

## Blasting Cap Tin Collecting

by Mark Bohannon

One of the most rapidly growing areas of mining artifact collecting is blasting cap tins. Although there are many blasting cap tins from Canada and other foreign countries, most collectors only collect tins manufactured in the United States.

Blasting cap tins are found in a number of different shapes, sizes, and styles. Most tins are either rectangular or round, although there are a few oval tins also known. Early blasting cap tins have either embossing or a paper label on the lid. Later, almost all tins had lithographed lids. Blasting caps were sold in three quantities: 100 caps, 25 caps, and 10 caps, the most common size being the 100 cap tin.

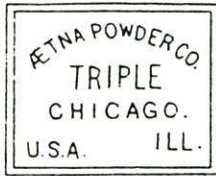
There are also a number of major and minor variations among many of these tins such as color variations, additions or deletions of lettering, wording changes such as city names or lettering style, and dimensional differences. Some of these variations can be seen by looking closely at the tins illustrated on the following pages.

The number on the tin, i.e. No. 6, No. 8, etc., designates the cap strength. Blasting cap strengths range from No. 3 (weakest) to No. 8 (strongest) with No. 6 being the most common.

By far the most pleasurable aspect of blasting cap tin collecting is the beauty and variety of the colors of the lithographed tins.. Colors range from metallic reds, oranges, turquoise blue and dark blue, to greens, browns, and yellows.

Along with the blasting cap tins, there are a number of related items that can also be collected. These include the cardboard and wooden boxes that the tins were shipped in and also the instruction or inspection papers that were inserted into some tins.

Part of this article includes a blasting cap survey on the back of the subscription form. I hope that everyone who has any cap tins in their collection will take the time to fill out the survey. Results will be published in the next issue. The cap tin illustrations used in this article and in the survey are from my files and Andy Martin's cap tin book.



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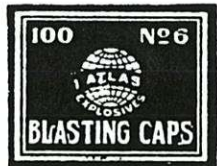
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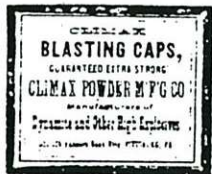
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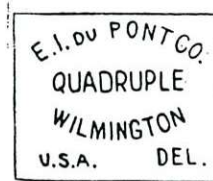
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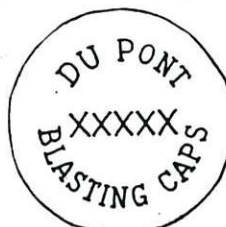
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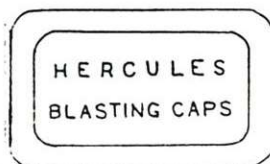
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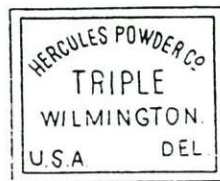
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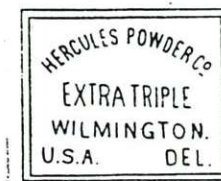
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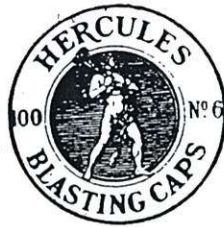
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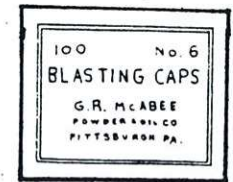
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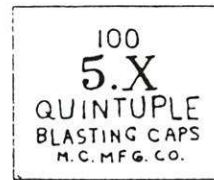
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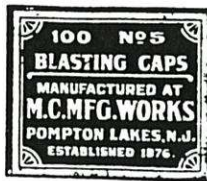
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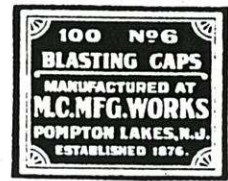
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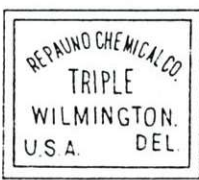
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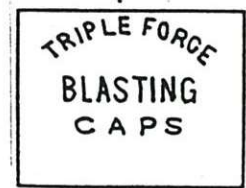
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