

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

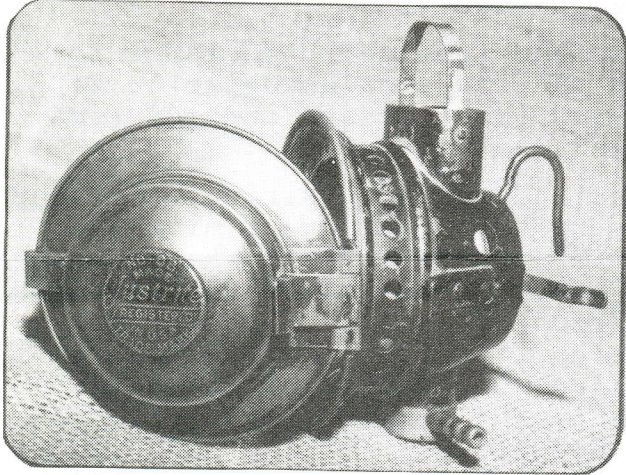


- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

Vol. VI, No. 8

Spring, 1997

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

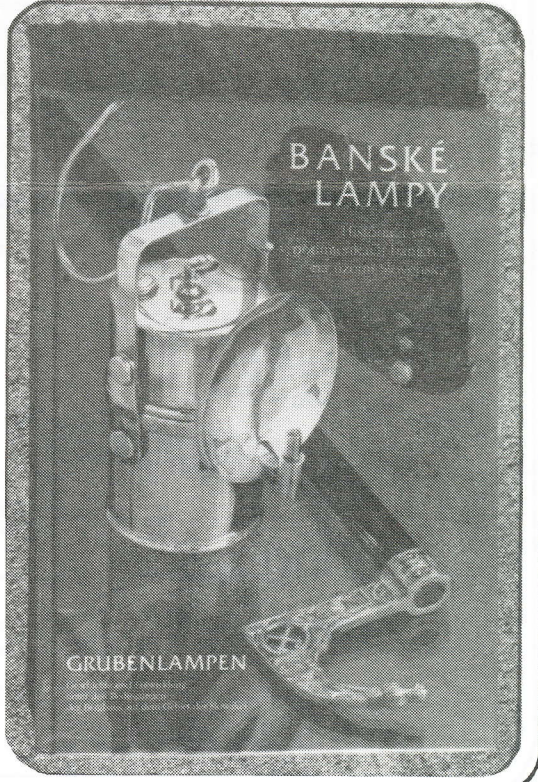


Another Justrite - Bill Nichols, 511 South Mill St., Lead, South Dakota, 57754-2018, 605-584-2936, has shown us this Justrite carbide cap burner unit which seems odd . . . odd because the "NO. 88" identification number does not appear in any of the printed Justrite catalogs which have been accounted for . . . odd because of the Justrite reputation for numbering everything, including using the same number for more than one item. This burner unit is very similar to the early cap burner



on the No. 44 Justrite Head-Light (flat/oval belt generator and cap burner) except for the added darkening door. Close to the "88" number, however, is lamp number 2-288 Justrite Carbide Head Lamp (cylindrical belt generator and cap burner) illustrated on page 14 of Justrite Manufacturing Company catalog No. 569 of 1956. The Head Lamp replacement part number is listed as 5-881 and the Darkening Door is 5-811. Bill is trying to run down any other data on this "NO. 88". We have seen this type of door, but without the "NO. 88" which is on the door in the above, left, photo. Let Bill hear from you if you have any information.

Beautiful book - Even if you cannot read Czech or German, you will enjoy the photos and illustrations in the fine new book shown at the right. **BANSKÉ LAMPY . . . Miner's Lamps, a History . . .** by Rudolf Magula and Tibor Turčan, ISBN 80-88674-19-0, was published by Aгенрúta Vizual in Košice, Czech Republic. It is 8-1/2 in. (216 mm) x 12 in. (305 mm), color hardcover, 128 pages. It includes 128 pages of text and black-and-white illustrations of the obligatory ancient pan lamps, torches, candles, iron frog and tunnel lamps, flame safety lamps, carbides and early electric lamps. The final section includes 50 pages of excellent color photos of many sizes and shapes of lights seldom before seen in the current literature. Cost at a U. S. mineral show was about \$33.00. Write to Dr. Petr Sztacho, INGES Ltd., Na Petynce 34, 16900 Praha 6, Czech Republic, for more information.
Office - Tel/fax +422-561 1991
Home - Tel +422-581 4070



It is worth your time and effort to study this book.

Annual convention - The good folks in Lead, South Dakota, started their Black Hills Mining Collector's Convention in 1964 and have followed each year with an outstanding event. This year brings an innovation . . . The Black Hills / Rocky Mountain Convention. Leo, Steve and Bob have prepared the following invitation:

Come to Colorful Central Colorado June 13/14, 1997 for the Black Hills/Rocky Mountain Mining Collector's Convention.

Located this year at the Holiday Inn in Frisco, Colorado, the ever-popular event has been held the past several years in Lead, South Dakota, and should stand to give a much-needed break to all the great folks who have been responsible for such a grand gathering in Lead.

Along with the usual Friday evening check in and room-to-room search for old friends and artifacts, there will be an all-day show and sale on Saturday, June 14th, followed by dinner and a not-to-be-missed auction (featuring auctioneer-entrepreneur Leo Stambaugh).

Sunday will feature residual show-and-tell, trading and visiting. If your idea of a good time isn't necessarily non-stop assimilation of mining artifacts, the Frisco area has a wealth of other features for families and friends to enjoy. Shopping at the nearby factory outlet stores in Dillon, Colorado; or a visit to the quaint towns of Breckenridge or Georgetown; hiking and biking the high hills (remember to allow your lungs to lather up, Frisco starts at 9,000 feet); fishing; and much more.

For more details and an information package, contact:

Leo Stambaugh
P. O. Box 984
Georgetown, Color. 80444
303-569-2848

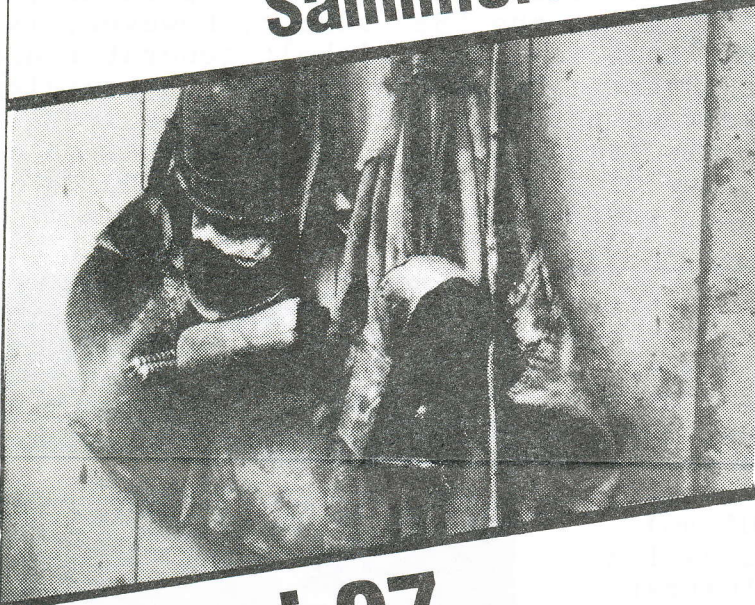
Steve Rush
31112 Shadow Mtn. Dr.
Conifer, Color. 80433
303-670-9158

Bob Guthrie
870 Prospect Blvd.
Waterloo, Iowa 50701
319-291-6488
rtguthrie@mem.po.com

California meeting? - Rumors are out that Errol Christman is thinking of a Spring meeting also in Cedar Ridge-Grass Valley, California. If you have never enjoyed one of Errol's productions, why not try? Confirm with Errol at:

P. O. Box 313
Cedar Ridge, California 95924
916-273-3268

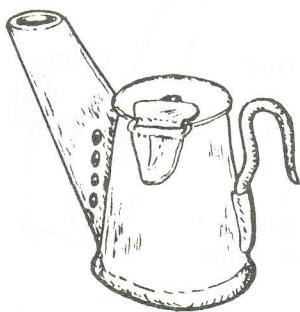
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More on vent holes - From Robert W. Werner, 835 East 2800 South, Price, Utah, 84501.

"About 15 years ago I found one of the ventilated Hard-soogs at an antique show in Casper, Wyoming. It is similar to those found by Jim Van Fleet several years ago and differs only by being a little smaller and being made of galvanized tin. I, too, found the holes rather curious, but having spent much of my career working with the combustion of fossil fuels, the explanation seemed obvious. In the combustion process a low pressure zone is created at the base of the wick. Because of the low pressure zone, the holes in the spout allow air to be induced

between the inner and outer spouts, thus providing air (oxygen) for combustion right at the base of the wick. Theoretically, this should enhance the mixing of air with the fuel in the combustion zone and thereby minimize the production of smoke or unburned carbon. Some Bunsen burners used in the laboratory use the same principle to enhance the flame characteristics and complete the combustion process close to the burner tip. From a practical standpoint I doubt that this proved very successful, but I would expect that the goal of the manufacturer was to reduce smoking and improve the combustion of the fuel by virtue of the holes. That air flow would be induced between the spouts in the combustion process is certain, Unfortunately, the air velocity would very likely be so low as to have little impact on the flame characteristics.

"In addition to the lamp I found years ago in Wyoming, I have one of those that Jim Van Fleet found in the horde in Louisiana. Both are unfired and that is the reason I have never actually tested my theory on the purpose of the holes. It would be interesting to fire one in a controlled environment with the holes open followed by sealing the holes with tape and observing any change in flame characteristics."

Labels for Justrite Tins - Read this carefully! Authentic, modern, computer-enhanced, REPRODUCTION labels for Justrite carbide engineer's lantern tins are now available for a small consideration. Very few of the original paper labels on these Justrite tin containers have survived the decades . . . poor paper, water, poor glue, humidity, rust, no protection. So, why not brighten up your Justrite tins with new labels?

Label No. 10

Lamp: ● Justrite No. 10
● No lens

Label 6 in. (152.4 mm)
x 7 in. (177.8 mm)

Label No. 1010

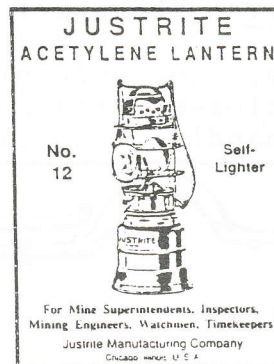
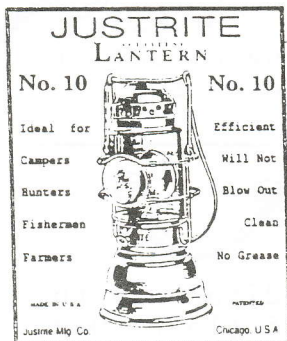
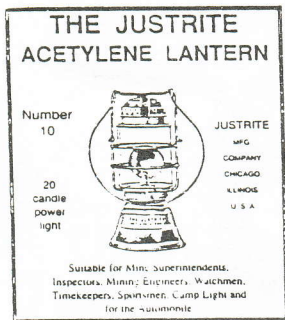
Lamp; ● Justrite No. 10
● Bulls eye lens

Label 6 in. (152.4 mm)
x 7.5 in. (190.5 mm)

Label No. 12

Lamp: ● Justrite No. 12
● Bulls eye lens
● Internal igniter

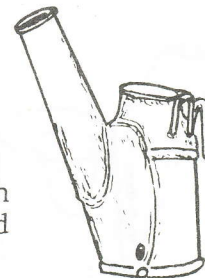
Label 6 in. (152.4 mm)
x 8 in. (203.2 mm)



The three available labels are reduced in size in the reproductions above. Order by the label numbers (10,1010 or 12) from the top line above. Send \$5.00 for each label needed to: Flame Publishing Company, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212-2535. Specify the label number and include your mailing address. The labels will be mailed flat, postpaid.

More on vent holes - From J. Roger Mitchell, 547 Fairview Ave., Media, Pennsylvania, 19063-4901.

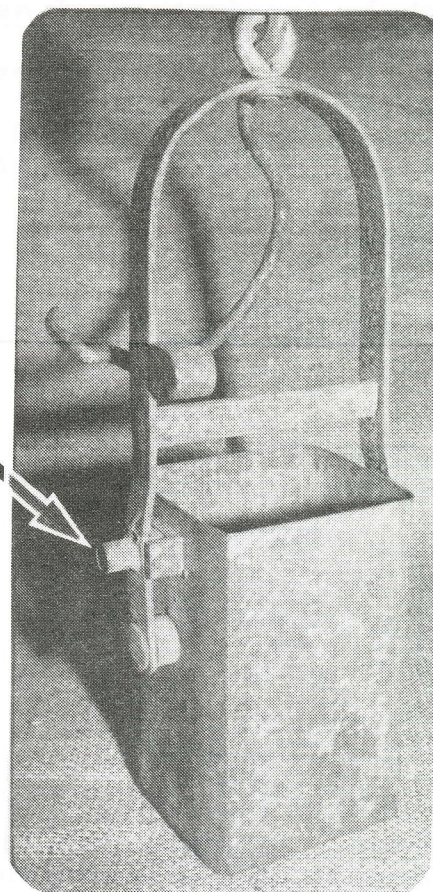
"I wish to share my opinion on why some oil wick lamps have holes in the outer spout. This is solely my opinion and not a proven fact. It's merely speculation. Here's my theory. The lamps have holes in the outer spouts were lamps that were designed to burn sunshine fuels. They were harder fuels which required more heat to burn and needed to be melted to a liquid before passing up through the wick tube. Because most of the lamp manufacturers modified their lamps to accommodate sunshine type fuels, not all orders placed with these firms used the newer fuels. Many mining firms owned the company stores and placed orders with various suppliers to stock their stores. If they did not supply sunshine type fuels and still supplied liquid fuels, the newer lamps would have been too hot. This would have caused the liquid fuels to actually boil and come out of the lid or spout because of expansion. By asking the lamp manufacturers to provide a means of cooling the newer lamps would have meant adding holes in the outer spout as to help cool the already liquid fuels they provided their miners. So far the only lamps I am aware of with holes in the outer spouts are Hardsocg and Trethaway lamps. These were large manufacturers of oil wick lamps. Rather than interrupt the manufacturing line with a special order, the detail parts were altered and not the assembly process. Therefore, all lamps were made the same way with an alteration made in the outer spout that did not disrupt the process. In any case, I'm sure the extra cost of a new stamping die was passed along to the buyer. This may have outweighed the cost of providing the newer sunshine fuels. It would have been a one-time cost to the miner rather than a continuous cost for newer fuel. Make any sense? Like I said, this is only my theory."



Super - This giant candlestick is 22.5 in. (571.5 mm) long, has a 5.25 in. (133.35 mm) tall hook, and takes a 1.75 in. (49.45 mm) diameter candle.
Roger Peterson collection.



What is it? - The steel "carrier" at the right has shown up in a private collection. The hook hints at mining usage. It has an enclosed, triangular-head, set-screw to lock the handle. Who can identify it?



Buy-sell-trade-option - Your mini-editor has the Justrite #35 (left) 9.25 in. (235.0 mm) long Candlestick (lamp) Attachment. The loop-hook (right) is missing. Who will complete the unit with a buy-sell-or-trade offer? Call or write Henry Pohns at 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Color. 80212, phone 303-455-3922.

Books for sale - Nick Flerlage, 3162 Linwood Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45208, has a few books for sale. Offers (bids) will be accepted by Nick for three weeks after his receipt of this newsletter. Shipping will be added to the top bid price.

FRIEMANN & WOLF catalog 1909 ZWICKAU - Approx. 7-1/2 x 10-3/4; 78 pages; hardbound. Worn; binding tight; no staining; couple of small tears and some dirt.

FLAME SAFETY LAMPS - Dept. of the Interior; Bureau of Mines; 1924. Approx. 6 x 9; 212 pages; paperbound; tight, but tape on spine; no stains, tears or dirt. Very comprehensive.

TRANSACTIONS of THE INSTITUTION of MINING ENGINEERS - London, 1916. 6 x 9-1/2. Two parts; Vol LI, parts 5 and 6. Part 5 is "Notes on the History of the Safety Lamp" by Professors F. W. Hardwick, M.A., and L. T. O'Shea, M.Sc.; 151 pages. Part 6 contains an appendix and bibliography to the foregoing and a "discussion" thereof of 6 pages. Paper-bound; tight and clean; end pages (covers) off but present. Extremely comprehensive.

GASES, FIRES, SAFETY LAMPS, MINE LAMPS - International Textbook Company, approx. 1930. Approx 5 x 7-1/2. Safety lamp portion is 42 pages. Soft-bound; excellent condition.

MINE GASES and EXPLOSIONS - by J. T. Beard, C.E., E.M.; 1908. "First Edition", "First Thousand". 5-1/2 x 8; 402 pages. Safety lamp portion is 93 pages. Hardcover. Excellent condition.

USE and MISUSE of FLAME SAFETY LAMPS - Information Circular, Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Mines; by W. H. Tomlinson; January, 1944. 6 x 9; 15 pages; paperbound. Perfect except for slight crease vertically, centered, where it was once folded in half.

Cap tin - Steve Rush, 31112 Shadow Mtn. Dr., Conifer, Colorado, 80433, phone 303-670-9158, an avid lamp collector, now has a 25-count Atlas blasting cap tin . . . but he needs a lid for it. Who can help?

Trade - Steve Brinkley, P. O. Box 257, Clifton, Arizona, 85533, phone 520-685-2339, writes that he has a Copper Queen carbide hand lamp for trade that is a bit on the rough side. He is looking for a Justrite Jumbo or an Arizona Special. He is also interested in anything from the mining towns of Morenci, Clifton and Metcalf.

Hardsocg - Jim Rodemaker, Route #4, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901, has two interesting calm-shell screw jacks marked "Hardsocg, Ottumwa, Pat. 1912" and "E.C.Q.". One is also marked "326", the other "#8". Anyone interested in discussing these items should drop Jim a note.

Plausers - Dr. Maurice M. Burkholder, 3710 Kootenai, Boise, Idaho, 83705, has a Post Office history book with a photo using the following caption "Note the miners holding plausers (or white candlesticks in holders) used in the tunnels to light their way." He cannot find the word "plausers" in any dictionary; neither is it in our U. S. Dept. of the Interior 1269-page dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms. Does any one have an idea of what a "plausers" is/was?

Thank you - Our gratitude is offered each issue to all the good readers who contribute to the postage fund. There are no subscriptions to the Lamp Post; printing, envelopes and postage come from our readers and friends. For this issue the printing has again been so kindly and efficiently provided from Tennessee. The envelopes are from Minnesota. Postage came from Canada, Ireland, Colorado, Nebraska, Utah, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Germany, Michigan, Florida, Texas, West Virginia, New York, Idaho, Arizona, France, Nevada, Alaska and Connecticut. Sincere thanks to one and all.

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MINERALOGISTS

CAVERS

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I couldn't stop reading . . . there is so much information it boggles the mind.

CHUCK YOUNG

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