

## Ask Dr. Lampbottom

*Dear Dr. Lampbottom, I have been wondering on how to go about cleaning my carbide lamps. Do you have any suggestions and tips?*

Funny you should ask! The editors assure me that they will have a full article on carbide lamp cleaning in the near future. Stay tuned!

*Dear Dr. Lampbottom, I have often wondered about the miniature oil lamps that some collectors have. What were they used for?*

One theory is that they were salesman's samples. Somewhat unlikely as no manufacturer would make a miniature of an item that was already small. Another popular theory is that they were souvenir items given away at conventions and the like. A recent find confirms this theory. See the article "A Labeled Miniature Oil Wick Lamp" by Jim Steinberg in this issue. These miniature lamps are highly collectible and prized by oil lamp collectors. Keep an eye out for them as they are quite small and easy to pass by.

Do you have any questions of a technical or historical nature for Dr. Lampbottom? If so, please submit them to the MAC editor and we will forward it to the good Doctor. Of course Dr. Lampbottom is an avid collector and is almost always on the road looking for good mining items. For that reason, Dr. Lampbottom cannot send personal answers to each and every one of you. And by all means, if you have information that contradicts one of Dr. Lampbottom's answers, please contact us. Dr. Lampbottom is a snooty old fellow and the editors love to prove him wrong!

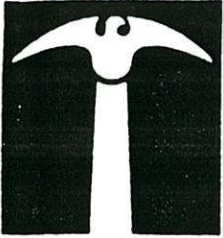


## The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum

by Len Gaska

Collectors often have a love-hate relationship with museums. On one hand, a good museum will have rare items that the average collector may never see elsewhere. But there may be the feeling that a museum is just another competitor for hard-to-find artifacts. And how could the general public ever enjoy the items as much as an avid collector? Realistically speaking, a museum is often a good source for historical data. Furthermore, mining museums offer the general public an opportunity to view artifacts they may never see elsewhere and to learn more about the historical aspects of mining.

Even though mining is the starting point for all technology and played a crucial role in the history and expansion of the United States, it has not received the attention that it deserves. A museum devoted exclusively to mining and the preservation of mining history is long overdue. Although The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum has been in existence for some time as an organization, the recent acquisition of a building to house their collection is an important milestone. The editors of MAC hope you will join us in supporting this venture. Write to them for membership details.



## *National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.*

P.O. Box 981

Leadville, Colorado 80461

Phone: (303) 486-1229

### WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

During their lifetime, every American born will need 1,000 pounds of lead, 1,000 pounds of zinc, 1,700 pounds of copper, 4,500 pounds of aluminum, and 91,000 pounds of iron and steel.

Look around your home. Examine the objects in each room. Where did they come from? If they weren't grown, they were mined. The earth's resources are vital to life as we know it, and yet they're the "invisible actors" in everyday life. Their importance is little acclaimed, little understood.

Mined resources play an enormous role in the vitality of our national economy. Historically, they triggered the greatest peaceful migration of all time, redirected the course of American history, blazed the trail to the settlement and development of three-fourths of this nation's land area, and unlocked a treasure chest of incomparable riches which aroused the envy and commanded the respect of the world.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum will serve as a national facility to educate the American public in the importance of mining, as a hall of fame honoring the industry's pioneers, as a library and research center for the mining industry, and as a worldwide meeting facility for mining and environmental symposiums.

The facility is located in the National Historic District of Leadville, Colorado, in the 71,000 square foot former Lake County Junior High School building, which is leased to us, in perpetuity, for 50 cents a year.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum received unanimous support by the Colorado Legislature in House Joint Resolution 1019, supporting our facility in Leadville. There are currently two bills before the 100th U.S. Congress which would grant the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum a Federal Charter. This Charter would make us a site-specific tourist destination, would allow our facility to appear on all road maps, and would make provisions for signage on interstate highways.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum has received the endorsement of the American Mining Congress, the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, Women In Mining, and the Colorado Mining Association, among others.

The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum gratefully accepts membership donations, as well as contributions of artifacts and museum-quality specimens. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Robert T. Reeder, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, P. O. Box 981, Leadville, Colorado 80461, or phone (303) (719 after March 1) 486-1229.