

# A Tale of Two Lamps

by Paul Kouts

*Excerpted from the Mining-Collect is this post of how two rare lamps were originally obtained in the field 15 years ago. The photos below are of the actual lamps that Paul describes.*

Here's another Great White Hunter tale. I think that I got the first Norleigh, and a man begged me to take it.

The hunt started with a Maumee Duplex up in Berlin, PA. It was well known that a barber up there had the lamp on display in his shop but no collector ever talked him out of it. One Sunday, I was passing through Berlin and called the barber. My lucky dime and the right mood of the barber resulted in my flying home on a cloud. A couple of months later, a picker for me called and asked how much he should

pay for a duplex lamp; he knew of one over in Berlin. I gave him the sad news and also told a price range. Two months later, the picker called again. This time the duplex was in a friend's basement. Deal done!

Well what does one do? I couldn't afford all the carbide that four generators were burning. Well, I went to the next scrip collectors show with both lamps and Bill Williams was there with his Norleigh. I tried to talk him out of it, but without any luck. After the show, Bill came over to my dinner table and was fishing around for something. I went fishing too. I asked if he would consider trading. He said he was thinking all day about the same thing but he didn't think that I would be interested. He wanted a Maumee because of all the attention that it got. I wanted the Norleigh because it was a knew name.

Now all of you collectors with your top ten lists and price guides try to fit the pure pleasure that Bill and I enjoyed that evening into your lists.

