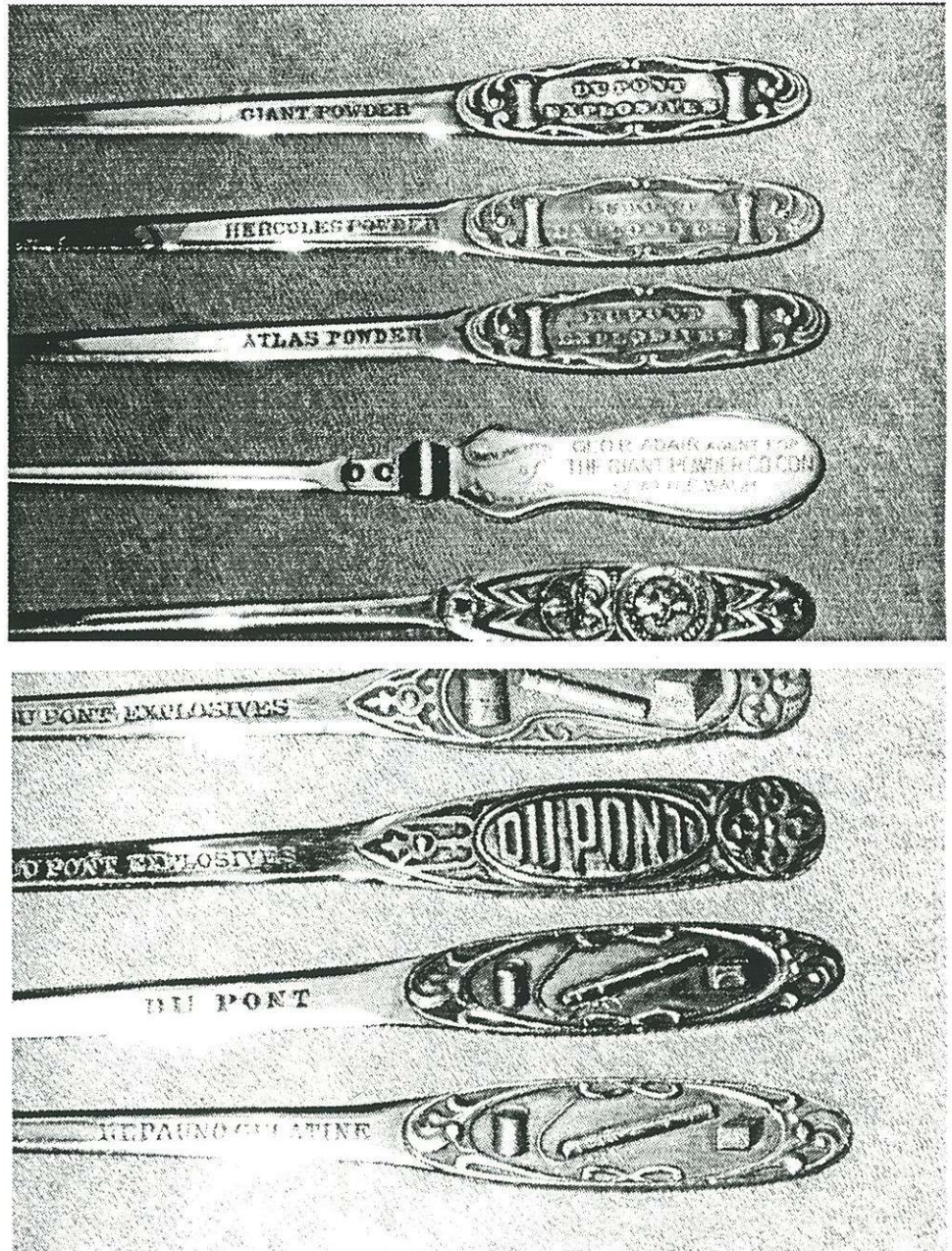


# Mining-related Letter Openers

Bob Schroth

While out hunting for mining lamps and other items, I always look in the small dealer cases. Some times I am surprised by what I find. In the past few issues of Eureka I have written about some of the unusual mining and blasting related things that I have found.

One of the most attractive items that I have been collecting, are the powder company advertising letter openers. Many companies gave them out as giveaways. DuPont Powder Co. by far has the most attractive, and unusual styles. Several markings are known, stamped on the blade of DuPont letter openers. I believe most are for the different types of powder they sold. One exception I have found is one marked Memphis 1913. The opener is marked DUPONT on the handle, the blade is marked DuPont on one side and DuPont Explosives on the other. This model has the powder keg and the powder box both marked Dupont. The other styles have Dupont marked on one side of the blade and powders such as Giant, Repauno, Atlas, Hercules stamped on the other. I am sure that there are others. Do any of the readers have other powder types stamped on their letter openers? I have found only one style of Giant Powder Co. opener. I have not yet found a good reason for the Dimpled serration's in the open handle of the opener. I have been told that this was for canceling stamps, but the post office does that. Another reason given was to help seal the letter



before sending, but that seems unlikely also. This device was important enough to be "Pat. May 17, 95". Anyone know what this was for??

I have found one coal company opener, the logo shows a miner wearing a oil wick lamp on his hat and has a knife blade that folds out of the handle.