

THE ARNOLD CARBIDE CANDLE CAP LAMP

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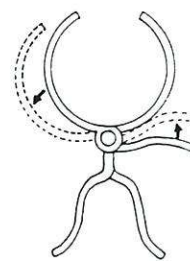
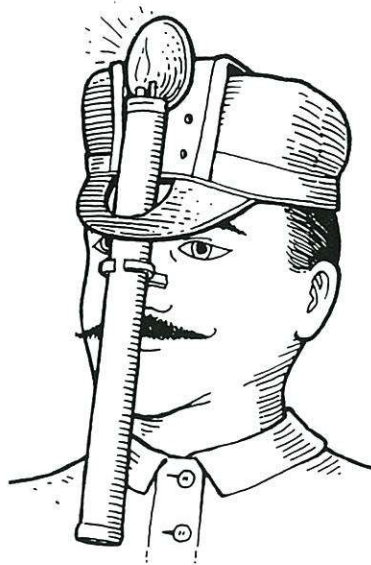
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From long-time reader and carbide collector Ima Hokes comes the accompanying information on an unusual item we've never seen before. Most carbide collectors are familiar with the very rare and desirable Arnold Carbide Candle, a long, narrow, cylindrical brass carbide lamp made to resemble the proportions of a wax candle. Each example has a small hook, and it has been assumed that this was for hanging the lamp on a beam or ore-car. However, it seems that the Arnold Carbide Candle could also be worn on the cap.

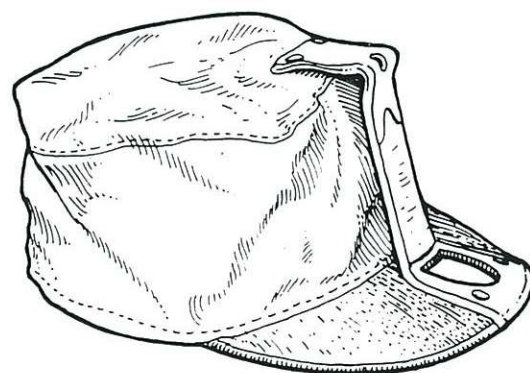
This information came to light as a result of Ima's recent discovery of a modified cap (with a hole in the brim) and a special attachment clip known as the "nose brace." The lamp is hooked to the miner's cap just as a normal carbide lamp or oil-wick lamp would be. But because the Arnold Carbide Candle is so long, it must extend downward through the brim-hole, and must be braced against the miner's nose using the special attachment.

The modified caps and the Arnold lamps with attachment are rare because of their understandable unpopularity with miners. Many miners complained of going cross-eyed; and the lamp tended to heat up and burn the miner's nose. Jason Stemple, mine manager at the Arcadia gold mine in Tuolumne County, California, attempted to require all of his miners to use the device in 1915; however, he was subsequently injured in a serious miner's rebellion only months later, and required the services of a proctologist to remove the Arnold Carbide Candles which had been returned to him.

Perhaps the saddest recorded incident involving the hat-mounted Arnold lamp took place in 1914, when Bisbee miner Jose Buscadero left for his shift. His wife, fed up with Jose's predilection for Brewery Gulch bars and bar girls, slipped a stick of giant powder into his Arnold Carbide Candle (it fit perfectly) before sending him off to work. He lit up at the



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35th level cage station; his head was later found on the 6th level.

Despite these problems, severe though they were, the Arnold Carbide Candle was the most successful of Arnold's various lamp inventions. Among the very rarest mining collectibles today are the few surviving examples of his other brainchild: the Arnold Carbide Cigar.