

## The Dating of Dynamite Boxes

by Mark Bohannan

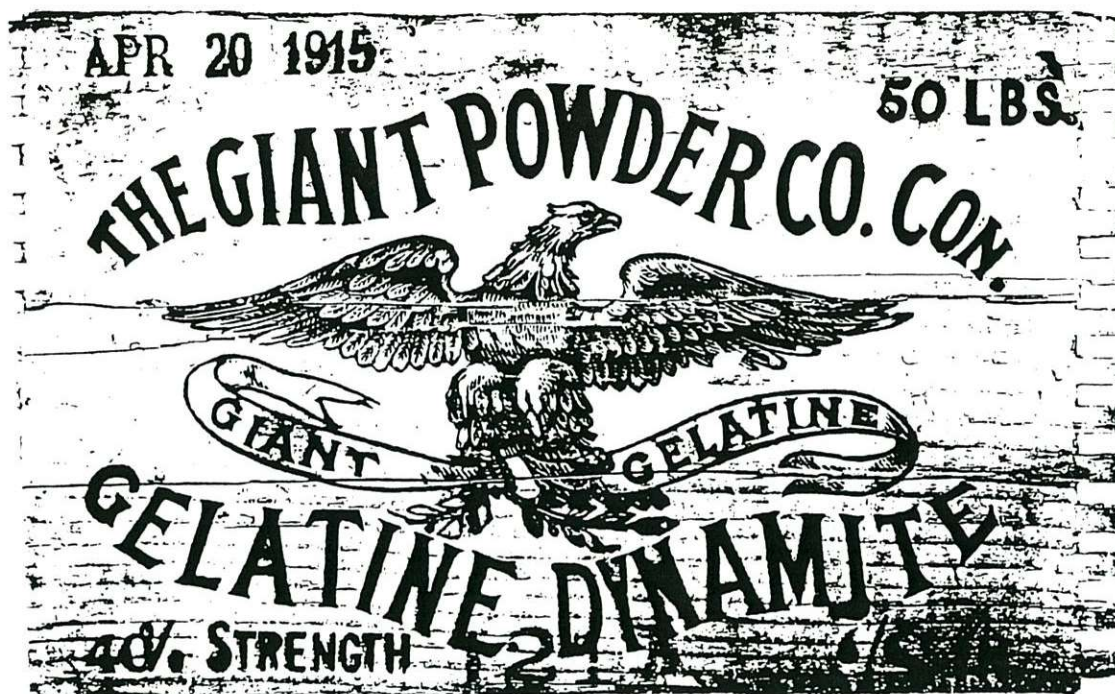
Most of us who collect dynamite boxes would like to know when the boxes were in use. There are only a few ways of determining the dates when a certain style of box was used. One method is to locate the box style in advertisements or catalogs, although the dates will only be approximate.

Another method is to determine when a company was in existence. This method is useful when an explosives company existed for only a short period of time. A short-lived company is not likely to have a large number of box styles.

The most accurate method of dating is by examining the box ends for date stampings. Dated boxes are not common as it appears that only a few boxes from each lot were stamped with dates.

It is hoped that future issues will present many more box styles with reasonably accurate dates. Collectors who have dynamite boxes with dates are encouraged to submit photos or good photocopies.

Illustrated below is a unique box end from the Giant Powder Company of San Francisco for Giant Gelatine Dynamite. The dates on these boxes range from 1908 to 1915.



## The Climax Fuse Company

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In 1850, a fuse plant was started in Avon, Connecticut by R. Andrews and his son, A. F. Andrews. The plant operated intermittently for the next twenty years, but became idle from about 1870 until 1880. It was at this time that H. S. Chapman became involved with the business and incorporated it as the Climax Fuse Company. In 1907, the company merged with the Ensign-Bickford Company.

The different brands of fuse manufactured by this company are unknown to the author except for the example shown in the letterhead. Perhaps one of our readers knows of other fuse wrappers and/or other items produced by the Climax Fuse Company.