

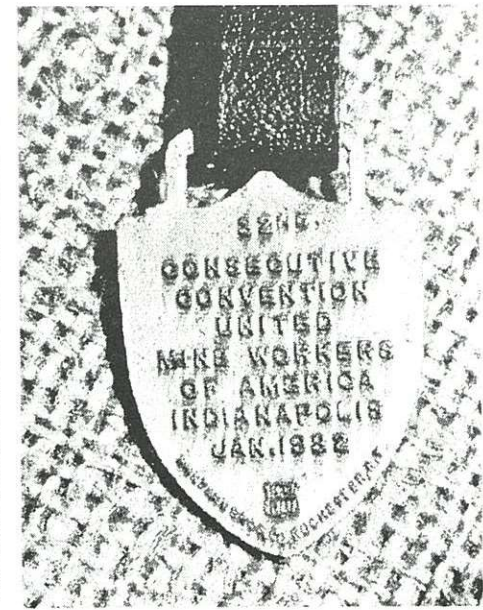
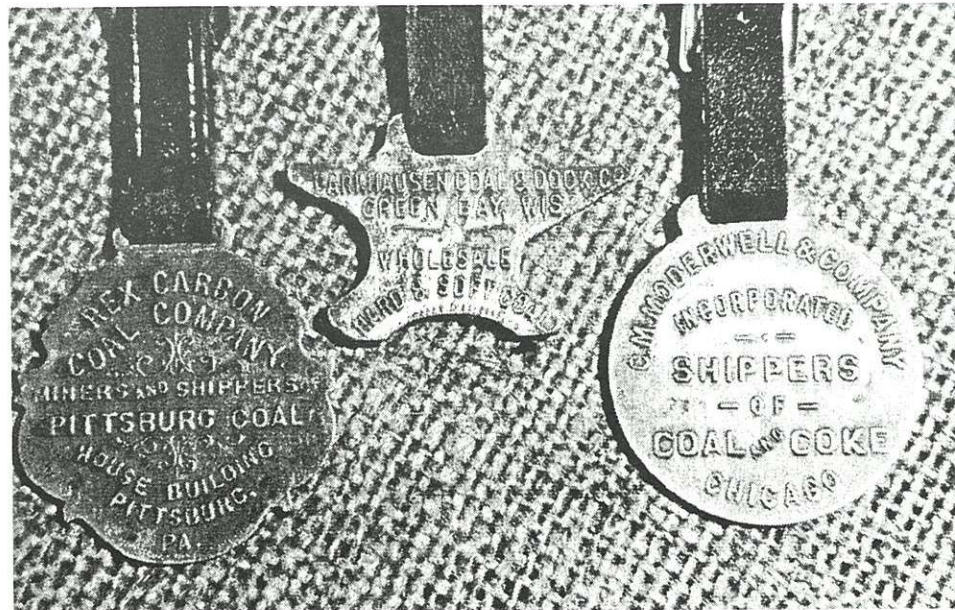
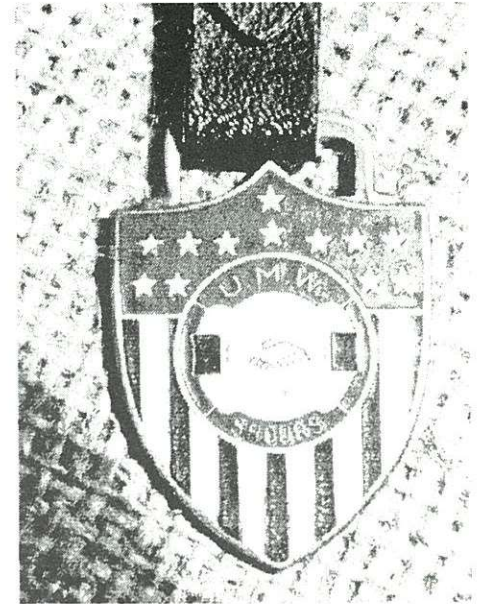
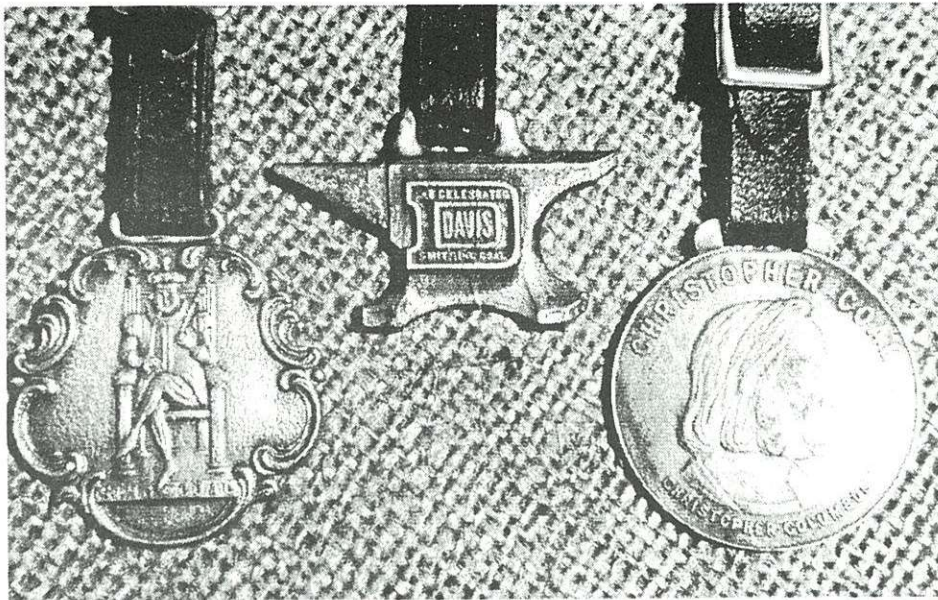
WATCH FOBS

by Ken Rupp

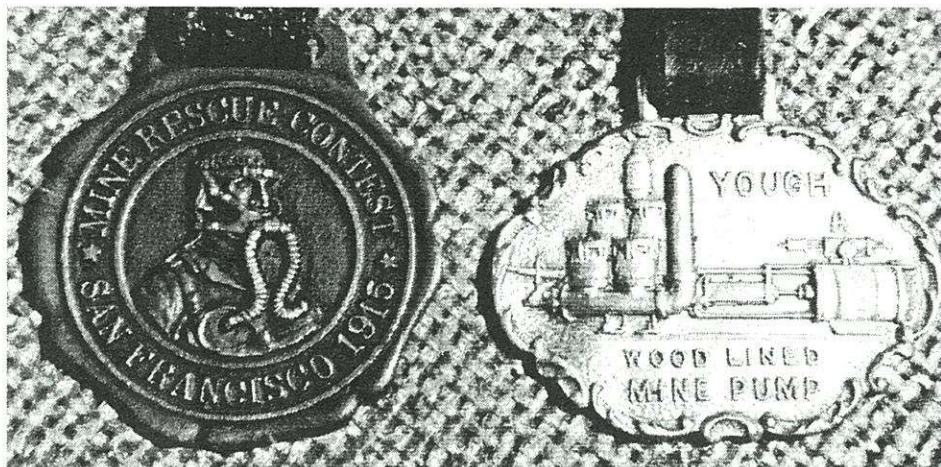
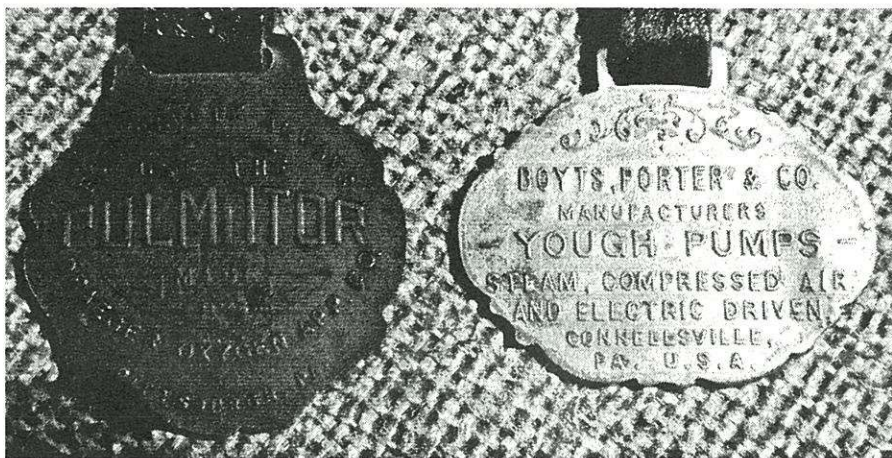
To make it easier to fish a watch out of a narrow pocket in a waistband or vest, a small dangling tag or fob was often attached. These fobs, valued by many collectors, were made in almost infinite variety. Some were sculptured forms, others were emblazoned with club emblems or commemorative inscriptions, and there are even fob silhouettes of political candidates.

Thousands of companies gave away fobs as advertising, commissioning designs in the shapes of their products - for example plows, paint cans and lanterns. Many men had fobs made specially for themselves. Most desirable to collectors are the industrial fobs, and in our case, those related to mining.

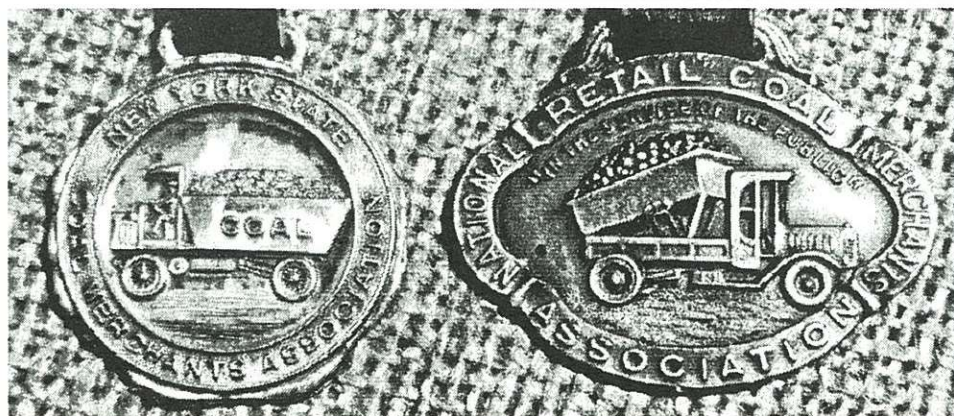
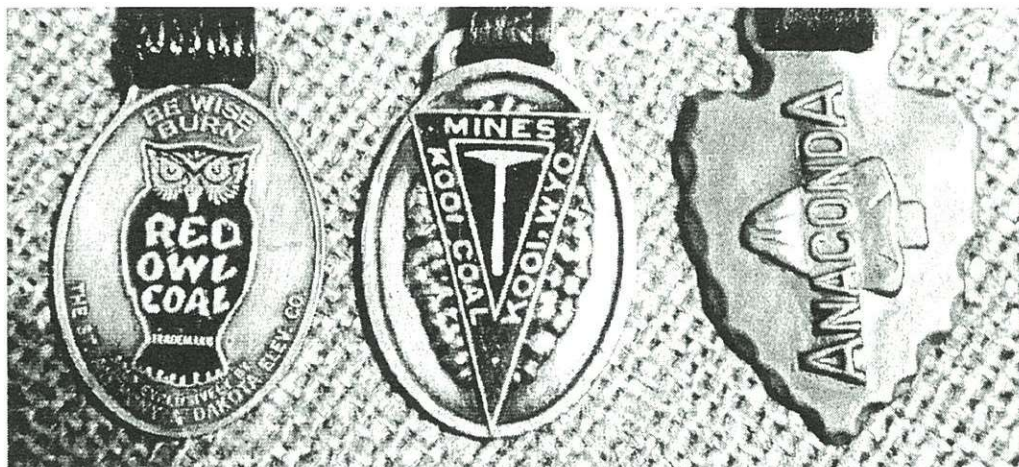
The three fobs shown here front and back were company give-aways promoting what the company had to offer. They show the unique shape and ornate work that went into early fobs. U.M.W.A. fobs were no exception. The majority of these were done in porcelain. The one below from Indianapolis (1932) is done in red, white and blue porcelain.



The next four fobs are equipment related: the first by Boyts Porter & Co. who manufactured Yough Pumps, and the second by Draeger Oxygen Appliance Co. of Pittsburgh PA, who produced this fob for a mine rescue contest that took place in San Francisco in 1915.

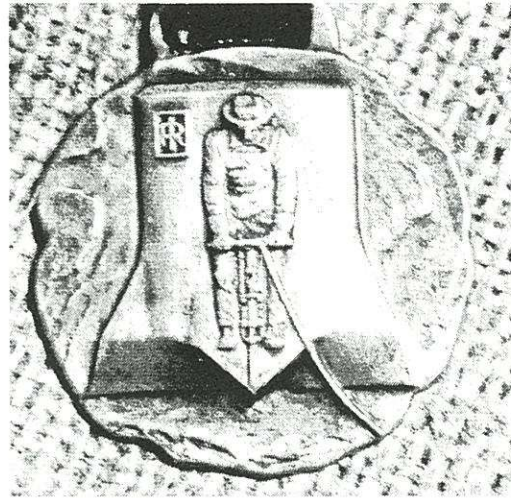


These five fobs show different styles and the detail that went into the making of them.



The fob to the right is from Ingersoll Rand - no second guessing what the company was trying to promote. (Editors note: I have seen numerous examples of this fob, but only realized as I looked at this photo that the background behind the driller is a rock bit!)

The collecting of watch fobs is a very old hobby, but to those with an interest in mining it has yet to stir much attention. Time will tell!



A Miner's Pocket Watch

Len Gaska

I have long known that pocket watches with railroad motifs were produced, but this is the first pocket watch with a mining motif that I have seen. It was made by Waltham, a company still in business today, and has seven jewels. The person I bought it from, a watch collector, guessed that it was made around 1900. The embossed scene shows two miners working at a face and one has an oil lamp clearly visible. Yet another mining related collectible to search for!

