

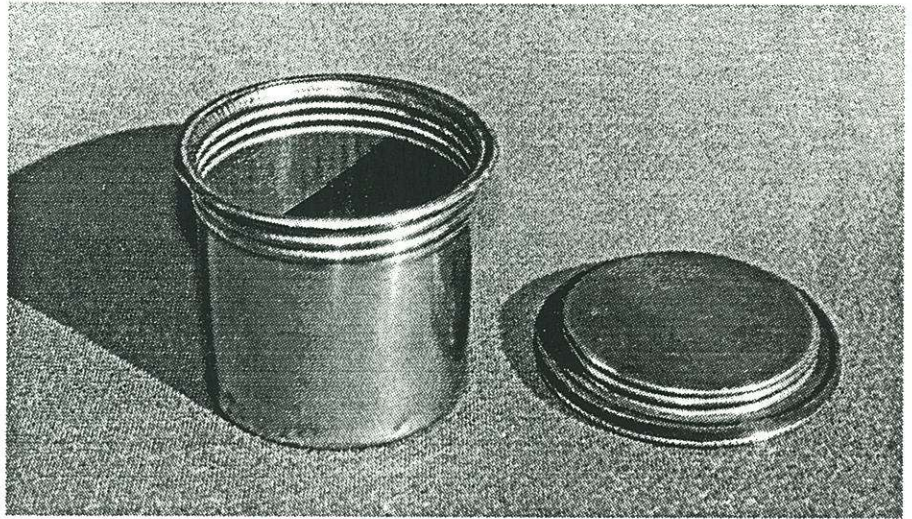
Spare Bases from Monmouth, Illinois

Dave Thorpe

Maple City Mfg. Co. manufactured several carbide cap lamps of the "barrel" design, including the "anthracite"¹ (an unmarked model sold through various retail outlets²), the Red Star sold by Beall Bros., the Norleigh Diamond sold by Shapleigh Hardware, as well as their own Maple City stamped lamp. The factory was located in Monmouth, Illinois. Below are a variety of these stamped bases with their characteristic inset screw-caps.



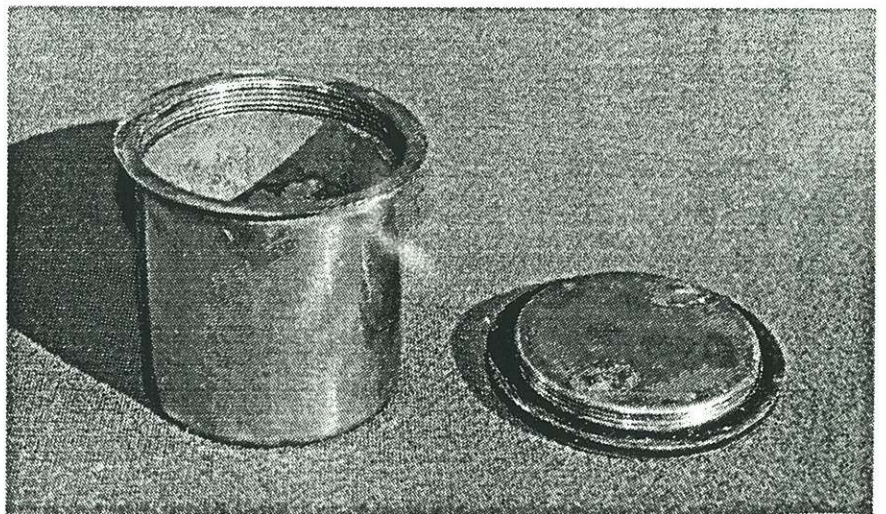
Maple City,
Red Star, and Norleigh Diamond



Shown above is the base found on the later and more common Maple City name-stamped lamps as well as the Red Star and the Norleigh Diamond. The rolled threads are visible from the outside of the lamp and the screw-cap has knurling.³



Early Maple City



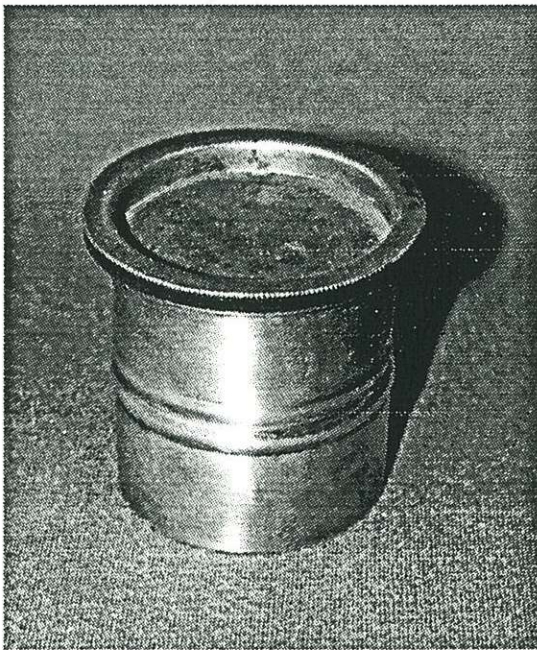
This base belongs to the early-style Maple City lamp with *machine-cut* threads. The threads are not visible from the outside. It is found on stamped and unstamped Maple City lamps.⁴ Instead of knurling to grip the lid, a steel bucket-handle is provided. The handle could also function as a belt loop.



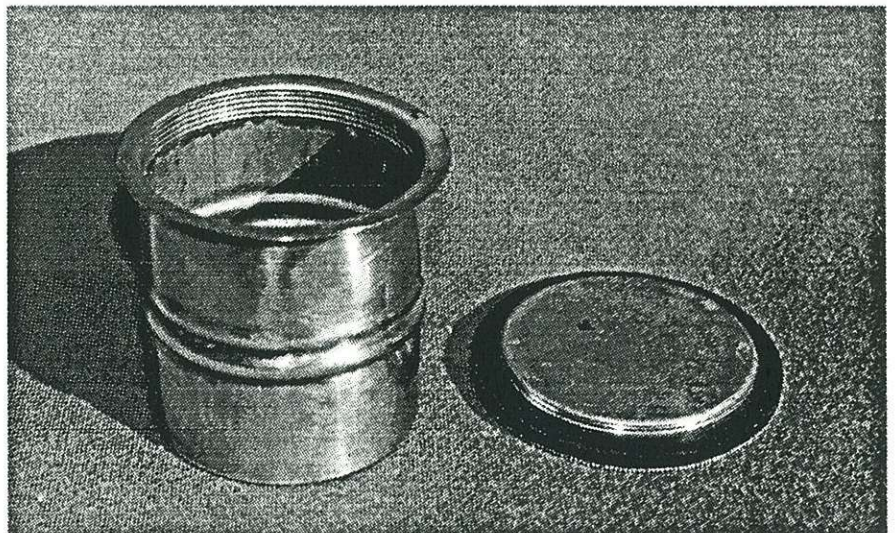
Banded Anthracite - *rolled threads*



None of the “anthracites” known thus far have threads visible from the outside. This was accomplished by using a threaded insert, rather than rolling the threads directly into the base, as done on Maple City brand name lamps. The above base has been seen on anthracites with raking wire feeds as well as the twist-ball feeds.⁵ Note the lack of knurling on the edge of the cap.



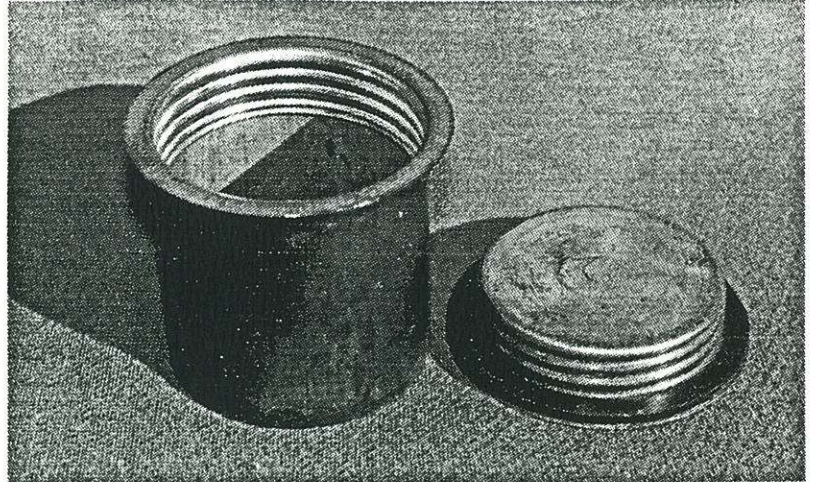
Banded Anthracite - *cut threads*



This model has the cut-thread design. Cut threads were prone to fouling, and it was fortunate therefore that these bases had a finely knurled edge on the screw-cap. This model has been noted by the author only on “anthracites” with the twist-ball feed.



Unbanded Anthracite - *rolled threads*



This base belongs to the rarest of the “anthracite” lamps. Neither the base nor the water-tank of the complete lamp bears the decorative band. The threads are rolled and internal. There is no knurling on the cap edge. All unbanded “anthracite” lamps known to the author have raking wire water feeds.

All of the bases shown in this article, including the one above, have a concave stamped indentation into the bottom. Some varieties of the smooth “anthracite” however, do *not* have the concave bottom, but an indented ring stamping (author’s collection). The upward concavity was advertised to have the advantage of keeping fresh carbide under the dropper, while the spent sludge would flow outward and away.⁶

References and Notes

1. Dave Thorpe, Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 9, 1990, p. 1-2., The term “anthracite” is commonly used to describe loop-hook barrel-shaped lamps that bear strong resemblance to the Maple City lamp. All “anthracites” bear no name stamping, but internal examination of the lamp identifies Maple City as the manufacturer. See reference #4 for photographs of “anthracite” lamps.
2. Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 12, 1991, The E. C. Simmons Hardware Co., Philadelphia, Pa., 1915 shows an “anthracite” style cap lamp, but in this case, the lamp is advertised by their designated name: Britelite. It is reported that “anthracite” style lamps have been seen in early Montgomery Ward catalogs (personal communication, Errol Christman).
3. Webster’s Dictionary, 1988, The term knurl is defined: One of a series of small ridges, as along the edge of an object such as a thumbscrew. (No specific manufacturing process or material composition of a knurl is deemed necessary for common usage). An example of knurling would be the grip ring around the base of a Pioneer lamp.
4. Dave Thorpe and Bill Spence, Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 9, 1990, p. 3-10, *The Maple City Lamp*. On page three is a photograph of an unstamped early Maple City lamp from the author’s collection. A similar, but name-stamped version of the early Maple City with cut threads exists in the collection of Dave Johnson.
5. Dave Thorpe and Len Gaska collections (raking wire water feed), Fred Gaunce and Bob Schroth collections (twist ball water feed).

6. Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 12, 1991, The E. C. Simmons Hardware Co. Catalog, Philadelphia, Pa., 1915.