

**F**orty four collectors responded to the request for survey information on handlamps which was published in the July 1993 issue (No. 7) of EUREKA! The typical shortcoming of such surveys is that a relatively small percentage of collectors respond, and that both the smaller collections and the more casual collectors are underrepresented among the respondents. Smaller collections hold the bulk of the inventory of common lamps. Therefore, common lamps are underrepresented in the present survey, relative to the rare lamps. Still, the survey probably identifies which lamps are common, uncommon and scarce.

Table 1 is identical to the survey form published in issue No. 7 of EUREKA!, but with the survey results included. In the text below, these results are discussed in more detail. Also, several collectors offered helpful comments and corrections with their survey results, and I have attempted to include these. I thank Bill Bowman, Forbes Freeburg, Len Gaska, Gene Knight, Tony Moon, Bob Otto, George Reis, Tom Stranko, Manfred Stutzer and Bob Werner for their contributions. I have not associated their names with specific lamps, in order to maintain the privacy of their collections.

A summary of hand lamp rarities is given in Table 2. The lamps were grouped into four rarity categories (common, uncommon, rare and "extinct?"). The grouping is influenced somewhat by a subjective appraisal of the number of lamps which have appeared recently at collectors' reunions and elsewhere. Hopefully this listing will be a useful guide for your future trades and purchases.

# American Carbide Hand Lamp Survey

*David J. Des Marais*

**Arnold carbide candle.** Although hard to get and highly valued, the carbide candle is not as rare as are many other hand lamps. Apparently many a miner and early collector saved one because of its unusual features and its Colorado origin.

**Baldwin full shift.** This is the hand lamp version of the lamp with the double-walled base which Baldwin made for the "Vitak" movie projector (see J. Van Fleet's article, EUREKA! issue 7, p. 24). Unlike the movie lamp, the hand lamp version with its single-walled base is very rare.

**Baldwin #36, type 2.** This lamp apparently came with either the deep dish reflector or with a shallow reflector.

**Baldwin #35, 44, 45 & 54.** None were reported; are they "extinct"?

**Big Boy.** The supply of these very common lamps is probably exceeded only by the Dew-R-Lite or the Justrite #95, #100 or #50 hand lamps.

**Dew-R-Lite.** This could well be the most common handlamp, although the survey results might be skewed by the fact that one collector reported 24 in his collection! A few steel Dew-R-Lites were reported.

**Guys Dropper.** Among all of the Guys Dropper varieties, only the Tall Boy can be considered as common. The Squarelite hand lamp is uncommon, although it is not as rare as the Squarelite cap lamp.

**ITP.** Variations exist in addition to those mentioned in the survey. These include cast aluminum reflectors, ribbing designs on the base, and varieties represented by both bail-and-hook and supervisor handle configurations.

**Justrite Acme.** The survey list did itemize the hook-and-bail versus supervisor handle varieties, but it did not itemize the "Type I, II and III" sequence of designs (see L. Gaska's article, EUREKA! issue 8, p. 7).

**Justrite Anaconda, Arizona and Western Specials.** The survey indicates that all three varieties are equally rare. However many experienced collectors feel that the Western Special is the most common.

**Justrite Jumbo, Little Giant and Uncle Sam.** Both the survey and many collectors agree that the Jumbo is the rarest and the Uncle Sam the most common of these three. However an Uncle Sam complete with reflector is probably at least as rare as the Little Giant. Rarest of all are the Uncle Sams with the umbrellas. Umbrellas came on all sizes of Uncle Sam lamps, not just the 6 hour size as noted in the survey.



**Justrite Lanterns.** The survey is consistent with my perception that the #10 lantern is more common than the taller #12.

**Justrite #39, 95 and 100.** These larger versions of the horizontal cap lamp are almost as abundant as the Justrite #50 hand lamp.

**Justrite #50.** The most common Justrite hand lamp and possibly the most common U.S. carbide hand lamp. Some brass lamps were tinned.

**Justrite #56.** Like the #50, but with supervisor handles and much rarer.

**Justrite #77.** The rarity of the "candlestick lamp" is no surprise, although more have turned up recently.

**Justrite #81, 82 and 84.** These railroad-style lamps are uncommon in the mine lamp collecting community. Is this because they are rare, or do mine lamp collectors ignore them? I suspect that they really are rare.

**Justrite #103.** This sticklamp version of the #39, 95 and 100 lamps came with smooth, beaded and ribbed bottoms, and thus represents a series of designs similar to the horizontal cap lamps.

**Justrite #2-500 and #3-100 series.** Most collectors view plastic lamps with disdain, therefore some models are pretty rare in collections. It will be interesting to see whether these lamps eventually become valuable among those collectors seeking a large variety of lamps in their collections.

**Luminum.** These lamps are pretty common in collections, perhaps more so than had been thought. In sharp contrast to the plastic lamps, the Luminum is treasured by virtually all hand lamp collectors.

**Maple City, Milburn and Nathan.** The rarity of these lamps is no surprise. Most collectors would agree that the Milburn Miners A and Milburn #22 are by far the most common in this group.

**Oxweld and National Carbide.** I am pretty sure that the low numbers in the survey indicate that most mine lamp collectors simply choose not to acquire these railroad lamps. They may well be as abundant as the most common mining carbide hand lamps..

**Scranto and Pathfinder.** The rarity of these lamps is no surprise. The Scranto hand lamps are more common than the cap lamps, however.

**William H. Ott.** This lamp was reported in the Underground Lamp Post, but none of the collectors in the survey reported one.

**WOLF LAMPS.** This survey was to be limited to U.S. carbide handlamps. Therefore, nonsafety hand lamps marketed in the U.S. by the Wolf Safety Lamp Company of America qualify for the survey, but Wolf lamps made and marketed only in Europe do not. However, several other variations of Wolf hand lamps were marketed in the U.S. but were not included in the survey. Len Gaska sent a copy of the 1914 catalog from the Wolf Safety Lamp Company of America. **The pictures with this article (page 22) depict those U.S. Wolf lamps which were not included in this survey.**

**Wolf aluminum lamps.** All of these are pretty uncommon. The lamp with the gap in the top of its reflector was definitely marketed in the U.S. by Wolf, as some examples bear a U.S. label on top. It is not clear whether the "tall, narrow" or the "horizontal" top Wolf lamps were marketed here.

**Wolf "fat body."** This is actually a cap lamp, probably Model #911. A Model #911d had a wooden handle and thus was a hand lamp. However, both the #911 and the #911d probably were not marketed in the U.S.

**Wolf "original."** The two photos in the survey article (EUREKA! issue #7) are actually of different lamps. Note that the Wolf labels on the bases are different. The one on the left is in Spanish, consistent with its origin south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

**Wolf #900.** This is the most common Wolf hand lamp.

**Wolf #905A.** This lamp probably is relatively more abundant than the survey results indicate, but it still is uncommon.



Table 1. Handlamp survey results.

PICT?	LAMP	COMMENTS	BRASS	STEEL	ALUM.	PLASTIC
X	ARNOLD CARBIDE CANDLE	SHAPED LIKE CANDLE	8	----	----	----
X	BALDWIN FULL SHIFT	WIRE WATERFEED THROUGH LID, SINGLE- WALLED BASE,WIRE FINGER LOOP	----	1	----	----
X	BALDWIN #34	WIRE FEED THROUGH LID, FINGER LOOP, 4 HR, SMALL REFLECTOR, SHORT BASE	----	3	----	----
X	BALDWIN #35	4 HR., SMALL REFL., TALL BASE, HOOK ONLY	----	0	----	----
X	BALDWIN #36 TYPE 1	4 HR., GALV. IRON, WATERFEED THROUGH LID	----	2	----	----
X	BALDWIN #36 TYPE 2	4 HR., GALV. IRON & BRASS, HINGED DOOR	----	6	----	----
X	BALDWIN #36 TYPE 3	4 HR, Np BRASS, HINGED WATER DOOR	16	----	----	----
	BALDWIN #38	LIKE #36 TYPE 2, BUT TALLER BASE	----	2	----	----
X	BALDWIN #39	4 HR., WIRE BAIL WITH CHAIN & HOOK	4	----	----	----
X	BALDWIN #44	4 HR, SMALL REFL, SHORT BASE, BAIL&HOOK	----	0	----	----
X	BALDWIN #45	4 HR, SMALL REFL., TALL BASE, BAIL & HOOK	----	0	----	----
X	BALDWIN #54	RESEMBLES EARLY DEW-R-LITE, NO RIBS	----	0	----	----
X	BIG BOY WITH STRAP	BAIL ATTACHED WITH STRAP ON WATER TANK	28	----	----	----
X	BIG BOY W/O STRAP	NO STRAP AROUND WATER TANK	27	----	----	----
X	COLUMBIA	ADVERTISED AS A MINE LAMP	7	----	----	----
X	DENVER LAMP	ALL TYPES	----	----	1	----
X	DEW-R-LITE	ALL TYPES	84	----	----	----
X	FULL MOON	CYLINDRICAL BODY, HOOK & HANDLES	1	----	----	----
X	GUYS DROPPER	8 HR., STRAIGHT SIDES ON WATER TANK	6	----	----	----
X	GUYS DROPPER	8 HR., INDENTED WAIST	13	----	----	----
X	GUYS DR.SQUARELIGHT	SUPERVISOR HANDLES	6	----	----	----
X	GUYS DR.SQUARELIGHT	HOOK & BAIL	1	----	----	----
X	GUYS DR.SQUARELIGHT	CANDLESTICK AND SPIKED HOOK	41	----	----	----
X	GUYS DR., TALL BOY	HALF SHIFT, ALL VARIETIES	27	----	----	----
X	ITP "MINE LAMP"	FULL SHIFT, "MINE LAMP" ON LABEL	----	24	----	----
X	ITP #150	6 HR., BAIL & HOOK	15	----	----	----
	ITP #160	LIKE #150, SUPERVISOR HANDLES	28	----	----	----
X	ITP #203	9HR., SUPERVISOR HANDLES	----	11	----	----
	ITP #205	LIKE #203, BAIL & HOOK	----	17	----	----
X	ITP #210	6 HR., VERTICAL BURNER & UMBRELLA	----	4	----	----
X	ITP #215	9 HR., RR HANDLE, WIDE BASE	----	3	----	----
X	JUSTRITE ACME #50	BAIL & HOOK	2	19	----	----
X	JUST. ACME #56, 60, 80	SUPERVISOR HANDLES	----	24	----	----
X	JUST. ANACONDA SPECIAL	#93, STICK & HOOK, LOW BURNER	2	----	----	----
	JUST. ANACONDA SPECIAL	#93, STICK & HOOK, CENTERED BURNER	5	----	----	----
X	JUST. ARIZONA SPECIAL	#83, BAIL & HOOK	8	----	----	----
X	JUST. COPPER QUEEN	BODY SAME AS LITTLE GIANT	----	----	3	----
X	JUSTRITE JUMBO #50	BAIL & HOOK WITH STICK, LOW BURNER	----	----	0	----
	JUSTRITE JUMBO	BAIL & HOOK, LOW BURNER	----	----	9	----
	JUSTRITE JUMBO	CENTERED BURNER	----	----	1	----
X	JUSTRITE LANTERN #10	BASE BOTTOM IS DEEPLY INDENTED	20	----	----	----
	JUSTRITE LANTERN #12	TALLER THAN #10, FLAT BASE BOTTOM	9	----	----	----
X	JUSTRITE LITTLE GIANT	LATER VERSION OF JUMBO	----	----	15	----
	JUST. UNCLE SAM 6 HR.	5 1/2 " TALL (TO TOP OF BODY)	----	----	11	----
	JUST. UNCLE SAM 6 HR.	AS ABOVE, BUT WITH UMBRELLA	----	----	1	----
X	JUST. UNCLE SAM 8 HR.	6 " TALL (TO TOP OF BODY)	----	----	11	----
	JUST. UNCLE SAM 10 HR.	6 1/2 " TALL (TO TOP OF BODY)	----	----	3	----
X	JUST. WESTERN SPECIAL	#105, SUPERVISOR HANDLES	9	----	----	----
	JUSTRITE #39, 95, 100	1/2 SHIFT, RESEMBLES #204 W/O STICK	53	----	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #50	BAIL & HOOK	42	2	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #56	LIKE #50, BUT HAS SUPERVISOR HANDLES	15	4	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #77	"CANDLESTICK LAMP", CAST BODY	2	----	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #81	TALL RR HANDLE, WIDE BASE	2	----	----	----
	JUSTRITE #82	LIKE #81, BUT HAS ENCLOSED BURNER	2	----	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #84	HOOK & BAIL, HANDLES, WIDE BASE	1	----	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #103	STICK & HOOK ONLY	25	----	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #204	STICK, HOOK& SUPERVISOR HANDLES	11	----	----	----
X	JUST. #2-500 SERIES	TOP: BRASS OR STEEL; BOTTOM: PLASTIC	5	1	----	----
X	JUSTRITE #2-770	CAP LAMP WITH LARGE HANDLE & REFLECTOR	7	----	----	----
X	JUST. #3-100 SERIES	LARGE HORIZONTAL PLASTIC BODY	----	----	----	3
X	JUST. #3-200 SERIES	LARGER VERSION OF PLASTIC CAP LAMP	----	----	----	13
X	LUMINUM	ALL VARIETIES	----	----	25	----
X	MAPLE CITY	MAY LACK "MAPLE CITY" LABEL	1	----	----	----
X	MILBURN LANTERN	FOR HAND OR TABLE, IN LARGE CAN	1	----	----	----
X	MILBURN MINERS A	MILBURN #20	1	----	----	----
X	MILBURN #22	LARGER THAN #20	----	3	----	----
X	NATHAN	"NATHAN" STAMPED ON WATER DOOR	----	2	----	----
X	NATIONAL CARBIDE	LARGE LAMP	2	3	----	----

"PICT?" column at left indicates which lamps have pictures in EUREKA! issue 7.



Table 1. Handlamp survey results.

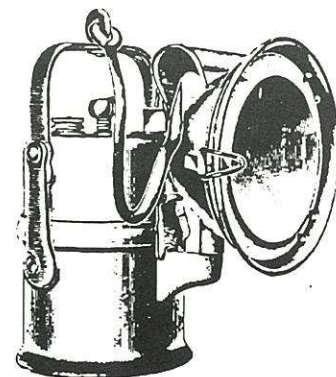
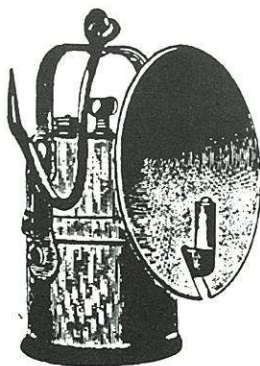
PICT?	LAMP	COMMENTS	BRASS	STEEL	ALUM.	PLASTIC
	OXWELD MODEL A	6.25 IN. DIA. REFL. COVER, ALUM. BODY	----	----	11	----
	OXWELD #2155	4.8 IN. DIA. REFL. COVER, STEEL & BRASS BODY	----	9	----	----
X	PATHFINDER	ALL TYPES (A, B & C)	1	----	----	----
	SCRANTO	NO REFLECTOR	0	-----	----	----
X	SCRANTO	SLANTED REFLECTOR	2	-----	----	----
	SCRANTO	VERTICAL REFLECTOR	3	-----	----	----
X	20TH CENTURY	MODIFIED FROM BIKE LAMP	1	-----	----	----
X	TOLEDO ACETYL. LANTERN	GENERATOR MOUNTED OFF CENTER	----	3	----	----
X	WILLIAM H. OTT	BRASS-CLAD TOP & REFLECTOR, STEEL BASE	0	----	----	----
X	WOLF ALUMINUM	TOP OF REFLECTOR HAS GAP	----	----	2	----
X	WOLF ALUMINUM	TALL, NARROW BODY	----	----	1	----
X	WOLF "FAT BODY"	WIRE BAIL & HOOK	1	1	----	----
X	WOLF HOODED REFLECTOR	BRASS BODY RESEMBLES #905A	2	----	----	----
X	WOLF INSPECTION	ENCL. BURNER, MAY HAVE "NAT. CARB." LABEL	3	1	----	----
X	WOLF "ORIGINAL"	BAIL, HOOK & HANDLES, LABEL ON BASE	----	6	----	----
X	WOLF "HORIZONTAL"	HORIZONTAL WATER TANK, LABEL ON BASE	----	----	1	----
X	WOLF #856 4 HOUR	CANISTER STYLE BODY IS 4 3/8" TALL	7	25	----	----
	WOLF #856 8 HOUR	CANISTER STYLE BODY IS 5" TALL	4	22	----	----
X	WOLF #871	HOODED REFLECTOR, HANDLEGRIP & HOOK	----	1	----	----
X	WOLF #900	BAIL & HOOK	11	24	----	----
	WOLF #900 (NAT. CARB.)	HAS "NATIONAL CARBIDE LAMP" LABEL	0	1	----	----
X	WOLF #905A	BURNER CENTERED IN REFLECTOR	----	5	----	----

Table 2. Relative rarity of handlamps

<u>COMMON LAMPS</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>UNCOMMON LAMPS</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>RARE LAMPS</u>	<u>NO.</u>
BALDWIN #36 TYPE 3	16	ARNOLD CARBIDE CANDLE	8	BALDWIN FULL SHIFT	1
BIG BOY	55	BALDWIN #34	3	BALDWIN #36 TYPE 1	2
DEW-R-LITE	84	BALDWIN #36 TYPE 2	6	BALDWIN #38	2
GUYS DROPPER 8 HOUR	19	BALDWIN #39	4	DENVER LAMP	1
GUYS DR., TALL BOY	41	COLUMBIA	7	FULL MOON	1
ITP "MINE LAMP"	24	GUYS DROP. SQUARELIGHT	8	JUSTRITE #77	2
ITP #150	15	ITP #210	4	JUSTRITE #84	1
ITP #160	28	ITP #215	3	JUSTRITE #81	2
ITP #203	11	JUST. ANACONDA SPECIAL	7	JUSTRITE #82	2
JUSTRITE #204	11	JUST. ARIZONA SPECIAL	8	MAPLE CITY	1
ITP #205	17	JUST. COPPER QUEEN	3	MILBURN LANTERN	1
JUSTRITE ACME	43	JUSTRITE JUMBO	10	MILBURN MINERS A	2
JUSTRITE LANTERN	29	JUST. WESTERN SPECIAL	9	NATHAN	2
JUSTRITE LITTLE GIANT	15	JUST. #2-500 SERIES	5	PATHFINDER	1
JUST. UNCLE SAM	27	JUSTRITE #2-770	7	20TH CENTURY	1
JUSTRITE #39, 95, 100	53	JUST. #3-100 SERIES	3	WOLF w HOODED REFLEC.	2
JUSTRITE #50	63	MILBURN #22	3	WOLF "HORIZONTAL"	1
JUSTRITE #56	19	NATIONAL CARBIDE	5	WOLF #871	1
JUSTRITE #103	25	SCRANTO	5	WOLF #900-NAT. CARBIDE	1
JUST. #3-200 SERIES	13	TOLEDO ACETYL. LANTERN	3		
LUMINUM	25	WOLF ALUMINUM	3	<u>"EXTINCT" LAMPS?</u>	<u>NO.</u>
OXWELD MODEL A	11	WOLF INSPECTION	2	BALDWIN #35	0
OXWELD #2155	9	WOLF "ORIGINAL"	6	BALDWIN #44	0
WOLF #856	58	WOLF #905A	5	BALDWIN #45	0
WOLF #900	32			BALDWIN #54	0
				WILLIAM H. OTT	0

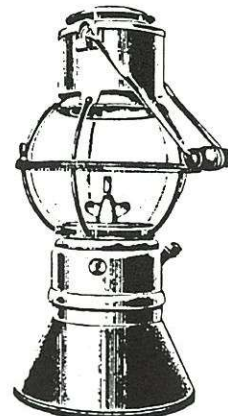
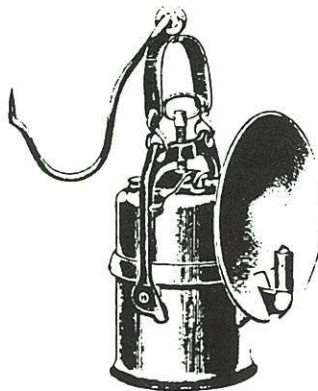
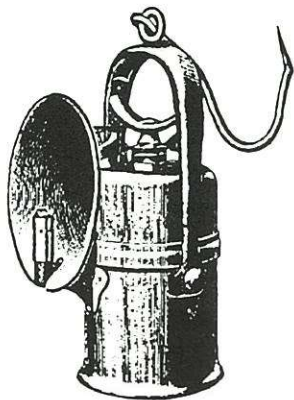
# Additional Wolf Hand Lamps

(not included in  
original survey)



Wolf's Acetylene Lamp with Ordinary Bridle Lock.  
Order No. 850.

Made in Steel or Brass and in Sizes O, I, II or III.



Wolf's Acetylene Lamp with Wolf Wedge Lock.  
Order No. 851b.

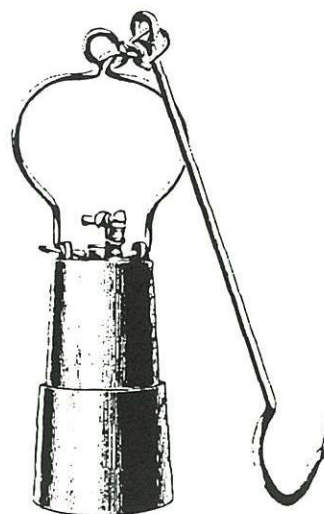
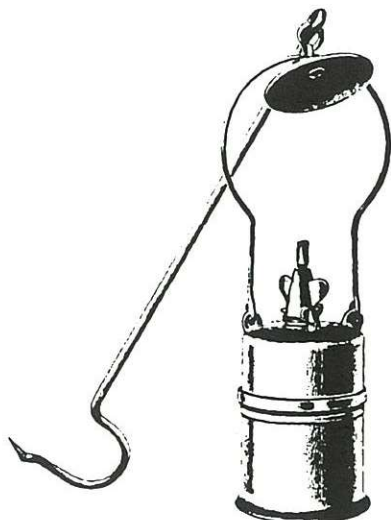
Wolf's Acetylene Lamp with Ordinary Bridle Lever  
Lock.  
Order No. 905.

Wolf Storm and Rain-proof Acetylene Lamp.  
Order No. 752.

Made in Steel or Brass and in Sizes I, II or III.

Made in Steel or Brass and in Sizes O, I, II or III.

Made in one size and steel only.



Wolf's Acetylene Lamp with Wing Nut Spindle  
Lock.  
Order No. 909.  
Made in Steel or Brass and in Sizes O, I, II or III.  
Extra parts on following pages

Wolf Acetylene Lamp with screw lock  
(Shell Lamp.)  
Order No. 912.  
Made in one size only and in brass and aluminum