

THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

- Issue #18 -

- December 2000 -

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We welcome you to a new year, the next decade, a new century, and the true new Millennium! Have a safe and prosperous New Year, and great success in finding that rare torch or lamp in 2001!



MARK &
ARLEEN
PEDERSEN'S
BLOW
TORCH
TREE

CHRISTMAS
1999

- NEW MEMBERS -

Steve Chattin, Bridgeport, Alabama is a 2-year collector with a modest accumulation of torches. Steve found his first torch at a flea market for an attractive price, and the next thing he knew...he had a bunch of them. He also collects wrenches and as a Sheriff's Deputy, probably collects criminals!

John Harvey, Taneytown, Maryland, is a 10-year collector with over 100 torches in his collection.

Bobby Hartness is a new member from Greer, South Carolina.

Richard Hunter, Phoenix, Arizona has been collecting blow torches for over 50 years and has a great collection displayed in his home.

Rodger Jackson, Woodbridge, Virginia joined our group at the recommendation of **Jeff Glass**.

Rod Kendall, is a new member from McDonough, Georgia.

Gregorio Lopez Benito, Madrid, Spain remembers blow lamps from his Father's plumbers tools, and he eventually acquired his fathers lamps and began his own collection. He also recalls stories from his father and some of the older plumbers on blow lamps catching on fire or exploding...the risks of the trade. Gregorio continues the family tradition as a plumber and for fun he will occasionally use an antique blow lamp in his work.

Stephen Page, St. George, Bermuda was sponsored into BTCA by one of our members, **Larry Fields**. Stephen helped Larry find a few blow torches during a recent Bermuda vacation. Stephen also has a torch collection and is the first Bermuda collector to join BTCA.

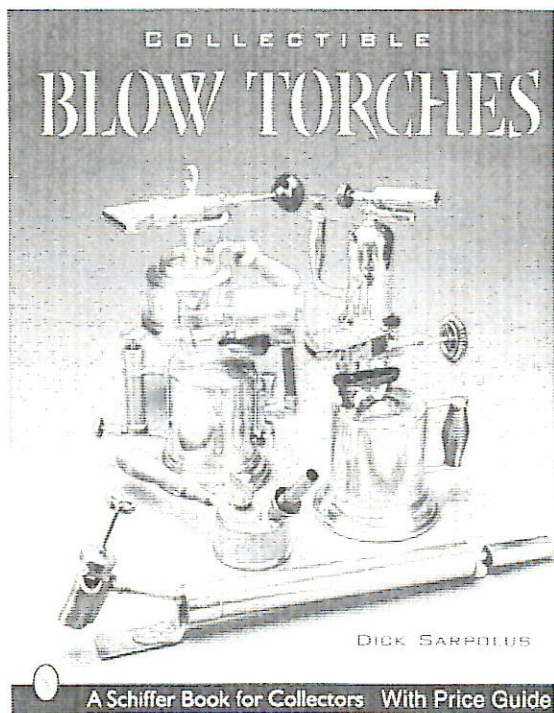
Gene Strate, Holden, Missouri is a two-year collector who, not long ago, utilized blow torches in his plumbing business.

Robert Sylvernale, Diamond Springs, California just purchased his first blow torch for what will be his new part-time collecting passion.

Robert Turner, is a new member from Taylors, South Carolina.

MEMBERS CON'T.

Robert Whitaker, Jackson, Mississippi is a 5-year collector with over 70 torches...and growing. Bob didn't know others were collecting torches and thought, like many of us, that he would have a unique collection. He also collects stamps, logo golf balls, baseball cards & caps, and old beer cans.



IT'S COMING!

Some time in late January, the Schiffer Publishing Company will distribute to retail bookstores, the first ever Blow Torch book. It was authored by **Dick Sarpolus**. (See inset above.)

The soft cover book will retail for \$29.95 USD and contains hundreds of torch photos and useful information for torch collectors. The publication has been a work of love for Dick who has also authored numerous other articles on radio controlled model airplanes, his second love. You'll appreciate the quality photos, detailed information on cleaning & buffing, and suggested price ranges.

Dick, Congratulations on your accomplishment and your contribution to blow torch collecting. ♀



DR. LLOYD WEBER
DENTIST, TORCH COLLECTOR, & TORCH REFINISHING EXPERT

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSES

Many members sent in comments on a variety of subjects along with their membership dues. This is a consolidation of those comments:

POLISHING TECHNIQUES

There was an overwhelming interest in looking for new and different methods or processes for refinishing torches, including chrome and nickel-plated versions. A majority of our members refinish torches, and are forever looking for the perfect and easiest process. There have been a few polishing articles in past issues of *THE TORCH*, and we suspect we'll continue to hear from additional members that have found easier or more successful methods.

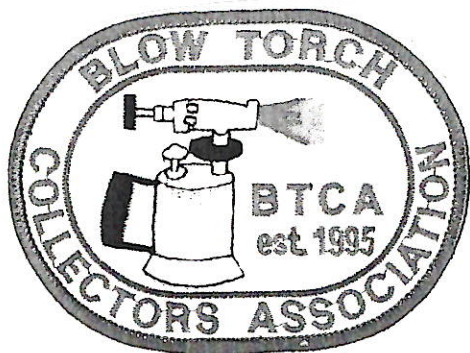
We are always looking for polishing/buffing suggestions, so if you have a successful process...please share it with us. A comment shared by **Jim Janke** indicated his favorable success in using Mothers Mag & Aluminum Polish to refinish a recently acquired aluminum PHOENIX torch. **Vicky Teeters** suggested, some time ago, to use Mother's Polish for polishing any aluminum torch. (See *THE TORCH*, issue #15, and page 3).

MIDWEST CONVENTION

Comments from other members included an interest in a Mid-west convention, in addition to the East & West Coast conventions. While all things are possible, there are two challenges. Number one, we would need someone to sponsor the event and number two, have sufficient attendance to justify the gathering. If there is a member interested in sponsoring an event in 2001, **Jon Suta**, **Al Austin**,

RESPONSES CON'T.

Bob Scheiderman and **Ron Carr** are experienced in such gatherings and can provide sufficient information for a successful meet. There are no boundaries, and considering the distribution of our membership, many areas could easily support an event, such as California, Florida, Arizona, Minnesota, in addition to the traditional East and West Coast locations. Any interested individuals should contact **Jon, Al, Bob, or Ron** for suggestions and guidance.



BTCA TEE SHIRTS

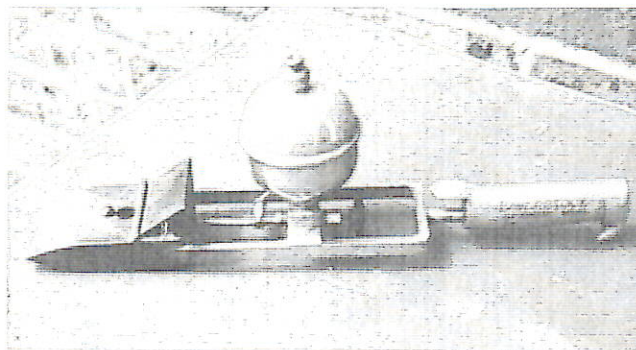
Many members wrote in expressing an interest in a good quality, heavy duty BTCA tee shirt. There's good news and there's bad news for a BTCA tee shirt. First the bad news. It would be financially difficult to provide a BTCA tee shirt, considering all the sizes that would have to be stocked.

One alternative would be to take orders and do a one-time order, filling all requests for current members wanting a shirt. That would work well for current members, however, that would leave out all future new members and limit the population of tee shirt wearers.

The good news is there is a viable alternative, one that involves a heat transferred BTCA logo that can be ironed onto any garment. The heat transfer method solves the size problem, and the transfer process is permanent, washable, and can be sized to fit any chosen garment. If we receive sufficient interest in the heat transfer logo, we will look into the opportunity further. We would utilize the existing BTCA logo, **(See above)** unless someone comes up with something more interesting or striking.

A few members indicated an interest in designing an attractive BTCA tee shirt design. As always, suggestions are welcomed and encouraged.

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BAUERSTOCK SEARING IRON
PATENTED IN AUSTRALIA
Submitted by Tom Bartlett

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Tom Bartlett sent in a photo of his *Bauerstock Searing Iron*. **(See inset above)** It was manufactured in Australia and has a patent number 78558. The searing iron was used to burn the tails on newborn lambs. Ouch!

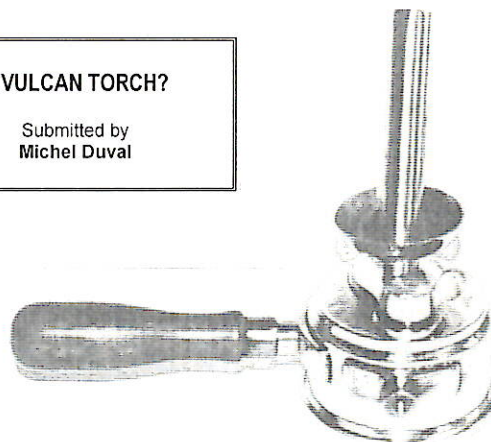
Michel Duval recently sent in an interesting photo of what appears to be an early version of the Otto Bernz Vulcan torch. **(See inset below)**

You'll notice the same fuel tank construction with the dual handle positions. The wing nut style fuel cap is very similar except for the thicker material, and the burner assembly and drip cup are also very similar, but appear to be of an earlier design.

Michel indicated that there is a logo of two crossed guns stamped into the fuel tank as well as the letters, E.G. and the word, PATENT. Does anyone have a torch like this one?

A VULCAN TORCH?

Submitted by
Michel Duval

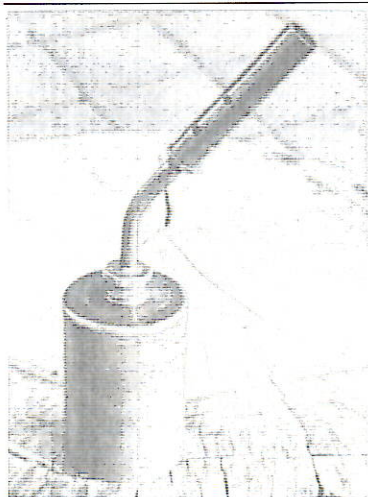


Mel Olson did some research on the Quick Meal Stove Company and found that, in addition to manufacturing kitchen stoves, they also produced a line of blow torches and soldering iron heaters. The blow torch fuel tanks were made from very thin brass, which may account for the scarcity of Quick Meal torches. Two of our members, **Mark Pedersen** and **Chuck Tobin**, are the only known owners of Quick Meal blow torches.

The Quick Meal Co. was a forerunner of the American Stove Company that later became Magic Chef Inc. Magic Chef was a household word in the 1920's & 1930's, however, it declined in the years after WWII, and was purchased by Dixie, a company that expanded rapidly. Magic Chef is located in Cleveland, Tennessee, employs over 1800 people, and continues to make kitchen ranges today.

Jim Janke found a website, **askthebuilder.com**, which has a bulletin #328 for Brass Polishing Tips and Professional Companies. For those not wishing to refinish torches, the bulletin lists seven companies in the brass polishing business. For non-web surfers, you can write to: Ask The Builder, Builder Bulletin #328, C/O Tim Carter, PO Box 36352, Cincinnati, OH 45236-0352.

Graham Stubbs has come up with another unknown torch manufacturer, **ZEIDLER LAMP & BRASS CO.**, Lomira, Wisconsin that has a patent date of January 6, 1903. Graham describes the torch as a brass canister 1 3/4 inches in diameter, 2 1/2 inches long, with a burner tube rising from the center of the canister at an angle with an overall length of 6 1/2 inches. **(See inset below)** While there are two known 1903 patents, neither seems to fit the Zeidler torch configuration, so we'll re-check the 1903 listings. Are there any other Zeidler torches out there?



**ZEIDLER LAMP
& BRASS CO.**

PATENTED
January 6, 1903

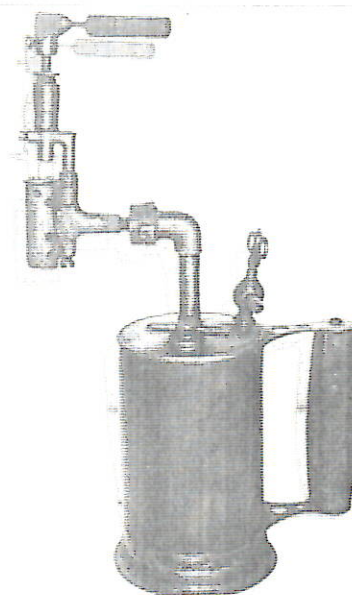
Submitted by
Graham Stubbs

We just heard from **Chuck Tobin's** wife, **JoAnn**. It seems Chuck is having a difficult time finding new and unusual torches to add to his collection, and since Chuck refinishes his torches, and has no new ones to work on, he is currently refinishing a copper tub washing machine. Anyone needing torches refinished...send them on to Chuck. He needs something to do!

Another new manufacturer's name showed up on ebay recently, **BRAND-IT CORP.**, Chicago, Illinois. It is a **RED-HOT** model that is similar to torches produced by **EVERHOT** and **GEO. DIENER**. It is also similar to the **BURNING BRAND CO.** torch featured in *THE TORCH*, issue #17, page 3, and submitted by **Dick Sarpolus**. It's interesting to note that all four companies produced or distributed torches in Chicago.

**EARLY TORCH
WITH
MODIFIED
BURNER ASM.**

Submitted by
Dave Schulte



Dave Schulte submitted photos of a most unusual blow torch. **(See inset above)** While the fuel tank, handle, fuel stopper, and air valve assembly appear original, the burner assembly is an interesting mixture of torch parts put together for what appears to be a very functional burner.

Dave would like to know what the original burner assembly looked like. General consensus is that it is of US origin and manufactured in the late 1800's. Can anyone identify the torch?

Larry Fields provided some anecdotal information to **Graham Stubbs** during a recent phone conversation, information that Larry obtained from a former Turner Brass Works employee. It

NOTES CON'T.

seems that the Turner logo, a picture of an athlete on a trapeze bar, is based on the 1904 Olympics, and Turner used an employee as the model. The figure is wearing headgear like a Spartacus helmet!

The Turner employee also talked about Torchy, Turner's mascot (for reference, see *THE TORCH*, issue #16, page 8). Torchy Turner was a promotional idea that included sponsorship with a local area baseball team as its mascot. On occasion, a Turner employee would wear a Torchy costume at the Sycamore facility, complete with a special "Torch" hat.

Don Lightfoot reported that he is still working on a process to make replacement handles for blow torches...details to follow. Don indicated that he would have to sell one million handles to recover his investment. Sorry Don, not enough members to fill that order!

The Editor recently asked **Stefan Berg-Singapore**, how he ever added any torches to his collection. Ron twice visited the area on business, and realized the limited blow torch opportunities in and around Singapore. Stefan advised Ron that his secret is...he travels a lot, to Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, India and Sweden just to name a few locations. He also purchases on ebay, but takes a beating on transportation costs, \$25 for 5-6 lbs.!

Ralph Larson sent in a photo of a very unusual blow torch or blowlamp. (See inset below) The handle unscrews for fuel entry, the fuel tank is of heavy brass, a valve handle of Bakelite, and it appears to be missing a burner head. Can anyone identify this unusual looking torch?



BLOW TORCH OR BLOW LAMP

Submitted by Ralph Larson

Dick Sarpolus provided information on a new torch manufacturer name, *W. B. Marvin Mfg. Co., Urbana, Ohio*. Dick purchased the #20 Marvin Soldering Torch some time ago, but had no idea of its origin until he saw the same torch on ebay that included the box with printed information.

A legible photo was not available, but the torch is described with a tapered "oilcan" shape, a few ounce fuel capacity, a rubber air tube connected to a rigid air tube and a small wick and cap, and included a convenient finger handle.

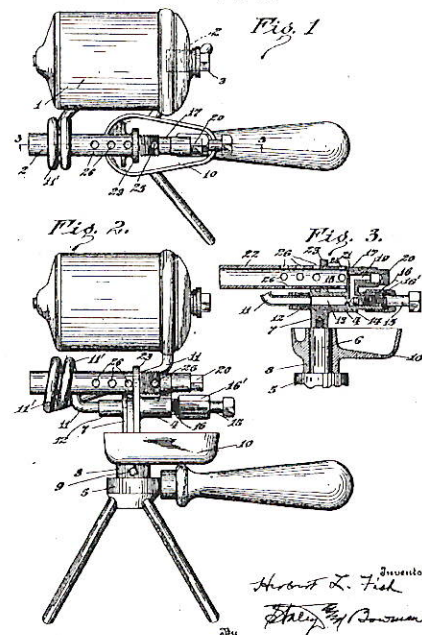
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Feb. 17, 1925.

H. L. FISH
DOWNEY
GRAVITY FEED TORCH

1,526,906

Filed July 30, 1923



**DOWNEY
GRAVITY
FEED TORCH**

PATENTED
February 17, 1925

INVENTOR
HERBERT L. FISH

NEW PATENT ADDITIONS:

In 1925, Herbert L. Fish invented one of the most unusual US manufactured blow torches...the Downey Gravity Feed torch. (See inset above) His invention, patented on February 17, 1925, was a very simple and economical design, yet efficient to operate. What is so unusual about this particular torch is its design and construction. The fuel tank is supported above the burner assembly and in close proximity to allow sufficient heat to pressurize the fuel cell thus eliminating an air pump. The fuel feed tube exits the fuel tank and is coiled around the burner assembly to aid in fuel vaporization, a popular construction feature found in many European lamps.

There are two known BTCA members who have Downey Gravity Feed torches in their collections, **Mark Pedersen** – Oregon, and **Leroy Goodwin** – Ohio.

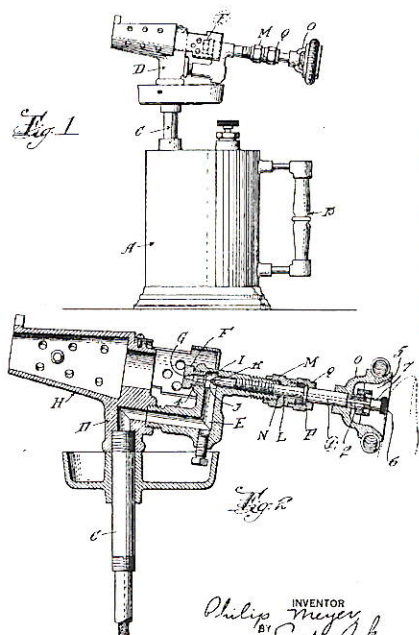
PATENTS CON'T.

The Otto Bernz Company applied for and received a patent listed as a plumber's torch, but in fact the patent was for an orifice-cleaning device. **(See inset below)** The design included a feature that allowed the blow torch operator to clean the orifice while the torch was burning!

The inventor, Philip Meyer, created a spring-loaded shaft within the valve handle that protruded into the handle assembly. If the operator experienced clogging while operating the torch, a few quick pushes on the end of the plunger would clear the obstruction.

The patent, dated February 7, 1933, appears to have a logical and useful design, however, this feature does not exist on any blow torch models.

Feb 7, 1933. P. MEYER 1,896,782
PLUMBER'S TORCH
Filed Dec. 31, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



OTTO BERNZ
TORCH

Unique
Cleaning
Feature

PATENTED
February 7, 1933

Production
Status unknown

Philip Meyer
INVENTOR
Cuthbertson
ATTORNEYS

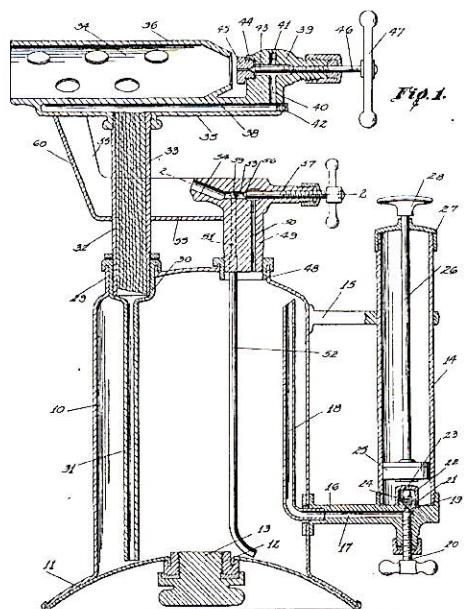
Henry Birnbaum of Shelton, Washington applied for and received a patent in November 1930 for a most unusual blow torch.

His design incorporated a second burner assembly coupled to an ignition chute that provided an almost instant fuel vaporization that led to a quick flame from the main burner assembly. In addition to the main burner valve, the secondary burner assembly was designed with two valve handles, one for fuel control and one for relieving the fuel tank air pressure after the torch was shut down.

The inventor cited the torch benefits as: "Simple and inexpensive to manufacture, easy to operate and adjust, positive in action, efficient and durable in service, and a general improvement in the art."

Overall, the unique design features appear to be a sound; however, it is quite a complex system of tubes (3) valves (4), and burners (2) and no surprise that it was never produced! **(See inset below)**

Nov. 4, 1930. H. BIRNBAUM 1,780,152
BLOWTORCH
Filed Feb. 18, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



BLOW TORCH WITH IGNITION CHUTE

Patented November 4, 1930

On October 3, 1933 inventor, Almanzo Schaff assigned over to the SCOVILL MFG. CO. a patent for an alcohol torch that is more commonly known in the torch collecting world as THE IMP. **(See inset page 7)** By its small appearance, one would consider THE IMP to be an alcohol torch, but in fact it was designed for gasoline, and could also be used with what was then called "high test" gasoline.

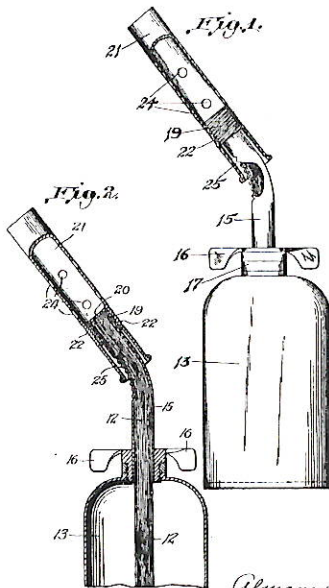
The telltale ridges on the inside curve of the fuel tube facilitated the pre-ignition and quick light off of the torch. In using the torch, a lighted match, candle, or other suitable flame from any source was held close to the indented ridges of the fuel tube until vaporization occurred.

It apparently was a great design as many were sold and are still available in abundance today.

Oct. 3, 1933.

A. SCHAFF
TORCH
Filed Nov. 5, 1931

1,929,039



SCOVILL
MFG. CO.

THE IMP

PATENTED
October 3, 1933

Almango Schaff
INVENTOR
BY HIS ATTORNEYS
Philip Schaff, etc.

A patent mystery was recently solved quite by accident as Ron Carr was perusing through a patent book at the University of Washington Engineering Library. He noticed another category unseen before, design patents, and realized that a patent number he was looking for previously was not a patent number but a design number. It was earlier assumed that the number, 88,586 was a patent number and would have dated the patent to 1869, however a quick check of that year did not produce any such patent. (Who would have thought that an inventor would have patented a design for a blow torch?)

On December 6, 1932, Jacob F. Steffan and Karl G. Rohrer received the design patent for a new, original, and ornamental design for blowtorches.

The alcohol torch was designed with a concave body and includes a rubber squeeze bulb that provides the air pressure for the fuel tank. The air nozzle is connected directly to the rubber bulb, and the torch includes a fuel filler opening with cap and a wick and cap assembly.

Michel Duval brought the STEFFAN torch to the Editor's attention in July of 1999 when he sent in a photo of the torch, (For photo, see *THE TORCH*, issue #15, December 1999, and page #6.). According to Michel, it is 2¼ inches in diameter, 5¼ inches tall, and all parts are chrome plated, except for the rubber egg-shaped squeeze bulb with DEVILBISS raised lettering.

At about the same time, **John Dorffeld** came forward with information from his STEFFAN

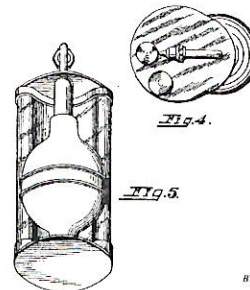
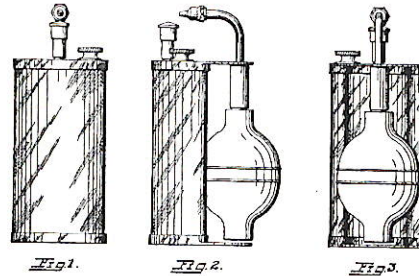
that reveals the torch being manufactured by the NATIONAL WELDING COMPANY, San Francisco, California. There are only two known STEFFAN's to date. (See inset below)

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Dec. 6, 1932.

J. F. STEFFAN ET AL
BLOWTORCH
Filed May 2, 1932

Des. 88,586



STEFFAN #7

DESIGN
PATENT

PRODUCTION
BY
NATIONAL
WELDING CO.

SAN FRANCISCO

Jacob F. Steffan
Karl G. Rohrer
INVENTORS
BY
John H. Morgan
ATTORNEY

✂ BUFFING ENCLOSURE ✂

Jim Janke submitted a great and simple design for a buffing/polishing enclosure. As many of you are painfully aware, without some sort of enclosure or dust catching device, the surrounding area gets very dirty with black soot during the torch polishing process.

Jim has come up with a simple design that utilizes scrap materials and a shop vac for a vacuum system to remove most of the black soot. It does not appear to take up much space, can be sized to fit any buffing machine, is easily disassembled for storage, and can be easily moved to any area in a garage, basement, or outside. See the attached diagram with a materials list and Jim's comments and suggestions for construction.

If you plan to build the enclosure and have any questions or experience problems, Jim can be reached on 480-802-4969. And remember...wear a good quality respirator to eliminate inhaling any lead fumes or particles. Safety glasses are a must, and leather gloves work well when dealing with the hot buffed metals.

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PHOTOGRAPHING BLOW TORCHES

Dick Sarpolus has provided us an insight into professionally photographing blow torches. (See attachment) Dick recently received a lot of practice, as he photographed close to 300 torches for his recently published book, *COLLECTABLE BLOW TORCHES*.

The article provides many helpful hints and suggestions on lighting, backdrops, and angles. The last paragraph in the article should provide members with some guidance on how to produce a photo suitable for reproduction in our publication, *THE TORCH*. Members submit many photographs, however too often the quality is not sufficient to reproduce.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



TURNER "JEWEL" TORCH

CIRCA 1903

Submitted by Jim Janke

CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK

In September the committee to restore the 1901 Wright Brothers Cycle Shop in Dayton, Ohio contacted BTCA. As part of the Carillon Park project, volunteers have recreated a replica of the 1901 cycle shop that originally stood at 1127 W. Third Street in Dayton where the Wright brothers designed and built their early airplanes.

The volunteers were in need of an assortment of parts for a Clayton & Lambert torch to complete a shop display, and we provided them the parts as a donation on behalf of BTCA.

It's interesting to note that blow torches had a part to play in early aviation...and certainly were instrumental in repairing many Wright bicycles.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

A COLLECTOR'S STORY

Keith Hawkins shared a story with us on how he started his blow lamp collection along with other miscellaneous comments. Many members have expressed an interest on how other collectors started their collections, so we thought we would provide Keith's story.

Sorry for the delay in replying, this retirement business is very time consuming and I never have time to do things!! Take my tip; never retire – it is much more peaceful at work! However, you will also perceive that I have to communicate with a pen and real ink, as I have not, and probably will never conquer the art of using what I call the "Dreaded Machine". I have mastered the art of playing "patience" on it, but that is as far as I have got and do not really wish to lose the art of "pen & ink". So, I guess you will have to put up with it! Also, since a letter has to go out from me on the Internet, I have to dictate it to my wife, so whilst I'm doing that, I might as well do it this way (pen & ink). Having spent my life being a "tiller of the soil" and a flower & plant decorator, I'm not inclined to learn a new art at this state of my life.

I'm 70 now and too busy touring Europe, buying blow lamps, and then cleaning the damn things. Any other tradesman would clean and care for his tools after use...not so with blow torch users. They just let them get filthy, probably thinking that one day idiots like us would buy them for preservation and let us do the cleaning!

About 1980, I took my kids to a Steam Preservation Show and in the model tent was a chap with a collection of very ordinary 1 & 2 pint paraffin lamps, and with only a few gasoline ones...about 30 in total. Nothing really to shout about. What, however did impress me was a soldering torch. I had never seen anything like it before and it set me thinking that when I eventually retired, it might be fun to collect lamps and exhibit them at that kind of show. Round about 1985 I did start collecting a few lamps, and after gathering up about 50, I moved houses. So collecting did not resume until some two years later when I got really smitten, and within a short while I was up to over 200. The first really good lamp I found was the Optimus American. I remember Les Adams and another collector were debating as to whether the price was too high, and I whipped in whilst they were still thinking about it. Something about "the early bird catching the worm" is appropriate, I think.

So now the whole thing has blossomed, especially as my first wife left in 1992 and my new wife is really enthusiastic, which is an enormous advantage. She can also work the "Dreaded Machine". I still prefer to be "old fashioned and behind the times"!! I once wrote a letter of 16 sides of paper to a lady in Vancouver (Washington), around which it was apparently read by half the populace as an example of the eccentric English!

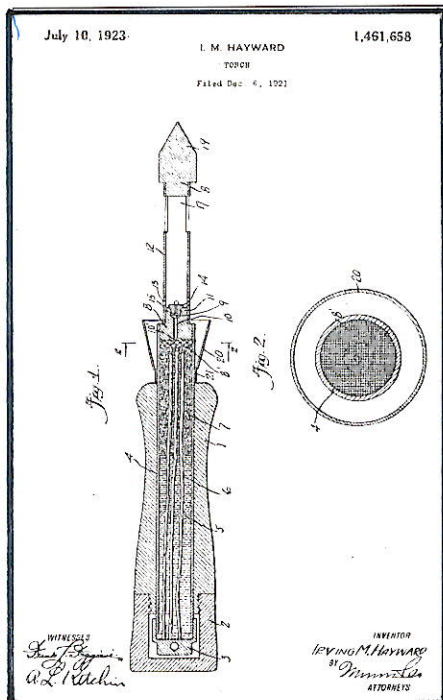
STORY CON'T.

I do polish my lamps. I do them up as much as possible, but I do not like them to glisten like new, as they were working tools. So, as long as they are basically clean and replacement parts made and fitted where possible, that's fine by me. It also gets me off the hook when, at a rally, they get a bit tarnished after some errant steamer has blown black, oily smoke over them or they have been rained on, or whatever. The members of the public always see to agree that they look better slightly unpolished, rather than highly polished. I do not collect anything other than blow lamps.

Two weekends ago we were in Oslo buying Norwegian lamps and last weekend was a British Club meeting, so more lamps were obtained including a Spanish Serrot. Before Oslo, I had lamps from 18 countries of the world, now I have 20 countries that include Austria, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Russia, Belarus, France, UK, USA, Canada, India, China, and Australia. My collection is now over 600 lamps with approximately 150 manufacturers and marks. I think I picked up about 28 new lamps in these last two weekends, and I shall be hoping for more from the Le Harve Flea Market on Friday when we cross to France for a week.

Keith also goes on to describe some lamps found in Europe that have a number "TL130". He believes that the Marshall Plan after WWII helped to re-equip Europe with tools and equipment, and utilized the TL130 as a unique tool identification. He has found a Clayton & Lambert and a Turner Brass Works torch, both with the TL130 markings. Please write in if you can confirm this information or have any details to add to the story.

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THERMO GAS
PRODUCTS
CO.

STAYHOT
MODEL

PATENTED
JULY 10, 1923

EAST COAST CONVENTION

The First Annual East Coast event on September 2nd was deemed a success thanks to the efforts of our hosts, **Bob and Darlene Scheiderman**. Bob arranged for space at the American Legion facility in Toms River, New Jersey, and it was fortunately air-conditioned since the day was extremely warm and humid. Darlene arranged a fantastic meal that included some of Bob's homemade clam chowder, a local favorite and Bob's specialty.

Long distant travelers included, **Larry Parker** from Oregon, **Ron Carr** from Washington, **John & Madeline Forhan** and **Dick Bernard & Carol Gauthier** from Massachusetts, **Tom & Winnie Wilfong** from Virginia, **Ron Johnson** from New York, and locals included **Dick & Lynn Sarpolus** and **Bob & Darlene Scheiderman**.

It's believed that **Ron Johnson** brought his entire torch collection from Syracuse as his truck was laden with numerous large boxes filled with torches. Ron's collection boasts many rare torches that include a M. L. HULL tapered steel tank torch, a Dangler Stove Mfg. Co. torch, a Wellington Mfg. Co. torch with a September 3, 1883 patent date, and a new manufacturer's name, FRENCH BATTERY & CARBON CO., Madison, Wisconsin. The French Battery torch, nicknamed the "French Flasher", is similar to a Lenk alcohol torch, but much heavier in construction, and the twin fuel cylinders appear to be copper or red brass with brass ends.

John Forhan displayed, not one, not two, but three GLOBE GAS LIGHT CO. torches, all considered rare. He also had on display a DETROIT TORCH with an unusual flat burner head, most probably for paint burning that was cast brass with a cast iron top.

Dick Sarpolus featured his UNION HEATER torch with an 1890 patent date, a TURNER #8 pint size double jet alcohol torch, and a copy of the front and back cover of his upcoming blow torch book.

Dick Bernard's display included a GLOBE torch and a Model A version of the THERMO GAS PRODUCTS torch. The Model A is a much smaller version of the more abundant Model B. Both models have the same design of a self-heating soldering iron with the fuel tank encased in a wood handle and the end cap threaded for fuel access. (See inset)

Bob Scheiderman exhibited a CLAYTON & LAMBERT with a most unusual drip cup, and a BUTLER pint size steel fuel tank torch with a great red paint job!

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WEST COAST CONVENTION

The 3rd Annual BTCA gathering on September 16th was another success thanks to the hard work and dedication of our hosts, **Al and Elaine Austin**. Al put a lot of effort into cleaning out and rearranging the interior of his garage/storage building to make sufficient space for all of the torch displays, and Elaine put together a wonderful meal and snacks that were enjoyed by all. They even arranged for great weather...something that can be very questionable in September for the Pacific Northwest.

Most everyone arrived on site early, and the 14 very impressive torch displays were in place in short order. We would like to express our gratitude to all members that transported torches for display, especially the long distance travelers in dealing with airline luggage. Honorable mention goes out to **Les Adams** and **John Tingle** for the added hassle with the dreaded Customs Agent.

Everyone spent most of the day reviewing the many rare torches, talking about torches, trading torches, selling torches...and eating. Elaine and her helpers provided an abundance of food, and many were seen visiting the food line for seconds and thirds. All in all, it was a great time to meet new members and renew old acquaintances.

Long distance travelers included **John Tingle** and **Les & Emily Adams** from England, **Larry Fields** from North Carolina, **Graham Stubbs** from California, and **Maurice & Norma Jernstedt** and **Mark & Arleen Pedersen** from Oregon. Local Washington residents included **Al & Elaine Austin**, **Ron Carr**, **John & Dolores Dorffeld**, **Bob & JoAnn Estell**, **Terry & Sally Foutch**, **Richard & Judy Gjersee**, **Mark & Shirley Hahn**, **Charles Monthy**, **Suezy Proctor**, and **Jon & Judy Suta**.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

NEW MEMBER PROCESS

You should be aware that our new member process includes providing copies of all past newsletters and attachments to all new members.

It's an added expense, but we believe that there are valuable data contained therein, and every new member should benefit from the information.

Each new member that remits the current new member dues payment also receives a BTCA patch in the new-member package.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

ATTACHED UPDATES

Attached is an updated membership roster with a current listing of our active members. Please advise us of any additions or changes.

Also attached is an updated manufacturer listing. We have tried to capture where some of the more rare torches are located with our membership, so if you see a **VR (very rare)** or **R (rare)**, and you own one that is listed (and you're not listed), please let us know. When doing so, please advise of any details listed on the torch, i.e.: catalog numbers, patent references, manufacturer information, etc. Every small bit of information, regardless of how insignificant, may prove useful in further identifying a particular torch.

Lastly, there is an attached listing of all patents that we have accumulated to date. Any omitted patents or updates would be appreciated.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

THE TORCH

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

Editor
Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr
Graham Stubbs

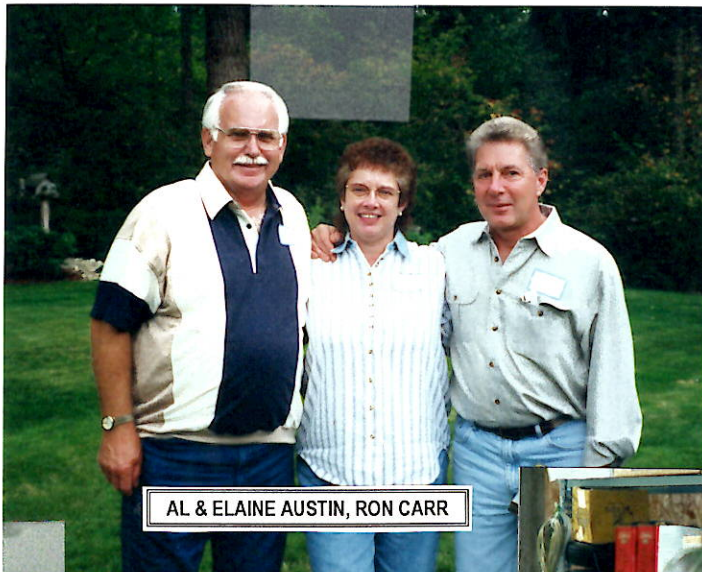
THE PURPOSE of BTCA is to preserve the history of blow torches and related equipment, to encourage the identification, classification, and exhibiting of such equipment, also to promote the study and better understanding of operation, purpose, and application.

MEMBERSHIP in BTCA is open to any person sharing its interests and purposes. For membership information, write to: Ron Carr, 3328 258th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075-9173, email at: 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, or by phone at: (619) 487-3025

West Coast Convention

September 16, 2000



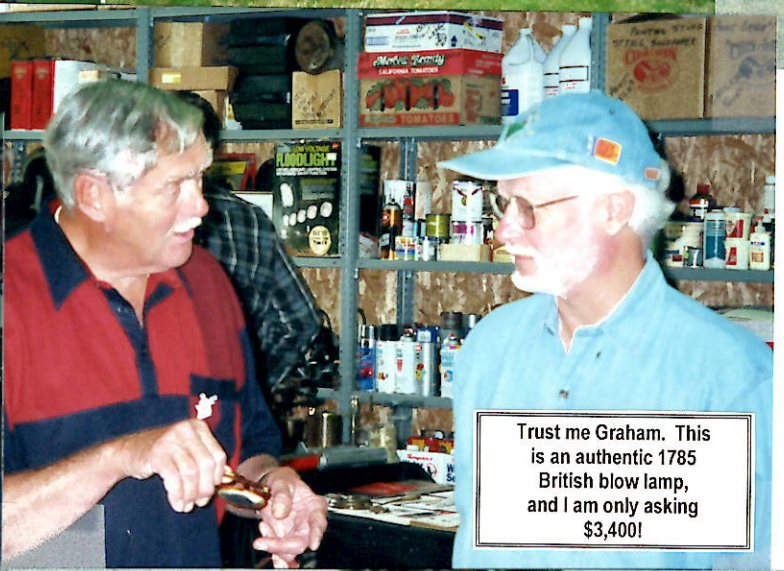
AL & ELAINE AUSTIN, RON CARR



THE GANG OF SIXTEEN



RICHARD & JUDY GJERSEE



Trust me Graham. This is an authentic 1785 British blow lamp, and I am only asking \$3,400!



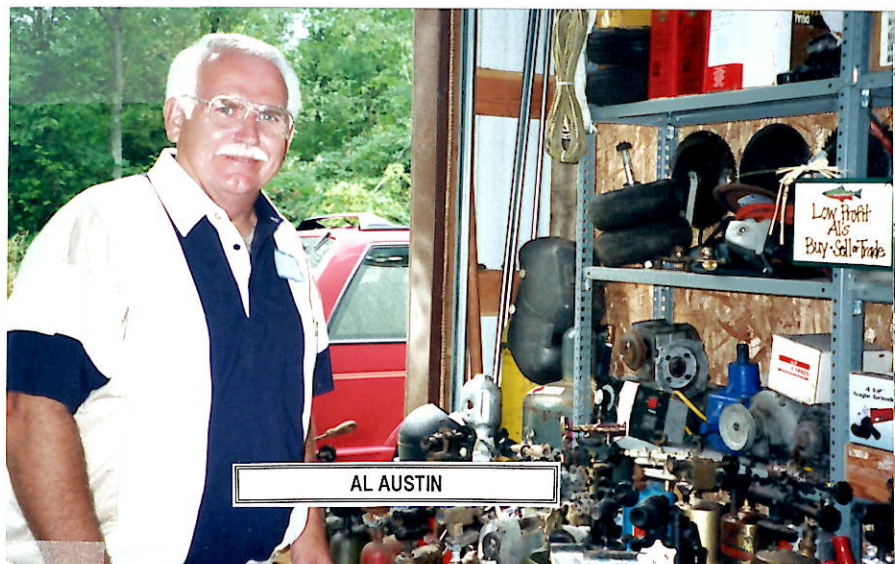
TERRY FOUTCH



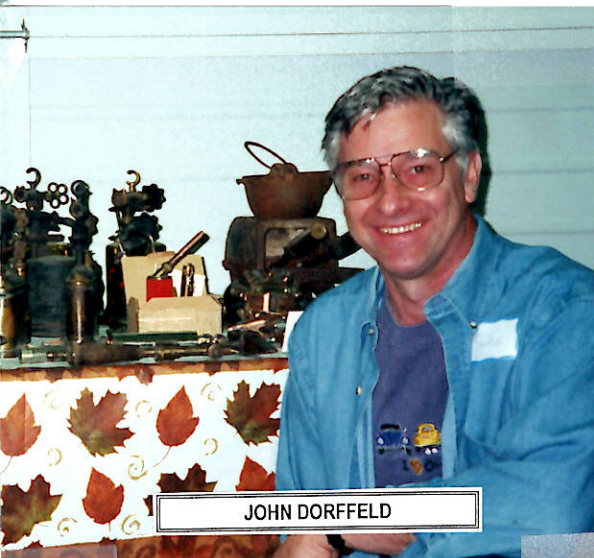
THAT'S RIGHT JON, THESE BLOW TORCH TRADING CARDS WILL BE WORTH A FORTUNE SOME DAY...AND THEY'RE ONLY \$50 EACH!

West Coast Convention

September 16, 2000



AL AUSTIN



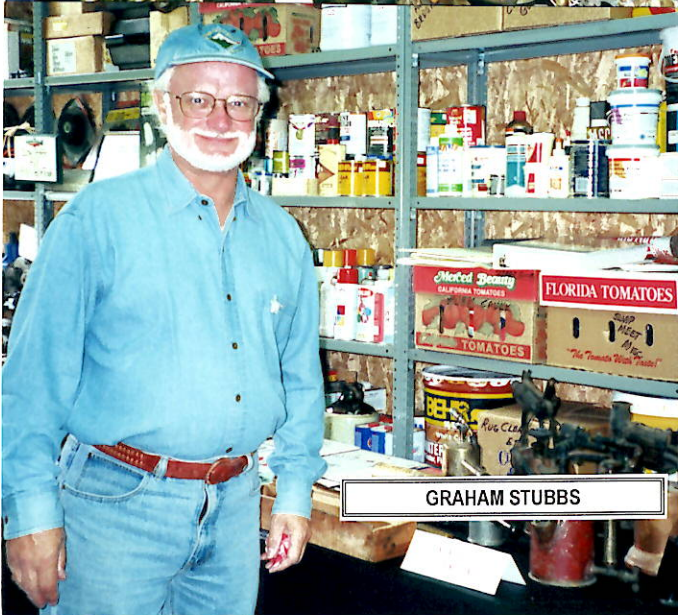
JOHN DORFFELD



LES ADAMS



LARRY FIELDS



GRAHAM STUBBS



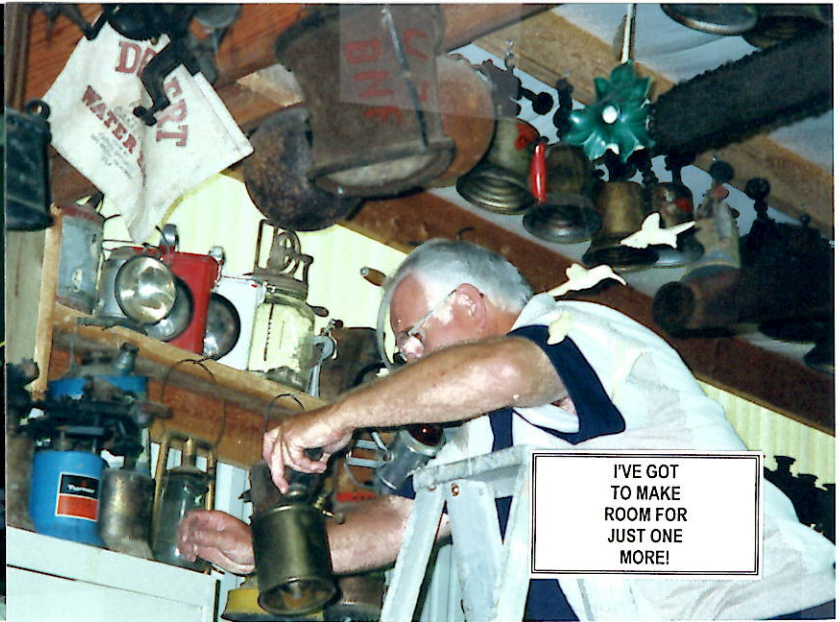
RON CARR

West Coast Convention

September 16, 2000



JOHN TINGLE



I'VE GOT TO MAKE ROOM FOR JUST ONE MORE!



ALL SMILES FOR THE CAMERAMAN



I'M BLOW TORCH MAN



PLENTY OF FOOD



JUDY, WHICH ONE SHOULD I TAKE, THE BEEF OR THE CHICKEN?

West Coast Convention

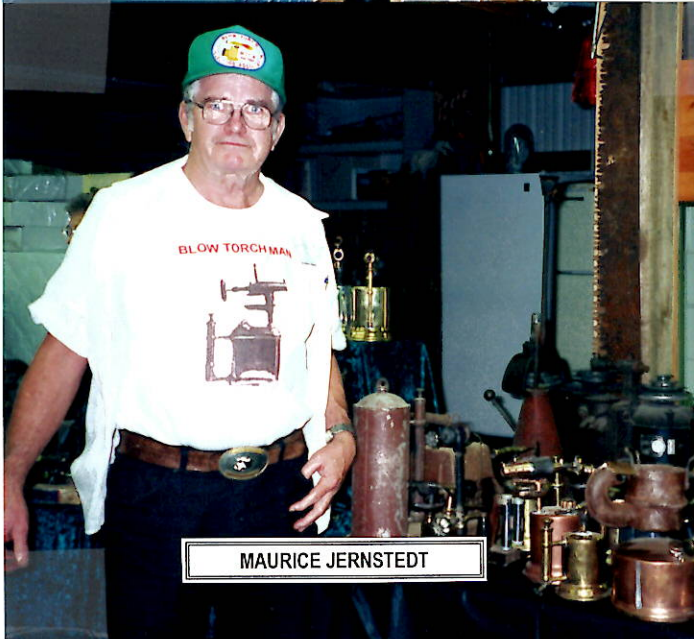
September 16, 2000



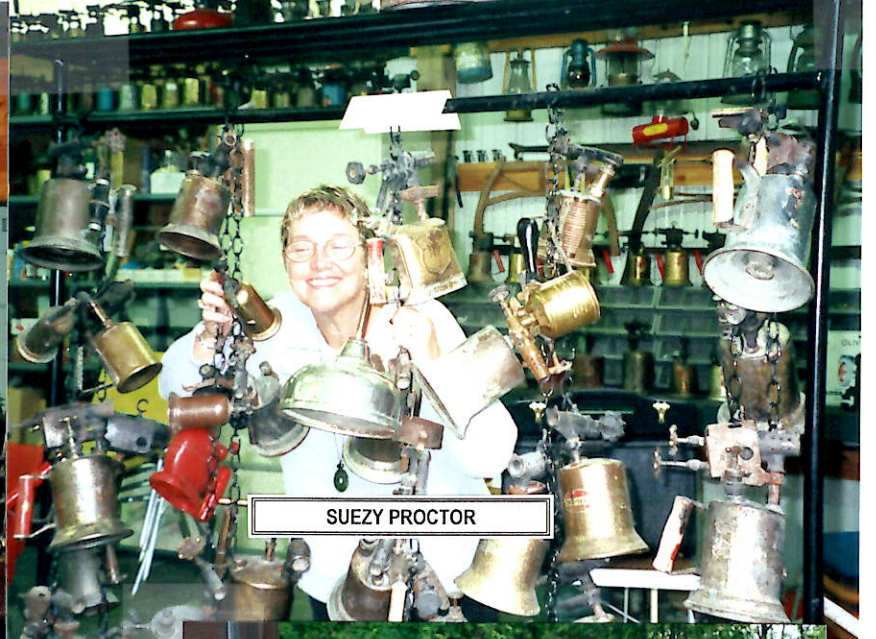
JON SUTA



MARK & ARLEEN PEDERSEN



MAURICE JERNSTEDT



SUEZY PROCTOR



MARK & SHIRLEY HAHN



SALLY, DO I PUSH
THE RIGHT BUTTON
OR THE LEFT
BUTTON?

East Coast Convention

September 2, 2000



JOHN FORHAN



DICK BERNARD



RON JOHNSON, WITH (ALMOST) ALL OF THE TORCHES IN THE WORLD!

East Coast Convention

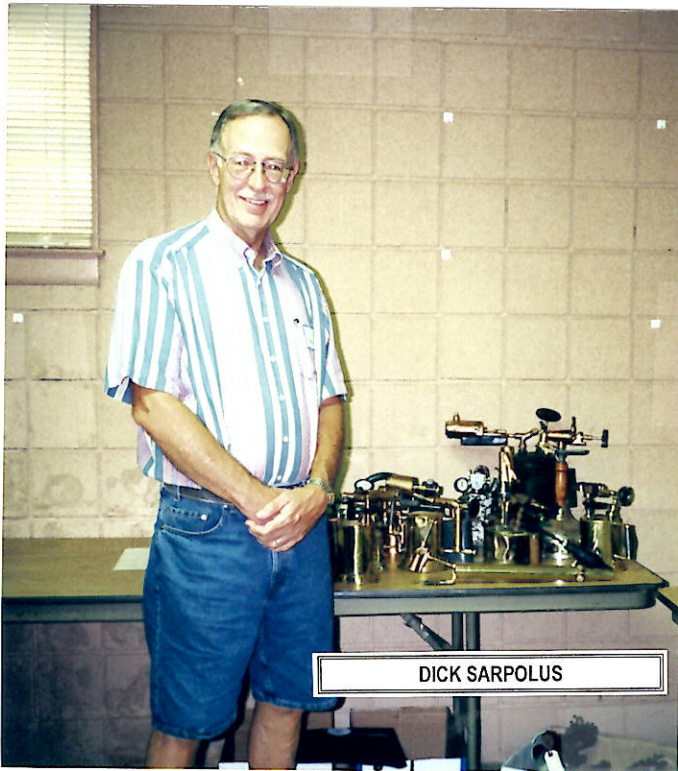
September 2, 2000



BOB SCHEIDERMAN



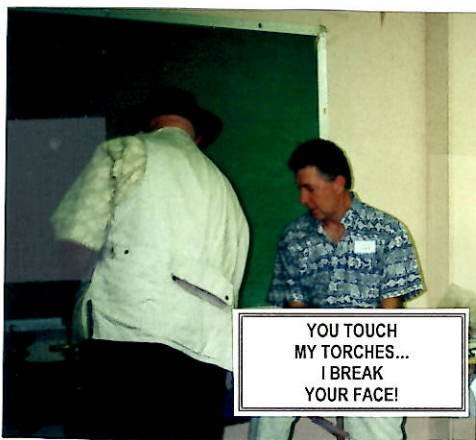
THE AUTHOR & LYNN SARPOLUS



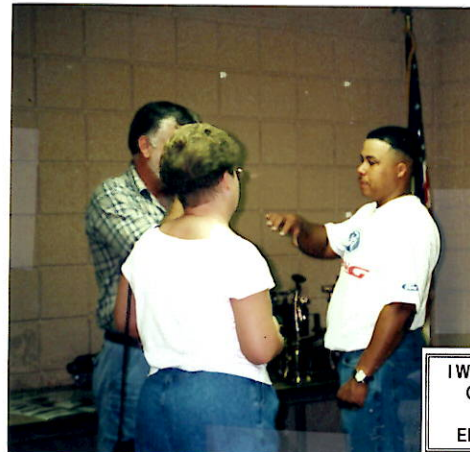
DICK SARPOLUS



RON CARR



YOU TOUCH
MY TORCHES...
I BREAK
YOUR FACE!



I WOULD TAKE A STACK
OF \$100 BILLS THIS
HIGH FOR MY
ENTIRE COLLECTION!