



BITS



Another Carbide Lamp Mystery

Mike Puhl has a positive talent for finding odd bits and parts for carbide lamps that no one has ever seen before. His latest find is the spare parts envelope and burner tip shown here. Now, a number of companies, such as the Chase Co. of Connecticut, are known to have manufactured spare parts for various name brand lamps.

This may be another example of that sort, perhaps a sideline for the Salem Tool Co. But that burner tip is of a unique design, and the editors agree we have never seen anything exactly like it. Paleontologists would take a piece of bone or a tooth no bigger than this, and try to reconstruct an entire new dinosaur from it.

Anyone care to speculate on the existence of a Salem Tool Co. carbide lamp?

Imperial Collector's Notes

Readers may remember that in a previous issue, I noted a distinct design difference between the X-Ray and Imperial carbide cap lamps. I have received at least one confirmation, from Jim Ewing, that his Imperial cap lamp does indeed have the word "PATENTED" stamped closer to the edge of the lamp top than a comparable X-Ray lamp. Jim's lamp has another unusual feature, a set-screw reflector with no reflector brace. We hope to feature these lamps in a future article.