

# THE TORCH

## NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

- Issue #16 -

- March 2000 -

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Welcome to the first issue in 2000! We survived Y2K, made it past February 29, most of winter is behind us, and all blow torches have not been found...yet! So smile, and be happy!

♦ ♦ ♦



Artwork by  
Les Adams

Christmas  
Card

1999

### - NEW MEMBERS -

**Don Bichner**, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin was energized by a friend and BTCA member, **Bob Steinke**, to join. Don has a modest collection and has been collecting for over 20 years.

**Eugene Clark**, a new member from Merlin, Oregon.

**Clayton George**, Bellingham, Washington was encouraged by **Jon Suta** to join. Clayton has an impressive 400+ torch collection and also collects 1968 Mustangs. In the event that you missed Clayton's ad in the last newsletter, see the **CLASSIFIED ADS** section for soldering iron hooks.

**Michael Hanson**, Ayrshire, Scotland is an avid collector with a modest number of blow lamps collected over the past few years. Michael remembers as a youngster seeing his Dad, a builder,

warming up his fish glue in a water bath. Michael also collects boomerangs and cribbage boards.

**Boyce Hoyle Sr.**, Dallas, North Carolina has collected torches since 1975, paid \$2.50 for his first one, and has never paid more than \$12 for any of his pieces. Boyce has 251 torches to date and remembers using them in his younger years to melt lead for fishing sinkers. He boasts hand cleaning each one of the 251 torches with WENOL metal polish. Now that's a lot of work!

**Paul Kuehel**, Phoenix, Arizona is a 5-year collector with a modest growing collection.

**Donald Lightfoot**, Fredricksburg, Texas is a long-time collector with a 30+ accumulation of torches, and found BTCA while surfing on the Internet (kudos to our webmaster **Phillip Anderson**).

**John McKinzie**, Silver Springs, Nevada has a small collection of 34 torches.

**Bob Mitchell**, Pine, Arizona is very new to blow torch collecting and has a growing collection.

**Mal Mutimer**, Moorooka, Queensland, Australia has been collecting for some time with an 80+ assortment of Australian, European, and US torches.

**Dave Saulmon**, Morganton, North Carolina is a friend of BTCA member **Glenn Burch**. Dave is a relatively new collector with over 30 torches, and his collecting was influenced by his granddad, a blacksmith by trade.

**Del Schisler**, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

**Mike Smisek**, Waverly Hall, Georgia is a 4-year collector with over 60 torches and growing. Like many of us, Mike thought that not many people collected torches and that they would be available at very reasonable prices. What a surprise for all of us!

**Ken Stuart**, Folsom, California is a 9-year collector with a growing variety of torches.

**Merlin Vandenplas**, Green Bay, Wisconsin has had a torch for over 60 years and now owns a modest collection.

**Glenn Warren**, Clearwater, Florida.

**Kelly Weaver**, Wannaska, Minnesota starting collecting torches late in 1999 and looks forward to



growing his collection. He's learned quickly that restoring by hand can be very time consuming.

Five members that were inadvertently omitted from issue #15:

**Tom Barlett**, Bracknell Berks, England has a 300+ torch collection that include 30 US manufactured types. Around 1990, Tom visited a Steam Engine Rally, saw a blow lamp display, and was "hooked" on another antique. He also collects pressure stoves and storm lanterns.

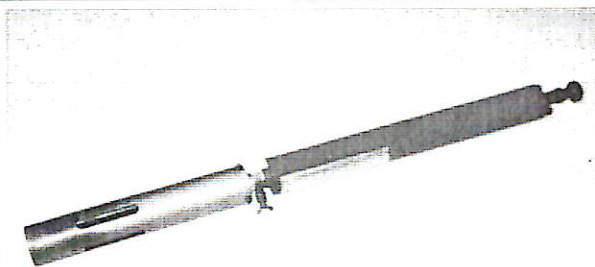
**John Chytla**, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Howard DeRosa**, Fullerton, California, is a 20-year collector with a modest collection of blow torches and soldering irons.

**Bobby J. Lester**, Virginia Beach, Virginia, is an 11-year collector with over 30 torches and an assortment of irons.

**Ben Nelson**, East Swanzey, New Hampshire, started collecting 5 years ago when his daughter gave him a blow torch for his birthday. Most of his 70+ collection is polished and displayed.

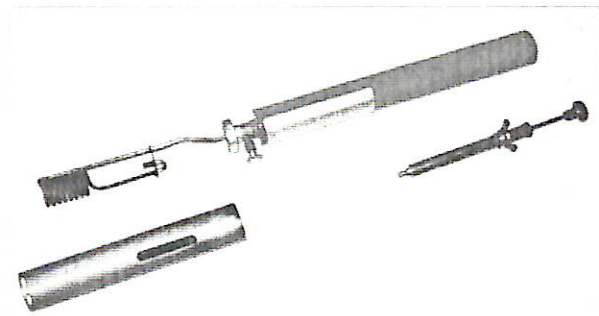
#### WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!



**BANDWAGON INC.**  
BOSTON, MA  
Kerosene weed/brush burner  
Submitted by **Dick Sarpolus**

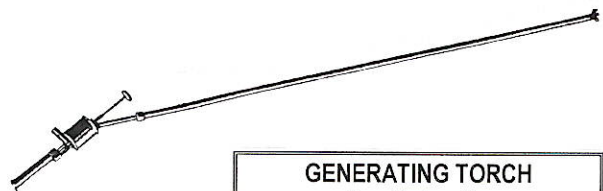
#### NOTES FROM ALL OVER

**Dick Sarpolus** is authoring a blow torch book, expected to be published late 2000 or early next year. Dick's publication will concentrate on the how's and why's of torch collecting and will include numerous torch photos. We'll keep you posted on his progress and when the book is in print. Dick also submitted information on what appears to be a new manufacturer, Bandwagon Inc., Boston, Mass. The torch (see 2 insets) is kerosene fueled, and was probably used as a weed or brush burner.



**BANDWAGON INC.**  
Disassembled view  
Submitted by **Dick Sarpolus**

**Mel Olson**, became a torch researcher and tracked down the origin of his American Gas Machine Co. blow torch (see issue #15). Mel contacted the Chamber of Commerce in Albert Lea, MN, the original home of American Gas Machine Co. (AGM), and they provided him with historical information on the company. Unfortunately, no information was available on Mel's torch and it remains questionable if AGM ever mass-produced blow torches. AGM did produce gasoline fueled street lighting in the early 1900's, and accompanying each street lamp order was a Generating Blow Torch to light each street lamp. It is unknown if AGM manufactured the Generating Blow Torch described as consisting of a drawn brass tube 6 feet long, provided at one end with a powerful blow torch having a subflame attachment. The torch held 1½ pints of gasoline, which was sufficient to operate the torch for several hours. The torch was supplied with a small hand pump to pressurize the blow torch fuel tank (see inset). Please advise if there are any collectors with an AGM Generating Blow Torch or any torch with an American Gas Machine Co. label.

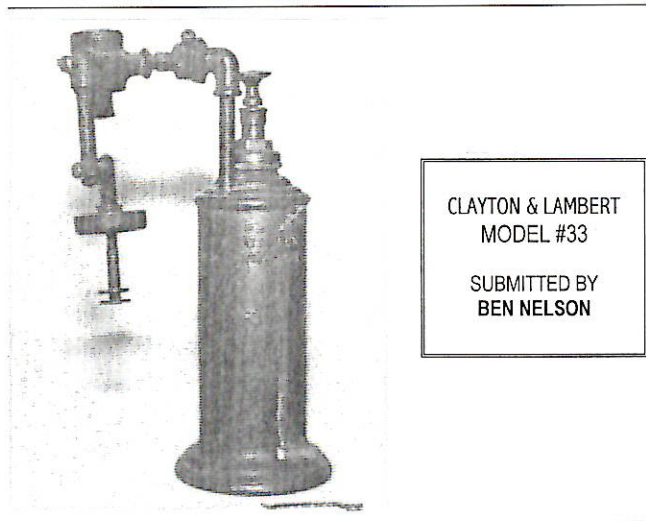


**GENERATING TORCH**  
Manufactured by  
AMERICAN GAS MACHINE CO.  
Albert Lea, Minnesota  
6 feet long, 1 ½ pint capacity  
Submitted by **Mel Olson**



Our sister organization in England will hold their first of two meetings this year on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Any interested parties should contact **Les Adams** at the address listed on your latest membership roster.

**Ben Nelson** sent in photos late last year of some of his unique torches, one being a Clayton & Lambert #33 (see inset). This particular model has never surfaced before, and has not shown up in any of the accumulated C&L literature. In the near future, we'll add the #33 to **Graham Stubb's** C&L Index along with other new models that are discovered.



In issue #15, we indicated that **John Dorffeld** displayed what appeared to be a new alcohol torch manufacturer at the BTCA convention last September, an EJ Worst, Ashland, OH with a patent date of 3/19/1901. According to the patent information, the unusual alcohol torch is in fact a vaporizer, so we have removed EJ Worst from the list.

**Shelton McGuffie** and I exchanged notes recently on a Shapleigh Hardware Co. blow torch. Many of the torch features suggest that Shapleigh Hardware blow torches were manufactured by the Otto Bernz Co. Shelton's recent purchase and my similar Shapleigh auto torch both carry O. Bernz patent numbers and Otto Bernz is cast into the burner head. While many torch manufacturers sold components for other companies to assemble, it is doubtful that Otto Bernz would have let other companies distribute a torch with O. Bernz markings. Based on the observations and facts, I have changed the classification of Shapleigh Hardware Co. to a brand labeled torch.

**Mark Pedersen** contacted the EVERHOT Manufacturing Co. in Maywood, Illinois, the same company that produced a line of gasoline branding

irons, also known as self-heating soldering irons. The company still manufactures electric and propane branding devices and Mark purchased a branding head with his initials. The company does not have a website but can be reached at (708) 865-7070 for catalog information.

**Ron Johnson Jr.** searched his extensive torch collection and came up with a few new manufacturer names, George Worthington Co., Herman Pietsch – New York, Burrows Metal Mfg. Co.-NY, and the French Battery & Carbon Co. – Madison, WI. As soon as we confirm the information, we'll publish the results.

**Samuel Scroggs** suggested donating blow torches and torch related materials to an industrial museum. There are actually a number of museums in the US that specialize in early American tools, and one in particular is the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. The museum is a non-profit educational institution that collects, preserves, and interprets historical artifacts that illuminate the history of pre-industrial America. I was fortunate enough to visit the facility a few years ago, and spent most of an afternoon roaming through the historical displays. I also perused through their library of industrial related subjects, and made a donation of a reprinted circa 1913 Otto Bernz catalog. If any member wishes to donate blow torches or associated equipment, please contact the museum for instructions.

A recent note from **Tom Bartlett** described a Bauerstock Searing Iron, (has the appearance of a self heating soldering iron), and was used to burn the tail of new born lamb to stop blow fly from laying eggs. Sounds somewhat cruel, but I suspect it worked.

**Stefan Berg** submitted catalog information on a number of European torch manufacturers, and from the dates in the catalogs, it appears that European manufacturers continued torch production long after most of the US manufacturers ceased production.

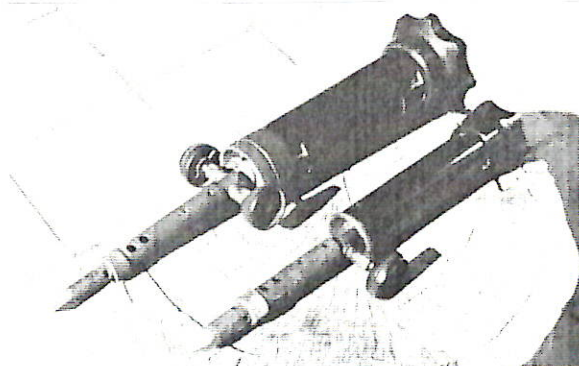


UNION HEATER SUPPLY CO.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
½ PINT CAPACITY  
Circa 1895  
SUBMITTED BY GRAHAM STUBBS



**Graham Stubbs** sent in a large quantity of Hauck Manufacturing Co. literature, with enough information available to do a future Hauck article. Hauck was, without a doubt, the largest manufacturer of BIG torches, and produced an unbelievable variety of applications.

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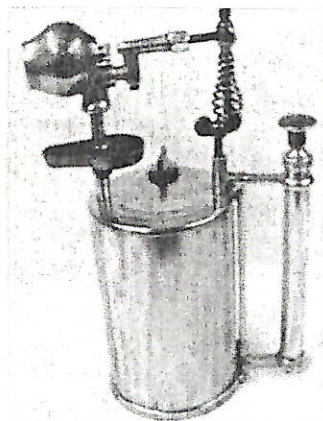


**EVERHOT TORCHES**  
MODEL #39 (right), MODEL #59 (left)  
Submitted by **Graham Stubbs**

## INVINCIBLE

No, we're not invincible, but we found a torch that is! We actually found two of them, and they both belong to one of our members, **Shelton McGuffie**. The Invincible torch was manufactured by the Invincible Manufacturing Co., Wilmington, Illinois (see inset). The fuel tank is a three-piece design with cast top and bottom pieces and a sheet brass tube. The burner has a most unusual bulbous style, and a wider than normal drip cup. Overall construction and features are indicative of turn-of-the-century style torches. Any there any other Invincible torches out there?

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**INVINCIBLE BLOW  
TORCH**  
INVINCIBLE MFG. CO.  
WILMINGTON, IL  
Submitted by **Shelton McGuffie**

## TURNER INDEX

Our Contributing Editor, **Graham Stubbs** has produced the second in a limited series of US blow torch manufacturer indexes. The attached Turner Index is a lengthy detailed listing of known Turner blow torches from circa 1905 thorough 1967, and will prove useful in Turner torch identification. The data presented is a compilation of information submitted by many members over the past few years and painstakingly researched and incorporated by Graham. To supplement Graham's Index, a history of The Turner Brass Works is included in the newsletter that was authored by **Ron Carr**, and was also produced from information submitted by contributing members. As always, we solicit you for input, and all comments, corrections, and suggestions are always welcome. We will attempt to maintain the accuracy of all indexes and historical documentation, and with sufficient input or changes, we will re-issue accordingly. Enjoy the reading!

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*What started out 5 years ago as a small group of blow torch collectors has grown to be an impressive 170-member organization, BTCA. The following is a listing of those original members that continue to support BTCA:*

**BILL BENNETT  
RON CARR  
DAN CARTER  
RICHARD DULING  
JOHN FORHAN  
DON GAFFNEY  
LEON HALL  
GLEN HARRISON  
JERRY KELLY  
LOUIS KLEIN  
DAVE KOLB  
LEWIS LUPTON  
GARY MORGAN  
GERALD NEUFELD  
LARRY PARKER  
MARK PEDERSEN  
DICK SARPOLUS  
BOB STEINKE  
GARY STELMACH  
GRAHAM STUBBS  
JON SUTA  
DON THOMPSON  
MIKE THORNHILL  
CHUCK TOBIN  
MAURICE WILLIAMS  
HARRY WOLFLEY**

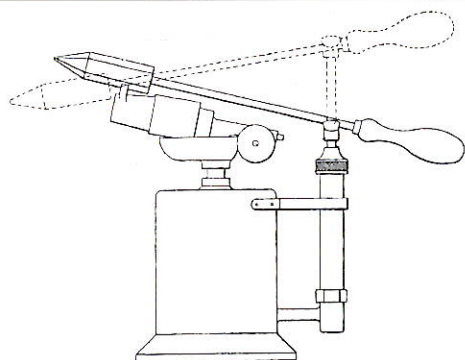


## CONFUSED ABOUT BRASS?

There is much confusion regarding the type of metal used in many of the early blow torches. The question is...is it copper, brass, bronze, or what? Hopefully this will help clear up some of the confusion. It is assumed that the torch manufacturers experimented with various alloys or were forced to utilize what was economically available on the market. Most all non-ferrous blow torches were manufactured using brass as the base metal.

Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc, and the ratio of copper to zinc may be varied to control both the color and the malleability of the resultant alloy. An alloy of 80% copper and 20% zinc is very soft and has a golden red color. A 60/40 copper-zinc ratio results in a yellow metal that is still malleable, while alloys with less than 50% copper are white and become increasing brittle. Most blow torch fuel tanks, air pumps & pump supports were manufactured from the 60/40 alloy, while most of the burner heads were cast from an alloy closer to the 80/20 mixture. I'm sure there were many exceptions, and the alloy used would depend on the type of construction and how/where the part or parts were to be utilized. Other views and comments are welcomed.

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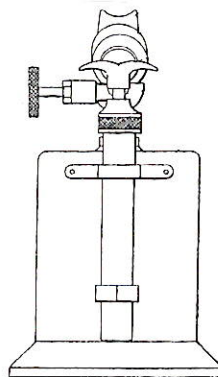
RIDGELY TRIMMER CO., Springfield, OH  
Patented adjustable soldering iron

## MYSTERY SOLVED

Another blow torch mystery is solved! Recent patent research uncovered the patent for the Ridgely Trimmer Company, Springfield, Ohio blow torch. Patent #1,013,637, dated January 2, 1912, (see inset) relates to a BLOW-TORCH, but specifically covers the means for supporting a soldering iron such that the iron may be supported in any position for adjustment with respect to the flame. Those of you that own a Ridgely Trimmer torch recognize the unusual pump plunger, which has laterally projecting

arms. Each arm is concave on its underside so as to adapt it to receive the rear end of the soldering iron on one of its supported positions, as well as receive the soldering iron when resting just atop the center of the plunger. The lateral arms were also useful to the operator as finger holds in manipulating the pump plunger up and down. The pump leather was also uniquely designed to produce sufficient friction so that the pump plunger would stay in any position desired by the operator when the soldering iron needed a specific position for flame contact. Another unique feature of earlier Ridgely Trimmer blow torches is the right angle valve handle. The model in my collection has a conventional straight valve handle, and I suspect that it is a later version. Please advise if there are any Ridgely Trimmer owners out there.

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RIDGELY TRIMMER CO.

Springfield, OH

Rear view of patented  
Pump plunger

January 1912

## GASOLINE VS KEROSENE

In 1916, The Turner Brass Works advertised a #425 Kerosene Torch, suitable for kerosene, gasoline, or a mixture of kerosene and gasoline. The kerosene torch was featured as a less expensive torch to operate, and produced a flame several hundred degrees hotter than gasoline for a single jet torch. There is no mention of a different orifice for each fuel, or that there were any adjustments required to burn either fuel, as is required on other dual fuel torches. Turner must have solved the combustion problem, although there is no mention of this feature being patented or exclusive to Turner. Of significance was the reference to the "forbidden use of gasoline torches for inside use in some localities by some insurance rules", and that kerosene was an acceptable alternative. It appears that by the early 1900's, many building fires were attributed to blow torch operation, and the insurance companies were imposing more stringent regulations to restrict the use of gasoline.

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## HISTORY OF THE TURNER BRASS WORKS

E.S. Turner established a small brass manufacturing company in 1871 on the north side of Chicago...the same year as the Great Chicago Fire. The early products manufactured consisted of a line of harness and saddle fittings made of brass, and a line of bicycle fittings and trim.

It wasn't until a few years later, in 1880, that E.S. Turner's company would be sold to Charles Rickett and incorporated as The Turner Brass Works. *(It is not known what became of E.S. Turner or why the company was sold).* Mr. Rickett became interested in gasoline fuel appliances, particularly blow torches, braziers, enameling ovens, and firepots. Early in 1904 he purchased the torch related patents, trademarks, and manufacturing rights of the White Manufacturing Company. The White Manufacturing Co. was a prominent Chicago company known for its gasoline and kerosene appliances used "for all mechanical and lighting purposes". *(The White Mfg. Co. was especially known for its mammoth "HOT BLAST" brazier, a most powerful machine made for brazing and forging any metal up to 4 inches in diameter. The 2 or 3 burner device had an immense fuel tank that would burn 14 hours with one pumping, and in 1886 retailed for an incredible \$35 for the 2 burner and \$45 for the 3 burner.)*

A letter, dated June 1, 1904, addressed to The Turner Brass Works from W. H. Eastland, the president of White Manufacturing Company reads as follows:

*Gentlemen;*

*We hereby confer upon you the right to advertise and have printed such literature as you may find necessary to promote your interests in the line of blow torches, furnaces, brazing machines, enameling ovens, etc., upon which we use the trademark "HOT BLAST" or otherwise, that you may deem necessary in the promotion of that branch of the business that you purchased from us.*

*Yours truly,  
White Mfg. Co.*

*(Signed) W. H. Eastland, President*

Charles Rickett also acquired White's trademark "HOT BLAST", and for a period of time continued to produce torches and firepots under the name of WHITE MFG. CO., manufactured by The Turner Brass Works. It is believed that Mr. Rickett not only purchased the patents and manufacturing

rights, but also purchased unfinished blow torch components from the White Company, such as the air pump parts that included the distinct "W" cast into the air pump plunger. There must have been a substantial stock of material considering the large number of torches that have survived with the distinctive "W" pump plunger and the unique nameplate depicting both White and Turner. It could also be that Charles Rickett recognized the brand acceptance that White Mfg. Co. had established in the marketplace for their torches and firepots, and was shrewd enough to continue with the White labeling until Turner would be as accepted.

The north side of Chicago was becoming congested, and since there was insufficient room for the Turner facility expansion, in 1906 it was decided to relocate the Turner operation to an area not far from Chicago, 65 miles due west to Sycamore, a thriving community of 5000. A facility was erected that covered an area of 60,000 square feet, with adequate surrounding land for future expansions. The relocation of the business included moving all the stock equipment, machines, and approximately 100 employees to what would be Turner's permanent (and final) home.

From the early years in the Sycamore facility to the mid 1920's, Turner's history becomes somewhat hazy and non-existent. From the various Turner catalogs that survived, it is apparent that Turner continued to prosper and grow to be one of the three leading blow torch and firepot manufacturers in the US.

The Turner Brass Works applied for a trademark with the US Patent & Trademark Office on October 15, 1909 and it was registered on April 12, 1910 as trademark # 77,498. Turner is the only known blow torch manufacturer with such a unique trademark that did not include any text, but a distinctive drawing of an athlete on a trapeze bar. (It is difficult to determine if the athlete is male or female, but I suspect that considering the year it was created and the short hair of the model, he is a male). Other trademarks include HOT BLAST (acquired from the White Mfg. Co.), and DOUBLE JET (a double valve burner system that produced an extremely hot and pencil-point flame). Other names or statements not adopted as trademarks but used exclusively by Turner over the years are, OLD RELIABLE (dates back to the early Turner Brass Works years in Chicago), SAFE AS A CANDLE, AS GOOD AS CAN BE MADE, YOU'RE A BETTER WORKER WITH A TURNER, FEARLESSLY GUARANTEED, and LIGHT WITH A MATCH.



## TURNER CON'T.

Turner was "The world's largest exclusive manufacturer of blow torches, firepots, and braziers".

Just after the 1929 stock market crash, a young energetic man, John Slezak, took the helm at Turner as the new president. He took leadership of a waning manufacturing company that was struggling through the depression, like many other manufacturers in the US. Mr. Slezak found only 20,000 of the 60,000 square foot facility was being utilized by 35 workers in the manufacture of a limited line of products. By applying sound business principles, success and growth resulted during a period of the general nation-wide recession. Before long, Mr. Slezak not only recovered the business, but also increased the facility to 75,000 square feet, the working force was increased dramatically, and by the late 1930's and into the early 1940's new products were added to insure year-round employment. It is known the Mr. Slezak remained with the company through the early 1940's, and took a military leave of absence to serve as a Colonel in the US Army.

By the late 1950's, propane was gaining popularity as a safer, less expensive, and more reliable blow torch fuel, however, Turner continued through the late 1960's to offer two gasoline blow torches, the T-15A economy model, and the T-18B premium solid brass model. They also continued to offer two gasoline fire pots, a standard model and a high capacity model.

In 1959 The Turner Brass Works was incorporated as the **Turner Corporation** to more accurately reflect the broad range of products offered.

Over the years of operation, the diverse product line of Turner included a wide variety of alcohol, gasoline and kerosene blow torches, soldering irons, fire pots, brazing forges, cast bronze nameplates, various gasoline leak detectors, fire extinguishers, gasoline water heaters, oxy/acetylene torches, and acetylene torches & accessories. When propane gained popularity, Turner produced a line of propane fueled devices that included camping lanterns, camping stoves, radiant heaters, leak detectors, torches & accessories, and large propane fuel tanks. The WELDT CO., Detroit, Michigan, was purchased by Turner in the early 1960's, became a division of the Turner Corporation, and produced air/acetylene welders and cutting torches. Turner also designed and produced a diesel engine Quick Start system utilizing a pressurized ether based

system. And finally...there was a small line of automobile accessories under the Pagel name during the early 1900's (in 1925, the Vice President of The Turner Brass Works was H.F. Pagel and it is assumed that he had some connection to the Pagel automobile accessory business).

## THE WAR YEARS

The Turner Brass Works was noticeably involved as a major supplier to the US Government in three wars, the Spanish-American War, WWI, and WWII. Because of the changing conditions under which each was waged, the materials that Turner supplied also changed.

For the Spanish-American War, Turner's efforts were directed almost entirely to supplying harness and saddle fittings. The cast brass and bronze fixtures were produced in large quantities for the duration of the war.

In World War I, the supply of harness and saddle fittings continued, however, they were supplemented with a small line of cast brass nameplates, blow torches, brazing torches, and fire pots. Turner's association with the US Government during the Spanish-American War established Turner as a reliable supplier with superb quality products.

It was; however, in World War II that Turner was called on to devote most of their entire production to war materials. There were two reasons for this...Turner had a greater variety of products to offer, and the US Government required many more materials. Because of their dedication, Turner was awarded the Army-Navy "E", with two added stars, for successfully meeting the government's needs in its production line (an "E" award was issued by the US Government to manufacturers for quota recognition). During the war years, Turner's production efforts for the war included fire extinguishers, leak detectors, water heaters, cooking stoves, cast brass instruction plates (operational instructions for anti-aircraft guns or torpedo tubes), medical torches (sterilized water for instruments), blow torches & soldering irons, firepots, and gasoline lanterns.

Perhaps the most important item that Turner supplied was the inflation gear required by the Army Air Forces for transferring carbon dioxide gas from a storage cylinder into the rubber life rafts carried by airplanes, and used by fliers when forced to bail out over water. Ships and submarines utilized the same life rafts when emergency made it necessary for them to abandon ship.

## THE TORCH



TURNER CON'T.

**Interesting Turner  
facts,  
features,  
observations:**

In the early 1900's, Turner copper plated their steel fuel feed pipes, drip cups, and valve handles for a "neat appearance".

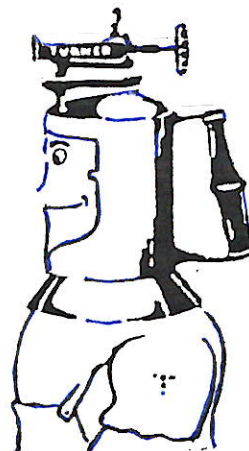
Also in the early 1900's, Turner produced an air pump cap that also served as a pump leather former. The pump cap facilitated forming a new pump leather, and after installing the new leather and applying oil, the leather was drawn up into the pump cap, which was shaped to conform the new leather to the pump cylinder. The down side of the design was the short life of the pump cap since it was formed from very thin brass, and over time the pumping action created excessive wear on the cap. The thin cap was also susceptible to damage, and was easily split or cracked.

Turner featured a Non-Leaking filler plug in their 1916 catalog, one that included a lead washer that provided an excellent seat for the fuel filler plug, and was not susceptible to drying out or cracking as non-metallic washers. Since Turner did not patent the feature, it is assumed that other torch manufacturers also utilized the same feature, but it appeared to be a successful selling point for Turner.

Turner often referred to blow torches in many ways in advertising and communications. Their most popular reference was blow torch, however they frequently utilized blotorch, blo-torch, blowtorch, gasoline torch, torch, blow pipe, and gasoline appliance. In a 1925 Turner letter to a new distributor, the letterhead references blow torches and the letter refers to blotorches.

Turner was the only known US torch manufacturer that designed and installed an automatic safety valve on a series of blow torches. The safety valve was advertised as eliminating all danger by preventing excess tank pressure. The automatic valve is documented to Turner torches as early as 1923 for a model #45, and continued into the early 1940's as part of their MASTER LINE of torches that included model numbers 39, 42A, 45, 45A, 48A, 52, and 52A.

During the early 1940 war years, Turner launched an advertising campaign to promote "More Mending Means Less Spending". Any type of program to encourage repairing any item in lieu of replacement to support the war effort was seen as very positive and patriotic, and Turner created a specific program...to obviously sell more blow torches. They actually invented a cartoon character, *TORCHY TURNER*, a human figure with a "blow torch" head from the shoulders up, and a face scribed into the front of the fuel tank (see inset). The motion pictures and theatres were a major source of entertainment during the war years, and Turner took advantage of the movie goers by creating a "*TORCHY THEATRE*" although it is not known if any Turner advertising was ever shown in a theatre.



**"TORCHY TURNER"**  
**TURNER BRASS WORKS**  
**MASCOT**

CIRCA 1943  
Submitted by Chuck Tobin

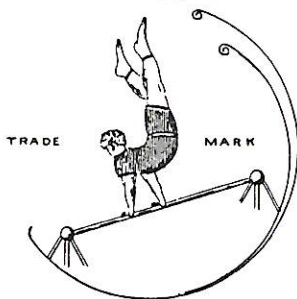


## TURNER CON'T.

At this writing, the final Turner years from the late 1960's to 1999 were not readily available, however, it is known that the Bernz-O-Matic Co. purchased the Turner Corporation during that period. Bernz-O-Matic was originally known as the Otto Bernz Co. and was a staunch competitor to Turner in the early years of blow torch production. Some time later the Cooper Hand Tool Co. purchased the Turner/Bernz-O-Matic operation in Sycamore and continued manufacturing operations. On January 1, 1999, after surviving more that 100 years of operation and being the oldest manufacturing company in Sycamore, the Turner-Sycamore facility closed its doors...forever.

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### TURNER TRADEMARKS



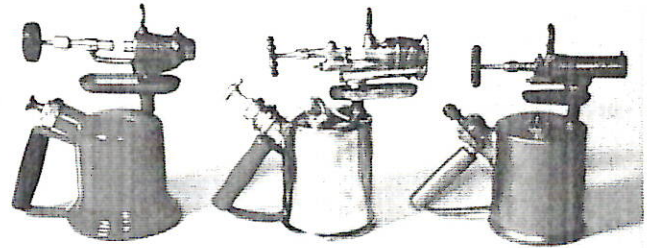
ORIGINAL TRADEMARK  
CIRCA 1910

A "MODERN VERSION"  
UPDATED TO INCLUDE  
THE TURNER NAME  
CIRCA 1925



RE-FILED VERSION  
REFLECTS BROAD  
PRODUCT SCOPE  
CIRCA 1959

**Turner**



### P. WALL CO. TORCHES

FROM 3 DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS  
SUBMITTED BY DICK SARPOLUS

### ATTENTION SURFERS

All web surfers...check out the Clayton & Lambert website at [www.claytonlambert.com](http://www.claytonlambert.com). They are still located in Buckner, Kentucky and have gone from manufacturing some of the earliest US blow torches in the late 1800's, to farm equipment in the 1960's – 1980's, to their current product line of pools. They now offer a complete line of stainless steel or vinyl in-ground commercial & residential swimming pools and spas. Now that's what I call change! Also surf to the Otto Bernz Co., now known as Bernz-O-Matic with the Newell Co. as parent company ([www.bernzomatic.com](http://www.bernzomatic.com)). Bernz-O-Matic still manufacture propane and acetylene torches in Medina, New York. Talk about diversification...the Newell Company has an incredible number of unrelated businesses in addition to Bernz-O-Matic. They also own Sanford and Berol – both writing instrument companies, Anchor Hocking – glassware & plasticware, Decorel – picture frames, Levolor – Window treatments, WearEver – aluminum cookware, and Stuart Hall – school supplies. Now that's diversity! One other original torch manufacturer, Mathias Klein & Sons, now known as Klein Tools survives in the electrical tool business. They are probably the earliest established US company involved in tools and blow torches and date back to 1857. They can be reached at [www.kleintools.com](http://www.kleintools.com). There are sure to be sites for other original torch manufacturing companies that are still in business, i.e. Klein & EVERHOT, (unfortunately EVERHOT does not have a website).

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## **THE TORCH INDEX**

When he wasn't producing the Turner Index, **Graham Stubbs** found time between business trips to assemble an Index for all past issues of THE TORCH. The attached Index will provide that needed quick and easy reference to just about everything that is printed in each past issue. You'll find that Graham was quite thorough as he arranged the Index into three categories, and included cross-references. Please enjoy the Index with the compliments of Graham, and if you have any comments, suggestions, or additions, contact Graham directly. There will be periodic updates to include future issues of THE TORCH.

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### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

As we prepare for the next issue of THE TORCH, and the Otto Bernz Index, it is obvious that Graham & I are lacking in sufficient Otto Bernz literature, (especially anything after 1936), to complete a meaningful index. This is a request to all members for any Otto Bernz literature, no matter how small or insignificant. Every bit of information is helpful and it all adds up to a complete and comprehensive document. Please help us by sending whatever Otto Bernz information you have to **Ron Carr** or **Graham Stubbs**. Thank you.

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### **EAST COAST BTCA CONVENTION**

**Bob Scheiderman**, Toms River, New Jersey, has agreed to sponsor an East Coast BTCA convention in the New Jersey area on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tom has access to an American Legion hall in Toms River, and there are an abundance of hotels & motels in the area, as well as numerous airports, i.e. Philadelphia, Newark, Atlantic City, and New York. We will provide further information as details are firmed up. Anyone in the general area of New Jersey willing to assist Bob should contact him immediately. We'll need to assess the anticipated attendance, so if you plan to attend, please contact Bob at: 30 N. Gateway, Toms River, NJ 08753, (732) 341-7462, or email at [knottoday@worldnet.att.net](mailto:knottoday@worldnet.att.net)

### **WEST COAST BTCA CONVENTION**

Plans are underway for the West Coast 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BTCA Convention. We're looking for volunteers to host the event this year, preferably in Northern Oregon or Washington. A member volunteer with a large facility or a member that has an affiliation with the American Legion, Eagles, Boy Scouts, or Lions that may have an available facility, would be ideal. For planning purposes, attendance in the past has been approximately 35 people, and with 14-16 blow torch displays. Interested individuals should contact Ron Carr as soon as possible. In any event, we will have a West Coast Convention on or about September 16, 2000.

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## ***THE TORCH***

Official publication of Blow Torch Collectors Association  
and is published 3 times per year.

Editor  
Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr  
Graham Stubbs

THE PURPOSE of BTCA is to preserve the history of blow torches and related equipment, to encourage the identification, classification, and exhibiting of such equipment, also to promote the study and better understanding of operation, purpose, and application.

MEMBERSHIP in BTCA is open to any person sharing its interests and purposes. For membership information, write to: Ron Carr, 3328 258<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Issaquah, WA 98029-9173, email at: [roncarr@prodigy.net](mailto:roncarr@prodigy.net), or by phone: (425) 557-0634

THE TORCH welcomes contributions from anyone interested in our purpose. Articles can be submitted in any format and should include supportive literature whenever possible. All submittals should be sent to the Contributing Editor, Graham Stubbs, 17715 St. Andrews Drive, Poway, CA 92064, email at: [gstubbs222@aol.com](mailto:gstubbs222@aol.com), or by phone at: (858) 487-3025



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**For Sale:** Seven blow torches, 2 quart size and one ½ pint alcohol Turner Brass Works, 2 quart size Clayton & Lambert, 1 quart size Geo. Diener – Torrid, and one pint size unknown (but looks suspiciously like a Schaefer & Beyer). All appear to be in very good condition and have been polished some time ago. As a bonus, 3 miner-cap lamps are also available. Make your best offers to Allen Dizney, 105 N. Poplar Street, Corbin, Kentucky 40701, (606) 528-3313.

**For Sale:** Here's your chance to purchase entire blow torch collection for the highest bid price. There are just over 200 pieces that include an assortment of quart, pint, and ½ pint size troches manufactured by Turner Brass Works, Clayton & Lambert, Otto Bernz, Lenk, Hauck, Craftsman, Wizard, P. Wall, Dunlap, Detroit Torch, Fulton, Fairbanks Morse, National Safety, Schaefer & Beyer, and many by unknown manufacturers. The collection also includes a C&L #21 plumber's furnace in good condition. The blow torches are in varied conditions and are available as a lot purchase or sold individually. Interested parties should contact Anna Kohl, 4022 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York 14094-1116, (716) 433-5245, or email at: AANPKOHL@cs.com

**For Sale:** A quart size Clayton & Lambert brass blow torch, C&L and safety decal intact and in excellent condition, red wood handle, overall in excellent condition, contact Reed Hume, 4625 Grand Dell Drive, Crestwood, KY 40014, (502) 222-4178, or email at: [emuhr@aol.com](mailto:emuhr@aol.com).

**For Sale: A must item for all torch collectors!** One of our members, **Mark Pedersen**, is selling replacement wooden handles with a brass collar for the older Turner, O. Bernz, and Clayton & Lambert torches. It is the small wooden handle with a small brass collar that slips onto the steel shaft for the fuel control valve. A majority of the original wooden handles are usually broken or missing which detracts from the beauty and value of the torch. You'll need to specify either a ¼ or 3/16<sup>th</sup>-hole size, and either black or natural finish. Price is \$2.50 each plus postage. Contact Mark Pedersen, 6112 SW High, Mill City, Oregon 97360, or call (503) 897-3101.

**For Sale:** Member **Clayton George** had a sand mold made for the hard-to-find early decorative style soldering iron hook that screws into the top of the burner head. Clayton worked with a foundry that makes molds for boat parts, and the company made the mold and cast the part for him. Clayton has available two machined thread sizes, small and large...the two sizes most commonly used by many of the torch manufacturers. They are \$9.00 each and include postage, (\$8.00 each for 10 or more). Be sure you specify small or large thread. Contact Clayton George at 1003 E. Toledo St., Bellingham, WA 98226-2109, (360) 734-7776, or email at: Cge3182016@aol.com

**For Sale:** Mr. Decal, **Dave Kolb**, has produced a perfect reproduction of an Otto Bernz decal, complete with accurate coloring, shading, and font type that was widely used by the O. Bernz Company. For those that refinish torches, this is a must for a complete job. Price is \$5.00 each and includes postage to most locations. Contact Dave Kolb, 709 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Austin, Minnesota 55912, (507) 437-3839. Remember that Dave also has a Turner Brass Works Co. decal available, same price.

**BTCA patches are still available.** Each professionally sewn patch is very attractive, colorful and eye-catching, and can be sewn on any hat, jacket, shirt pocket, bag, etc. Anyone interested in purchasing a BTCA patch, send \$4.50 USD per patch, includes first class postage, to: Ron Carr, 3328 258<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Issaquah, WA 98029-9173. Please make checks payable to **Ron Carr**.

**Services:** There is another buffing service available with reasonable prices. Quart sizes are \$10 and pint or smaller sizes are \$5 each plus postage for all. The process includes cleaning, buffing, and lacquering each item. They have been in business for 30+ years and have processed numerous blow torches over the years. The owners, Dean & Linda Elam, can be reached at Driftwood Antiques, 6600 Paris Road, Winchester, Kentucky 40391, (606) 745-1707, or email at [LTRUBLU71@aol.com](mailto:LTRUBLU71@aol.com).

**Wanted:** **Bob Spear** is looking for a red Bakelite control knob for an O. Bernz aluminum quart size torch. Anyone having such a part for sale should contact Bob at: PO Box 21, Council, Idaho 83612, or (208) 253-6451.





## *Twenty Years of Progress*

Twenty years ago, automobiles were still being cranked by hand. Four wheel brakes were not yet on the drafting-board.

Twenty years ago Blotches and Soldering Equipment were likewise in a primitive state. Industrial developments has been rapid in all fields since 1920. Industrial research has performed miracles.

We are proud of our share in the perfection of equipment and materials used in soldering. Lenk Blotches are the standard for the industry—tested and approved by most government departments. Lenk Electric Soldering Irons and Solder are known and preferred by master mechanics wherever volume production and quality are important.

Somewhere south of Cape Horn and East of Australia, Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition is entrenching itself for arduous days of scientific research. Among the many items of equipment which were selected, Lenk Electric Soldering Irons, Lenk Blotches and Lenk Perfect Torch Fuel, are included.

Lenk Products are manufactured with precision. Each item is inspected and checked against master specifications to insure proper operation in the hands of expert or novice.

To you who buy and sell our products, we pledge our increasing determination to continue to produce highest quality merchandise at prices which will justify Lenk leadership.

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