

# A HOLDER FOR CARBIDES OR OIL LAMPS?

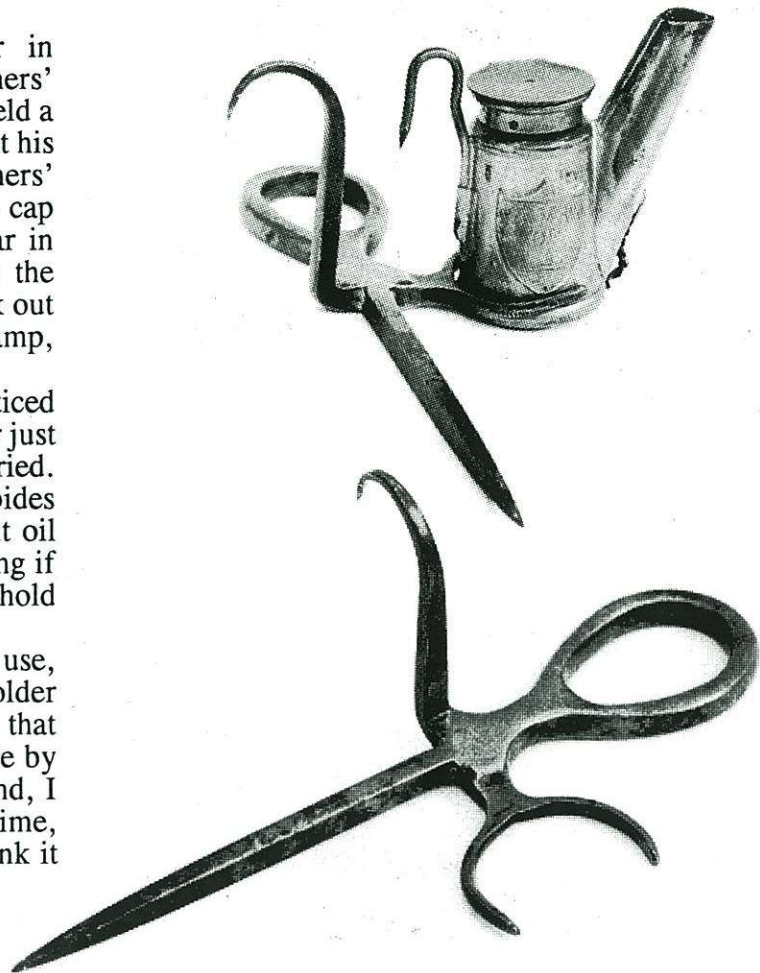
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The other day an antique dealer in Pasadena called and told me he had a miners' candleholder that was made very well and held a larger than normal candle. When I arrived at his shop, I was surprised to find not a miners' candleholder, but a very well made carbide cap lamp holder. This carbide holder is similar in construction to a candleholder, except for the holder having two rounded prongs that stick out to firmly hold a narrow waisted carbide lamp, such as a Baldwin or early Guy's Dropper.

One day I was fooling around and noticed that an oil lamp would clamp into this holder just as readily as some of the carbide lamps I tried. The fact that only the small waisted carbides would fit, yet just about all of the different oil lamps I tried fit really well, has me wondering if the maker intended for this holder to hold carbides or oil lamps?

When the early carbides came into use, most of them had a small waist and this holder could very well have been designed for that purpose. The fact that this holder was made by a blacksmith, and is probably a one of a kind, I suppose we will never know. In the meantime, I am going to keep an oil lamp in it. I think it looks better that way. What do you think?



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## AN UPDATE TO THE 1989 MAC CAP LAMP SURVEY

Dave DesMarais is in the process of updating the carbide cap lamp survey conducted by the *Mining Artifact Collector* in the Fall of 1989. On the following page are the preliminary results of his on-going update.

Dave has concentrated his efforts in rarity groups seven thru ten up to this time. Groups zero thru six were ordered based on the original MAC survey and his perceptions of their recent

availability. He is very interested in hearing suggestions and comments from the MAC readers as to whether another in-depth formal survey should be conducted.

Anyone who has lamps in these groups (7-10) are encouraged to contact Dave DesMarais, 1015 Woodland Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415-322-0778) or one of the MAC editors.