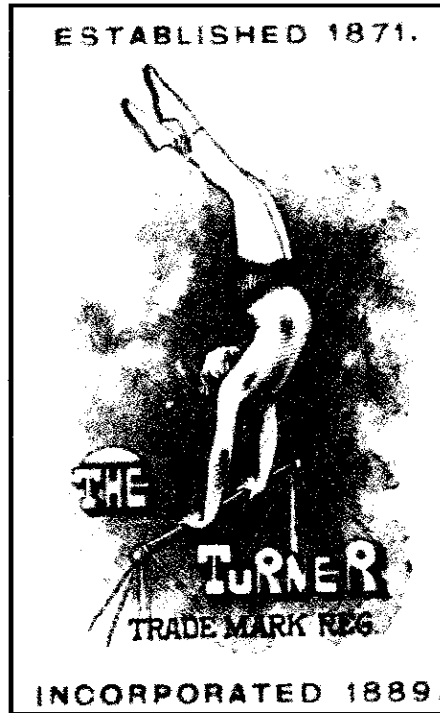


# THE TORCH

Newsletter of The Blow Torch Collectors Association

- Issue #22 -

- March 2002 -



Turner Trade Mark, circa 1890's, see page 9



The  
Coleman  
Story,

See  
Page 8.

## Other features in this issue:

Revised C&L Blow Torch Index  
Page 10

Volcano Erupts Again  
Page 7

Imperial Two  
Page 5

Magic Fluid  
Page 4

# NEW MEMBERS

**Michael Burnham**, from Lebanon, Connecticut.

**David Clarke**, from Essex, England.

**Robert Foshee**, Jacksonville, Florida is a relatively new collector with over 60 torches in his one-year collection. *"My brother had a lamp made from a quart size Clayton & Lambert blow torch about 10 years ago. I was looking for another hobby for retirement, and for some reason that old torch sparked my interest."* Robert also tinkers with his 1963 ½ Ford Falcon Futura, a real classic!

**Gil Klecan**, from San Diego, California.

**Ashley Kennedy**, Evanston, Illinois is an "accumulator" of stuff, including blow torches. In addition to torches, Ash also has a fair assortment of Lufkin, Starrett, and Brown & Sharpe machinists hand tools. For 15 years he was an antiquarian bookseller (used book seller) and has recently retired after a stint as a manufacturing engineer.

**Andre' LeFrancois** is a 2-year collector with a modest torch collection. Andre' is retired and has a complete welding and machine shop at home...every man's dream! Not only does he restore his blow torches, but also creates lamps out of old brass fire extinguishers. From photos, it appears that Andre' Enterprises also creates unusual custom lamps from a variety of parts.

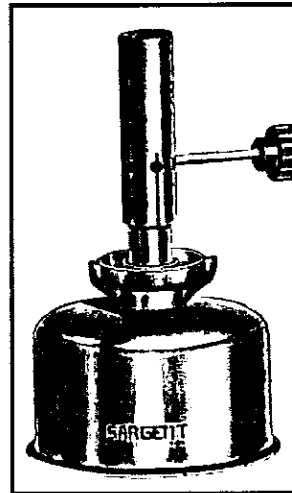
**Fred Morton** is a 3-year torch collector from O'Fallon, Missouri with a modest collection to date. He found his first torch in an antique shop and from then on he was hooked on torches.

**Dr. George Schumann**, San Diego, California, began about 15 years ago collecting brass pots and oil lamps and transitioned into blow torches. His modest torch collection is mostly polished and all displayed. Dr. George sent in a surefire brass-cleaning recipe that's guaranteed to easily strip off years of crud (see article in this issue).

**Erv Vogel**, from Waunakee, Wisconsin.

**Dale Wickline**, from Marysville, Ohio.

**WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!**



**HUMBOLDT MFG. CO.**  
Laboratory Torch

Also sold under the name of:

**Precision Scientific**  
**Sargent**  
**LaPine**

Photo submitted by Ashley Kennedy

## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

**Ashley Kennedy** sent in additional information on the HUMBOLDT MFG. CO., Norridge, Illinois. We now have data indicating that Humboldt brand-labeled their laboratory torch to at least three other distributors, PRECISION SCIENTIFIC, LAPINE, and SARGENT. A Humboldt laboratory torch listed on ebay first confirmed the manufacturers name. **Chase McKnight** sent in the LaPine version, and Ashley supplied a Sargent Company catalog sheet, and also has a laboratory torch with Humboldt stamped in to the bottom, and Precision Scientific stamped in to the burner tube. Humboldt is still in business in Norridge, Illinois and continues to manufacture laboratory burners, although the referenced torch was last produced in 1975.

A NEW BLOW TORCH  
MODEL?

Newspaper article  
sent in by  
Larry Fields

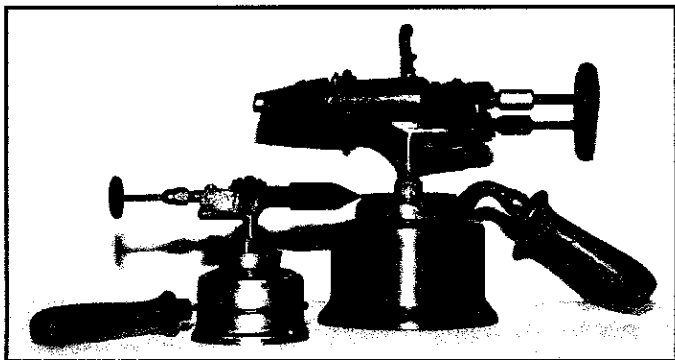
**Business Gone Cold  
with the Weather?**

**Let Us  
Help You  
Fire it Up!**



**Franklin's**  
Printing • Digital Imaging • Copying  
on Pomona

**Larry Fields** sent in an interesting advertisement from Greensboro, NC's only newspaper, *The Rhinoceros Times* (see page 2). The newspaper's motto is "All the rumors fit to print", and after reading much of the newspaper, their motto appears quite appropriate. It's difficult to determine what model blow torch was used for the ad, but considering the configuration, it has to be an original, and a never-before-seen manufacturer!

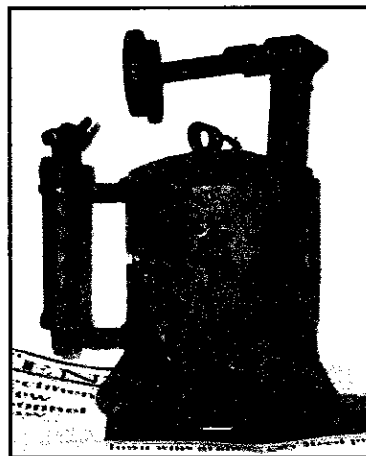


**National Pumpless Mfg. Co**  
Also sold under the name of  
**Baumgarth Safety Pumpless**  
Photo submitted by John Jaress

**Keith Hawkins** sent in a note describing a BAUMGARTH SAFETY "PUMPLESS" torch, from Chicago, Illinois. At the same time, **Ashley Kennedy** sent in a *Pulver Machinists Supply* catalog with photos of Baumgarth pumpless torches. Up until now we have only known these pumpless torches as being supplied by the NATIONAL PUMPLESS BLOWTORCH CO., Cleveland, Ohio. Based on literature from the National Pumpless Co., we are under the assumption that National brand-labeled for the Baumgarth Co.

You know you are a die-hard blow torch collector when this happens to you. **Dr. Lloyd Webber**, AKA – The2thmann, was aware of the last newsletter mailing date, and called Patti his wife from his office to see if *THE TORCH* had arrived. She said no, so he went back to treating patients. (One would wonder if she had said yes...would The2thmann have left his patients waiting in the chair and rushed home?) When Lloyd arrived at home that evening, he walked into the kitchen and

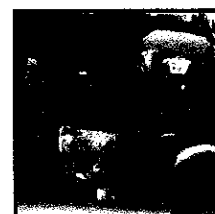
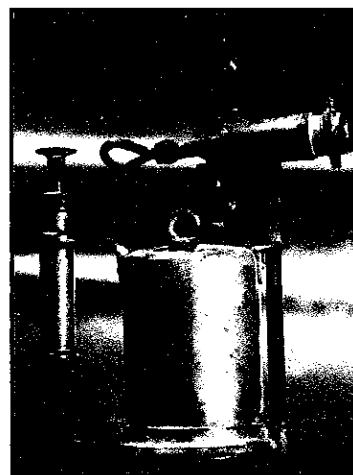
there was the latest issue of *THE TORCH* surrounded by burning votive candles!



**KANT-RUST OILER**

Photo submitted by  
**Dick Bernard**

**Dick Bernard** and **Larry Fields** sent in photos and information on KANT-RUST oilers. From previous information, we believe that the Turner Brass Works brand-labeled the oiler for the KANT-RUST Co., although no information exists that KANT-RUST was a company or a distributor. The photos sent in by Dick and Larry clearly shows the typical older style Turner cast brass valve knob. In Dick's photo, the oiler has an after-market modification for an outside air source.



**Chris Bayer** sent in superb photos of a very early QUICKMEAL blow torch. Note the very small drip cup and the unusual angled air valve at the base of the air pump. It appears to be in near perfect condition, however, there may have been a wood valve knob over the wire loop.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

# MAGIC FLUID

One of our newest members, **Dr. George Schumann**, submitted a recipe for cleaning brass...the Magic Fluid. He read in Dick Sarpolus' book that there was no known magic liquid that would strip off a hundred years of corrosion from blow torches. George commented that he would be "paying his dues to BTCA" by providing a formula for THE magic fluid, a mixture that will remove almost any degree of baked-on, oxidized, or fused carbon soot and oil varnish.

## THE FORMULA

8 ounces 28% commercial-strength ammonia  
(sold by blueprint supply stores)  
4 ounces oleic acid (sold by most  
pharmacies)  
4 ounces liquid detergent  
2 ounces acetone (available in hardware  
stores)  
¾ gallons water

1. Add the oleic acid to the water and mix well.
  2. Then add the detergent and acetone and mix.
  3. Then slowly add the ammonia while mixing. Some "clumping" may result as the ammonia is added.
- Allow the mixture to "age" for three to four days before using.
  - Shake or stir well before using.
  - To pep up aging solutions, add new ammonia.
  - When using the solution indoors, keep it in a tightly closed container.
  - Store the solution in a brown bottle or keep away from light.

## CAUTION

**Always work in a well-ventilated area**

**Always protect your eyes**

**Use gloves**

**Do not leave parts in the solution too long, twenty minutes is usually sufficient, but highly corroded parts may take longer**

## HELPFUL HINTS

Try blowing warm air from a portable hair dryer to drive moisture out of tiny crevices in the parts. Use four-aught (0000) fine steel wool to burnish the cleaned brass parts. Commercial-strength ammonia fumes are undeniably obnoxious, but the results of this cleaning solution are worth enduring the temporary unpleasantness. The telltale smell evaporates shortly.

## COMMENTS FROM DR. GEORGE

*"The most corroded brass, bronze, or copper part will come out of a one-two hour soak looking like 'newly minted gold' with only a gentle rubdown with 0000 steel wool, and perhaps some urging with a brass brush on the tough-to-reach places. Ordinary crud is removed within a few minutes, and a wipe with steel wool. This stuff is really potent and one should wear rubber gloves, but I have not experienced any problems in handling parts coated with the solution. It's best to do the cleaning work outdoors...the ammonia fumes are...WOW! Also, the solution eats up leather pump washers and cotton wicks, so it's best to leave them out of any long soaks."*

*"The mixture seems to have little affect on clean metal, but dissolves only the oxidized layer, and any engravings, and die stamped letters come out sharp and clear. It's best to give the deeply imbedded burner parts an overnight soak"*

The brass-cleaning recipe originated from *How To Restore Your Collector Car, 1984, pages 148-149. Brownell-Motorbooks International, Osceola, WI 54020.*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

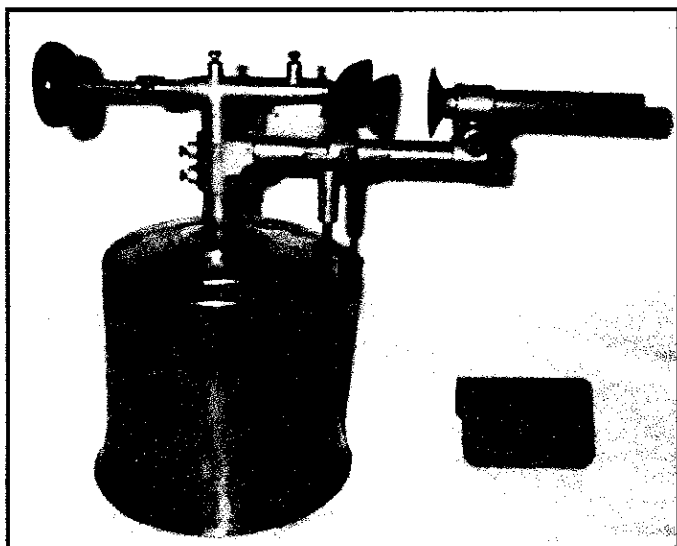
## REVISED INDEX FOR THE TORCH

Our Contributing Editor, Graham Stubbs, has revised the index for THE TORCH that was previously distributed in issue #16, March 2000. The enclosed index includes all references to articles, torch manufacturers, and appendices that were printed in all past issues up to and including issue #21, December 2001. You'll find the index indispensable when it comes to finding a particular article or torch photo. Graham arranged the index in an easy-to-read format that provides the user with a quick research tool. Great job Graham!

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

# WHEN IT RAINS...

It pours! Within a few months of each other, **Chris Jensen** and **Mel Olson** sent in the same information and photos of newly discovered blow torch manufacturer! Chris' first letter provided a multitude of detail for this most unusual blow torch that was manufactured by the ENTERPRISE OPTICAL COMPANY, Chicago, IL.



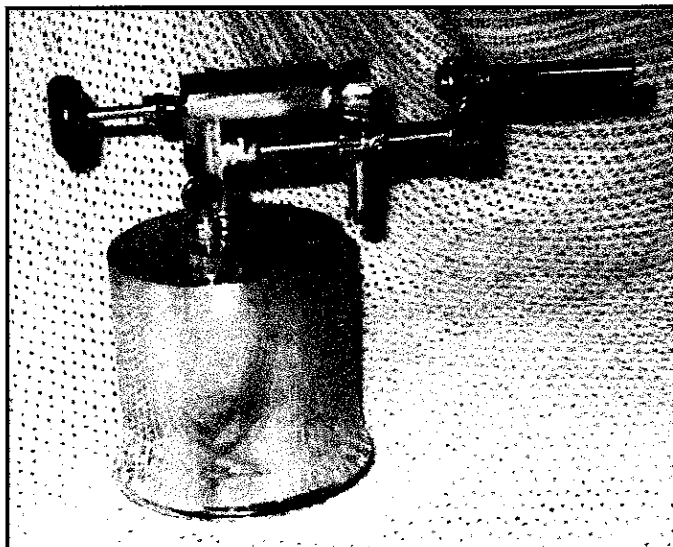
ENTERPRISE OPTICAL CO.  
Photo submitted by Chris Jensen  
(Torch is shown with wind screen removed)

The fuel tank is approximately 5 inches in diameter and is made from fairly thin copper with a brass bottom. Parts of the burner assembly are cast brass, as is the drip cup, while other burner parts are nickel-plated brass. Mel's torch appears to be missing the nickel-plating, but with excessive use, the plating may have worn away. The control valve handle is wood, and the unit is fueled from the top by unscrewing the entire burner assembly. The name of the manufacturer is embossed into a brass emblem soldered to the top of the fuel tank, and "Patent Applied For" is also part of the name plate information.

It appears that the operator would have to pour fuel into the drip cup since there is no way for the fuel to dribble from the burner nozzle into the drip cup, as in traditional torches. And since there is no air pump, there may have been an outside source of low-pressure air to pressurize the fuel tank to allow fuel flow into the burner assembly.

Without some of these assumptions, it's difficult to determine just how the torch was operated, or how it was utilized. Are there any opticians or ophthalmologists out there that can give us a clue?

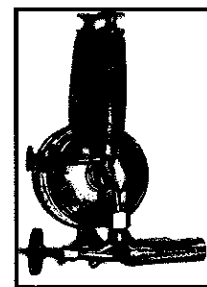
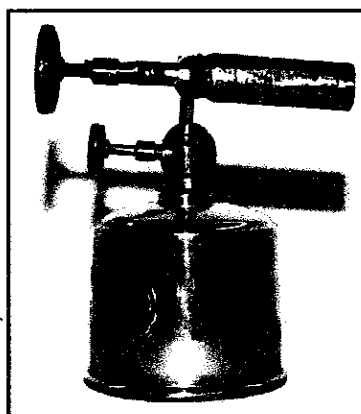
♦ ♦ ♦



ENTERPRISE OPTICAL CO.  
Photo submitted by Mel Olson

## IMPERIAL TWO

A second IMPERIAL manufacturer, the IMPERIAL LAMP CO., Fort Wayne, Indiana, has surfaced as another new torch manufacturer. **John Jaress** submitted photos and detailed information on a most unusual looking US blow torch.



IMPERIAL LAMP CO.  
Front view & top view with cork covered air pump  
Photo submitted by John Jaress

A few unusual features include a cork handle that encloses an air pump, no drip cup, the burner assembly bent over the side of the fuel tank, and the word "LAMP" used to describe a US manufactured torch. Prior to discovering this manufacturer, the word "LAMP" was used exclusively by most non-US torch manufacturers.

The fuel tank capacity is approximately ½ pint, and there is a small air valve to control airflow from the air pump. Fuel is added to the torch by unscrewing the entire pump/burner assembly. With no drip cup present, there must have been an outside heat source to vaporize fuel in the burner prior to igniting. We would like to hear from any other members that own IMPERIAL LAMP torches.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## OPERATING INSTRUCTION BOOKS

A recent letter from **Ashley Kennedy** requesting copies of operating instructions led to this article on available literature. Over the past few years, numerous members have submitted operating instructions, including: **Dave Allie, Tom Bartlett, Bill Bennett, Dick Bernard, Ron Carr, Leon Hall, Ken Hartman, Maurice Jernstedt, Dave Kolb, Lew Lupton, Walter McKibbin, Chase McKnight, Bob Mitchell, Mel Olson, Mark Pedersen, Graham Stubbs, Dick Sarpolus, Bob Scheiderman, Dave Schulte, and Chuck Tobin.** Our apologies if there are any individuals omitted from the list.

Following is a list of available operating instruction books, as well as generic blow torch maintenance and operation pamphlets. Anyone wishing copies can send a size 10 Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope for each one requested to:

**BTCA**  
**3328 258<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**  
**Sammamish, WA 98075-9173**

Be sure to mention the specific document, and for those of you living outside the US, please advise of your selection(s) and we'll advise postage costs. Also, if you have any operating instructions not listed, please send them in and we'll add them to our growing list.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS:

**Otto Bernz, #87 & 88 Gasoline Blow Torch**

**Clayton & Lambert #32A Gasoline Torch**

**Clayton & Lambert # 158A, 600A, & 1000-1**

**Clayton & Lambert #32A & 308 Gasoline Torches**

**Jim Dandy #80-124 Automatic Alcohol Blow Torch**

**Justrite #39 Soldering Iron & Blowtorch**

**Lenk Superheat #222 Gun Grip Alcohol Blotorch** (pistol shaped torch)

**Lenk #104 Hi Heat Gasoline Blotorch**

**Lenk #105 Hi Heat Alcohol Blotorch**

**Lenk #108 Automatic Blotorch**

**Lenk #24-108 & 66 Blotorch**

**National Pumpless Torch**

**Turner #30AT Blow Torch**

**Turner T15B & T-18 Gasoline Torches**

**Valtock Blow-Lamps, The 2000 & The Major** (British)

**The Valtock #3 Blowlamp** (British)

## **GENERIC BLOW TORCH CARE, MAINTENANCE, & OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS:**

**How To Clean A Blow Torch**, a 1-page pictorial instruction sheet providing disassembly, cleaning, and reassembly instructions. Popular Science, 1944.

**How To Handle a Blow Torch, Maintenance and Lighting Instructions.** Better Homes & Gardens, 1949.

**Know Your Torch**, principles of operation and how to clean and adjust. Popular Mechanics, 1949.

**How To Select, Repair, And Use Blow Torches.**  
The Home Craftsman, 1948.

**How To Use A Blow Torch,** general use instructions, including propane torches. Better Homes & Gardens, Handyman's Book, circa 1950.

**Torch Pointers,** how a blow torch works, safety hints, operating a blow torch, types of torches, and their uses. Clayton & Lambert, 1941. (Note: due to the length this article, 2 postage stamps are required.)

♦ ♦ ♦

## VOLCANO ERUPTS AGAIN

Graham Stubbs purchased additional literature on the Volcano Torch Company that supplements an article printed in *THE TORCH*, issue #17, July 2000. The new information confirms our assumption of why we have not seen any Volcano Torches surface in the collecting world. All Volcano torches had steel cylinders serving as a fuel tank, and were brazed and stay-bolted. And because each torch was constructed almost entirely of steel, over time, each was consumed by corrosion and never lasted the test of time as the wealth of brass or copper torches that we see today. (All models were also available with nickel plate, however, over time the nickel plated steel still succumbed to corrosion.) It would be a real find to see a Volcano torch in mint condition on ebay!

Each Volcano torch was capable of resisting a pressure of 2000 pounds per square inch, and was supplied with a safety valve to limit any undue pressure. What's ironic is that Volcano torches were not supplied with an air pump, and all pressure was created by the heat of a burner assembly (described as a #3 Lamp Burner) mounted in the base of the torch. There was also no starting cup (drip cup), and instead a #3 lamp burner was used to heat the generator to vaporize fuel. After the lamp burner was ignited, and a few minutes lapsed, the operator would simply turn the main valve and light the fuel vapor with a match...and voila, an instant blast flame.



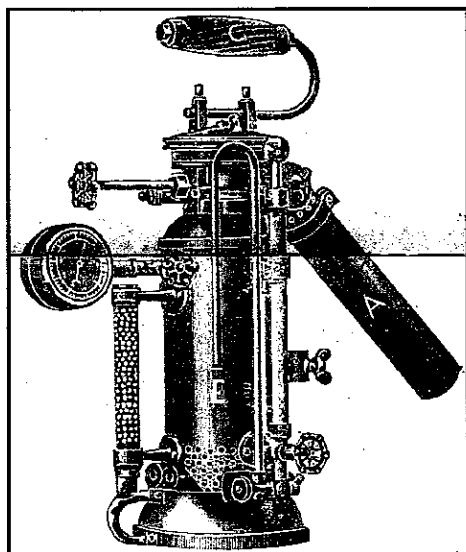
VOLCANO TORCH CO.

An artist's crude sketch demonstrating a weighted-chain support for a Volcano torch.

Illustration submitted by Graham Stubbs

There are two illustrations of interest in Graham's literature, each solving a mystery from the previous article on how one would lift or move the behemoth torches. One Volcano was supplied with a handle attached to the top of the torch, and the operator could easily lift the torch from the top, rather than from the traditional vertical handle that, for some reason, was also supplied. One cannot imagine that an operator could lift any Volcano torch in the traditional manner considering the size and weight of each model.

The second illustration is somewhat comical and crude, but shows how the torch could also be



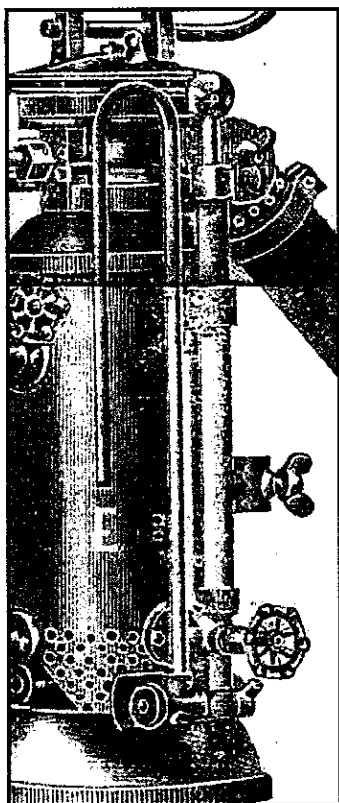
VOLCANO  
TORCH  
COMPANY

Illustration depicts carrying handle.

Note vertical handle, pressure gauge, and fuel refilling fixture.

Illustration submitted by Graham Stubbs

supported by a light chain suspended from the ceiling and a series of pulleys. This configuration could aid the operator if the work area were somewhat confined, but would not provide much portability to the torch.



#### VOLCANO TORCH CO.

Illustration depicts  
fuel re-filling system.

Note the looped siphon line  
that feeds into the  
valve assembly,  
and is operated by the  
suction pump adjacent  
to the looped siphon line.

Illustration submitted by  
Graham Stubbs

Another feature, not seen on any other blow torch, is the re-filling capability. Most all Volcano torches were available with an optional re-filling system that allowed the operator to re-fill the torch...**while in operation!** The optional feature included a siphon pipe, a pump, and a valve assembly. The operator would place a container of gasoline next to the operating torch (**a safety nightmare!**) and insert the siphon tube into the fuel container. With the valve in an open position, the operator would pump the gasoline from the container into the fuel tank with the pump plunger. The one-way valve allowed the gasoline to enter the fuel tank without losing any air pressure. The feature was a very useful feature, but an incredible safety issue since the open gasoline container, with fuel vapor, was immediately adjacent to an extremely hot flame.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## THE COLEMAN STORY

**Dennis Galaway**, a BTCA member and an avid Coleman collector, provided helpful information on the history of the Coleman Company. This story should interest BTCA members that have Coleman torches in their collection.

In 1900, William C. Coleman founded the Coleman Company in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and in 1901, Coleman relocated the operation to Wichita, Kansas. In the early days of operation, the company produced gasoline lighting products including reading lights, table lights, lighting systems, and outdoor lanterns. While the company was certainly well known for the traditional lighting products, they also produced gasoline-powered items such as irons, cooking stoves, and camping stoves.

During WWII they produced large numbers of portable gasoline powered cook stoves for the military. After the war they continued to produce gasoline powered products for the leisure outdoor market, including lanterns and camp stoves...familiar items to all outdoorsmen and women. For a period of time, Coleman also diversified in other outdoor products as well as home heating and air conditioning systems.



In a 1920 expansion plan, the company formed the **Coleman Lamp Company, Ltd. of Canada**, and by 1921 the new Toronto facility was up and running. The Canadian product line mirrored the Wichita products, but with one difference.... the Canadian management was encouraged to make changes in the product itself and in the product mix, if such actions were needed



to meet the needs and preferences of its Canadian customers. In time, this permission was extended to the design and production of products for export.

The Coleman family managed the company up until 1989 when Sheldon Coleman Jr., the grandson of the founder, was forced out in a hostile takeover. Sheldon Coleman has since formed his own company that manufactures **Big Dog Motorcycles**.

In all of the literature available, there is no mention of blow torches in the Coleman Wichita or Toronto product line, yet we know of the existence of many Coleman blow torches. We believe that all of the blow torches produced by Coleman were manufactured in the Toronto facility and exported to the US and other locations. Any Coleman information that adds to this story would be appreciated, and please let us know if any member owns a US manufactured Wichita Coleman torch.

Comments from Dennis... *"My interest in Coleman products pre-dates my membership in BTCA. My avocation, besides collecting torches, is buying and selling antiques. Because the Coleman Company originated in Wichita, and because there is a very active Coleman Collectors Club, there is a strong market for old Coleman items. Consequently, when I am roaming the farm/estate auctions, flea markets, and antique malls here in the Midwest, I am always looking for early Coleman stuff."*

*The very first time I ever heard of a Coleman blow torch was when I joined BTCA and saw Coleman listed in the manufacturer listing. It has always been a mystery to me why I could not find any Coleman torches here in the heart of Coleman country, especially when all of their other early products show up on a regular basis. To this day, the only Coleman torches that I have seen (except for the one torch in the Wichita Coleman Museum) are the ones that occasionally turn up on ebay. Any Coleman torches that I have seen on ebay, with label intact, indicate "Made in Canada".*

*Last year I was successful in a bid on ebay for an instruction sheet and parts list for Coleman torches. The information on the document states, "made in Canada, parts list for all models". After*

*receiving the Coleman parts list, I sent an email to the president of the Coleman Collectors Club asking him if he was aware of any Coleman torches being manufactured in the US. His response was that all Coleman blow torches were produced in Canada.*

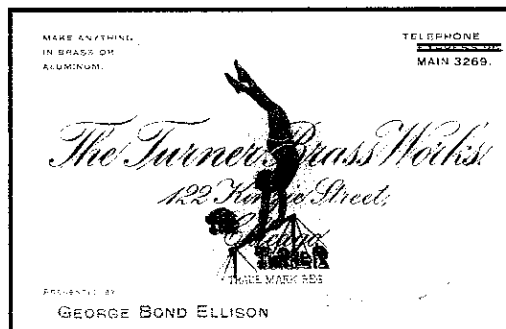
*Shortly after my discussions with the president, I had another similar conversation with a long-time Coleman employee and a 30-year Coleman collector. What he told me (at this point, his comments are just un-verified word of mouth information) was that there were a small number of torches manufactured by the Wichita Coleman Company. He also indicated that the Coleman production run was only 4000 torches, 3000 were produced in Canada, and 1000 were produced in Wichita.*

*Bottom line is that there is plenty of physical evidence showing that Coleman torches were manufactured in Canada, but I am still searching for some solid evidence that any were manufactured in the US." (Editor's note: what limited literature that is available on Coleman reflects a much higher production of torches than the reported 4000 units. It is known that Coleman produced at least 14 different models, both gasoline and kerosene, from the late 1940's to the mid 1950's. They also produced a European style paraffin blow lamp that was most likely distributed in Canada and Europe.)*

♦ ♦ ♦

## TURNER LOGO

**Graham Stubbs** submitted a very old Turner Brass Works business card with a handwritten date of December 6, 1900, and the earliest known version of the Turner logo. "TRADE MARK REG" can be seen just under the logo, and indicates that the earlier version was also trademarked, but was followed by the more common Turner trademark of 1910. ↓

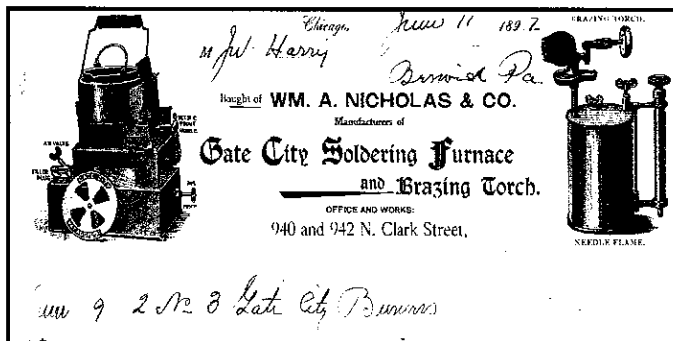


The timing of the business card, 1900, indicated that Turner was still located in Chicago, and had not relocated to Sycamore, Illinois, a move that occurred in 1906. One can clearly see that it is a male on a trapeze bar in mid-swing. (See front page.)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## GATE CITY

**Graham Stubbs** came across an interesting June 11, 1897 invoice from the WM. A. NICHOLAS & CO., Chicago, Illinois, and the manufacturer of the GATE CITY SOLDERING FURNACE and BRAZING TORCH. From the limited information on the invoice, we were able to research the patent date listed on the soldering furnace, August 11, 1891, and located the actual patent. The soldering furnace had a unique feature that allowed the operator to simultaneously heat soldering coppers and a pot of solder. As in many instances, the patent design and the actual manufactured furnace differ somewhat in appearance.



**Wm. A. Nicholas & Co.**  
 Manufacturer of the Gate City Furnace & Brazing Torch  
 Invoice dated June, 11, 1897  
 Document submitted by **Graham Stubbs**

We were hoping that the soldering furnace patent would lead us to information on the brazing torch...but no luck. The brazing torch is very similar to other torches produced during the same period. Imperial Brass, Turner, and Globe produced similar fuel tanks with top and bottom cast pieces and a sheet brass "wrap". Fuel was

added through the top opening, air pump in the handle, and air supply tube external to the fuel tank.

Wm. A. Nicholas was co-inventor of another torch related item, an improved torch burner that was listed in *THE TORCH*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1998, page 5. Internal to the burner assembly was a cone-shaped perforated nozzle that would provide a large divergent flame suitable for removing paint.

Another interesting fact is that the original soldering iron & pot heater patent was issued to Wm. A. Nicholas **AND** Henry Birnbaum. Some 39 years later, Henry's name shows up as an inventor of an unusual blow torch that was featured in *THE TORCH*, issue #18, page 6. The torch that Henry invented was designed with a small secondary burner and trough assembly that acted as the drip cup feature for ignition. While the invention appears to be a viable design, the features were never incorporated into a manufactured blow torch.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## CLAYTON & LAMBERT TORCH INDEX REVISION 2

**Graham Stubbs** has revised the C&L torch index that was previously distributed as an attachment to *THE TORCH*, issue #15, December 1999. You can discard the earlier index and replace it with the enclosed updated version that includes 31 never-seen-before C&L blow torches, and one pressure sprayer.

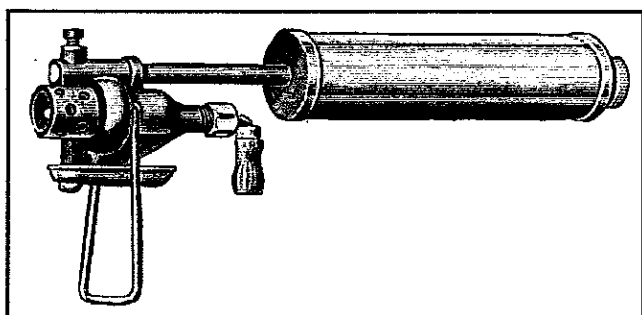
The **CANDLE SERIES** illustrations on page 11 depict kerosene-burning devices used as candles, a must for dark work areas.

Also worth mentioning is the **number 33** torch, another new addition to the index that is very similar to Turner's number 100 torch. Both manufacturers designed similar torches with a slender fuel tank, an air pump in the center, and a swivel-burner assembly for easy flame positioning.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

# EVERHOT

Graham Stubbs submitted an undated EVERHOT sales brochure, circa 1915, that provides details on an earlier version of the combination self-heating soldering iron and blow torch. Nusbaum Motor Supply Co., Kalamazoo, Michigan, distributed the brochure and Everhot products. What's so unusual about this circa 1920's Everhot self-heating soldering iron is the heavy wire stand that supported the torch when resting on a flat surface. The wire stand was soon replaced, on later models, with brass legs cast into the drip cup, a more efficient configuration, and most likely a cost-effective production process.

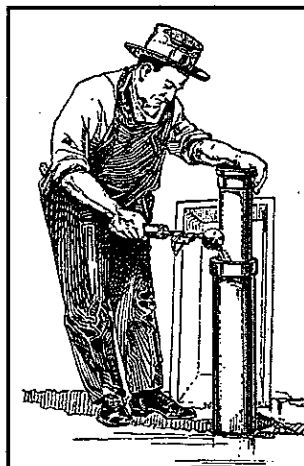


EVERHOT MFG. CO.  
Early design with heavy wire stand, circa 1925  
Illustration submitted by Graham Stubbs

Anyone possessing an earlier Everhot self-heating soldering iron can date the torch to this feature. The brochure describes other features that promoted soldering iron torches, such as the fact that since the soldering iron tips were heated on the heel of the soldering tip, it was seldom necessary to re-tin or file back the soldering face.

The assortment of soldering tips therefore lasted longer. The operator could also change out the various accessories available without turning the torch off, and with the tips removed, the blow torch feature could be used in very tight places, where most traditional torches could not reach.

Everhot also produced a standard blow torch, in quart size only, and could burn gasoline or kerosene. The torch fuel tank was manufactured from 18-gauge copper, with a wooden handle and an air pump in the fuel tank.



EVERHOT MFG. CO.  
Illustration submitted by Graham Stubbs

The fold-out brochure also contained two interesting line drawings showing the Everhot in operation, one as a soldering iron and another utilizing a plumbers pot to pour solder.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## *THE TORCH*

*Official publication of the Blow Torch  
Collectors Association 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 258<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Sammamish, WA 98075-9173, email to: [roncarr@prodigy.net](mailto:roncarr@prodigy.net), or by phone: (425) 557-0634.

THE TORCH encourages 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 Ron Carr at the above address.

**No part of THE TORCH may be copied or reproduced  
without the written consent of BTCA.**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Wanted:** Photocopies of instruction sheets/parts lists for small alcohol torches for Lenk, Dunlap, Turner, and any other alcohol torches. Please send to **Ashley Kennedy**, 1307 Rosalie Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201, or email to [knnashley@aol.com](mailto:knnashley@aol.com).

**For Sale:** Four blow torches available individually, or as one lot. A Schaefer-Beyer with a patent date of June 11, 1912, quart-size, brass tank, air pump in the handle, and in excellent condition including small wood valve handle. An unknown manufacturer in a quart-size brass tank, wood handle, cast iron valve handle has two broken lobes, and includes soldering iron. A Clayton & Lambert with a quart-size brass tank, red wood handle, pump in fuel tank, and includes soldering iron. A Turner Brass Works with a quart-size brass tank, a readable decal, air pump in tank, Bakelite valve handle broken, and includes soldering iron hook. Interested parties can contact Jack Johnson, W1244 Century Road, Spencer, Wisconsin 54479.

**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 3/16<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.

**Trades Wanted:** **John Tingle** is interested in trading for US manufactured blow torches. He has an abundance of blow lamps and can provide many different models from numerous countries. John is located at Prospect House, 47 Wrington Road, Congresbury, North Somerset, England BS49 5AS, or call 01934 832267, or email to [emily@alice13.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:emily@alice13.fsnet.co.uk).

**Wanted:** **Charlie Smith** would like to purchase Hercules, Fulton, Merit, Dunlap, or Craftsman torches. They must have readable decals in good condition. Please send or email photographs and asking price to Dr. Charles C. Smith, Geological Survey of Alabama, 420 Hackberry Lane, PO Box 869999, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35485, or phone 205-349-2852, or email to [ccsmith@gsa.state.al.us](mailto:ccsmith@gsa.state.al.us).

**Wanted:** **Josef Nudel** is very interested in trading European torches for US manufactured torches. Other items in his variety of collections are available. You can contact Josef at 7 Golda Street, Haifa, Israel 34982.

**Trades Wanted:** Scottish collector has a few doubles, unpolished, and would like to trade for US torches. Contact **Michael Hanson**, School House, Sinclairston, Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 2RT, SCOTLAND, or phone 01292 590609, or email to [mmjjhh@compuserve.com](mailto:mmjjhh@compuserve.com).

**Wanted:** I am an avid collector of rare engines manufactured by the Mietz & Weiss Co. of New York, and I would like to purchase a Hauck kerosene vertical burner torch. The Hauck vertical burner torch was used to pre-heat the M&W engines, and I would like to find an original Hauck torch to complete my collection. Please contact Dusty Erickson, at 7950 E. Redfield, Suite 160, Scottsdale, Arizona 85260, or phone 480-948-1644, or email to [dusty@gameguns.com](mailto:dusty@gameguns.com).

**For Sale:** A Hade quart size brass blow torch, with wood handle, and in good condition. Contact Ron Kovach, 347 Grindstone Road, Grindstone, Pennsylvania 15442, 724-785-3566.

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 258<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075-9173, (425) 557-0634, or email at: [roncarr@prodigy.net](mailto:roncarr@prodigy.net)