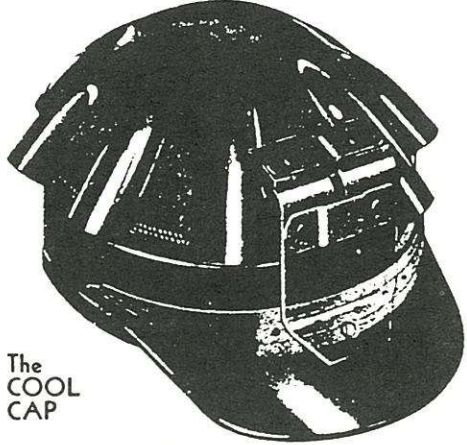


The later model Cool Hats like the one shown in the photograph (Figure 2), have a fiber type shell with a leather bottom and brim. The earlier models are made completely out of leather.

Compared to the earlier miners' hats that are available to collectors, the Cool Hats are late. You would think that they would be very common, but in fact they are quite uncommon. I would attribute this to the fact that they probably cost considerably more than the light weight cloth hats they competed with. All of the Cool Hats I have seen have been black except for one, and it was light brown in color.

According to the ad in Figure 1, there were two new styles available with wide protective brims. The hat at the top of the ad is described as a "SOU' WESTER" (Southwestern) brim and permits carrying of materials over the shoulders with the assurance that the hat won't be easily knocked off. I have never seen one of these new styles of Cool Hats and would like to hear from anyone that has.

Figure 3. (Opposite) An ad from a 1935 issue of the *Explosive Engineer* advertising the Cool Hat most commonly found.



The
COOL
CAP

**COMFORTABLE
Head Protection**

When you equip your men with COOL CAPS or COOL HATS you can assure them comfortable head protection . . . that's why thousands of workers in coal and metal mines, quarries, and the heavy construction industries so willingly wear them.

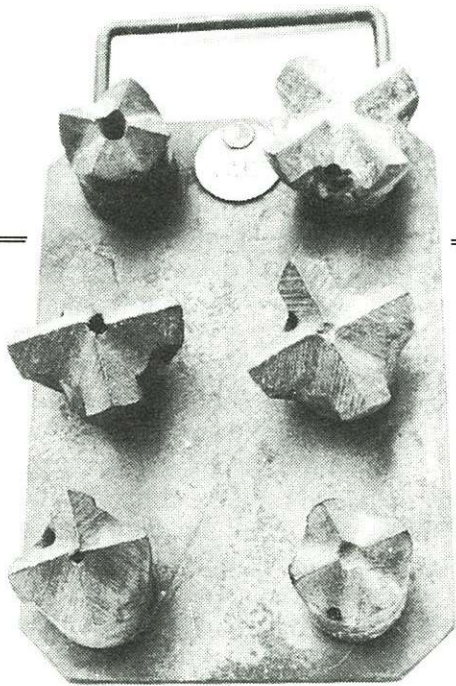
Write for Descriptive Literature

PORTABLE LAMP & EQUIPMENT CO.
Manufacturers and Distributors
405 PENN AVE. PITTSBURGH, PA.

ANTHRACITE REPRESENTATIVE
G. A. Luckenbach Scranton, Pa.

BIT RACKS

by **Richard W. Graeme**
Tucson, Arizona



In the most recent issue of *Mining Artifact Collector*, under Collector's Talk, there is a photo of what is referred to as a drill bit carrier. Items similar to the illustrated were still very much in use when I started work as an underground miner in Bisbee more than 30 years ago.

Locally, they were referred to as bit racks. However, metal boxes capable of holding 24 bits were more commonly used at the Copper Queen.

Both were used prior to the introduction of knock off, disposable, carbide insert bits.

The intent of the rack was more than just a transport form for the miner, but also a simple way of returning the bits to the blacksmith shop where the bits were re-sharpened.

As might be expected, bit usage was a direct function of the rock type being mined. In soft carbonate or oxide ores, one rack (6 bits) of six would last several days. In normal limestone, three racks would be used in one day. Siliceous rock or ores would require 40 or more bits to drill out the six foot by eight foot by six foot deep round typically completed and blasted in a shift.