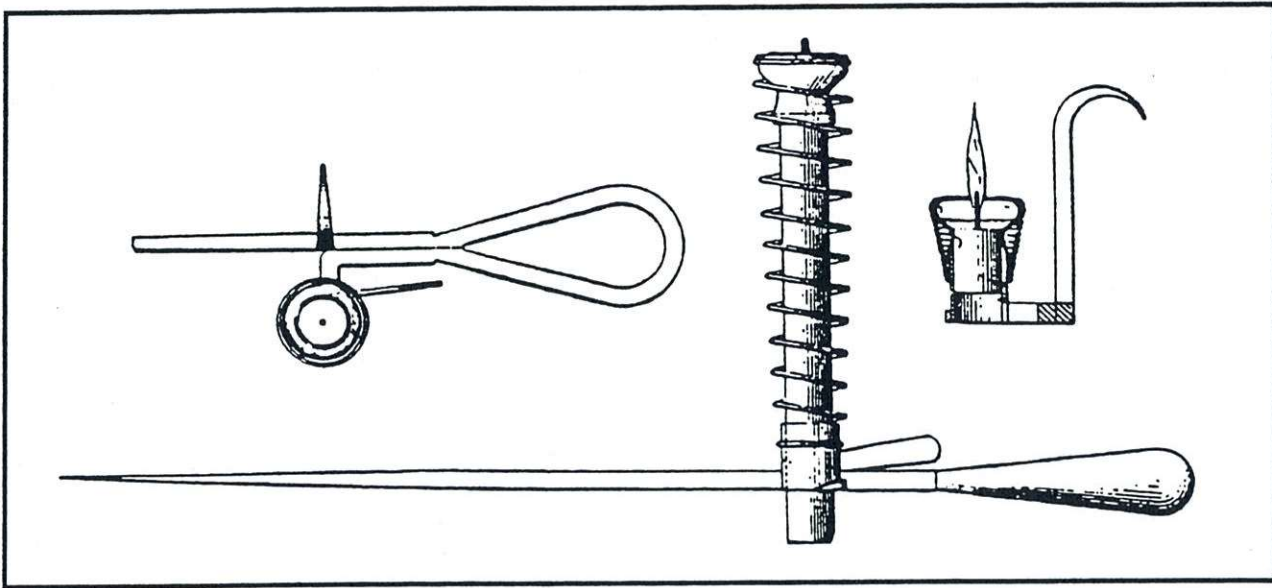


Mark and Karen Vendl of LaGrange Park, IL sent us the underground mine photo featured on the inside of the front cover. The photo was taken by Lachlan McLean, a photographer who worked in the cities of Central City, Georgetown, and Idaho Springs, Colorado between 1876 and 1929. Underground mine photos are quite rare, and though the location of the photo and the name of the mine are unknown, it is interesting in that it is the only one we have seen with a clear shot of a Schneider candle box.



Hope Christiansen of Garden Grove, California sent in this patent drawing of an attachment for miners' candlesticks. The patent number 908,921 was granted to Sanford M. Thurman of Los Angeles, California on January 5, 1909. The device prevented the candle from dripping and thereby assured that the candle was entirely consumed. It also helped to protect the candle from breakage. Intriguing to say the least! If you have ever seen one of these devices, please let us know.



Herb Dick visited Len Gaska in early spring on his way back from the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Among his acquisitions was a very interesting powder flask, a sketch of which appears in Fig. 1. The flask is 12" high, 5 1/2" wide and appears to be made of wood or pressed cork. The very bottom is made of pressed paperboard and is embossed with the illustrated lettering. The stopper is missing from the flask.

Herb later sent an illustration of the bottom of a similar flask in the John Johnson collection. It is identical to Herb's flask, but does have different lettering on the bottom as shown in Fig. 2.

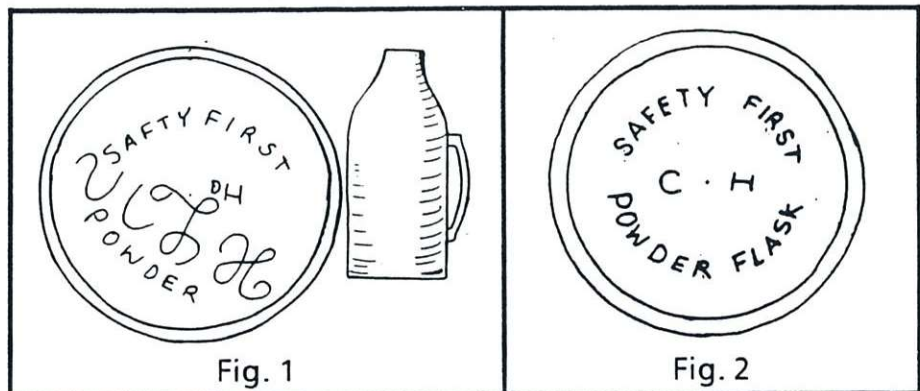


Fig. 1

Fig. 2