

Miners' Pick Guards

Milton Ellison, of Wise, Virginia has sent us these photocopies of a box and instructions for a miners' pick guard. The device is a steel jacket that wraps around the wood handle where it is most likely to break. They were patented and manufactured by Martin Branham of Pound, Virginia. Old timers recall that he had several patents. One of his inventions, was a large sized brick, known as a "Speed Brick". This was considered his most important accomplishment.

(right) Box end and instructions for Pick Guards.



Steel Jacket Co., Pound, Va. **How to Install Soft Steel Jacket.**

The illustration shows how the Steel Jackets are properly installed.
Place Jackets on handle as shown. If necessary trim handle to proper slope and drive nails 1 and 2 first, this will hold Jackets in proper position to drive rest of nails. In changing to new handles if Jackets become dented or warped they may be hammered straight again over one inch rod.

Pat. Pending
Ser. No. 67946

If Handle is extra hard a Shorter Nail may be Used.

Guarantee: These Jackets are made from soft steel to prevent breaking or splitting and guaranteed to last one year against breakage or wear and the dealer is hereby authorized to replace any jacket free of charge that does not give this much service. Date Purchased Dealer

Hand-made Medal

This hand-made medal from the Lake Superior copper district is unique in that it is fabricated from a piece of native half-breed (copper & silver). The #2 Calumet (?) shaft and an early incandescent light are handsomely etched, as are the letters FF (or LL?). I have been unable to determine the origin of this piece, or its meaning. Nonetheless, it is a fine piece of work from a long-forgotten craftsman.

Chuck Voelker



New Maple City Lamp

Bob Schroth recently found this new version of a Maple City cap lamp. Note the forward tilting reflector and the cap braces at the rear. A major piece.

