

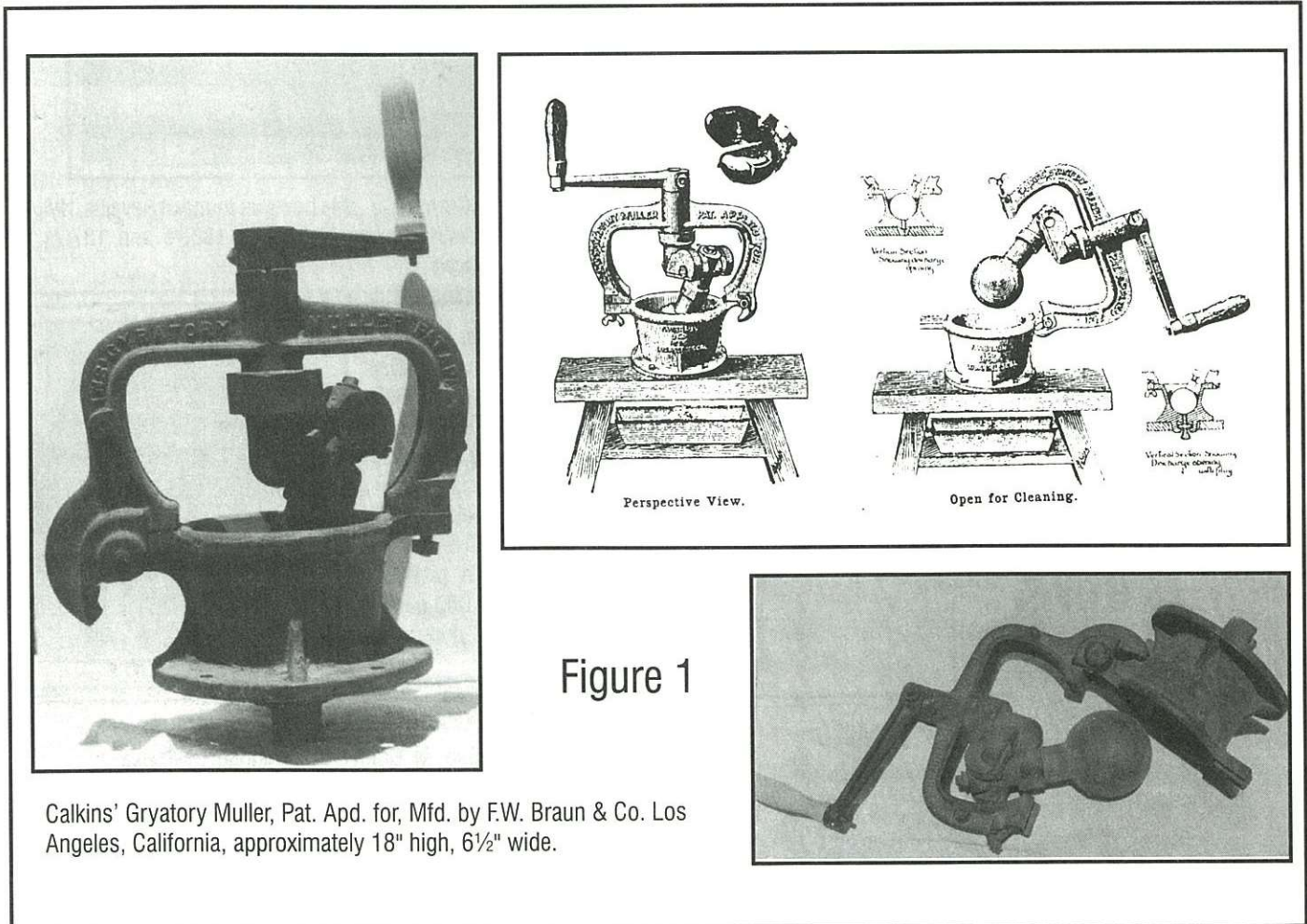
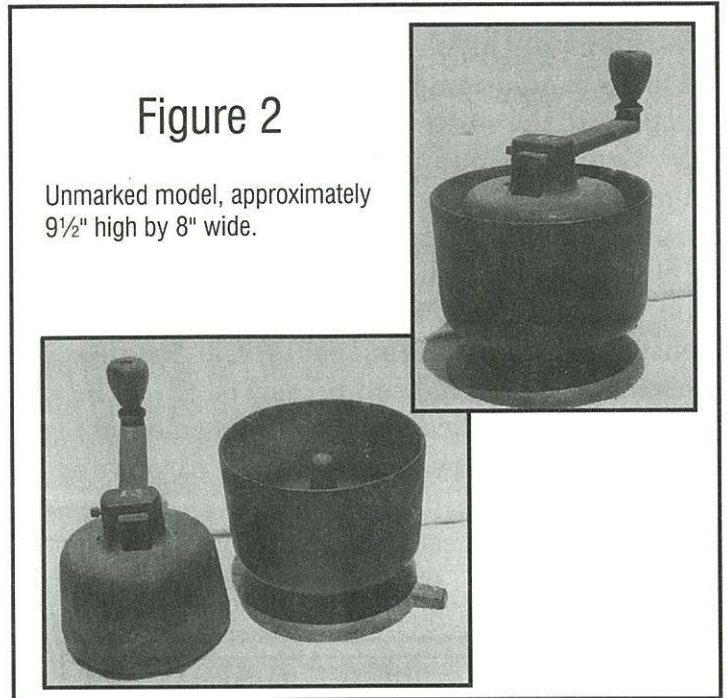
PROSPECTOR'S ARRASTRAS

by Deric English

A prospector's arrastra is one of many terms used to describe an ore grinder. Although these grinders are sometimes called prospector's arrastras, it seems likely the prospector would prefer using a smaller, lighter mortar and pestle, leaving the seventy-five pound ore grinder to the assayer or assay shop. Other terms used to describe this weighty prospector's arrastra are gyratory mullers, crushers, grinding mortars and pulverizers.

Obviously, the function of these ore grinders are to crush or pulverize rock into smaller particles (fines). Once the rock is pulverized to a desired size, panning the fines will indicate the prevalence of precious metal.

The following ore grinders represent a few of the various examples known.



Calkins' Gryatory Muller, Pat. Apd. for, Mfd. by F.W. Braun & Co. Los Angeles, California, approximately 18" high, 6 1/2" wide.

Figure 3

Sold by J. Caire, J. Caire Sole
Agt., PTB Geo W White, March
19, 1899, approximately 8½"
high by 6½" wide.

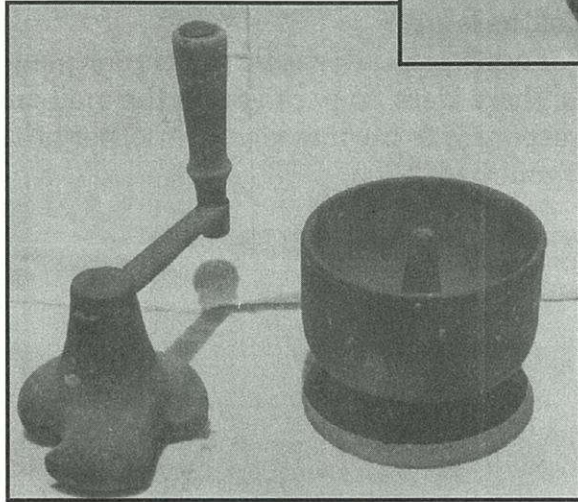
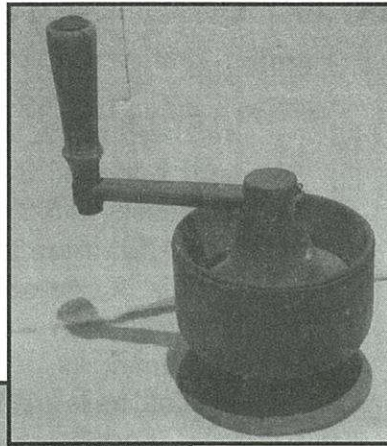


Figure 4

Unmarked model,
missing handle,
approximately 11" tall
by 8" wide.

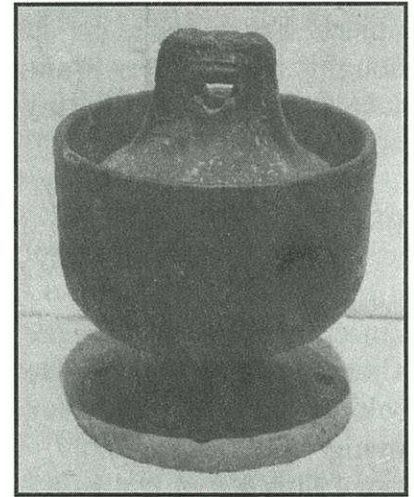
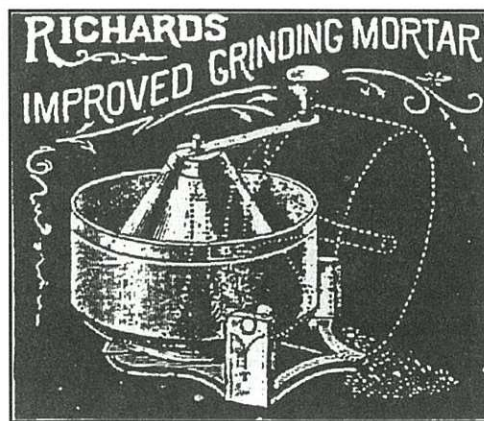


Figure 5



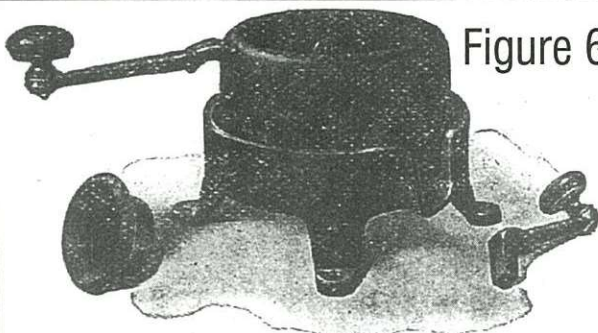
Prospector's
Arrastras catalog
illustration from
Denver Fire Clay.

Figure 7



Catalog illustration of Richards Improved
Grinding Mortar.

Figure 6



Crusher-Weatherhead catalog illustration from The Calkins
Co., Los Angeles, California.