

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



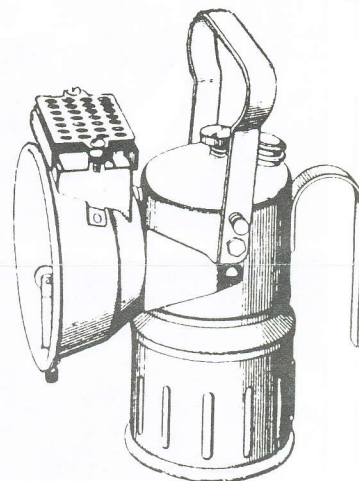
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The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candleholders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212



Justrite - The Justrite carbide hand lamp illustrated (right) by U. S. design patent #82,877 has not had much, if any, visibility among modern collectors. An actual lamp of this design has finally appeared in Nevada and is substantially accurate to the design patent drawing except for a formed plate added to the front of the bail. This plate appears to be factory-made and riveted in a factory manner . . . photo at the left.

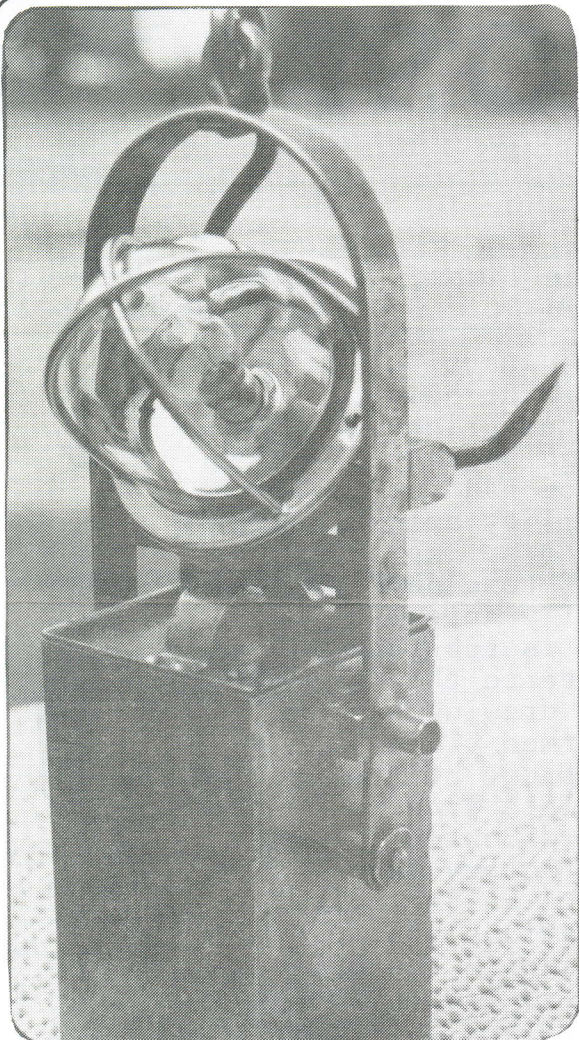


*U. S. design patent #82,877
December 23, 1930
Le Roy O. Brown
Chicago, Illinois*

Specifications are: all-brass including the bail and the hook; 3.0 in. (76.2 mm) diameter body; 5.5 in. (139.7 mm) tall over the body; 8.0 in. (203.2 mm) tall over the bail; 3.75 in. (95.25 mm) diameter brass reflector; a tall brass striker unit which uses a 2.0 in. (50.8 mm) long flint spring; a 1.5 in. (38.1 mm) x 2.437 in. (61.91 mm) perforated brass plate mounted on a support box above a 1.0 in. (25.4 mm) x 2.0 in. (50.8 mm) opening in the top of the reflector; a 1.25 in. (31.75 mm) x 3.25 in. (82.55 mm) formed plate riveted to the bail; and the JUSTRITE script logo on the top of the body.

Over the years collectors have speculated about the perforated plate as shown in the design patent drawing . . . what is it for? Remember that design patents have no written description of operation or function . . . only a short statement of claim to the distinctive ornamental design as shown . . . which is the opposite of the better-known mechanical (including chemical, electrical, etc.) patent series which describes the function, construction and operation in detail and uses one or more illustrations only support the written claim (hence, letters patent). Most collectors have thought that the perforated plate was ment to be a radiator or a heat sink to dissipate any excessive heat rising from the burner through the opening in the reflector below the plate. The shield between the hand grip of the bail and the plate box tends to support this thesis. What do you think? See pages 160 and 545 of the Miner's Flame Light Book for a more detailed explanation of regular mechanical patents and design patents.

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?



What is it? - The last issue of the Lamp Post showed a photo of a steel carrier with a mining hook . . . and asked "What is it?" Well, the hook was a good clue and Werner Börkel, Schulstrasse 60, D-47179, Duisburg-Walsam, Germany, has answered the question with information, photos and patent specifications.

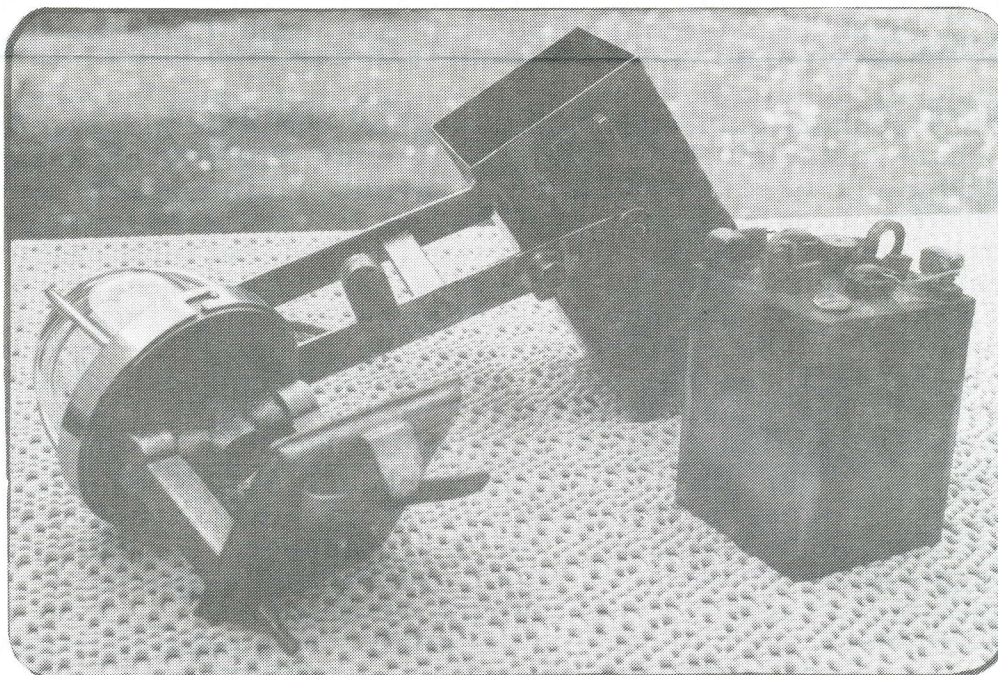
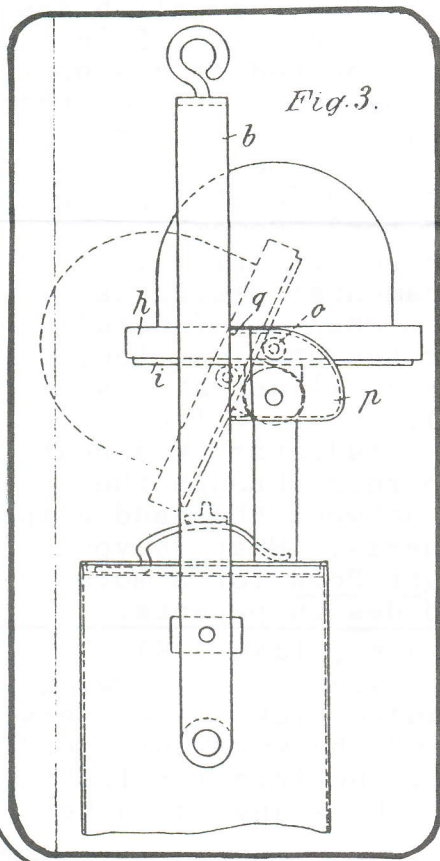
German PATENTSCHRIFT Nr. 245885 of January 19, 1910, lower left drawing, illustrates an electric battery-lamp that uses this item as a carrier. H. Börkel's photos, above left and below, show the full unit, a steel-and-brass lamp with a brass carrier. The carrier shown in the photo in the last Lamp Post is steel and was originally rediscovered in Arizona, U. S. A.

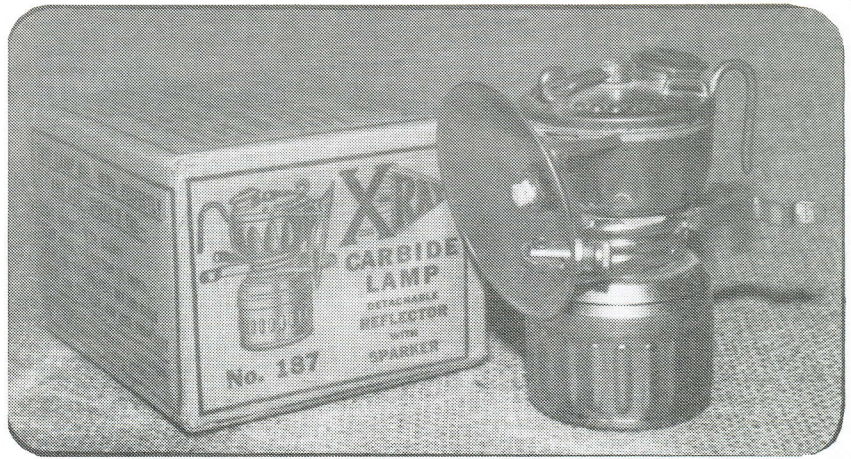
The producer of the lamp was "Apparate Bauanstalt RHENANIA GmbH" in Cöln-Sülz (Cologne), Germany. H. Börkel tells us that this is a very rare lamp! What does that make an empty carrier?

Abb. 132 AKKU-HANDLAMPE

Herkunft:	Oberschlesien
Hersteller:	Friemann & Wolf, Zwickau i. Sa
Material:	Aluminium
Maße:	Breite: 70 mm
	Länge: 70 mm
	Höhe: 280 mm
Baujahr:	um 1910

Anmerkungen: Diese Lampenkonstruktion beruht auf einem Patent der Apparate Bauanstalt „Rhenania“ GmbH in Cöln-Sülz (Pat. Nr. 245885)





Fulton - The X-Ray, Fulton, Imperial triumverate of carbide cap lamps has long been cloaked in hearsay and in mystery. These three lamps seem related due to their distinctively similar reflector designs and their incised trade marks stamped on their bottoms. We have finally been able to photograph a brass Fulton cap lamp courtesy of Dottie and Bernie Haynes of Cincinnati, Ohio. Compare the three Fulton photos at the left with the Hunter's Special advertisement below. The unique short-rib bottom design in the 1919 X-Ray advertisement, also below, has been reported on some of these three lamps, while the longer-rib Justrite-type design on the X-Ray in the photo above is more common. Certainly various top and bottom designs have been interchanged over the years. Now, to find a good photo of an Imperial lamp.



Hunter's Special Carbide Lamp



Is made of the best quality brass, hand soldered and perfect in workmanship. Equipped with round hook, spring cap holder, and enclosed chamber, water door. Has regulating water feed and polished brass reflector with sparker attachment.

PRICE 85¢ Postpaid

Price, postpaid..... \$0.85

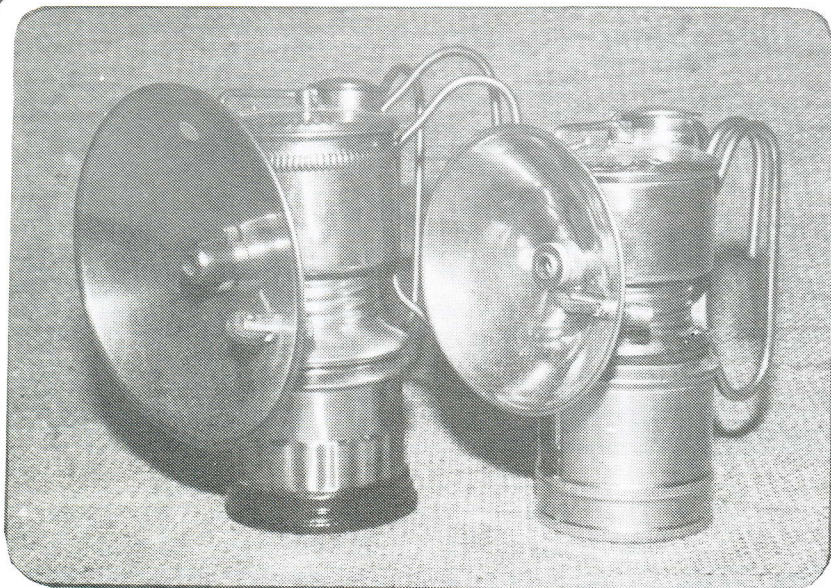
From an unsourced advertisement.




CARBIDE LAMP
DETACHABLE REFLECTOR WITH SPARKER

No. 187

X-RAY journal advertisement; ca. 1919.



Both lamps are shown in the above photo. The left lamp is brass, 4.75 in. (120.65 mm) tall, with a 4.0 in. (101.6 mm) diameter brass reflector. The right lamp is nickel-plated, 4.25 in. (107.95 mm) tall, with a 3.125 in. (79.38 mm) diameter nickel-plated reflector.

Guy's Dropper - Many decades ago Prof.

Richard Finch (the Colonel) nicknamed a 4.75 in. (210.65 mm) tall brass Guy's Dropper carbide supervisor's lamp the "Tall Boy". The nickname has stuck and has often been extended by application to other lamps of extra height. There are also regular reports of nickel-plated "Tall Boy" lamps.

A nickel-plated Guy's Dropper tall lamp was recently rediscovered and comparison with a brass "Tall Boy" has revealed a different height and decorative design than the usually-seen brass "Tall Boy".

Safety lamps - William H. Dolphin, Box 665, Coaldale, Alberta, Canada, T1M 1M6, needs a "new safety lamp." He also needs safety lamp repair parts . . . specifically asbestos washers and the 5.0 in. (127.0 mm) long screw-bolts used for Wolf safety lamp bonnets. Please write to Mr. Dolphin with your offers.

Carbide lamp - Jim Adams, 620 Jackson Rd., Greenwood, Indiana, 46146, has reported a non-Wolf canister-type carbide hand lamp . . . bail and hook, 3.0" (76.2 mm) diameter. It has the raised letters BLECO and the number 10 on top of the canister cap. This is a new name to us. Who can tell Jim about it? Please write to him and to the Lamp Post.

Lamp and Light Sale - Over the past few years we have acquired parts of several collections of mining lamps and lights. This has resulted in many duplications and extras. We have finally been able to sort everything out, to clean items up, and to assemble a descriptive sales list. It is 24 pages (12 double-sided sheets) long which precludes free mailing. Your SASE (#10 long envelope, 78¢ postage) will bring you your copy. Included are miners candlesticks; three safety lamps; oil wick cap lamps; carbide cap, hand, and belt lamps; Justrite parts boxes; carbide tins; and underground miner's hats. Caution - there are no exotic pieces or items for the advanced collector, but there are some surprises. You should call 303-455-3922 if you have any questions. Send your SASE to: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Color. 80212-2535.

Thank You - It becomes a regular duty every issue to say "Thank You" to the many readers who contribute postage, envelopes, and printing to the cause of keeping the Lamp Post active. There is much more than the simple "Thank You" words due . . . you must understand that without all this help the newsletter could not, would not, continue to exist. Be assured that there are admiration, honor, praise, and other acclamations involved. Each please honor yourself for your assistance . . . printing from Tennessee; envelopes from Minnesota and Colorado; postage from Canada, Ireland, Colorado, Nebraska, Utah, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Maryland. "Thank You".

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