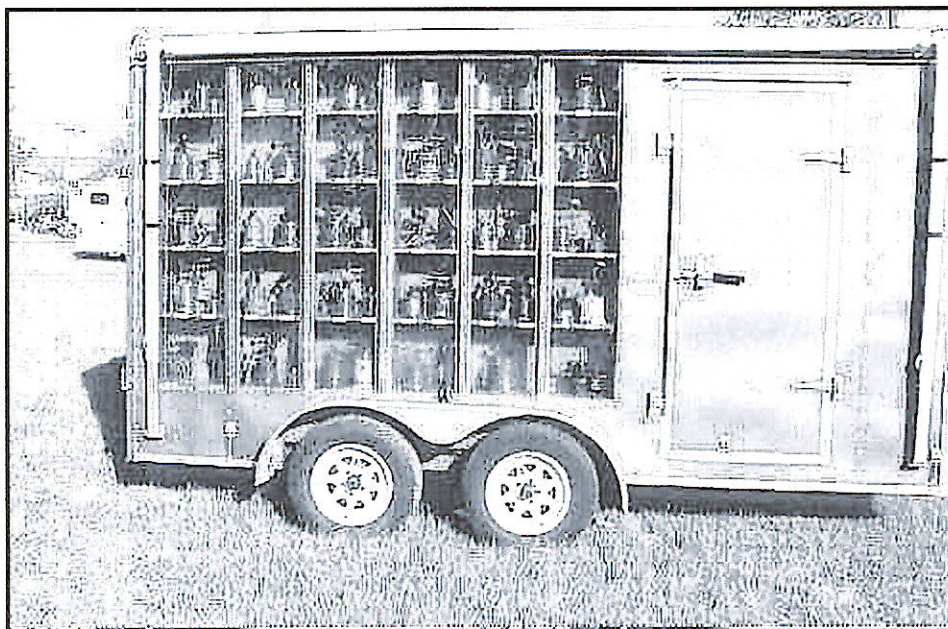


THE TORCH

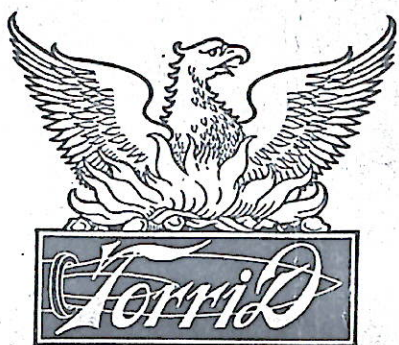
Newsletter Of The Blow Torch Collectors Association

- Issue #20 -

- June 2001 -



The Goodwin's ultimate blow torch display. (See story, page 2.)



Geo. Diener Mfg. Co. Trademark (See story, page 5.)

Other features in this issue:

Turner/White information –
Page 6

BTCA 4th Annual Convention –
Page 11

Preway re-visited –
Page 3

NEW MEMBERS

Alan & Sylvia Black, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England are 20+ year torch/lamp collectors. They also find time to collect pressure lamps, lanterns, and pressure stoves, and may consider "collecting houses" for a place to put all of their treasures.

Ron Bunting & Beau Sinkler, Sumner, Washington, are avid collectors with a modest collection of 85 torches that they started about 18 months ago. Ron is the torch collector while Beau boasts a growing soldering iron collection that numbers over 125 coppers.

Andrew Feast, Surry, England, is a long time torch (lamp) collector, and is also a member of the Blowlamp Collectors Group in England.

Christian Jensen, Granville, Massachusetts, is a 5-year collector with a collection in excess of 180 torches. He picked up his first torch, a Sievert, at a flea market and refinished it, and now Christian cannot pass up flea markets.

John Meyers, Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania, just started his torch collection in April of this year after reading about blow torches in Dick Sarpolus' recently published Blow Torch Collectors book. John also collects soldering irons to compliment his torch collection.

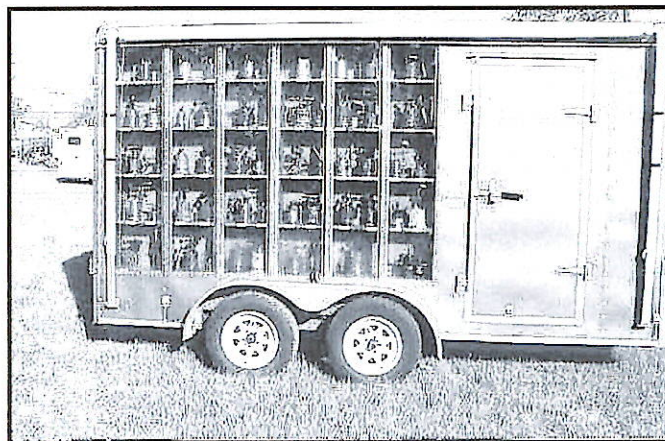
Jim Minton, San Mateo, California, is a 4-year collector with a modest collection that includes a torch that his dad used in the 1950's. It seems Jim has the collecting bug since he also collects electric fans, bottle/can openers, and metal boxes.

Peter Schmiedeberg, Bremen, Germany, is a 7-year collector with over 500 torches and lamps in his collection. Peter is an avid collector, and in addition to refinishing his torches, he frequently manufactures many missing parts. He is also a member of Club Des Amateurs D'Outils Anciens A Flamme, a French torch/lamp club, and is the first BTCA member from Germany.

TR Shelby, Jackson, Wyoming, is a new collector that just started his torch collection this year.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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↑ ULTIMATE TORCH DISPLAY ↑

Leroy and Nancy Goodwin take blow torch collecting serious...**very serious!** So much so that they had a special trailer designed to transport and display their torch collection as they travel around the country to various events. The redesign process included removing a portion of the metal skin on both sides of the trailer, and replacing it with Lexan, a very durable clear resin material. Shelves were added and were made accessible from the interior. The entire inner portion of the trailer can be utilized for storage and to transport purchases or other goods. Each of the torches is permanently mounted on the shelves for travel, but can be easily exchanged as new "prizes" are acquired. **We are sure that the trailer gets lots of attention as the Goodwin's travel the highways.**

Leroy is a second-generation blow torch collector and inherited his Dad's collection, although Leroy already had a modest before the inheritance. His dad purchased many of them for 25 cents (ah...the good old days!), and would bring them home to tease his wife who did not care to have "junk" brought into the house. Apparently she put up with his nonsense since he amassed a large collection over many years.

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☐ NOTES FROM ALL OVER ☐

Lloyd Weber sent in information on the Rio Grande Company, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Their catalog caters to the jewelry industry, however it includes a large variety of generic buffing supplies that would meet the needs of any blow torch refinisher. For a copy of their catalog, call 1-800-545-6566, or email www.riogrande.com.

Michel Duval provided updated information on his current torch collection that now includes 256 different manufacturers names, with a goal of reaching 300! Michel also sent in a page from a French lamp catalog, and ironically enough it includes an *INVINCIBLE MFG. CO.* torch that was manufactured in the USA. No US catalogs containing Invincible torches have surfaced to date. If you'll recall, Invincible was a new manufacturer that was recently added to the manufacturer list. It's also ironic to note that **Shelton McGuffie** of Oregon owns both of the only two known torches.

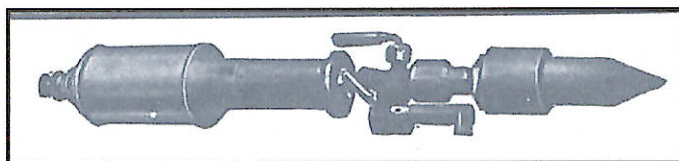
Ken Hartman sent in numerous blow torch operating instructions and a copy of a Central Scientific Company catalog that includes CENCO labeled blow torches. Central Scientific blow torches were most probably brand labeled by Clayton & Lambert or Turner.

Jim Minton sent in a great copy of the Harmic Besjet instructions. Copies are available if anyone desires a copy. Send to BTCA, a self-addressed, stamped #9 or #10 envelope with a note asking for the Harmic Besjet instructions.

Bob Sievert just sent in a newspaper article on the American Sanitary Plumbing Museum in Worcester, MA. It appears that in addition to plumbing fixtures, they display associated tools to the industry. Go check out the "Toilet Tour" and you may see one of those "best ever" blow torches!

Mike Thornhill gave us an insight in how he started his torch collection some 29 years ago. After seeing a few torches he decided to purchase two when his dad took him to an old farmer's junkyard. He paid an incredible sum of \$2.50 each! His first year he had six, then it grew to twenty...and they continued to procreate. He worked as a sales rep for scuba equipment and that took him to many Western states. He would always find time to visit the local flea markets and junk stores. His collection numbers over 300 today.

Mark Pedersen is at it again...and has produced a high quality replacement burner tube for Lenk alcohol torches (see Classified Ads). The burner tube is internally threaded and includes the side air holes. The burner tube has great quality and a good price. Mark also sent in a catalog sheet from 1915 that references the *LYON CONKLIN & CO.*, a manufacturer of a unique soldering iron torch. We continue to list the torch under *CONKLIN*, and they still are somewhat elusive since no one claims ownership of a *CONKLIN*. Are there any *CONKLIN* torches out there?



Lyon Conklin Self-Heating Soldering Iron/Torch



PREWAY

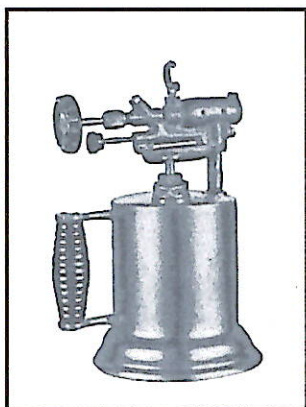
Graham Stubbs submitted copies of a Prentiss Wabers Products Company catalog, that includes **Preway** blow torches. It is listed as Catalog Number Fifteen, dated February 1, 1933, and covers products from the Prentiss Wabers Products Company, with main office and factory located in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Up until now, it was believed that Preway was a brand labeled blow torch, however, from the catalog information, it's reasonable to believe that Prentiss Wabers was actually the manufacturer.

The 1933 catalog lists information about Preway Products that includes cooking, lighting, and heating devices. They carried a complete line of camp stoves and camping equipment, such as two and three burner stoves, a folding oven, and even an automobile running-board icebox. Heating devices included burners, water heaters, and a steam sterilizer.

The catalog lists 5 blow torches, model numbers **S-44, S-45, 56, 51, and 50**. All of the models featured a one-quart seamless brass fuel tank, an "Always Cool" Bakelite valve knob (catalog refers to the valve knob as a hand-wheel), leak-proof air pump that was easily removed for filling fuel tank, a turned wood handle, and a removable soldering iron hook. It appears that none of the Preway torches featured a bottom fill access, and with top fill feature, a sizable funnel was required for a successful and safe fill.

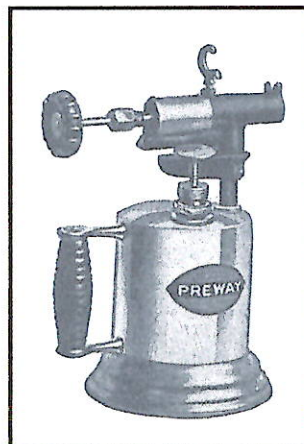
Each of the Preway torches featured what was described as a unique burner assembly with a removable needlepoint and self-cleaning gas orifice. A self-cleaning feature was an important selling point for blow torches since it was such a chore to disassemble the burner assembly and do a thorough cleaning. To the novice user...it was a difficult and very dirty job.

The self-cleaning feature was a cleaning needle that would move in and out of the orifice each time the torch was operated... a feature utilized by other torch manufacturers and not unique to Preway torches.



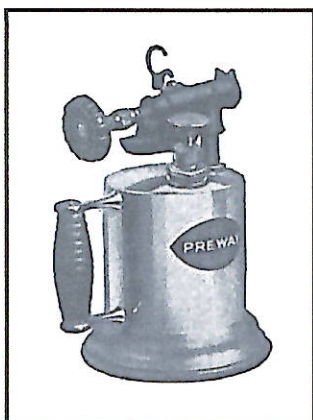
Preway
Model
S-45

S-45 is the lowest priced torch in the catalog, and listed for \$2.00. The S-45 is the only torch in the catalog that featured a bronzed finish, and it is assumed that it was a painted finish, a process that saved on manufacturing costs by not polishing the fuel tank.



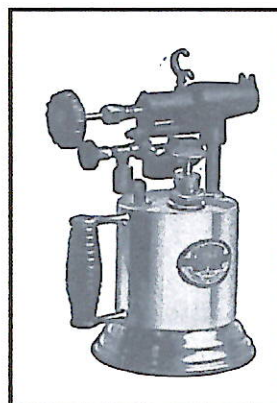
Preway
Model
51

Model # **51** was listed as weighing 4½ pounds, and it's difficult to determine much difference from model #56, other than the removable small brass windscreen over the back portion of the burner assembly. Model 51 retailed for \$2.75.



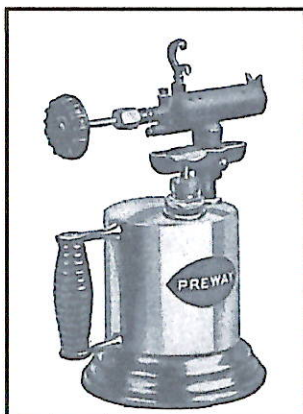
Preway
Model
S-44

The **S-44** model is the next lowest priced torch listed, and retailed for \$2.15. A polished brass fuel tank was provided along with all of the standard Preway torch features.



Preway
Model
50

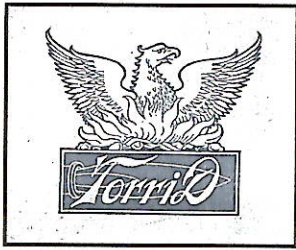
Model #**50** was the best that Preway offered, and weighed in at 5 pounds with a list price of \$3.85. The number 56 included the Preway Instant Lighter, a separate valve that quickly provided fuel into a small drip cup for immediate ignition.



Preway
Model
56

The Instant Lighter did not require the operator to pump up the fuel tank. Model #50 was also listed as having a burner head made with 87% to 90% copper content, and it is unknown if the other models also included the same burner assembly materials.

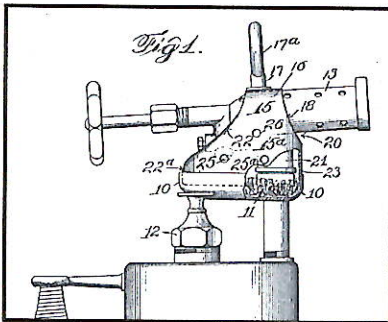
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GEO. DIENER MFG. COMPANY

A 1930 Geo. Diener catalog submitted by **Graham Stubbs** provides an insight into the company and its' products. Oddly enough, the company's name was always listed as Geo. and never George, and since the 1930 catalog was number 30, it's assumed that the company issued a new catalog each year except two since the company was established in 1899.

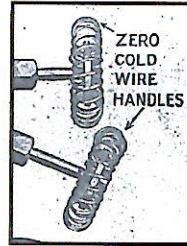
The Geo. W. Diener Mfg. Co., located in Chicago, Illinois, began manufacturing products in late 1899, and continued manufacturing blow torches and furnaces (fire pots) into the 1930's. The Geo. Diener Co. adopted the word *TORRID* and the associated artwork as their trademark and it was proudly stamped onto each product shipped.



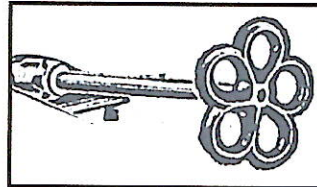
Geo. Diener Mfg. Co.
Patented Windscreen
Patent no. 1,730,648
October 8, 1929

There was only one known patent issued to the Diener Company on October 8, 1929, patent number 1,730,648. It detailed a somewhat unique wind and generating shield, a device that would allow the user to start up and operate a Diener torch in a strong wind. The difficulty with all gasoline or kerosene blow torches is to generate (or start) them in cold weather, particularly in a wind, and impossible in a high wind without protecting the burner assembly. High winds result in an under-generated or under-heated torch, which does not burn properly. The Diener windshield design included perforations in the sheet steel housing to serve as an air mixer, inducing the proper amount of oxygen to the burner as well as retaining the heat in the burner assembly.

Diener torch features included one-piece needle valves that helped to reduce point breakage, and promoted a firm seal. Handles were made from coiled steel, and were advertised as being superior to loose or wobbly wood handles. The valve handle(s) were also made from coiled steel, and utilized a smaller diameter wire and wound farther apart for cooler operation. Some of the general purpose, lower priced Diener torches were provided with a cast iron valve handle, shaped like a five-leaf clover.

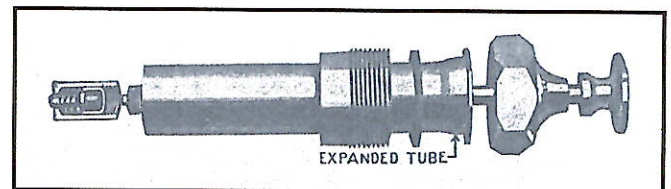


Geo. Diener Mfg. Co.
Wire-wound valve handles



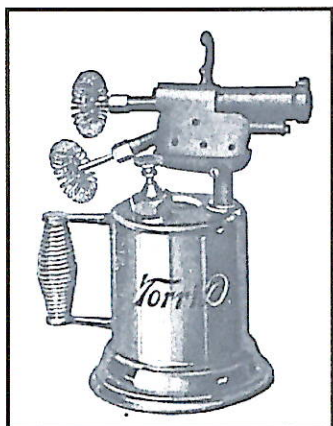
Geo. Diener Mfg. Co.
Cast iron valve handle

Another comment in the Diener catalog refers to the torch finish prior to shipment. The company discontinued polishing the torch parts, indicating that polishing reduced the thickness of the parts, and had a tendency to harden metal, which could result in cracking. In lieu of polishing, the fuel tanks were finished in a bronze lacquer.



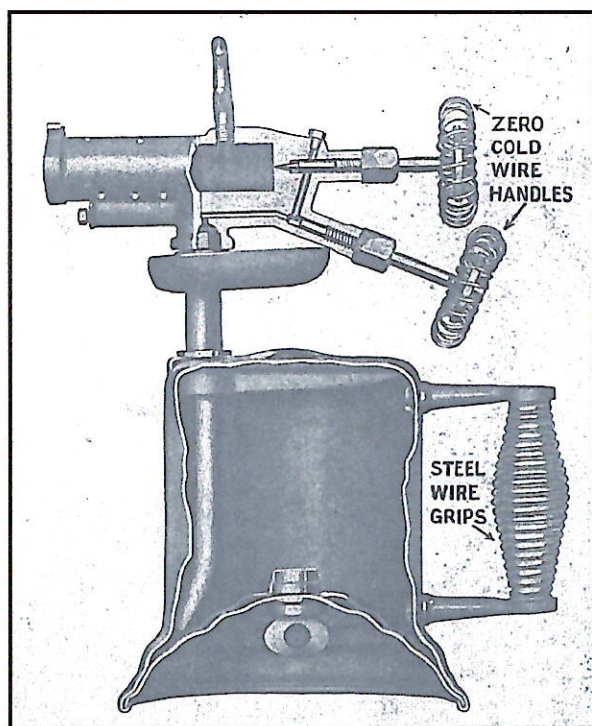
Geo. Diener Mfg. Co.
Pump assembly with hexagon nut

The one unique feature to a Diener torch, other than the *TORRID* trademark, was the shape of the air pump cap nut. They are the only known manufacturer to utilize that style of a hexagon shaped nut with a tapered top, and an easy identifier of any Diener blow torch. A useful design of the pump assembly featured an expanded or flared end. This feature allowed easy replacement of the pump plunger, and significantly reduced damage to the leather cup washers.



Geo. Diener Mfg. Co.
Model no. 250
Dual Needle Valve Torch

Diener produced two dual needle valve blow torches, nos. 250 and 252, the only different being that the no. 250 would operate with either gasoline or kerosene. In operation, the lower valve controlled the fuel flow and the upper valve cleaned the orifice, although either could regulate the flame. Like many other manufacturers, Diener designed its burner assembly with a lower chamber, or auxiliary gas chamber, that was located just below the burner tube, which superheated the fuel into a vapor for hotter operation.



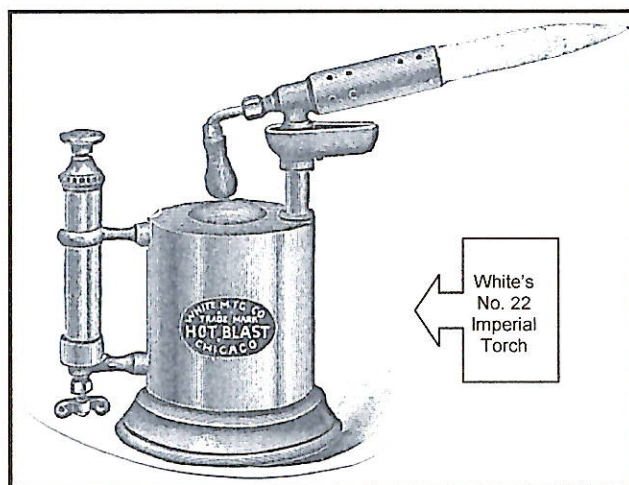
Geo. Diener Mfg. Co.
Burner/Valve details



TURNER REVISITED

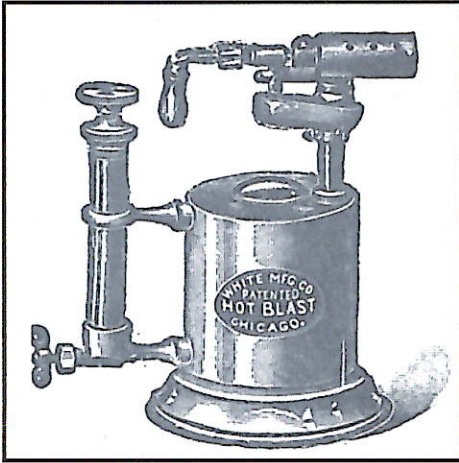
The history of the Turner Brass Works was featured in *THE TORCH*, issue #16, and since that article, more information has come forward that warrants sharing. As the result of a recent 1905 Turner catalog acquisition, more details on WHITE MFG. CO. torches are available. The 104 page catalog, dated March, 1905, was produced 13 months after Turner officially acquired The White Manufacturing Company, and includes Turner "Double Jet" and White "Hot Blast" torches.

No known White Mfg. Co. torch catalog has surfaced to date, but from this Turner catalog, one can get a glimpse of what the White catalog would have contained. The White Manufacturing Company had a flair for naming their products, and that included their blow torch line. Some of the unique names adopted for blow torches included, *Fire Fly*, *Defiance*, *Imperial*, *Handy Andy*, *Honesty*, *Pony*, and our favorite....*Terror*. There are over 20 newly identified White/Turner torches that will be included in an updated Turner index due out later this year by **Graham Stubbs**. Here are a few of those newly identified torches:



No. 22, White's Imperial Torch

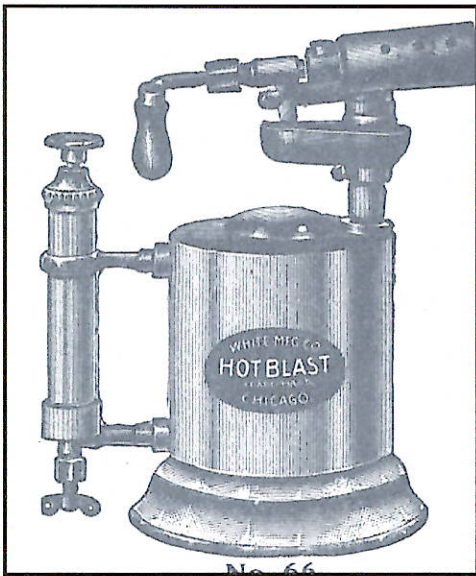
A one-quart torch with a seamless 18-gauge brass fuel tank, fuel fill in the bottom, and air pump in the handle. It's interesting to note that most of the White torches have a separate air shutoff valve in the bottom of the air pump, an indication of an earlier design, circa late 1800's. The Imperial torch was designed with a 1500° F solid blue flame for burning off paint, thawing pipes, copper solder joints, etc.



White's
No. 71
Defiance
Torch

No. 71, White's Defiance Torch

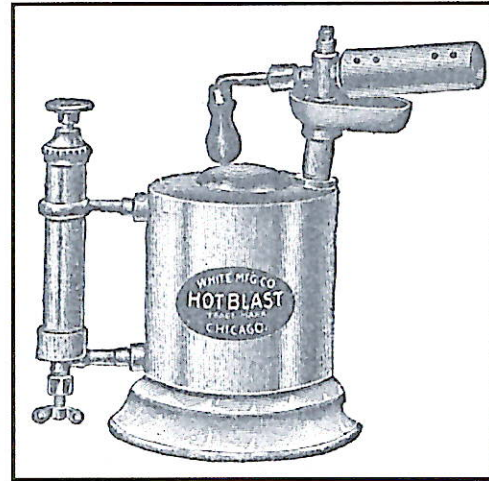
The Defiance was a one-pint size torch with a highly polished brass fuel tank; fill in the bottom, and air pump in the handle. You'll notice that the air shutoff valve for pint size torches is located in a horizontal position due to the limited space under the handle. The Defiance generated a 2000° F flame suitable for electricians and painters, and consumed fuel at the rate of ¼ pint per hour.



White's
No. 66
Fire Fly
Torch

No. 66, White's Fire Fly Torch

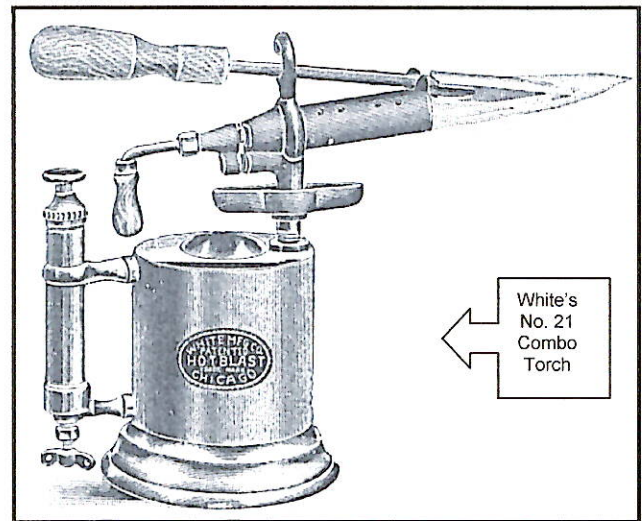
A one-quart size brass fuel tank, and supplied with an improved burner, however there is no description as to why it is a different burner from the other models. This was a moderately priced torch at \$3.75, and it appears that it was a general purpose model suitable for most of the trades.



White's
No. 59
Terror
Torch

No. 59, White's Terror Torch

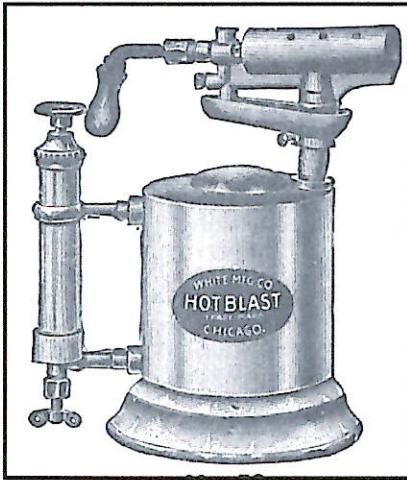
The Terror was a one-quart size torch supplied with a highly polished brass tank, and reasonably priced at \$3.50. There is no indication as to why White named this torch the Terror since it appears to be somewhat of a generic design. There are no special features or unique burner characteristics, so perhaps they needed a "punchy" name to offset the simple design.



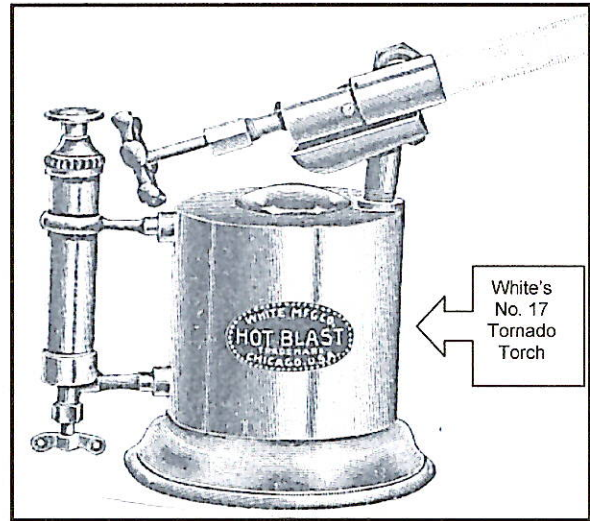
White's
No. 21
Combo
Torch

No. 21, White's Combination Torch

A one-quart torch with an 18-gauge brass fuel tank that included a removable soldering iron hook. The burner assembly was advertised as a new-patented coil principle, vaporizing all of the gasoline above the tank. The flame passed through the coil around the burner tube and generated a strong steady flame at all times. Because of the strength of the flame, it was suitable for windy conditions. The 2000° F flame was popular with the trades that included conduit workers, electricians, and pattern workers. The torch listed for \$5.50 and consumed ½ pint per hour.



White's
No. 52
Street
Lighting
Torch



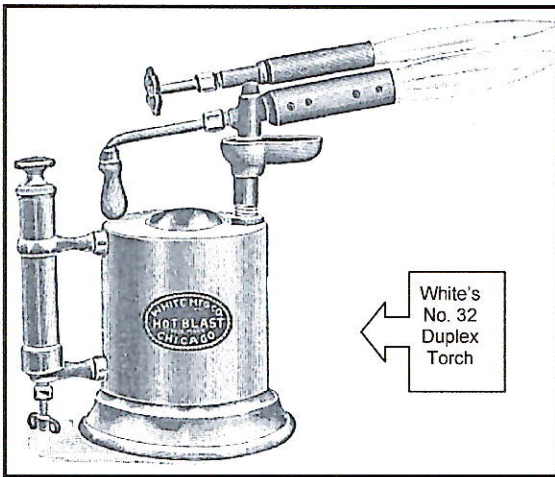
White's
No. 17
Tornado
Torch

No. 52, White's Street Lighting Torch

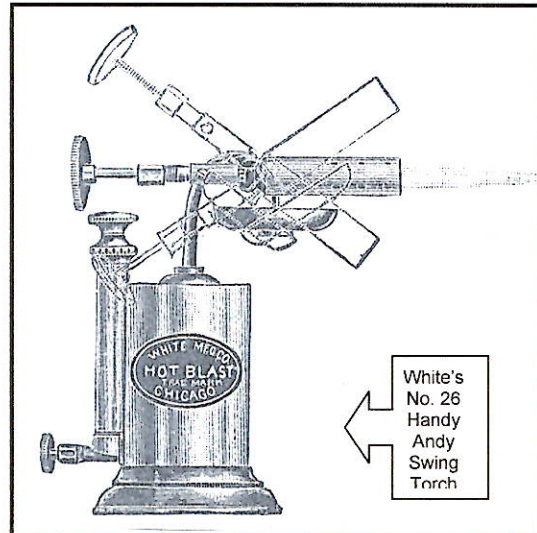
This torch boasted a three-pint capacity brass fuel tank, with a heavy steel corrugated bottom. It was described as the perfect torch for general street lighting purposes, and guaranteed to burn in the wind and/or zero degree weather. The burner assembly was designed and cast with extra support to withstand rough usage, and would produce a 2500° F flame.

No. 17, White's Tornado Torch

The Tornado was a standard one-quart brass blow torch, but it was supplied with a swivel joint on the burner assembly. The burner construction featured a flat assembly to form a wide flame suitable for use by painters, toolmakers, and mechanics. The swivel joint allowed the user to position the flame in various positions in a vertical plane.



White's
No. 32
Duplex
Torch



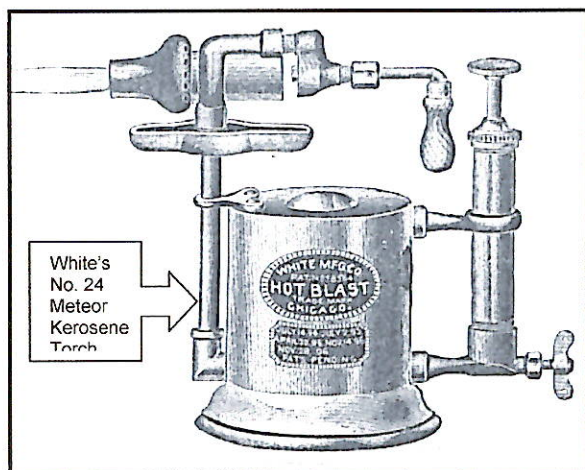
White's
No. 26
Handy
Andy
Swing
Torch

No. 32, White's Duplex Torch

The Duplex was a one-quart torch with an unusual feature of two burner assemblies. The lower burner was for heavy work, and the upper burner produced a smaller flame for lighter work. Both worked independently or together for maximum heat generation. What was also unique was once the torch was lit and burning, the second burner assembly could be ignited from the the other burner since they both shared the same gas supply tube. This is one of the very few two-burner US torches, and is considered very rare.

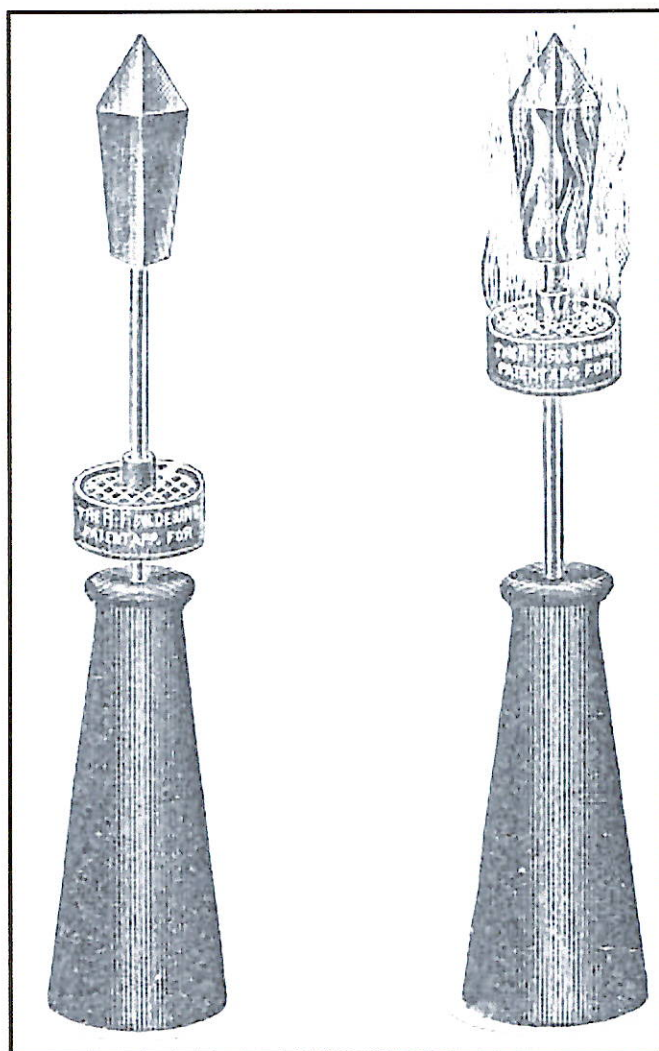
No. 26, White's Handy Andy Swing Torch

This needle flame torch has a fuel capacity of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pint, and the burner assembly was designed so that the flame could be adjusted down to a needlepoint. The burner assembly was operated on a swivel joint for adjustment in the vertical plane, and was well suited for dentists, jewelers, electrical workers, and pattern makers. The fuel tank was made with nickel plated brass, and the torch consumed $\frac{1}{8}$ pint per hour.



No. 24, White's Meteor Kerosene Torch

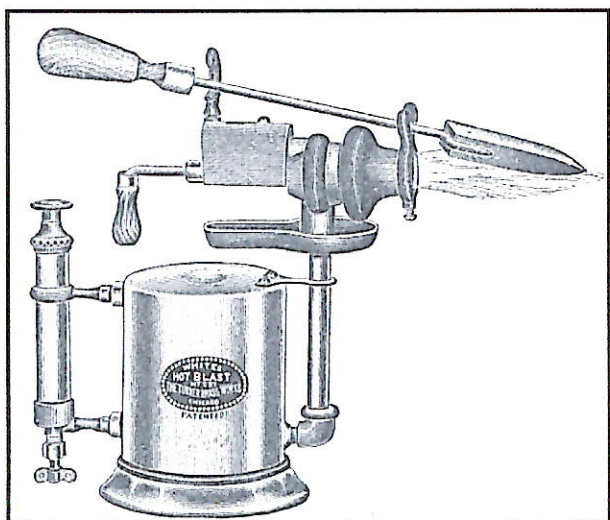
This was a one-pint kerosene-burning torch designed for general work. The burner assembly was designed to produce a 2000° F flame that was capable of melting copper wire 5/16 inch thick in the open flame. The flame could also be adjusted to a fine point and was entirely devoid of smoke at all times. The generator was easily removed and cleaned, and it was apparently an important feature for kerosene torches.



The Turner "R-F" Soldering Copper

This unique soldering iron was listed as a self-heater soldering device. It was a small device, 7 1/2 inches high, weighing only four ounces, and was designed to sit firmly on any flat surface when the iron was being heated. The operator would raise the alcohol cup up to just under the copper, fill the cup with alcohol or gasoline, and ignite. In just a few minutes the copper would be hot enough to complete small soldering tasks without the inconvenience of starting a plumber's fire pot or gasoline blow torch. Michael J. Stark, the inventor of the Combined Soldering iron & Heater, assigned the patent to Charles C. Reckitt and Thomas R. Ferris...hence the name; "R-F" Soldering Copper. The device listed for \$1.50 each.

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No. 25, White's Combination Hand Brazier Torch

This was one of White's behemoth torches that produced a very large hot flame. Because of the large size of the burner assembly, the torch was one of the heaviest in the one-quart capacity, and weighed in at 7 pounds...two pounds over the weigh of a standard torch of the same capacity! The torch listed for \$7.00 and did not include the soldering copper.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Trades Wanted: **Peter Schmiedeberg** is interested in trading torches/lamps. Contact Peter at Ladestr. 24/26, 28197 Bremen, Germany, or email at: Peter.Schmiedeberg@freenet.de

For Sale: Three blow torches for sale, all in excellent condition, one Otto Bernz, two unknown. One unknown has a dual valve system. All have brass fuel tanks, wooden handles, Bakelite fuel valve control knobs, and air pumps in fuel tank. Contact Jeff Justis, 4209 Walnut Grove Street, Memphis, TN 38117, or call 901-767-1697.

For Sale: A one-quart size Otto Bernz brass blow torch. This one is in excellent condition, has a turned wood handle, a wire-wound valve knob, pump in the fuel tank, and a small brass wind screen that covers the rear of the burner assembly. The torch carries a patent date of November 15, 1918, and the decal is in very good condition. Best offer gets this good looking beauty by contacting Mary Kohout, PO Box 1762, New Port Richey, Florida 34656, or call 727-868-2655.

For Sale: Will sell 5 blow torches at minimal prices and will sell individually or as a group. One Clayton & Lambert brass quart size, red wood handle, and pump in fuel tank. Two Otto Bernz brass quart size, wood handle, and pump in fuel tank. One Red Dragon quart size, wood handle, and pump in fuel tank. One Merit pint size, and one Lenk alcohol torch are also available. Will sell or will trade for any Stanley or similar woodworking planes. Interested individuals should contact: Gerry Halpern, 485 Clearmeadow Drive, E. Meadow, NY 11554, or call 516-731-0645, or email to Thalpern@juno.com

Wanted: The small "pre-heater" knob for a Sievert Type 251, and the burner knob for a Sievert Type 222. Both knobs are held in place with a cotter pin. Contact **Dave Schulte**, 14476 Dodgeville Road, Sperry, Iowa 52650, or email to: schulte3@mepotelco.net.

For Sale: Two quart size blow torches, one Otto Bernz and one Turner Brass Works. The Bernz torch has the pump in the handle with an all brass fuel tank. The torch includes a soldering iron hook and overall is in excellent condition. The Turner torch is somewhat newer with a black wood handle, Bakelite knob, windscreen over the burner head and in very good condition. Interested individuals should contact Michael Latham, 3 Ball Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379, phone 860-599-2912, or email to wml12138@aol.com.

For Sale: Approximately 130 blow torches of various makes and models. US manufacturer names that include Turner, Clayton & Lambert, Otto Bernz, P. Wall, Detroit Torch, Huffman, Unique, Shapleigh Hardware, Hauck, American Stove, Geo. Diener, Coleman, Lakeside, Craftsman, National Safety, Lenk, and Hercules. Non US labels include British Monitor, Vulcano-Alemania, Buflam, Sievert, and Burmos. There are quart sizes, pint sizes, auto torches, Pistol grips, many brass, some steel, some polished, and a few incomplete. Will sell individually or as one lot. Contact **Kenny Wilson**, 5322 SW Reeder Street, Topeka, Kansas 66604-2095, or call 785-273-5616.

To Be Auctioned: A total of eight torches will be auctioned at a public auction in York, Nebraska on July 7 and 8. Absentee bids can be arranged with the auctioneer, Tom Bailey at 402-362-7653. There would be a 5% fee plus shipping costs for absentee bids. The torches can be viewed on line at www.photopoint.com. After entering the site, enter email address dgalaway@gte.net in the "visit friends albums" box to view the torches. You can also email dgalaway@gte.net for any questions or call 316-529-2044.

Wanted: **Lloyd Weber** is in dire need of a Shapleigh Hardware brass emblem from any Shapleigh Hardware blow torch. The brass emblem is soldered to the front of the fuel tank, and is a wide diamond shaped plate, with Shapleigh Hardware embossed as well as a round small circle in the middle with rays emanating from the center. Lloyd would accept any Shapleigh fuel tank, and would remove the plate. Please contact Lloyd at 7635 Alden Way, Fridley, Minnesota 55432, 763-572-82-158, or email lweber1@mn.rr.com.

Wanted: **John Tingle** is looking for an early Turner Brass Works fuel tank assembly, complete with the pump in the handle. Any tank assembly for a Turner model 92, 93, 95, 96, 97, 203, 215, 223, or 224 would be preferred. John is at Prospect House, 47 Wrington Road, Congresbury, North Somerset, England BS49 5AS, or call 01934 832267, or email to emily@alice13.fsnet.co.uk.

For Sale: An Ashton Mfg. Co. quart size brass blow torch. The pump handle top is embossed "Ashton Mfg. Co., Model 43, Newark, NJ". The air pump is in the handle and is all brass. Make best offer to Donald Skarda, 1002 Vine Street, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965, or call 608-254-7236.

Replacement Parts for Sale: Replacement burner tubes are available for Lenk models 104, 105, and 350. The brass tubes are ½ inch O.D. and 2¼ inches long, and are internally threaded 26 T.D.I. Price is \$4 each plus \$1 postage. The quality is superb, and with a few nicks and scratches...would look like an original burner tube. Send orders to **Mark Pedersen**, 612 SW High

Avenue, Mill City, Oregon 97360, 503-897-3101, or email pedrleen@webtv.net.

Wanted: **Dave Schulte** is looking for an Everhot branding iron or any of the Everhot devices that are attached to the end of the burner assembly. Dave can be contacted at 14476 Dodgeville Road, Sperry, IA 52650, call 319-985-2535, or email to: schulte3@mepotelco.net.

For Sale: A small dual-tank Lenk alcohol torch, in very good condition. Includes original box and operating instructions in excellent condition. Best offers to Kirsten Parrish, 1500 Springpoint Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732-9556, or call 803-327-9157, or email to: kirstenparrish@yahoo.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 1/4 or 3/16th-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, call 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 8th Ave. NW, Austin, Minnesota 55912, or call 507-437-3839. Remember that Dave also has a Turner Brass Works Co. decal available, same price.

The **CLASSIFIED ADS** is a supplement to *THE TORCH*, and is available for advertising to all members of the Blow Torch Collectors Association in good standing, at no charge. Advertising for all non-BTCA members is available on request. Contact Ron Carr, 3328 258th Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075, (425) 557-0634, or email at: roncarr@prodigy.net

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BTCA WEST COAST CONVENTION

Mark and Arlene Petersen, and Maurice and Norma Jernstedt have made arrangements for the 4th Annual BTCA West Coast Convention on Saturday, September 15, 2001. The event will be held at the Antique Powerland Museum and is located just north of Salem, Oregon. Salem is approximately a 30 minute drive south of Portland. Details, driving instructions, and accommodations will be provided in a separate letter along with an attendance form.

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THE TORCH

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Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr
Graham Stubbs

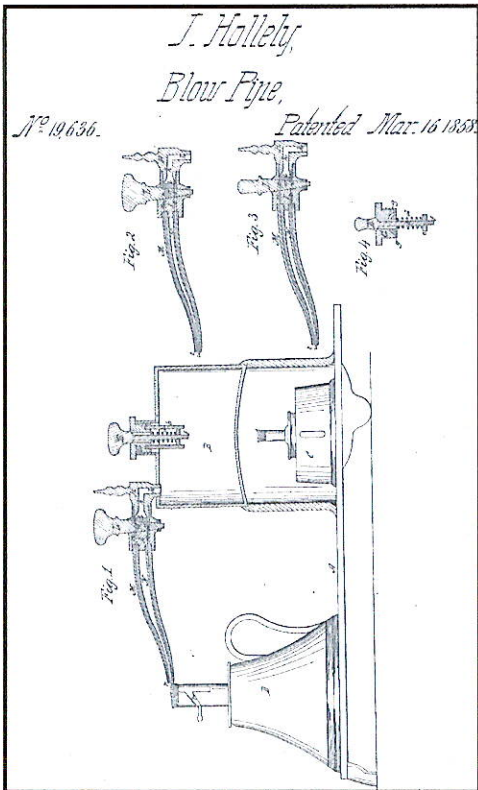
THE PURPOSE of BTCA is to preserve the history of blow torches and related equipment, to encourage the identification, classification, and exhibiting of such equipment, also to promote the study and better understanding of operation, purpose, and application.

MEMBERSHIP in BTCA is open to any person sharing its interests and purposes. For membership information, write to: Ron Carr, 3328 258th Avenue SE, Sammamish, WA 98075-9173, email to: 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 to: gstubbs222@aol.com, or by phone at: (619) 487-3025.

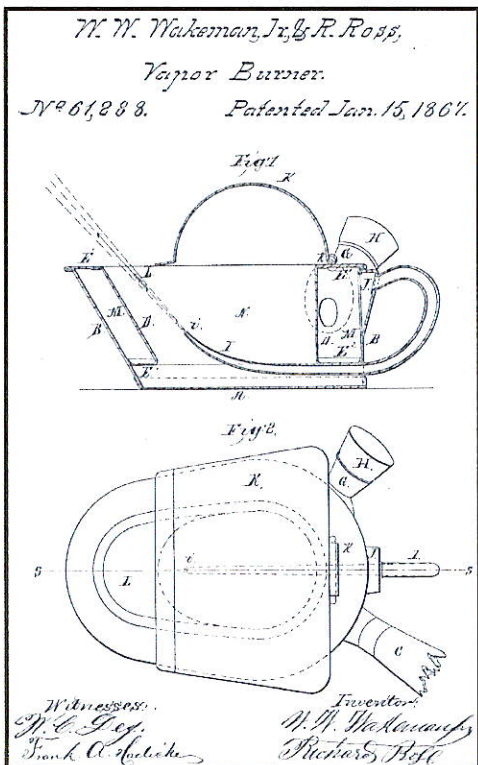
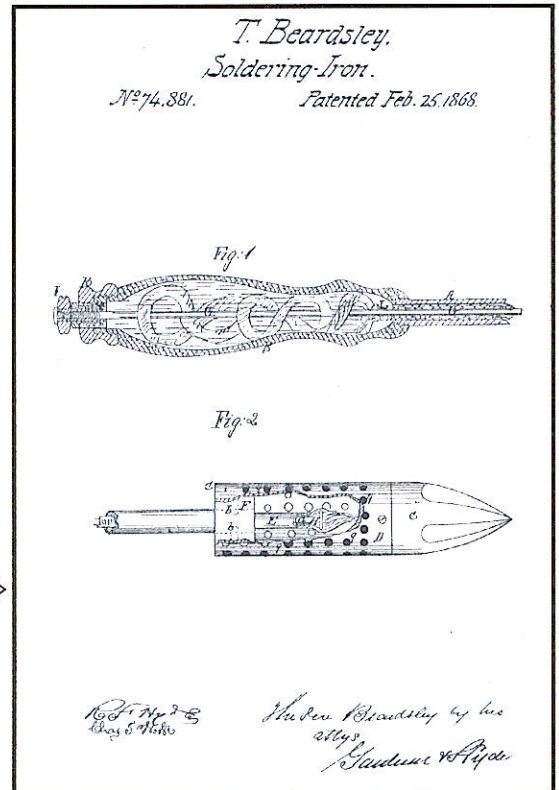
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MID 1800'S BLOW TORCH RELATED US PATENTS



Very early
blow pipe
designed
with a
safety valve

Early crude
design of a
soldering iron
torch



Patent details
featured this
vapor burner
as a paint
burner.

This soldering
device was
heated by
coal that
burned within
the container.

