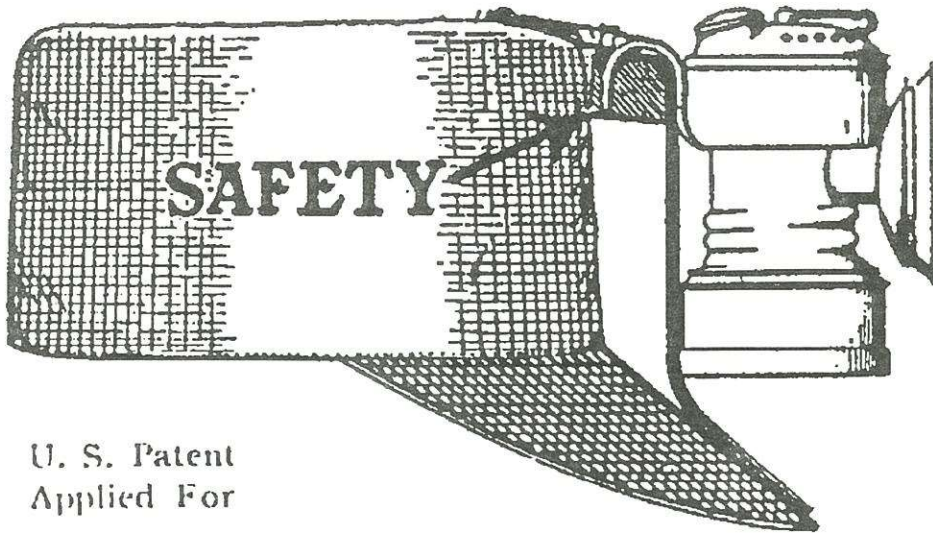


Lamp Hook-Holder Cap

by Mick Coorbridge and Dave Thorpe

It was advertised in a brochure from Scotland¹, and found by Mick Coorbridge of England, but this miner's cap with its special "Lamp Hook-Holder" was manufactured in the U.S.A. by Wilkes-Barre Cap Mfg. Co.² It was patented Dec 1, 1925³ and used a "Safety" trademark.



U. S. Patent
Applied For

The brochure states: "Every miner has experienced the trouble of keeping the old-fashioned three-hook lamp in position while working.

The side hooks eventually break off, permitting the lamp to twist from side to side and, in many cases, to fall off. This constant twisting of the lamp does not give the miner a direct light where he is working

The patented bracket held the lamp rigid by the hook only. The lamp pictured above looks like a late model Grier or early Gee Bee, which were made in Pittsburgh, PA. The illustration above is taken from the brochure, but is essentially identical to the patent drawing. (See Eureka, Oct. 1995, pg. 6).

Many accidents have occurred due to the lamp twisting on the cap and giving improper lighting."

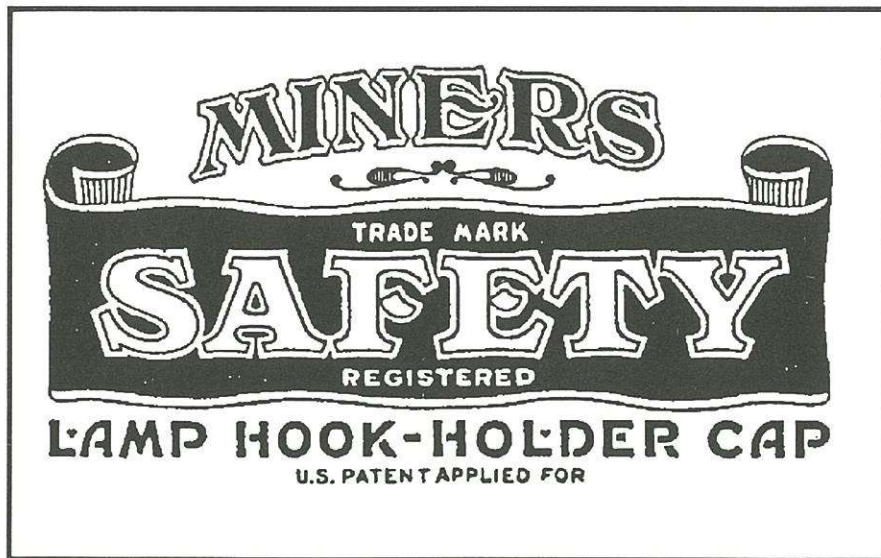


THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

These illustrations from the brochure show the purported advantages of using the new lamp holding device.



THE NEW "SAFETY" WAY

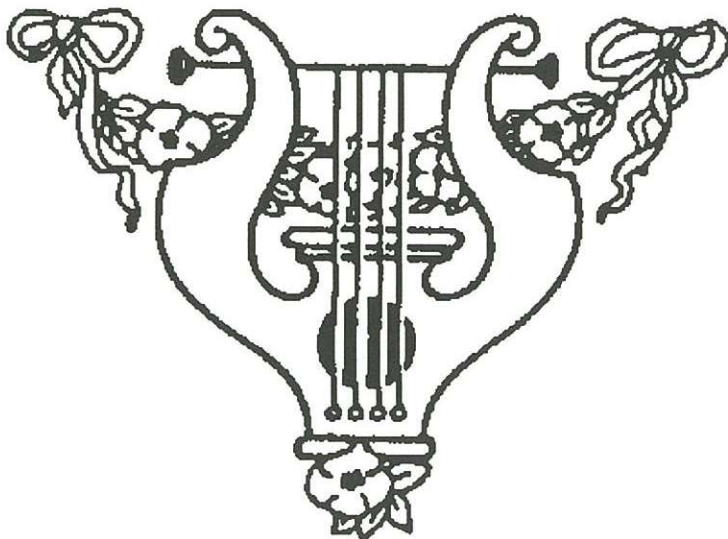


Look for this stamping on old miners' caps. Now you'll know where it came from!

THE NEW MINERS

"SAFETY"

Lamp Hook-Holder Cap



Safety was the key word in marketing the clamp. The company went so far as to obtain a registered trademark using the word. As more and more emphasis was being placed on safety in the mines, perhaps it was thought that entire mining companies might adopt the use of their product.

Every one of their brackets carried this label which "cannot be found on any cap but those manufactured by us."

The brochure repeatedly emphasizes it as "new" and "modern" which is somewhat of an irony for the 1925 invention. Similar devices had been patented as early as 1889.⁴

It was claimed to be adapted for use with carbide lamp and oil wick lamps, as well as for use with electric lamps. Carbide and oil wick lamps were well on the decline by the late twenties. Electric lamps generally used the flat-blade attachment which obviated the use of the "hook-holder".

The harp logo (left) is of questionable significance.

Notes/References:

1. Distributor: J. Bernstein, 37 Hunter St. Gallowgate, Glasgow.
2. Located at 88-94 E. Northhampton St., Wilkes-Barre, PA.
3. Pat. No. 1,563,931 to Louis Scherz of Wilkes-Barre, PA.
3. *Mining Artifact Collector*, 1991, No. 10, pg. 43. An Oil Lamp Pulley? Also see: *Eureka!*, 1995, No 16, Patented Lamps and Cap Holders, Dave Johnson.