

# Hansen's Last Patent

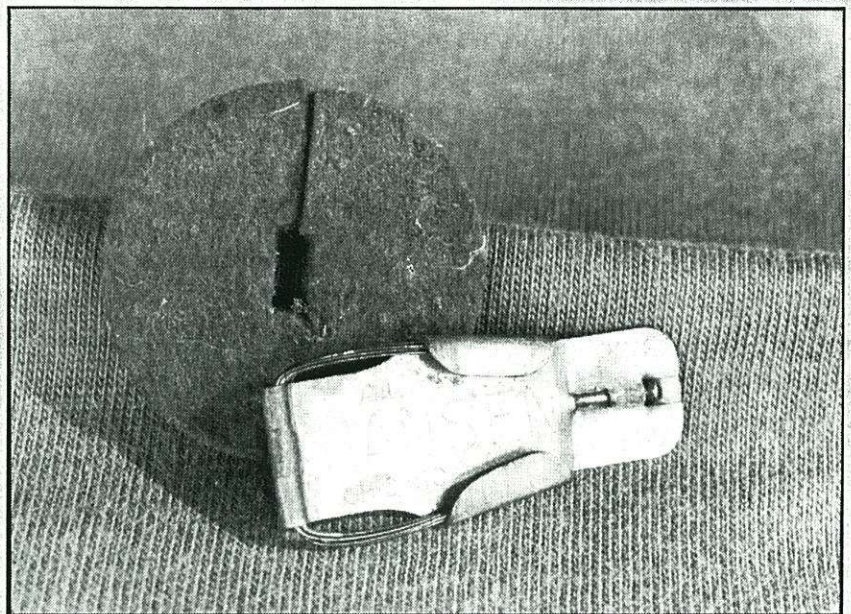
by Dave Thorpe

When I look at a patent for mine lighting, I'm always interested in the date that the patent was *filed*. This marks the time that the invention was conceived and first produced. The date that is stamped onto various relics reflects the additional time it took the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office to consider and grant the patent. Many times there are several years difference between these two dates, sometimes only months.

Augie Hansen was arguably the most prolific inventor of acetylene mine lights and accessories. From 1910 through the twenties, he obtained at least 33 patents. The majority belonged to his employer, the Justrite Manufacturing Company. However, the last *five*, obtained during the 1920's, were for his own A. L. Hansen Manufacturing Co.

In 1927 he was granted his last patent. This was for the Force Feed lamp. But, he had *applied* for it a full six years earlier in 1921. If the last five patents are considered by the dates they were actually *filed*, it is apparent that an obscure tip-cleaner pack was the item he last invented. Applied for in April 1923, it took little more than a year to clear the patent office, and was granted in June 1924.

The specimen shown in the photo is stamped "PATS. PEND.", dating its manufacture to the narrow time frame of 1923-24. The tip-cleaner pack is extremely rare. Later models may exist, bearing the patent date.



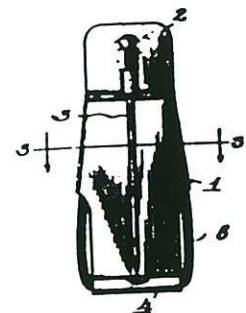
## U.S. Patent 1,498,371

Augie L. Hansen  
Filed: April 30, 1923  
Patented: June 17, 1924

*Small enough to be held in the fingers, this patented invention was simply an open rack for holding several lengths of fine steel wire. Just pull one off the rack and you have an instant tip cleaner for a carbide light. The apparatus is nickel plated steel, and has a pin on the back side for attaching to the miner's clothing. Trivial and obscure? Yes, but pure Augie Hansen!*



Front side showing one wire extended



Back side showing pin to attach to clothing.