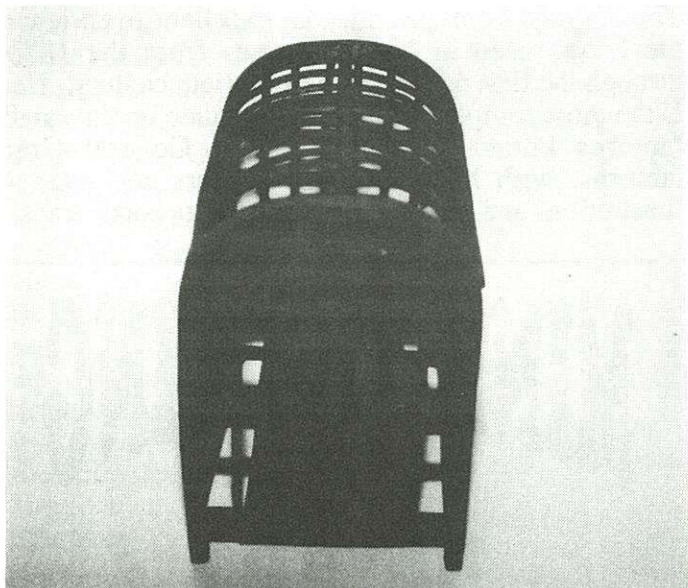


A Well Housed Bird

The canary cage shown in the photos belongs to John Podgurski. It is certainly old, with a clay water bowl. The bent wood construction makes it very sturdy, and it would have held up well as a miner's canary cage.



Anton Oil Wicking

For the collector who has everything, a special pillow. Actually, it's 5 pounds of oil lamp wicking in the original bag, shown here with an Anton U.S.A. Eagle face lamp for scale. Courtesy of Kelley Deem.



Ashland Mine Pocket Mirror

One category of mining related collectible which has received very little attention is that of pocket mirrors. I believe they were produced primarily as advertising for coal distributors, and in some cases for large coal mining companies. A real oddity is this pocket mirror produced for the Ashland mine. The Ashland Mine was located in Ironwood, Michigan and was owned by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Mining Co. An early producer on the Gogebic Iron Range, by 1886 the Ashland Mine had seven shafts, making it second only to the Colby Mine at that time.

The mirror measures just 2 3/4" by 1 3/4", the back displays a sepia photo of miners gathered around one of the headframes of the mine. All of the miners are wearing or holding candleholders, which would date the photo no later than the very early 1900's. The same photo appears in a souvenir publication from Ironwood published in 1903.

D. Johnson

