

The Anton Oil Lamp Wick Box

by Len Gaska

Carbide lamp collectors have an advantage in that there are many accessories and related items to collect. Not only carbide flasks, but repair kits, cleaners, extra bottoms, parts, and parts boxes. The oil lamp, safety lamp, and candlestick collector does not enjoy this advantage. Related items for these categories of collecting are few in number and are very scarce.

The F. M. Anton oil lamp wick box illustrated below is in mint condition and contains 12 wicks, six of the number 1 size for face lamps, and six of the number 2 size for driver's lamps. Affixed to each wick is a red string to facilitate installation of the wick. The string allowed the miner to pull the wick through the spout. The box is manila in color with red lettering and is 7 1/2" long, 2" wide, and 1" high (dimensions approximate).

The Anton family of Monongahela, Pennsylvania is well-known for their manufacture of oil and Sunshine lamps. Brothers George, John, and Christopher all manufactured lamps either alone or as partners. Although I am only speculating, there is little doubt that F. M. Anton was related to the aforementioned Anton brothers.

THIS PACKAGE CONTAINS ONE DOZEN
ANTON'S MINERS' PATENT LAMP WICKS.
READY TO BE PUT IN THE LAMP.
YOU CAN BUY THE WICK TO FIT YOUR LAMP, AS IT IS PUT UP IN DIFFERENT SIZES--Nos. 1 & 2.
NO. 1 WILL FIT ANY ORDINARY LAMP. NO. 2 IS LARGER
Manufactured only by **F. M. ANTON, & CO.**
PATD. JULY 8TH 1890. MONONGAHELA CITY, PA.

This Wick is the best and cheapest in the market. It is the best because it is made of superior cotton to our own special order and is free from knots, and is twisted together evenly and to the exact size for the spout of your lamp. It is the cheapest because you can buy a box as cheap as you can a ball, saving the labor of making a wick each time you need one. For sale by all wholesale and retail merchants dealing in miners' supplies.

WE EARNESTLY INSIST ON THE MINERS TO BUY A TRIAL BOX OF OUR HANDY WICKS. THEN WE WILL ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL USE NO OTHER THEREAFTER.

Why continue to buy the common ball cotton and still have trouble to make the wick for your lamp when you can buy the wick ready-made to fit your lamp just as cheap, and thus save yourself the labor of making your wick, and at the same time assuring you a much better and cleaner wick than you can make.