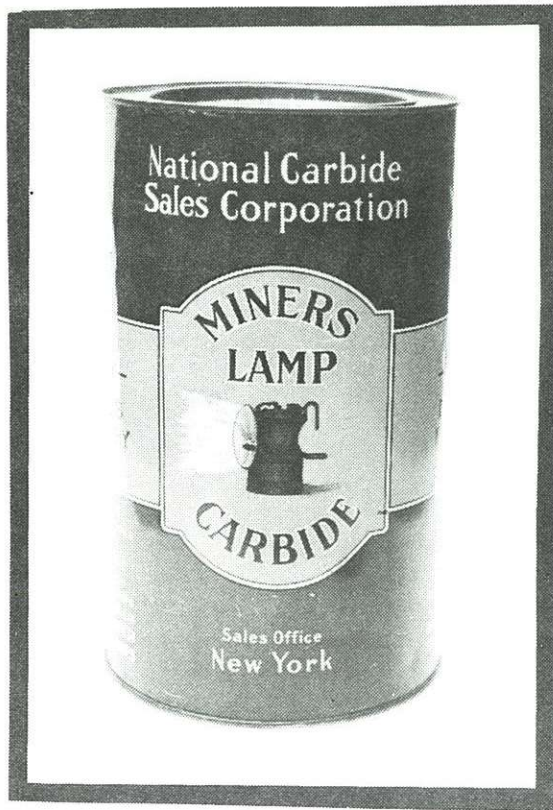


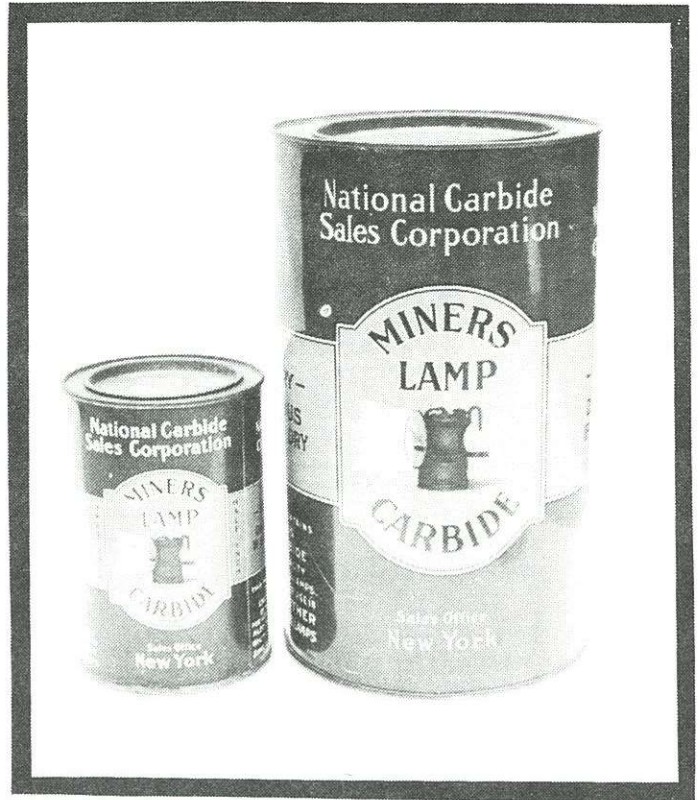
# EARLY "MINERS LAMP" AND "SUN-LITE" NATIONAL CARBIDE CANS

by Ted Bobrink  
Redlands, California

Anyone collecting mining artifacts will usually pick up a little mining-related advertising items now and then. I can't think of anything more attractive than the early "Miners Lamp Carbide" cans from the National Carbide Corporation. These brightly colored round and square cans were produced in two sizes, two pounds and ten pounds. I have seen two different styles of cans that came with a picture of a carbide lamp on the front and back. The style shown in the photo is dark maroon and orange and shows a "Wolf" carbide cap lamp. The other style (not shown) is dark maroon and yellow and shows an "Arrow" carbide cap lamp.



A photograph of a ten pound can of Miners Lamp Carbide from the National Carbide Corporation.



Shown above is a photograph showing the size difference between the two pound and ten pound National Carbide cans.

Of all of the Miners Lamp Carbide cans that I have seen, the smaller two pound cans are by far the most common. They are usually 5 1/2" high and are very easily displayed in a case. The ten pound cans are 10" high. Although they are rarer, for display purposes they are less desirable. There are also a number of minor color and design variations, in fact too many for me to mention here.

While exploring an old mine one day, I came across a square, two pound Miners Lamp Carbide can. The can was yellow and brown and had an Arrow carbide cap lamp pictured on the front, but unfortunately, the can had been run over so many times that I didn't even bother to bring it out.



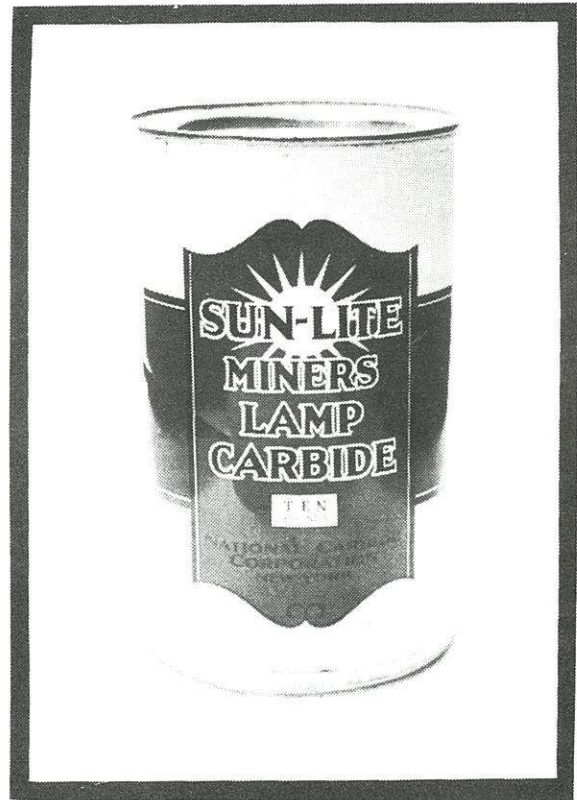
The "Sun-Lite Miners Lamp Carbide" was another brand name made by the National Carbide Corporation. I believe that both brands were sold during the same period of time. However, I find that the Sun-Lite cans are the rarest. The attractive ten pound can shown in the photo is bright yellow, brown and white. Errol Christman of Cedar Ridge, California, has a square, ten pound Sun-Lite can that is red with black lettering. All of the Sun-Lite cans that I have seen have been the ten pound size. According to an ad, however, it was also sold in the two pound size.

The Sun-Lite Carbide pocket calendar is yellow and orange-brown and is dated 1939. On the back cover it says:

**MINERS LAMP CARBIDE**

Packed for Miners Lamps and other Lamps in 100-pound and 25-pound drums; 10-pound and 2-pound cans.

I found two of these nifty calendars in the Noonday silver mine in Tecopa, California. However, the only National Carbide cans we found in the mine were the later, more common gray and blue type. I will talk about these in another article.



A photograph of a ten pound can of Sun-Lite Miners Lamp Carbide. (Author's collection)

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**SUN-LITE**  
**CARBIDE**

UNIFORM IN SIZE

FREE FROM ALL  
IMPURITIES

RICH IN GAS

**GENERATOR SIZE CARBIDE**

Packed in 100 lb. Drums in sizes suitable for House-lighting and Industrial Generators.

**MINERS LAMP CARBIDE**

Packed for Miners Lamps and other Carbide Lamps in 100-pound and 25-pound drums; 10-pound and 2-pound cans.

**INTERCITY GROCERY CO.**  
Phone 580  
PERU, ILL.

**SUN-LITE**  
**CARBIDE**



**NATIONAL CARBIDE CORPORATION**  
Lincoln Building  
New York, N. Y.