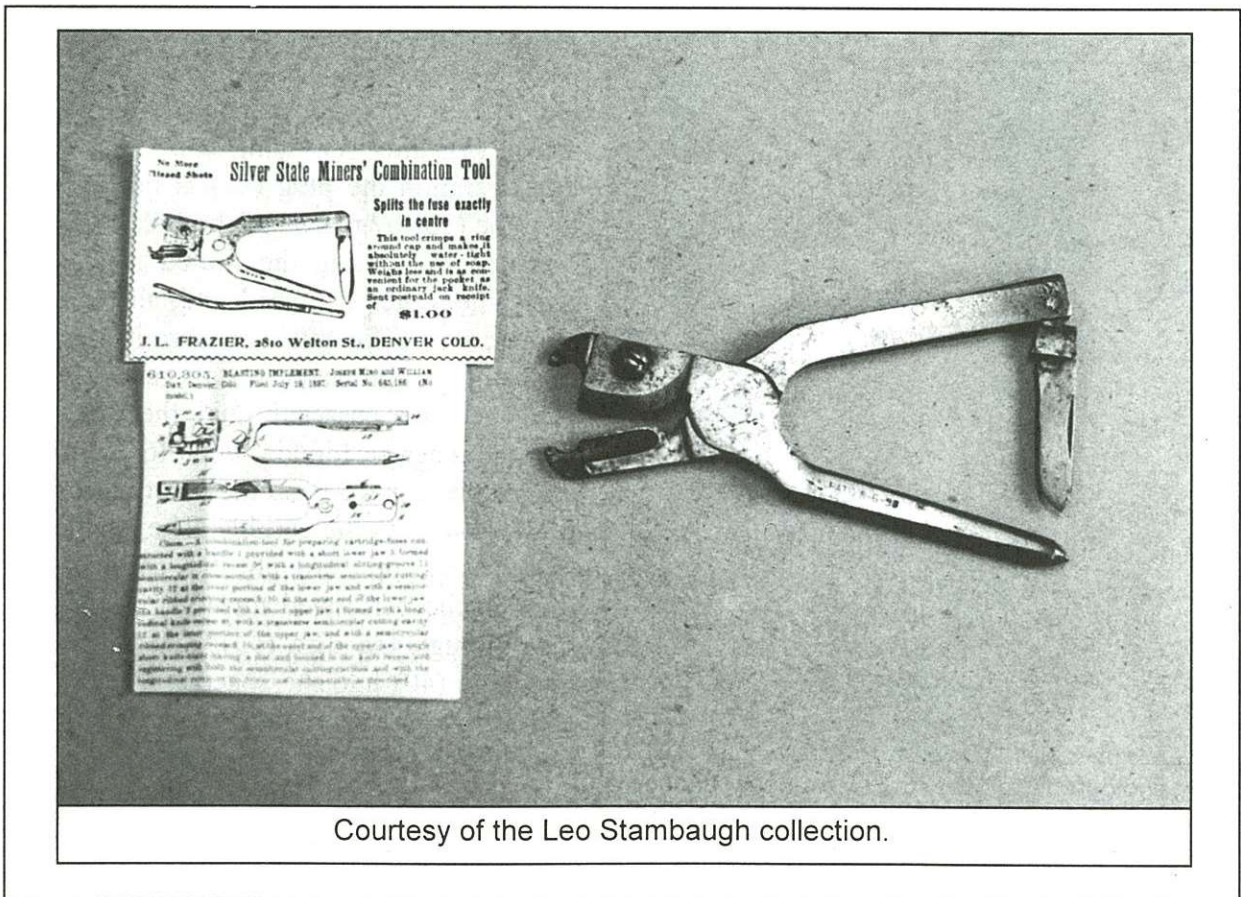
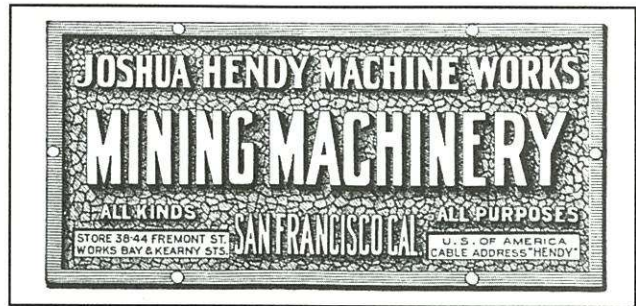


# MINER'S FUSE TOOL

By Leo Stambaugh

The Miner's fuse tool shown here is an example of the 1898 patent of James Mino and William Day of Colorado. It was marketed under the trade name of "Silver State Miners Combination Tool" as seen in the ad from Mining Science magazine, June 1901. A fuse could be set lengthwise in the lower channel and split with the curved blade, or cut to size with the same blade. The round notch on the nose crimps a blasting cap, and the knife blade in the handle could also cut fuse at the cartridge itself. The patent date is stamped on the lower handle which is

pointed for a cartridge punch. The tool is well made, but was fairly expensive at \$1.00 each. Less than a half dozen are known in collections making them a treasure when found.



Courtesy of the Leo Stambaugh collection.