

"New" Carbide Cap Lamps Surface

Paul Johnson of Union Lake, Michigan, has recently added a new cap lamp to his collection. It is stamped: **H. Gall**. Paul has information that the lamp was manufactured not far from his home. Additionally, he has a patent for an H. Gall cap lamp, which is different from the model he possesses. If that is not enough, he also has a candlestick, stamped H. G., which he believes is of the same manufacturer. We hope to see more published on this interesting lamp as Paul sorts things out.

The **W. Roof** cap lamp reported in the Fall Underground Lamp Post is well known to our staff. The Indiana owner of this lamp knows of a very similar lamp with a *different* name stamped in the top. This observation, of course, is the *only* basis by which we may speculate that W. Roof was not a manufacturer, but the lamp's owner.

Finally, a **Beall Bros.** cap lamp has been spotted with the stamping on top. Our understanding, is that this lamp is distinctly different from the Red Star lamp which was made by Maple City for Beall Bros., and is stamped on the side.

Dugger Coal Museum

In the center of the Indiana coal fields lies the little town of Dugger. This small rural community of 1,100 is the home of the Dugger Coal Museum. The Dugger area saw numerous underground mines prior to 1915 when serious surface strip mining began in Indiana. Today surface mines predominate the Indiana coal fields.

Housed in a building that was once a restaurant, you'll find a little mining museum that attempts to chronicle the history of coal mining in Southwest Indiana. The museum staff consists of older local residents who were either miners or have relatives who were miners. The staff is able to regale visitors with anecdotes of past mining days that either they, relatives or friends experienced. The museum houses an interesting collection of items donated or loaned by area residents. There are a lot of old photos of area mines and miners, many mine documents, mine signs, UMWA items, and mine plans. There are a number of different post drills and other tools displayed on a rear wall.

The mine lamp display is quite limited with three different models of Baby Wolf safety lamps, an ASL & MS Co. Davy, a Wolf, Koehler and one baby safety lamp I have never seen before. There are a couple of oil-wick lamps, one candleholder and a few Autolite and Guys Dropper carbide cap lamps.

Hours of operation are not regular and a sign on the front door gives a telephone number to call for entry. If you are in the area, it is worth the time for a short visit.

Dave Johnson

The Sterling Hill Mine

Here's a new attraction; the Sterling Hill Mining Company, a.k.a. Richard and Robert Hauck and friends, have resurrected the famous Sterling Hill Zinc Mine at Ogdensburg, New Jersey, and turned it into a museum and Mine Tour on a grand scale. Not content with reopening the existing adit, the owners enlisted former zinc miners and engineers to refit the Mine's hoist and other mining equipment, and blasted a new tunnel through a vein of ore, showing the areas famous fluorescent minerals in place.

The tour has more than geological/mineralogical interest; the mine adit, grounds, and buildings are crammed with artifacts. Not just a refurbished mine car here and a drill there, but entire trips of mine cars surrounding the parking area, and a score of different rock drills shown in their working positions, including a core drill and core samples taken at Sterling Hill.

The Change House has been converted into a complete visual history of local mineralogy and mining technology, with mineral samples and tools of every sort. There are large and varied collections of NJ Zinc products and memorabilia, blasting machines and related items, rare ore processing equipment, unique signs and posters, miner's tools, and of course lamps.

The selection of candlesticks, oil-wick lamps, safety lamps, and carbide lamps is unsurpassed in any display I have seen. Several rare candlesticks will look familiar to experienced collectors, as they are pictured in Ted Bobrink's American Miner's Candlesticks. The other forms of lighting are equally well represented, by dozens of safety lamps, oil-wicks, and carbides in excellent condition. In each case, one can trace the development of these forms of lighting in the U.S. from their beginnings.



Should you be passing through Northern New Jersey next spring, plan to be there for the Mineral Show, Sale, and Swap being held at the Mine on April 20-21: at any time, this new Mining Museum is a must see!

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