

# THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



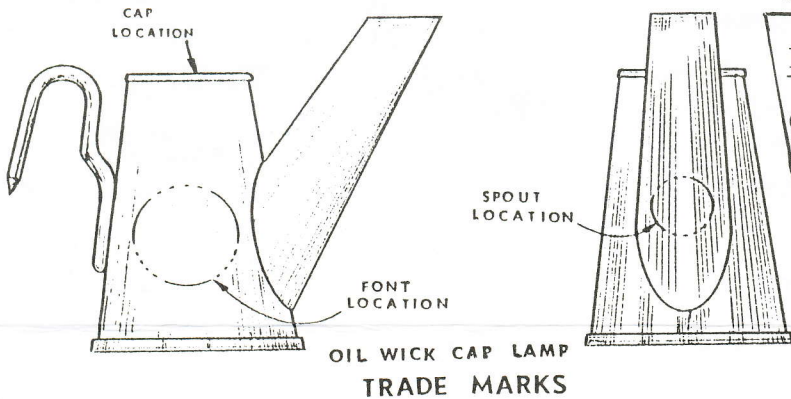
Vol. VI, No. 10

Spring, 1998

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



**HOOVER** - Many oil wick cap lamp collectors enjoy an extension from the actual lamp hardware by researching old city, county and state commercial registries for actual address locations and business history of manufacturing and sales offices of the numerous lamp products. Perry Pillar has sent us the photo at the left of the original **HOOVER BROTHERS HARDWARE** building which still stands on 4th and Center Sts. in Ashland, Penna. The trade mark for **HOOVER BROTHERS** as used on their oil wick cap lamps is shown here. By checking the business notices in the Schuylkill County 1875 Atlas, Perry has found the following: "Hoover & Brother . . . Dealers in stores, tin and hollow ware; house furnishing goods, &C,&C,(sic) wholesale and retail. Established 1857. Center St." Add your information by contacting Perry Pillar, 141 Second St., Joliett, Pennsylvania, 17981.



**Prices** - Long-time correspondent Paul Wallace of Crooksville, Ohio, has sent the photo, below, of two **JUSTRITE** lamps in an old catalog. How about those prices? The catalog probably was not a miner's catalog for the lamps are touted as "a hunters light" and a "hunt-

ers lamp." This reminds us that there can be many and varied marketing aspects for a single product. Paul's comments referred to the upper illustration which shows an X-RAY-type lamp. How so for a **JUSTRITE** lamp? At some point in history the Justrite Company acquired the rights to the X-RAY lamp including product and parts inventory. When the original parts were used up, Justrite put the X-RAY name on their standard vertical-ribbed design lamp. Their vertical line then included **VICTOR** lamps as well as X-RAY lamps and **JUSTRITE** lamps. There is probably more to the story awaiting rediscovery.

**Sale** - Your mini-editor still has items available for sale (see Fall, 1997, issue). Your long **SASE** to the above address will bring you this list.

**Justrite Hunter's LIGHT**  
No. 1 Postpaid **85c**

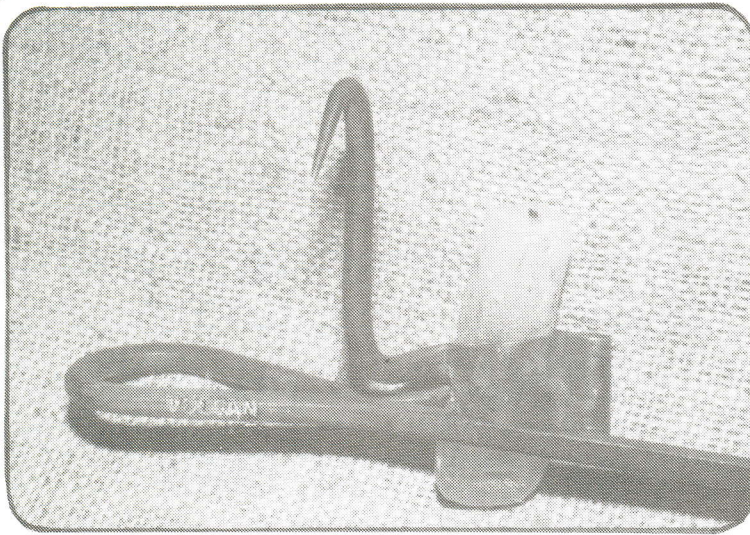
Lamp burns carbide from which is generated acetylene gas. Throws a very powerful white light 200 feet. Made of brass. May be suspended to cap, hooked on belt or carried. Good light for camping, hunting and fishing. Lamp equipped with self-lighter, no matches required. If a light is needed, equipped with 1/2-inch reflector.

**Wire Tip No. 10 Cleaner** 85c

For Carbide Lamps. To bend rustproof steel wire, sliding cover.

**Justrite HUNTER'S LAMP**  
No. 2 Postpaid **\$1.29**

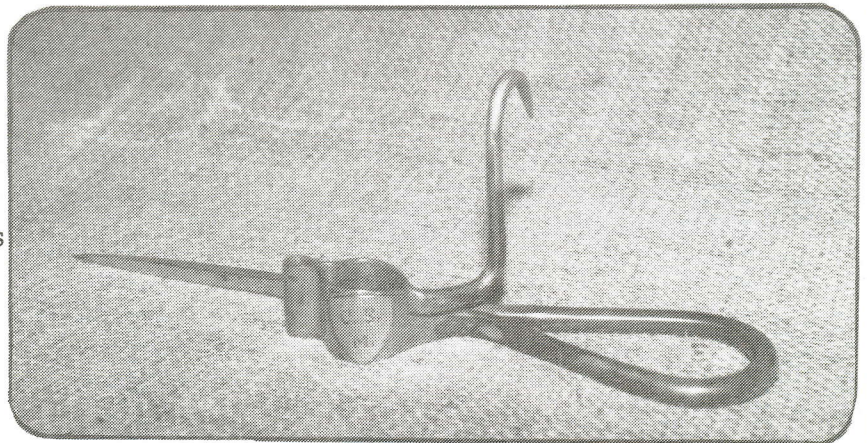
An ideal lamp for trappers, hunters, campers and sportsmen. Nickel plated. Highly polished. Equipped with self-lighter and 1/2-inch reflector. Burns three carbide with charge of 100 carbide sticks. Equipped with a strong light over 200 feet. Lamp equipped with folding handle with hook. Has waterproofed wick. Top fuel may be shut off and on.



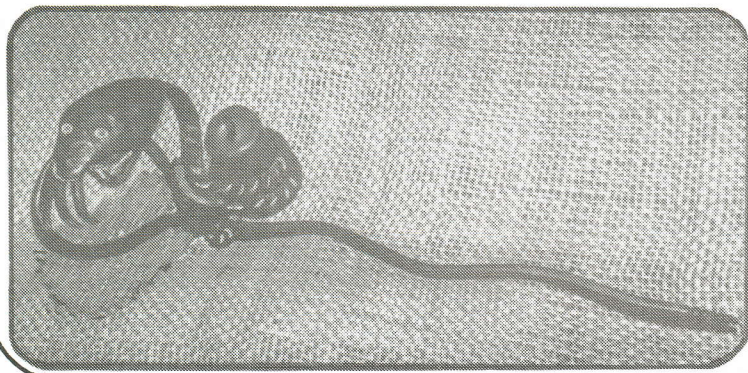
Another Varney - Roll-stamped names on Varney-style miner's candlesticks hold a certain fascination for many collectors. A partial registry of these names is listed on page 689 of the Miner's Flame Light Book. The photo at the left shows a Varney stick that was recently rediscovered in Nevada. While it is stamped VARNEY in the usual position on the shaft, it is also roll-stamped VULCAN on the handle. The roll-type of stamping for the VULCAN suggests that the stamping had to be done while the octagon section of the handle was still straight

before being bent into the handle shape . . . hence, a factory roll-stamp. This lends credence to a handle-stamping of ANTON earlier reported by both Dick Sears and Joseph Chervy. As Tony Moon said, "Now we have to look closer at all of those VARNEY handles, too!" Specifications are: 10.0 in. (254.0 mm) long; 3.25 in. (82.55 mm) tall hook; 0.75 in. (19.05 mm) diameter candle thimble.

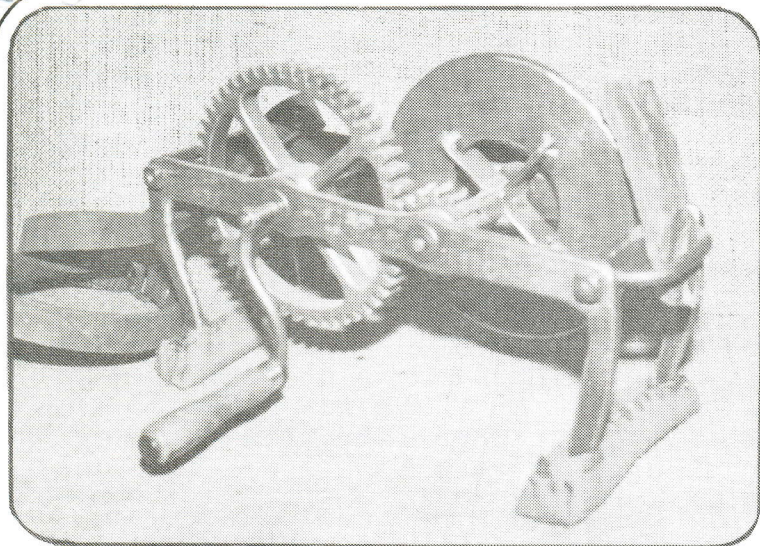
C. S. M. - Two Varney-type candlesticks (one shown at the right) have recently been rediscovered, both in Colorado. Lacking any of the traditional stamped names, the beauty of these two sticks is the shield with the initials C. S. M. soldered on the candle thimble. Overall, the two sticks have been nickel-plated and the initials show remainders of blue enamel in the stamping. Of course! School



colors at the Colorado School of Mines are silver and blue! The shield is the same shape as the traditional C. S. M. logo. So, what tales could these two sticks tell? Award presentation pieces a hundred years ago? Souvenir gifts for visiting dignitaries? (Remember the stories of small safety lamps presented to distinguished mine visitors?) Class projects or class "pins" instead of class rings? Faculty treasures for field trips? One might be a curiosity, but two alike? . . . now, there must be a story. George Foott, 6683 So. Yukon Way, Littleton, Color., 80123, 303-979-8688, would like to hear from anyone who has any information on these two sticks. Specification dimensions are: 8.5 in. (215.9 mm) long; 2.5 in. (63.5 mm) tall hook; 0.75 in. (19.05 mm) diameter candle thimble.



Cobra? - Roger Peterson continues to add exotic candlesticks to his fine collection. Look left at the beautifully-crafted miner's candlestick with a snake motif. A snake head with two large-size upper fangs forms the top of the hook; simulated scale markings follow around the wound thimble, the handle and the spike. A standard 0.75 in. (19.05 mm) candle fits.



Spedding - Shown here, left, is a modern model of the Spedding "steel mill" ca. 1730 (see pp. 49-51 of The Miner's Flame Light Book). By spinning the steel wheel against a piece of flint, the miner's assistant was supposed to produce enough sparks to produce enough light by which to see to work.

Several California enthusiasts are interested in producing a quantity of these Spedding models. First . . . "What we are trying to do is to find about how many other souls out there would be interested in a modern day 'authentic' replica of the Spedding if we could produce them. We don't know the cost yet, but we are hoping they could be manufactured on a non-profit basis for approximately \$200.00 each. We are not taking orders yet! We are simply assessing the interest to see if such a project is feasible. Frankly, we think all serious students of mine lighting should have an example of this historic piece of work." Please write or call in your interest to: Bob Kraft, 971 Baileyana Rd., Hillsborough, California, 94101, 415-343-1976.

Big sale - Well-known English collector

Bob Batey writes that he has several good lamps for sale as follows:  
Tin can Davy (rare overcoat model!)

Bullseye Davy

Jack Davy (dome top)

Routledge Johnson

Ashworth 4-tube brass

Stephenson (choice of 2) Henry Watson  
or John Mills

Several Davy and Clanny lamps

Midgie lamp (genuine)

Naylor Spiralarm - tall steel-and-brass

Gleesons Glennie lamp

Several German frog lamps

For a full list contact Bob Batey at:

17 Arundel Walk, Grange Estate, Wickham,  
Newcastle, NE16 5SF, England.

Davy Gauze - We have very interesting correspondence from England concerning the Sir Humphry Davy invention of the flame safety lamp. Mr. Alan Smith is a

historical researcher who has some interesting thoughts about the true function of the lamp gauze in cooling the flame. He writes, "Davy was quite wrong to suppose that the gauze 'cooled' the flame, although everyone since seems to have swallowed that story. Modern chemistry of combustion, using nuclear resonance spectroscopy, has shown that the combustion of methane in air is a complex organic chain-reaction involving branching homolytic cleavage reactions among free radicals. The effect of the gauze is to interrupt that reaction: period!" For more information write: Mr. Alan Smith, 63 Abbey House, 1a Abbey Road, London NW8 9BX.

Looking - Philippe Estang, a long-time correspondent, wants all readers to have his new address . . . below. He also is "looking for a Beard lamp - 'American Safety Lamp & Supply Co.' of Scranton." Part of his collection is shown at the left.

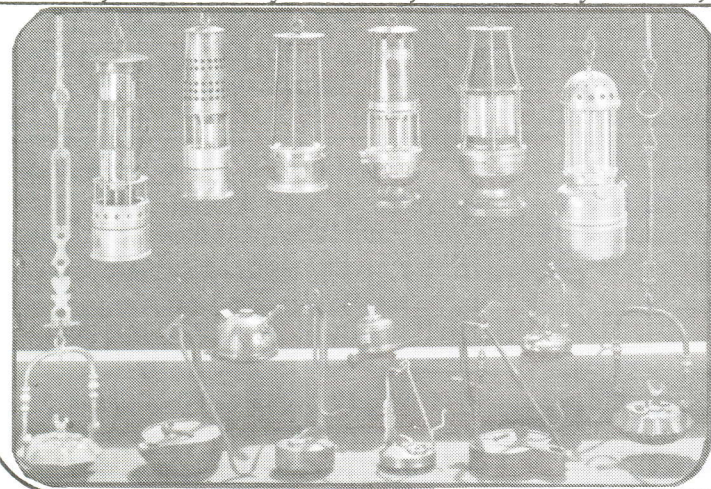
Safety  
lamps,  
tunnel  
lamps,  
frog  
lamps.

**Philippe ESTANG - B.P. 5522  
34071 MONTPELLIER CEDEX 3  
FRANCE**

Tel / Fax : (33) 467 040 306 Home

**Tel : (33) 467 752 835 Work**

Fax : (33) 467 031 843 Work



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.

John Leahy has informed us that he remembers a reference to "plausers" as related to the eastern Washington state area called "the Palouse." There is a town named Palouse Falls north of the Snake River. The "plausers" were said to be home-made miner's candle holders.

Lamp box - S. C. Smith, 2901 Grand St., Joplin, Missouri, 64804, 477-623-4908, writes that he has an old cardpaper box for a Old Sol No.3 bicycle head lamp; it includes a parts list for the lamp. Fair condition. Write or call Mr. Smith if you are interested in this box.

Part needed - Charles Frase, 24 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Madison, Wisconsin, 53714, needs a set-screw reflector for an OSHKOSH METAL PRODUCTS carbide cap lamp. This reflector is special in the fact that it has a 3/32 in. diameter set-screw. Who can help?

Bleco - The last issue of the Lamp Post asked about a carbide hand lamp marked BLECO. Rolf Von Arx of Zurich, Switzerland, writes to tell us that the lamp was made by Karl Bleckman & Co. in Salzburg, Austria, and that it is written up in Karsten Porezag's book Des Bergmanns Geleucht, Zweiter Band, 1982, p. 144.



Bild 149. Schlagpunze von Bleco (Karl Bleckmann & Co.), Salzburg, auf der Oberseite des Wasserbehälters.



For sale - The rare frog lamp, left, and the brass wall plaque, right, are available for sale.

See pp. 78 and 81 of The Miner's Flame Light Book for illus-

trations of the lamp which is an iron Hesson-type frog lamp with a unique figure of a miner holding his schlagle und eisen on a brass shield. Contact Bud Lear at King's Hill Antiques, 306 Paxinosa Road West, Easton, Pennsylvania, 18042, 215-258-4434 for more information.

#### THE LIGHT THAT FAILS

By Robert R. Lucey, Florence, Ariz.

You're a million miles from no where  
When your light quits, underground.  
The pressure, it seems, is doubled.  
And you strain your ears for a sound.

"Poems of the West,"  
Copyright 1940

If a mouse should roll a pebble  
It sounds like a broken chute,  
And you're sure it's a six-foot  
rattler

If a lizard hits your boot.

Your belly and head are level,  
Though the drift is eight feet high.  
Two hundred feet from daylight!  
My God, what a place to die!

You wish for a blind man's fingers  
as you feel each inch of wall,  
And your toes turn down, and tingle  
Every crack seems a ten-foot fall.

That speck of light from the portal  
Seems a mile or two away,  
And you're dripping and cold and  
trembling  
When you get to the light of day.

**6. intern.  
Grubenlampen  
Sammlertreffen**

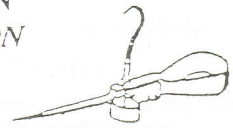


**6. Juni 98** Samstag  
**57234 Wilnsdorf** 9 - 16 Uhr  
**Festhalle**



**Info:** Heinz Zander  
 Tel.: 0 27 43 / 27 09  
 Henner Schardt  
 Tel.: 0 27 35 / 17 12

**BLACK HILLS- ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
MINING COLLECTORS' CONVENTION  
JUNE 12,13, 1998**



Friday, June 12, 1998

3pm -6pm Check-in Holiday Inn Frisco  
 6pm -8pm Glück-Auf cocktail party, Grand Foyer  
 8pm - ??? Trades. Sales and Reunions

Saturday, June 13, 1998

8am - 9am Set up for Mining Collectibles Show  
 9am - 1pm Mining Collectibles Show and Sale for Convention  
 Participants only  
 Noon-1pm Lunch- On your Own  
 1pm -4pm Mining Collectibles Show and Sale for  
 General public  
 5:30 -6:30pm No-Host Cocktail Party  
 6:30- 8pm Buffet Dinner- Holiday Inn  
 8pm -10pm Auction of Mining related *Treasures*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Leo Stambaugh	Steve Rush	Bob Guthrie
P.O. Box 984	31112 Shadow Mtn.Dr.	P.O.Box 3725
Georgetown,CO 80444	Conifer,CO 80433	Dillon,CO 80435
303/569-2848	303/670-9158	970/468-0405
		rtguthrie@pol.net

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<http://www.miningrendezvous.com/> Mining history related books and periodicals.

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 Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Thank You** - Again and again and again it becomes our regular duty each issue to say "Thank You" to the many readers who regularly contribute postage, envelopes and printing to the cause of keeping the Lamp Post active. There is much more due than the simple words of "Thank You" . . . all readers understand that without all this help this newsletter could not continue to pass on information as we have been doing for over thirty years. Be assured that there are admiration, honor, praise and other acclamations due. Each please honor yourself for your assistance . . . printing from Tennessee; envelopes from Minnesota and Colorado; postage from Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Arkansas, New Hampshire, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, California, Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, Illinois, Texas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Germany, New Mexico, Canada, West Virginia, Ohio, France, Minnesota and Michigan. "Thank You" all again.

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MINERS

MINERALOGISTS

CAVERS

COLLECTORS

HISTORIANS

DEALERS

ANTIQUERS

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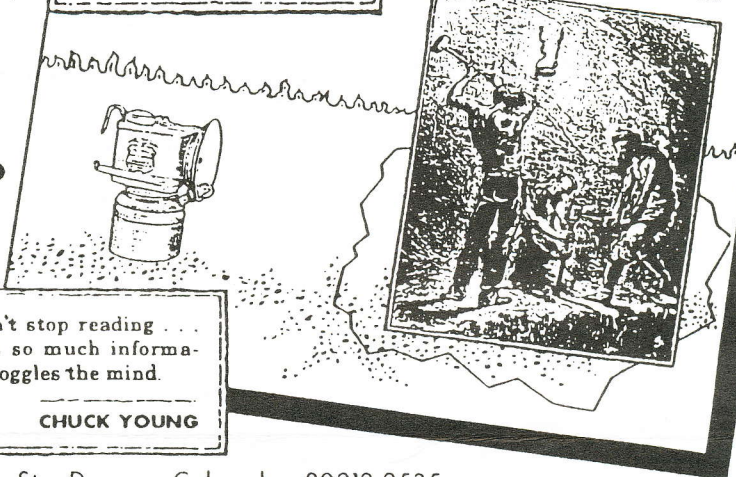
the MINER'S FLAME LIGHT BOOK

HOLIDAY GIFT SURPRISE

HENRY A. POBS

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

CHUCK YOUNG



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