

# *EUREKA!*

THE JOURNAL OF MINING COLLECTIBLES

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## General Information

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**SUBMISSIONS:** *EUREKA!* welcomes unsolicited articles, reviews, information, photos, and artwork. All photos and artwork need to be of high quality and should reach the the Managing Editor no less than six weeks prior to publication. Materials submitted for publication may be subject to alteration at the discretion of the editors.

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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**

## Table of Contents

Maple City/Anthracite Bases .....	2-4
Patented Miners' Caps & Lamp Holders .....	5-10
The Miner's Flame Light Book .....	11-14
Lamp Frenzy .....	15-16
Ringrose Firedamp Alarm .....	17-21
Monongah Disaster .....	22-23
"Surveyor's" Oil Wicks .....	24-29
National Carbides Sales (Bluefield, WV) .....	30
Hazleton Machinery & Supply .....	31
Black Hills Meet .....	32-35
Bits .....	36-40
Advertisements .....	40-42

**Cover:** Much ado was made of this recent addition to Bob Schroth's collection. It is a What Cheer carbide cap lamp, made by Grier Bros. in the form of their very early "fat-bottom" style.





# NEWS



## The Miner's Flame Light Book

The biggest news for collectors worldwide is without a doubt the completion of Henry Pohs new book on flame mine lights. We have devoted space to a book review for the benefit of our readers.

## Summer Shows and Sales

Since the last issue of *Eureka!*, members of the collecting community have gathered for two special events. We offer here reports on both the Lead, South Dakota mine show, and the so-called West Virginia Lamp Frenzy.

## Mining Disasters

This issue Jim Van Fleet is beginning a series of articles dealing with mining disasters. The idea followed from an inquiry by one of our subscribers into the famous Cherry Mine Disaster, and was also fueled by a short item in the *Mining Artifact Collector*. The Fall 1993 MAC reprinted a picture postcard of a mining disaster scene, in a short article by Ted Bobrink. Ted admitted that he knew very little about the event

being shown. Eastern collectors more familiar with coal mining history could instantly identify the scene from the Monongah Mine explosion of 1907, the worst mining disaster in United States history.

Ted's article focused on the postcard as a collectible artifact, and there are certainly many postcards

Maumee Duplex miner's cap lamp. The seller believed it to be a "bee smoker" when he showed Larry a diagram of the lamp.

## Vintage Collector Surfaces

Poul Kouts must have gone underground for the last ten years. But, he's back. He is best known for his MCLR series of monographs on miner's cap lamps. He has made his presence known on the Internet. You can write him on e-mail at [pkouts@indirect.com](mailto:pkouts@indirect.com).

## Where's "The Other Mag?"

We are frequently asked by subscribers, both foreign and domestic: "Where's my issue of the MAC?" We really don't know. *Eureka!* is not affiliated with this publication. The most recent information we have is that, according to Mark Bohannon (an editor for the MAC), they still exist.

## Thanks

A special thanks to Sharon Kauto for assistance in proof reading this issue of *Eureka!*

## Time to Renew

Subscription renewals for *Eureka!* for 1996 are now being accepted. Please remember to fill out the enclosed form, and send \$25.00 to stay on the subscribers list.

and photographs of Monongah from the time of the disaster which may be of interest to collectors. *Eureka!* would like to provide a little historical background to this sort of memorabilia, so we can remember its cost.

If any of our readers would like to contribute to this series, please contact the editors.

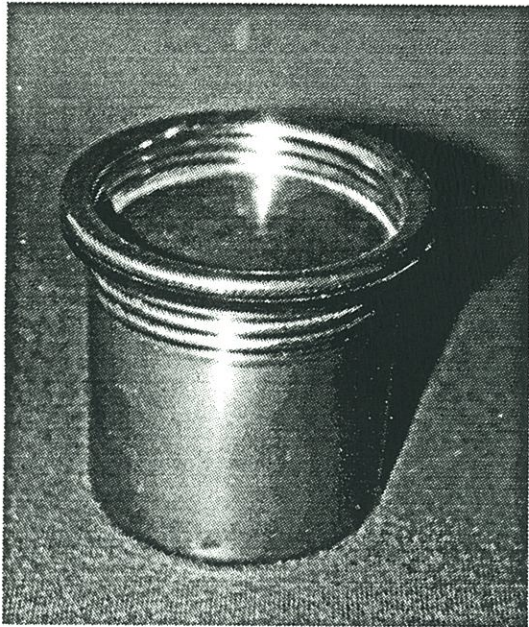
## Maumee Duplex

Larry Click of Virginia picked up the elusive and much sought

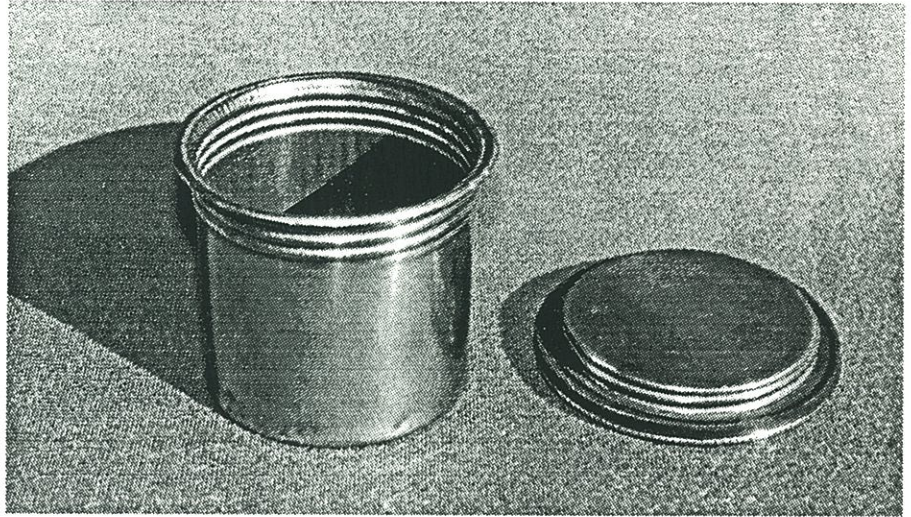
# Spare Bases from Monmouth, Illinois

Dave Thorpe

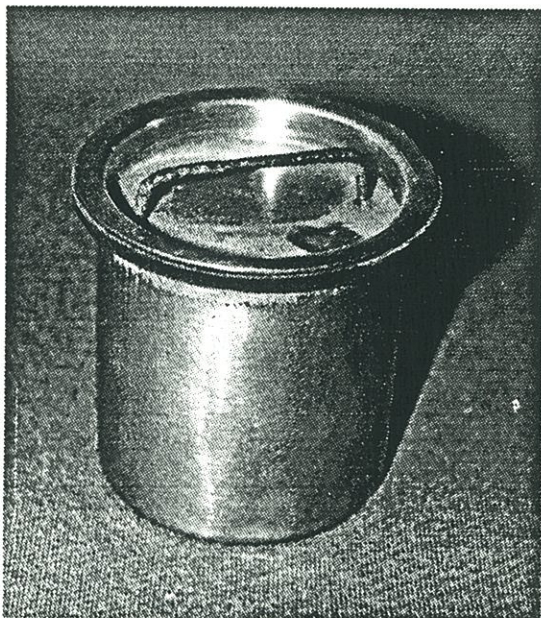
Maple City Mfg. Co. manufactured several carbide cap lamps of the "barrel" design, including the "anthracite"<sup>1</sup> (an unmarked model sold through various retail outlets<sup>2</sup>), the Red Star sold by Beall Bros., the Norleigh Diamond sold by Shapleigh Hardware, as well as their own Maple City stamped lamp. The factory was located in Monmouth, Illinois. Below are a variety of these stamped bases with their characteristic inset screw-caps.



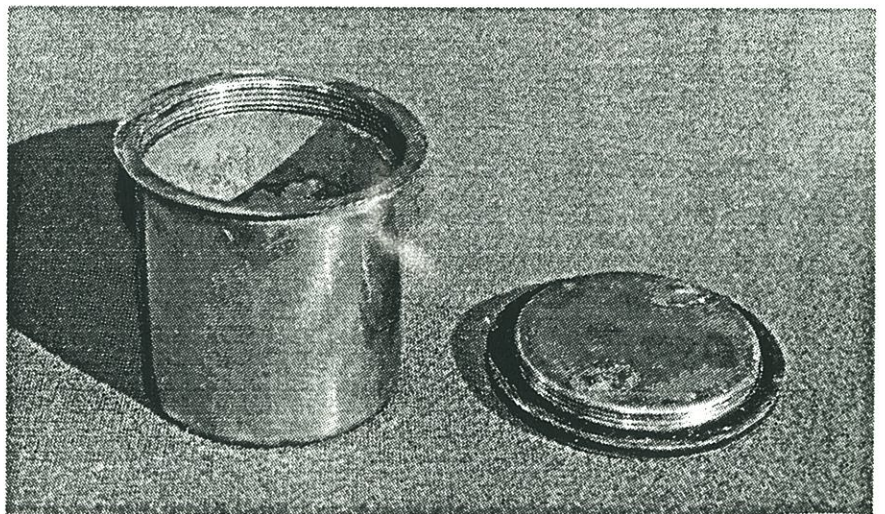
Maple City,  
Red Star, and Norleigh Diamond



Shown above is the base found on the later and more common Maple City name-stamped lamps as well as the Red Star and the Norleigh Diamond. The rolled threads are visible from the outside of the lamp and the screw-cap has knurling.<sup>3</sup>



Early Maple City



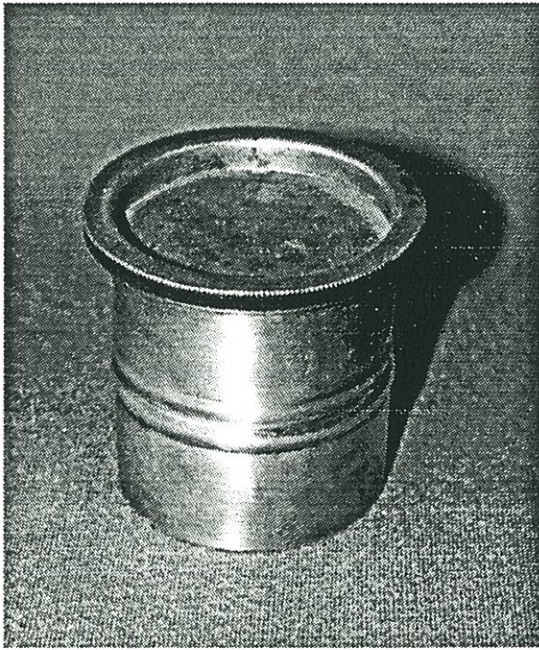
This base belongs to the early-style Maple City lamp with *machine-cut* threads. The threads are not visible from the outside. It is found on stamped and unstamped Maple City lamps.<sup>4</sup> Instead of knurling to grip the lid, a steel bucket-handle is provided. The handle could also function as a belt loop.



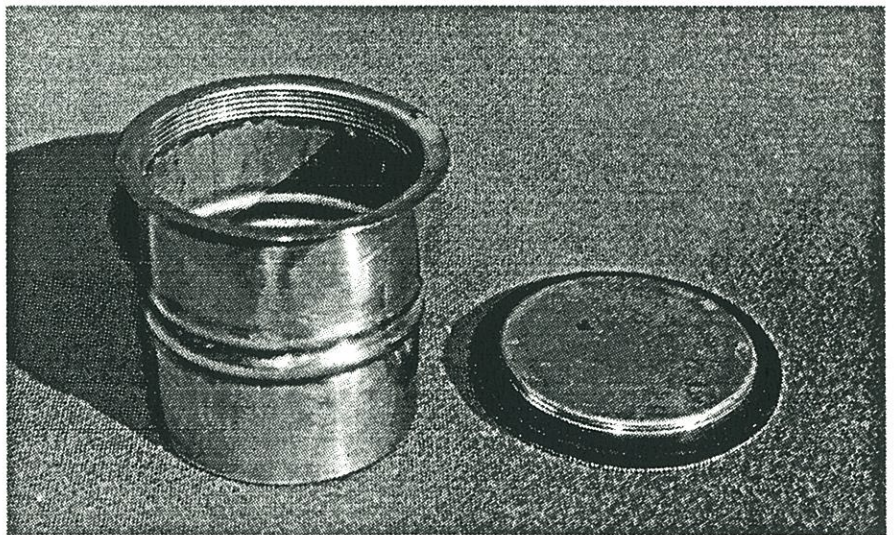
Banded Anthracite - *rolled threads*



None of the “anthracites” known thus far have threads visible from the outside. This was accomplished by using a threaded insert, rather than rolling the threads directly into the base, as done on Maple City brand name lamps. The above base has been seen on anthracites with raking wire feeds as well as the twist-ball feeds.<sup>5</sup> Note the lack of knurling on the edge of the cap.



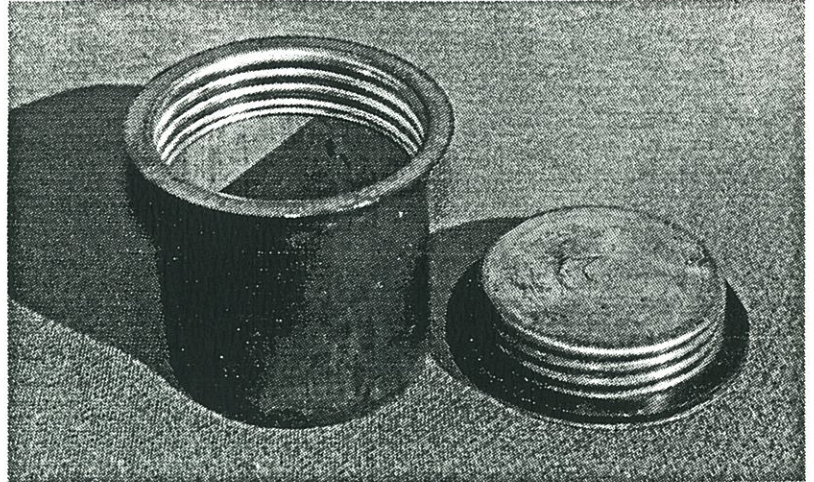
Banded Anthracite - *cut threads*



This model has the cut-thread design. Cut threads were prone to fouling, and it was fortunate therefore that these bases had a finely knurled edge on the screw-cap. This model has been noted by the author only on “anthracites” with the twist-ball feed.



Unbanded Anthracite - *rolled threads*



This base belongs to the rarest of the “anthracite” lamps. Neither the base nor the water-tank of the complete lamp bears the decorative band. The threads are rolled and internal. There is no knurling on the cap edge. All unbanded “anthracite” lamps known to the author have raking wire water feeds.

All of the bases shown in this article, including the one above, have a concave stamped indentation into the bottom. Some varieties of the smooth “anthracite” however, do *not* have the concave bottom, but an indented ring stamping (author’s collection). The upward concavity was advertised to have the advantage of keeping fresh carbide under the dropper, while the spent sludge would flow outward and away.<sup>6</sup>

## References and Notes

1. Dave Thorpe, Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 9, 1990, p. 1-2., The term “anthracite” is commonly used to describe loop-hook barrel-shaped lamps that bear strong resemblance to the Maple City lamp. All “anthracites” bear no name stamping, but internal examination of the lamp identifies Maple City as the manufacturer. See reference #4 for photographs of “anthracite” lamps.
2. Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 12, 1991, The E. C. Simmons Hardware Co., Philadelphia, Pa., 1915 shows an “anthracite” style cap lamp, but in this case, the lamp is advertised by their designated name: Britelite. It is reported that “anthracite” style lamps have been seen in early Montgomery Ward catalogs (personal communication, Errol Christman).
3. Webster’s Dictionary, 1988, The term knurl is defined: One of a series of small ridges, as along the edge of an object such as a thumbscrew. (No specific manufacturing process or material composition of a knurl is deemed necessary for common usage). An example of knurling would be the grip ring around the base of a Pioneer lamp.
4. Dave Thorpe and Bill Spence, Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 9, 1990, p. 3-10, *The Maple City Lamp*. On page three is a photograph of an unstamped early Maple City lamp from the author’s collection. A similar, but name-stamped version of the early Maple City with cut threads exists in the collection of Dave Johnson.
5. Dave Thorpe and Len Gaska collections (raking wire water feed), Fred Gaunce and Bob Schroth collections (twist ball water feed).

6. Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 12, 1991, The E. C. Simmons Hardware Co. Catalog, Philadelphia, Pa., 1915.

# Patented Caps and Lamp Holders

*Dave Johnson*

Four distinct varieties of miners cap lamps exist - Lake Superior style candleholders, oilwick lamps, carbide lamps, and electric lamps. Even before candlesticks came into common use, candles were attached to miner's caps with lumps of clay. Records of British and early American mining companies indicate the purchase of specific types of clay for this express purpose. This method of attaching candles to miner's caps can be seen in many pre-1900 mining photos.

Lake Superior style candlesticks differ from western candlesticks in the configuration of the hook which turns more closely to attach to a hat, unlike the western hook which makes a wider turn and is designed to hook on a rock or mine timber and not be worn on the cap.

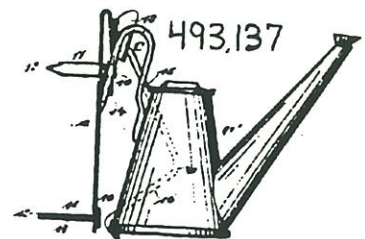
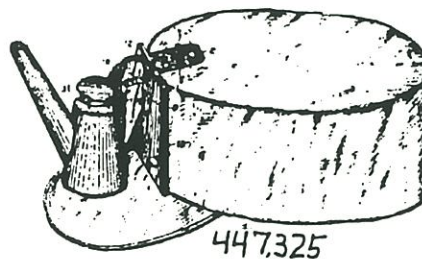
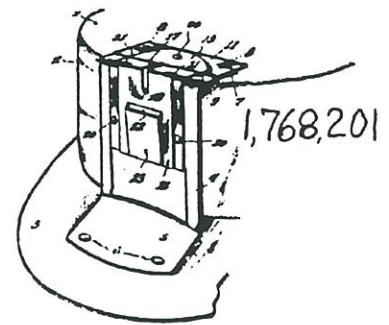
The early Lake Superior candlesticks were first attached to miner's caps by placing the hook through a slit in the cap. The miners' caps of this period were made of several materials. Some were oilskin with a cloth liner, some were leather, some just canvas cloth, and others were made of resined felt with a cloth liner.

While oil wick lamps were being patented by the 1860's, the caps the miners wore them on were first patented on April 7, 1896. This seems somewhat odd since the lamp holders or brackets that attached to miner's caps were first patented on December 3, 1889, before the caps themselves were patented. This first 1896 "miner's hat" patent is actually for two distinctly different hard hats. One features "a resilient outer, a lining within and spaced from the shell and a series of spring clips for securing the lining to the shell." The second is "a hat comprising a metal outer shell, a lining of flexible material, a head-band secured to the lining and curved spring plates for securing the band to the outer shell."

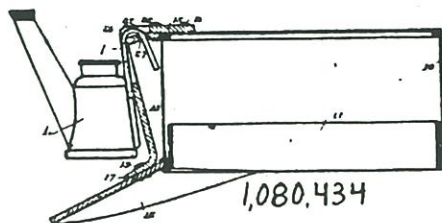
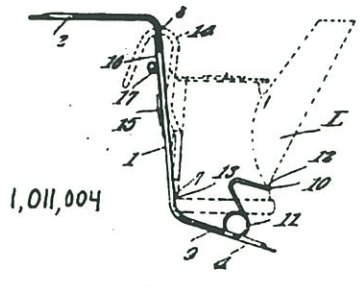
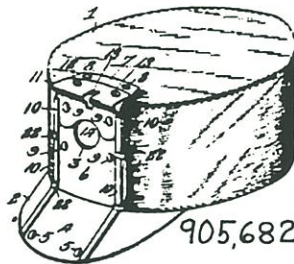
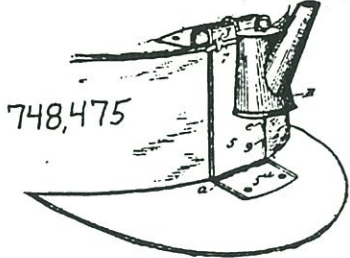
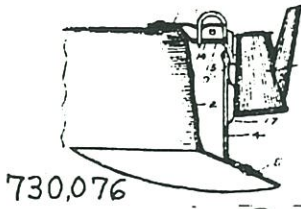
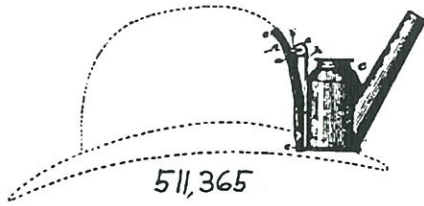
The first patent for the commonly seen canvas miner's cap was not granted until April 13, 1909 and features an oilwick lamp in the patent drawing. Interestingly EUREKA! October 1995



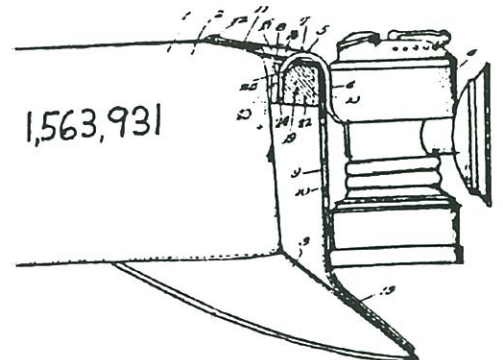
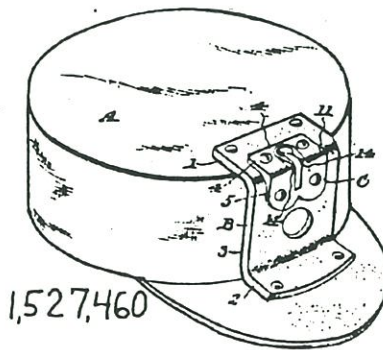
*Jos. Barta Patent lamp holder, made by Penn Mfg. Co.*



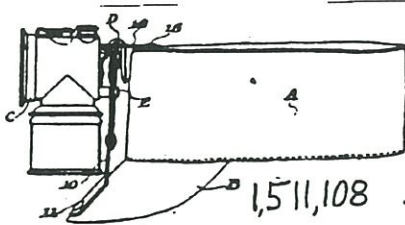
LAMP HOLDER FOR MINER'S CAPS PATENTS



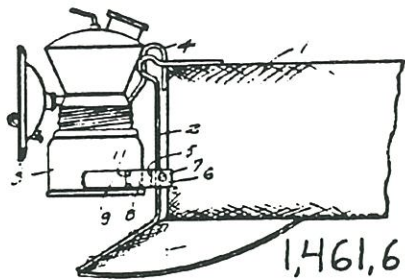
PAT. NO.	PAT. DATE	PATENTEE	LOCATION
416,262	December 3, 1889	Charles H. Hobson	Mt. Carmel, PA
430,691	June 24, 1890	Warren C. Rockwell	Mt. Carmel, PA
442,185	December 9, 1890	Charles H. Hobson	Mt. Carmel, PA
447,325	March 3, 1891	Charles H. Hobson	Mt. Carmel, PA
493,137	March 7, 1893	Julius R. Watts	Springfield, IL
511,365	December 26, 1893	John A. Simpson	E. Cambridge, MA
515,133	February 20, 1894	John A. Simpson	Cambridge, MA
524,528	August 14, 1894	Charles H. Hobson	Mt. Carmel, PA
575,221	January 12, 1897	Louis P. Eisenbeis	Ottumwa, IA
674,321	May 14, 1901	Audley H. Snow	Matewan, WV
674,322	May 14, 1901	Audley H. Snow	Matewan, WV
730,076	June 2, 1903	Cecil R. Anderson	Allegheny, PA
748,475	December 29, 1903	James A. Brown	Pocahontas, VA
761,764	June 7, 1904	Joseph Danner	Scranton, PA
791,231	May 30, 1905	Isaac Wantling	Peoria, IL
836,481	September 20, 1906	William N. Brown	Lebanon, IL
905,682	December 1, 1908	William Firman	Ottumwa, IA
938,942	November 2, 1909	Cecil R. Anderson	Bellevue, PA
1,011,003	December 5, 1911	Walker S. Adams	Parkersburg, WV
1,080,434	December 2, 1913	Nicholas Frieband	Shenandoah, PA
1,168,700	January 18, 1916	Lovell M. Ashley, Jr.	Winona, WV
1,271,368	July 2, 1918	James M. Roberts	Fredonia, KY
1,397,200	November 15, 1921	Joseph Barta	Martin Ferry, OH
1,428,453	September 5, 1922	Benjamin Schwarz	Breeze, IL
1,454,034	May 8, 1923	Edward S. Barnstable	Nokomis, IL
1,461,607	July 10, 1923	Newton Farley	Lillybrook, WV
1,466,300	August 28, 1923	Eli Israel	Wilkes-Barre, PA
1,470,923	October 16, 1923	William Israel	Wilkes-Barre, PA
1,485,842	March 4, 1924	James Fisher	Austen, WV
1,490,831	April 15, 1924	Thomas R. Jones	Wilkes-Barre, PA
1,506,608	August 26, 1924	Frank Bayer	Majestic, KY
1,511,108	October 7, 1924	George S. Clark	Portsmouth, OH
1,527,460	February 25, 1925	Joseph Barta	Martins Ferry, OH
1,554,451	September 22, 1925	John B. Marco	Collinsville, IL
1,563,931	December 1, 1925	Louis Scherz	Wilkes-Barre, PA
1,569,762	January 12, 1926	Fred Lewis	Lejunior, KY
1,578,219	March 23, 1926	Frank K. Tovey	Pittsburgh, PA
1,588,472	June 15, 1926	George S. Clark	Portsmouth, OH
1,689,090	October 23, 1928	Charles W. Watkins	Kingston, PA
1,715,148	May 28, 1929	George B. Simmons	Ottumwa, IA
1,768,201	June 24, 1930	Eli Israel	Wilkes-Barre, PA



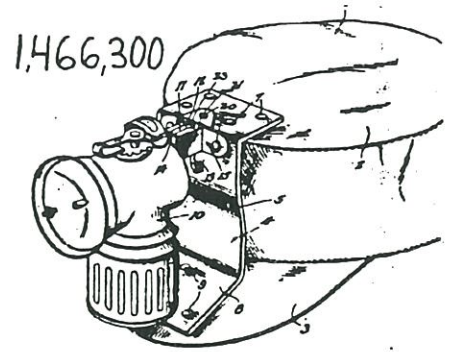




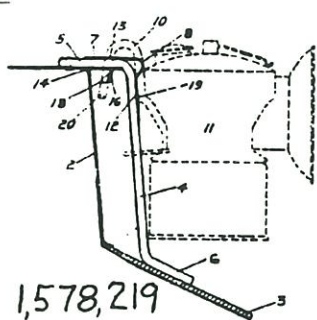
1,511,108



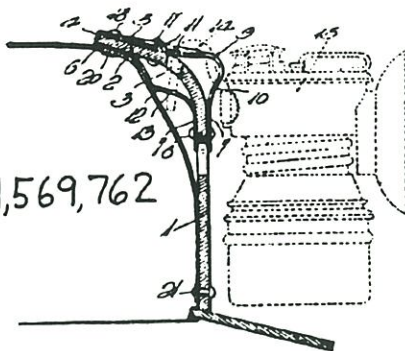
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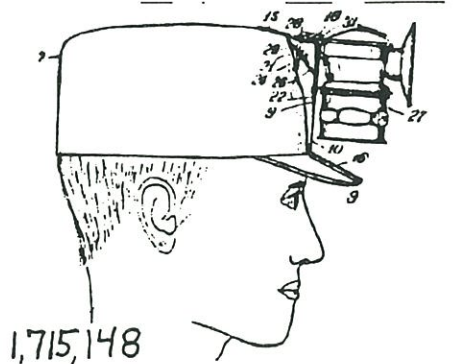
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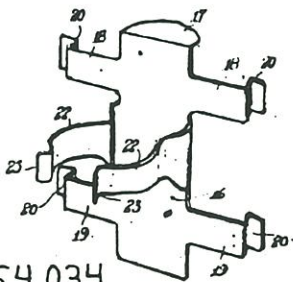
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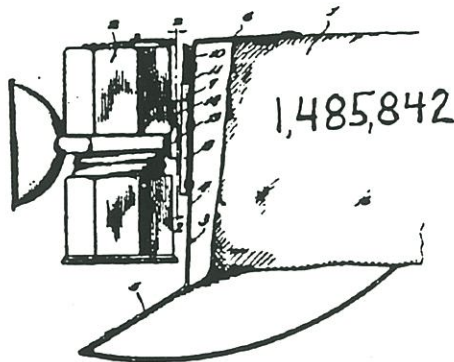
1,569,762



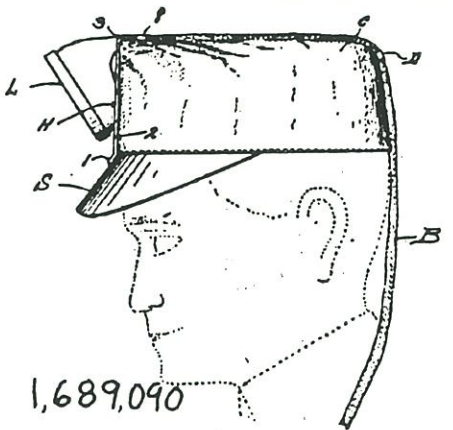
1,715,148



1,454,034



1,485,842



1,689,090

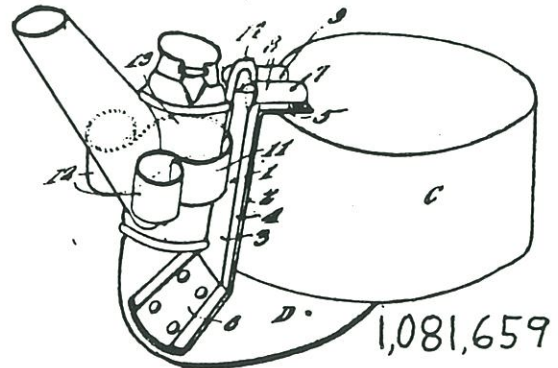
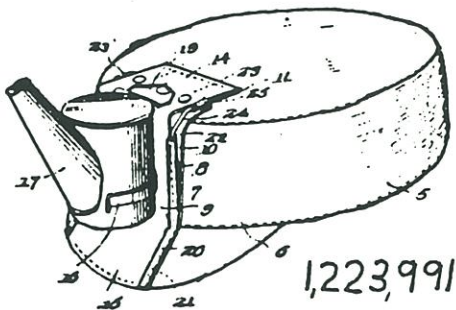
enough, a miner's cap patent drawing for July 2, 1918, (well into the carbide lamp era), still features an oil wick lamp attached to the cap. It was not until 1923 that a patent drawing for miner's caps featured a carbide lamp.

An interesting, but totally impractical, patent from September 1, 1908 is for a miner's cap that features a built-in battery powered lamp. The battery pack was built into the cap. This would have been a rather heavy affair to wear in order to house a battery that would last an entire shift.

The earliest patents for miner's cap lamp holders all feature oil wick lamps in the patent drawings. These devices were patented under numerous names, such as brackets for miner's hats, miner's lamp holder, lamp-support for miner's hats, hook-plate for lamp-holders of miner's caps, lamp-holder for miner's caps, miner's cap attachment, lamp holding attachment for miner's caps, cap visor and lamp support, miner's carbide-lamp carrier, miner's lamp clip and stay, lantern holder for miner's hats, and electric-lamp-holding attachment for miner's

## MINER'S CAP PATENTS

PAT NO.	PAT. DATE	PATENTEE	LOCATION
557,864	April 7, 1896	James McNamara	Calumet, MI
595,595	December 14, 1897	John Beck	Carnegie, PA
688,092	December 3, 1901	William Israel	New York, NY
691,623	January 21, 1902	Alfred Harris	Calumet, MI
897,588	September 1, 1908	Lewis W. Cogswell	Taylorville, IL
917,987	April 13, 1909	William C. Ballman	Six Mile Run, PA
931,463	August 17, 1909	Ida M. McPherson	Yatesboro, PA
974,442	November 1, 1910	Albert A. Sonak	Sprague, WV
1,007,984	November 7, 1911	Squire Johnson Skelding	Mt. Carmel, PA
1,081,659	December 16, 1913	David F. Brubaker	Glen Campbell, PA
1,217,547	February 27, 1917	George Adams	Dartmoor, WV
1,223,991	April 24, 1917	Lawson McClasky	Butte, MT
1,305,895	June 3, 1919	Michael J. Gibbons	Shenandoah, PA
1,347,046	July 20, 1920	Martin T. McDonough	Wheeling, WV
1,444,278	February 6, 1923	Walter R. Scott	Nokomis, IL
1,449,867	March 27, 1923	Charles H. Meister	Bellaire, OH
1,483,626	February 12, 1924	Joseph Gayeski	Shamokin, PA
1,525,030	February 3, 1925	Emanuel N. Galanis	New York, NY
1,540,345	June 2, 1925	Frank Kowasik	Hiawatha, UT
1,586,701	June 1, 1926	Andrew Reppa	Barton, OH
1,652,776	December 13, 1927	Emanuel Galanis	New York, NY
1,722,869	July 30, 1929	John Vanusek	Republic, PA

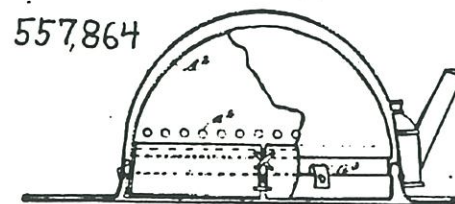
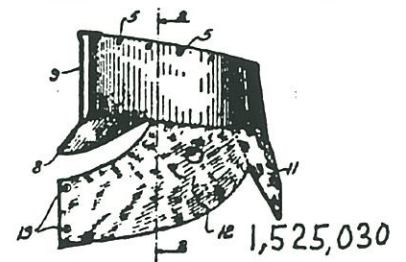
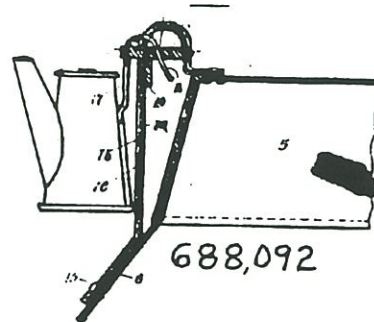
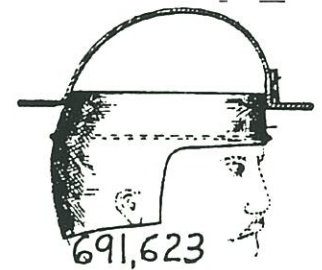
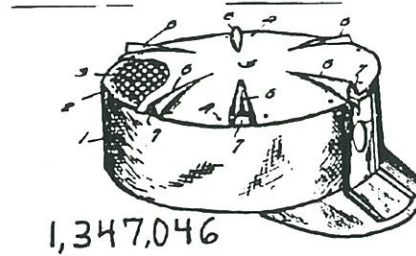
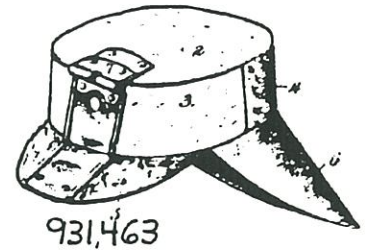


caps. These cap lamp holders feature oil wick lamps in the patent drawings from the first patent in 1889 through the July 2, 1918 patent. The first carbide lamp is shown in a patent drawing for July 10, 1923 and features what closely resembles a pinch-waist Baldwin. The patent for August 28, 1923 shows what is obviously a Justrite lamp. The T. R. Jones patent for April 15, 1924 has a lamp that could be a Scranto. The Louis Scherz patent for December 1, 1925 features a Grier Bros. look-alike lamp, while the George B. Simmons patent of May 28, 1929 has what is obviously an Autolite lamp.

This last Simmons patent is assigned to the American Mining Tool Co. of Ottumwa, Iowa (See EUREKA!, Issue 2 p. 15-16). The Frank Tovey patent of March 23, 1926 is assigned to the Union Cap Manufacturing Co. of Pittsburgh, PA., identified as a co-partnership composed of himself and Edward J. Eagan. The Joseph Barta lampholder patent of February 24, 1925 appears on soft caps and hardhats manufactured by the Penn Manufacturing Co. of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The Penn Manufacturing Co. name also appears on a hard to find oil wick lamp. Patent 1,490,831 was issued to Thomas R. Jones, whose name appears on T. R. Jones oil wicks and T. R. Jones soft miner's caps. The Cecil R. Anderson patent of June 2, 1903 is assigned to the Martin Hardsocg Manufacturing Co. of Allegheny, PA (See EUREKA number 1, p. 13-16). Patent 493,137 for a bracket for miners' lamps was issued on March 7, 1893 to the same Julius R. Watts who received patent 478,487 for the PERFECTION oilwick lamp on July 5, 1892 (See EUREKA number 13, p. 16-17). Patent 1,466,300 for a miner's cap lamp-holder was granted on August 28, 1923 to the same Eli Israel of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who received a patent for the well-known Leader carbide pocket can on October 23, 1923.

The first miner's cap lamp-holder to be patented specifically for electric rechargeable belt pack miner's lamps was issued to Charles Watkins, of Kingston, PA, on October 23, 1928.

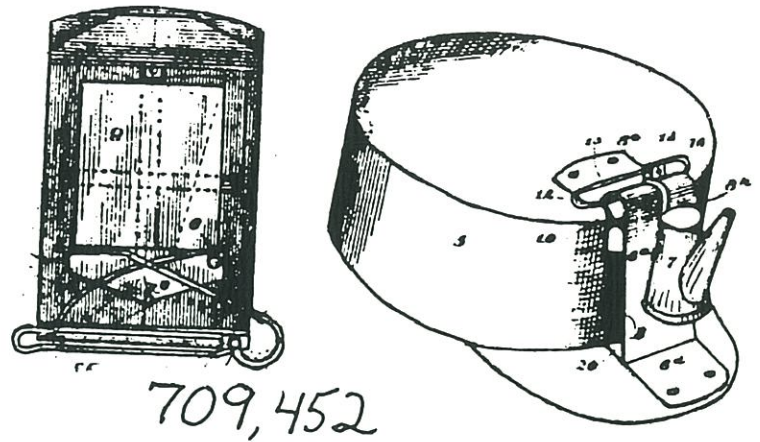
While there were patents for miner's caps and lamp-holders after 1930, I elected to end my search in that year.



# More Than a Lampholder

*Dave Johnson*

One lampholder patent which does not appear in the previous article is No. 709,452, granted on September 16, 1892 to James A. Brown of Pictou, Colorado. This patent is for a miner's cap lampholder that features a pivotally mounted match safe between the front plate and the cap. This match safe is spring loaded so as to remain closed in place when not open to remove a match. Was this patent actually produced?



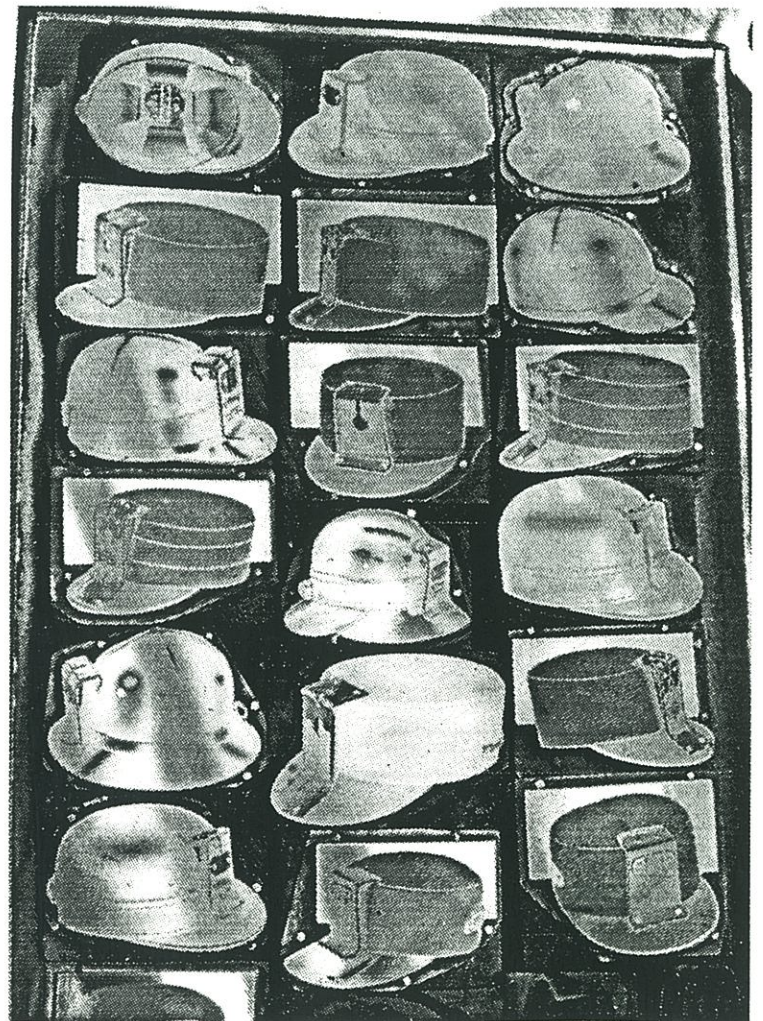
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## Lampholder & Cap Printing Blocks

*Mike McLaughlin*

Mike McLaughlin submitted this photo of some unusual printing blocks he owns. "These printing blocks are approximately 2.5" X 2" X 1" deep. They are wood with a strip of lead and then a strip of copper on the top surface. The copper surface has been acid etched with the impression of individual miner's caps. Each block is a different miner's hat.

They were for the Wilkes-Barre Cap Mfg. Co., 88-92 Northhampton St., Wilkes-Barre, PA. and are circa 1927 at this address. Some blocks are marked with the company name on the side of the block. An extremely rare and beautiful set, these printing blocks look fabulous in person and are not like the ones you see at some of the antique shows. These are of high detail and are very heavy."



## Book Review:

# The Miner's Flame Light Book

by the Editors

Henry Pohs, Dean of the "Lamp Tramps" © and editor of the Underground Lamp Post, has finally achieved his dream. In a monumental work of 867 pages, he has presented his history of underground lighting from pre-history to the 20th century.

The book itself is an imposing physical object, with quality printing and binding. The colorful dust-jacket is purposefully reminiscent of Pohs' earlier monograph, Early Underground Mine Lamps. The layout is unique, with a variety of unusual features such as shaded sidebars or boxes containing information related to the main text; definitions, biographies, and philosophical discussions, or technical data in charts. Each "Level" or chapter in Pohs book ends with a space set aside for the reader to jot notes, or "flaming inscriptions."

Interspersed throughout the text are over 3,500 illustrations; drawings, prints, advertisements, and photographs. Unfortunately, the illustrations are small, many being 4" inches square or less, and the quality of the photographic reproduction runs from good to very poor. In general, the author has done a good job of keeping the illustrations near the text they relate to.

As a reference book written for the general reader, Pohs' history should be in the collection of every public or academic library where there is an interest in mining, or the history of technology. Although it shares some

defects common to single volume "encyclopedias", the Miner's Flame Light Book is indeed encyclopedic in its coverage. His book takes the widest possible perspective on underground lighting, and is likely to include information of interest to cavers, collectors, historical researchers, "Lamp Tramps" ©, and the general public.

From a collectors point of view, one can appreciate the years of research that went into the text. Pohs book is remarkable for its breadth of coverage, and for the ease with which he tells the story of the evolution of mine lighting. The meat of the book is over 550 pages of detailed history of "manufactured mine lighting devices," from c.1700 through the era of carbide mine lamps. In trying to cover such a large area, the history of all types of mining lights from open pan lamps, frog and tunnel lamps, safety lamps, oil wick lamps, to carbides, Pohs could not hope to achieve the depth of information that some specialists would like to have. Nonetheless, almost every reader will learn something about areas outside of their own collecting interests.

The chapter on safety lamps is arguably the best. There are few dark or out-of-focus photographs, and the majority are clear and just large enough to show some of the lamp's special features. Many of the photographs are credited, and cite the collection from which they came. There are many illustrations taken from advertisements, technical publica-

tions, mining monographs and patents. As in other sections of the book, these illustrations, including Henry Pohs own sketches, enhance the text considerably.

The overall effect of this chapter is to present not only a thorough review of safety lamp technology, development, and use, but also a glimpse at the long history of study and collecting of safety lamps. The reader sees important published information credited not only to museums and historical monographs, but to fellow collectors and researchers such as Fred D'Ambrose, Harry Bale, Victor Verity, Werner Hornung, and George Bayles, recognizing the importance of collectors in preserving and re-discovering this history.

Some of this care and credit is evident in the chapter on oil wick lamps, where photos from Tony Moon, Chuck Young, Bob Guthrie and others are noted. The photos are much smaller here, the reproduction poorer, and in a number of cases the author has apparently touched up the photographs by drawing over them. This raises the issue of authenticity of the illustrations, which will be pursued below.

Henry Pohs magnum opus, so long awaited by our community, was destined to cause some controversy and a great deal of debate among collectors and researchers. In some cases Henry has attempted to be prescriptive; the candlestick featuring a candle thimble in the form of a dancing

girl's leg, commonly known as a "gal leg," is called by Pohs a "Boot Candlestick". The author makes a point of calling a certain carbide cap lamp simply the "Duplex" lamp, based on its trademark stamping, rather than the generally accepted moniker of "Maumee Duplex", Pohs likewise urges the correct labeling of the square Anton carbide cap lamp as the \*ST\*AR\* lamp. These departures from accepted practice deserve attention, and will likely spark an ongoing debate of a friendly nature.

Given the interest of several Eureka! editors in carbide lighting, a closer look at the chapter on carbide lamps, will allow us to highlight most of the best and worst features of Pohs' book. The appendices include a wealth of factual data, and useful illustrations of mining lamp trademarks done by the author. Pohs' own illustrations of carbide lamp parts on pages 560-564 are particularly good. However, the lists of relevant patents and brand names are selective, excluding some items of importance (such as the Acme carbide cap lamp), and including some items which are not of direct interest to researchers of mine lighting (patents for carbide table lamps).

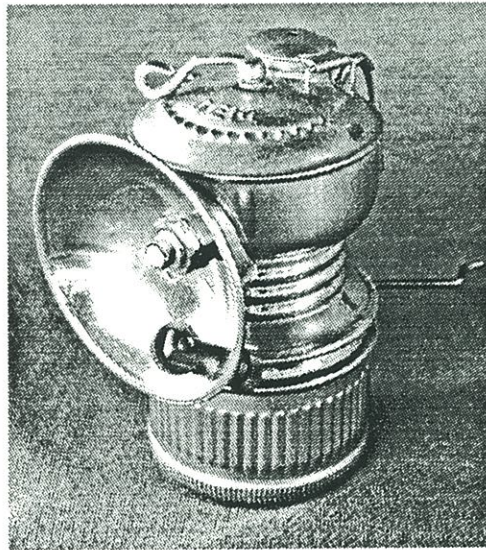
Writing as researchers and editors, we feel it is necessary to point out some more serious issues related to the work at hand. The bibliography is far from complete, and neglects to cite important primary sources used in the preparation of the book, and even mentioned in passing within the text, such as the Keystone Consolidated Coal Field Directory and Mining Catalog. Many illustrations are included with no



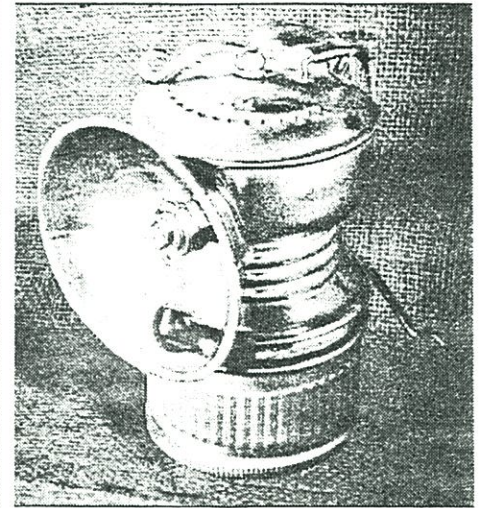
*Gee Bee cap lamp. From Eureka!, Issue 3, 1992, p.7. Photo by Dave Thorpe from his collection.*



*From Pohs' book, p.433. "Private collection and photo." Photo has been cut out and pasted onto different background. Note "bend" made in hook prior to pasting.*



*Gem cap lamp. From Eureka!, Issue 3, 1992, p.7. Photo by Dave Thorpe from his collection.*



*From Pohs' book, p.433. "Private collection and photo." Photo has been cut out and pasted onto different background. Note "bend" made in cap brace prior to pasting.*

attribution; a citation for the source of the Grier Brothers advertisement on page 432, and the following GEM advertisement on page 434, would have been useful to researchers.

Of less use to the scholar are the numerous citations in the bibliography to brief items in various newsletters published by grottos (caving clubs) of the National Speleological Society. These almost all concern the care and

repair of carbide cap lamps used in cave exploring, and have little value to the historian or researcher of mine lighting. Their ephemeral nature also means that it would be difficult for a fellow collector to obtain copies.

The editors were by turns surprised, angered and saddened that Henry Pohs has chosen in his book to all but ignore publications such as the Min-

ing Artifact Collector and Eureka! These two magazines have published hundreds of articles on the history, manufacture, and collecting of mine lighting, totaling well over a thousand pages during the last 10 years. Much of this material was submitted by collectors worldwide, and in our opinion represents some of the best in-depth research that has been done on the subject of the history of mining lights. Our efforts seem to be denegated to what Pohs calls in his prologue "a few short and incom-

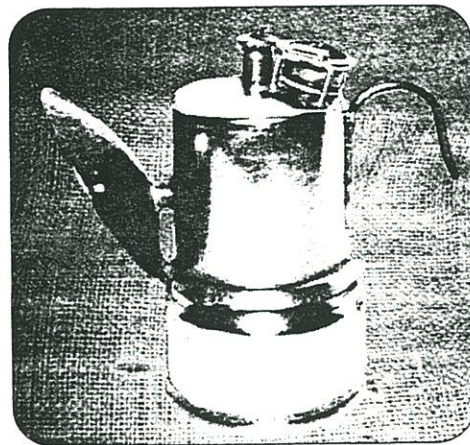
plete magazine stories about the 'History of an Underground Something-Or-Other Lamp.'"

The unfortunate omission of information from these sources has led to some factual errors in the Miner's Flame Light Book. One example would be the references on pages 452 and 455 to the "X-Ray [carbide cap lamp] originally ... manufactured by the 'E.M. Haw Company'". The Fulton carbide lamp, which actually bears the company name, is stamped

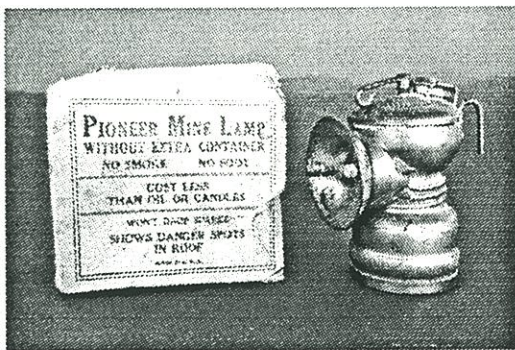
"EM. HAW. CO.", with no period between the E and the M. The author has mistakenly incorporated additional punctuation in his illustrations. More importantly, there is published documentary evidence that the abbreviation stands for the Emmons - Hawkins Company, a hardware distributor in Huntington, WV which had no manufacturing facilities. (see the Spring 1991 Mining Artifact Collector, No. 11, pages 4-5.) It is generally accepted within the collecting community that design simi-



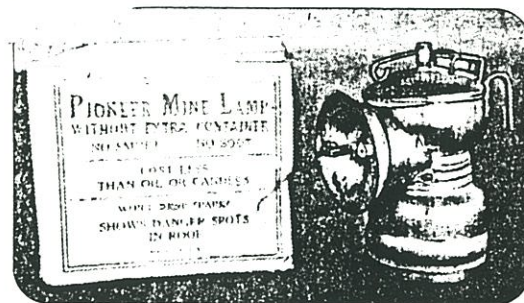
*Black Diamond lamp, as appearing in Eureka, Issue 4, Oct. '92, p. 13. 35mm photo by Dave Johnson.*



*"Black Diamond" lamp in Pohs' book p. 417. Original photo appears to have been cut out, the hook bent, then pasted onto new background. Caption reads: "polaroid photo - E. Christman".*



*Pioneer Lamp with box. From collection of Dave Thorpe. 35mm photograph by Bill Spence at Dave Thorpe's residence. Appeared in Eureka, Issue 2, Apr. '92, p. 25.*



*Pioneer lamp as appearing in Pohs' book, p. 411. Attributed to: "Errol Christman collection; polaroid photo - E. Christman."*

*Numerous photographs of oil wick lamps, carbide lamps, and parts boxes appear nearly identical to those originally published in Eureka. The objects appear to have been cut from the original photo and pasted onto a different background. Hooks and braces are sometimes "bent" prior to the pasting. Captions invariably attribute the item to "private collection and photo" or erroneously to Chuck Young and Errol Christman.*

larities and published advertisements point to the Justrite Manufacturing Company as the makers of both the X-Ray and the Fulton lamps.

Henry Pohs engages in a certain amount of pure speculation, as well. His explanation of the genesis of the "Pioneer" carbide cap lamp brand name, offered on pages 408-409, involves a somewhat hypothetical linotype ad composer's error. In fact, there is ample evidence from lamp boxes, printed instruction sheets, and advertisements, that Pioneer was intended by the manufacturer as a lamp brand name.

The photographs in the carbide lamp chapter are uniformly the worst in the volume. As noted above, a number of these photographs have been retouched. The effect is to bring into question their authenticity as a record of historical mining artifacts, and to destroy any value they offered in studying the design or details of the pictured lamps.

There are a number of examples of cap lamp photographs which have apparently been computer-scanned, then "cut and pasted" onto a textured

background. Examples include the GEM, GEE BEE, Scranto, and the Black Diamond cap lamps.

Scores of photos are so strikingly similar to those originally published in *Eureka*, that the reader is dumbfounded with the vague and often erroneous captions (see side-by-side comparison photos shown here). The editors of *Eureka!* are particularly troubled by the lack of attribution for familiar photographs in the carbide lamp chapter and throughout the book, labeled "private collection and photo." Many collectors have freely shared information, drawings, and photographs with Henry Pohs over the years, expecting only a simple credit in return. Many more have worked hard researching and writing articles for the *MAC* and *Eureka!*, choosing to share their information with the collecting community through these publications. It is unfortunate that their efforts have been slighted.

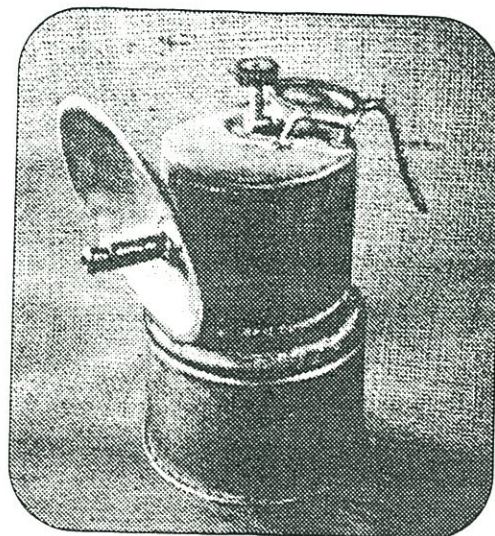
One example is the inclusion among the photographs of Wolf carbide cap lamps on page 494, of two views of a unique early lamp. These have been heavily retouched, and are labeled

"private collection and illustration [sic]." The original photographs upon which these "illustrations" were based were taken by Debra Cook, a hired professional photographer, of a lamp in the collection of Jim Lackey. They were originally published by Jim Van Fleet, with full credits, in the April 1992 issue of *Eureka!* No.2, page 3. To date, no other published source has documented this particular lamp variation. Proper credit would have been a courtesy (at least) to the author, photographer, and lamp owner. Recognition of the original published information source would have been a service to Pohs readers in particular. Such treatment has more than one *Eureka!* editor "mine-flaming mad!"

Balancing both positive and negative reactions to the *Miner's Flame Light Book*, the editors expect that readers of *Eureka!* will still want to consider purchasing this book, to review it for yourselves. It is likely to be the topic of conversation for several years to come. Copies can be obtained from the author.



*(left) Scranton lamp (stamped Pat. Pending). From Eureka! Issue 4, 1992, p 11. Photo by Dave Thorpe of lamp in his collection.*



*(right) From Pohs' book. p. 416. "...stamped 'Pat. Pending' Private collection and photo."*



# A New Kind of Collector's Get-together: A Lamp Frenzy

by Jim Van Fleet



*Laid out for all to buy: Mike Puhl's liquidation of Kelly Deem's collection.*

The lamp collecting community was surprised recently by the announcement that Kelley Deem, a long-time collector, was parting with his entire accumulation of carbide lamps, oil wicks, safety lamps, and accessories. Kelley will be remembered by many as our able auctioneer at the Eastern Collectors' Reunions held in Morgantown, West Virginia. He had worked hard for many years to build a remarkable collection, including such treasures as an unfired Milburn

"Miner A" carbide cap lamp in the original box!

The arrangements were made for the new owner to take possession on such-and-so a day, and Mike Puhl let it be known that he would be selling off a large portion of the collection immediately (but not the Milburn). This is probably the first such event that has been widely advertised, discussed, planned, and blown out of proportion through the medium of e-

mail and the Internet. "Plugged-in" collectors definitely had an edge in getting information on the sale!

The venue was an unusual one, too; an annual gathering of cavers and members of the National Speleological Society, known as "Old Timer's Reunion." Both Kelley and Mike are certified "Old Timers," and your editor has been in attendance for most of the past ten years as well.

For a description of the Reunion, one needs to imagine a cow pasture overflowing with somewhere around 4,500 more-or-less active cave explorers. Entertainment this year was provided by the West Virginia Brewing Company, and by the sight of about a dozen lamp collectors engaging in what has been politely called a "feeding frenzy."

With the assistance of a few eager early risers, Mike proceeded to spread out on tarps and tables a beautiful assortment of carbide lamps, flasks, lamp sticks, accessories, boxes, repair kits, and parts.

Highlights included a "Non-Justrite Victor," a square Anton cap lamp, Justrite Imperial, and no less than three Pocahontas cap lamps. Buyers had their choice of four different Auto-Lite repair kits, and three variations of the Hardsocg multi-compartment carbide carrier.

Sales were brisk and steady, but to their credit, no one actually went into an uncontrollable frenzy. Folks were selecting lamps and such by the box full, however. After careful examination of the collection, many of us

made the tramp to the temporary bank of telephones installed at the site, to console and advise collectors less fortunate than ourselves from across the country.

For those of us with less cash than curiosity, there were several leisurely days to examine the lamps, compare notes, and chat with fellow collectors drawn to the site by the glint of sun-

top is closer to the edge of the lamp, and farther from the central water feed stem. The three X-Ray lamps examined at the same time had "PATENTED" stamped noticeably closer to the water feed.

Here is another X-Ray / Imperial / Fulton mystery, and one which may have important implications for collectors who have been able to find an



*Nelson Ressler mans the lamp table.*

light off of polished brass. Yours truly took many close-up photographs with a new 90mm lens, and the results will start to appear soon in Eureka!

I also discovered a very interesting lamp variation. The nickel-plated Justrite Imperial cap lamp, while practically identical in design to the X-Ray, has a noticeable difference. On the Imperial in question, the word "PATENTED" stamped on the lamp

Imperial base, but need the correct lamp top. If any of our readers has another complete, original Imperial, please try to make a comparison with an X-Ray lamp, and let us know what you think.

Although I was not able to stay for the entire weekend event, I understand that before the end, Mike Puhl was gracious enough to hold a show-and-tell session, and bring out the lamps that he intended to keep (including the Milburn). From all accounts, everyone who made it to the lamp frenzy had a great time, came away with some great lamps, and got an eyeful. The few snapshots included here don't do it justice.

# The "Ringrose" Automatic Firedamp Alarm

by Manfred Stutzer/Ludwigshafen and Peter Appleton/Wigston

The flame safety lamp had been used as an accurate and reliable instrument for detecting the presence of firedamp. As a flame would not continue to burn if the air was seriously deficient in oxygen, it also acted as a safeguard to the presence of blackdamp.

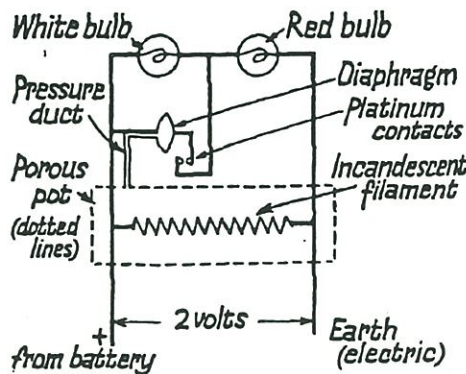
However, the rapid displacement of flame lamps by electric lighting during the 1920's led to situations where the work-force of a mine was wholly dependent on the tests that Pit Deputies and Officials could carry out during a shift using Approved Flame Safety Gas Tester Lamps, as required by The Coal Act of 1911 in the United Kingdom.

By 1922 the Miners' Lamp Committee had recommended that "where electric lamps were generally used" a proportion of workmen should be provided with, and instructed in use of flame safety lamps to test for gas on a more local basis at the site of their work.

Many attempts have been made to devise other forms of firedamp indicators with varying success. Amongst these the Ringrose firedamp Alarm Lamp was seen by the Mines Department as having the advantages of working continuously and automatically.

The inventor, Henry Thomas Ringrose, who was Managing Director of the firm "International Gas Detectors Ltd." on Great Wilson

Street, Leeds II, maintained that the firedamp Alarm should not be seen as being in competition with the flame lamp, as its function was perceived as quite different, that is, to act as a first line of defence offering the miner automatic warning if gas was present in the atmosphere.

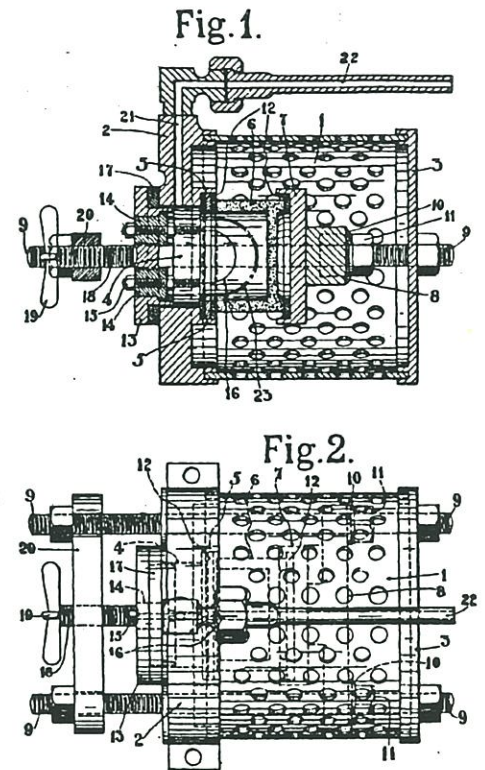


Principle of the alarm.

The original 'Ringrose' of 1926 was not in the form of a lamp, but was purely a firedamp detecting device, as the patent No. 267,990 clearly shows.

By 1929 the design had been transformed into a type of safety lamp that served the dual function of providing a light as well as detecting firedamp. However, the simple basic principle upon which it operates was left unchanged:

A change of pressure inside a sealed porous pot would take place if firedamp from the surrounding atmosphere entered the pot, and was then burned upon an incandescent fila-

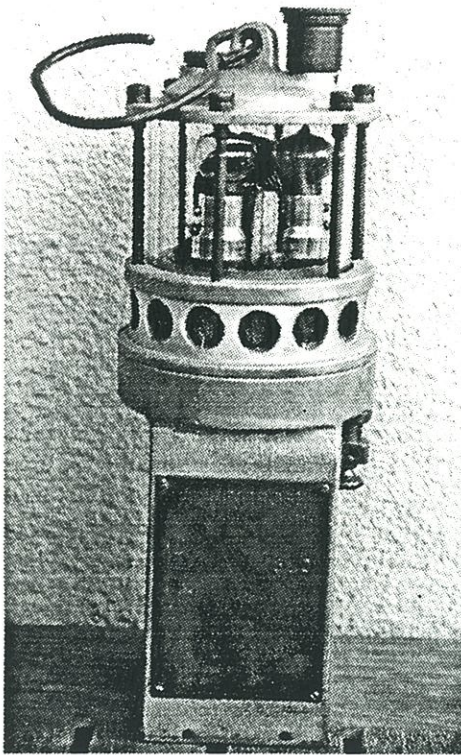


First Patent Specification No. 267,990, March 28, 1927.

ment. Such change in pressure caused the closing of electrical contacts which completed a circuit causing a red warning bulb to glow.

The new 'Ringrose' was approved in September 1929. Small scale trials over short periods of time were undertaken to help improve the design until by the end of 1931 it was thought to give reasonably consistent and reliable results.

Further extensive Pit trials, under normal working conditions were required to discover unforeseen limitations and weaknesses. Markham Collieries, Warsop Main Colliery,



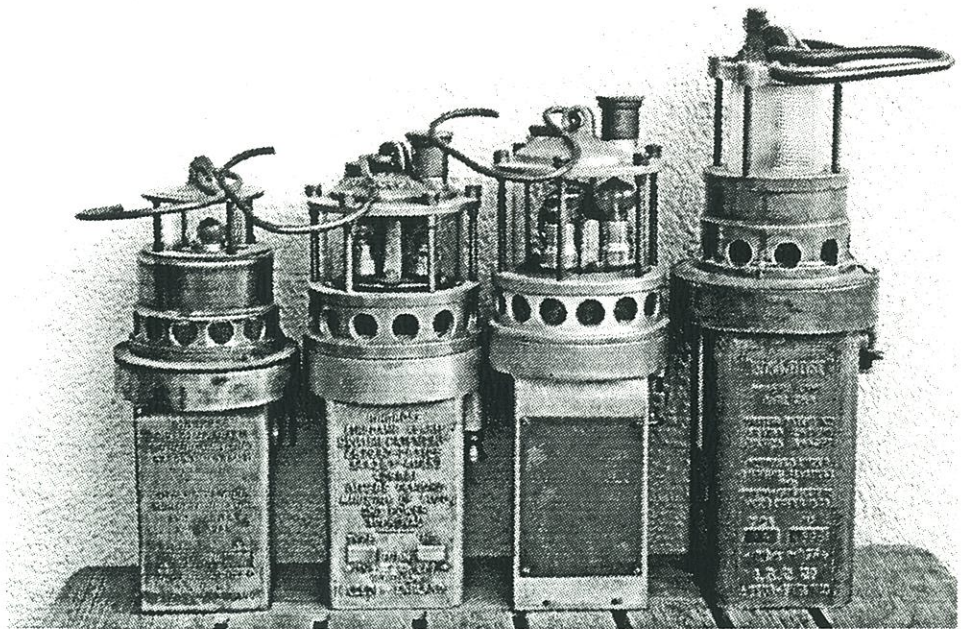
A very early Ringrose, one of the first lamp designs, 1928. This lamp is fitted with an additional "arresting signal".

and Ireland Colliery in Yorkshire were amongst the first Collieries where, in 1934, more than 200 Ringrose Firedamp Alarms were introduced.

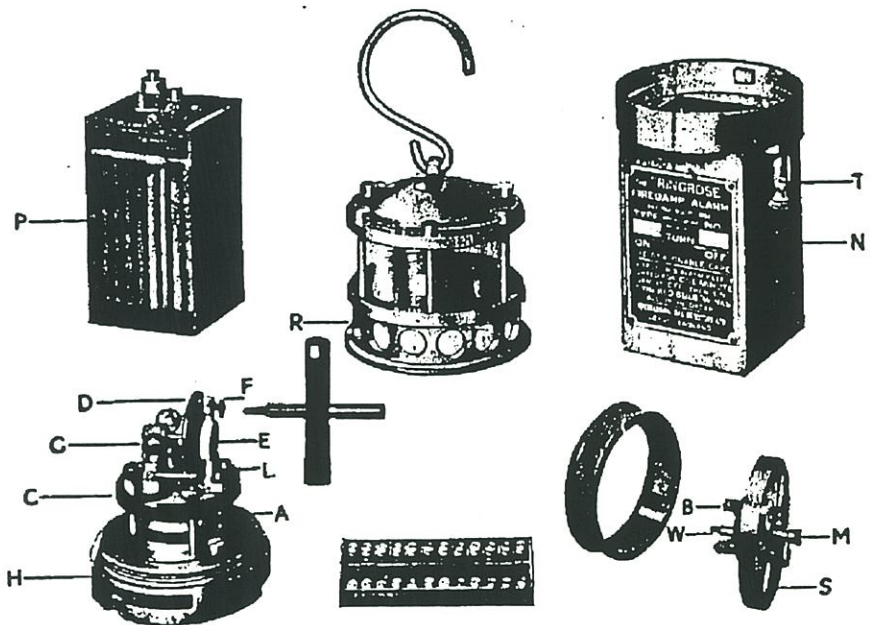
The detector normally reacted if 2.5% methane was in the air, but even 1.25% could be detected, if necessary.

Some lamps were fitted with a special device to give an audible alarm or "arresting signal" in addition to the red warning light.

Correspondence between Peter Appleton and Mr. Jack Utley of I.G.D. Ltd., Leeds confirmed that the last manufactured Ringrose Firedamp Alarm Lamp Type 47/125 ceased production in the early 1970's.



Four different Ringrose Firedamp Alarms.



1935 ad for a Ringrose Firedamp Alarm, Type R (disassembled).

When the "red light" was activated, the mine workers would proceed as follows:

1. Immediately switch off all electric current.
2. All men would withdraw to the intake airway.
3. The deputy would be sent for and informed of the event.

# SECURITY FROM GAS ASSURED

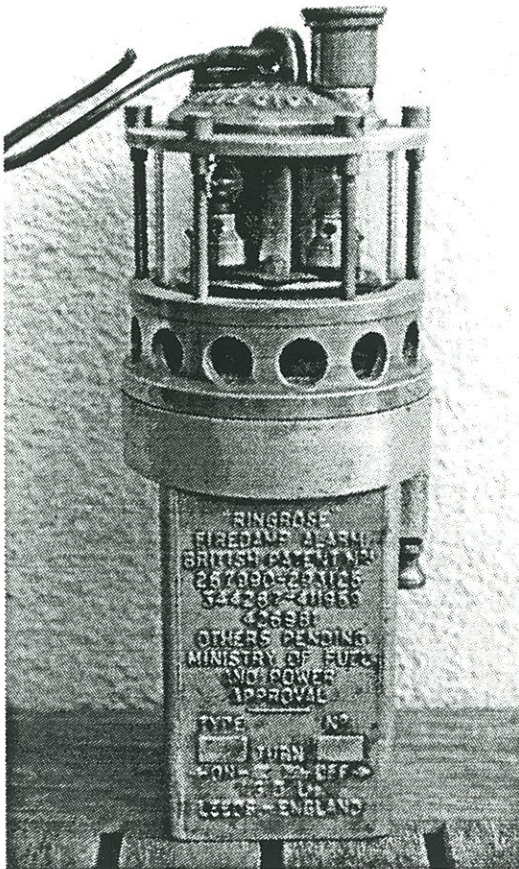
Advertisement from *The Colliery Guardian*, May 1935. Type R.

Approved for **SAFETY** and **ACCURACY** by the Mines Departments of Great Britain, France, Belgium and Germany.

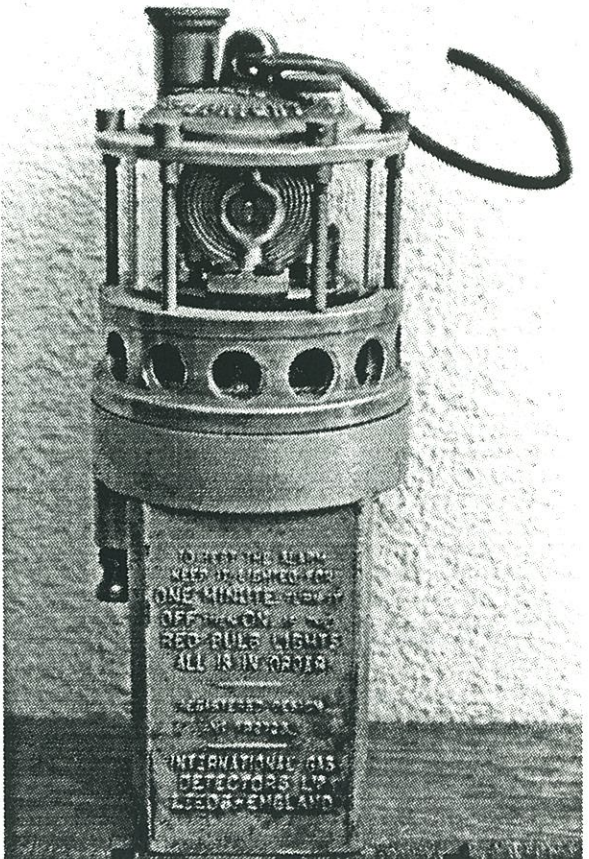
**OVER TWO HUNDRED CORPORATIONS** use the device for the protection of their men against explosive gases.



**THE ALARM** has two electric bulbs in series, one being red. Normally the white lamp only is illuminated, but gas at a pre-determined percentage short circuits the white lamp and puts the full voltage on to the red, thereby giving an **ARRESTING SIGNAL**.



Front and back views of Ringrose Firedamp Alarm Type: MDS5.

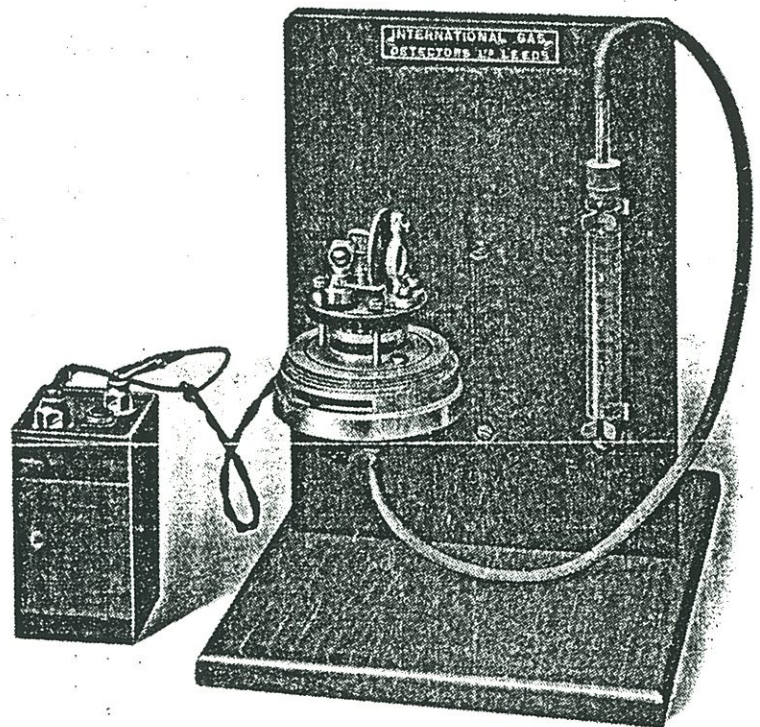


# "RINGROSE" AUTOMATIC FIREDAMP ALARM



Advertisement for Type R lamp, ca. 1935.

Advertisement for testing stand,  
ca. 1935.



TESTING STAND.

Right: Front and back views of the Ringrose firedamp alarm Type: CH4/DB.



Below left: Ringrose model 47/125. This type was produced in considerable numbers. Production ended in the early 1970's.



**British Patents Taken Out By H. T. Ringrose**

GB 267990	1927	Device For Recording Presence Of Inflammable Vapours
GB 293125	1928	Apparatus For Detecting Gases
GB 319530	1929	Device Indicating The Presence Of Inflammable Gases
GB 331711	1930	Device For Indicating The Presence Of Inflammable Vapours
GB 344287	1931	Electrical Signal Or Indicating Means
GB 412761	1934	Electrical Signalling Or Indicating Means For Recording The Presence Vapours Or Gases
GB 426981	1935	Electrical Signalling Means
GB 477338	1937	Detection Of The Presence Inflammable Vapours
GB 484194	1938	Indicator Of Flammable Vapours
GB 494882	1938	Detecting Poisonous Gasses
GB 520515	1940	Portable Lamps
GB 530524	1940	Portable Lamps Indicating The Presence Of Inflammable Vapours
GB 531408	1940	Portable Lamps Detecting The Presence Of Poisonous Gases
GB 547452	1941-1944	Indicating The Presence Of Inflammable Vapours
GB 595000	1946-1948	Recording Apparatus

# Monongah Mines Disaster

by Jim Van Fleet

The year 1907 was the nadir of mining safety in the United States. In coal mining accidents throughout the country, 3,242 miners were killed. In December alone, major explosions claimed over 700 lives. One writer has called it "the dreadful month" (Jackson, 1982). The worst of these explosions, and the worst single disaster in U.S. mining history, was at the Monongah Mines No.6 and No.8 of the Fairmont Coal Company. On the morning of December 6, 1907, these two connected mines, located six miles south of Fairmont, West Virginia, exploded with great force, killing over 360 coal miners.

The cause of the Monongah explosion is uncertain, because several nearly simultaneous events seem to have played a part in the disaster. A report on the explosion published in the Fairmont Coal Co. Bulletin No.11 sets the scene:

In No.6 mine a 13 ton and a 20 ton electric haulage motor were

in use, the coal being gathered by horses. The workings were wired throughout for electricity and the seam was undercut by electric chain machines. The coal was dislodged by three shots, the holes for which were drilled by hand about six feet deep. Black powder was used exclusively, the tamping was composed largely of coal dust and no shot firers were employed, each man drilling his own holes and firing his own shots. No "shooting off the solid" was permitted in either mine, but there was a tendency among pick miners to violate this rule unless closely watched. Open lights were used by all workmen (Haas, 1908).

The practice of blasting down coal without first undercutting it was called "shooting off the solid," and was a common cause of blown out shots. In these instances, the force of the explosion is blown back out the drill holes, forcing out the tamping and raising a cloud of coal dust, and creating enough flame to ignite an explosion in gassy or dusty mines. The report by

Frank Haas noted that the percentage of gas regularly generated by the Monongah mines was between .024 and .067 % in the main return air current, well under explosive limits. But the report also notes that "both mines were more or less dusty, especially during the winter months," and that "haulways were systematically watered, although there was no attempt made to dampen the dust in the rooms." (Haas, 1908). Spraying the main haulways with water was an attempt to keep coal dust under control.

The entry to Monongah Mine No.6 was a rock slope 740 feet long, with an 8 to 9 % grade. This incline continued on the surface, for a total distance of over 1/2 mile. On the morning of December 6th, the electric motor hauling coal out of No.6 was headed for the top of the incline, each car carrying about two tons of coal. An iron coupling pin broke, sending the trip of 15 or more loaded ore cars racing back down the slope. The trip wrecked within the mine entrance, tearing down the over-



head electric wires, nearly blocking the entrance, and presumably raising a huge cloud of coal dust. Haas comments:

It can well be imagined how fifteen loaded cars running uncontrolled 1,200 feet down an 8 per cent grade into a mine opening which was the inlet of air, would . . . raise the dust in the air and dislodge the latent gases in the most remote parts of the old workings in all sections of the mine, and drive these elements of danger on the open lamps of the miners in their working places (Haas, 1908).

Whether the wreck itself and the electrical short circuit it caused were the initial point of explosion is debated. State Mine Inspectors found evidence of two blown out shots in Mine No.8, which must have occurred at nearly the same moment as the wreck. It was believed that these were a possible source of ignition, fueled perhaps by the dust cloud. Despite the presence of containers of black blasting powder used throughout the workings, only one location in Mine No.8 was found in which "two of the regulation 5 pound powder cans . . . were found exploded." Fairmont Coal Company engineers submitted in evidence to the coroners jury that "this point, of all places, in

the two mines showed the greatest temperature and most heat." (Haas, 1908). Whatever the cause, the unfortunate fact that the mines were connected led to the death of all but one of the underground workers in No.6 and No.8 mines.

The force of the blast destroyed the fan house at No.8, and collapsed the No.8 mine entry itself. Rescuers faced a search of over 170 acres of underground workings, over 8 miles of haulway tunnels and headings and over 550 working places and rooms. All that they found were the dead, men and horses, many killed in a matter of moments by the force of the explosion. There was evidence that some workers lived a short while after the blast, being overcome by the gases it generated. In 1907, there were few organized mine rescue units with trained personnel and special rescue equipment. "Self-rescue" rebreathing apparatus were not generally made available to individual miners. In that day and age, there were very few survivors of a major coal mine explosion.

The investigation of the Monongah explosion was inconclusive, and found no blame with the Fairmont Coal Company. On the national level,

coal dust was increasingly recognized as an important cause of mine explosions, and the connection of separate mines was criticized. One result of the Monongah disaster was a renewed call for a government agency to oversee mining safety, and the eventual creation of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1910, with research stations, rescue teams, and federal mine inspectors.

#### REFERENCES:

Dillon, Lacy A. They Died in Darkness. Parson, WV: McClain, 1976.

Haas, Frank. The Explosion at Monongah Mines Fairmont Coal Company. Fairmont, WV: Fairmont Coal Company Bulletin No.11, December 20, 1908.

Jackson, Carlton. The Dreadful Month. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1982.

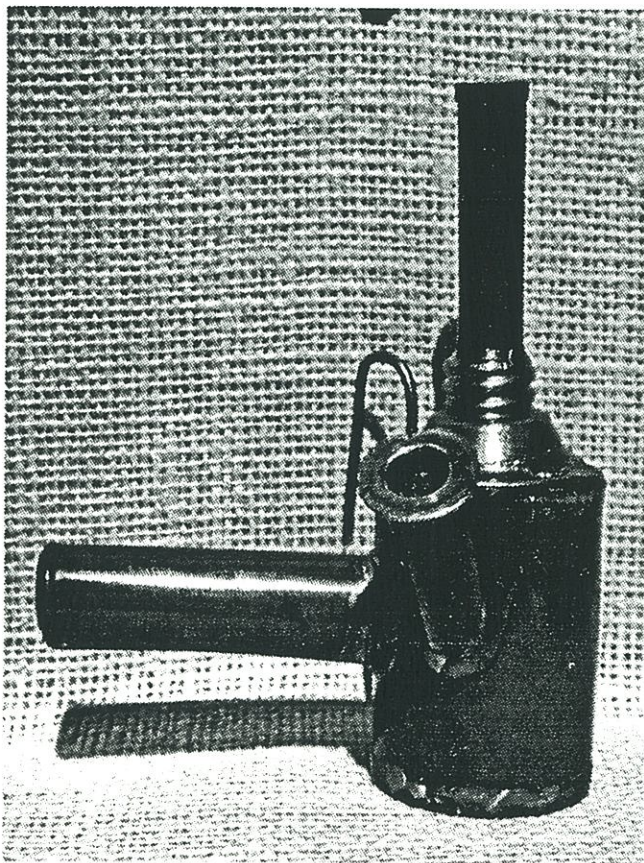
Monongah 1907. Written and Produced by J. Davitt McAteer. Washington, DC: OHS Law Center, 1986.

# Surveyor's Oil Wick Lamps: Debunking a Myth

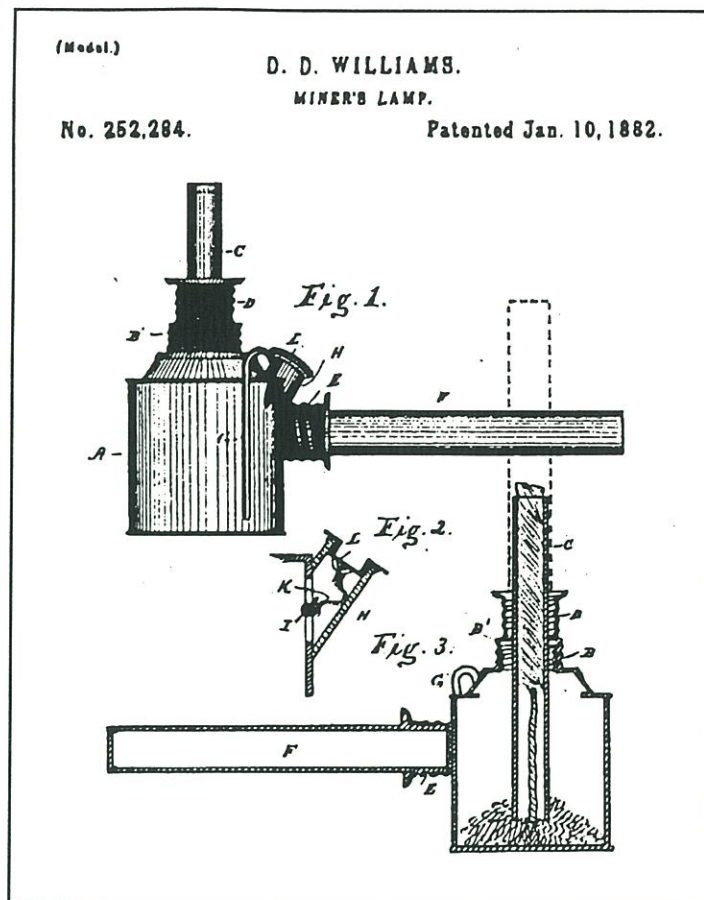
Dave Johnson

There is a unique variety of miner's cap and hand oil wick lamp which has erroneously been labeled by collectors and dealers as a surveyor's lamp. I have personally been guilty of utilizing this misnomer for more than 20 years. No one has ever been able to offer me an acceptable explanation of how this particular type of oil wick was used by mine surveyors.

The only patent that exists for this type of lamp is patent no. 252,284, granted to David D. Williams of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, January 10, 1882. The patent states: "This invention relates to certain improvements in lamps and is specially designed as a miner's lamp; and



*Copper and brass D.D. Williams cap lamp following patent design. Smallest example in collection.*



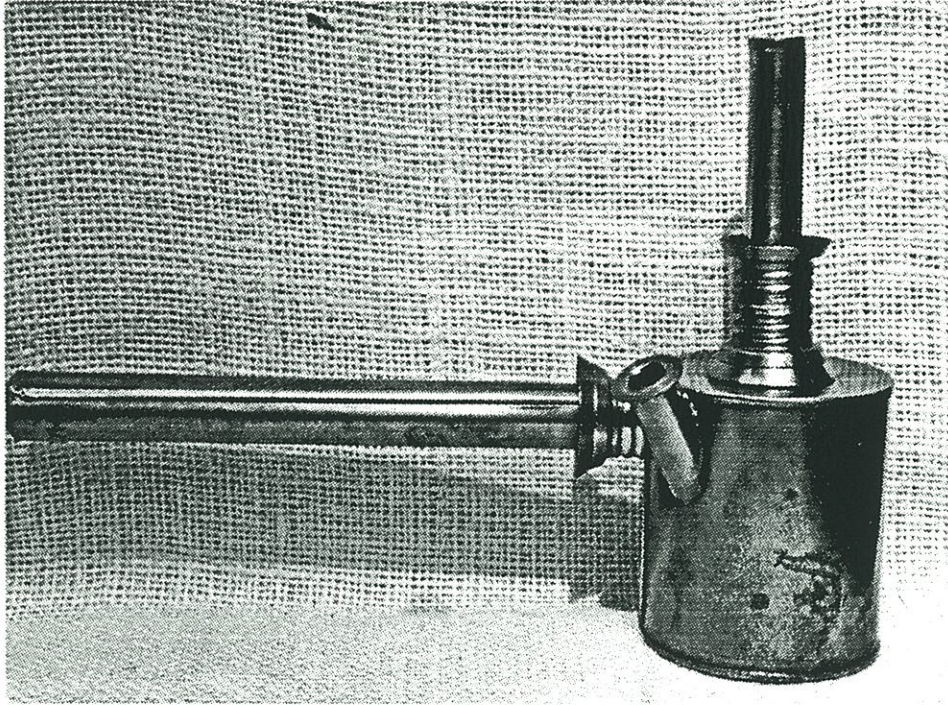
*D.D. Williams patent.*

it has as its object to produce a lamp that may be conveniently carried by hand or attached to the miner's hat, and when not in use carried in the pocket without danger of spilling." There is no mention of any surveying use in the patent.

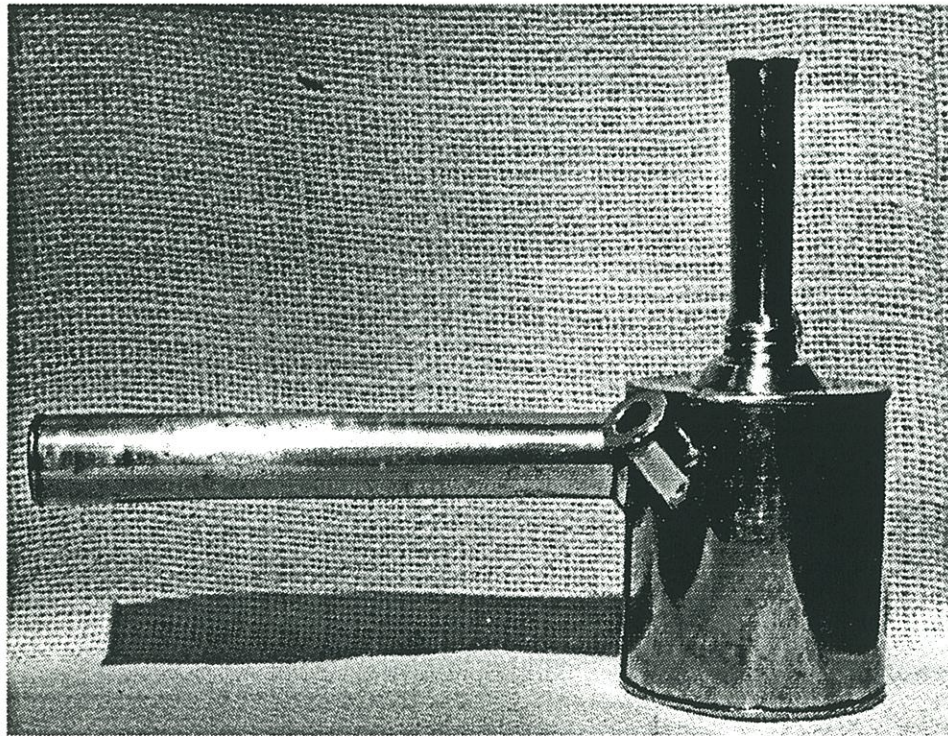
While the patent indicates that these lamps were originally intended to be cap lamps, the majority of the lamps found today are too large to be worn on the cap or helmet, even though most have cap hooks. Of the 5 D.D. Williams lamps in my collection, two are cap size, while 3 are hand size. One Williams cap size lamp follows the patent drawing but the other deviates in that it was not made with the combination spout cap/handle, having only the vertical wick tube and threaded cap angled filler tube.

Other marked examples of this type of lamp come to us from Crown, Trethaway Bros., and T.B. Bickerton. Both Crown and Trethaway offered this style lamp in cap and hand sizes. Numerous unmarked examples also exist,

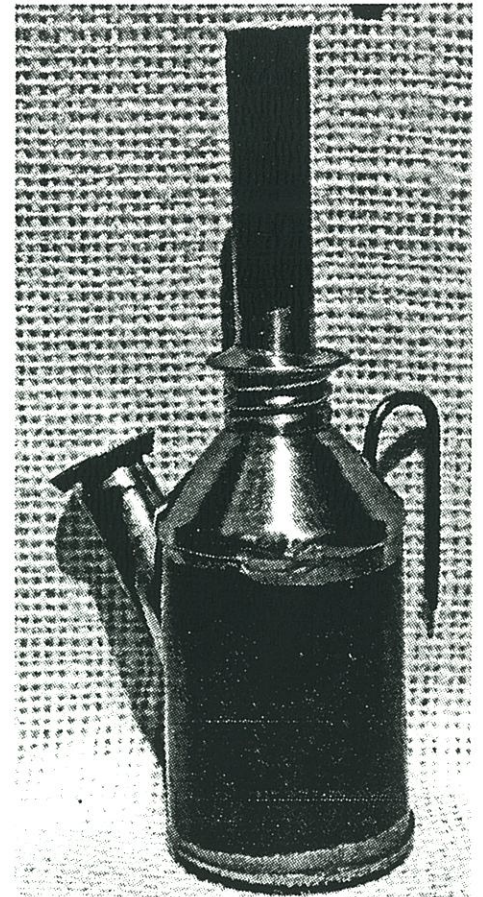
some attributable to Crown or Trethaway, and some from unknown manufacturers. Examples of Trethaway Bros. lamps of this type have been found in a variety of materials - all tin; tin-brass; tin-copper-brass; and brass-copper. Crown lamps of this style are found in trimetal (copper-brass-tin); brass-copper; as well as all brass. The only



*Copper and brass D.D. Williams hand lamp.*



*Copper and brass D.D. Williams hand lamp w/ hook (largest example in collection).*



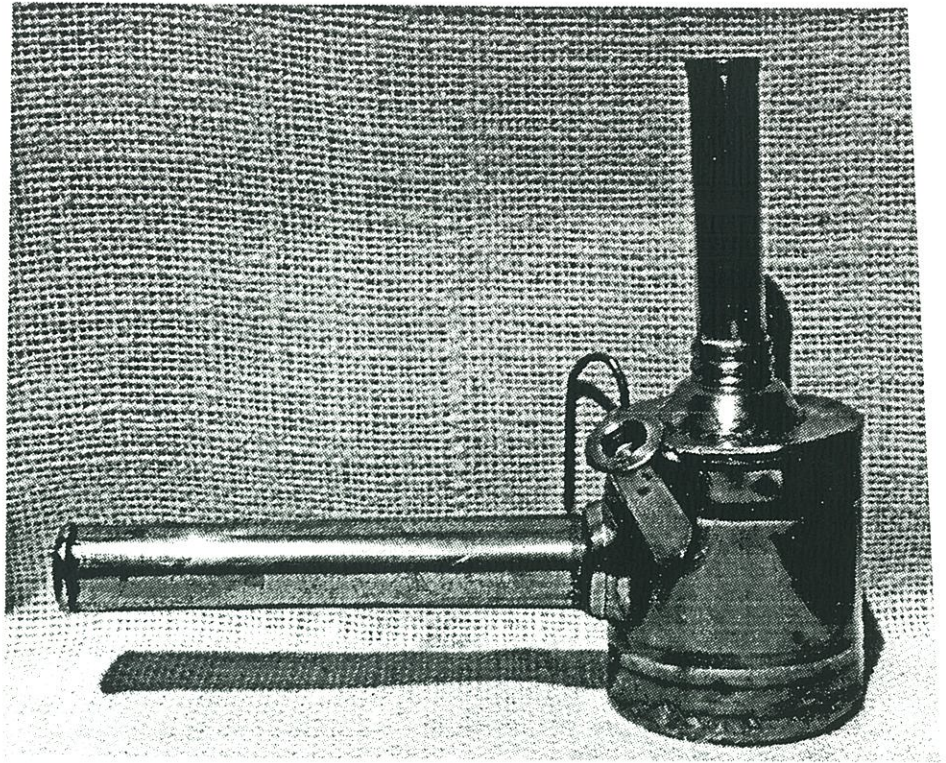
*Brass and tin D.D. Williams cap lamp w/o handle/spout-cover.*

known example of a Bickerton lamp is made of brass.

With the exception of the Bickerton lamp (see Eureka No. 15), all known examples of this type of lamp have cylindrical fonts. Most have a threaded cap filling tube that is angled from the upper side of the font, while a few have the filler cap in the flat top of the font. The largest D. D. Williams lamp measures 6 1/2" tall to the top of the spout, with a handle that extends 6 1/8" from the side of the font which is 2 13/16" in diameter. The smallest D.D. Williams lamp measures 4 15/16" tall to the top of the spout, with a handle that extends 2 3/8" from the side of the font which is 1 5/8" in diameter. All of the other

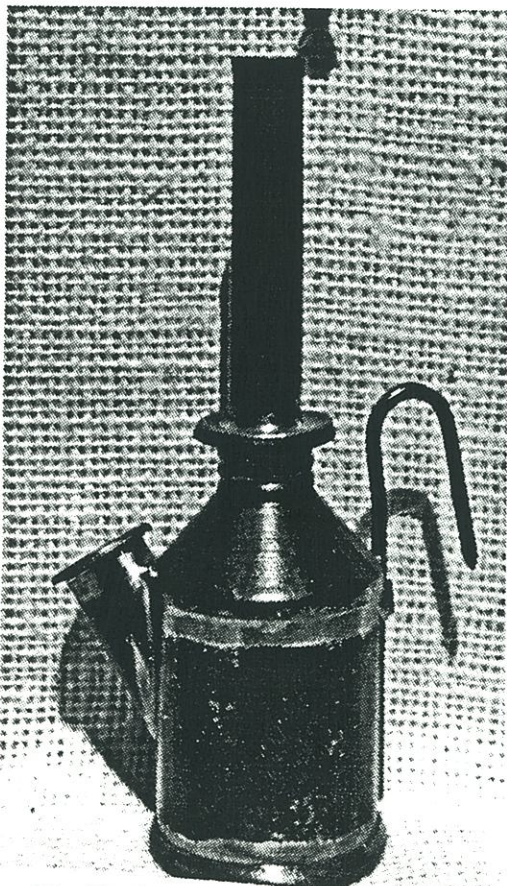
16 examples of this style lamp by various makers in my collection fall somewhere between these two extremes in size.

I do not suggest that collectors drop the surveyor label so long attached to these lamps. This would be something akin to getting collectors to drop the name "anthracite" so long attached to that unmarked carbide lamp. It is enough for collectors to know that what for so long has been referred to as a mine surveyor's lamp really isn't. The true mine surveyor's lamps are the plummet lamps and bull's-eye safety lamps, but those are other and future articles.

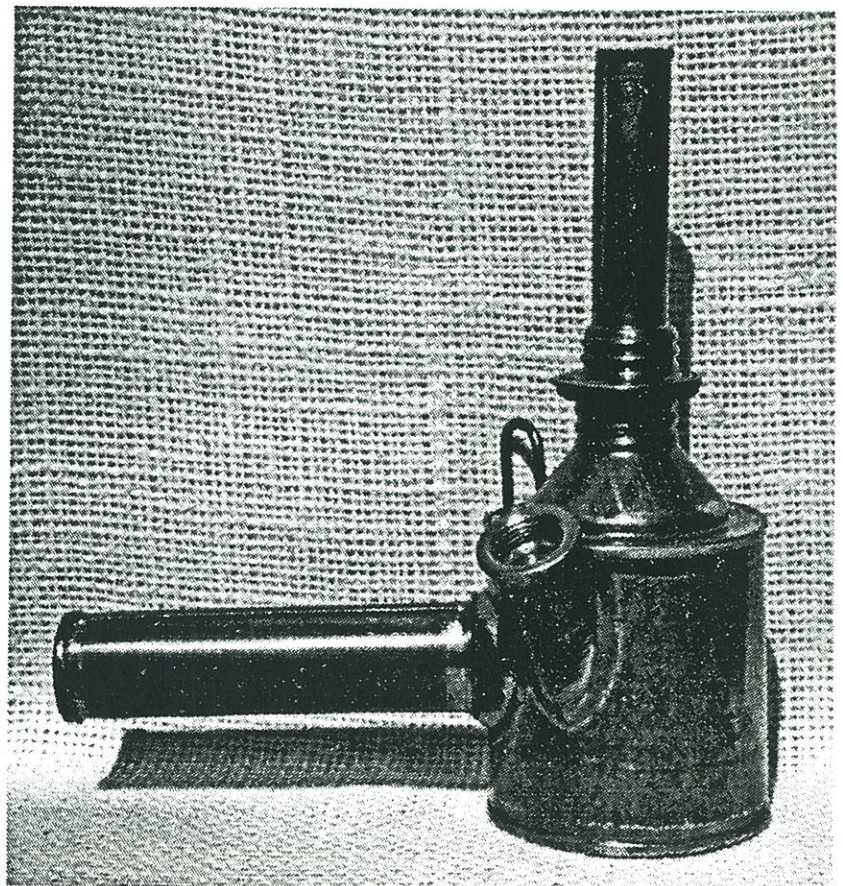


*Copper and brass D.D. Williams hand lamp.*

## Trethaway Bros. Oil Wick Lamps



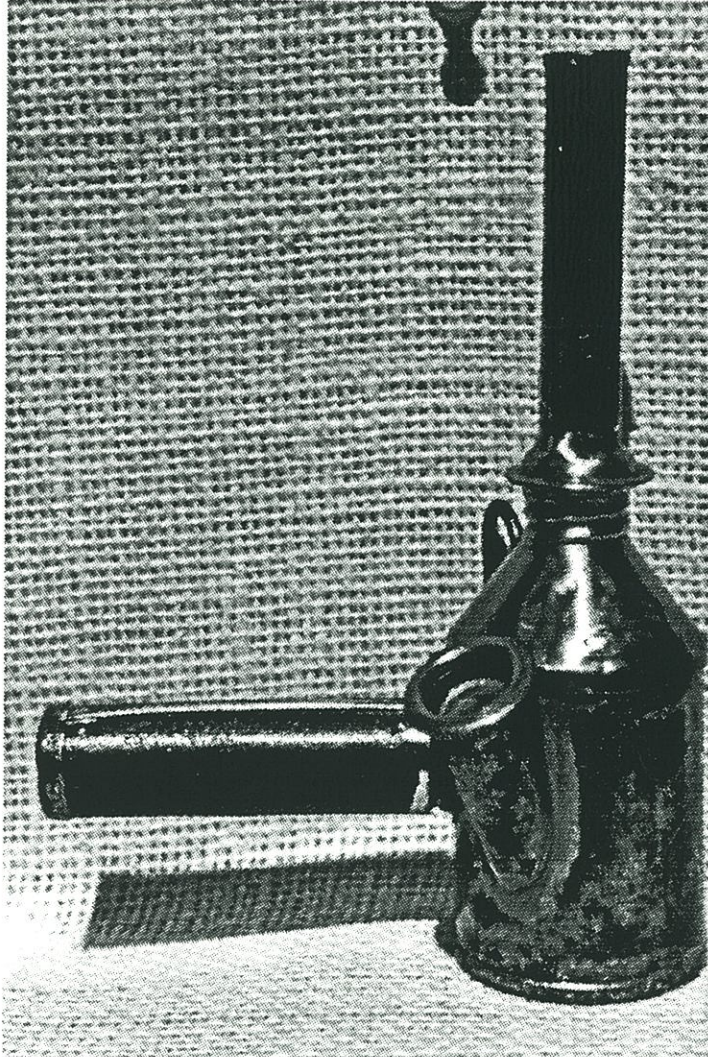
*Tin Trethaway Bros. lamp w/o handle/spout-cover*



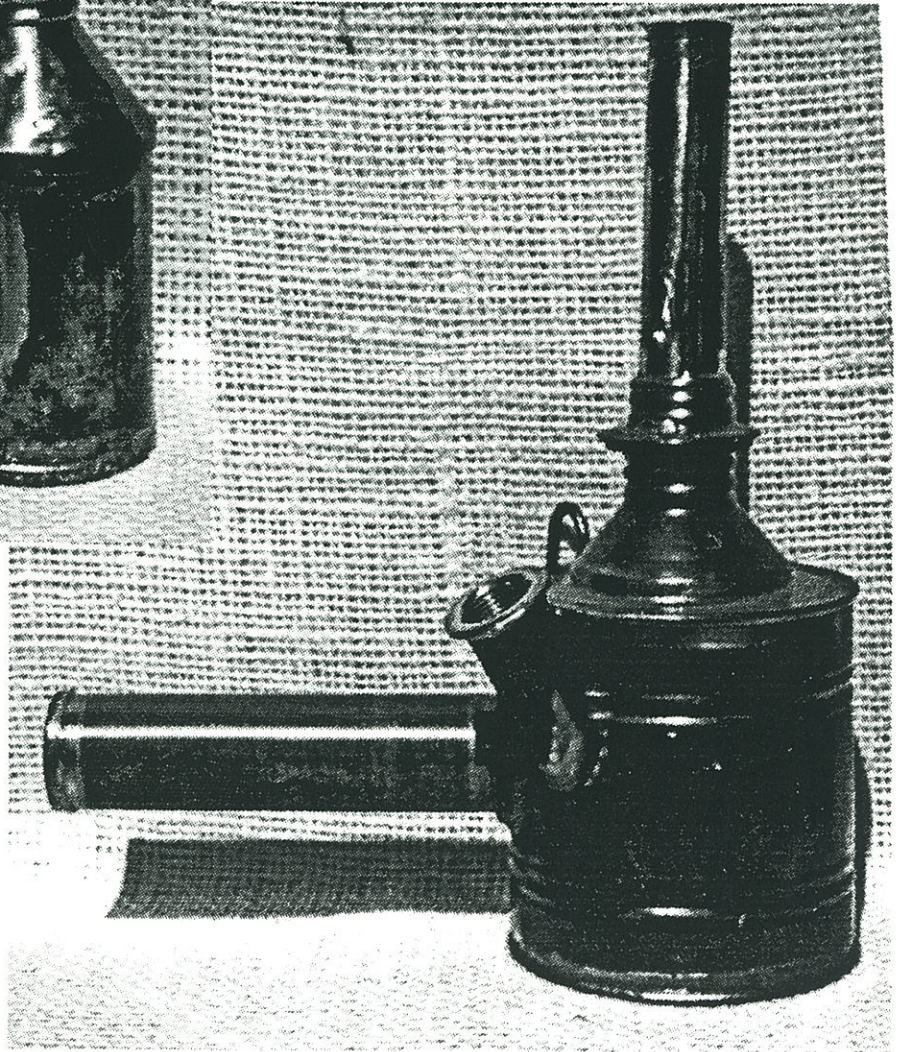
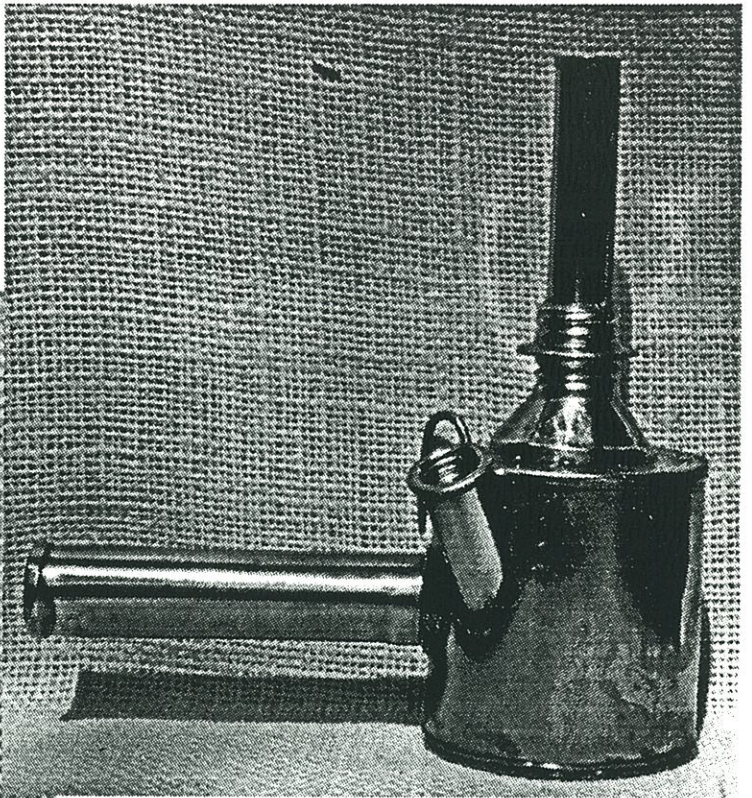
*Tin Trethaway Bros. hand lamp.*

# Trethaway

(right) Copper and brass  
Trethaway  
Bros. hand  
lamp.

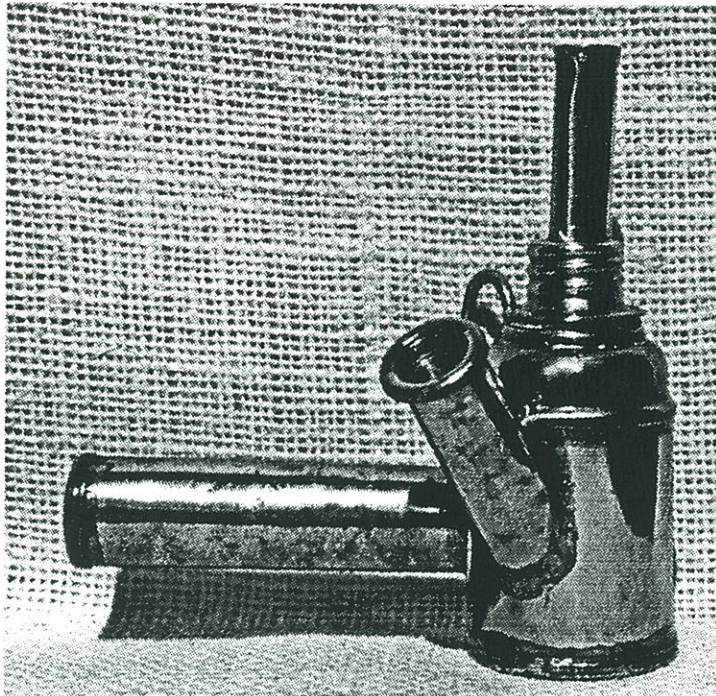


(above) Brass and tin Trethaway Bros. cap lamp.

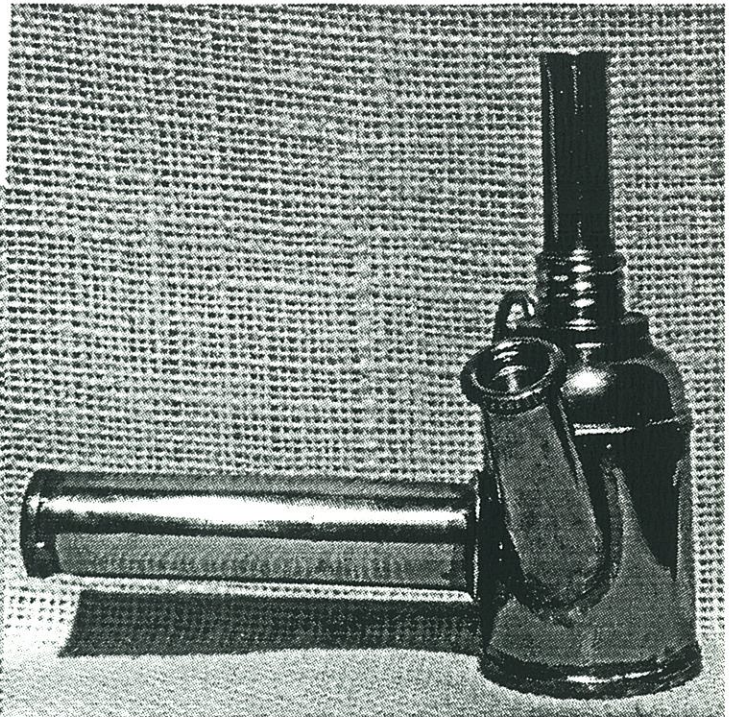


(right) Tin Trethaway Bros. hand lamp  
(largest Trethaway Bros. in collection).

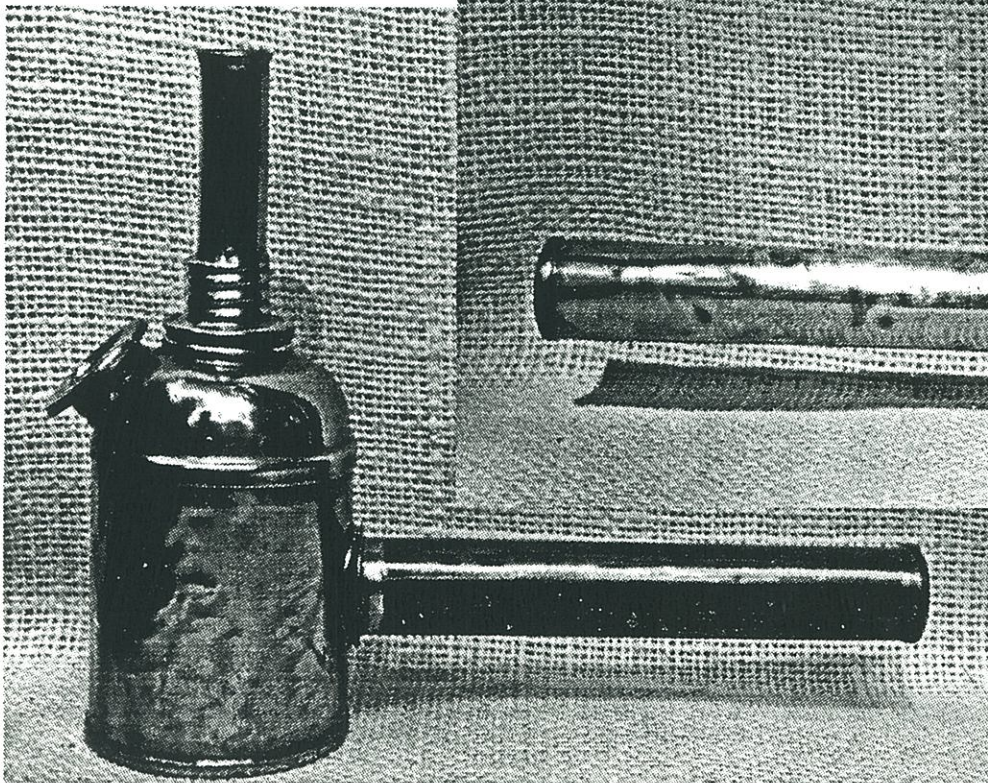
# Crown Lamps



*(above) Brass Crown cap lamp.*



*Small brass Crown hand lamp.*

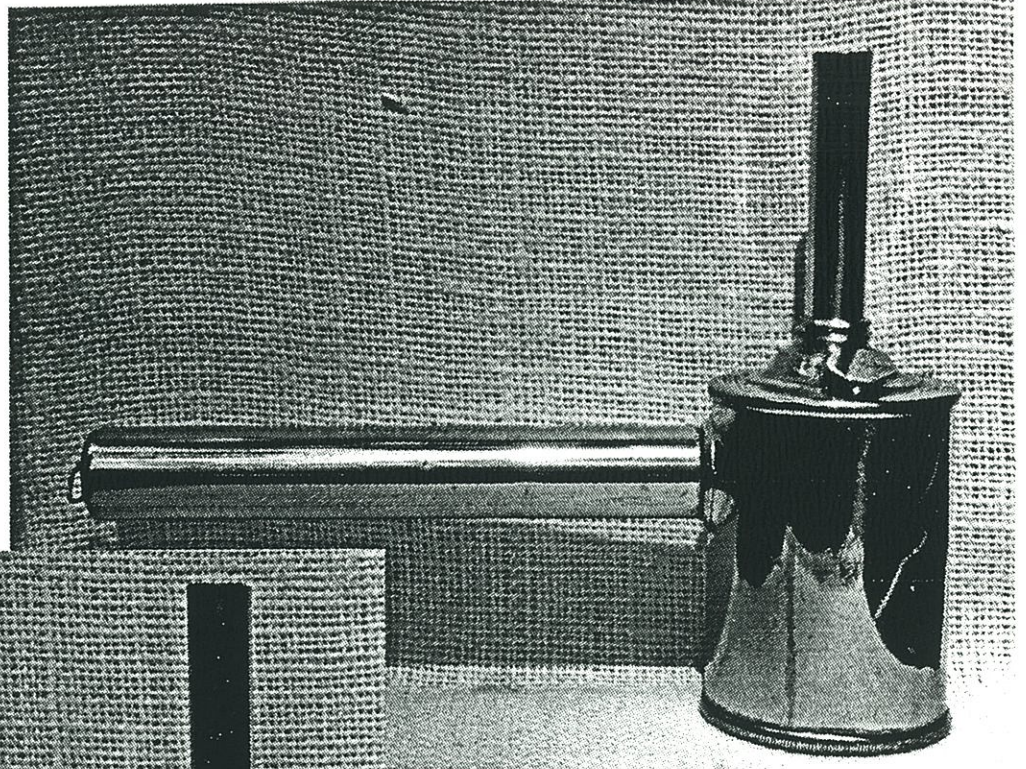


*(above) Copper and brass Crown hand lamp w/ hook.*

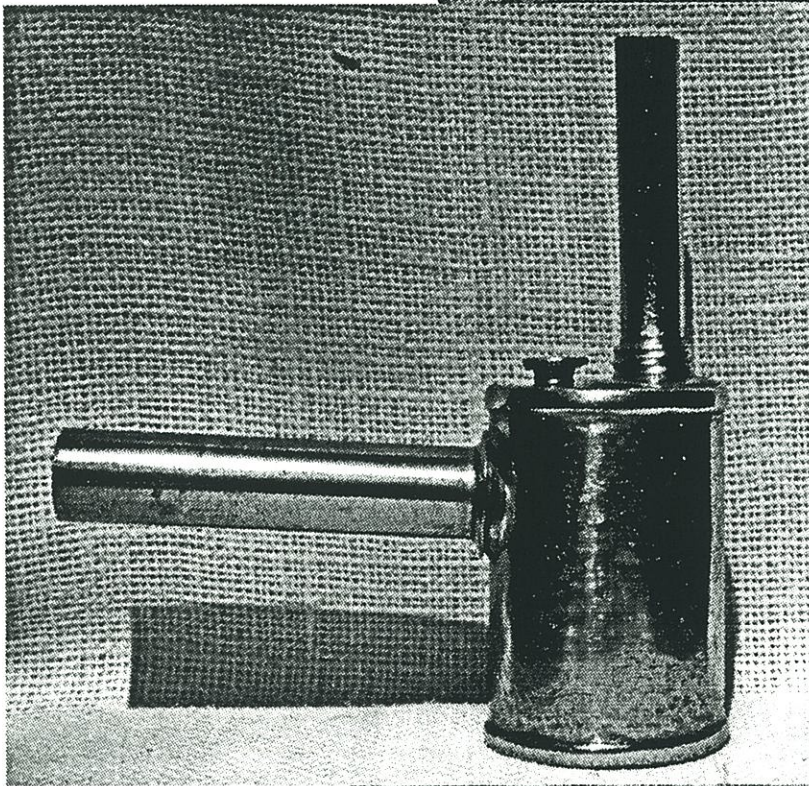
*(left) Brass and tin Crown hand lamp w/ hook.*

## Unmarked Lamps

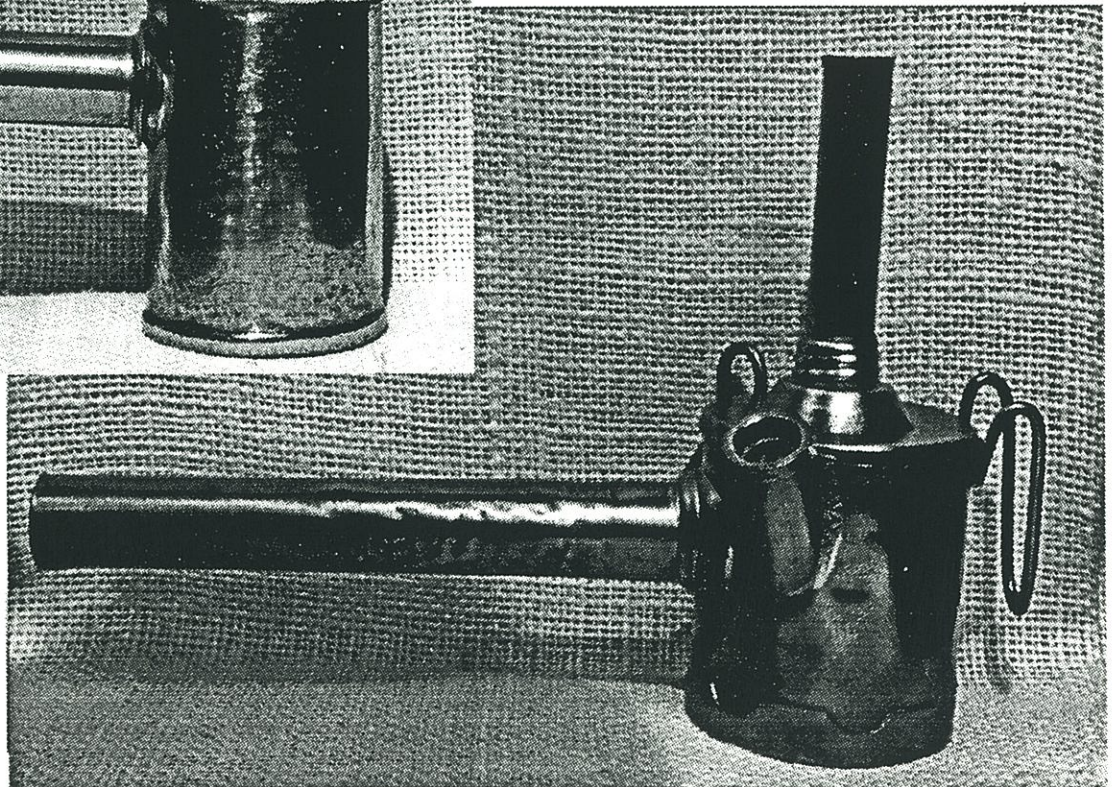
*Unmarked brass hand lamp w/ hex filler cap and match safe in handle/spout-cover. No hook.*



*Unmarked brass hand lamp w/o hook.*



*Unmarked brass hand lamp with two types of hooks.*



# National Carbide Sales Corporation

Bob Schroth

Being an avid tin and advertising collector, finding an unknown style of a mining related tin is very exciting. This summer while trading typewriter tins for blasting cap tins, the collector I was dealing with asked if I would be interested in a 2lb. carbide can. He sent along a photocopy of a National Carbide tin with a previously unreported lamp on it. This was something I had to trade for. After negotiating the deal, I was happy to receive my new tin. I have yet to identify the cap lamp pictured on this tin. It looks like a cross between a S.E. Simmons, and a Standard. The Standard cap lamp was manufactured in West Virginia. Other odd things about this container are 1. It opens from the bottom. 2. It shows place of origin as Bluefield West Virginia. 3. It makes no mention of bicycle or other similar carbide lamps. I have three other styles of National tins. All of the other tins mention bicycle lamps. My 1928 issue of the Keystone Coal Mining Catalog, shows this early style tin container. It makes no mention of the company history, or a sales office in Bluefield, West Virginia. I can only guess as to the age of this tin. I would think that this is one of the earliest containers from this company.



*Is the lamp pictured the yet to be rediscovered "Standard" cap lamp?*



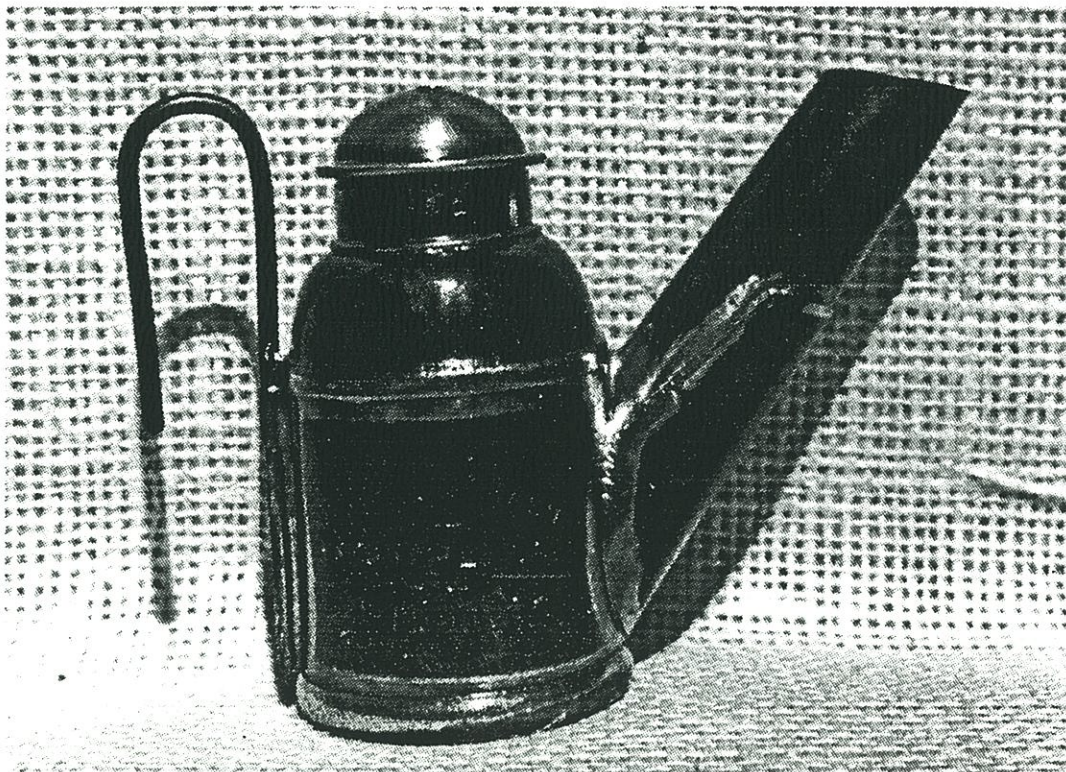
*Carbide containers picturing the Standard(?), a Pocahontas(?), and Wolf cap lamps (left to right).*



# Hazleton Machinery & Supply Co.

*Dave Johnson*

A recent addition to my collection was a beautiful unfired oilwick marked HAZLETON MACH. & SUPPLY CO. HAZLETON PA. This lamp is 3" tall to the top of its brass dome lid. There is a brass collar as well, with the remainder of the lamp being tin. The spout is 3 1/8" long with a spout support soldered half way around and half way up the spout from the front. The brass dome lid has a hole stamped in the top center. The font has the classic Trethaway Bros. concave base. The brass dome cap, cap hinge and spout support are all Trethaway Bros. features. This is obviously a lamp of their manufacture.



*Hazleton Machinery & Supply Co. oil wick lamp.*

This is a marked lamp name previously published in my oilwick survey as Hazleton Machine and Supply Co. Never having seen the lamp marking in person I reported it as it was reported to me.

The Hazleton Machinery and Supply Co. is listed in Barry's Hazleton Directory of 1895 as being located at 244-246 W. Broad St. in Hazleton. With this listing is the name William H. Taylor without referencing his affiliation with the firm. Was he owner, manager, president? The 1897 Hazleton Directory lists the firm with George Deeths as manager, located at 244 W. Broad St. The 1903-04 Directory lists Fred W. Bleckley as manager with the firm located on Broad at the corner of Vine. An ad appearing in the 1903-04 Directory lists builder's hardware, white lead, linseed oil, glass, putty, colors, sanitary plumbing, etc., as products with the statement: TRY OUR ANTHRACITE READY-MIXED PAINT.

The 1909 Directory again lists William Bleckley and the 244 Broad St. address. The 1914 Directory lists W. S. Robbins as manager with the firm still located at 242-246 W. Broad St. The firm is listed as a dealer in hardware, mill and mine supplies. An ad that same year lists mine and mill supplies, as well as new and second hand machinery. The 1916-17 Directory has the same listing as 1914, as does 1921-22. The 1923-24 R. L. Polk & Co. Hazleton Directory lists the Hazleton Machinery and Supply Co., with W. S. Robbins as manager, still located at 242 W. Broad St. They are listed as dealers in hardware, paints, plumbing, mine and mill supplies, as well as being electrical contractors. The 1927-28 Directory has the same listing as 1923-24.

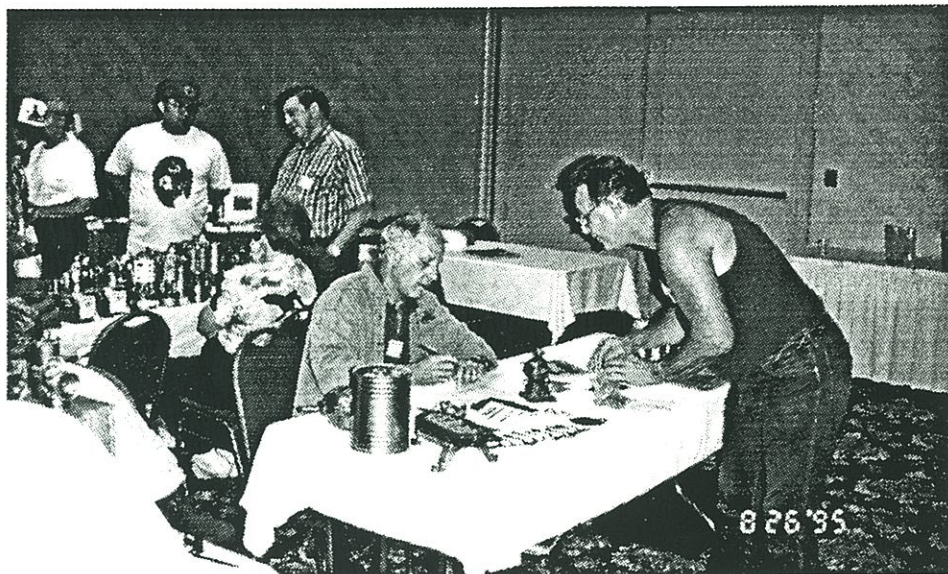
The final listing is in the 1929-30 Directory. It is for the Hazleton Machinery and Supply Co., Inc. with John D. Taylor as General Manager. Since 1930 is the last listing I would venture to guess that the firm was a victim of the Great Depression.

# Black Hills Mining Collector's Meet

Brad Ross

The Second Annual Black Hills Mining Collectors Convention was held in Lead, South Dakota on August 26-28th. From all reports it was another successful meet with participants from across the United States and two foreign countries. Like last year there was the dinner, auction, swap, and underground tours but this year a few new events were added such as a social hour and lunch by a mine.

Unlike most get-togethers the Black Hills meet started with a social hour in the lobby of the Golden Hills Resort on Friday night at 5:00 PM, before the heavy duty buying, selling, and trading that began in the various rooms. I don't know about others but those were two of the best hours of the convention for me be-



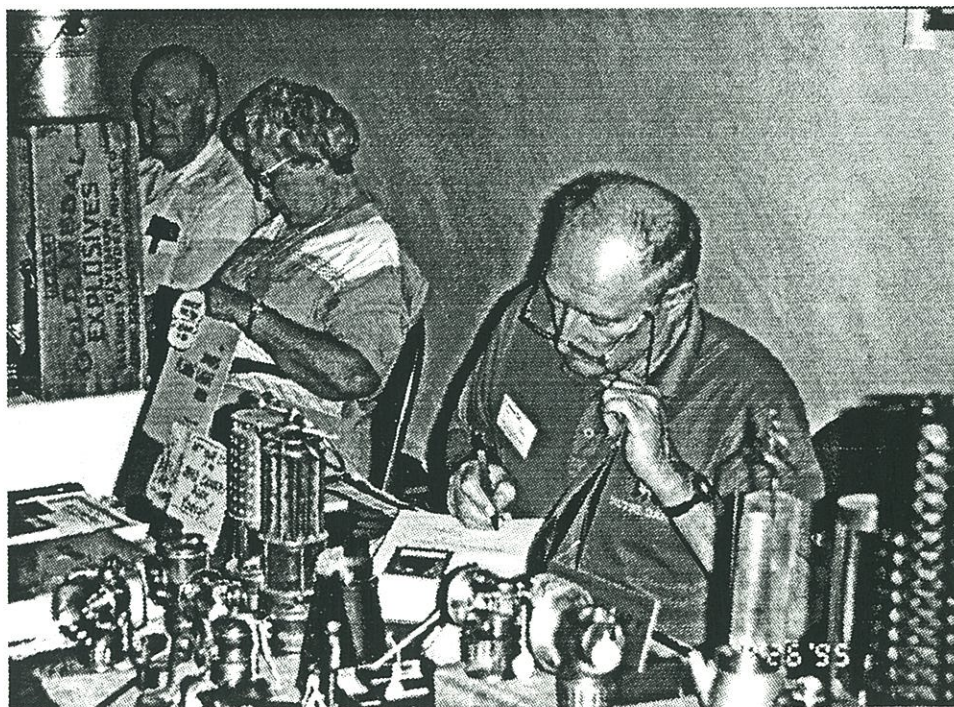
*Watch out Roger! Larry Click and Roger Peterson finish off some last minute dealings. John Podgurski and Walter Goetz talk in background.*

cause I had a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new friends

before the mad rush for artifacts began. About 7:00 PM people started heading to their rooms and the action started. The deals lasted well into the night (later than I wanted to stay up with two small children anyway).

Saturday morning started out with a tour of the Black Hills Mining Museum. This is an excellent mining museum that I never tire of seeing even though we have been there several times. The "underground" tour part of the museum is very well done and the tour guides are knowledgeable and friendly.

After the museum we had a build-your-own sandwich lunch at the Lead City Park. The weather was great even though it had rained a little in the night. The Lead City Park was



*Henry Pohs signs his book.*



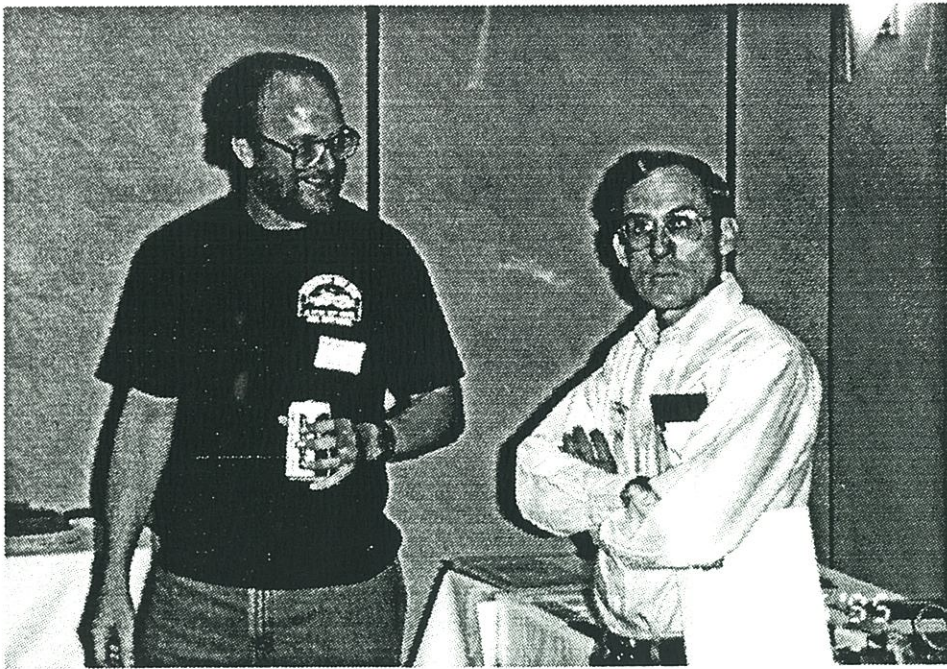
*Some of the big time bidders at the auction: Don Dalton, Bob Schroth, Bill Collins, Cameron Tough, and Udo Mattern in back.*

built by Homestake Mining Company and overlooks the huge Open Pit Mine owned by Homestake. What a perfect place for a bunch of mining artifact nuts to have lunch - or what.

After lunch we had a little time to set up tables for the swap and sale. There were approximately 35 tables filled with mining collectibles of all kinds. One of the most popular tables was Henry Pohs. Henry just finished his new book "the MINER'S FLAME LIGHT BOOK" and people were lined up at times to get autographed copies. For those that have not seen the book it is six pounds and 867 pages of data and pictures. There were too many interesting tables to describe but John Podgurski had sev-



*Tom Stockwell checks the prices before negotiating with Linda Ross.*



*"Roger, did you see those great lamps?" Bill Collins discusses the show with Roger Becksted.*

eral nice carbide lamps (even after a scare of not having all of his luggage arrive with him on his flight). Ed Chris brought a nice Fulton which Larry Click ended up acquiring. One of the more interesting lamps was a Denver (cast aluminum carbide) which was brought by David Lewis from Salt Lake City and purchased by Bill Collins. Lloyd Parris from Denver was able to make it this year with a table full of lamps which included a very nice "Western Special". Siegbert Zecha from Germany had several very nice safety lamps that included a Clowes and a huge carbide safety lamp made by Seippel that was used in the break rooms in underground coal mines.

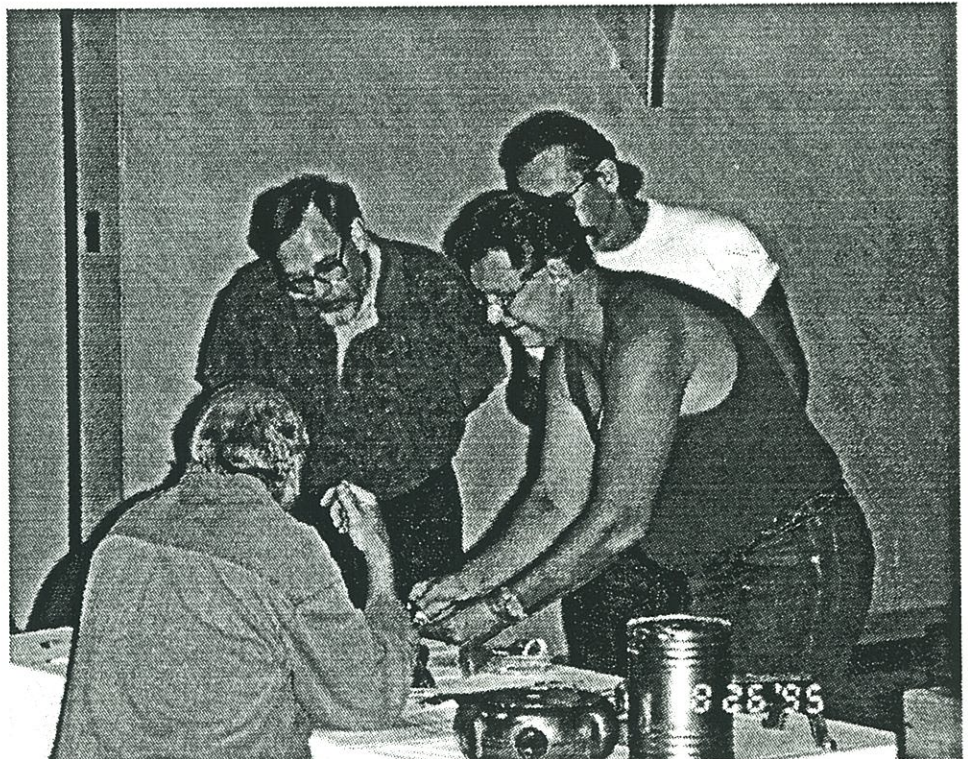
After a break to take down their displays and have a short rest every one met again for dinner. The Golden Hills Resort did a fine job with the roast beef buffet and no one should have left hungry. Thanks to several

companies that do business with Homeshake Gold Mine and Triton Coal Company there were door prizes for everyone that attended the din-

ner. The door prizes ranged from hats by Trojan Explosives Ball Caps to jackets by LeTourneau Inc.

After dinner there was once again an auction with all sorts of mining artifacts up for bid. The bidding was fast and furious with many people taking new items home for their collections. Top bid went to Larry Click for an Ashworth Hepplewhite Grey safety lamp. I was fortunate enough to win the bid on a brass Baby Wolf.

Once again the most exciting part of the Lead show was an underground tour of the largest gold mine in North America. The morning started early at 5:45 AM for nearly 50 artifact collectors who met at the Golden Hills Resort to head for the mine for safety training and underground tour. After traveling nearly 2/3 of a mile straight down we were let out of the cage to the dark and musty world of



*Larry Click, John Kynor, and Steve Speech look over the good deals on Roger Peterson's table.*



*Keith Schillinger looks over Tom Stockwell's case. Udo Mattern of Canada sees if there are any stocks of interest.*

the underground gold miner. Once again a few lucky people such as Don Dalton found pieces of ore with visible gold and once again I was not one of them (#@&!#). I believe the underground tour gave us all a better appreciation of the hard life of an underground miner. Most of us were tired just walking in the mine for a couple of hours. It made it easier to imagine how hard it was to put 8 or more hours a day of hard physical work in the mines. The people who used the tools we now collect certainly earned their wages! After the tour everyone had a terrific traditional pasty lunch and some great

conversation. It was a fitting end to what had been a wonderful weekend that everyone will remember for a long time to come.

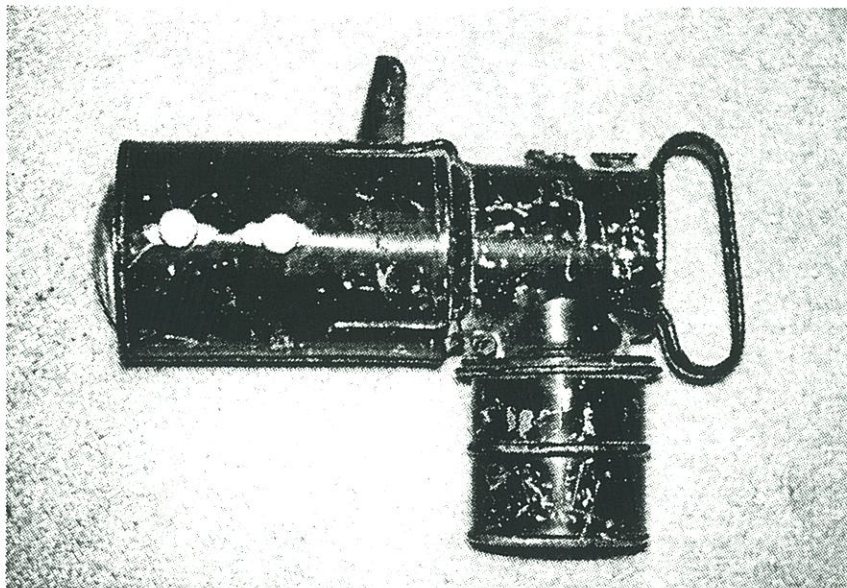
Many thanks to the Homestake tour guides Vern Baker, Greg Struble, and Keith Schillinger who got up early on Sunday morning to give us a great tour. The three of them represent a vast amount of experience and knowledge about Homestake and could answer any question that came up about the mine. It was kind of interesting to be with Al Winters and Chuck Tesch who both retired from Homestake the past year allowing us

to go underground. And special thanks to Kristi Schillinger for putting so much time into the organization of this event. Much of the success and most of the organization is attributable to Kristi. Even though she worries until it is over it always goes smoothly because of the work she does.

We are already thinking about next year. Right now we have the first weekend in June booked up with the Golden Hills Resort. We hope that everyone had as great a time as we did and look forward to seeing you again next year.



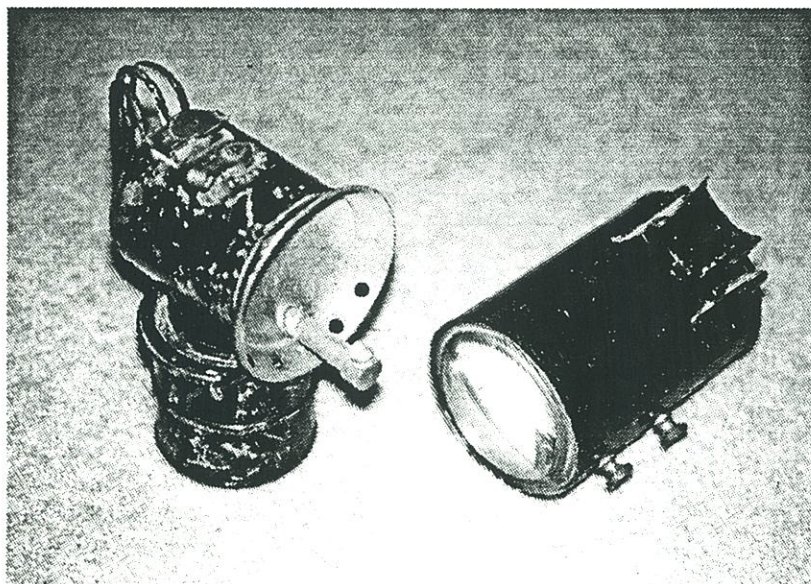
# BITS



## Big Black Justrite

Recently added to the Len Gaska collection of fine Justrites is this factory modified version of a Western Special. The finish is black paint over nickel-plated brass.

A lens tube attaches to the face of the lamp and contains two powerful lenses, adjustable with two knurled knobs that are visible from the side of the tube. A hooded vent hole exits the top of the closed tube to emit the burned acetylene.



The burner is a long upturned spout with a large twin port lava tip. The lamp is reminiscent in some ways to Baldwin's Vitak projector lamp. Whatever its intended purpose, it appears that its function is to focus a strong narrow beam of light. We're a little hesitant at this time to call it a "shooters lamp"!

We'd welcome any ideas or information our readers may have about this big black Justrite.

## More Internet Info

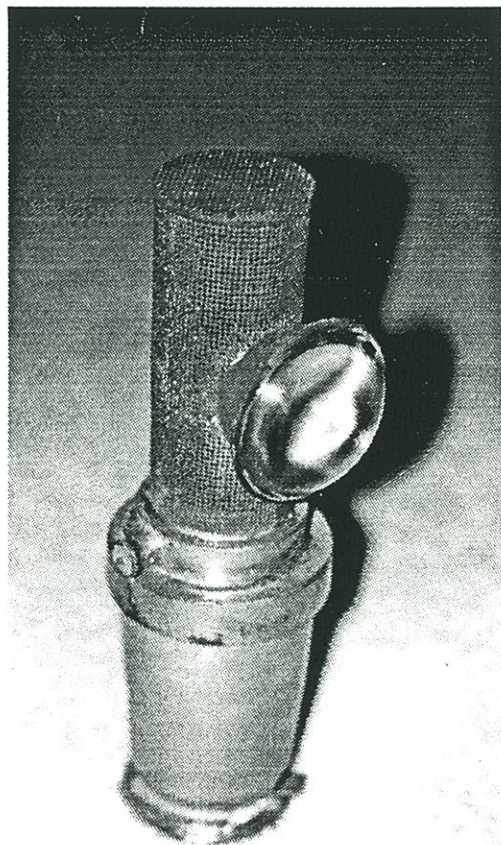
For those with World Wide Web access, check out the home page of the United Mine Workers of America at: <http://www.access.digex.net/~miner/> Unless you are/were a miner, you might not be interested in current issues, but there is some interesting history available at this Web site.

# West Virginia Catalog

Anthony Glab sent us these excerpts shown at right from the Baldwin-Chandlee Supply Co. of Elkins, West Virginia. Note the miner's cap shown. Can anyone determine which patent this belongs to (see article on cap patents this issue)?

## Unusual Carbide Lamp

Nelson Ressler found this lamp in the last year. No one seems to know just what it is. It has carbide residue in the base, and what appears to be a water adjustment lever on the bottom. The upper section is a perforated cylinder. A magnification lens juts out from this piece.



454

BALDWIN-CHANDLEE SUPPLY CO.

### MINERS' SAFETY LAMPS. ETC.

UNIVERSAL CLANNY  
No. 2

NEWCASTLE DAVY  
No. 4



#### MINERS' SAFETY LAMPS

Price, Universal Clanny No. 2.....	each	.....
" Newcastle Davy " 4.....	"	.....

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA.

457

### MINERS TOOLS, ETC.

#### DRILLS—SINGLE BIT

Iron Tamp, 8 1/4 inches, best cast Tool Steel on bit end, 1 inch round rod, 2 1/2 inch bit.



Length.....	feet	5	6	6 1/2	7	7 1/2	8	8 1/2	9
Price.....	per dozen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

#### COPPER TIPPED TAMPING BARS

No Drill. To be used with Double Bit or machine Drills. 1 inch round iron, 6 inches of copper on tamp end.



Length.....	feet	6	7	8	9
Price.....	per dozen	..	..	..	..

#### SCRAPERS—DOUBLE END

Made of 3/8 inch round Norway Iron



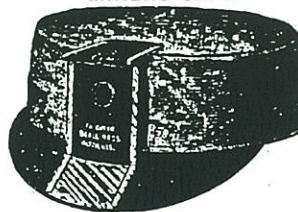
Length.....	feet	5	6	7	8
Price.....	per dozen	..	..	..	..

#### STEEL NEEDLES—POLISHED



Length.....	feet	5	6	7	8
Price.....	per dozen	..	..	..	..

#### MINERS' CAPS



#### BRASS CHECKS



#### MINERS' CAPS

Price, assorted sizes.....	per dozen	.....
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#### BRASS CHECKS

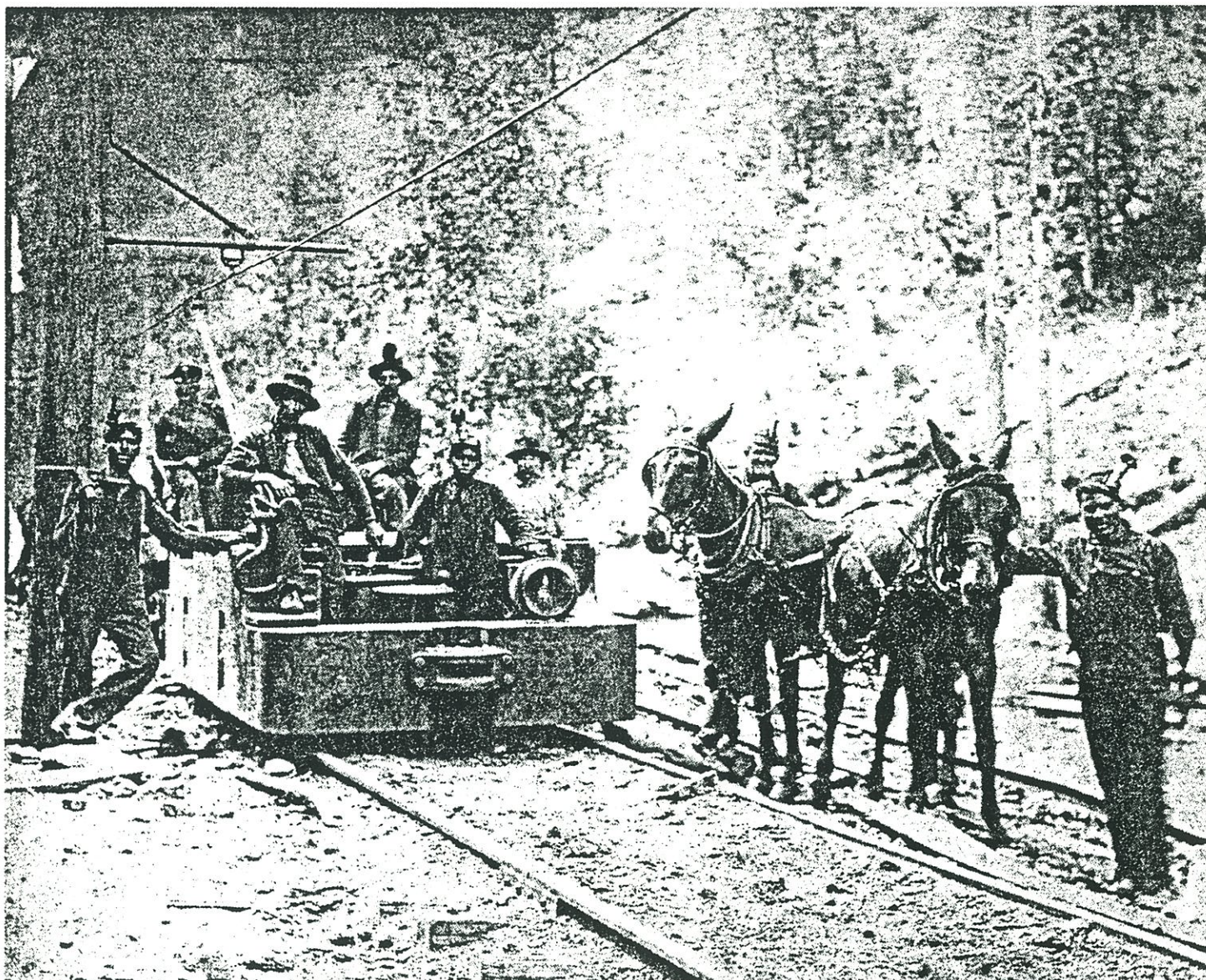
Price, 1 1/4 in. diameter, No. 18 gauge, 3/8 in. hole, about 50 to pound, per pound	.....
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(B149)

Note stamping on miner's cap: Beall Bros., Alton, Ill.

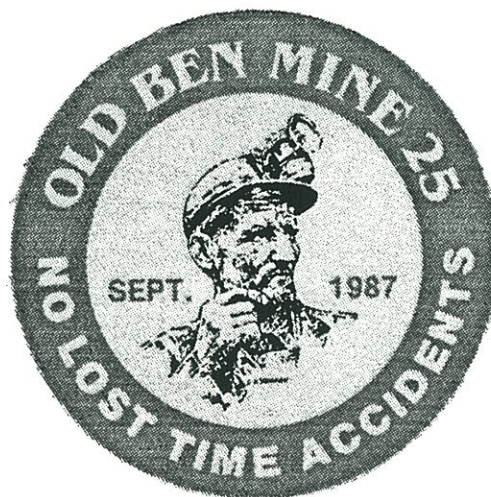
## Miners, Mules, and Lamps

*Submitted by C.F. Wright, III, of Appalachia, VA, this old photo says it all.*



### Sticker from the Clickster

Aside from being the new kid on the block in collecting mining artifacts, Larry Click is known for his avid collecting of "JOY stickers." Shown here is a fine example of one of them. (He will trade 'em for lamps though!)





## Bob Schroth on Deadly Mines

Most people who know me, see that I am an avid underground explorer. I came across a newspaper article (Cour d' Alene Mountain Times) that I hope will emphasize how dangerous underground exploring can be. In this case it was a fatal mistake. While some of us have delusions of finding great artifacts, you have to realize that anything found underground, other than minerals, was trash to the miners. They would not have left it there otherwise. Being trained and experienced in underground exploring is the only way I would even attempt it.

# Forest Service Closes Deadly Mine

**BAYVIEW** - The abandoned mine shaft where two amateur explorers perished in June has been permanently closed.

The Forest Service sealed the entrance of the Vulcan mine off Lake Pend Oreille at the end of June, said Judy Smith, a public information officer.

Stephen Novak, 28, Seattle, and Chris Ost-Homstad, 22, Minnesota, perished about 400 yards inside the mine June 10,

apparently overcome by carbon monoxide fumes and lack of oxygen.

The Bonner County Sheriff's Department strung temporary 'no trespassing' tape around the mine entrance after the incident while the forest Service tried to research the mine's history.

Though Smith said they could not trace the original owner of the abandoned limestone and silver mine, they decided to seal the mine to prevent others from wandering into it.

The mine is off of a sandy beach on the north side of the lake, and only accessible by boat.

She said special Forest Service personnel who specialized in mine closures installed several pieces of rebar in the rock at the entrance, completely blocking it.

Smith said they originally considered placing a charge in the rock and exploding the mouth, but the unstable rocks around the area made this unfeasible.

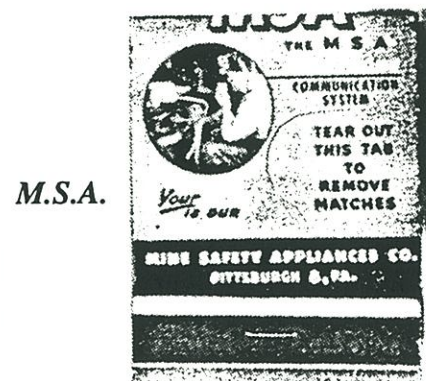
## Mining Match Book Covers

Leo Stambaugh sent us copies of several of his match book covers shown here and on the next page. The fact that he keeps these in his collection tells us something about Leo's sense of humor. His comments are printed below each illustration.

Front



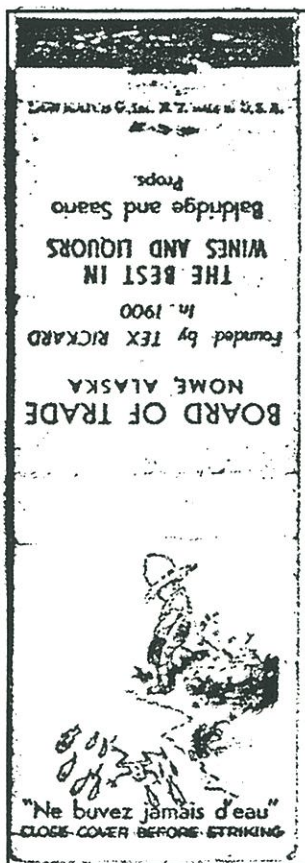
Back



*This is the height of safety. The book is stapled shut with a tab to tear off to get a match.*



*This is the inside cover of the match book. It says it all! Ha Ha.*



*Tex Rickard was a promoter of Mines and Boxing and everything attached to money. The kid is pissing in the water.*



*A classic mining town.*

**For Sale:** Two safety lamps. Best offer. 1) "Hailwood's Improved Lamp" Achroyd & Best Ltd. Makers. Moreley Leeds, England 2) "Davis Derby" Davis & Sons Ltd. New York. This Davis lamp has been electrified and turned into a mantle lamp. Jack Rooney, 2413 heather Mill Court, Springfield, IL 62704, (217) 787-2820

**For Trade:** Several very rare cap tins, ten count Dupont, rd. Silver Medal, Dominion, Canadian Explosives, Kirk explosives, others!!! Also for sale many uncommon tins. I have some interesting sticks and lamps for trade also. Wanted: 10 lb, Sunlite carbide tin, sq. 10 lb Union Carbide can, odd mining related tins, Bob Schroth P.O. Box 687 Twin Peaks Ca. 92391, ph# 909-337-7833 E-mail: bschroth@aol.com

**For Trade or Sale: Mining Drawings.** 1) Oracle Ridge Mill, a mill for a copper mine in Arizona. Designed but never built. 280 mylar & sepia drawings. Circa 1975. 2) Cannon Mine concentrator, Request for Proposal drawings (5/1984). Set of 31 blueline drawings. Make offer. Prefer to trade for nice condition carbide, safety lamps, oil wicks, candlesticks, blasting boxes, other mining items. John Baz-Dresch, 1214 W. 8th Ave., Apt. 2, Spokane, WA 99204. (509) 624-4497.

**Books for Sale:** King Coal: A Pictorial Heritage of West Virginia Coal Mining by Cohen \$11.95, Video: The Streets Were Paved with Gold: The Klondike Gold Rush 1896-1899 \$29.95, Fire in the Hole: The Untold Story of Hardrock Miners by Dolph \$30.00, Gold Rush Gateway - Skagway and Dyea, Alaska by Cohen \$10.50, Gold Mining in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by Fountain \$14.95. Postpaid in the USA Send \$1.00 for complete book catalog. Robert Fox 1235 N. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901.

**For Sale or Trade:** Buddy carbide cap lamp, Bonneted Marsault Wolf safety lamp, Sheffield, England, Varney candlestick, Sholder candlestick ("Lake Superior" pattern), Hughes Bros. Clanney safety lamp, "The Lung Motor" (life saving device for mine rescue). Wanted: Commercially made divining rods (mechanical water/mineral finders) and American Institute of Mining Engineers (AIME) items. Jeff Shanks, 2003 Yardley Rd., Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067, (215) 736-9107.



# 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.**

## CONDITIONS

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

If any advertiser is contacted about an item in their ad prior to the publication being mailed, they are asked to report the incident to the Managing Editor. 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!

**For Sale:** *Oil wick lamps.* Thirty or more. Have run out of room to display them: Trethaway, Anton, Frostburg, Husson, Winfield, Hoover, Grier, Hardsocg, What Cheer, George, Crown, Monongahela Valley, Dunlap, Wells, others. Send SASE for list. Bob Guthrie, 870 Prospect Blvd., Waterloo, Iowa 50701. (319) 291-6488.

**Sale or trade:** Unfired Anthracite base w/ lid-rolled threads, Baldwin cap lamp, ITP cap lamp, early horizontal Justrite w/ beaded bottom-exc. cond., Unmarked fireboss davy-vg+ cond., misc. oil wicks and cap tins and some "smalls". Nelson Ressler (717) 733-7721.

### **Blasting Cap Tins for Sale/Trade:**

Graham Living, POB 292, Millsboro, DE 19966, (302) 934-8273 - 7PM to 10PM EST. e-mail: Graham7117@aol.com.

*Atlas Powder Company* - 100/No.6, square, globe "B", variety 2-red, orange, white & dk. brown.

*E. I. Dupont de Nemours Co.* 100/Quintuple, square-embossed tin (trade only).

*E. I. Dupont de Nemours Co.* 100/No. 6, square, variety 1 -red with white letters.

*E. I. Dupont de Nemours Co.* 100/No.6, square variety 2 -red with white letters.

*E. I. Dupont de Nemours Co.* 100/No.6, style "A", variety 1 -red with white letters.

*E. I. Dupont de Nemours Co.* 100/No.6, style "C", variety 1 -red with white letters.

*Metallic Cap Mfg. Works* -100/No.6, N.J., U.S. Patent-red with white letters.

*Austin Powder Company* -100/No.6 (bottom only) -white, orange & black.

*Hercules Powder Company* -100/No.6, POWDER, square -red with white letters.

*Hercules Powder Company* -100/No.6, FIGURE, rectangular, cardboard -yellow with black letters.

*California Cap Company* -100/No. 6, Lion, no city shown.

**For Sale:** Des Bergmanns Geleucht, Vol 2: Carbide Lamps by Karsten Porezag, and Vol 4: Encyclopedia of Mining Lamps by Borkel & Woeckner. These German language reference books have great photographs. Selling them below cost. Contact : Jim Van Fleet, 222 Market St., Mifflinburg, Pa 17844, (717) 966-3308.

**For Sale:** Mining books, Mineralogy books, Gemology books, Mining History, etc. Send large SASE with 55cents postage for list. Russell Filer, 13057 California St., Yucaipa, CA 92399.

**For Sale:** Reproduced catalogs - The Martin Hardsocg Co., Spring 1912. Seventy eight pages of all types of mining tools and lamps. Including eleven pages of carbides and oil wicks. Justrite Mine Lamps and Accessories Catalog No.10. Seventeen pages of lamps and accessories. Both catalogs very well done and only 48 copies of each are available. Brad and Linda Ross, 913 Clarion Dr. Gillette, WY 82718 (307) 686-7070.

**Sale or trade:** Justrite brass pocket lighter, Berwind White coal Mining Co. 50th Anniversary medal (signed Tiffany, dated 1936), UMWA brass belt buckle, ITP hand lamp, Husson #6 and Husson A oil wick lamps, other oils. Dave Johnson: (502) 327-7559.

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