by the loop, or hung it from his belt when he wasn't using it. Nobody totes them any more,

though. Oh, maybe, once in a while and old prospector will come in and want one."

As you turn the candlestick over in your hands and observe how perfectly it appears to meet the need which it was intended to satisfy, your interest may grow as mine did when I picked up my first specimen. After that I began to look for other examples and to study what I found.

Miner's candlesticks, I discovered, range from eight to ten or twelve inches in length and vary greatly in workmanship. Some are graceful and quite delicately wrought. Others are rough and heavy. Many are stamped with the maker's name. I have two fine examples marked Varney, and several others with initials.

In my handsomest specimen, the shaft of the hook is hand-wrought in an elaborate sequence of carefully graduated divisions. It is likewise ingeniously pivoted, so that it may be laid flat against the long blade. This piece is not signed; but it is enough to know that its maker was one who enjoyed improving on standard patterns, was ready to add an element of decoration, for no other reason than delight in fine workman-

ship. All the other candlesticks in my collection are made in one continuous piece of iron, broadened, or flattened, or curved, or sharpened, as utility required.

I have talked with old miners and examined old photographs. One pic-

I had thought of these interesting contrivances as identified solely with the old West. Then one day a chance remark set me wondering. I had just purchased several nice specimens in a secondhand store when the proprietor remarked, "I used to get a bigger price than I am asking you for them things. There was a feller come through here every summer from Boston. Give me real money for every three of 'em I could find. No, he wasn't collectin' for himself. Said he sold them back there in Boston. He hasn't been here, though, since the depression." Then, reflectively, "I've always wondered what on earth folks did with them things back there in Boston."

I wondered too. One day, a year later, as I was turning the pages of a popular book on antiques, I found myself staring at the answer. Two sketches, which might have been drawn from my favorite miner's candlestick, confronted me. But yet they were curiously

altered. The ingenious artist had inverted the hook and from it dangled a betty lamp! The accompanying legend (I use the word in both its meanings) read as follows: Candle and "betty" lamp jamb hook.

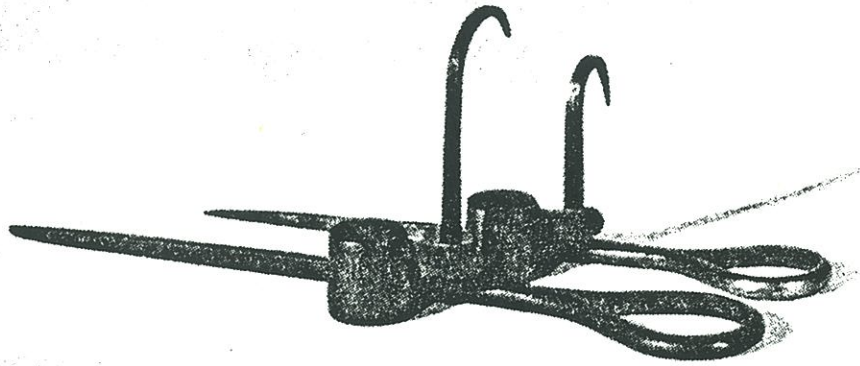


Fig. 2 Miner's Candlesticks (nineteenth century)
Longer measures 10 1/2 inches; shorter, 7 3/4 inches. The hook portion rises from the shaft.

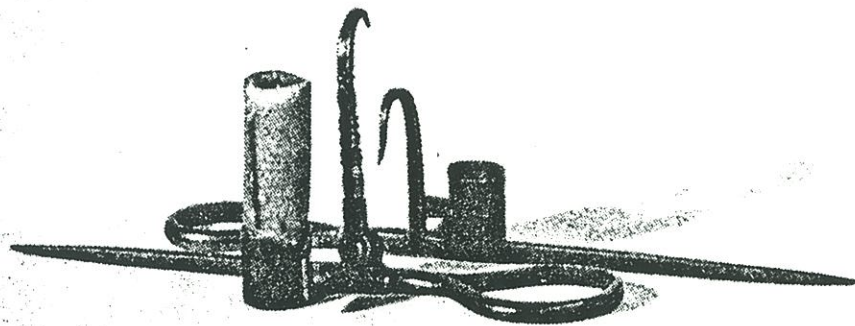


Fig. 3 Miner's Candlesticks (nineteenth century)
Foreground example has unusual and handsomely wrought hook, pivoted to the main shaft so that it may be laid flat.

ture taken at the Grand Central Mine in Mammoth, Utah, shows a group of miners who have just emerged from their day's work. Several of the men carry one of these candlesticks.



Fig. 4 Miners and Their Candlesticks

Photograph taken in 1896 at the Grand Central Mine, Mammoth, Utah. Many of the men are carrying their candlesticks in their hands. The picture is by special courtesy of Bart Lynch of Grand Junction, Colorado. Mr. Lynch appears in the group, sixth from the left, second row.

“What did folks do with them things back there in Boston?” Now I know. And with knowledge has come the awful realization of what may be meant by “the romance of antiques”. Must it invariably lead to strange and uncouth marriages? Must the aura of virile romance that surrounds the miner’s candlestick seek added lustre by union with the feeble flicker of a betty? Again, I wonder.

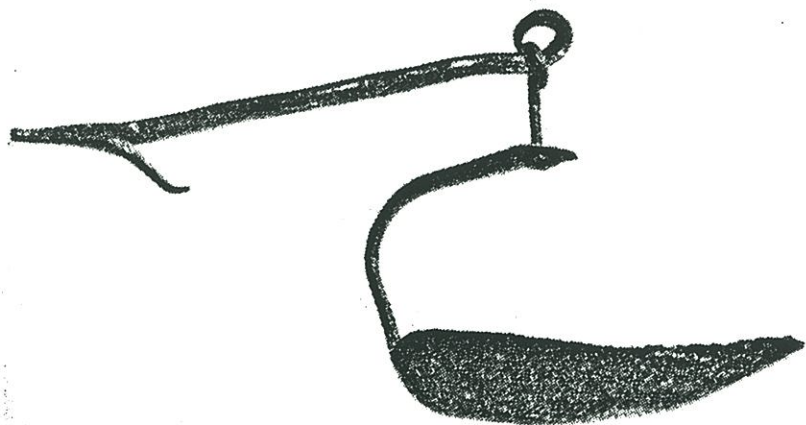


Fig. 5 Southern Betty or Grease Lamp

Used by slaves before the Civil War. Such lamps were frequently, though by no means invariably, equipped with an attachment that could be stuck into a cabin wall or hung over a chair back.

Match Book Covers

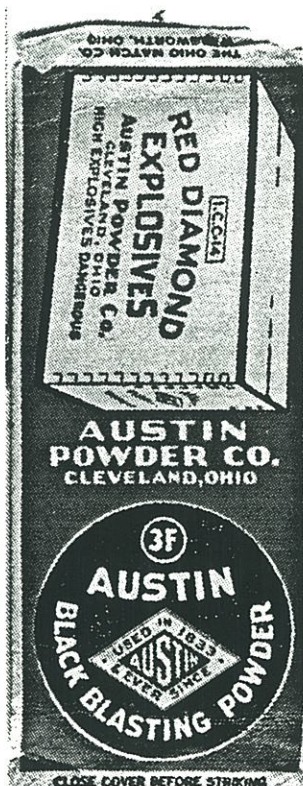
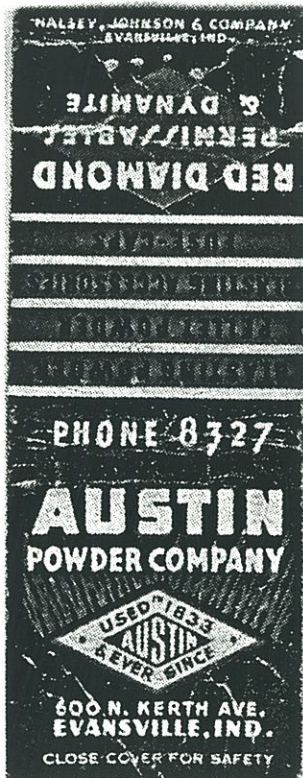
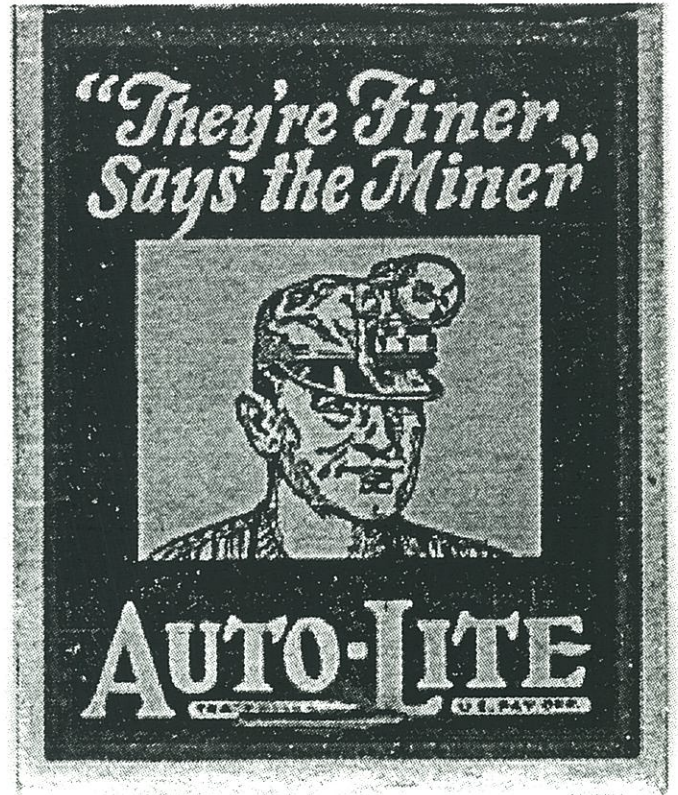
Bob Schroth

When I was out at the Louisville KY, show last summer, Jim McCullough had a very neat item for sale, an Auto-Lite Match book cover. This was a item I could not pass up. It did get me to thinking, what other items were advertised on match books.

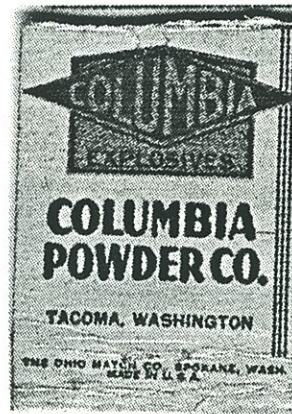
So far I have found several, including some very interesting powder company match book covers, and a safety fuse cover. I am surprised at the variety of colors and pictures on the covers.

Now I am sure there are several more items, in collections that I have not yet seen, if you have any match book covers related to mining please send a copy in to the Eureka and we will put it in the Bits section.

(right) Autolite lamp match book cover, (half of cover is shown enlarged).



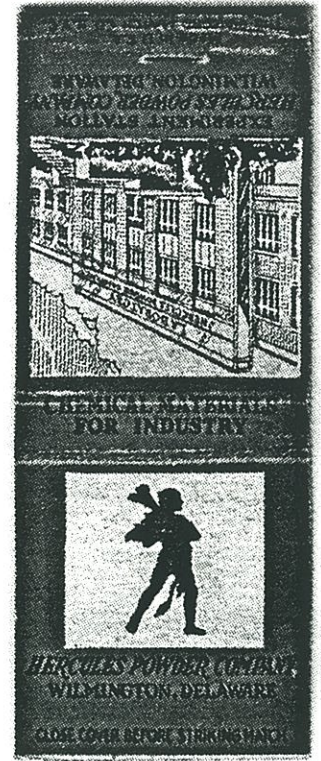
Two varieties of the Austin Powder Co. with their Red Diamond logo.



Half a cover is all that remains of this Columbia Powder Co. match book.



Dupont match book.



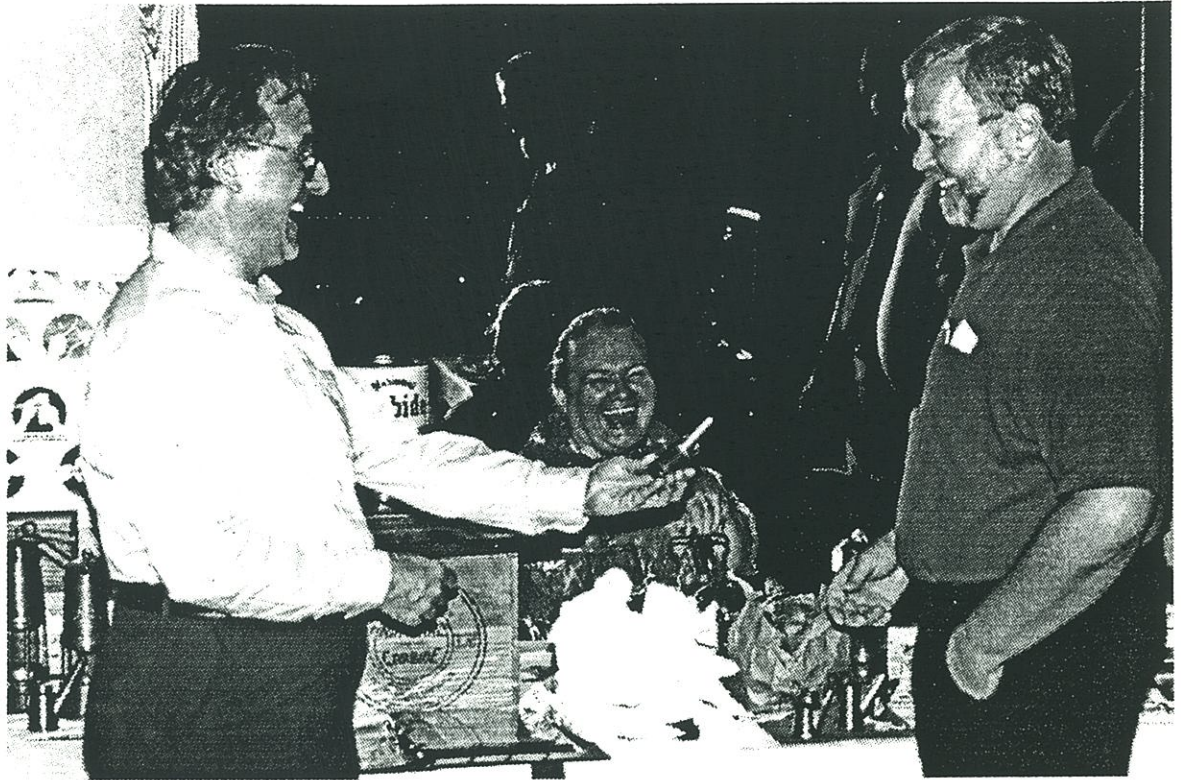
Here are six more powder company match books, a safety fuse book, and the full Autolite cover.



Eastern Collectors Reunion

Jim Van Fleet

The 6th annual Eastern Collectors Reunion and lamp show was a great success. The usual suspects were rounded up, and invaded a hotel in Huntington, West Virginia on Friday June 9th. As usual, many deals were taking place before the bags and boxes were unpacked, and some rare items changed hands. Deals were done at the dinner tables, in the hallways, and in the parking lot.



Tony & Ruth Moon and Keith Williams.

To illustrate the powerful attraction of this event, I will note that not one, but two collectors in attendance felt they had to make the trip, even though they had become fathers that week. Congratulations to Fred and to Curtis and their families.

Jim Lackey hosted the event, and prepared a well organized show for Saturday, June 10th. Tables were pro-



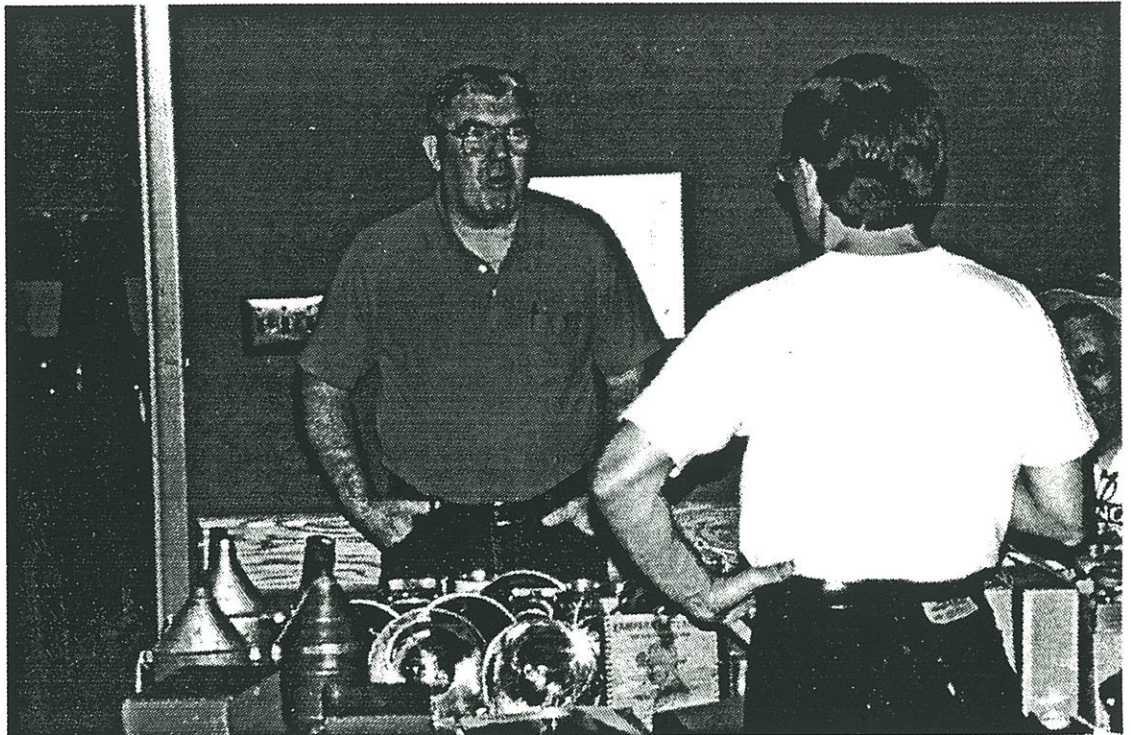
Nelson Ressler scrutinizes a cap tin.

vided for 18 collectors and dealers. Many went beyond simply laying out items for sale. Most tables had an interesting display or exhibit as well.

In attendance were collectors from California, Arizona, Utah, and Michigan, in addition to the eastern states. Christian Tauzide was noted as being the farthest traveled, coming to the show from France.

As usual, the emphasis was on carbide cap lamps, with such notable lamps as a Drylite, Shanklin Mfg. Co., Maple City, Pathfinder, and a screw-thread Lu-min-um changing hands. Also on display were a What Cheer cap lamp and its unmarked but identical twin cousin, a "fat-bottom Grier".

There was a nice selection of blasting cap tins, and many changed hands. Oil wicks and safety lamps were also moving well at the show. It certainly seemed that everyone was going to leave the show with a nice new acquisition.



The host with the most: Jim Lackey.

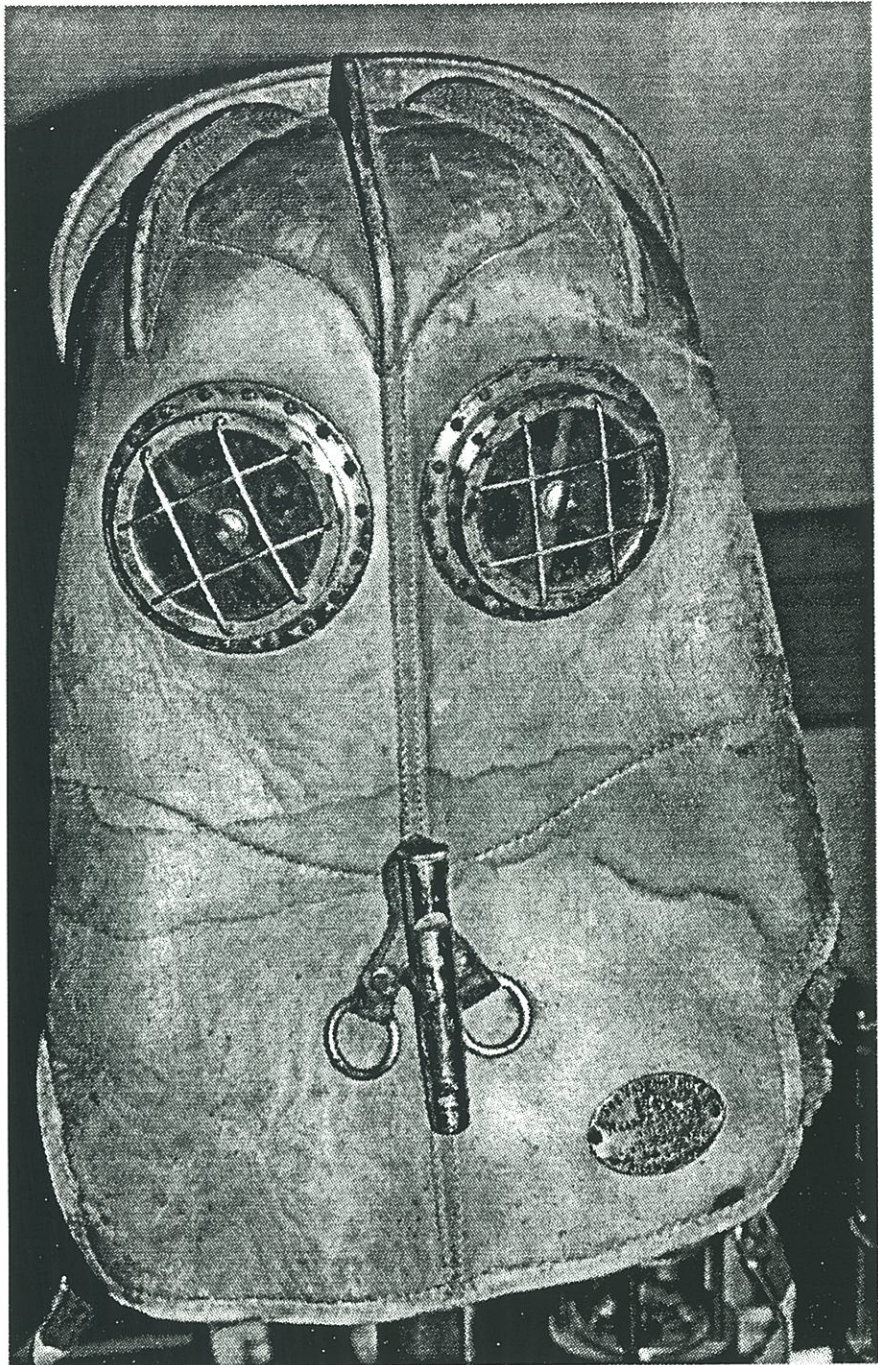


Walt Goetz had a little of everything.

In my opinion the best of show had to go to Jim McCullough of Morgantown, West Virginia, for his Vajen-Bader smoke helmet. This extremely rare mine rescue apparatus was in extraordinary condition. It was complete with the original wooden storage trunk and all the paper documentation. The photos here are just a preview; we'll do our homework and write a full-length article on this item for the next Eureka!

The show began to break up after about 2 pm, so we cobbled together an auction, with the amazing volunteer auctioneer talents of Bob Schroth. Cap Tin Bob handled over 50 lots of lamps, hats, tins, boxes, cages, cans, and paper memorabilia with humor and energy, and ended the show on a high note.

The current collectors gossip on the Internet is that the next show will be located in the Scranton, Pennsylvania area, in the heart of the anthracite coal mining regions.



Photos at right are of the intimidating Vajen-Bader hood and its stamped name plate.



European Miner's Lamp Collector Meeting

Manfred Stutzer

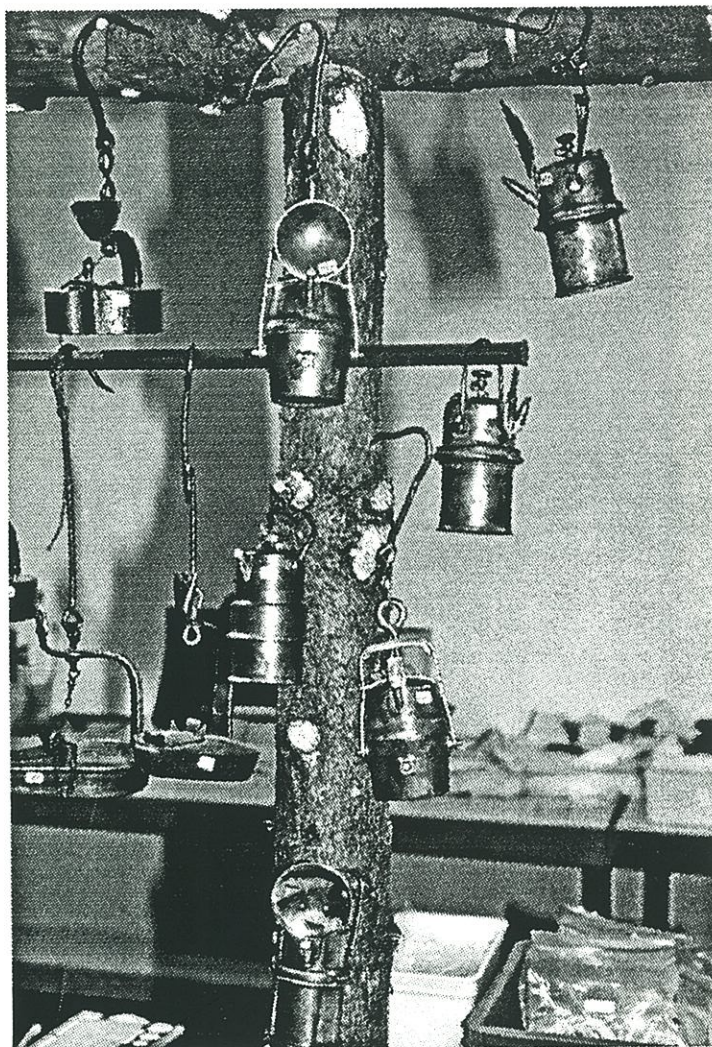
The third Miner's Lamp Collector meeting in Wilnsdorf, Germany is over. On June 3, 1995 32 dealers and collectors displayed more than 3,000 lamps to sell or trade. Henner Schardt and Heinz Zander organized the show, and hosted collectors from many European countries.

For the second time, David Gresko traveled from the United States. Mick Corbridge traveled from Leeds, England. The longest journey this year was made by Gerry Dillon from Adelaide, Australia, and he received a special gift.

Carbide safety lamps were a featured attraction at the show. In two show cabinets more than a dozen different carbide safety lamps were on display. Carbide safety lamps are among the rarest of miners' lamps, and few companies manufactured them.

The magazine *Grubenlampen Info* (miners' lamp info) was published again this year for the show, and featured most of the available information on carbide safety lamps; including photographs, patent literature, and information on makers, compiled by Werner Boerkel.

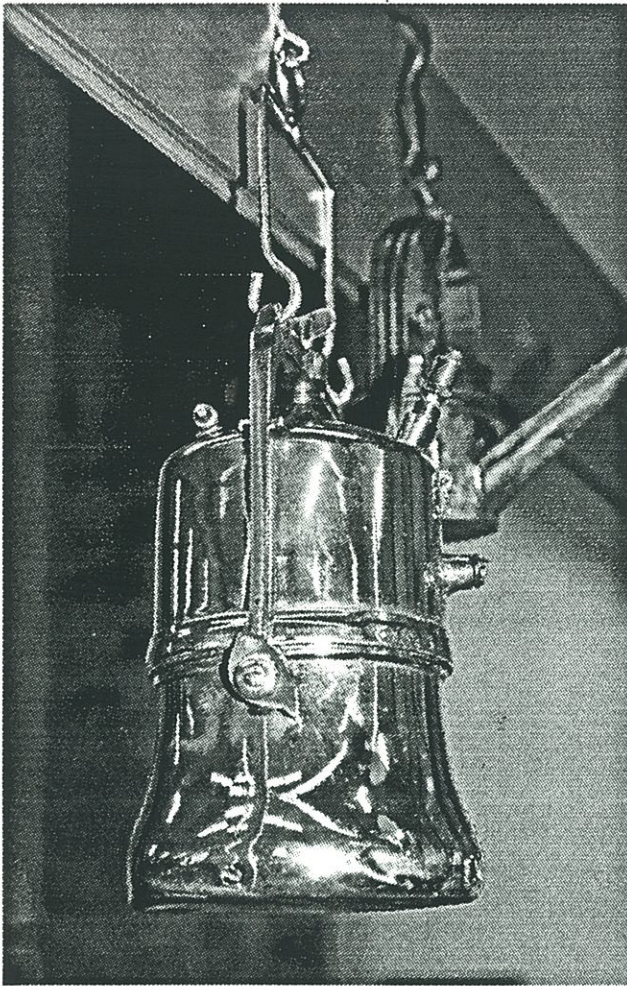
The next European lamp collectors show at Wilnsdorf is already scheduled for June 1, 1996.



Above: A selection of European-style Wolf carbide cap lamps (4 hour lamps).

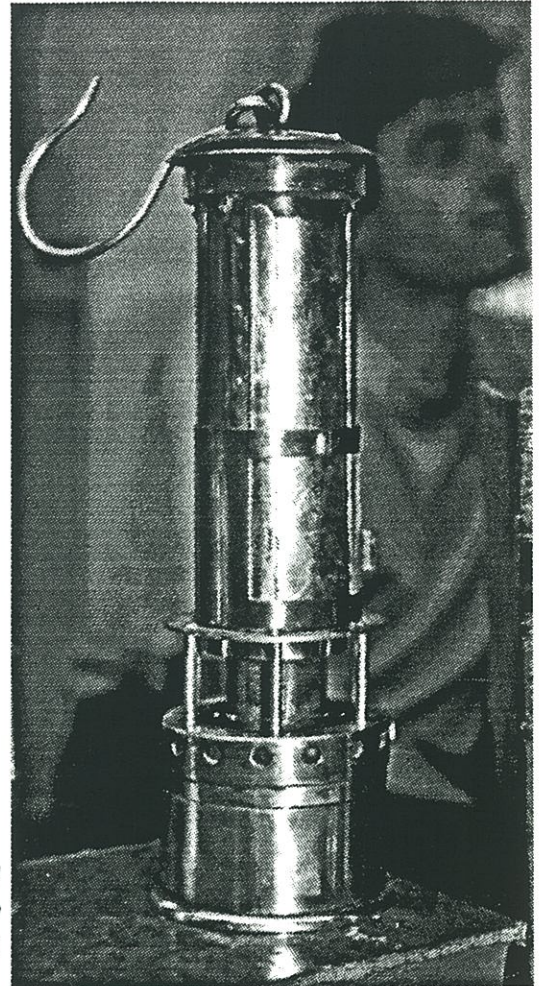


Left: The Wilnsdorf exhibition hall.

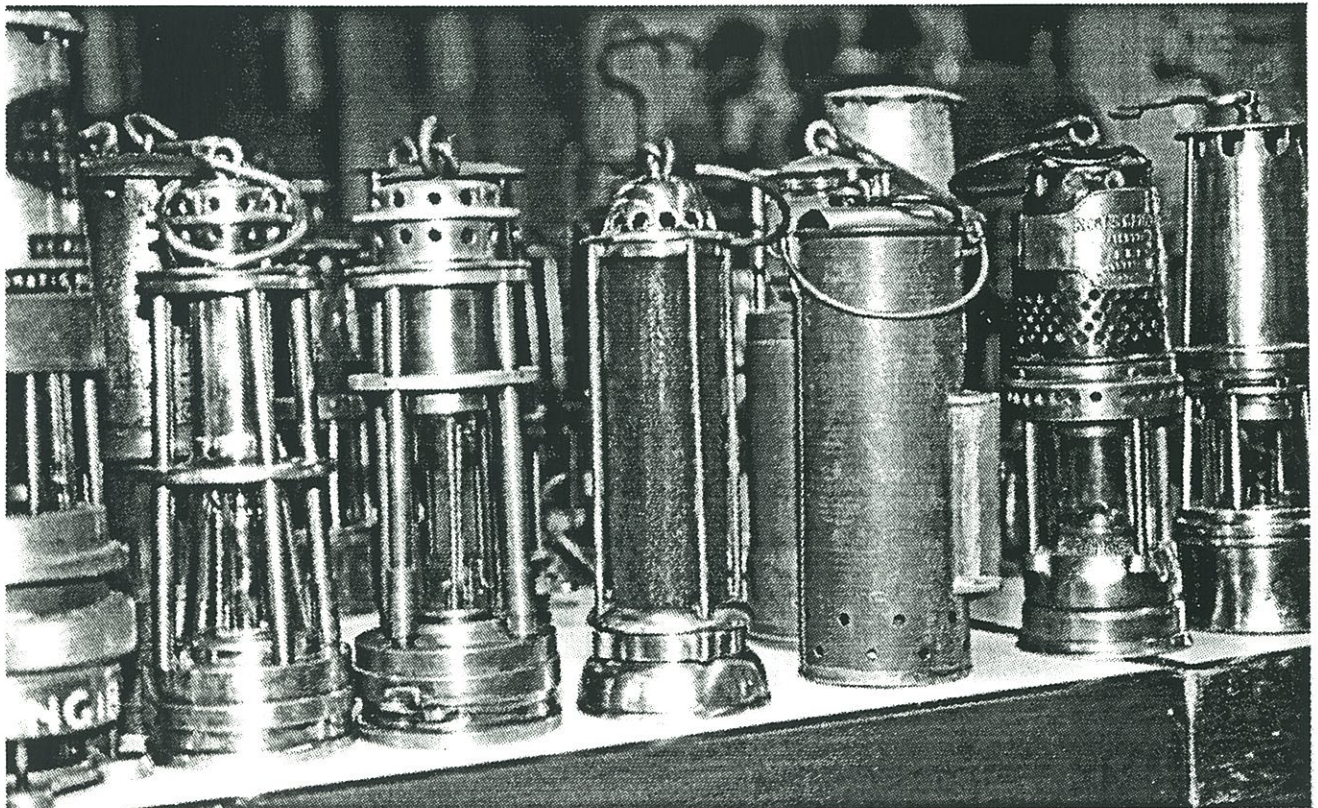


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Left: A rare style brass carbide hand lamp made by Wolf (Belgium).



Right: This Chesneau lamp was sold!



Above: Rare safety lamps on display (and for sale). Ashworth-Hepplewhites, Stephenson, "tin can Davy," and Best gauzeless safety lamp.

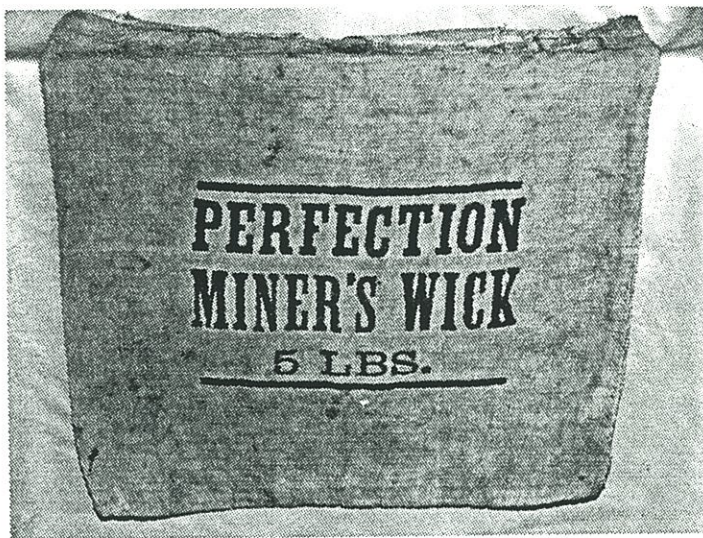


BITS



Wick Bags

Ray Morrison of Wheeling, WV writes: "Recently found in eastern Ohio, a coal company store item. This bag was used to ship and store wick material for oil wick lamps. These cotton balls were about 6-inches in diam. and the bag held approximately fifteen balls. The total weight of the bag when full was 5 pounds and each ball sold for 10 cents."



Corrections and Additions to Oil-wick Patents

Additions:

23,526	July 31, 1894	C.D. Felix (design) PA
538,031	Apr 23, 1895	C.L. Anton, PA
628,652	July 11, 1899	W.A. Dunlap, PA
820,209	May 8, 1906	P.M. Knippenberg, WI

Of Interest: Carbides with built-in oil-wicks

953,093
1,071,550
1,073,980
1,079,347
1,094,902

Corrections:

535,136 is actually 535,135

Note: I am certain there are others, especially in the design category as these are the hardest to locate. Also, the V.L. lamp was the only patents issued to a woman (934,243 & 941,897).

J. Roger Mitchell

What's The Rest of the Name?



This driver size oil-wick has a brass font, cap and riveted hook. The single spout is copper and 3 5/8" in length. The lamp is 3 1/8" high to the top of the cap and the straight-sided font measures 1 1/2" in diameter.

Near the base of the font the lamp is stamped: THE ___E VALVE CO. CHICAGO PATENTS 2278421, 2278422.

I have been unable to identify the missing three letters in the name. Neither patent number has anything to do with oil-wick lamps and are well past the period in which oil-wicks would have been patented, well past when carbide lamps would be patented for that matter.

As should be apparent from the photo, this lamp is unlike any other known. The greatest deviation from other lamps is the shape of the single piece shoulder/collar. The hook is both soldered and riveted to the font.

Can any of our readers shed any light on the origins of this unique lamp?

Souvenir Miniature Safety Lamp

This miniature brass Davy safety lamp, with a side font filler, measures just 3 1/4" in height and 5/8" in diameter. The raised letter inscription reads:

ROYAL INSTITUTION
7TH JUNE CENTENARY 1899
DR. MONDS GARDEN PARTY

This piece was apparently given away as a party favor.

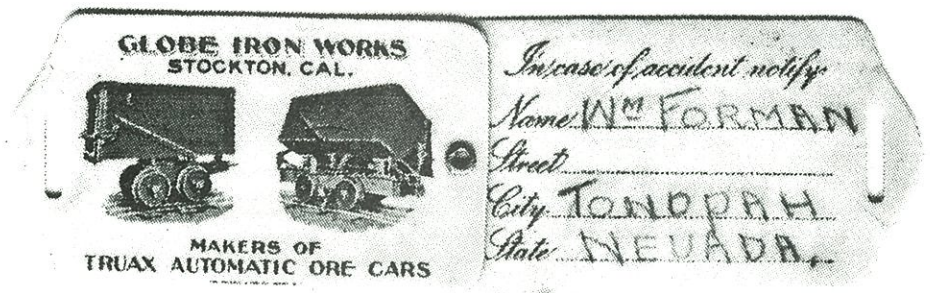
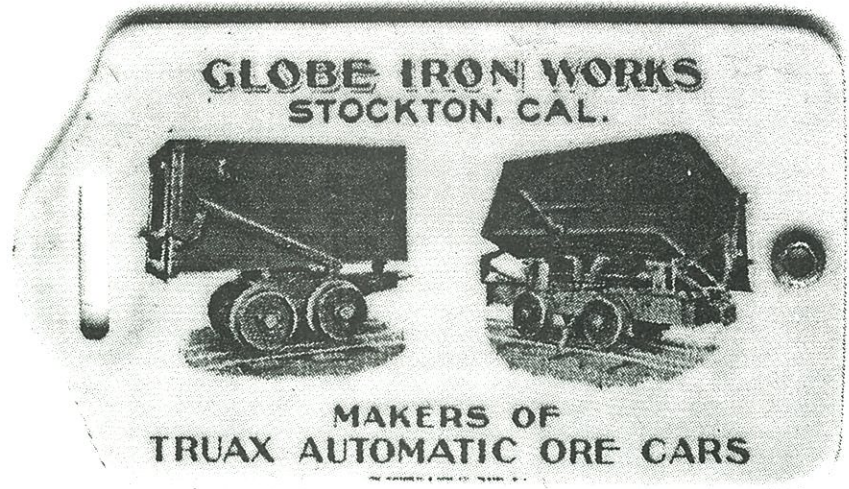


Accident Tags

You could say that this was the equivalent to a soldier's dog tag. Building ore cars must have had its hazards. The message on the flip out section conjures up some grim images. The reverse side identifies this laborer as S.D. Foman. One might guess that S.D. wished his father William to be notified in case of an "accident". If any of our readers find any of these tags in their travels, please notify me.

Bob Schroth

Actual size shown right.

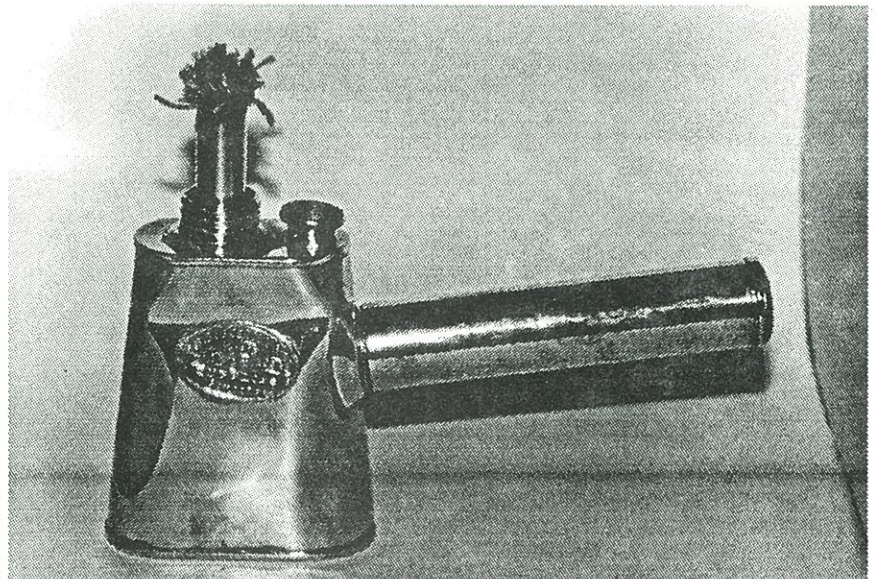


New Surveyor's Oil Wick

One of the nicest lamps to make an appearance at the Eastern Reunion was a mine surveyor's oil wick lamp labeled "T.B. BICKERTON & CO. / MACHINISTS & MINERS / SUPPLIES / PHILADA. PA."

Bickerton was a mining supply outfit which lent its name to many fine instruments, and mining tools including safety lamps. This is the first we have seen of a Bickerton oil wick, and an unusual design at that.

There is no hook, but the screw-cap wick cover makes a sturdy handle. Thanks to Bill Blake of Charleston, West Virginia for sharing this find.





TRADES & SALES



RATES

All classified ads up to 75 words are free to subscribers. 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.

Higher prices will not be published. Contact seller for prices if not listed.

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.

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

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

Books For Sale: *British Investments and the American Mining Frontier 1860-1901* by Clark C. Spence \$23.95. *Some Fatal Accidents in the Atlantic, Baltic, Champion, Trimountain and Winona Copper Mines* by Monette \$4.25. *Fire in the Hole: The Untold Story of Hardrock Miners* by Jerry Dolph, softcover \$30.00. *Michigan Gold Mining in the Upper Peninsula* by Fountain \$15.00. *Handbook and Map of the Coeur d'Alene Mines*, reprint, hardcover, \$15.95. Michigan Iron Sesquicentennial Paper Weights \$12.50 - A nice collector's item! Michigan native copper specimens \$10.95. Postpaid in the USA. Send \$1 for complete book catalog. Robert Fox 1235 N. Westfield St., Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901.

Book for Sale: *The Big Dome. Over Seventy Years of Gold Mining in Canada.* Illustrated, hard cover, over 240 pages. 10.5 X 8". Complete history of Canada's oldest and longest producing gold mining company. \$30.00 Post Paid. For a limited time and while supply lasts, receive a free cancelled mining stock with each order. Also wanted: Guy's Dropper Tall Boy bottom, Brass Victor reflector brace and reflector. Mark Mallicoat (see below).

912 Notre Dame Ave., Concord, CA 94518
Home: 510-687-7022 (eve.)
Work: 510-283-3070
Fax: 510-283-1032



Mark Mallicoat

Wanted: DuPont, Hercules, Atlas, Repauno, blasting cap tins and other DuPont related mining artifacts; pipes, letter openers, match safes, etc. Will buy or trade. Graham Living, PO Box 292, Millsboro, DE 19966. 302-934-8434 (9AM to 5PM), 302-934-8273 (7PM to 10PM).

Wanted: Early electric mining hand and cap lamps. Dave Johnson 502-327-7559.

Info Wanted: I'm looking for information about the Lattimer Mines Massacre and also the Layland Mine disaster, March 2, 1915. Can you help? J. Manuel Sanchis, Calle Jesus, 23, 46007 Valencia, SPAIN.

Lamps for sale: I have bought a collection before it went to auction. Send SASE for complete sales list. Kenn Rupp, RD-3 Box 187, Altoona, PA 16601.

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