

Collector's Talk

Bill Spence, one of the top researchers in the lamp collecting community, sent in the following comments on the last issue of the MAC (Issue 7, Spring 1990).

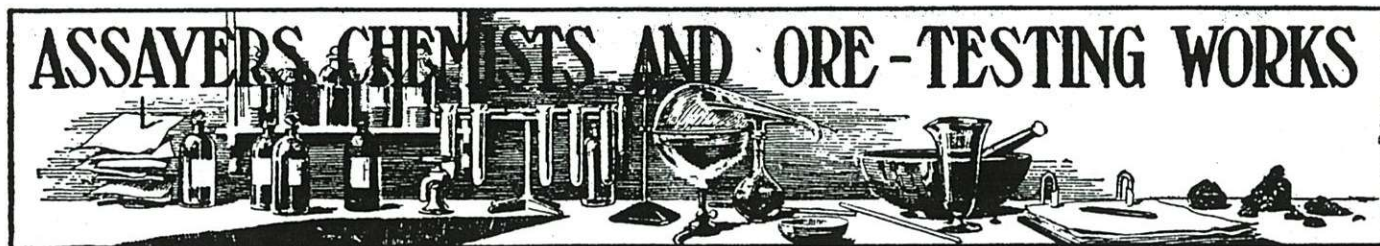
Regarding the excellent Grier article, the so-called Western branch was, I believe, Jacobsen & Turga. I suspect they got a distributorship for the Western U.S. in exchange for rights to the tip cleaner patent. J&T were from Michigan, and the only ads that mention the Western branch also feature the tip cleaner. As far as Gem Mfg. Co. goes, city directory ads feature Gem carbide lamps only in 1925 and 1926. The 1927 and later ads do not mention carbide lamps. I am confident that Gem carbide lamps were a 2 year product.

In the article on the Lu-Mi-Num, the dates reported by Clemmer might well be wrong. The Lu-Mi-Num was introduced with much fanfare in the mining press in August 1924, not 1923. The original 1924 model had a threaded connection verified by photos within articles. An article in October 1925 "Engineering and Mining Journal" states that the bayonet mount was introduced that year to eliminate problems with the threads on earlier models. Thus the threaded models of Lu-Mi-Nums were the original design and lasted for a year or less. The Lu-Mi-Num hand lamp was introduced in late 1925 per the same article, not in 1924 with the cap lamp. As for the 1937 ad, Fred Belt was still in business at that time so The Mine and Smelter Supply Co. was selling current stock.



MINING AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS


August 6, 1921



ARIZONA ASSAY OFFICE
(F. W. Libbey)
Assayers, Chemists and Metallurgists
CONTROL AND UMPIRE WORK
305-307 N. First St., Phoenix, Arizona

Herb Dick of Woodland, CA sent us a photo of a really nice brass sign in his collection. We were unable to reproduce it, so the crude sketch shown does not do it justice.

The Arizona Assay office sign was acquired by an antique dealer in the midwest in an estate sale. It was purchased by mail by a Northern California collector and was subsequently obtained from him. It is all brass and measures 28" by 16". A small brass overlay sign was added by the last owner to cover the Neall-Libbey names.

ARIZONA ASSAY OFFICE
J.S. NEAL -- F.W. LIBBEY
CUSTOM ASSAYING
CHEMICAL DETERMINATIONS
 ORES SAMPLED & PURCHASED

The first appearance of the Arizona Assay Office is a listing in the 1912 Phoenix city directory. During the early years the address was variously listed as 305, 307, and 315 N. 1st St., Phoenix. This building was later razed. The site became a bus station, and later was a public fountain, and at present is a modern office building. of a Phoenix newspaper chain. The last location of the office was 5 blocks away and is now also the site of a modern office building. The sign was probably attached to the outside of the buildings near the door.