An excellent, but difficult to find resource for information on the history of mining artifacts is company letterheads. In nearly 15 years of collecting, I have only found seven of them from five different companies. Besides the artistic value of many of the early letterheads, they can provide information such as dates of manufacture and perhaps even provide information on the existence of heretofore unknown artifacts. Letterheads are found both on company correspondence and invoices for items sold although the latter is much more common.

Mining Letterheads

by Len Gaska



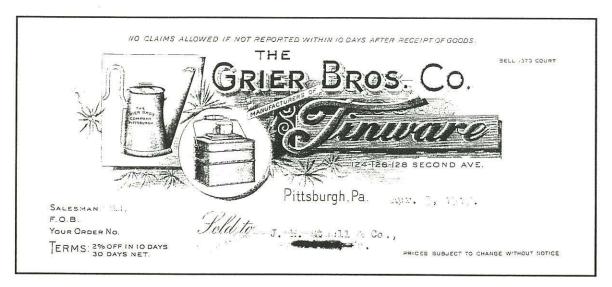
The first letterhead is from the M. A. Cozzens Lard Oil Co. of Cleveland, OH which advertises "Brilliant Winter White Miner's Oil," a fuel for single spout oil

wick (non-Sunshine) lamps. The vignette is exceptional; showing a miner with a pick and an oil wick lamp.



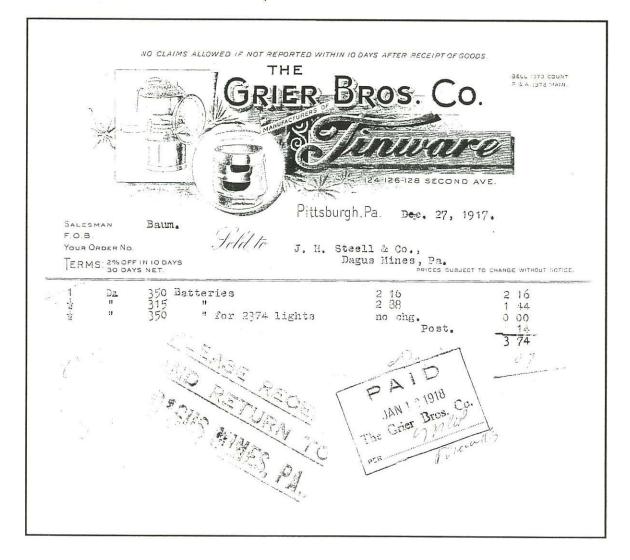
The second letterhead is from Geo. W. Stevenson & Bros. of Pittsburgh, PA. manufacturers of "Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron Ware." The letterhead illustrates a dinner bucket and "MINER PET LAMP." I have wondered whether the word "PET" is a misspelling of the word "PIT," although PET could have been the

actual name of the oil lamp. I have not located any information on this company, so it may well be that this is a heretofore unknown manufacturer of oil lamps. Perhaps one of our Pennsylvania readers could research this company.



The third and fourth letterheads are from the Grier Bros. Co. of Pittsburgh, PA manufacturers of tinware. Grier Bros. is best known for their oil wick and carbide lamps. The date on one showing an oil wick lamp is April 3, 1917 and it may well be that Grier Bros. had discontinued producing these lamps by that time. The other letterhead from December 27, 1917

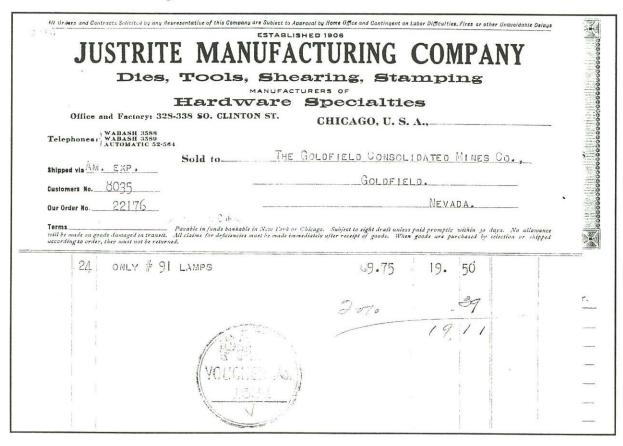
depicts the model 95 lamp which was probably the most popular carbide cap lamp that Grier Bros. produced. The bill makes reference to model 2374 lights, and batteries for that light. If any of our readers are aware of a Grier electric "2374 light," we would appreciate hearing from you.

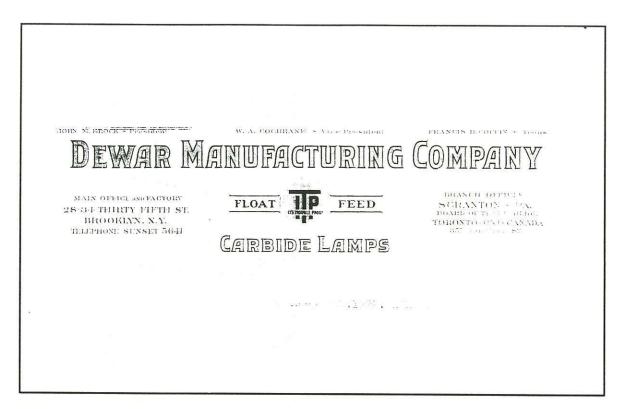


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The fifth letterhead is from the Justrite Manufacturing Co. of Chicago, IL. The invoice makes references to candle sticks (lamp sticks), felts, and felt holders sold to the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Co. of Goldfield, NV and is dated February 9, 1916. This is a rather dull letterhead, but is still an interesting item.

The sixth letterhead is also from the Justrite Manufacturing Co. and is dated September 30, 1914 on the back. The invoice mentions model 91 lamps which were a half-shift candlestick lamp with no hat braces. Note that the letterhead itself is a bit more artistic than the fifth letterhead.





The seventh letterhead boldly advertising the I.T.P. carbide lamp is from the Dewar Mfg. Co. of Brooklyn, NY. It is dated 1929, a time at which use of the carbide lamp was in significant decline. It is from the Jim Van Fleet collection.

The final letterhead, submitted by Dave Thorpe, is from The Tracy Wells Co., a large wholesale outfit specializing in outdoor goods. Among the items sold was their own stamped oil wick lamp. This 1893 document still shows the horse drawn carriage.

