

# Pickands Mather & Co. Mine Safety Awards

by Dave Johnson

Pickands Mather & Co. was one of the largest producers of iron ore on Michigan's Gogebic, Menominee, and Marquette iron ranges. Like many of the iron and copper mining companies in Michigan, Pickands Mather stressed safety to a much greater degree than the Eastern coal mines and Western hardrock mines.

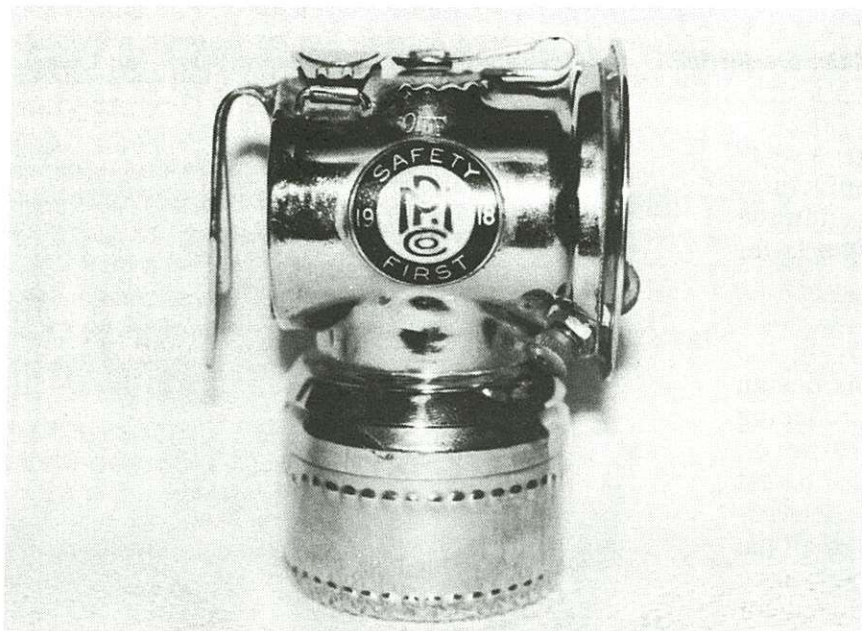
In 1918 Pickands Mather presented a nickel-plated Justrite carbide lamp with an enamel plaque to a select group of miners in each of its mines as a reward for accident free service to the company. Each miner receiving a lamp had to have five years of consecutive accident free service, according to the son of a miner residing in Ironwood, Michigan. This man's father received one of these award lamps in 1918. In 1920 Pickands Mather presented all miners at its Cary Mine with a pocket knife safety award after the Cary Mine had the best safety record of all its mines in 1919. Each knife had the miner's name inscribed on the back.



*Pocket knife awarded for safety at the Cary Mine*



*Back side of pocket knife above*



*Nickel-plated Justrite cap lamp with enamel plaque, a presentation piece for safety. The lamp is equipped with the typical Michigan narrow flat hook.*

The Cary Mine, near Hurley, on the Michigan-Wisconsin border, opened on a large ore body on the Gogebic Iron Range in 1886. In 1893 the Cary Mine was purchased by the Metropolitan Iron and Land Co. The Depression of 1897 saw the Cary Mine, along with many others, close due to a lack of demand for ore. The mine re-opened August 14, 1899 when the property was leased by the Odanah Iron Company. The Pickands Mather Co. operated the mine under a subleasing agreement. Between 1886 and 1945 the Cary mine produced 9,000,000 tons of high-grade ore.

## Reference

Montreal River Miner, Oct. 5, 1945.