



Mine Rescue Button

A friend of mine who knew I collected miners' candlesticks recently sent me this great, bright red and white button from the "U.S. BUREAU OF MINES - MINES RESCUE CORPS." The button commemorates the first national mine safety demonstration held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in October of 1911.

What I find to be most unusual is that a miners' candlestick is among the miners' tools illustrated on the button, along with a safety lamp, double jack and mucking shovel. The fact that miners' candlesticks were used exclusively in hard rock mines and never in coal mines makes me wonder if the persons responsible for the design of this button were hard rock mining men because oil lamps were the norm in the great coal mines of the East.



A New Blasting Cap Tin

It seems that the new fad in mining artifact collecting today is in blasting cap tins. I suppose the main reason for this is that you don't have to spend a whole pay check to buy one, even from another collector.

For all you cap tin collectors out there, here is another one you can add to the list. It's a 100 count round Silver Medal from the "M.C. M'F'G. W'K'S." The other round Silver Medal cap tins that are known are stamped "M.C. M'F'G. CO." The company name was changed to "Works" after the buy-out by DuPont in 1907. These early, attractive black and silver cap tins are somewhat easy to find in the rectangular shape, but extremely rare in round.



An Oil Wick With Cooling Holes?

An unusual oil wick lamp recently turned up in California with 10 holes drilled (or punched) in the base of the outer spout of a sunshine lamp (double spout). The lamp is shown above and is face lamp size (2 1/4 inches high to the lid; 2 7/8 inches to the spout) and was made by Hardsocg of Ottumwa, Iowa. Lester Berstein has an identical lamp, plus the larger driver's size. Careful examination reveals that the holes must have been drilled or punched prior to the lamp being assembled. What is the purpose of the holes? Cooling? Does anyone have an old advertisement that would help?