

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

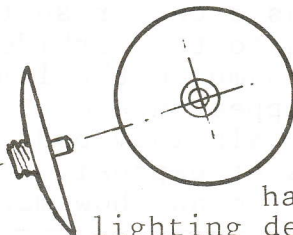
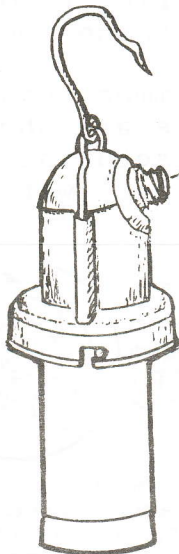
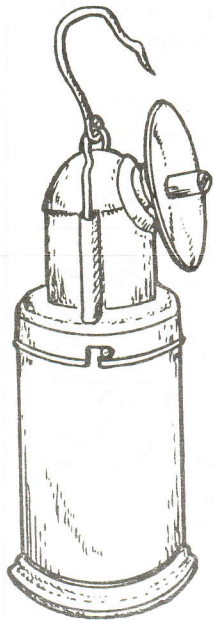
- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



Vol. VI, No. 7

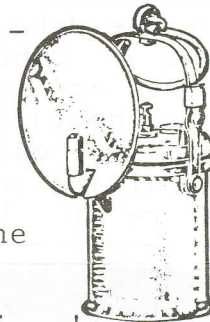
Fall, 1996

The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candle-holders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohns, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212



Wolf carbide hand lamp -

The Wolf Safety Lamp Co. of America produced a long line of carbide cap lamps, hand lamps and other mine lighting devices. Their product line in the U. S. was dominated by the ubiquitous 856 series in carbide design; see above, right. (Pages 489-498 of our Miner's Flame Light Book.)



Recently rediscovered in a private collection is the hand lamp illustrated here. It seems to have escaped all rediscovered Wolf catalogs and advertising. Fabricated from thin gage, sheet-brass, the lamp is 8.0 in (203.2 mm) tall over the dome and 3.375 in (85.73 mm) diameter at the flanged base. The screw-on brass reflector is 3.1875 in. (80.96 mm) in diameter. The 1.5 in. (38.1 mm) diameter internal water chamber has a chalk-like plug at the bottom and is filled from the top by removing the cotton wad filter. The 1.75 in. (44.45 mm) diameter Wolf legend is stamped on the underside of the carbide bottom container. The mine-type hook helps to identify the nature of this lamp.

The lamp is a lightweight, thin brass design using soldered sheet brass, rolled threads and minimal, if any, machining . . . the two bayonet locking slots were probably stamped out instead of being machine cut.

Was this lamp part of an experimental program? Did the Wolf company produce very many of this type of lamps? Generally, if there was tooling . . . thread rolling dies, dome forming dies, slot cutters . . . we can assume some quantity of production. Will we ever know?

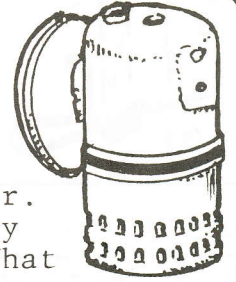
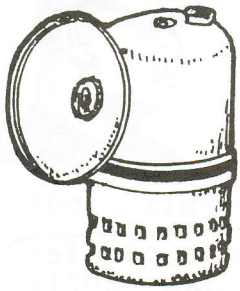
Parts - Richard Pytko, 1 Blaxland Street, Wallerawang, N. S. W., Australia, has the following needs;

- 1) The small alcohol vessel which screws into the oil vessel on a Stokes Alcohol safety lamp;
- 2) The tapered glass to fit an Ashworth Hepplewhite Gray brass safety lamp;
- 3) A bonnet and vessel for a Thornberry safety lamp.

Richard would also like to correspond with U. S. collectors who might be interested in trading and selling lamps.

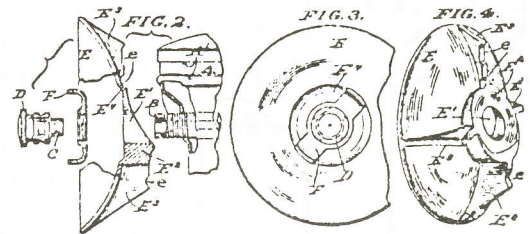
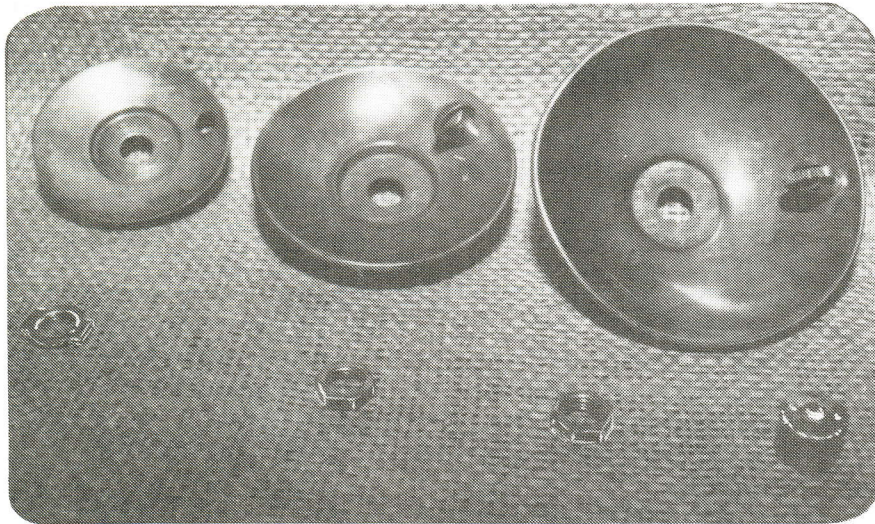
Collector's meeting - Connie and Roger Peterson hosted an annual (27th by our count) Colorado area mine light and artifact collector's gathering at their home near Morrison, Colorado, last September 21st. Anxious collectors studied, traded and purchased items for their private collections. "Show and Tell" was very interesting. Christy and Keith Schillinger from Lead, South Dakota, were in attendance: their discussions centered around the date of June 13, 1997, for the Black Hills - Rocky Mountain 4th annual meeting to be held in Dillon, Colorado.

WOLF SAFETY LAMP CO. OF AMERICA
BROOKLYN, N.Y.
PATENT PENDING - INC

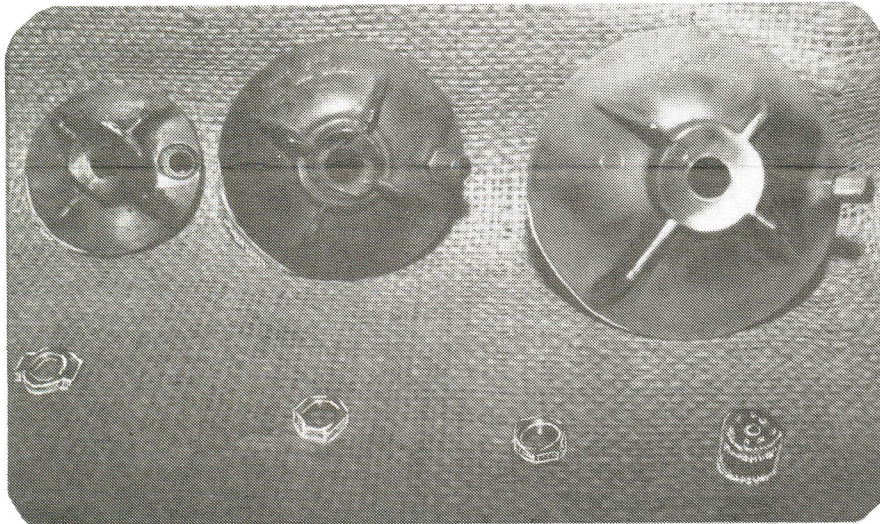


Aluminum carbide cap lamp - Glen Brougham, a.k.a. Rocky the Leprechaun, has shown us an aluminum carbide cap lamp as illustrated here. It was rediscovered at a Gem and Mineral show. The lamp is 3.5 in. (88.9 mm) tall x 2.0 in. (50.8 mm) in diameter with a 2.5 in. (63.5 mm) diameter Premier-type aluminum reflector. A screw-in water regulator is missing as is a very small 0.375 in. (9.53 mm) diameter water door. What may have been a 0.625 in. (15.88 mm) wide hook is also missing, but one rivet and one rivet hole are on the back of the water chamber top. The top has a copper seating ring to match with a black rubber gasket which is bonded to the carbide container bottom. There are no identification marks or name on the lamp.

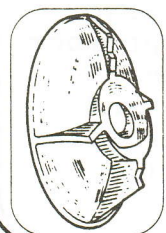
The lamp parts have the typical appearance of the common, brass, mass-produced carbide cap lamps. The thin aluminum body parts are sheet-drawn metal and show the decorative effects of expensive manufacturing dies. Where did this attractive lamp come from and how many others were made?



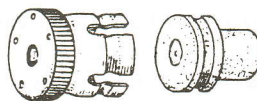
Above - Patent drawings for the Dewar "Ha-Mer-It" cast metal reflector:
U. S. patent #1,488,193
March 25, 1924
Wilbur A. Cochrane
Sea Cliff, New Jersey



Cast Reflectors - The Dewar Manufacturing Company of Brooklyn, N. Y., made a great number of carbide hand lamps, some under the DEWAR name and some under the ITP name. They also manufactured the SUN RAY and the ITP carbide cap lamps. Various production lots of all of these lamps intermitantly used the sturdy "Ha-Mer-It" cast metal reflector of a yet-undetermined alloy. Diameters of 3.0 in. (76.2 mm) and 2.375 in. (60.33 mm) are common, but Walter Pirie recently showed us a smaller version of 1.75 in. (76.2 mm) diameter, same proportional design. The photos here include all three sizes, both front and rear. Are there other sizes in existance? Patent drawings for the reflector and the associated "Kra-Ker-Jak" burner tip are also shown here.

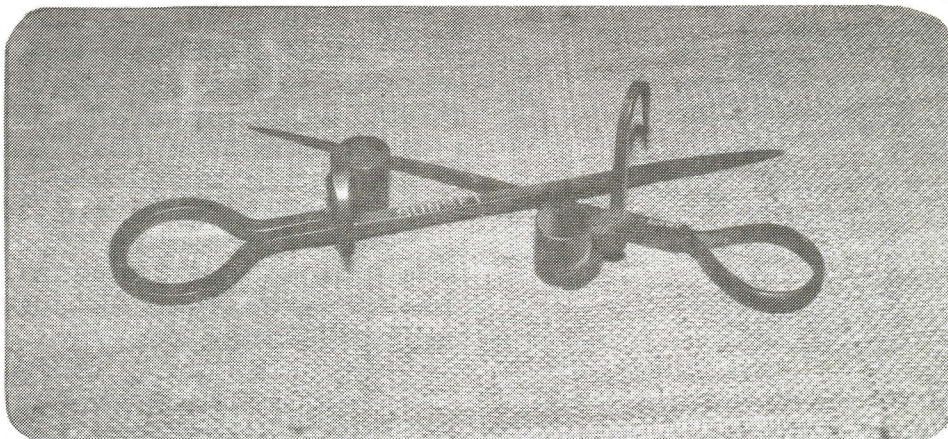


Copied by the illustrator from the patent drawings.



Patent drawings for the Dewar "Kra-Ker-Jak" composition burner tip and metal protector:
U. S. patent #1,461,572
July 10, 1923
John M. Brock
Brooklyn, New York

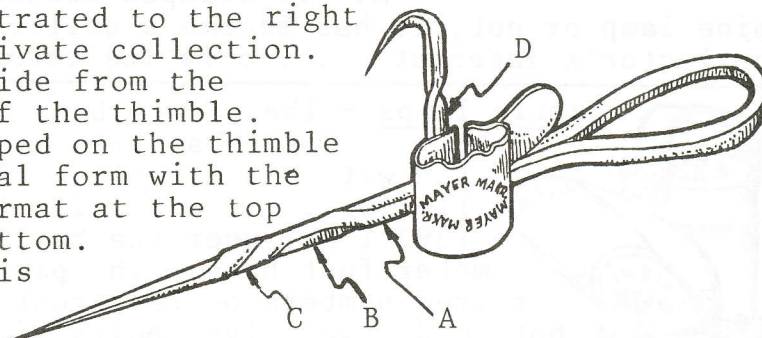
Sunset - A marked miner's candlestick is a collector's gem. The name SUNSET appears on at least two different design miner's candlesticks. Pictured here, the larger stick is 11.0 in. (279.4 mm) long with a 2.375 in. (60.33 mm) tall hook, a 2.0 in. (50.8 mm) diameter handle and is made entirely from 0.25 in. (6.35 mm) square stock.



The design is very similar to a smaller stick advertised by Montgomery-Ward which is 8.25 in. (209.55 mm) long with a 2.25 in. (57.15 mm) tall hook. The name SUNSET is roll-stamped in bold 0.25 in. (6.35 mm) letters in front of the hook and thimble on the large candlestick. The thimble is attached with a rivet on both of these round-handled sticks to a recumbent bend of the square stock which folds back under the shaft and up to form the hook. The smaller stick in the photo is similar in design to the Henry Boker LIGHTNING candlestick. The name SUNSET is stamped on the shaft between the hook and the handle. The shaft is forged 0.1875 in. (4.76 mm) tall x 0.219 in. (5.56 mm) wide. The stick is 10.0 in. (254.0 mm) long with a 2.25 in. (57.15 mm) tall hook and a classic forged handle. The thimble is attached by two rivets to a single member the same size as the shaft. Are there design and/or name relationships between any other miner's candlesticks and the three described above other than the oval handle-shaped Sears Roebuck stick similar in size and shape to the Montgomery-Ward?

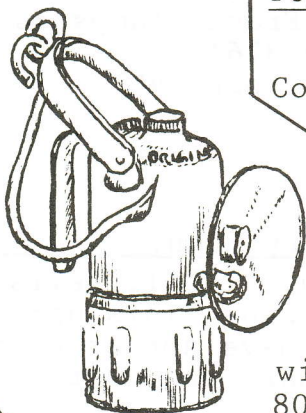
Mayer Mkr. - The candlestick illustrated to the right has been seen in a private collection.

It has two distinctive features aside from the castellated wave form of the top of the thimble. First, the name MAYER MKR. is stamped on the thimble substantially as shown . . . in oval form with the legend in conventional readable format at the top of the oval and inverted at the bottom. Second, the twisting of the shaft is inconsistent, i. e., a right-hand quarter-twist at A, a flat at B

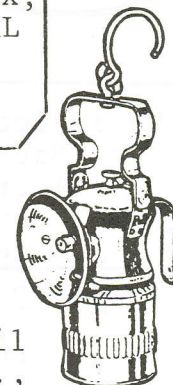


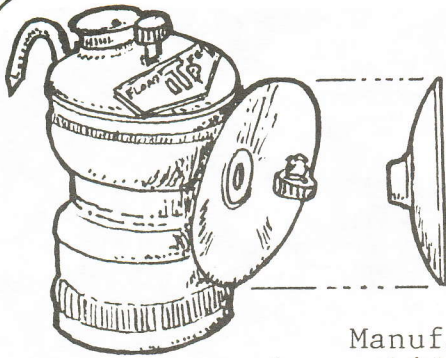
and a reverse left-hand, half-twist at C. The twist at D is two quarter-twists in opposite directions (partially hidden in the drawing) and separated by a flat surface. This candlestick is 11.125 in. (282.58 mm) long, with a 3.0 in. (76.2 mm) tall hook, a classic forged handle and is made from 7/32" 0.219 in. (5.56 mm) square stock.

For sale - Mint AUTO LITE carbide cap lamp in the box; T. R. Jones cloth miner's cap marked: COAL KING, PAT 4-15-24.
Contact: Kim at North 2458 CTH V, Lot #10, Lodi, Wisconsin, 53555, 608-592-5158.



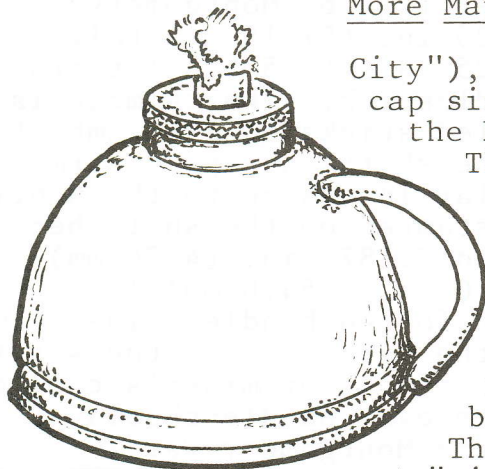
Sales and trades - Your mini-editor has a number of lamps and candlesticks available. Write or call for information. included are: Original Wolf (left) with the Mexican Christian Michel brass plate. Wolf 900 series (right); marked Varneys; brass oil wicks. Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Color., 80210-2535, 303-455-3922.





I T P - Here is another variation of the Dewar ITP carbide cap lamp from another private collection. This one has a 2.75 in. (69.85 mm) diameter, nickel-plated, screw-on reflector. This is a departure from the "Ha-Mer-It" reflector (see p. 2) generally found and the radial ribbed (SUN RAY) occasionally found on ITP cap lamps. The radially ribbed reflector is thought to be a cannibalization from the SUN RAY cousin of the ITP. The rest of this unfired lamp is standard ITP with the Dewar

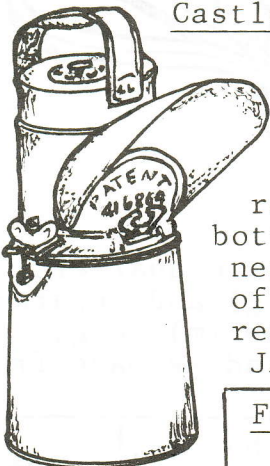
Manufacturing Company legends stamped on the bottom of the carbide container bottom. There is no evidence of a cap brace ever having been on the lamp. We often hear this statement. "Didn't those companies ever make a lamp the same way twice?"



More Maple City - The Maple City Manufacturing Company of Monmouth, Illinois (known as "The Maple City"), manufactured miner's brass carbide lamps, both cap size and hand size. Several different variations of the MAPLE CITY carbide cap lamp have been rediscovered.

There are several unmarked brass carbide cap lamps similar to the MAPLE CITY which may have been manufactured by the Maple City Manufacturing company but absolute proof of this has not yet been rediscovered. Illustrated at the left is a wick lamp recently found in a historic mining area. It has a copper font and handle, 2.75 in. (69.85 mm) in diameter x 1.625 in. (41.28 mm) tall, with a brass screw-on cap 1.0 in. (25.4 mm) in diameter.

The legend "Maple City Mfg. Co., Monmouth, Ill. U. S. A." is stamped around the edge of the brass cap. Old mine lamp or not, it has become a collector's item because it attracted a collector's interest . . . only its catagory is debatable.



Castle lamps - The tin carbide hand lamp illustrated here has been somewhat of a mystery for a long time. It is all tin with a removable 6.75 in. (171.45 mm) diameter half reflector . . . a 9.5 in. (241.3 mm) tall body, 11.5 in. (292.1 mm) over the bail and a 5.375 in. (136.53 mm) diameter font base. The patent number 416864 is embossed in raised numbers on the front of the top which is joined to the bottom by two swivel bolts with wing nuts. The patent number is neither U. S. or Canadian. Larry Reece reports that his lamp of this design has a gold label on the front of the bottom which reads "CHALLENGER / BUILT IN THE BAMBOO ISLANDS / PRODUCT OF JAPAN". Mystery solved! . . . and in English, yet.

For trade - Phillippe Estang, Residence Dom Bosco, 14 rue Fontaine de Lattes, 34000 Montpellier, France, writes as follows: I propose to exchange not common French lamps as: Cosset Dubrulle (Pohs' book, page 336) Octagonal tunnel lamp (Pohs' book, page 90)

He is looking for:

Baby Wolf like "junior"

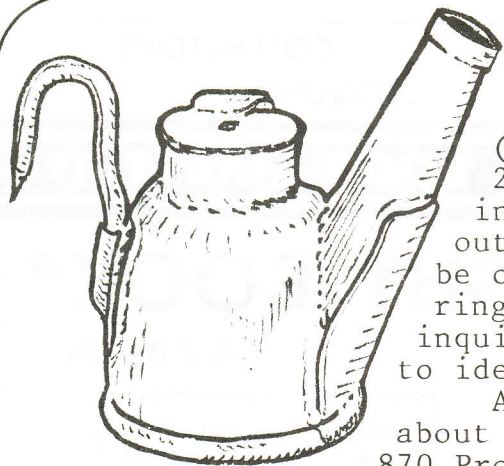
American deputy lamp

"Donald" safety lamp

Generally not common American lamps.

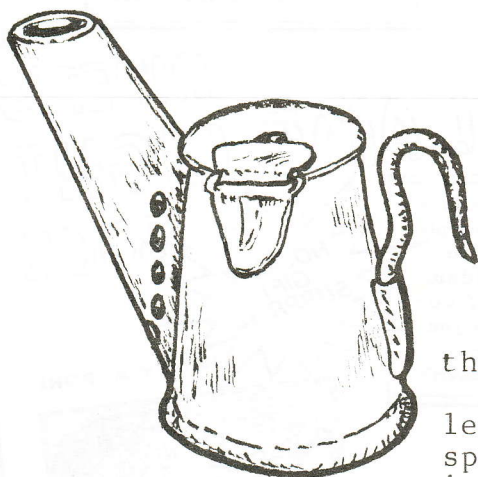
Thank you very much.

Tunneson - William Zimmerman, P.O. Box 1338, Pottsville, Pa., 17901, tells us that he has an oil wick cap lamp marked Tunneson. This updates the notation in our new book that the name may never have appeared on lamps. Several others have told us this, but we were not smart enough to write it down, hence, it never made it into the manuscript.

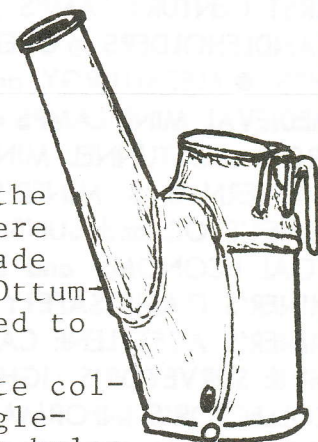


Anton - Oil wick cap lamp specialist Bob Guthrie has a brass oil wick cap lamp as illustrated to the left . . . marked J. A. ANTON. It is 2.25 in. (57.15 mm) tall, 1.75 in. (44.45 mm) in diameter and has a spout length of 2.5 in. (63.5 mm). The unique feature is a 0.25 in. (63.5 mm) wide brass band soldered around the outside of the spout tip. This 1/4" brass band may be only decorative. There is no evidence of any drip ring ever having been soldered on the tip. Extensive inquiries throughout Bob's correspondents have failed to identify the nature of this brass band.

Anyone having knowledge of or wishing to speculate about what this band was for may contact Bob Guthrie at 870 Prospect Blvd., Waterloo, Iowa, 50701. His phone number is 319-291-6488. Good luck with this mystery!



Vent holes - The rediscovery several years ago of a unfired, tin, sunshine (double-wall spout) oil wick cap lamp (face miner's size) with 10 vent holes at the base of the outer spout prompted speculation as to the nature of the holes. The lamps were marked with the stamped shield trade mark of the HARSOCC Mfg. Co. of Ottumwa, Iowa. This lamp is illustrated to the left.



The recent arrival from a private collection of a used driver's size, single-spout lamp (right) with only two vent holes in its front-to-spout air chamber has revived the

discussion about the vent (?) holes. The double-spout (left) and the air chamber (right) have long been thought to be for the purpose of providing an insulating air chamber to keep as much of the heat as possible from the wick flame on the inside spout tube . . . and thus conduct as much of the heat as possible down into the sunshine wax supply in the front. This would help to "melt" the sunshine fuel for better capillary action within the wick fibers. Hence, better performance.

What, then, would the vent holes do? Let "hot" insulating air out. . . or, distribute more "cooler" insulating air into the chamber? How did it actually work? Will we ever know for certain?

Trethaway - It's the product name of a long line of oil wick cap lamps.

Everyone stumbles over the way to pronounce it. There have been several different attempts within our purview. Recently on late-nite T V we saw Bob Villa's "Home Improvement" show where he introduced a sub-contractor and there it was, right on the screen . . . TRETHAWAY. And, how did he pronounce his name? Surprise! It was . . . THRU-E.

Town names - There are three small towns located in somewhat close proximity in southeast Iowa not too far north of Ottumwa . . . Liberty, Victor and What Cheer . . . all product names of old mine lamps. Coincidence?

Thank you - Keeping the Lamp Post in the mail this season with postage contributions are readers from Pennsylvania, Arkansas, California, Missouri, Canada, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona and Colorado. Also, very important, the printing has again been so kindly and efficiently accomplished in Tennessee. Envelopes come from Minnesota. Abundant thanks to all.

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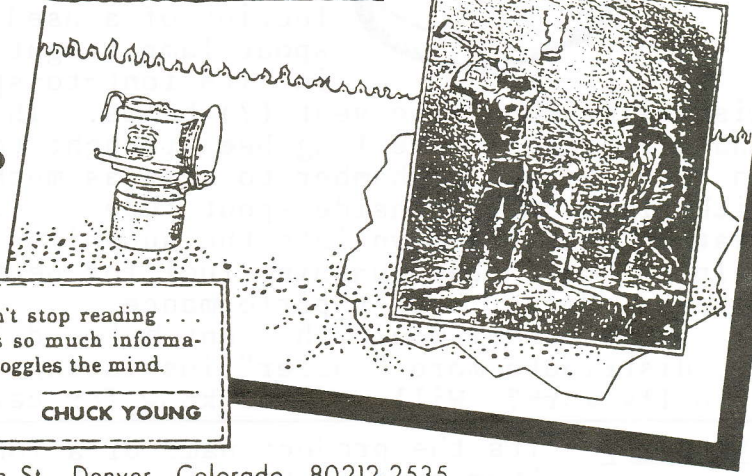
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