

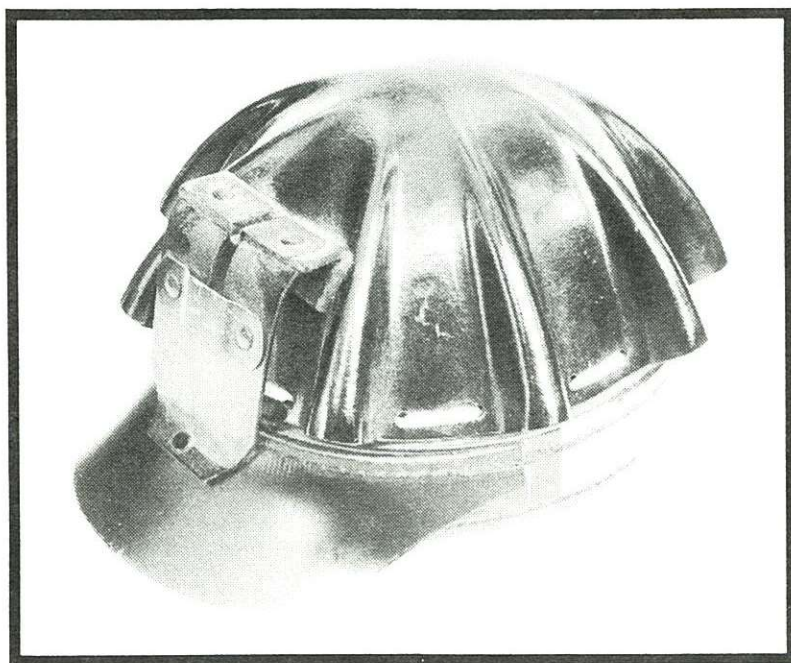
# THE COOL HAT

by Ted Bobrink  
Redlands, California

To me, one of the most enjoyable mining artifacts to collect are the early miners' hats. I'm talking about any one of the many different types that incorporate a device for holding a candlestick, oil wick or carbide lamp. These hats can still be found at quite reasonable prices compared to other mining collectibles. Most of the hats you will find are going to be the cloth type with either leather or cloth brims. There were also hats made from cardboard and leather similar to a more modern day hard hat.

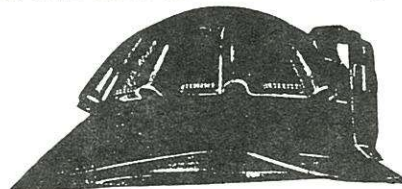
The miners' hat that I find to be the favorite among collectors is the "COOL HAT," also known as the turtle shell hat. The Cool Hat shown in the photograph is in mint, unused condition and has a paper label on the side that says:

FLEXO BOND COOL HAT  
PAT USA JUNE 1933  
MINE SAFETY APPLIANCE CO. PITTSBURGH, PA.

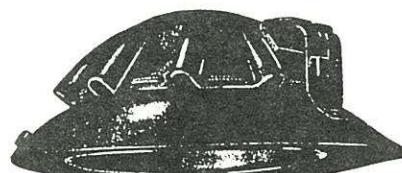


## COOL HATS

*In Two New and Distinct Styles*



The COOL HAT with Sou'wester Brim



The COOL HAT with Hard, Stiff Brim

## COMFORTABLE

*Head Protection Assured*

These new hats, comfortable companions to the COOL CAP now so widely used by the coal mining industry, have been developed to satisfy a demand for a specific type of head protection in the mining, quarrying, and heavy construction industries.

The COOL HAT, with Sou'wester brim, permits carrying of materials over the shoulders of the workmen with assurance that the hat won't easily be knocked off. . . The hard-brim style will positively deflect falling materials and give neck and shoulder as well as adequate head protection.

WRITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

## PORTABLE

LAMP & EQUIPMENT CO.

MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT

405 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Figure 1. (Above) An ad from a 1935 issue of the *Explosive Engineer* advertising the two new styles of Cool Hats.

Figure 2. (To left) A mint, unused Cool Hat showing the paper label on the side. (Author's collection)



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**

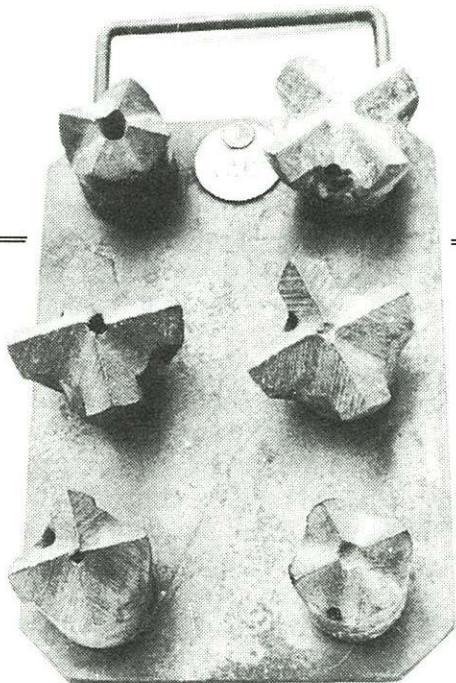
When you equip your men with COOL CAPS or COOL HATS you can assure them comfortable head protection . . . that's why thousands of workers in coal and metal mines, quarries, and the heavy construction industries so willingly wear them.

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.