

# A Christmas Cap at the Tucson Rock Show

Todd Town

If you go to the rock show in Tucson, you hit the ground running. Every hotel, nook, and cranny is filled with rocks and rocks and rocks. You search diligently for the dealer that has included a few mining artifacts in his horde of minerals. And if you're early, you can get lucky and find an occasional treasure. Such was the case of John and Karen Mediz, mineral and mine artifact dealers in Globe, who set up at the show each year.

When visiting their room at the Days Inn, I asked John if he had turned up anything new. He produced an unused



*Embossed lettering on the lamp holder.*



well preserved soft miner's cap. The cap was manufactured by the Beall Bros., Alton, Ill. and patented November 26, 1889. Most interesting was the hand written inscription atop the cap. The penciled lettering on the brim indicates that the hat was presented as a Christmas gift to Grace and Flora from Willard in 1905. On the top surface the penciling reads: "When you see this, remember that I still remember thee."

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John and Karen were still "selling" their find from last year's show: The What Cheer cap lamp that graced the cover of an earlier *EUREKA!* They had traded the What Cheer lamp for 100 common lamps after the show. They have been selling those lamps right along. John describes the What Cheer as "The gift that just keeps on giving."