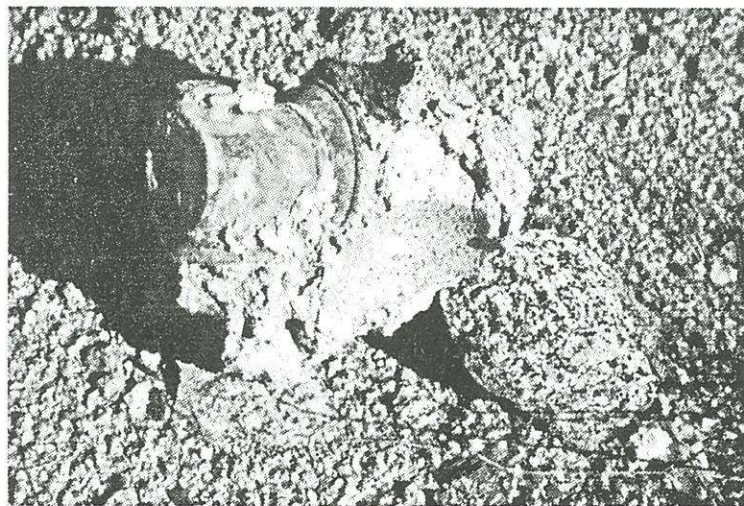


Nothing Like a Good Dump

by Todd and Tina Town

Relic hunting at old mine sites is way up there on our list of things to do. Priority, after getting to one, was always to

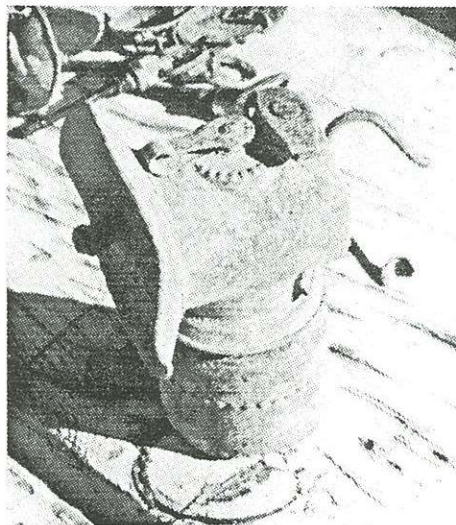
find the way to the underground workings. "That's where the good stuff is." Well that holds true, but recently we've been more interested in finding where the dry house was.



More than likely, At large abandoned mines, nearby was an area that the miners would empty their spent carbide and dispose of what other articles they were no longer in need of. We've been digging one dry house dump for the past two years. It has yielded some really exciting finds. And a small insight as to what the miners were using in their daily work.

Some of the more fascinating things were the repair jobs made to their carbides. They truly worked the hell out of them and did not let them die easy.

We've pulled out over 200 lamps from a single dry house dump. And almost as many cut locks. The story of the end, for this mine can be seen in the layers in the dump. When the mine closed, it was very evident that somebody was assigned to go in and clean house. The locks were cut and the belongings were taken to the back of the building and tossed in a small drainage. Some lamps being complete, but well used. In the pocket of one pair of Levi's we recovered 18 cents and a spiral feed for a Little Giant and two candle stubs.



So if your artifact hunting at an old mine site, keep your eyes out for chunks and pieces of spent carbide and follow it uphill. It might get fun.

