

# *EUREKA!*

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## General Information

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*EUREKA!*

The Journal of Mining Collectibles

# EUREKA!



A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO THE COLLECTING,  
PRESERVATION, AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF  
EARLY MINE LIGHTING AND COLLECTIBLES

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Cover: Badge owned by Bill Lorah.



## Crowded Conditions

When I worked in an animal lab, I noticed some interesting behaviors. When one animal was alone in a cage, he appeared depressed. When you added a couple more, they started having some fun, and when you put too many in the cage they began to fight.

It is the same with people. For those who collect mining antiques, our communication medium is a cage of sorts. Be it the telephone system, the mail, EUREKA, or the Mining-Collect, we have created a social network where we no longer live alone with our mania, but trade items, ideas, feelings, and gossip. As the number of collectors has grown, and we've become further crowded (intimate?), the bickerings and personal spats have become a way of life. It can get pretty messy, especially on Mining-Collect where an audience of subscribers provides the promotional backdrop for some real mud-slinging. And just when things seem to calm down a bit, someone throws in another stink-bomb! Let's hope 1997 brings us more brotherly love. Well, okay... maybe we'll just settle for a few more lamps!

The number of mining shows is still growing. Along with the annual Eastern Reunion, there is now the Rocky Mountain (Denver/Lead) show (see enclosed flyer), the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (mining subset ala Roger Becksted), and the International show in Germany. And as we enter 1997, yet another has arisen. In April, Paul Kouts and Mason Coggin will sponsor an event in Phoenix, Arizona (see notice in back section). Let's see, that makes shows in February, April, June, and August...sounds like a fun year.

## Latest Responses

We generally run about 250 total subscribers. On our resubscription form we asked for suggestions with regards to Eureka. Many requested less on mine lighting, and more on other items. While we acknowledge that the last two issues contained some rather encyclopedic accounts of safety lamps, it is our policy to publish what we receive. We encourage everyone to send us any mining related information they find interesting. Nonetheless, this periodical is *dedicated* to mine lighting. We are thankful that the new Mining Collectors Review has filled a niche that openly steers away from mine lighting, in favor of historical and exploratory accounts. We are acquainted with all of the staff of the MCR, and can confidently vouch for their character and reliability for delivering their product as purchased.

## Internet Group Grows

The Mining-Collect, an Internet newsgroup, continues to expand. There are now over 40 members, extending as far as Australia. Like Eureka, it is entirely non-profit. It has become the primary channel for acquisition of mining artifacts for many of its subscribers. It costs nothing. To enroll, you must have a computer, a modem, and be connected to a local server. Your connection typically costs between \$15-20 per month. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to: [dthorpe@primenet.com](mailto:dthorpe@primenet.com)

Dave Thorpe

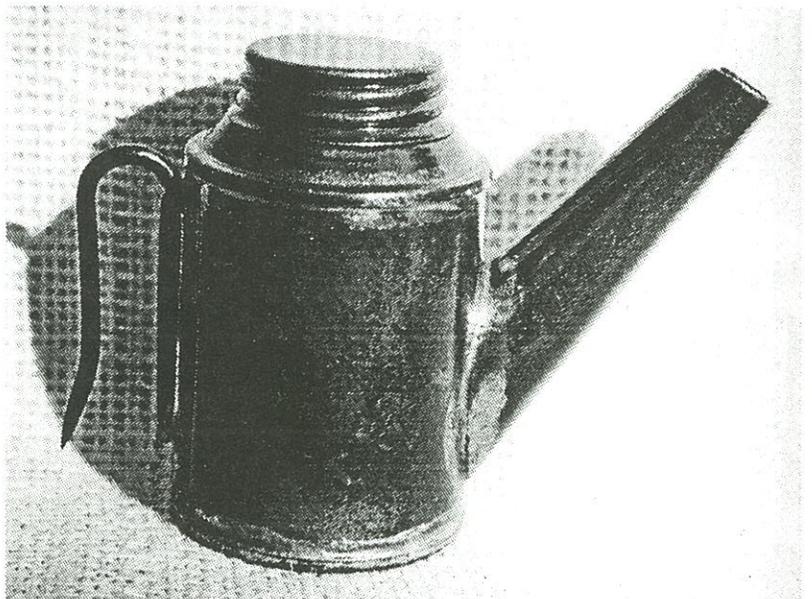
# Two New Oil Wick Lamps

*by Dave Johnson*

I recently acquired a tin oilwick face lamp with a previously unreported stamping: F. JOHNSON FROSTBURG. This unfired lamp measures 2  $\frac{1}{16}$ " to the top of the cap, the base diameter is 1  $\frac{5}{8}$ " and the double spout is 2  $\frac{7}{16}$ " long. This lamp is very similar to the early oil wick lamp manufactured by Fred B. Zais of Frostburg, MD stamped: FRED B. ZAIS FROSTBURG MD 1876. The base, hinge assembly and hook reinforcement are identical.

This lamp is distinctly different from the later lamp in the area of the base, hinge and hook reinforcement configuration. I was unable to obtain any information on the existence of an F. Johnson from Frostburg, MD being listed in the City Directory as either a tinsmith or lamp manufacturer from the Frostburg Library.

The second lamp is a tin oilwick face lamp with a threaded or screw cap. This lamp is unlike any of those produced under the Winfield patent. This lamp has an unusually low hook curve, most oilwick hooks rise above the cap before they make the 180 degree downward turn. This lamp measures 2  $\frac{5}{8}$ " to the top of the cap, the base diameter is 1  $\frac{5}{8}$ " and the single spout is 2  $\frac{5}{8}$ " in length. The cap is 1  $\frac{1}{16}$ " at the top and flares out to 1  $\frac{3}{16}$ " at the bottom. This lamp has an unusually short shoulder for a vertical font lamp. I have absolutely no clue as to who the manufacturer of this lamp was, none of its components bears any resemblance to other marked lamps, but the lamp bears a striking resemblance to the earliest Winfield Patent drawing (May 23, 1871).



# Advertising Letter Holders

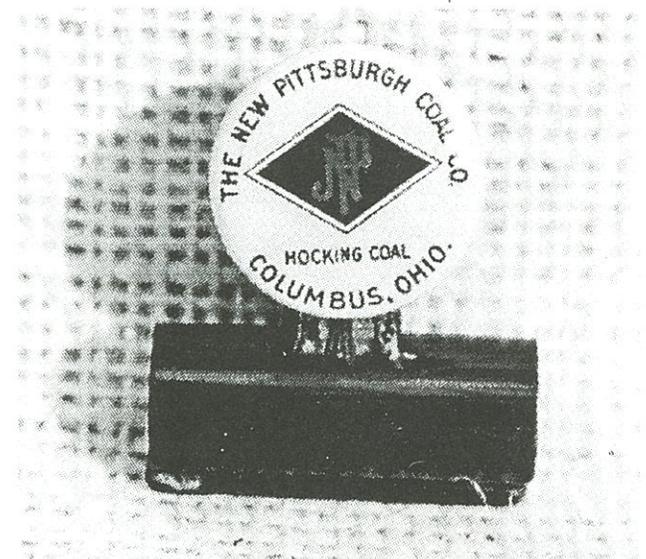
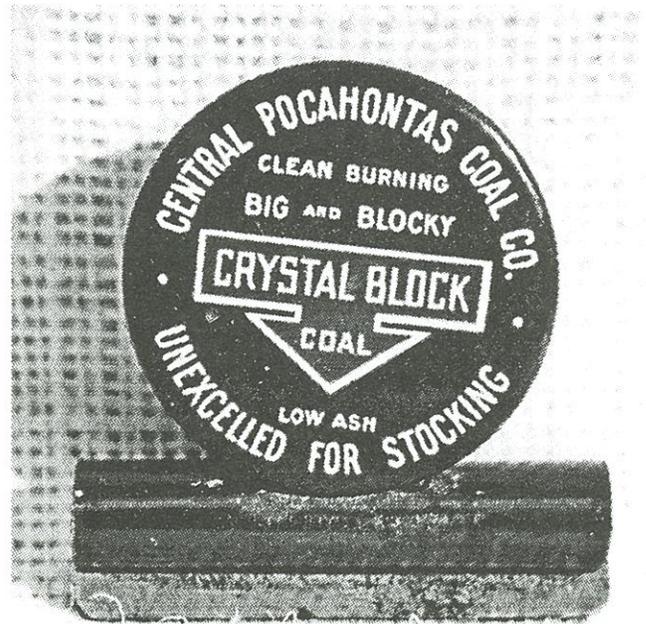
by Dave Johnson

A type of mining-related advertising collectible that has gone unpublished anywhere in the mining collectible community up to this time are coal mining company letter holders or letter clips. This type of advertising piece is not unique to coal mining companies, they have long been recognized by collectors in other fields. At advertising shows I have seen these pieces advertising beer, flour, automobiles, softdrinks, tobacco, clothing, medication, gasoline and motor oil, and a variety of other products.

Pictured here are three examples of these letter holders. The Central Pocahontas Coal Co., along with the Crystal Block Coal & Coke Co. of Welch, WV, mined Crystal Block Coal from mines at Capels in McDowell County, WV and the surrounding area.

The Black Star Cola Corp. of Alva, KY produced coal under the Black Star, Dixie Star, Clean Fork Red Bonnet, and Grapevine brand names. The Columbus, Ohio based New Pittsburgh Coal Co. produced Hocking brand coal from its Ohio mines.

These advertising pieces are just another item for mining collectors to watch for at flea markets and antique shows.



# Oil Wick Venting Devices

by Dave Johnson

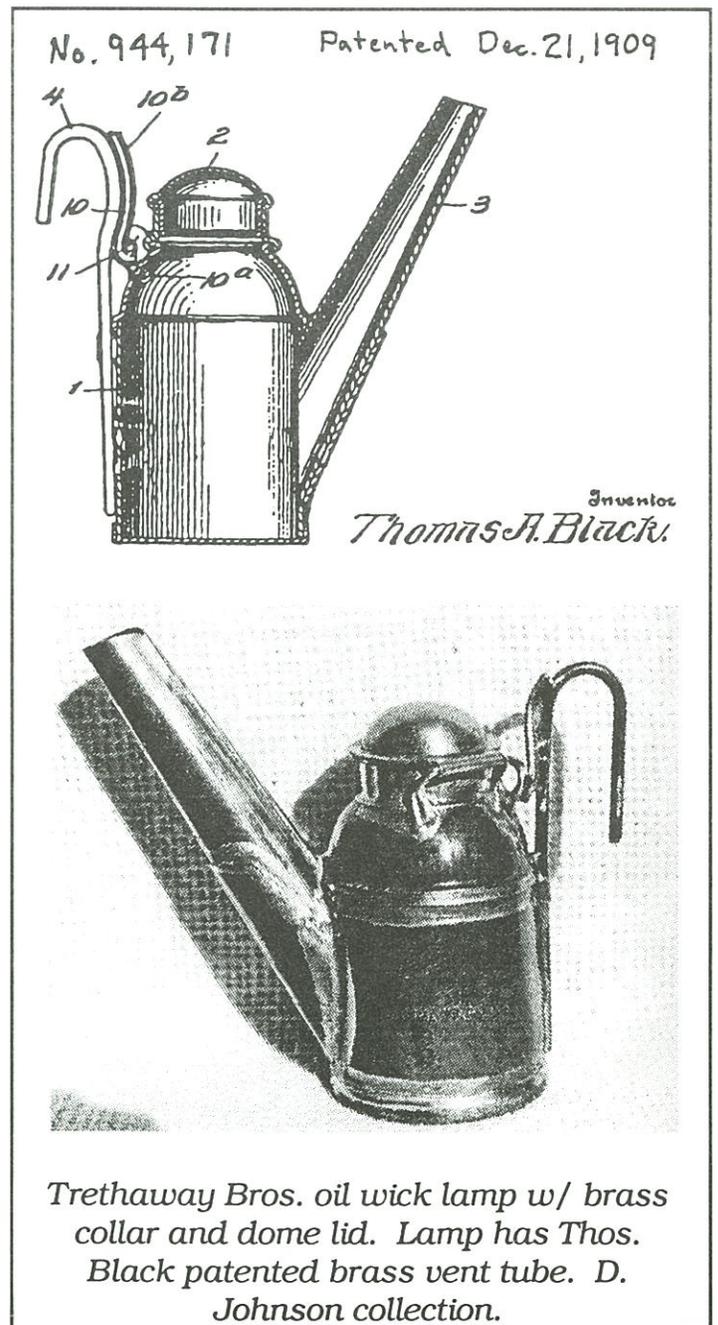
Early on oilwick lamp producers recognized the need to ventilate the fuel vessel (font) of their lamps. In the vast majority of cases a vent or breather hole was merely punched through the cap. In a few cases more care and effort was expended to produce a more complex venting system. At least five oilwick lamp patents address venting as a part or as the whole of the patent.

Trethaway produced lamps with vent tubes in the center of the cap and at the back of the cap. By placing the tube toward the hook, or rear of the cap, the liquid fuel was less likely to spill through the tube as the miner leaned forward. A more elaborate patented vent tube was devised by Thomas A. Black (see article in Eureka 13 p. 30-31) and was produced on a single model of Trethaway Bros. lamp.



*Felix Patent oil wick w/ brass vent tube in cap. Dave Johnson collection.*

Several manufacturers produced venting that consisted of more than just punched holes but for which no patent exists. The most commonly seen example of this is the simple brass vent tube seen on numerous varieties of Trethaway Bros. lamps. This same type of vent tube is found on Felix oilwicks. The idea for the vent tube on Trethaway Bros. lamps could well have come from Felix. The Felix Lamp was patented in July of 1894, the same year that Trethaway Bros. started manufacturing lamps. In 1896 Felix won a patent infringement law suit against Trethaway Bros. as a result of their producing a lamp almost identical to his lamp.



*Trethaway Bros. oil wick lamp w/ brass collar and dome lid. Lamp has Thos. Black patented brass vent tube. D. Johnson collection.*



Copper Trethaway Bros. driver's lamp w/ brass cap and vent tube. D. Johnson.



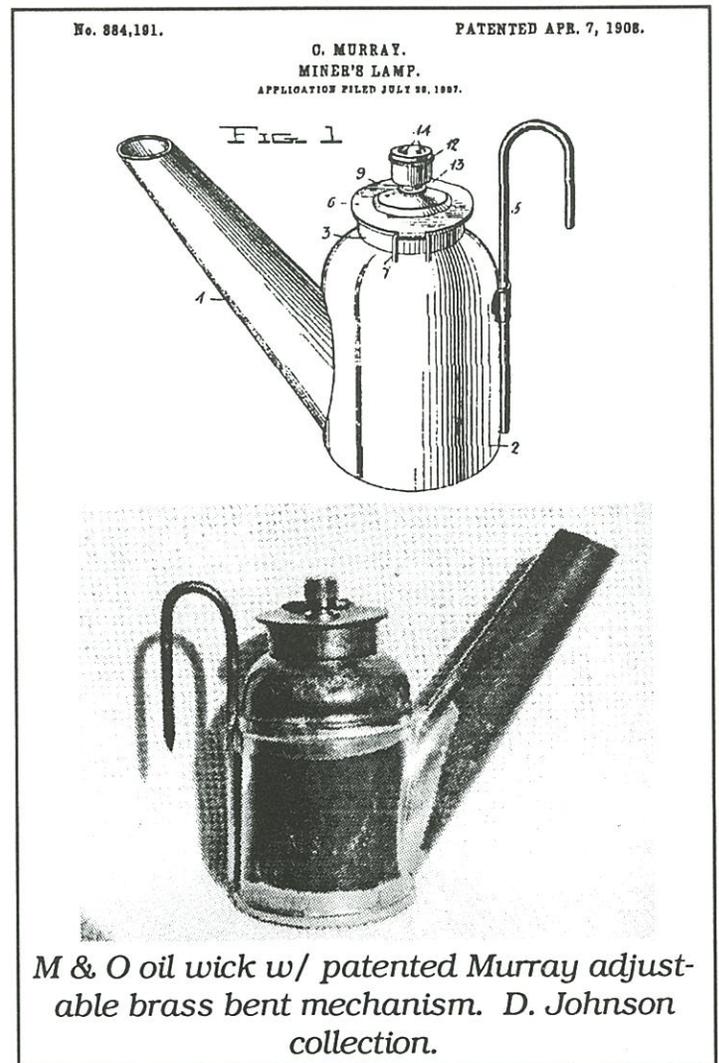
Copper and brass Trethaway Bros. oil wick with brass vent tube located at the rear of the cap. D. Johnson collection.



The CROWN lamp w/ brass collar and brass cap with vent tube. D. Johnson collection.

The CROWN brand lamp produced by Wm. Tunnessen employed a raised vent on some of its brass capped lamps (see article in Eureka 17).

The most complex vent mechanism was an adjustable vent found on M & O oilwicks. The patent (No. 884,191) for this particular device was issued to Charles Murray, of Trevorton, Pennsylvania who assigned one-half of the patent to Charles O'Connor - thus the source of the M & O brandname, (Murray & O'Connor) on April 17, 1908. This device consisted of a perforated knurled brass knob that could be opened or closed on threads. The extra machining necessary to produce this device would



M & O oil wick w/ patented Murray adjustable brass bent mechanism. D. Johnson collection.

have added significantly to the cost of producing the lamp. Judging by the few examples that exist today the M & O lamp did not enjoy widespread sales.

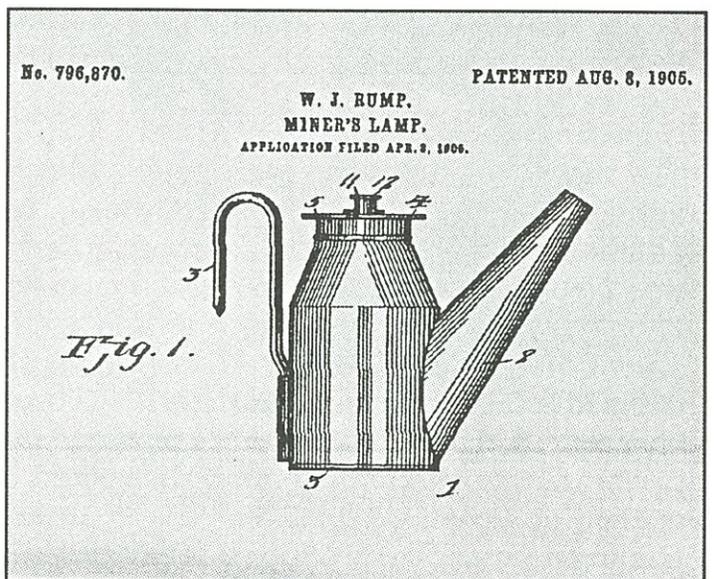
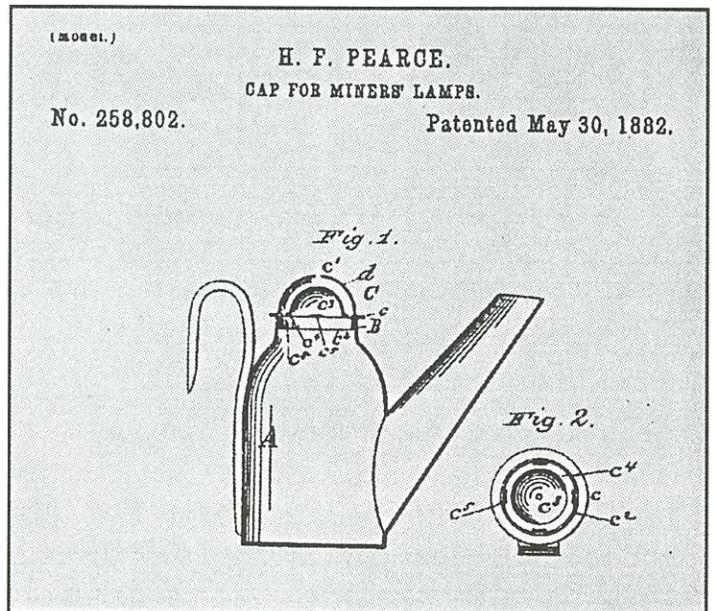
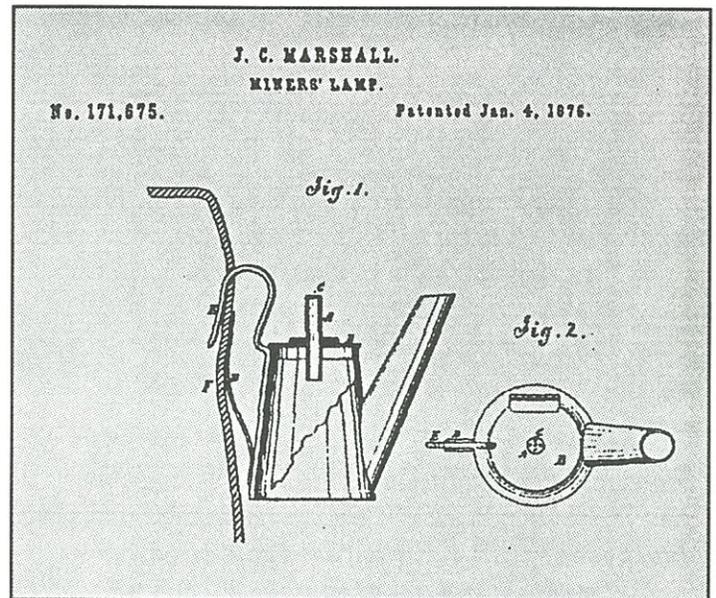
The first patent (No. 171,675) for a lamp utilizing a vent tube was issued to James C. Marshall, of Girardville, Pennsylvania, on January 4, 1876 (see patent drawing). This was followed on May 30, 1882 when patent (No. 258,802) was issued to Henry F. Pearce, of Hyde Park, Pennsylvania, for a multi-perforated oilwick cap (see patent drawing). William J. Rump of Ravine, Pennsylvania, received patent No. 796,870 on August 8, 1905 for an oilwick with a vent tube in the cap.

One of the two pictured German silver oilwicks (following page) has a short brass vent tube similar to those used by Trethaway Bros., just much shorter. The second German silver oilwick (below), marked: Thos. R. Tasker, has a very elaborate and decorative vent tube. The three unique all brass oilwicks appear to all have been made by the same hand. The vents on all three are very similar. The door type cap hinge on two of them are identical, as are the wick tube on the same two lamps.

As can be seen in all the accompanying photos, the presence of a vent device consisting of more than a mere hole punched through the cap can add a great deal of appeal to a lamp for collectors. Happy Hunting!

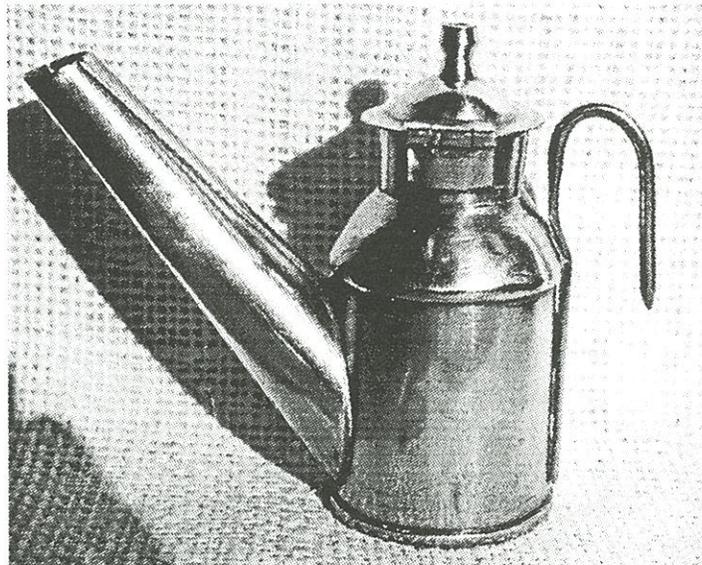


German silver oil wick engraved "Thos. R. Tasker" with brass hook and unusual brass vent. D. Johnson collection.



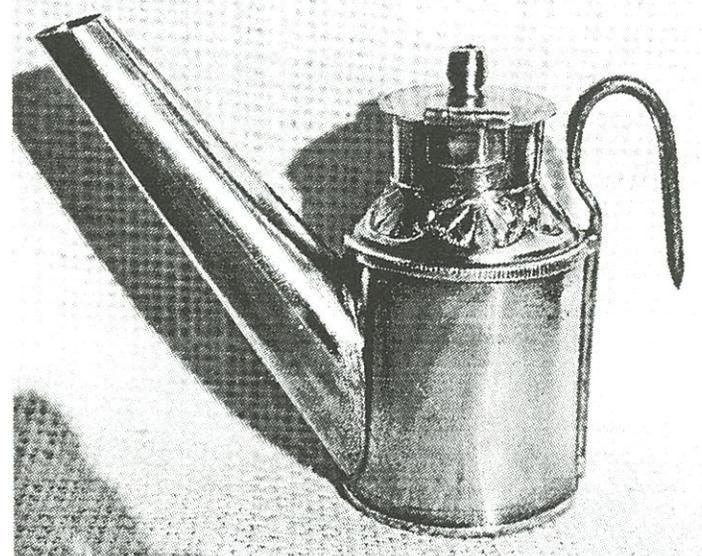


*(above) Unmarked oil wick made of German silver w/ brass bottom, hook, and vent tube in the cap.*



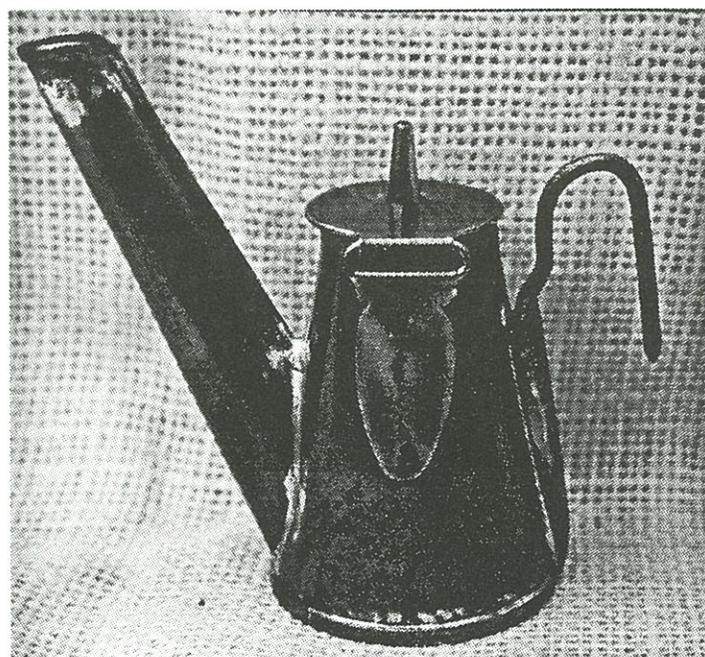
*(above right) Unmarked all brass oil wick w/ unusual cap vent.*

*(right) Unmarked all brass oil wick w/ unusual cap vent. Note the fancy engraving on the shoulder.*



*(below right) All brass oil wick w/ unusual cap vent. Font is stamped: J. Parfet.*

*(below left) Oil wick w/ brass conical vent tube. All lamps from D. Johnson collection.*

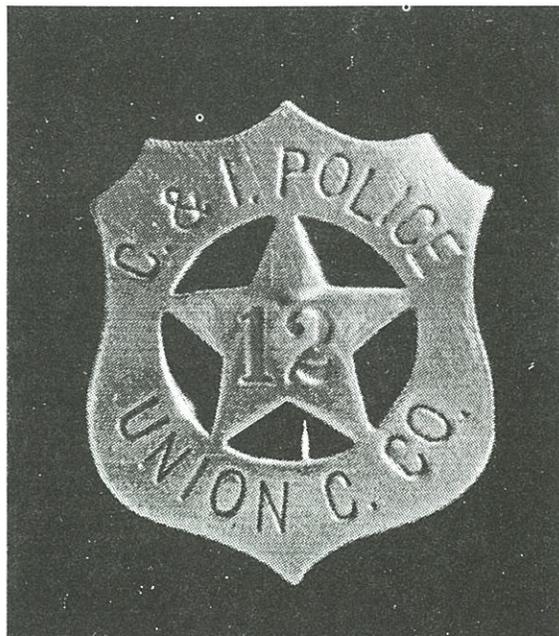


# The Coal & Iron Police

by Dave Johnson

The coal and iron, and later the steel, industries early on found it expedient to employ their own security forces. Ostensibly for the protection of company property, these coal and iron police were often the only recognized police force in company towns. In many cases these private police forces were utilized by the coal mining and steel companies to impose their will upon their employees. The company police were used successfully for many years to prevent unionization. Union members and sympathizers would find themselves fired and ejected from company housing for union activities. The company police broke up union meetings and beat up striking miners, as well as protecting strike breakers from striking workers. In many cases their activities were undertaken outside of company property.

In Pennsylvania this private police system had become accepted to the point that in 1866 the Pennsylvania State Legislature formally established the Coal and Iron Police as an official agency with local commanders (usually a coal



Brass badge. (Bill Lorah collection).

or iron company superintendent). While sanctioned by state government all costs of the Coal and Iron Police were to be paid by the coal and iron companies. The enabling legislation granted the Coal and Iron Police broad police powers on mine and mill property and in company towns. This private police system grew to the point that by 1900 there were officially more than 5000 Coal and Iron Police in Pennsylvania. There was no requirement that the Coal and Iron Police wear any type of uniform, to identify themselves as police officers, this was most effective in their union-breaking activities.

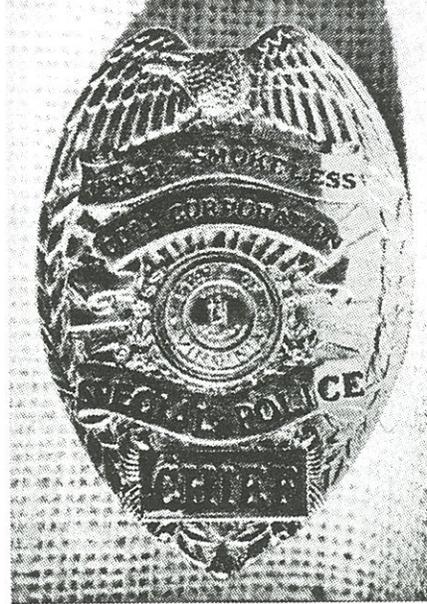


Coal Police. (Dave Johnson collection).

The powers of the Coal and Iron Police in Pennsylvania were not curtailed until April of 1929 when Governor John S. Fisher, by executive order, ordered that industrial police wear uniforms, that their jurisdiction be restricted to the actual protection of company property and that they be prohibited from "undue violence in making arrests", unnecessary display or use of weapons, and profanity. This action was the result of public pressure brought to bear



*International Harvester badge.  
(D. Johnson collection)*



*Peace Officer badge.  
(D. Johnson collection)*

first is a brass Coal and Iron Police badge from Bill Lorah's collection. It appears to have been used by the Union Carbide Co.

The Coal Police badge with the Pennsylvania state seal in the center differs from most Coal and Iron Police badges.

The Special Police Chief's badge with the Virginia state seal in the center is from the Jewel Smokeless Coal Corporation. This firm operated mines in Virginia in the 1920-1940's.

on the governor after three Pittsburgh Coal Corporation police beat to death a man named John Barkowski. While their powers were diminished somewhat by the Governor's Executive Order, the Coal and Iron Police remained as a viable security force for some years after this.

While not state authorized, many other coal producing states had their own forms of company police. Some companies hired mine "guards" from established firms such as the Pinkerton and Baldwin-Felts Detective Agencies. In other cases mining companies held such sway at the county level that they were able to pay for hiring additional deputy sheriffs to serve as company police. These hired deputies were generally given no law enforcement training and were hired more for their ability and willingness to crack skulls than any other reason. These

company funded deputies were used extensively in the Eastern Kentucky coal fields to combat unionization efforts by the United Mine Workers in the 1920's and 1930's. It was through some of their activities that Harlan County became known as "Bloody Harlan". In some cases there were "mine guards" who were direct employees of the mining company as well as company "police" and "peace officers" in company towns. As with the Coal and Iron Police, all these privately funded security forces were used by the company to force their will upon their employees to varying degrees. Whether viewed today as good or bad, from a historical perspective the actions of company police earned the undying enmity of workers and their families.

Pictured here are four examples of badges used by company security forces. The

The Peace Officer badge with the Kentucky state seal in the center is from the International Harvester Company's town of Benham, KY. The Wisconsin Steel Co., Incorporated, a subsidiary of IHC had their Benham Coal and Coke Works located in Benham, where they mined coal and produced coke for shipment to the firm's steel mill in South Chicago. Coke production began in 1912 and by 1920 there were 408 coke ovens in continual operation. Benham and nearby Lynch (U.S. Steel Corp.) were progressive company towns for their time exhibiting none of the shoddy and poorly maintained company housing seen in most coal company towns. In both towns there were a YMCA facility, library, school, fire department, park and athletic field and several churches, all built and maintained at company expense.

# Disaster At The Rolling Mill Mine

Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Part One

by *Stephen R. Lindberg*

The furnaces of the Cambria Iron Company in the valley of Johnstown Pennsylvania trace their origin to the year 1842, with the first steel rolling mills put into operation in 1855. In that same year the Rolling Mill Mine was opened to supply the vast quantities of coal required by the steel mills.

The Rolling Mill Mine entered the hills to the west of Johnstown through a single portal, and in the early part of this century held the record for being worked over the greatest area of any single opening mine in the country. In 1922 it covered an area of over 10 square miles, with a distance to the farthest working face of 5 miles.

Records show that coal production from this mine was indeed great. In it's first 67 years of operation the mine supplied 20,000,000 net tons of coal from just one seam, the Upper Kittanning. The record for a single day production was made on May 31, 1921, with a total of 3,872 net tons delivered to the mills (Richardson, 1922).

Besides coal production, the Rolling Mill Mine holds the distinction of having one of the most catastrophic disasters in United States mining history. On Thursday July 10, 1902 a gas explosion claimed the lives of 112 miners. The explosion occurred at a distant working face known to the miners as the "Klondike"

The account of James E. Roderick, chief of the Bureau Of Pennsylvania Mines at the time of the disaster helps to set the scene.

"I reached Johnstown a little after 4 P.M. of the 11th, and at once saw by the excited crowd

that some terrible calamity had occurred. The streets were filled with anxious and excited people, while in the street opposite the Rolling Mill Mine and at the entrance where the dead bodies were laid out they were nearly impassable. I mingled unknown with the sorrowful crowd that was viewing the dead bodies which were laid out in rows waiting to be identified by relatives and friends" (Ray, 1903).

James Roderick was present at the mine when J.T. Evans, district mine inspector, exited after his initial survey of the disaster. Together they agreed that the scope of the explosion warranted the assistance of additional mine inspectors. On the morning of Sunday July 13, Evans assured the assembled inspection team that all bodies had been accounted for and removed from the mine.

Roderick, Evans, and three other inspectors entered the mine under the guidance of several fire bosses and a mine foreman. They spent the entire day within the mine, centering their investigation at the distant Klondike section. On July 23, 1902 the team of inspectors submitted their report to the Pennsylvania Bureau Of Mines.

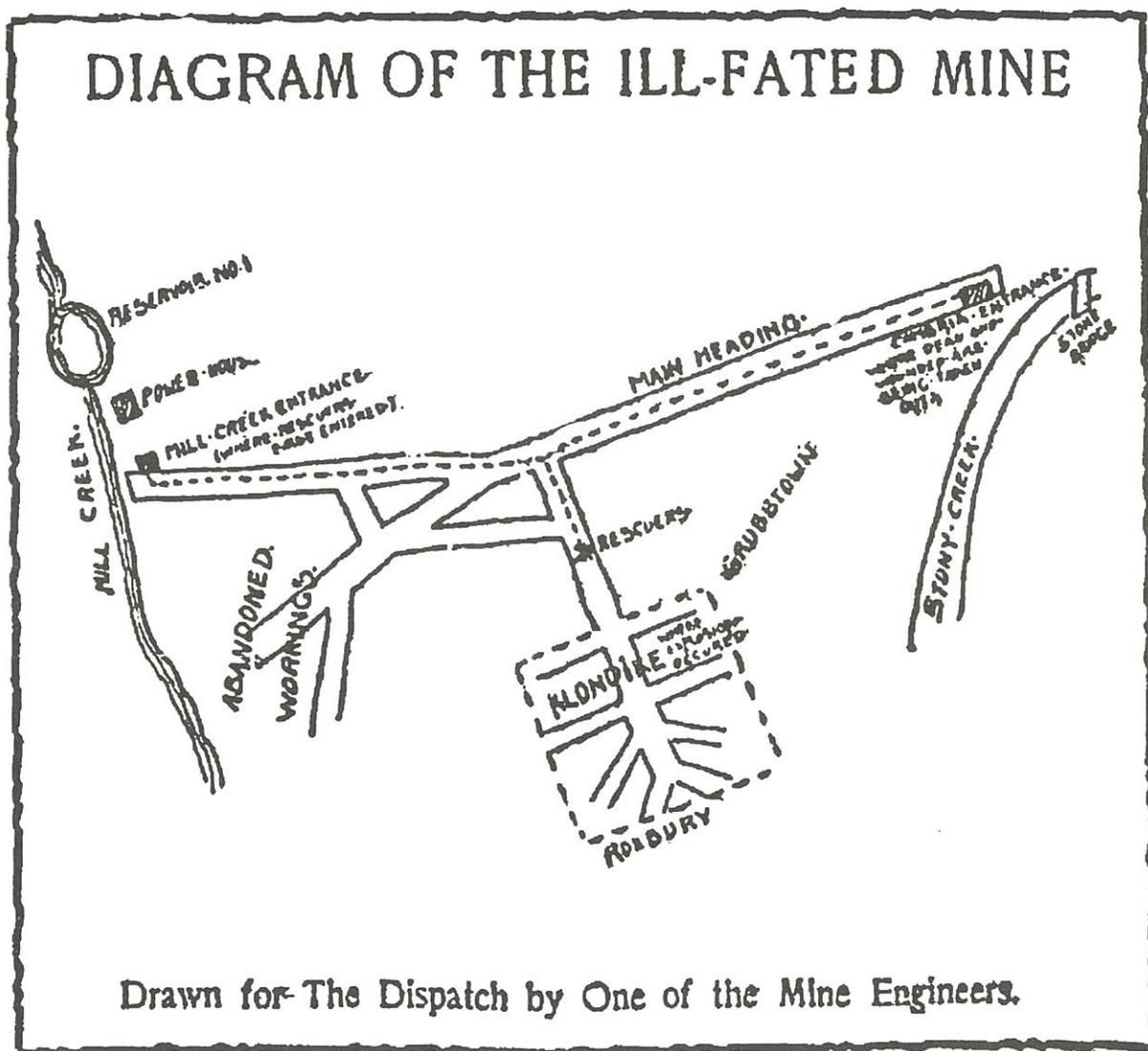
"We made a rigid and thorough examination of the Klondike section of the Rolling Mill Mine, owned and operated by the Cambria Steel Company, Johnstown, Pa., where the terrible explosion occurred on the 10th day of July, 1902, at 11:30 A.M.....We were conveyed from the main entrance in the haulage trip to the safety lamp station, near the entrance to the Klondike section. Here the party were all equipped with locked safety lamps and all persons who had in their possession matches,

smoker's articles, etc., were required to deposit them with the person in charge of the safety lamp section. We were taken by an air motor..... to entry no. five..... dinner pails were scattered here and there along the entry..... their respective owners overcome by the after-damp as they endeavored to escape" (Ray, 1903).

The inspection team continued through the Klondike section, consulting their mine maps as they worked through one room into another. On reaching room number two they found that it had been cut through into "...rib fall on no.

5 entry, right, where gas was known to exist" (Ray, 1903). Inspection of the number two room revealed coats, tools, a can of blasting powder, and an open safety lamp.

"The finding of the miner's open safety lamp filled with oil and cotton, ready for use, so near this fall, which, from inquiry, we learned contained fire damp since the first break or rib falls were made, seemed to indicate that this might be the point where the gas ignited" (Ray, 1903). Further searching uncovered a second open safety lamp, found within twenty feet of the rib fall at number 5 entry.



Sketch of the Rolling Mill Mine made at the time of the disaster. The mine entrance was located along the western hillside above the city of Johnstown. Sketch taken from the July 12, 1902 Pittsburg Dispatch.

"This was the second lamp found in this room, and from their location when found we believe that both were lighted and in use at the time the explosion occurred. If the lamps had not been in use, they would have been back along the rib or on the outside of the danger board, the latter place being the proper place as required by law" (Ray, 1903).

The team of mine inspectors conclude their report on the mine explosion with this final paragraph.

"And now, July 23, 1902, after having made the said examination,.....the explosion occurred on rib fall no. 5 entry, right,..... known as the Klondike section of the Rolling Mill Mine. And further, we are of the opinion that the gas which caused said explosion, was ignited at the face of no. 2 room.....by coming in contact with one or both of the miner's open lamps,..... And we further find that under the facts and law that none but locked safety lamps should have been used in that part of the mine where the explosion occurred" (Ray, 1903).

The inquest detailing the disaster and cause of death for the 112 miners killed within the mine was held over the remains of just one miner, Gust Leavendroskey. The explanation rendered in his case applied to the other 111 miners.

"Gust Leavendroskey, a miner, came to his death as the result of an explosion of gas occurring in Rolling Mill Mine, of the Cambria Steel Company, of Johnstown, Cambria county, Pa., on the 10th day of July, 1902. That said explosion was caused by a person or persons, to the jury unknown, taking into room no. 2, right heading, where gas was known to exist, an open lamp and using same in direct violation of the mining rules and regulations of the Cambria Steel Company" (Ray, 1903).

The single entrance to the Rolling Mill Mine, now sealed with concrete and steel, is still a

visible artifact on the western hillside above Johnstown. It is located very near the inclined plane, which along with our series of well known floods, is Johnstown's other claim to fame. The entire mine and Klondike section lie beneath my property and the rest of our "West Hills" communities. Not too far from my home, along a park trail through a small valley there can be found a large concrete access and air shaft, known as the Elk Run Shaft. Secured with a steel grate on top, it drops 350 feet to the mine below. A powerful flashlight reveals the first hundred feet or so of the shaft, long ago filled with mine equipment to further block any entry. I've climbed to the top several times, wondering what it would be like to descend into the mine labyrinth below.

Cool breezes often vent from deep within the shaft, they seem to carry the distant echoes of long forgotten miners. There is no monument or tribute to those killed in the Rolling Mill Mine explosion, and the loss of the company miners seemed to be more of an inconvenience and delay in the daily mine and mill production than a tragic episode with human consequences.

**Next issue:** The miners tell their own story of the explosion.

## References

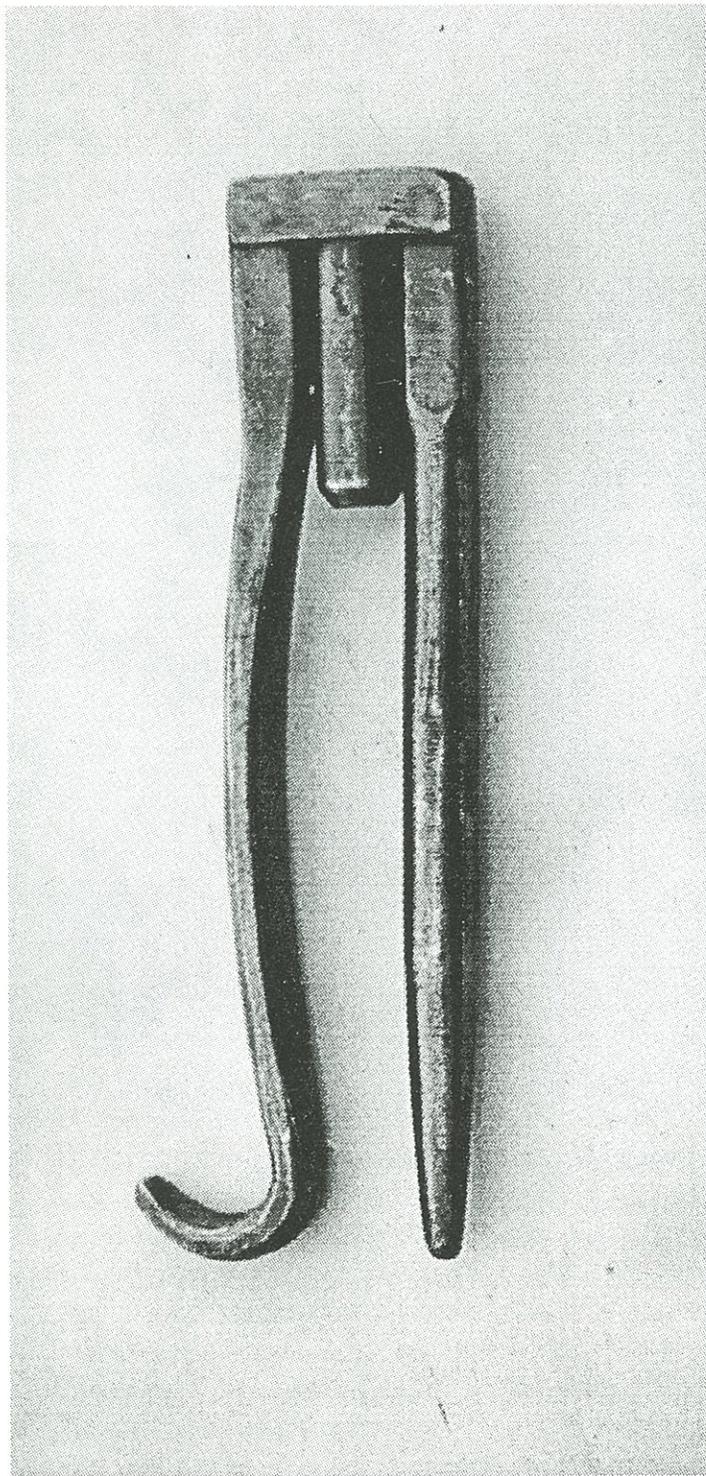
Gotthart, C.J. , "Thrilling Stories Of Rescuers", The Pittsburg Dispatch, Saturday, July 12, 1902.

Ray, William S., State Printer Of Pennsylvania. " Report Of The Bureau Of Mines Of The Department Of Internal Affairs Of Pennsylvania, 1902." 1903.

Richardson, George A. " Cambria Steel Co. Drops Coal Down Well, Loads It At Bottom And Hauls It To Ovens." Coal Age. Vol. 22, No.9, 1922.

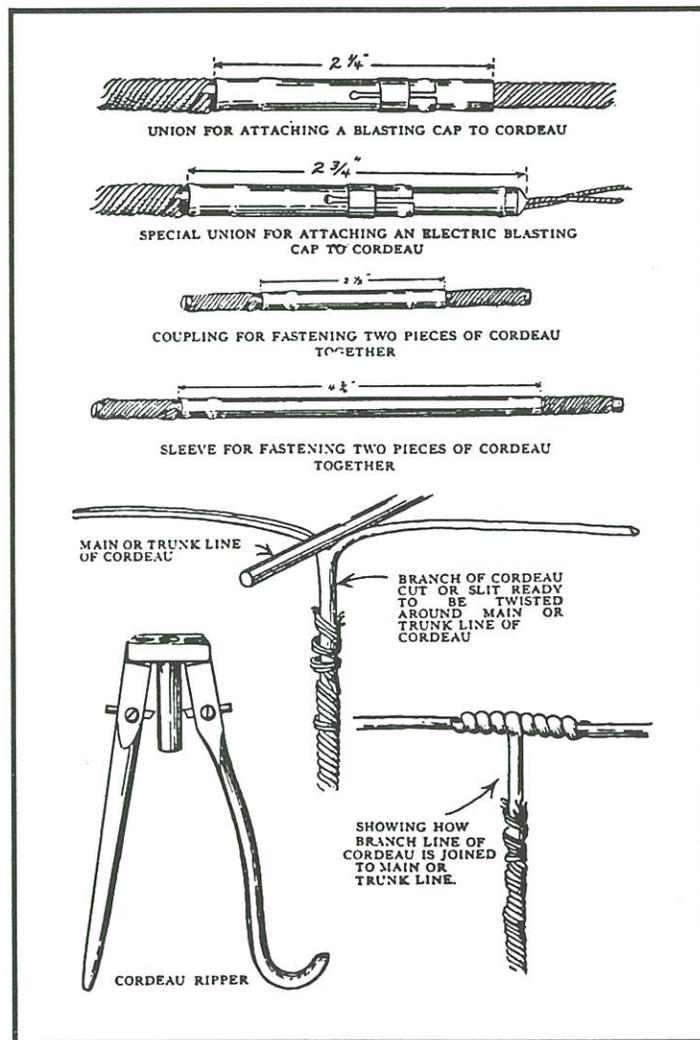
# The Cordeau Slitter

by Bob Schroth



Cordeau slitter.  
(Reg Patee collection and photo).

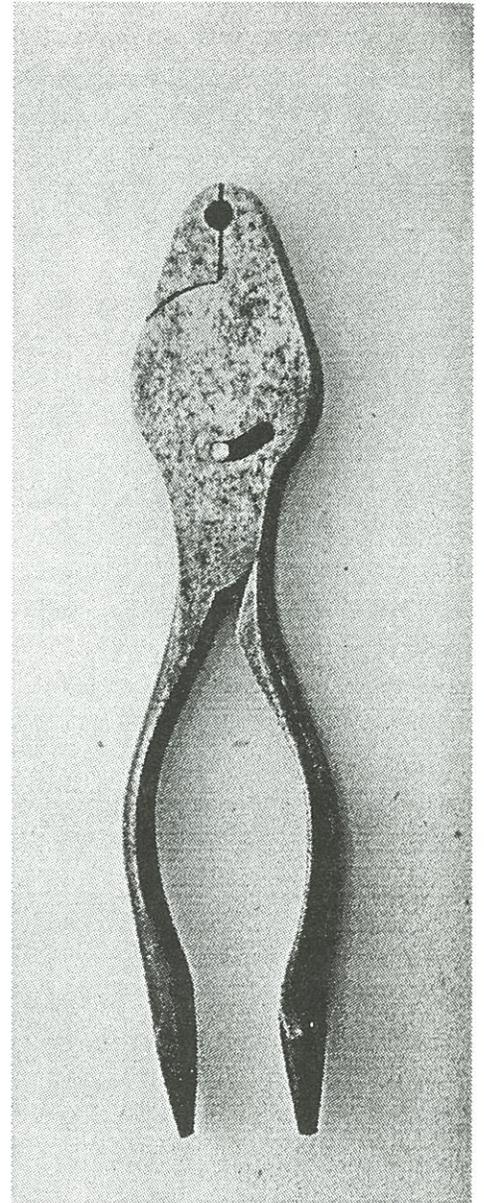
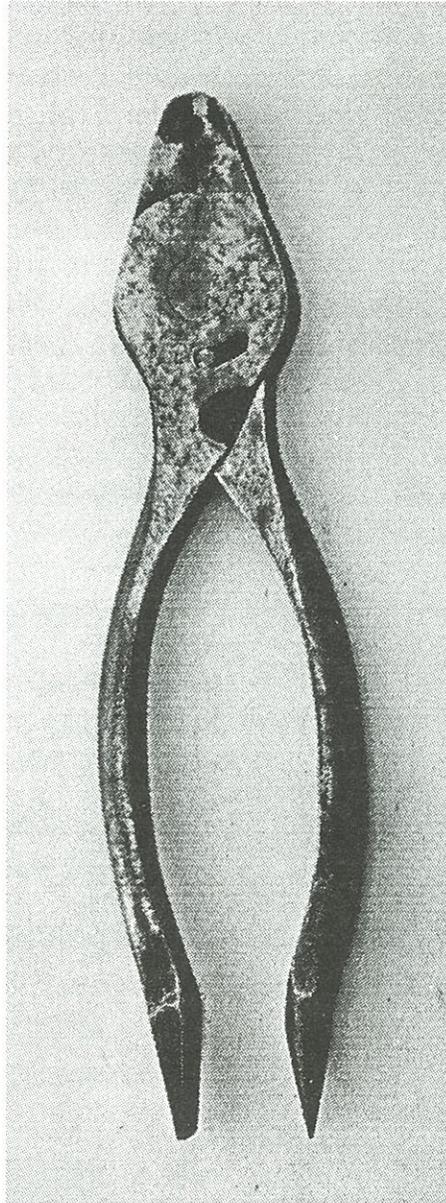
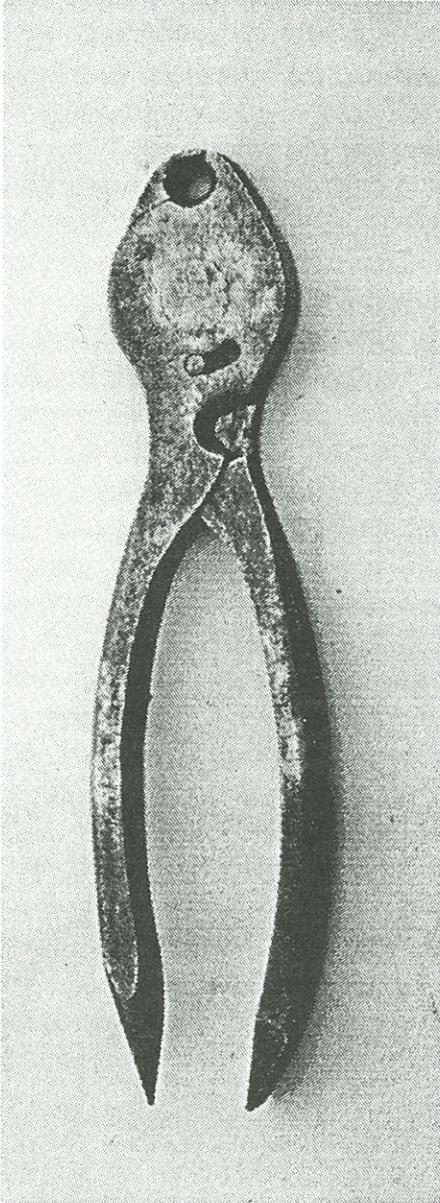
Cordeau was an early version of detonator cord... kind of an explosive fuse that would burn almost as fast as an electric cap would explode. When laid alongside a long stretch of dynamite, it would increase the efficiency of the explosion by igniting it along its entire length.. It was thus best suited to "well-drill holes", which were long and deep drill holes loaded with dynamite. To fire several holes at once, one joined the free ends of the cordeau from each hole to a "main trunk" of cordeau. To make the splices of the free ends to the main trunk required the use of a cordeau ripper, also known as a cordeau slitter. The main trunk was ignited with an electric blasting cap. Reg Patee and I have now both obtained examples of this rare blaster's tool. The diagram below shows how the splices are made.



From 1930 Blaster's Handbook. "Accessories required in the use of cordeau and splicing methods recommended."

# Related Cap Crimpers

*by Reg Patee*

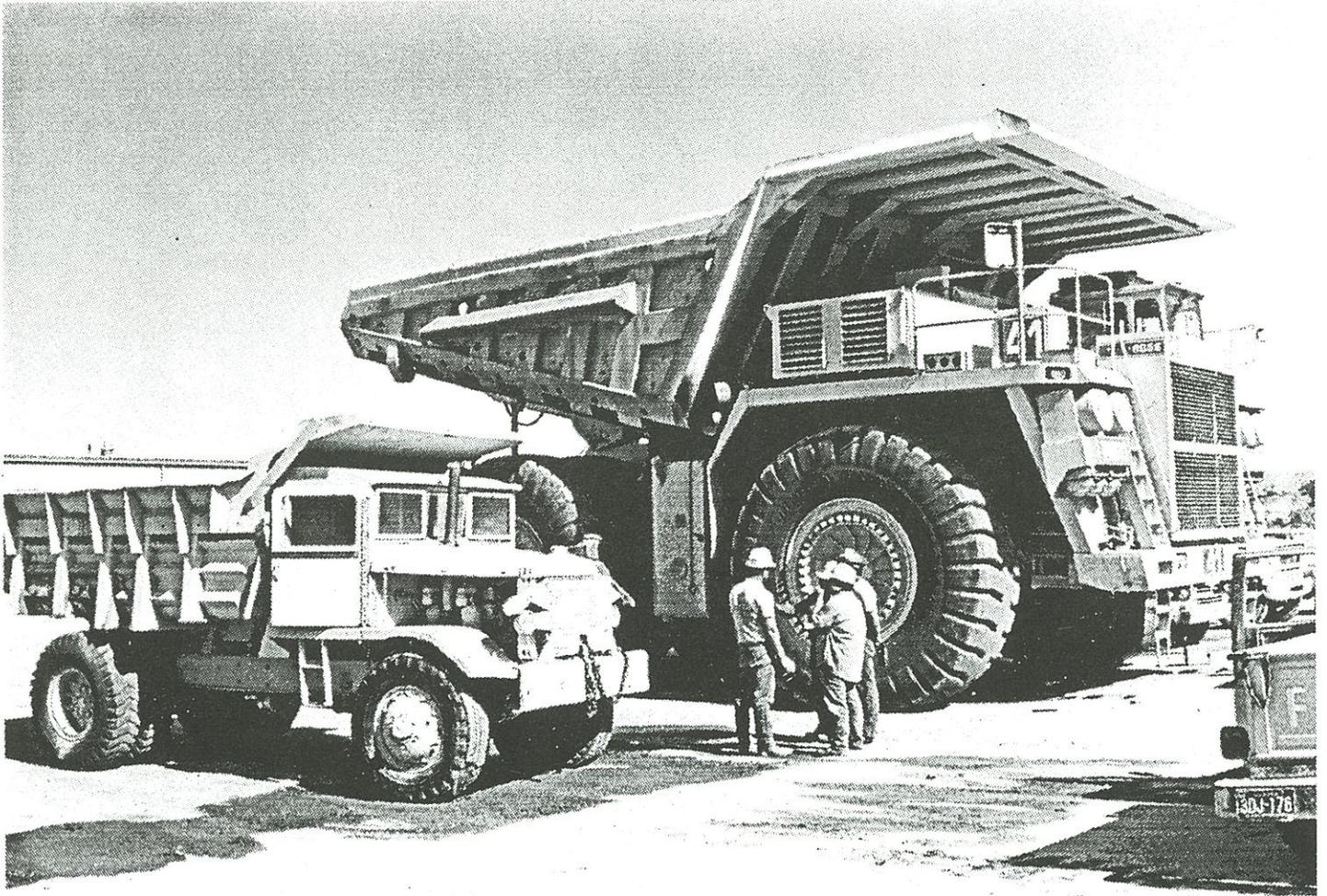


I picked up all three of these crimpers from Nelson Ressler some time ago. They are all different, but appear possibly to be made by the same company. None are stamped. You can see a small pin in a slot in each plier that limits the jaw opening. The crimper on the far left has a tapered hole. The other two just go straight in. If anyone can help identify the manufacturer I would be most grateful.

*Editor's note: Reg Patee works for the Glendale, AZ Police Force and is head of the Bomb Squad. He has developed several detonating devices for the Squad that can open any door in seconds. He is an avid collector of crimpers. You may reach Reg by email at: [kfbreg@juno.com](mailto:kfbreg@juno.com). His phone number and address are not listed for reasons of security, however individuals may reach him through Dave Thorpe or Bob Schroth (see masthead page).*

# 1940 - 1991

by Todd Town



**T**here is more than just a little difference in these two trucks, one is a 1940 Euclid, 30-ton ore truck. The other is a 1991 Dresser Haulpak 685E, 190-ton ore truck. It's pretty easy to tell one from the other. Fiftyone years and a lot of technology is the difference. The 1940 Euclid started its mine life at the Castle Dome mine 12 miles west of Globe, Arizona. The Castle Dome Mine was a copper mine funded by the "Defense Plant Cor-

poration An Instrumentality of The United States Government." The U.S. government needed copper for the second world war, and supplied capital to develop such mines. The 1940 Euclid was on display in front of the mine office at Magma Pinto Valley Mine (formerly the Castle Dome). In September 1992, the truck was pulled from its display platform and offered to anyone who would take it home. Three months later it was cut for scrap.

# The “Intermediate” Simmons Lamp

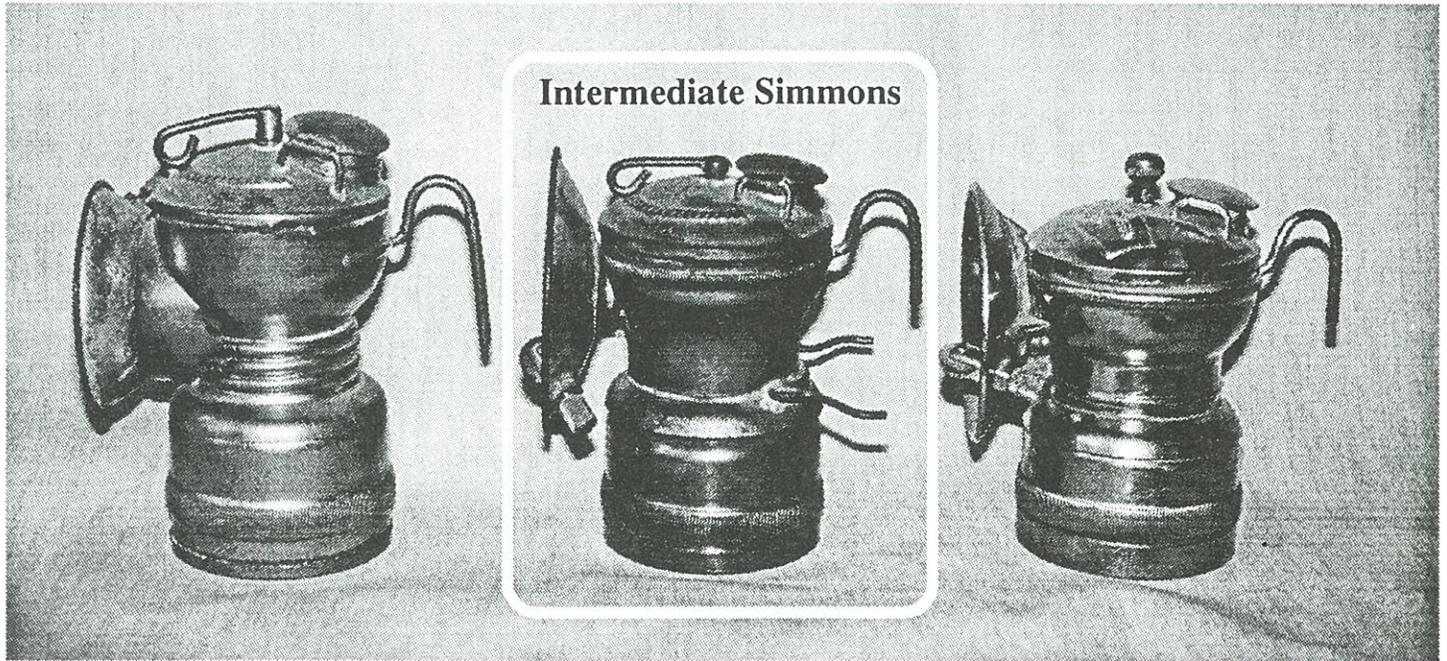
by Dave Thorpe

In 1981 I used to make regular visits to the Fairfax, Virginia home of my original lamp mentor Chuck Young. Chuck's long white hair was pulled back in a pony-tail, but he spoke with the air of a history professor as he showed me his vast collection of miner's cap lamps. The Simmons brand was of great interest to Chuck. It was here that I first saw the lamp that is the subject of this article. Pointing it out, he said: "...and this is what I call the intermediate Simmons lamp". Demonstrating my poor skills as a student, I failed to ask why, but nodded a dumb "uh, huh", and simply registered the name and the appearance of the lamp in my mind.

Years later, after, comparing the “intermediate” Simmons with many other models, I've learned a bit more about this style, but have found even more questions.

The first thing one notices about the “intermediate”, is that the tank differs from its more common cousin, the Simmons Pioneer. The lamp seems somewhat transitional between the Pioneer and its later relatives, the Sun Ray and ITP. Hence, Chuck Young's designation: “intermediate”. (ITP and SunRay were produced by Dewar, a company formed by ex-Simmons Co. designers around 1919). Many have wondered about the origins of the name Dewar. To date, no one by that name has been identified. The two Simmons designers, Brock and Cochrane both lived in New York, but after leaving Simmons, formed an alliance, the “Brock-Cochrane Company, A Corporation of Delaware”. Drop three letters from Delaware and you have Dewar.

A more striking design feature of the “intermediate” is the lamp's near identical tank

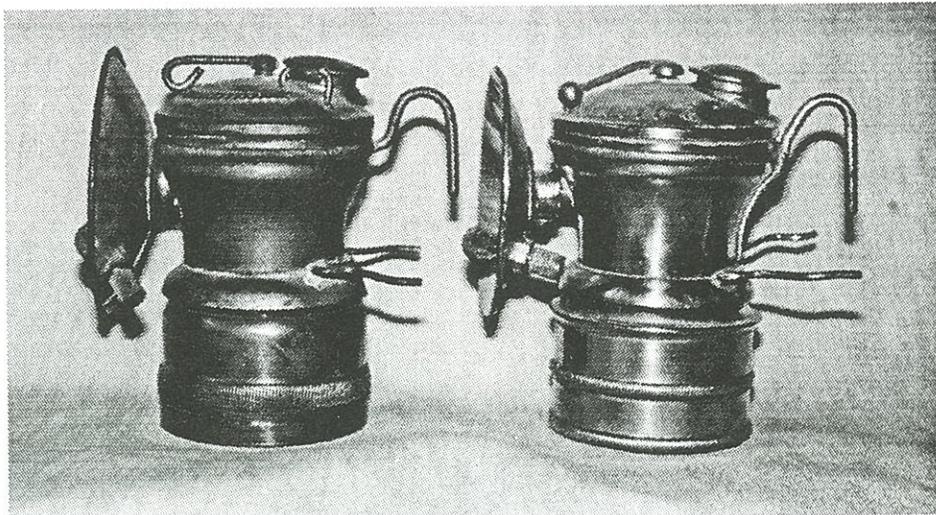


*From left to right: Simmons Pioneer, “Intermediate” Simmons, and ITP by Dewar. A transition from one to another is believed to exist by some, but this may not be the case.*

shape to the AutoLite lamps of the same era. Clemmer has noted that the parts for the AutoLite were manufactured by Chase Brass and Copper Co. of Waterbury, Connecticut. A review of U.S. patents reveals that designer Henry T. Sperry had assigned the rights to Chase Brass for two interesting lamp styles. They are very similar to the Simmons Pioneer brand *and* the "intermediate" Simmons...even more so than to the AutoLite! These two patent designs have led to the belief that Chase Brass also manufactured lamps for Simmons.

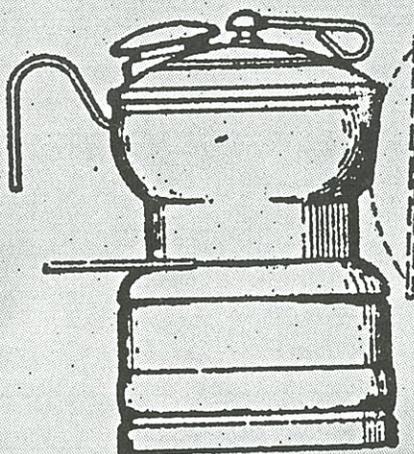
John T. Sperry is known only for one other patent that I am aware of: a gas burner tip (1916). And what could have been the purpose for his tank design that Chase marketed concurrently with the Autolite and Simmons? Both Simmons and Universal (AutoLite) would have done so with Chase's legal consent, if not encouragement, for the same company would have profited from the increased marketing by both companies. One might more logically call this odd Simmons lamp the "AutoLite-style" Simmons, but the name "intermediate" has stuck, and is a recognized term among most collectors. It reminds me of my friend Chuck Young.

The "intermediate" Simmons lamp is found in at least four variations, the major differ-

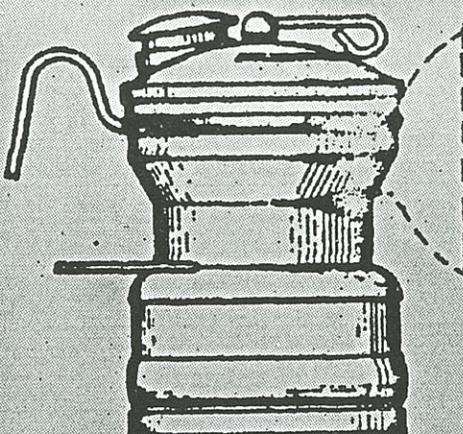


*The tank of the "Intermediate" Simmons has more in common with Universal's AutoLite than with its own relatives. An illegitimate son?*

### Design Patent 54,786



### Design Patent 54,787



### Patents by Henry T. Sperry

*Both patents shown here were filed Oct. 10, 1919 and granted March 23, 1920. Both models show the classic Simmons style base. The top model's tank is similar to the Pioneer while the bottom model is more like the "intermediate" Simmons. Both show a wire cap brace that is common to the "intermediate" Simmons and the AutoLite.*

ence being in the water feed levers. All have screw-on reflectors. The shallow reflectors are tinned steel and the deep-dish is nickel-plated brass. The following photos represent a comparison of the four in my collection.

**References:**

1. Paul Kouts, Miner's Carbide Lamp Reference, Vol. IX., Simmons, 1983.
2. Gregg S. Clemmer, American Miners' Carbide Lamps, 1987.



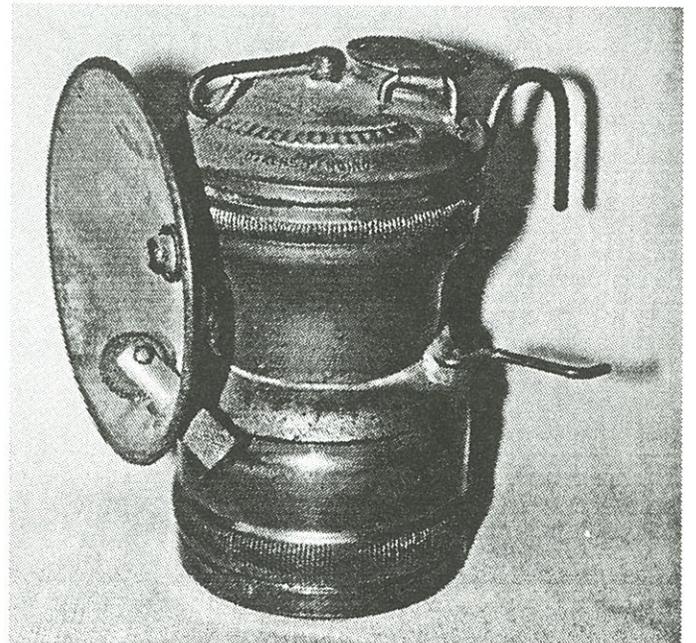
*Most basic model with heavy bent raking wire, no tank notches. Brass.*



*Straight raking wire, no notches on tank. Brass.*



*Nickel-plated model with conventional lever, deep reflector, and notched tank.*



*Brass model with conventional lever and notched tank.*

# Colorado Mine Rescue

by Steve Rush

You're an enthusiastic mining artifact collector. Perhaps too enthusiastic and you just can't pass up an opportunity to venture into the beckoning portal of an abandoned claim.

You have your hand held Eveready and you've heard that rare and unusual treasures can be found within, patented candlesticks, rare cap tins.... who knows? So in you go.

Several hundred feet down a slight incline, a drift is seen off to the left. You follow tentatively to another drift, a crosscut right with an ancient ladder leading up to another level. Your flashlight (should have bought those Energizers...) is weakening. But you've found a room blasted into the wall of yet another drift beyond a stope. The open void shows in your faint light to hold several stained wooden boxes - Danger!, Explosives! Giant Powder Co. Cons Fat, waxy sticks of dynamite lie scattered about, some with a clear crystalline type formation on them. Your light goes out, shake it once and back on it comes bright-then out for good.

Who you gonna call? You had best sit quietly now and wait for the folks from the Edgar

Mine Rescue Team (EMRT) to find you and bring you back alive to the sun. Try not to think how long you might be in the company of those sensitive explosives, patiently waiting in the deadly darkness for you to accidentally disturb their chemical imbalance into one brilliant sun of their own.

Formed in July 1993 under the auspicious direction of the State of Colorado, the EMRT is based at the Edgar Experimental Mine facility in Idaho Springs, Colorado. Lead by Joe Nugent, the present roster shows a mailing list of over 100 volunteers. A core of 20 or so meet once a month in Idaho Springs to train and hone their abilities to rescue individuals (and groups...) foolish enough to venture into the forbidding underground. EMRT volunteers also presently have the ability to work within the structure of true mining disasters at working mines, from cave ins to explosions which have trapped many a working stiff in the lonely darkness. Full face respirators are always used in the underground, as most mines, both abandoned and working, hold potentially dangerous levels of gas.

Joe Nugent has been with the Centralized Mine Rescue organization for Colorado since 1984 and has an extensive background in both Pennsylvania coal mines and Western hard rock mines. His experience with bringing forth the tragically dead and injured spans 25 years. The wit and wisdom with which Joe teaches his newest volunteer group belays what his eyes have reluctantly viewed.

The Edgar Experimental Mine in Idaho Springs first felt the sensitive probe of a miners pick in the 1870's, towards the front end of Colorado's gold rush which began a decade before. High grade gold, silver and other metals were brought out into the early 1920's. The Colorado School of Mines (CSM) signed a lease on the mine in 1921

from the Big Five Mining Company with an eventual purchase and so began the mines history into modern times as an underground proving ground for CSM students, as well as a training opportunity for Mine Rescue personnel. Its network of drifts and stopes, reverberate today until the noise of jackleg drills operated by newly minted Mining Engineers and the other worldly goggled faces of Drager respirator clad Rescue Volunteers. Twice a year, usually in October and again in March, Joe places a local news advertisement in several weekly papers in hopes of attracting Mine Rescue volunteers

from the pool of small miners and folks just interested in putting a little back into their community. His teachings include the use of the afore mentioned full face respirators, mine gas detection devices, how to read a mine map of underground workings ( a sort of earthly schematic not dissimilar to the diagram no one pays attention to when hooking up a VCR), communication underground, hazardous materials training, first aid and body retrieval.... anything that may kill or injure a person underground is well covered. And the list of these things would add several pages to this article.

The initial training course covers four-ten hour days. Underground exercises at the Edgar Experimental mine include work in "The Maze", a 36-inch diameter- twenty too long pipe leading into a box structure with several different openings into other box structures which lead... etc., etc. Moving through here with thirty five plus pounds of equipment on your person under artificial smoke conditions which drop visibility to six inches or so is a very enlightening way to spend your spare Saturday.

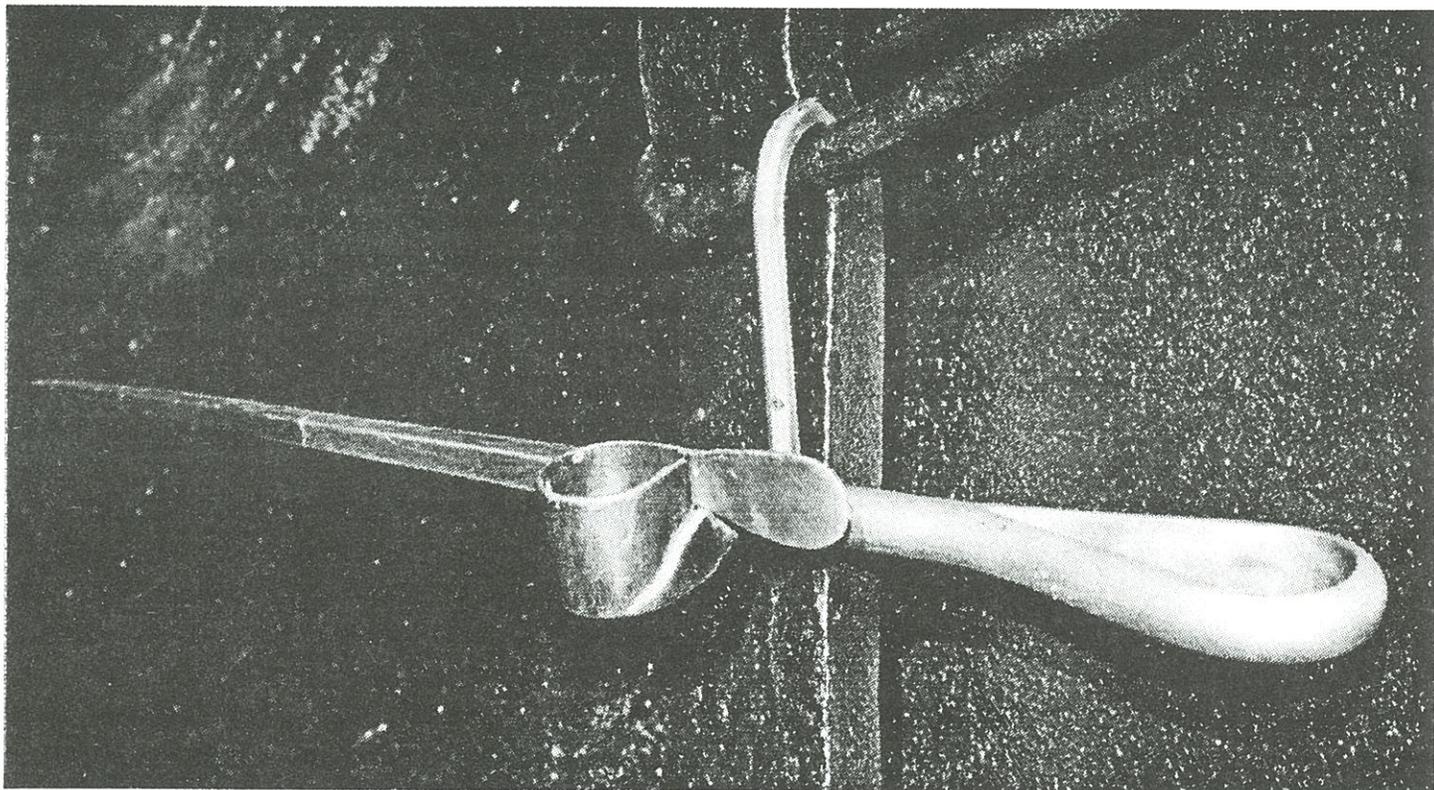
Thank God, Joe Nugent and the State of Colorado Mine Rescue system the next time you feel the need to explore behind the beckoning maw of a mine portal, or fall twelve feet down a three hundred foot shaft and hang up on a rotting mine timber. You'll more than likely need all three to extract you from your predicament.

And the fellow who wandered into the old underground powder cache at this stories beginning? He was one of the extremely fortunate ones and stumbled out on his own. But not before he made a number of promises of a religious nature and vowed to change several ways. He did keep at least one commitment however, and is one of the newest members of the Edgar Mine Rescue team!

[Since this article was written, Joe has retired from the Mine Rescue organization. EMRT is now in the capable hands of Billy York-Feirn and Dave Bucknam. For further information write to Bill at the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology, 1313 Sherman St., Rm 215, Denver, CO 80203 or call (303) 866-3567].

# A Brass Candlestick: What's the Point?

*by Dave Thorpe*



*A brass candlestick hangs with an unusual steel point hangs from the latch of an ore car.*

**M**ost brass candleholders were never intended for use in the mine. The metal is not hard enough to keep a point. Instead they were used as fancy presentation pieces. Brass has an attractive appearance and could easily be formed into intricate designs.

This stick is an exception, for it is not fancy, and was intended for actual use. The body of the stick is entirely brass, while the first three inches of the point is steel. In all probability a steel shank runs down inside the shaft of the stick as a means of attaching the point and giving added strength.

For many years this stick remained in a museum in Custer, South Dakota. Last year the museum closed and the contents were distributed amongst several family members and buyers. One of the family members resided in Phoenix, and had obtained three nice sticks in his share of the goods.

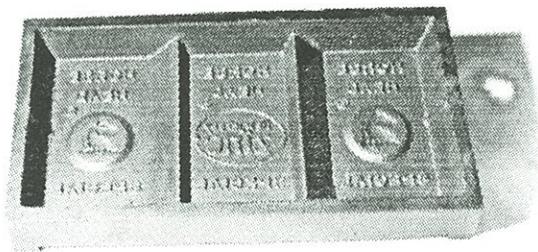
One was a steel gal-leg stick. Another steel stick had an eight-sided shaft and a slip-over hook riveted onto the shank. The third stick is the brass one shown here.

In the above photo, it is hanging onto the end of an ore car. Although not fancy, this is the first candlestick I have seen that is brass and was intended for use by miners.

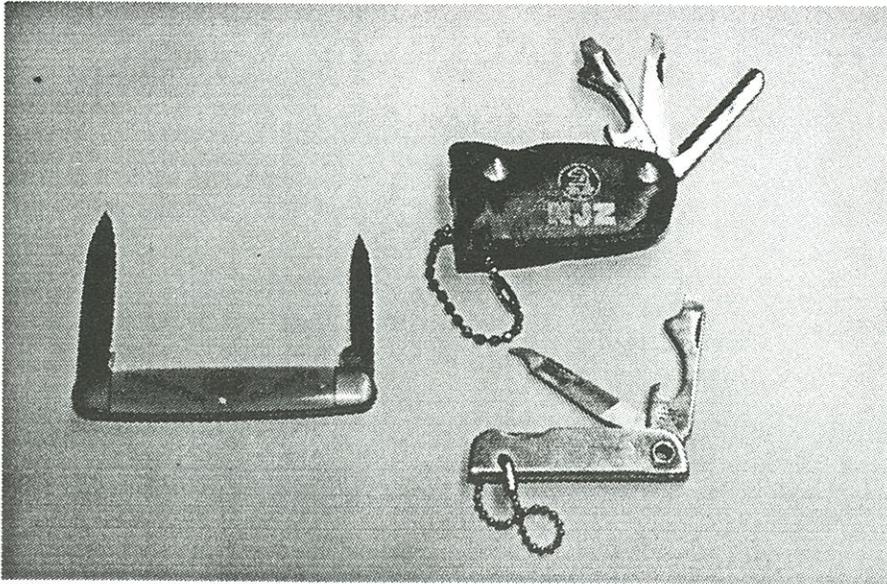
# New Jersey Zinc Co.

by Bill Lorah and Dave Johnson

Collectibles from the New Jersey Zinc Co. are shown here. The company had operations in Gilman, Colorado and Palmerton, Pennsylvania. Shown right, are various zinc ingots that were cast by the company as well as the actual mold (below) for casting the triple ingot shown at top (Bill Lorah collection).



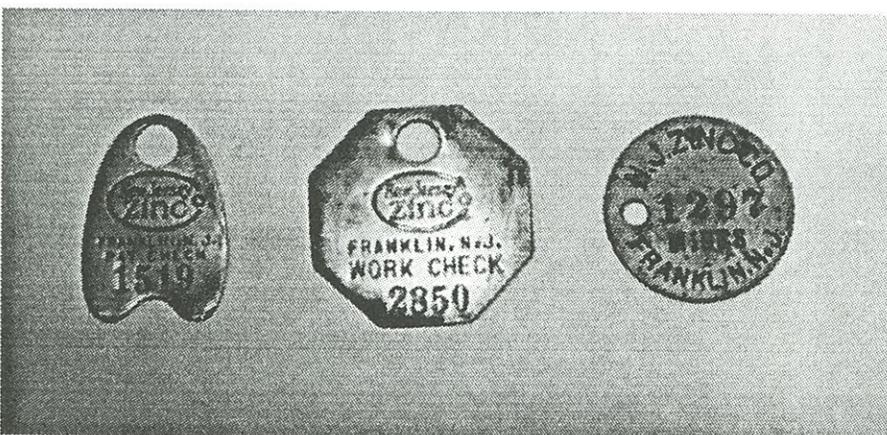
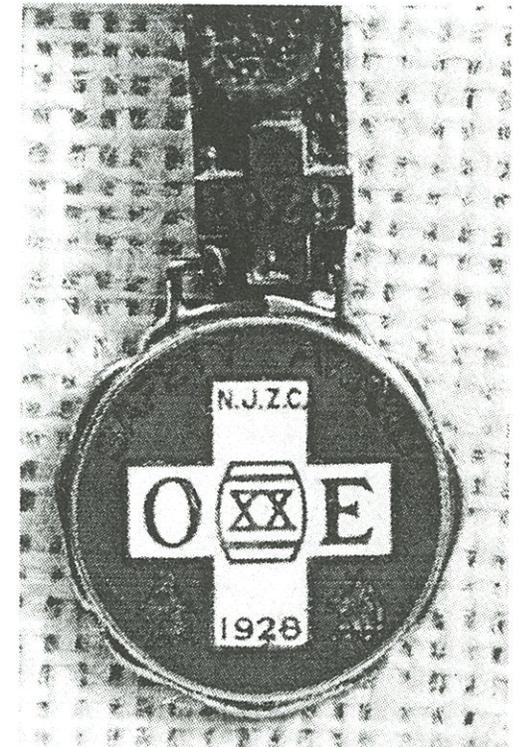
Three different I.D. badges are shown here. The early shield type, the later round type, and the photo I.D. which was started 8/1/41 (war time). (Lorah collection)



Three NJZ commemorative jackknives (Lorah collection).



This usually shaped New Jersey Zinc Co. check tag is made of a zinc alloy, while most tags are brass (Dave Johnson collection).



Check tags from Bill Lorah's collection.

A German Silver, and green and white enamel, safety award watch fob issued in 1928. A smaller green enamel cross dated 1929 hangs on the leather strap above the fob.

# The Aetna Powder Co. & Aetna Explosives Co.

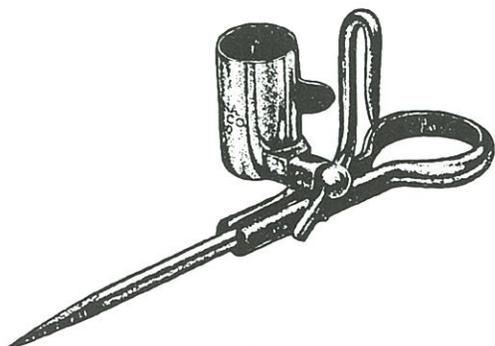
by Bob Schroth

The first time I saw a embossed Atena Blasting cap tin, I knew I had to get it. Then while in the hunt for honing antiques I would on occasion come upon other Aetna products, I never really knew the difference in the true companies. This will be a brief description of what I have been able to find out.

## The Aetna Powder Co.<sup>1</sup>

Aetna Powder Co., was one of the companies organized in the early 1880's when an increasing demand for explosives and the upsetting of the Nobel Patents gave a new impetus to the dynamite industry. Their trademark was the Lion Brand. Aetna Powder Co. was incorporated in Indiana on April 3, 1880. They proved to be a major player in the dynamite industry of the era.

Aetna powder was carefully packaged in well made cartridges, cartons, and boxes, which pleased the consumers and for a time set the standard in this respect for other American powder manufactures. These high quality packing standards turned out to be Very desirable as far as collectors are concerned. I have a few early boxes and tins from this company. I can only wish to find the elusive Aetna Powder Co. folding candle stick.<sup>3</sup>



*Aetna folding candlestick. Illustration by Wendell Wilson.*



BLASTING CAPS

**If you want to get the best results  
from your dynamite,  
Use Good Detonators**

Nothing less than a No. 4 detonator is fit to explode any kind of dynamite, and a No. 5 is better. A forty per cent dynamite fired with a No. 3 detonator will do no better work than a thirty-three per cent dynamite fired with a No. 4. The man who saves ten cents on the price of one hundred detonators by buying a low grade, is sure to lose several dollars in explosive force which he fails to get out of the dynamite.

Lion Detonators are of the highest quality and are not made in any grade less than No. 4.

See page 16 for table of explosive charges contained in Lion Detonators.

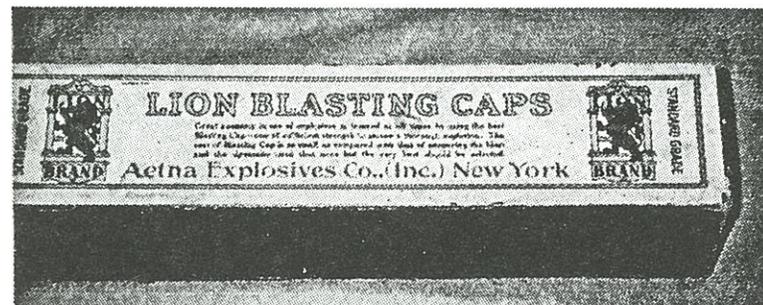
*From Aetna dynamite booklet.*

# The Aetna Explosives Co.<sup>1</sup>

Aetna Explosives Co. was the name given to Aetna after it was purchased by du Pont around 1913. This came about in a plan designed by R.J. Moxham, then a director of the du Pont Co. He believed it would be desirable to purchase and consolidate into one company the principal competitors of the du Pont Co. including particularly The Aetna Powder Co., Keystone National, Giant, and Brewster Co. A start was made towards the acquisition of their stocks. This was successful except in the case of the Giant Powder Co. whose stock was quietly acquired by the Atlas Powder Co. while negotiations were going on.



obtained enormous war contracts. By January 1916 these amounted to over \$30,000,000. As the war progressed the company became more of a munitions concern, and less concerned with commercial explosives. In late 1917 Aetna had been so badly involved through war-expansion and a few disasters in the munitions business that a receivership was inevitable.



*Lion Brand cap tin box (Bob Schroth collection).*

The new company was finally incorporated in New York on November 24, 1914. The companies absorbed, included the following: Aetna Powder Co., Keystone National Powder Co., Pluto Powder Co., Jefferson Powder Co., Miami Powder Co., and F. K. Brewster Inc. Along With 60% of the stock of the Kingley Wood Pulp Co. By this time the European war had created a large and rapidly increasing demand for explosives from warring nations. The Aetna officials now concluded to go after some of this attractive war business and soon obtained enormous war contracts.

Ex-governor Benjamin B. Odell of Newburg N. Y. and George C. Holt of New York city were named by Judge Julius M. Mayer of New York for this position. Odell asked his friend Wilson P. Foss who had operated the Clinton Dynamite Co. to assist him With his knowledge of the dynamite business by taking a place on the board of directors. Foss agreed and remained on the board until the company Was sold to the Hercules Powder Co. in 1921.

## Aetna-Grasselli Cap Tin

This Grasselli No. 6 is almost identical to the round Aetna and the Hercules dark green tins. It is a royal blue with black printing.<sup>2</sup> The similarity of these three Lion Brand tins suggests that Grasselli may have been involved with the Aetna - Hercules merger of 1921.

A recap of this merger is as follows. Due to an antitrust court decree breaking up the du Pont holding, a *new* Hercules Powder Co. was incorporated on Oct. 17, 1912. The new Hercules Powder Co. bought the Independent Powder Co in 1914, and the Aetna Explosives Co. in 1921.

It is known that in 1917 Grasselli acquired the Burton Powder Co., the American High Explosives Co., and the Cameron Powder Mfg. Co.



*The royal blue No. 6 Grasselli: a relabeled Aetna product?*

Aetna No. 6 Lion Brand tins are painted dark green with "Aetna Explosives" printed on the edge of the lid. The Hercules tin is the same except that the edge of the lid reads "Hercules Powder Co. Wilmington Dela." All the tins have the same Lion Brand trade mark. It is unusual for a #6 tin to be painted blue in color. Most #5 tins are Blue, #6 orange, #7 brown, And #8 Green. As always, there are exceptions to the rules. I guess that is what makes collecting so much fun.

### References

1. Arthur P. Van Gelders, and Hugo Schlatter. History of the Explosives Industry in America.
2. Andy Martin's Cap Tin Catalog.
3. Wilson-Bohrink, A Collector's Guide to Antique Miners' Candlesticks.

# What Are Scatter Tags?

by Larry Click

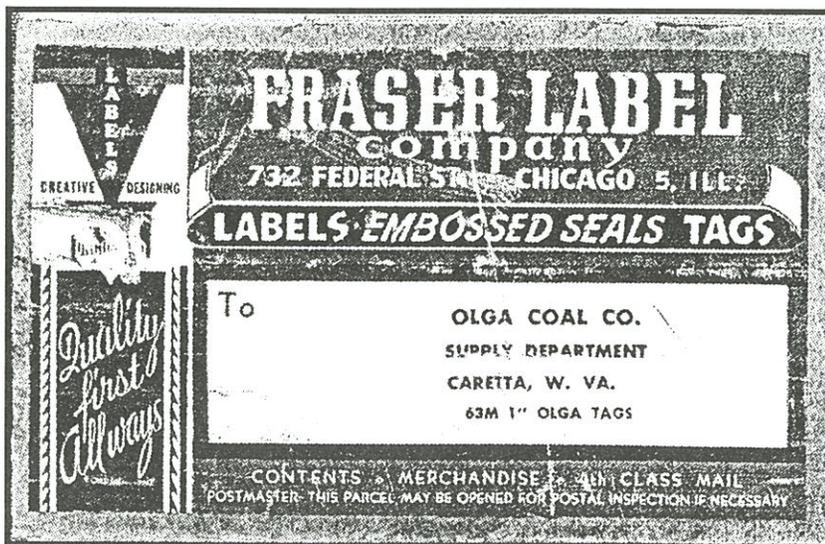
Scatter tags are colorful, small foil and cardboard disks with a company name and/or logo on them. The tags were put in coal cars loaded with coal to identify that particular company's coal. As each coal car was loaded under the coal chute, a handful of these tags were thrown into each coal car.

As to why the "Scatter Tags" came into existence--Early on each coal car had a small block of wood attached to its lower corner. As the cars were loaded with coal, a miner would tack a 4x6 card identifying that particular coal company onto the piece of wood. The coal cars would be taken to the loading docks--which was Lambert's Point, Virginia, in my coal mining area--where the loading dock officials would pay the coal company owners for the coal they had received at the docks.

It was easy for a dishonest coal company owner or his employees to remove the paper tags of a competitor off the block of wood and attach one of his to the car. Eventually, there had to be something done to prevent the coal from being stolen. That is when the foil and cardboard scatter tags were invented. The tags were used widely through the 1940's, 1950's and the 1960's. They are made in different shapes, i.e., round, square, oval, cone, octagonal, etc. Some have markings on one side and others have markings on both sides. I have noticed the bituminous coal producers used more of the colorful foil type tags and the Anthracite coal producers appear to have used more cardboard tags. Both types are quickly becoming scarce.

Here are copies of labels from a box of Olga scatter tags I picked up at an auction. Also, a copy of the only advertisement I have seen for scatter tags.

If anyone has any of these tags for sale or trade please contact the author at 1021 North Jefferson Street, Arlington, VA 22205, 1-703-241-3748, e-mail: [Iclick@erols.com](mailto:Iclick@erols.com).



# Significant Labor Events in the Mining Industry

*submitted by Dave Johnson*

The following is a chronology of selected significant labor events associated with the mining industry. Others may differ with the significance associated with the events listed here, but these events have stood out in my mind. Anyone interested in seeing future articles on any of the events listed below please let me know.

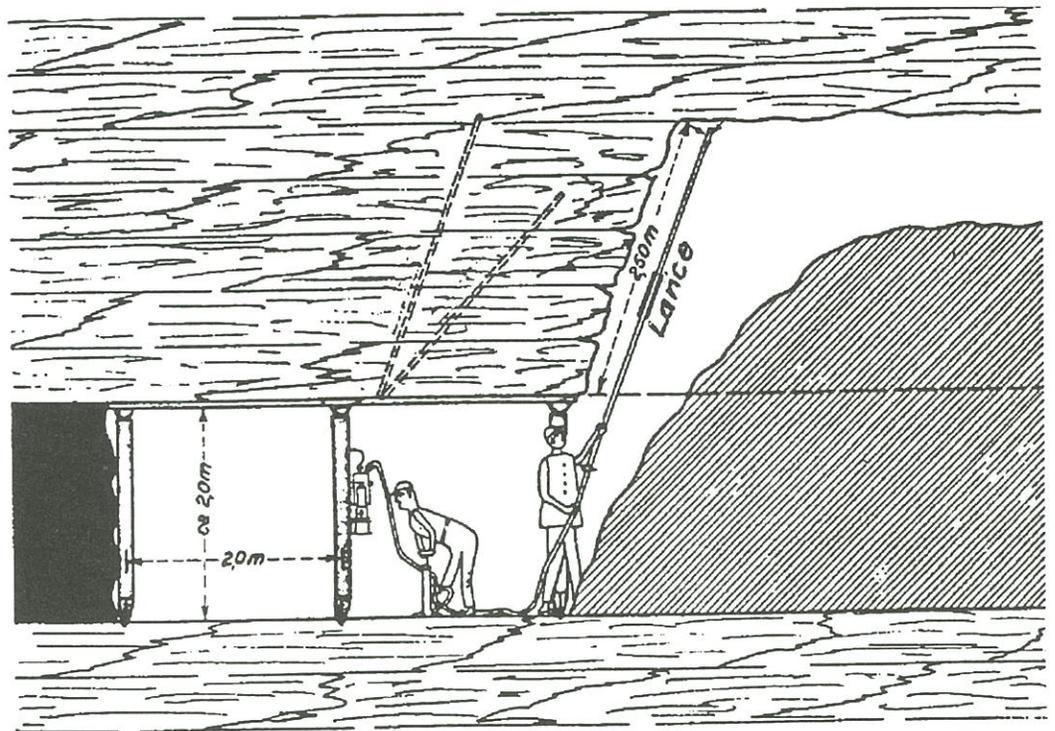
- 1861 - American Miner's Association, the first national coal miner's union, is organized in St. Louis, MO.
- 1867 - Miner's Union of Virginia City and Gold Hill, Nevada, formed, wins \$4 day for miners.
- 1868 - Pennsylvania Anthracite coal strike.
  - John Siney organizes Workingmen's Benevolent Association.
- 1870 - First written contract between coal operators and coal miners is signed.
- 1873 - Miner's National Association is organized.
- 1875 - Conviction of Molly Maquires for Pennsylvania coalfield murders - 20 convicted miners are eventually hung.
  - Anthracite coal strike
  - Famous "Long Strike" in anthracite coal fields lasts more than 6 months and results in breaking the Workingmen's Benevolent Association.
- 1877 - Convicted members of the Molly Maquires are hung.
- 1879 - Springfield, Nova Scotia, miners organize Canada's first labor union - the Provincial Workingmen's Association..
- 1880 - Leadville, Colorado miners' strike demanding pay increase.
- 1890 - United Mine Workers of America is founded in Columbus, Ohio.
- 1891 - Tennessee Coal Miner's Strike.
- 1892 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Miner's Strike over 50 cents/day wage cut.
- 1893 - The Western Federation of Miners is founded.
- 1894 - Cripple Creek, Colorado Miner's Strike over owners lengthening work day from 8 to 9 hours with no pay increase.
- 1896 - Leadville, Colorado Miner's Strike.
- 1897 - Lattimer, Pennsylvania Massacre in which sheriff and deputies kill 19 striking miners and wound 40 more during a peaceful protest march.
- 1899 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Miner's Strike.
  - John Mitchell elected president of UMWA.
- 1900 - Pennsylvania Anthracite coal strike.
- 1902 - Great Anthracite Coal Strike, miners stay off work for 164 days.

- 1903 - Cripple Creek, Colorado, Miner's Strike, continues into 1904.
  - Telluride, Colorado, Miner's Strike, continues into 1904.
  - Utah Coal Miner's Strike.
- 1905 - Western Federation of Miners becomes the "Mining Department" of the I.W.W.
- 1907 - Goldfield, Nevada, Miner's Strike begins. Explosion in Monongah, WV kills 361 miners in the nation's worst mining disaster.
- 1912 - Paint Creek and Cabin Creek, WV miner's strike.
- 1913 - Michigan Copper Miner's Strike.
- 1914 - Ludlow, Colorado Massacre - Colorado Fuel & Iron Company gunmen attack tent colony of striking UMWA families killing 19.
- 1916 - Arizona Copper Miner's Strike.
  - Minnesota Iron Range Miner's Strike.
- 1917 - Bisbee, Arizona Copper Miner's Strike.
  - Butte, Montana Copper Miner's Strike.
- 1919 - UMWA calls nationwide strike, lasts 6 weeks.
- 1920 - Alabama Miner's Strike.
  - Matewan, WV, ten people killed in fight over right to organize the southern West Virginia coalfields.
  - John L. Lewis elected president of UMWA.
- 1921 - Unionists Sid Hatfield and Ed Chambers shot on steps of McDowell County Court house.
  - Battle of Blair Mountain, WV, 2000 U.S. troops block miner's attempts to organize.
- 1922 - Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Strike.
  - Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Strike.
- 1925 - Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Strike.
- 1927 - Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Strike.
- 1928 - Convict - labor system of coal mining outlawed in Alabama.
- 1931 - Harlan County, Kentucky Miner's Strike.
- 1932 - Davidson - Wilder, Tennessee Coal Miner's Strike.
  - New Mexico Miner's Strike.
- 1941 - Captive Coal Miner's Strike.
- 1943 - Bituminous Coal Strike, UMWA strike that triggered the U.S. Government takeover of the mines ends with a contract providing portal-to-portal pay and other benefits.
- 1946 - UMWA wins a health and welfare fund in bargaining with the coal operators.
  - Nationwide coal strike prompts Federal Government to seize the mines to continue production.
- 1950 - "Salt of the Earth" Miner's Strike in New Mexico.
- 1960 - UMWA union organizer Mother Jones dies at age 100.
- 1967 - Copper Strike begins.
- 1969 - Black Lung compensation bill passes in West Virginia after demonstrations by UMWA members.
- 1970 - Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act takes affect after passing Congress December 30, 1969.
- 1977 - Bituminous Coal Strike.

# A Special Lamp for Gas Detecting in High Working Places

by Werner Horning

At the Niederberg colliery near Moers/Lower-Rhine, Germany a back-filling method with dirt from inside the mine was used. By this method, the air within the mine was displaced to high points within the passages. This method came to be known as "Niederrhein". However, when an explosion of fire-damp occurred in 1936, the mine office began to discuss the possibility of using dirt from outside the mine for back-filling. Mining director Schweitzer was able to satisfy the objections of the mine office by inventing a special lamp for detecting gas at high points. The detecting end of the lamp was held high by means of a lance. On account of these improvements, the mine office abandoned the demand of using back-fill material from outside of the mine.



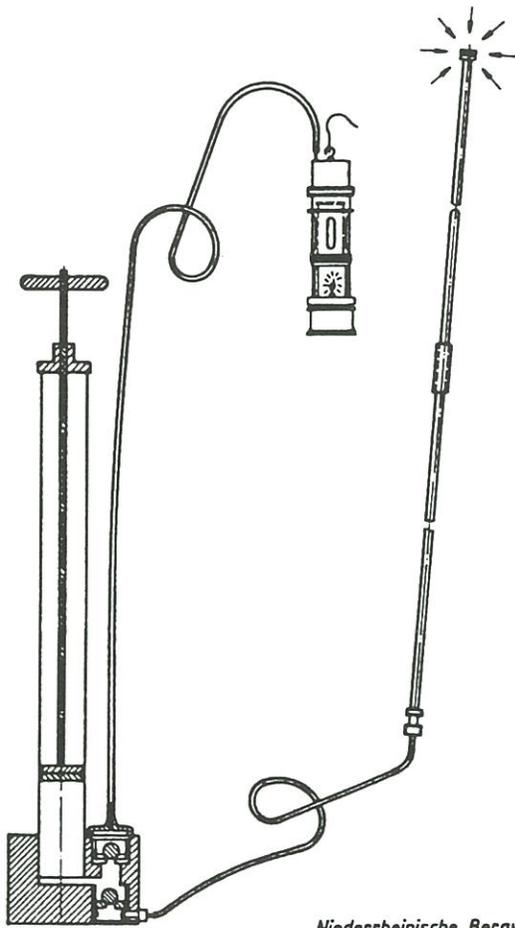
The gas detecting lamp invented by Mr. Schweitzer consisted of a normal safety lamp from "Friemann & Wolf", which, in this case

Niederrh. Bergwerks A-G.

Gas detecting  
in high mine openings  
and backfilling with  
own dirt

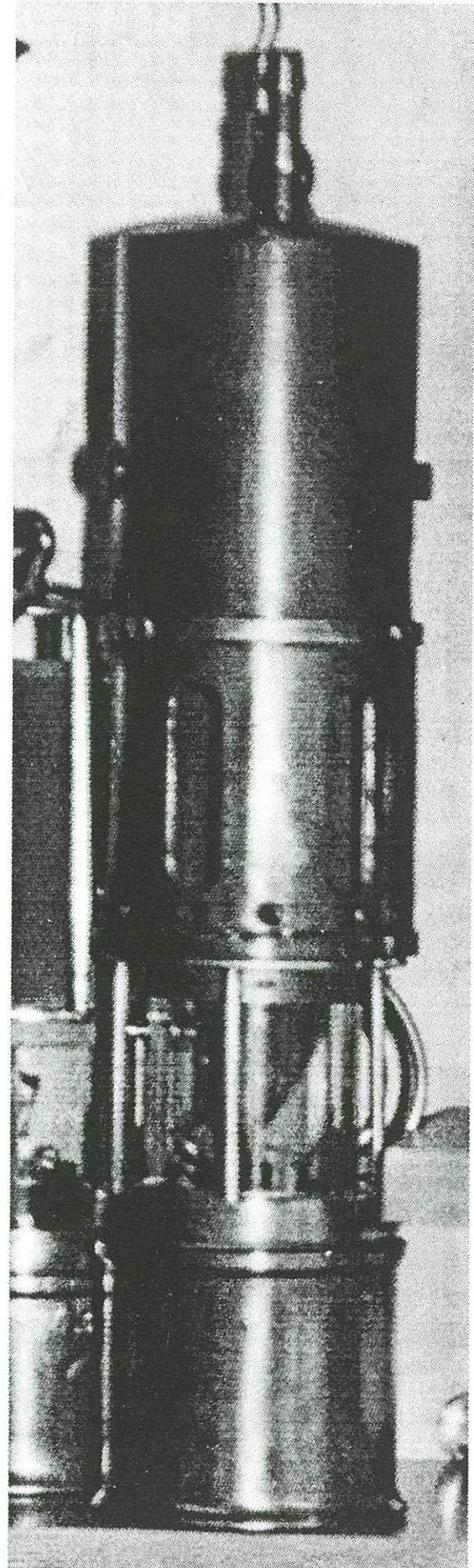
was so reconstructed, that a bonnet with slots could be opened in normal air, and were closed for gas detection. Above this, an additional chamber was connected with an inlet tube. From high points in the mine, air was drawn in by a foot-operated pump that would draw air down through flexible tubing connected to the inlet tube. The intake of the tubing was held high in the passage by a lance. The operators had the ability to watch the flame at eye level, and to read the percentage of methane from the highest recesses of the mine. The Mine Office accepted the procedure, and it was used for some years with success.

This lamp belongs to the collection of Mr. Ernst Kausen (a collector friend in Moers, Germany). He was kind enough to give me the history of this lamp.



*Niederrheinische Bergwerks A.G.*

Suction device  
for examination of  
fire-damp in high  
mine openings



# A Tale of Two Lamps

by Paul Kouts

*Excerpted from the Mining-Collect is this post of how two rare lamps were originally obtained in the field 15 years ago. The photos below are of the actual lamps that Paul describes.*

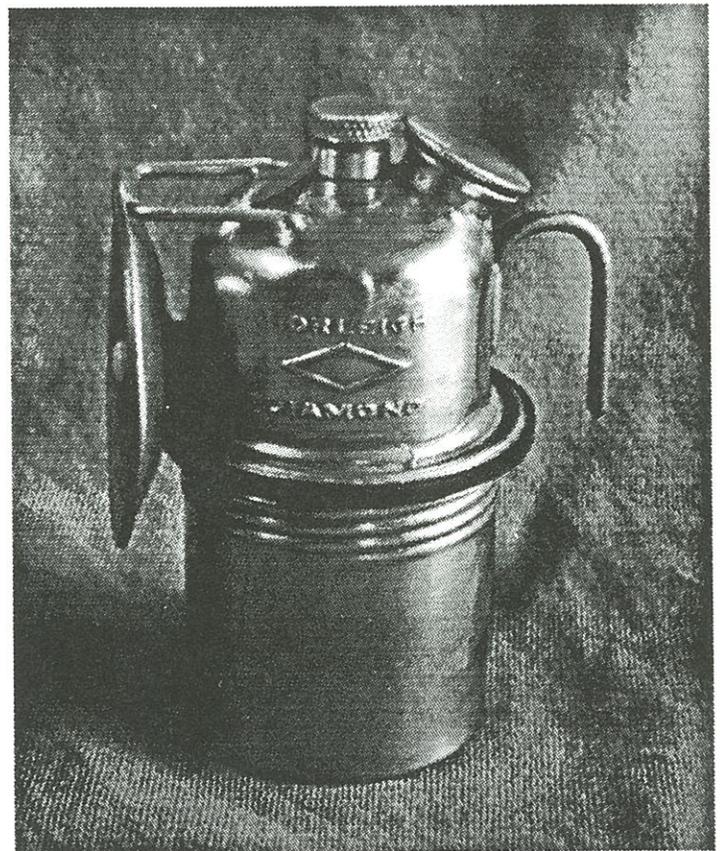
Here's another Great White Hunter tale. I think that I got the first Norleigh, and a man begged me to take it.

The hunt started with a Maumee Duplex up in Berlin, PA. It was well known that a barber up there had the lamp on display in his shop but no collector ever talked him out of it. One Sunday, I was passing through Berlin and called the barber. My lucky dime and the right mood of the barber resulted in my flying home on a cloud. A couple of months later, a picker for me called and asked how much he should

pay for a duplex lamp; he knew of one over in Berlin. I gave him the sad news and also told a price range. Two months later, the picker called again. This time the duplex was in a friend's basement. Deal done!

Well what does one do? I couldn't afford all the carbide that four generators were burning. Well, I went to the next scrip collectors show with both lamps and Bill Williams was there with his Norleigh. I tried to talk him out of it, but without any luck. After the show, Bill came over to my dinner table and was fishing around for something. I went fishing too. I asked if he would consider trading. He said he was thinking all day about the same thing but he didn't think that I would be interested. He wanted a Maumee because of all the attention that it got. I wanted the Norleigh because it was a knew name.

Now all of you collectors with your top ten lists and price guides try to fit the pure pleasure that Bill and I enjoyed that evening into your lists.



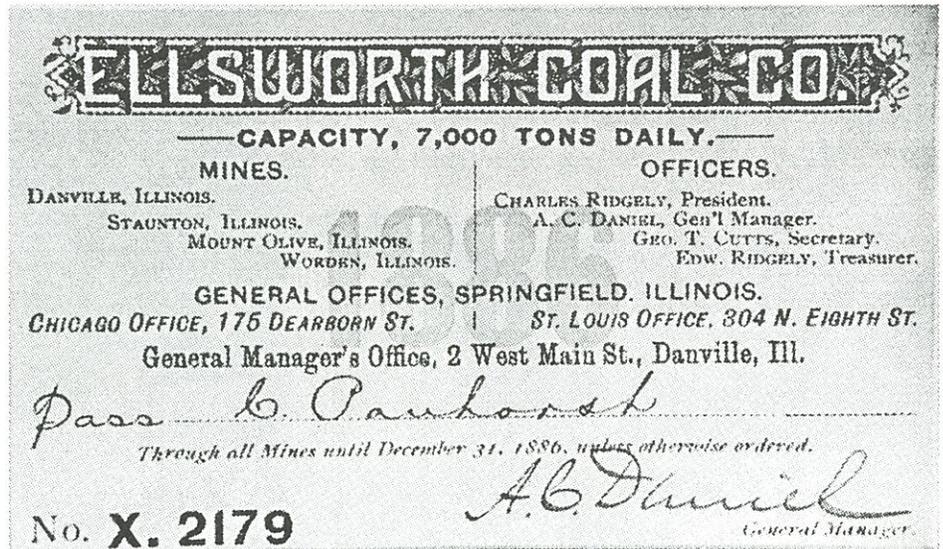


# BITS



## Coal Company Pass

The Ellsworth Coal Co. of Springfield, Illinois issued this pass in 1886. The reverse reads: "CONDITIONS: It is expressly understood that the person accepting this Annual Pass is invited to visit any of the Mines or Offices of this Company at any time and will be made welcome by any of its Officers or Agents. This Company's celebrated Bituminous Coal is suitable for Railroad Locomotive use, general steam purposes and domestic consumption." Most likely issued to stockholders and/or preferred customers this pass is printed on heavy cardboard stock with a beveled edge.



According to the pass, the company had mines located at Danville, Mount Olive, Staunton and Worden, Illinois. General Offices were located in Springfield, Illinois, with branch offices in Chicago and St. Louis. The General Manager's Office was located in Danville, Illinois. (Dave Johnson)



## Pictorial Check Tag

Unlike most check tags, which have just a mine or mining company name this example from New Castle, Pennsylvania exhibits a railway coal car with the initials of the coal company on the side of the car. (Dave Johnson)

# Mine Cars

These illustrations were taken from the Nov. 18, 1916 Engineering and Mining Journal. The "potty car", a term originated by Mark Bohannon, would probably be more accurately described as a Mine Latrine Car as the caption reads. The nifty handles could also serve as a towel rack.

Several of us have encountered the cast iron "snail-shell" blowers in our search of old mine workings. This illustration shows such a blower on its own special car complete with a trailing electric power supply.

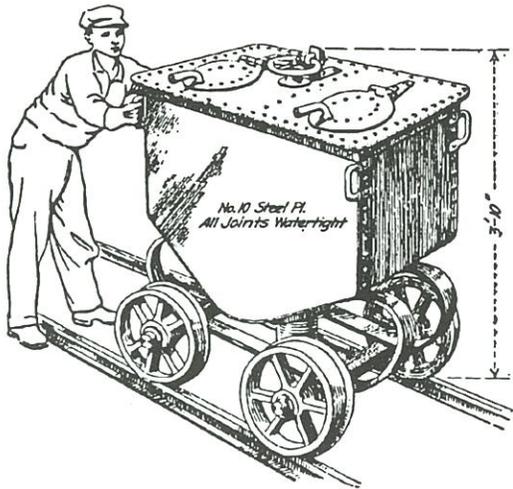


FIG. 3. MINE LATRINE CAR

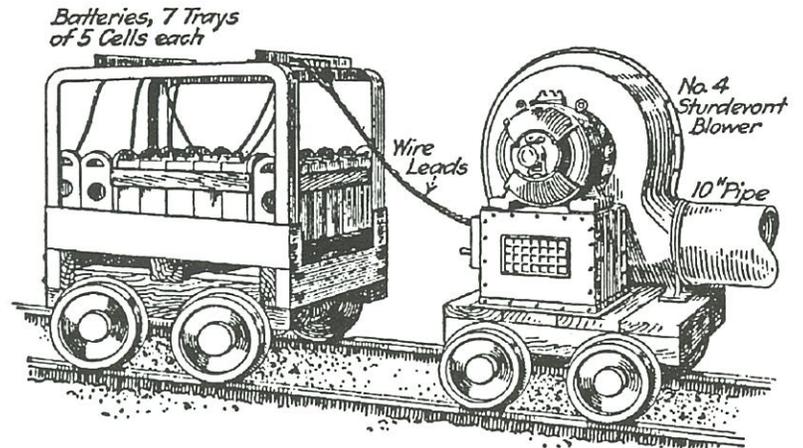
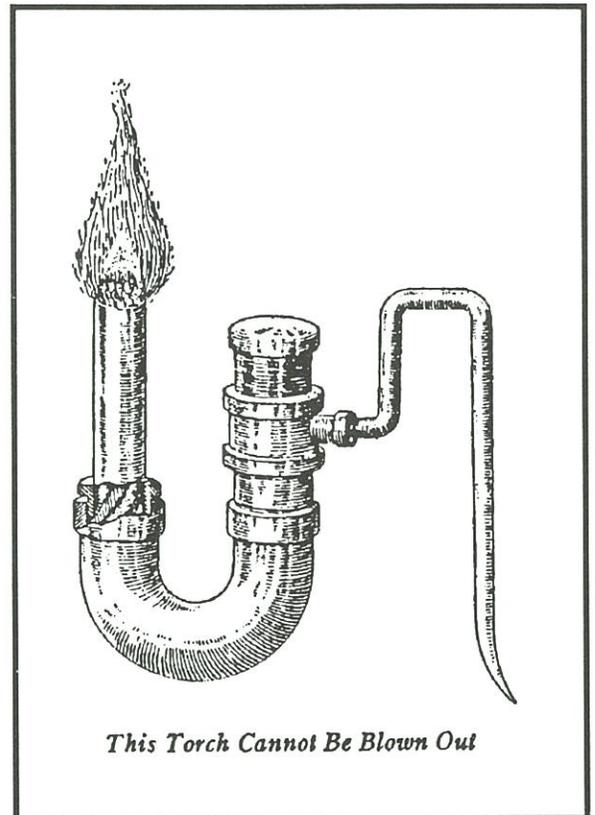


FIG. 4. STORAGE-BATTERY AND BLOWER CARS

## Rear-End Torch

No, this is not an item to make someone move along a little faster but a home made torch for the rear of a trip or train of ore cars. The illustration was taken from a pre-1916 Coal Age magazine. The description notes that the usual oil torches used for this purpose were almost too light for the rough handling they received, with replacements being frequent. This one is made of iron. "A torch built in this manner is almost indestructible and will stay lighted even in strong air current."



*This Torch Cannot Be Blown Out*

## Ten Pounder

This Shawinigan ten-pound carbide canister was found by Bob Schroth. It is green with white letters. How many others have found cans of this size?



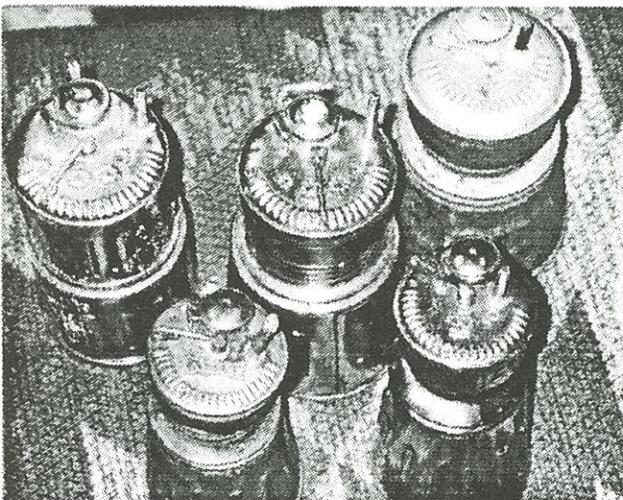
## Weird Item

I don't know what it is. It is the size of a one-pound carbide can. It is painted yellow with black printing. What does NOS mean? If you know anything about this please reply. (Bob Schroth).



## More on Belt Generators from Thailand

Sometimes bearing the label OKAI, these are the infamous belt generators that gained some interest among the most avid collectors. Some are very primitive, as the lamp on far right, others are reminiscent of Justrite's Acme belt generator. Most are made cheaply, but some are made with better brass and are somewhat sturdy. I have been lucky enough to meet a dealer who has connections with the Far East. She has found several styles of these belt generators, Steven Mc Cabe sent in a photo of one, new in the box and they were described as a mining lamp. I had thought they were some kind of area light used in places with no electricity. Then while looking through a April 1986 Senior Conflow Calendar I found a similar lamp pictured. Over the years, I have had 6 or 7 different lamps. I don't believe any are older than 30yrs, but until more information is found, I guess they are of interest to anyone who collects carbides. (Bob Schroth)



## Blue Porcelain

Blue and white porcelain sign. Found by Bob Schroth at Indiana Advertising show. Some believe "This Way Out" signs may have been used in subways, and that to be a bona fide mining sign, it should read "Too Surface". However a reprint of mining signs in a M.S.A. catalog shows the signs below.



811



801



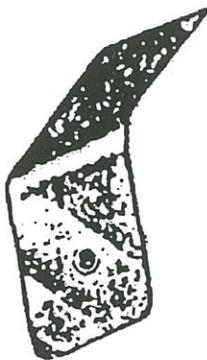
## Baldwin Carbide Containers

From a Mine and Smelter Supply Co. catalog, a page from Baldwin accessories identifies these two unmarked containers as Baldwin products. (Jim Lackey)



### BALDWIN ACETYLENE LAMPS REPAIR PARTS

#### REFLECTORS



No. 1



No. 2



Nos. 3 and 4

#### CARBIDE CONTAINERS



Six 8-Hour Shifts

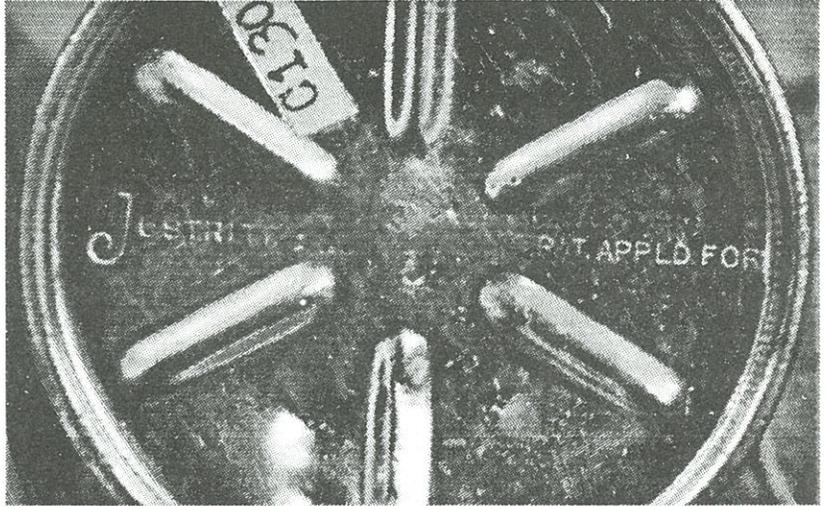


One 10-Hr. Shift

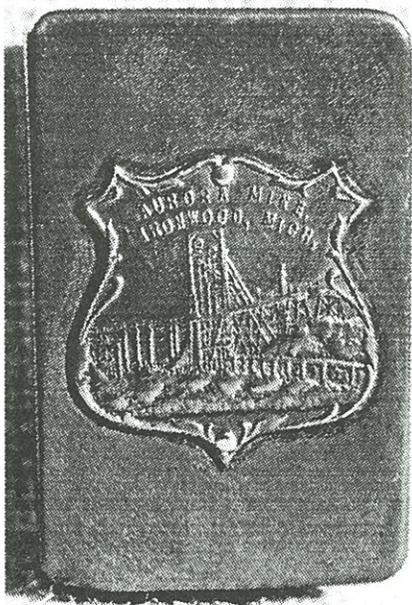
## Justrite Ribbed Bases: Early and Earlier Stampings

Tony Moon submitted these photos of Justrite cap lamp bases. He writes:

"The first one (top photo) is one that I have had for some time and I originally thought that it was an example of the first ribbed base that Justrite manufactured. This lamp is a nickel plated horizontal Justrite cap lamp with 1912-13-15 dates and no "Made in USA" on the side. It has 12 water lever bumps and a Liberty feed plus the rubber gasketed water door (that is the reason I keep the lamp!).



The other photo and the main reason for this letter is the unusual marking on this Justrite ribbed base which I believe predates the one above. I had only seen one other lamp with this base until I found this one in California a month or so ago. The lamp is in horrible condition but for \$15 worth buying so I could take some pictures! The lamp is nickel plated with 1912-13-15 dates and no "Made in USA" on the side. It has also got 12 bumps, a lever feed and an oval water door."



## Matchholder

This copper matchholder is a souvenir of the Aurora Mine in Ironwood, Michigan and depicts the mine's headframe. This particular area of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is part of the Gogebic Iron Range.

The Aurora Mine was part of the holdings of the Oliver Iron Mining Co. on the Gogebic Range, along with the Norrie, East Norrie, Pabst, Puritan, Tilden, Chicago, Atlantic, Geneva and Royal Iron Mines. The Oliver Iron Mining Co. was a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, better known as U.S. Steel. U.S. Steel also had subsidiary iron mining operations in Alabama (Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co.) and Utah (Columbia Iron Mining Co.). (Dave Johnson)

# STORAGE AND USE OF CANDLES & PARAFFIN WAX

(113). Candles and paraffin wax shall not be stored in the mine belowground, except in pursuance of a written exemption by the Inspector of the division, which exemption may be at any time withdrawn.

Where candles are taken belowground in proper metal boxes, each of which contains not more than one pound weight of candles, and not more than one box for each man is taken belowground, the keeping of such boxes in the working places or at a district station during a working shift shall not be deemed to be storage within the meaning of this regulation.

(114). Where candles are stored in the mine belowground in pursuance of an exemption as aforesaid, the following conditions shall be observed:—

- (a) The quantity stored on any day shall not exceed the supply reasonably required for that day.
- (b) Until required for use, they shall be kept in a box or boxes constructed of fireproof material and placed in a recess in the strata, which recess, if made in the coal, shall be lined with fireproof material. Each box shall be in the sole charge of a person specially appointed for the purpose in writing by the Manager, and shall be kept securely locked. No person other than a person so appointed shall in any way interfere with any such box.

(115). (a) All candles used in the mine belowground shall be placed in a metal holder, which shall be of such design that when fixed to a prop the flame of the candle cannot set fire to the wood. This regulation shall not apply to candles:—

- (1) When being carried;
- (2) When used under the direct supervision of the person using the same.

(116). Candles looped or strung together shall in no circumstances be burned off belowground.



# 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 one of the Eureka staff. 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!

**WANTED:** Atlas, DuPont, Hercules blaster's handbooks. Ronald Champeau, 100 Indian Run Rd., Bellingham, Mass. 02019. tel: (508) 883-8026.

**WANTED:** Anthracite (round), Abercrombie & Fitch, Funk Bros., Klun, Maple City, NI-BA, Norleigh Diamond, Oshkosh, Premier by Hardsocg, Red Star, Standard, Stein Dropper, Schneider, Scranton, Snell, Square-Lite (guy's), What Cheer cap lamp. Have many items to trade. Larry Click 1021 N. Jefferson St., Arlington, VA 22205. tel: (703) 241-3748.

**FOR SALE:** Sheet Metal & Stamping Machine Co, oilwick, man's head logo, nice condition. Sunray carbide cap lamp, wire feed, 2" reflector, nice condition. Contact Jim Chapman (717) 779-0620

### FOR SALE:

1. nickle Justrite supervisor's oval water door
  2. complete Justrite belt generator
  3. brass beaded horz Justrite
  4. several brand name cap tins
  5. canary cage
  6. Husson #6 oil wick exc.
  7. Husson #4 oil wick exc.
  8. Lenard Bros. tin brass collar
- Also have other carbides, oil wick's, and cap tins. I am looking for folding candle sticks. Bob Schroth: (909)-337-7102.

**BADGES WANTED:** Will buy or trade for Coal & Iron Police badges or any badge having a mining company name. Also want mining related fobs, pins, badgfes ribbons, ashtrays, lighters, pocket mirrors, etc. Contact Dave Johnson: (502) 357-7559.

### CLICKSTER'S MINING ARTIFACTS

LARRY & DOTTIE CLICK  
1021 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
ARLINGTON, VA 22205-2454  
U.S.A.

PHONE: 1-703-241-3748  
E-MAIL: LCLICK@EROLS.COM

WE BUY, SELL & TRADE



STANDARD CARBIDE LAMP



*The sign shown left was purchased by Robert Hauck at a flea market in Maine. It is paint on metal.*

## Artifacts For Sale!

Nelson Ressler

717-733-7721

NelsonR@redrose.net

1. Hughes Bros. Fireboss Davy-style safety lamp w/ copper wind shield-used hard but complete
2. American Safety Lamp & Mine Supply Davy with steel top in very good+ cond.
3. Early unmarked Davy lamp with cylindrical font, probably English- good cond.
4. Trethaway Bros. tin oil wick lamp, tin cylindrical font, domed shoulder, flat lid, brass collar- excellent cond.
5. Dunlap driver size oil wick lamp- excellent condition
6. Crown slope-sided face lamp, tin with brass collar, fully copper lined- excellent cond.
7. Unmarked Trethaway Bros. slope-sided face lamp w/ brass collar & vent tube & dbl.-walled spout-exc.
8. Tin, cyl. font, domed shoulder-collar, dbl. hook from single stock "Pat'd Nov. 15, 89" on hook- exc. Cond.
9. Early style Buddy carbide cap lamp, missing cap brace, OW in very good condition
10. Justrite Streamlined carbide cap lamp, mint, unfired in orig. blue box w/ instruction sheet
11. Justrite Streamlined carbide cap lamp, mint, unfired w/ instruction sheet in base
12. Auto-Lite carbide cap lamp, orig. red bumper grip on base, in orig. box-lamp slightly used, box v. good
13. Justrite horizontal, later style, complete & in very good cond. w/ all brass reflector
14. Justrite horizontal, later style, complete & in very good cond. w/ NP brass reflector
15. Lenticular (tunnel) lamp circa 1870's, sheet steel, stamped & crimped construction, wire bail- good+ cond.
16. Taylor & Bogges Furnace Lamp, cast iron font & spout, wire bail, zinc screw lid, orig. black paint- v. good
17. Justrite 8-Hour lamp w/ mint 8" reflector, rear flat hook, bail w/ homemade hanging hook- v. good+ cond.
18. Tin "Guy's Dropper" carbide bottle-style flask-good cond.
19. Shanko brass carbide container with lid- v. good cond.
20. Several safety lamp globes etched "Wolf Special No. 1 Made in Germany"- new old stock
21. Davis Instrument Co., Baltimore, Md. 4" dia. early brass anemometer w/ wooden handle & leather case w/cut-out (orig.) to allow for leaving handle mounted to instrument. No reset lever, two small dials in one large.
22. Jos. G. Pollard dip needle, mostly alum., in orig. leatherette box- exc. cond.
23. Ten shot twist blaster by Fidelity Electric w/ Atlas Chemicals-Explosives tag on side, complete- exc. cond.
24. Wm. Scholhorn Co. U.S. blasting cap crimpers, steel construction- v. good+ cond.
25. Pair of American Cyanamid cardboard boxes (~5"X9"), "25 8 ft. Copper wire Delay 1 Electric Blasting Caps"
26. Grasselli Zinc 100 No. 6 blasting cap tin- good to very good cond.
27. Du Pont No. 6, 25 caps, style "B" blasting cap tin- very good cond.
28. Trojan Powder Co. checkerboard w/ great graphics on back & blasting instructions- fair to good cond.
29. Leonard 2-1/2 quart tin lunch kettle, wire bail, wooden handle, unusually large size- v. good cond.
30. UMWA ribbon from 3rd triennial convention, Du bois, Pa, 1918, mint, on orig. Whitehead & Hoag card
31. Small diamond scale, NP, complete (including ALL weights) in walnut box, tweezers w/ scoop on end- exc.

# FOX HILLS FOSSILS TUCSON 1997

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\*\*\*\*\*

AND NEW IN 1997 - WE WILL BE  
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AND GOES THROUGH THE 16TH

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SEE YA THERE!!!

# *MINING HISTORY RENDEZVOUS*

*at the Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum*

*1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007*

**April 11-12, 1997**

## **To all parties interested in American Mining History.**

The Arizona Mining And Mineral Museum in Phoenix, AZ has offered the use of their facilities on April 11th & 12th, 1997 for a gathering of mining history enthusiasts, collectors, and dealers. The museum invites you to visit and participate in a dealers' and collectors' show of mining artifacts, presentations of mining history from Father Kino to the present, and viewing of the museums mining and mineral collections.

Major interests at the museum include outside displays of an early steam engine, a rescued head frame from an Arizona mine, and a compressed-air operated mucking machine from the Red Rover Mine, Maricopa County, AZ. Inside you can see the best mineral samples selected from a collection holding of more than 14,000 specimens. Or for the researcher, examine a data base of the museums mineral holdings, learn how to conduct searches of the Arizona mines data base maintained by the Arizona Department of Mines and Minerals, and view the old literature and maps in the museums collections.

The museum hours of operation are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Friday and 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday. During these hours, the museum is open to the general public. The traders area and presentations will also be open to the public. Approximately 40 tables can be accommodated in the traders area and the presentation classroom can seat 75 to 100 people. Video and slide-show facilities are available.

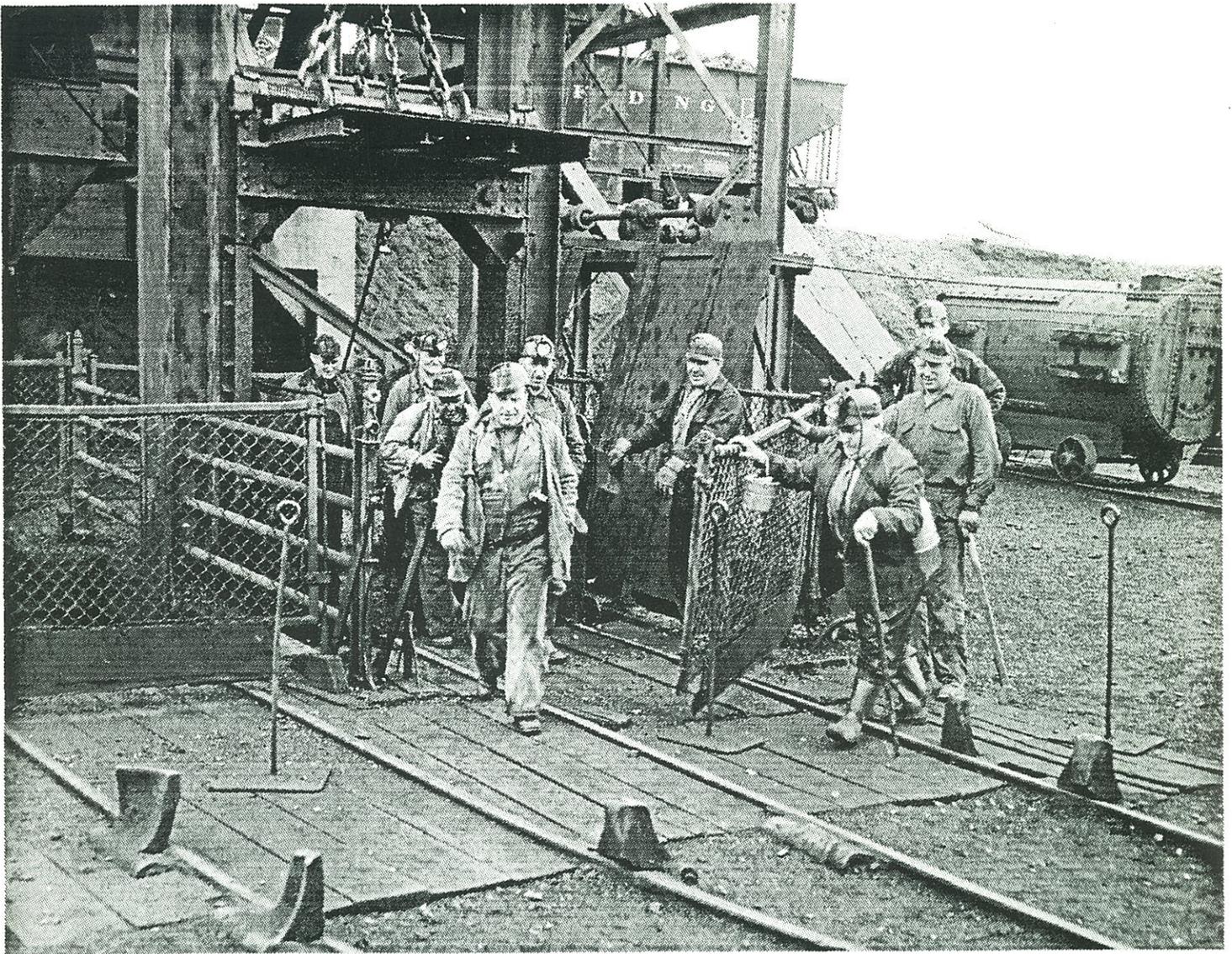
Volunteers are supporting this special show to bring together dealers and traders at the museum and possibly to organize some field trips. In addition to the public open period, an auction is planned for Friday evening in the museum's Square Set room.

Any parties interested in participating can contact:

Paul L. Kouts  
17222 N. Central Ave., Apt 377  
Phoenix, AZ 85022-2345  
e-mail: [plkouts@primenet.com](mailto:plkouts@primenet.com) Tel: 602-789-8215

We are now seeking dealers, collection displays, presentations on mining history, and items to place in the auction. Costs for dealer tables and the auction have not been set, but you can expect low and reasonable costs since the facilities are provided by the museum.

Progress information will be reported by e-mail to anyone who provides an e-mail address.



## Alaska Shaft, Alaska Colliery, 1954

This is the last shift to come off the cage at the Alaska shaft. The mine was closed after this. Shown in the key are: 1. Bernie Wydra, 2. Eddie Donahue (Fire Boss), 3. Joe Strocko, 4. Miles Newman, 5. Jack Evans (Electrical Boss), 6. Albert Townsend, 7. unidentified, 8. Jim Mannie, 9. Tom Davis (Cable Inspector).

