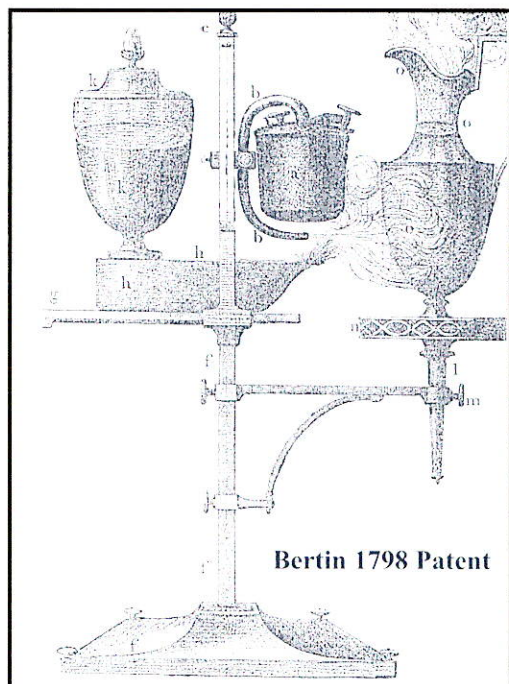


THE TORCH

Newsletter of The Blow Torch Collectors Association

- Issue #30 -

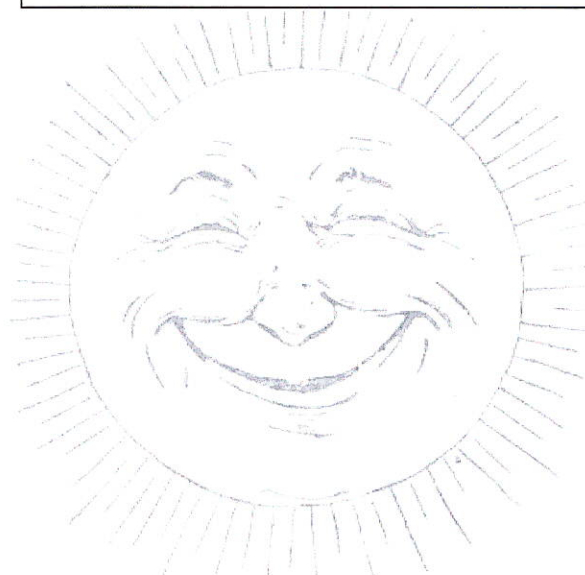
- December 2004 -



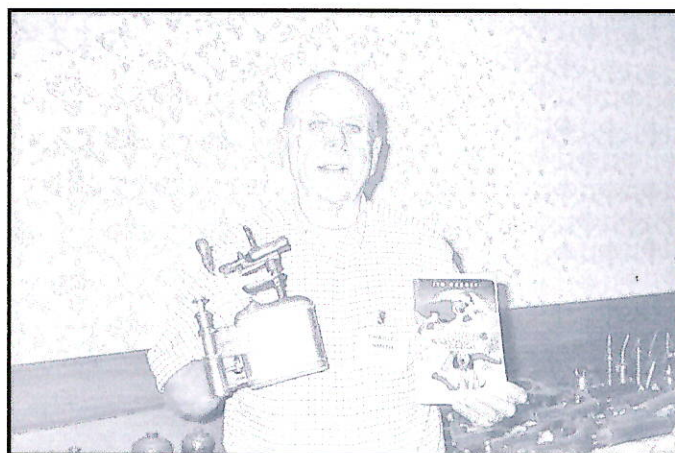
Bertin 1798 Patent

The earliest known torch-related
French patent, see page 4

HOTTEST ON EARTH



ASHTON TORCHES & FIRE POTS,
HOTTEST ON EARTH
SEE PAGE 16



What does the movie: HOW THE GRINCH
STOLE CHRISTMAS have to do with blow
torches? See page 8

Reitz Automatic Soldering Lamp
See page 15

L. S. Frost Mfg. Co.
See page 18

Classified Ads
See page 20

Kendrick Lamps
See page 2

New Members
See page 2

Notes From All Over
See page 3

NEW MEMBERS

Rick Beals, Terra Bella, California, is a ten-year torch collector that was directed to a BTCA membership by **John Denison**. Rick also collects Rem-Beals pistols and rifles. The first pistols that the Remington Company produced were manufactured under a Beals patent. A distant relative of Rick, Fordce Beals, was the inventor and was credited with numerous inventions. Rick's collection also includes many branding irons, gas lamps and gas burners.

Rudy Dokter, Ormeau, Queensland, Australia, has been collecting blow lamps for about 18 months and has 45 lamps to date. He became interested in blow lamps after seeing a few at a vintage rally meet.... sounds like a familiar scenario.

Ronald Dusza, New Baltimore, Michigan, is a two-year blow torch collector that got started collecting by purchasing his first torch at a flea market in Florida. Ron's daughter, Paula, provided his membership as a Christmas present. According to Paula, her father polishes all of his torches but does not display them anywhere in the house...yet.

Malcolm Forster, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England, is a veteran 16-year lamp collector with 700 blow lamps. Over 300 are restored and prominently displayed. Malcolm also collects soldering irons and furnaces.

Martin French, Somerville, Victoria, Australia, and his wife **Cindy** have been collecting blow lamps for almost 4 years. They went to a clearing auction in country Victoria and found 4 lamps in a lot to be auctioned. Because he had the high bid, he had the option to purchase just one or all four.... naturally he purchased all four. He was so impressed with their condition and how well they were built considering their age, he dismantled them all. Martin eventually got all four into working condition, then polished them. The four were displayed on a bookshelf after some books were put in to storage. Eventually all the books disappeared and the 5 shelves are now filled with lamps. To date Martin has about 115 blow lamps.... and all in WORKING ORDER!

Andy Hageman, Decorah, Iowa, is a new member thanks to his brother-in-law and BTCA member Bruce Hagemann.

Bruce Hagemann, Plano, Texas, returns as a BTCA member.

Andre LeFrancois, Hayward, California, also returns as a BTCA member. Andre sold all of his highly polished blow torch collection, but has amassed another batch of blow torches and is back with us.

Janus Nooijen, GC Deurne, The Netherlands, is a 20-year veteran blow lamp collector with approximately 1600 lamps. Janus not only has an extremely large collection, but each and every one of the 1600 lamps are professionally restored and displayed in a large room on shelves. He also collects and restores old tractors, soldering irons, and old stationair motors (2 stroke single cylinder).

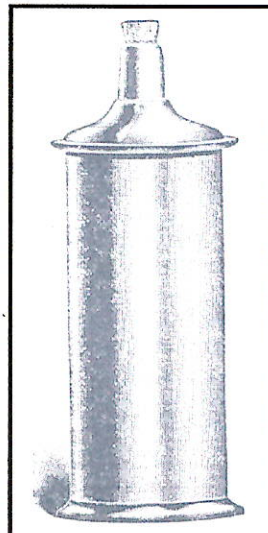
Gerald Watson, Souderton, Pennsylvania, is a relatively new collector with over 35 blow torches...all polished and prominently displayed in his home. Gerald loves the look of polished brass! He also collects soldering irons and other things that burn.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

KENDRICK VALVE & WASHER CO.

Charles Smith has uncovered numerous advertisements in *THE METAL WORKER*, dating back to 1895 that have yielded another unknown manufacturer. The Kendrick Valve & Washer Co., Syracuse, New York, advertised a pocket torch (or lamp) that was used for illumination purposes.



Illumination Lamp
Kendrick Valve & Washer Co.
Syracuse, New York
January 19, 1895
Burned gasoline or kerosene

Since we list three different illumination lamps in the Clayton & Lambert index, No's 21, 22, & 23, we thought we would give consideration to the Kendrick lamp. Many of us have illumination lamps in our collection and have included them into the blow torch category...so there you go.

The Kendrick lamp was offered in their catalogs that catered to the tradesmen; including plumbers, steamfitters, tinsmiths, and mechanics. The lamp burned gasoline or oil and was made entirely of brass. It was 4 inches long, 1 1/8 inches in diameter, and included a top cap to prevent evaporation and to extinguish the flame. The bottom of the lamp was fitted with a screw cap that was removed for fueling.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

☰ NOTES FROM ALL OVER ☐

Our condolences go out to the family of **John Chytla** who passed away on October 20, 2004. John was a BTCA member for 5 years and an avid blow torch collector.

Michelle Anderson notified us that her husband and BTCA member **Phillip Anderson** is in the National Guard, and his unit was just activated and relocated to Iraq. Our best wishes go out to Phillip for his safe and swift return. I'm sure that Phillip would love to hear from BTCA members. Michelle will forward on any mail you may care to send to Phillip. Send all correspondence to 4220 E. Pleasant Run Pkwy N. Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46201.

Tim Szabo sent in two photos.... one in particular was manufactured by the Imperial Lamp Co., Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and identical to the torch that was featured in The Torch, issue #25, page 10, and sent in by **Jim Jaress**.

Mal Mutimer announced his retirement in early December and will enjoy his free time restoring all of his lamps. He also plans to research the blowlamp production in Australia, and we look forward to sharing his research efforts.

Our congratulations go out to **Ron Johnson Jr.** and his wife **Tracey** for the birth of their first child, Marissa Renee Johnson, born August 24th. Ron assured us that Marissa will soon be the youngest blow torch collector.

Our sister organization across the Big Pond, The Blowlamp Society, has reached a milestone by issuing their 50th newsletter. **Ray Hyland**, Blowlamp News Editor continues to produce a high quality publication that is distributed to a worldwide membership. If you have an interest in joining the British Blow Lamp Society, you can contact Ray at the address listed in your BTCA membership roster.

Dick Bernard sent in a note along with his dues payment and indicated that he will honor us with more of his cartoons in the near future. Dick's pervious cartoons were featured on the cover of *THE TORCH*, issues no. 24 & 25. Dick.... we'll hold you to your promise!

Ron Bunting sent in photos of a Clayton & Lambert #53 blow torch (see photo). We're a bit perplexed because it doesn't look like a torch that C&L would produce, even though the pump assembly and burner assembly appear to be authentic. The pump cap was made by C&L, and #53 is stamped in to the cap just like C&L did on many of the torches that they produced. Please if any one has a C&L #53; let us know via mail, phone, or email.

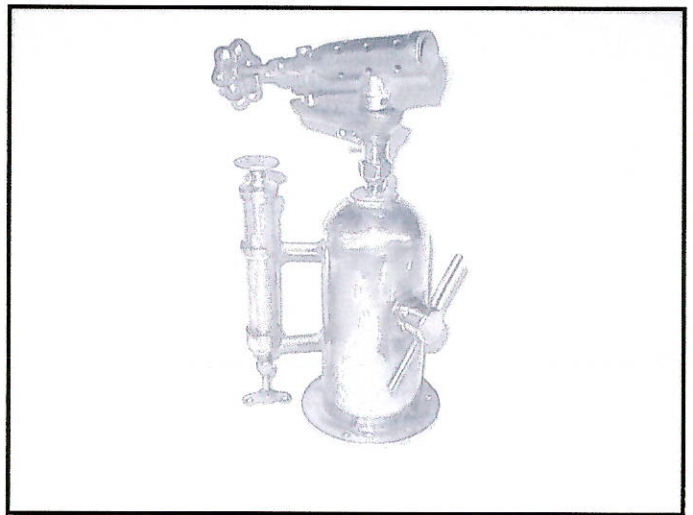


Photo sent in by **Ron Bunting**
Markings indicate a Clayton & Lambert #53

NOTES CONT.

One of our new members, **Rein Nooijen** provided us with photos of his blow torch/lamp collection. It appears that he has an entire room dedicated to his collection, with each piece highly polished or painted and prominently displayed on shelves. It has to be one of the finest collections we've seen because each piece appears to be in excellent condition. Congratulations Rein on having such a fine collection!

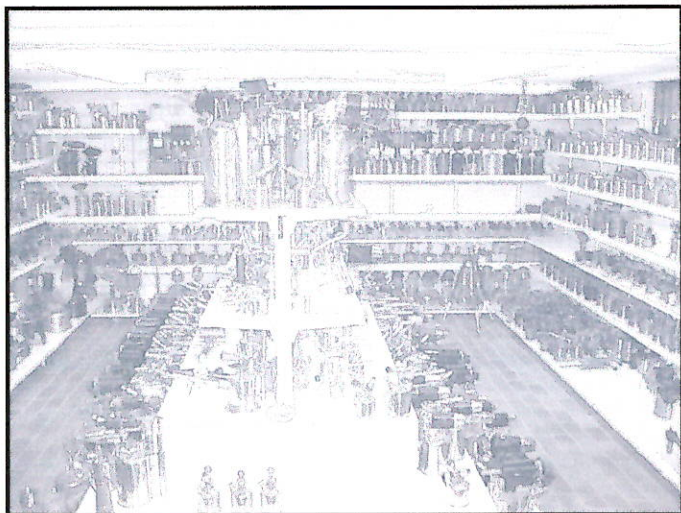


Photo sent in by Rein Nooijen

Another new member, **Martin French**, also sent in some great photos. As we mentioned in the new member article, Martin has about 115 torches/lamps.... all in working order. Here's a photo of Martin holding a fired up twin burner Companion lamp that he modified.



Martin French with a twin burner Companion

He made the dual burner from 3 Companion lamps and it is fueled by kerosene or a kerosene/gasoline mixture. Martin said that it makes a great nighttime display!

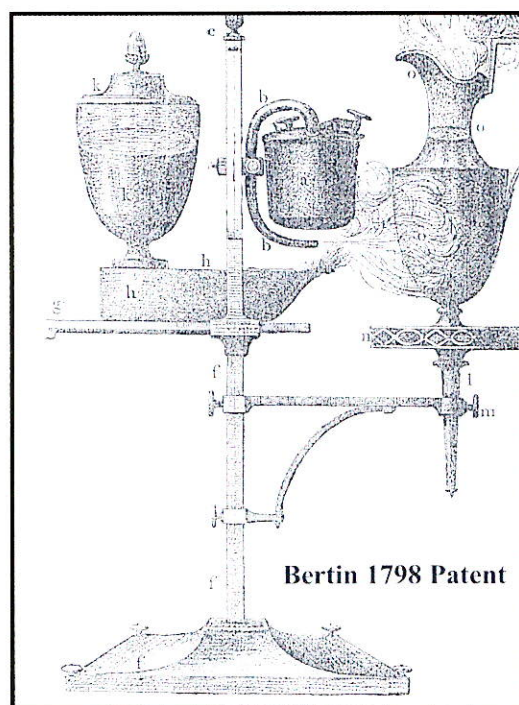
BTCA member and author of the *COLLECTABLE BLOWTORCHES* book, **Dick Sarpolus**, is pleased to announce that his book has surpassed the 1000 mark for worldwide sales. Congratulations Dick!

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

THE EARLY HISTORY OF BLOW TORCHES

The following article, written by BTCA member **Michel Duval**, is based on an article which first appeared in the French publication, "La Nouvelle Gazette", the newsletter of the Club des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens à Flamme. The Club serves blow lamp collectors in France, Belgium and other countries.

Graham Stubbs assisted in the translation, proof reading of the article, and included additional photos for completion.



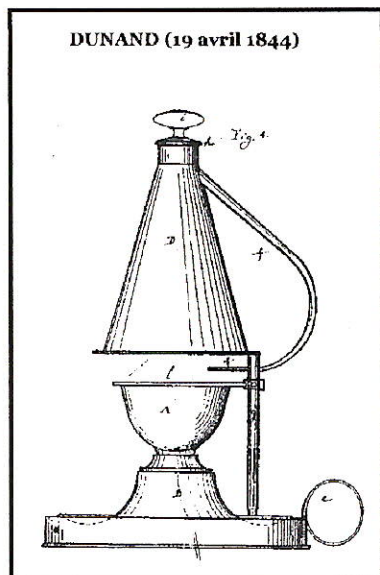
One of the earliest known blow torch related patents, issued in France to Pierre Bertin, circa 1798

The man credited with creating the very first blowtorch was the Frenchman; Théodore Pierre Bertin who, during the period of the French Revolution in 1799, invented what was to be called the "éolipyle". It was a first step, and many others would be necessary to reach the "modern" blow torch of present.

The French term for the early blow torch is "éolipyle". A dictionary meaning is: a device based on the effect of forces produced by a jet of gas, from the Latin *Aeoli pylae*, literally "Aeolus" doorway. Aeolus was the Greek god of the winds.

It is very difficult to find blowtorch documentation dating from a few hundred years ago. Patents registered in France and in other countries can help us. However, a patent did not necessarily result in an item being manufactured, mass-produced or even made as a single item. Nevertheless, patents help us to follow the technical development of the blow torch.

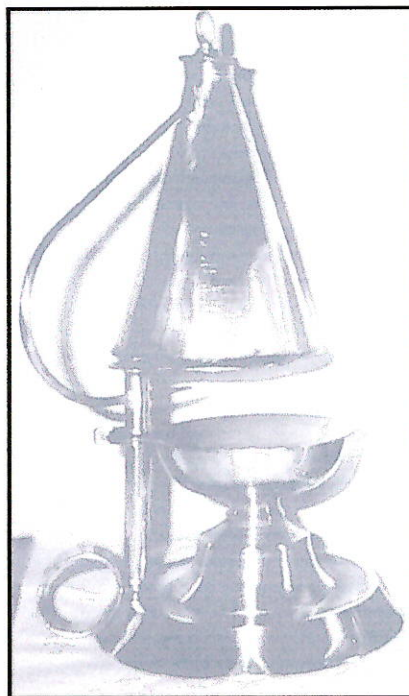
After the Bertin patent, I am not aware of other blowtorch patents until 1832, when Sulpice Christophe Breuzin registered a patent for an "éolipyle" with a vertical jet, using spirits of wine (esprit-de-vin). We find him again in 1835 with a patented torch named "Self-GasProducer"(Auto-gazogène). Sulpice Christophe Breuzin was the father of Alfred Breuzin, and Alfred was a well-known late 1800's French maker of blow torches (with the letters A.B. stamped on the "éolipyle" body).



A French patent
Issued to
Maurice A. Dunand
April 19, 1844

Maurice Antoine Dunand improved the "éolipyle" with an 1844 patent.

Just a few years ago, a French collector, René Leblanc, reproduced the "éolipyle" shown here in the photo, and it is a very good replica.



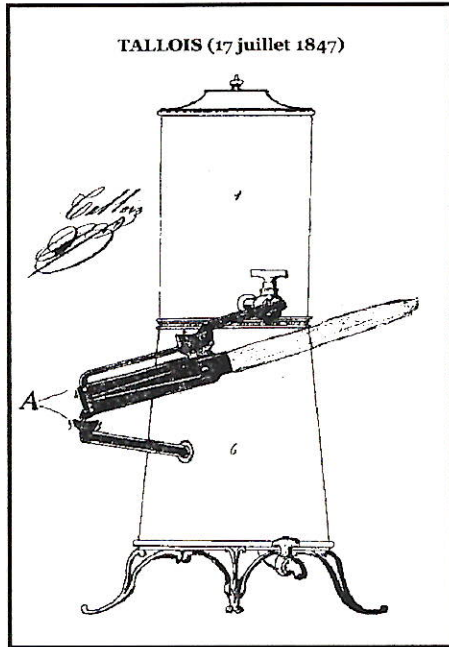
A reproduction of
the 1844
Dunand lamp

Fabricated by
René Leblanc

During the Belgium blow torch collectors' meeting in 2000, René ignited his reproduction "éolipyle". It worked very well and was a most impressive sight!

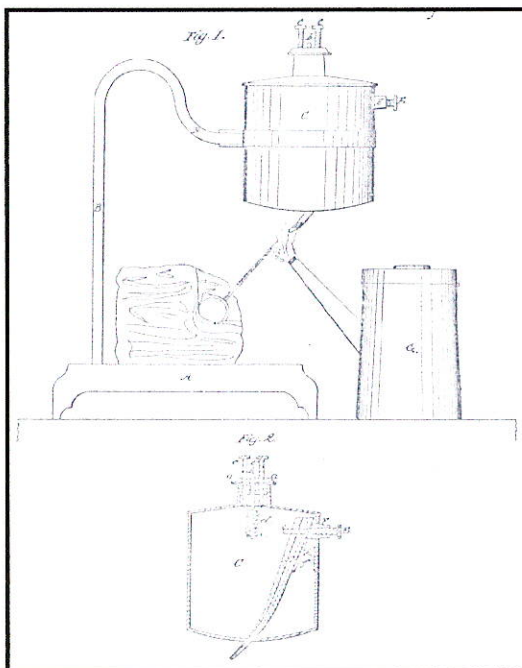
In 1847, Jean-Baptiste Sévère Tallois registered a patent about a "blow torch capable of soldering metals". In his patent, the name "éolipyle" disappeared, and was replaced by "blow torch".

You'll notice in the patent illustration on the next page a burner assembly...a unique feature for such an early design. This was another step towards the "modern" blow torch as we know it today.



1847 French patent issued to
Jean-Baptiste Sèvre

To keep things in chronological order, we have to leave France and cross over the Atlantic to the United States of America, to the years before and after the American Civil War. Oliver L. Lawson worked on improvements to the blow pipe (the French "éolipyle").

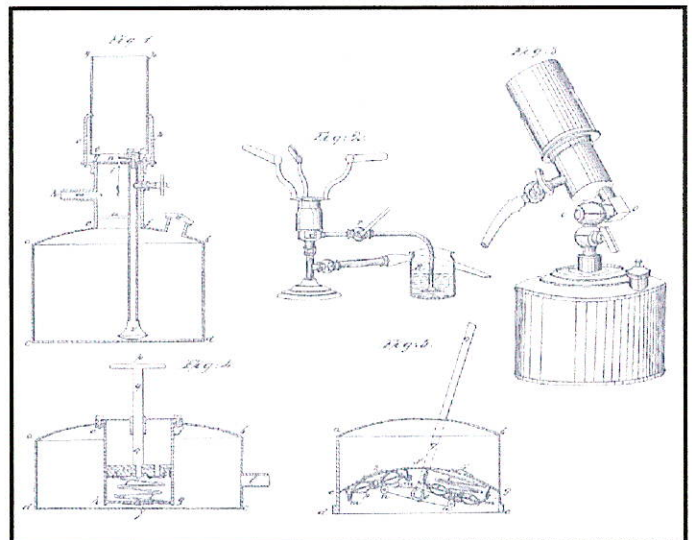


Oliver L. Lawson patent dated 1856

In his patent, dated 13th May 1856, he refers to other similar and earlier blow pipes. Unfortunately, we do not know them or their timeframe, but the principles of operation are clearly European.

Lawson used a jet of steam to blow the flame, and he regulated the flame by adjusting the flow of steam with a thumbscrew. He also added a safety valve.

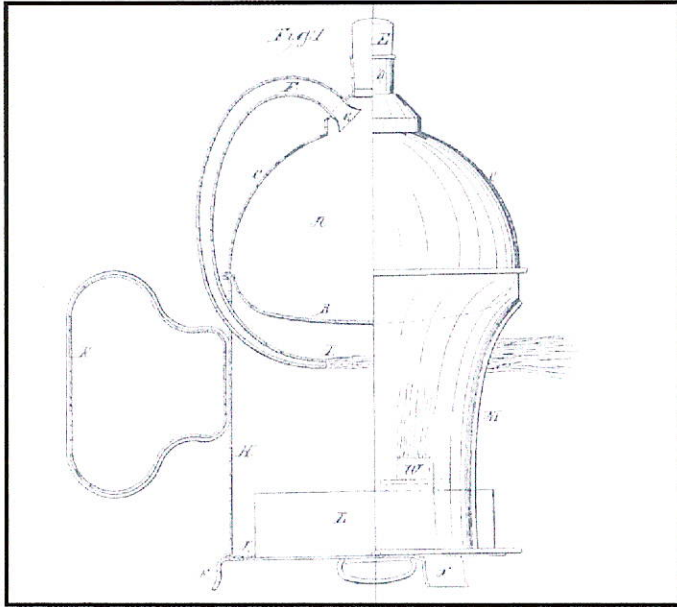
The next patent was registered in the USA in 1866, but came from Russia. At a time when Russia was advancing quickly in the sciences, Alexandre Schpakofsky describes a blow torch with the burner above the tank; step-by-step, we go further...



US patent #53,763 issued to
Alexandre Schpakofsky of St. Petersburg, Russia
April 3, 1866

We return to the USA, with the patented blow pipes of W.W. Wakeman Jr. (11th June 1867) and Geo Wanier (3rd December 1867). The devices they made are quite similar, using an external pipe from the upper reservoir to the flame jet. Shown on the next page are the Wakeman and Wanier patent illustrations, and a photograph of a surviving Wakeman torch on the next page.

In Europe, the same external pipe appeared on the "éolipyles" H. G., manufactured by Henri Gautreau.

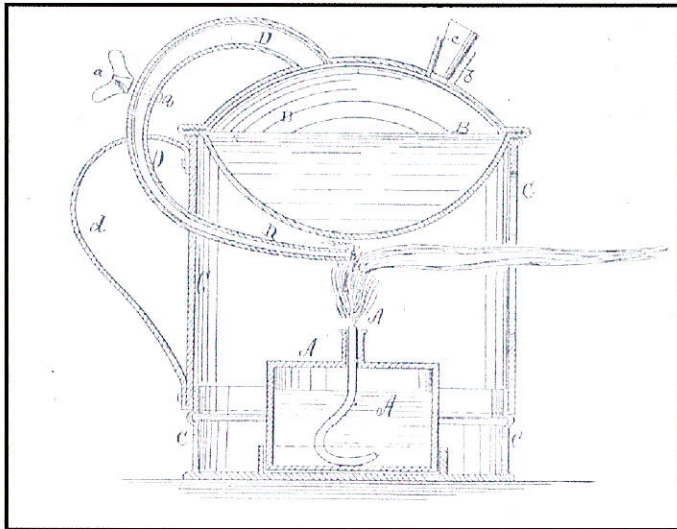


US patent #65,621 issued on June 11, 1867 to William W. Wakeman Jr., New York, NY
The patented tool is described as a "Vapor Burner" and "Improved Lamp For Burning Off Paint"

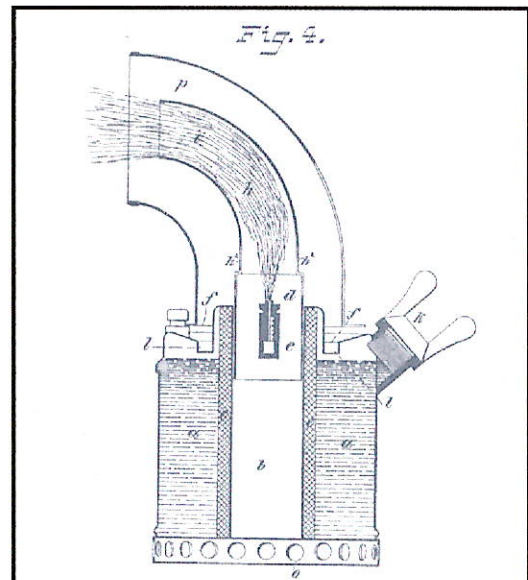


A Wakeman Vapor Burner Owned by Graham Stubbs
The Wakeman torch closely resembles The 1867 patent illustration

Later in the nineteenth century, and continuing into the early 1900's, in Europe and the USA, the tube became internal and emerged below the upper tank to create a more compact "éolipyle".



US patent #71,826 issued on December 3, 1867 to George Wanier
The patented tool is described as a "Lamp" and "An Automatic Blow Pipe"



US patent #383,538 issued on 5/29/1888 to Claude A. Paquelin of Paris, France

The US patent references his French, Belgium, German, Spain, Italy, Austria, England patents for the same device dating back to 1886

In 1886, patents were issued to Claude A. Paquelin (from Paris, France) in France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Germany, and Austria-Hungary for the Paquelin torch. He was also awarded a US patent for the same torch in 1888... (see previous page for patent illustration).



Paquelin 1888 Patent

A Paquelin torch in the
Graham Stubbs collection

With many other patents all over the world, the "éolipyle" reached its final shape and became a "modern" blowtorch.



7TH ANNUAL BTCA CONVENTION

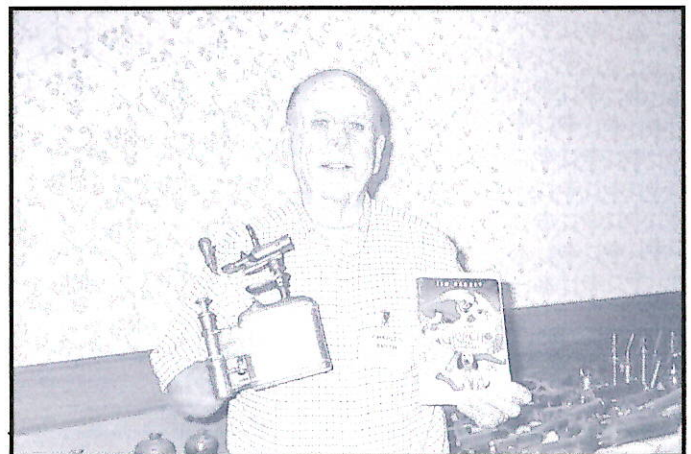
There's a new saying in Las Vegas; "**WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS STAYS IN VEGAS**". So while we can't tell you everything that happened at the 7th annual BTCA convention, we can at least give you the highlights.

The event was held at the newly renovated Santa Fe Station Casino in the northwest part of Las Vegas. We had a large ballroom all to ourselves, the PECOS ROOM, and the casino provided a dedicated wait staff for our every needs. There were plenty of 8-foot tables positioned on the perimeter of the room, and they were all promptly filled with torch displays by attending members.

Charles Smith displayed two very rare and unusual torches. One in particular was so rare.... only one was ever produced, actually it was reproduced. If you ever saw the movie How The Grinch Stole Christmas, you'll remember a scene where the Grinch, played by Jim Carrey, used a blow torch to burn down Whoville. It turns out that the blow torch that was used in the movie was actually a prop that was reproduced by the studio.

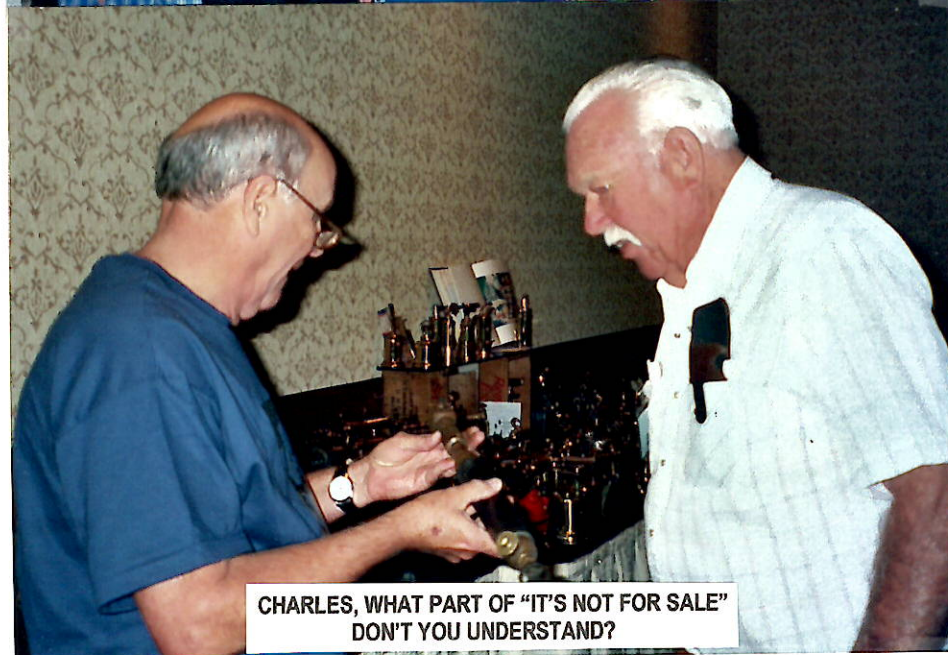
After examining the blow torch prop, it's obvious that the studio prop shop took an actual auto blow torch and recreated a replica using various non-metal materials. It appears that a mold was made, then cast into the torch, and finally painted to duplicate the brass colors. There was even aluminum colored paint around the base to look like solder.

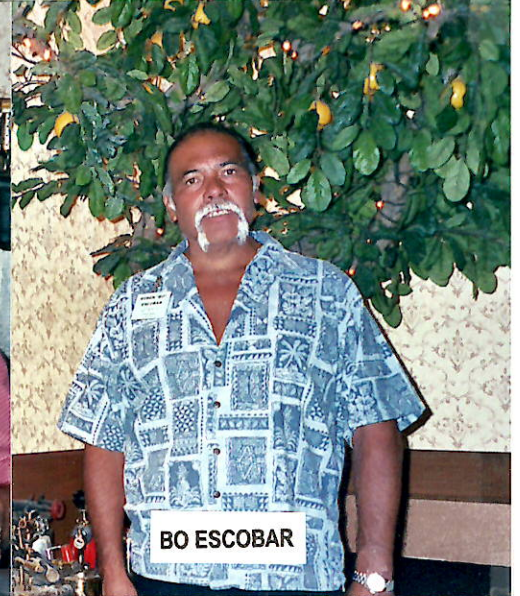
Charles obtained the movie prop on ebay and would not disclose how much his winning bid was, but we suspect that he may have re-mortgaged his home for this one-of-a-kind torch!

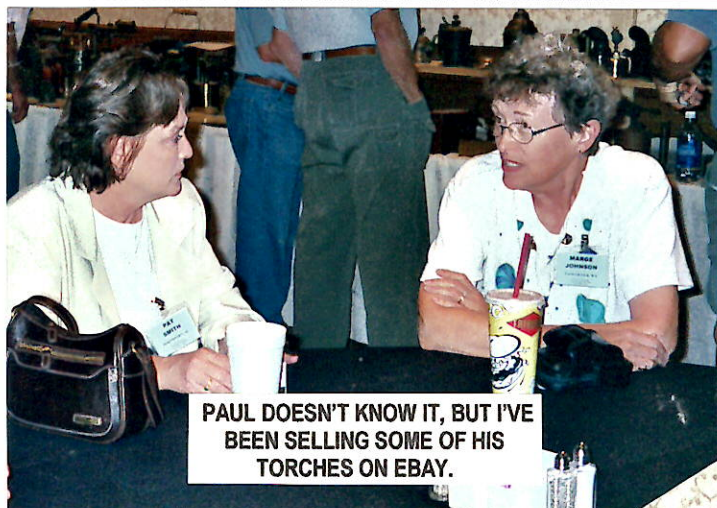


Charles Smith and his "Grinch" movie prop blow torch

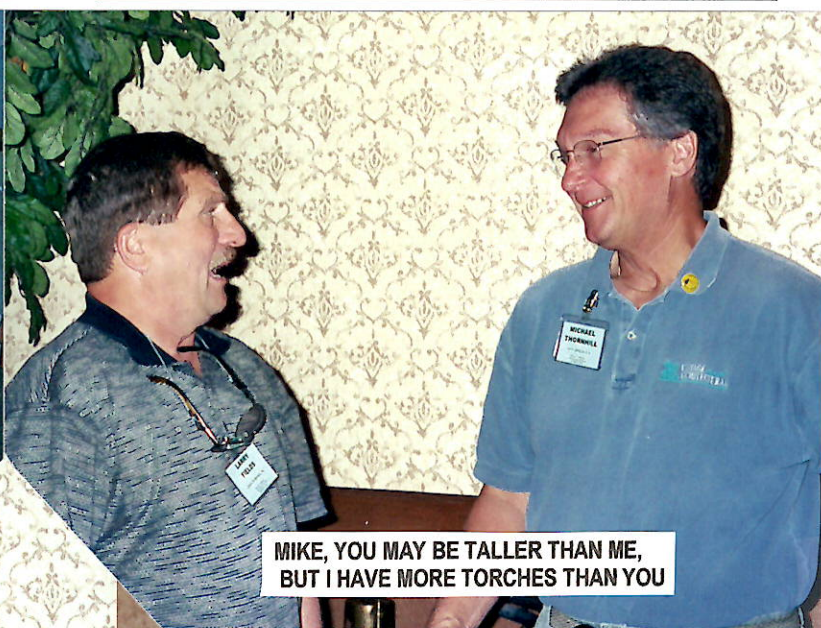
His ebay purchase included a certificate
of authentication from the studio



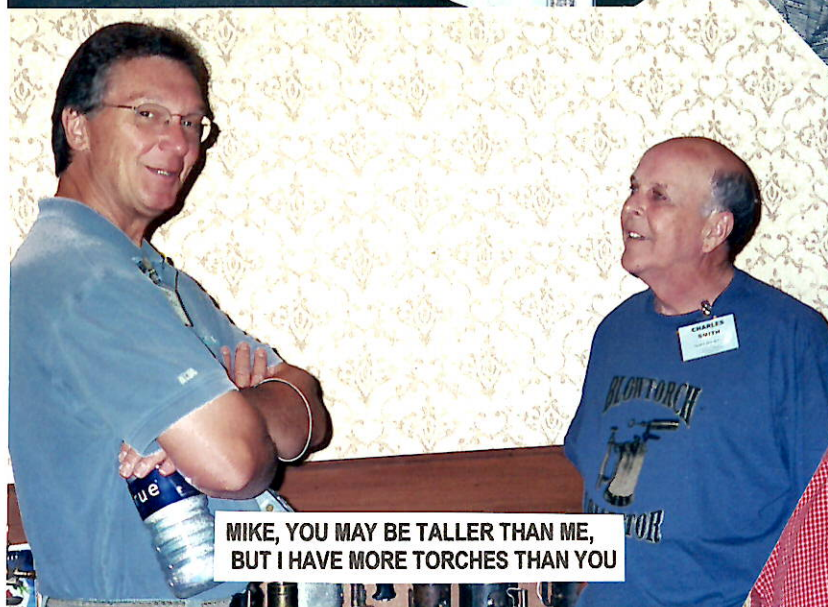




PAUL DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT I'VE BEEN SELLING SOME OF HIS TORCHES ON EBAY.



MIKE, YOU MAY BE TALLER THAN ME, BUT I HAVE MORE TORCHES THAN YOU



MIKE, YOU MAY BE TALLER THAN ME, BUT I HAVE MORE TORCHES THAN YOU



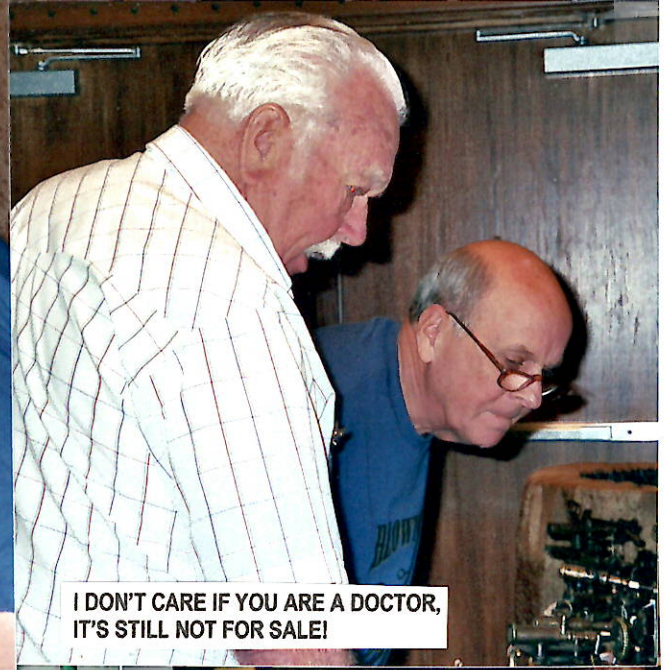
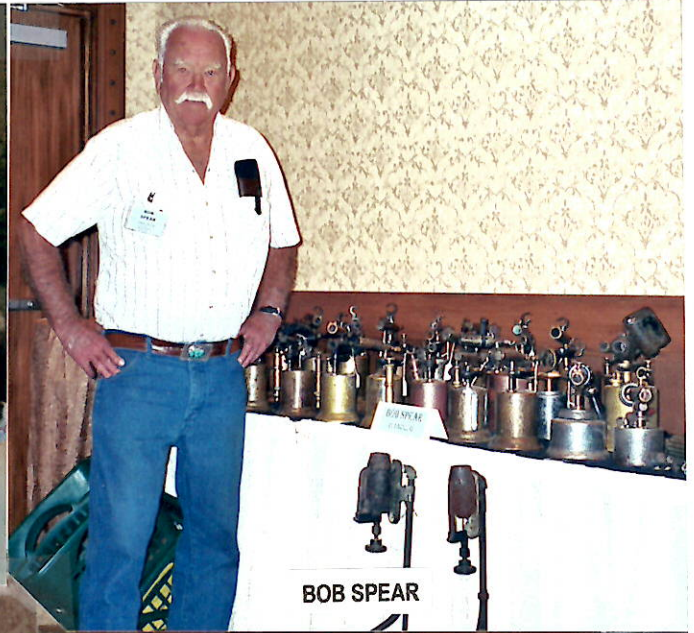
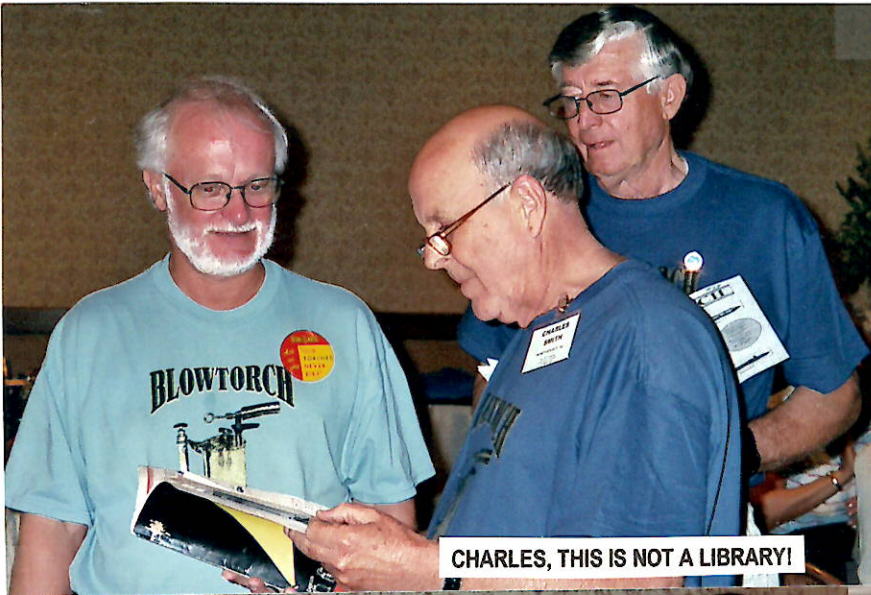
I THINK MY WIFE'S BEEN SELLING SOME OF MY TORCHES ON EBAY.



LARRY FIELDS

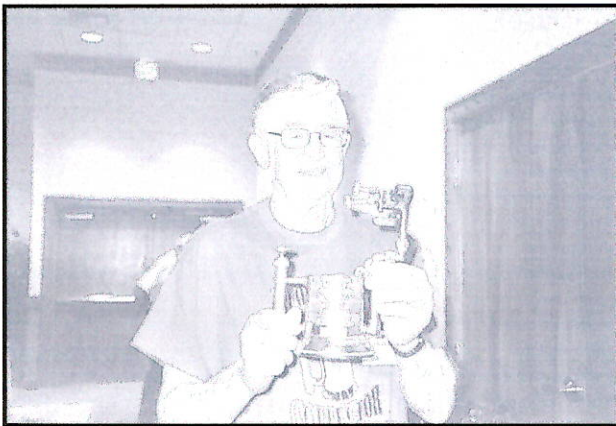


GRAHAM, CHARLES, RON



Charles also displayed a very rare Emmelmann self-heating soldering iron. Charles' Emmelmann torch is a much early version being somewhat smaller than what we've seen before, and with the company nametag soldered onto the fuel filler cap.

Jim Janke displayed a Turner #8 chrome plated Double Jet torch that dates to 1939. What is so unusual about Jim's torch is the fact that the decal is in almost perfect condition. There is even a decal for the price!



Jim Janke displaying a Turner #8 chrome plated double Jet torch from circa 1939

Mike Thornhill drove up from San Diego with a few rare pieces that included a C&L #4 Junior, and an Atlas Brass Works Self-Heating Soldering Iron that was invented by Emile Block in 1906. This is the first time that we've ever seen an Atlas Brass Works torch, and it was a rare sight.



Mike Thornhill proudly holding his rare Clayton & Lambert #4 Junior torch

Bob Spear was showing off his very rare Emmelmann self-heating soldering iron that pre-dates all that we've seen to date. It includes a cast brass burner assembly (later models had cast iron burners), a very ornate fuel valve handle, and the fuel tank/handle is wrapped with a black Bakelite type material.



Bob Spear with his rare Emmelmann torch

Las Vegas BTCA member, **Bo Escobar** had an impressive display that included a very early Phoenix torch. In addition to the brass burner assembly, the pint size round tank is brass, and the handle supports are also brass. Bo also had an American Stove Co. No. 31 pint size torch with a brass fuel tank, and a Quick Meal Stove Co. torch.



Bo Escobar holding an all brass PHOENIX torch

Jon Suta drove down from Mt. Vernon, WA with his entire family, sans dog, to join us. He brought along a French made self-heating soldering iron that looks very similar to an Emmelmann.

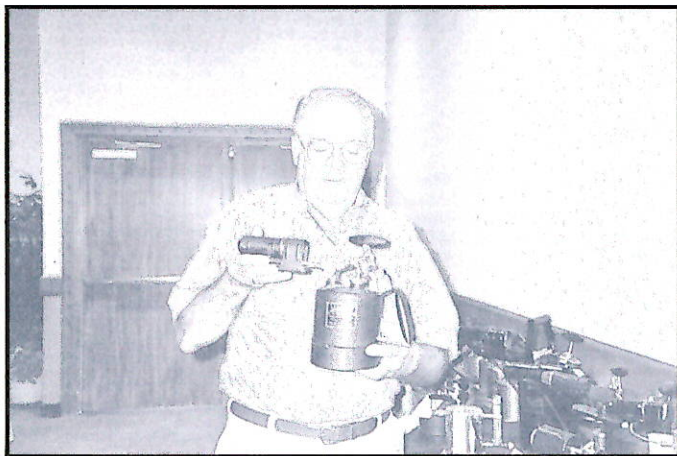
CONVENTION CONT.

Because of the similarities that include the burner assembly, manifold, wood knob, and hand protector, we believe that Emmelmann may have "borrowed" design features from the French for his US produced torch.



Jon Suta holding an Emmelmann in his right hand and a similar French version in his left hand

John Denison had an incredible display of Hauck torches.... all in excellent condition. The display included a #10-17 engine starter, #381 gasoline, #382 kerosene, #388 gasoline, #14 kerosene, and one unknown.



John Denison showing off one of his many Hauck torches

Graham Stubbs has always had incredible torch displays, but this year he went beyond incredible. He drove up from San Diego with a van

full of torches and had a lot of unusual and rare pieces to display...including 2 Burgess furnaces, a Peerblow Mfg. Co. Simplex torch, patent #1,467,070, and a Peerblow Mfg. Co. Duplex torch, patent #1,330,696. One could spend an hour perusing Graham's display.... each piece a rare or unusual find.



Graham Stubbs with two Peerblow torches

Larry Fields made an interesting observation during lunch...there have been 7 west coast BTCA conventions, and only 3 members have attended all 7 events; **Larry Fields**, **Jon Suta**, and **Ron Carr**. (In spite of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, the BTCA 4th annual event proceeded as planned on September 15th. And diehard torch collector **Larry Fields** and his wife **Pat Hauser** braved the perils of numerous airports, security checks, and luggage searches, and made their way to the Brooks, Oregon event.)

Lunch included a great assortment of buffet foods, desserts, beverages, and lots of conversation. When lunch was concluded, **Ron Carr** called the meeting to order, welcomed all attendees, along with general comments.

Ron then introduced **Charles Smith**, Contributing Editor & Chief Researcher. Charles described his process for blow torch research and his source of technical information. In his present position as Chief Geologist with the Geological Survey of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Charles has access to trade publications that were printed in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

CONVENTION CONT.

His research has advanced our knowledge of the early production of blow torch related tools, and he continues to uncover new information every week.

Ron then introduced **Graham Stubbs**, Contributing Editor and one of the earliest members of BTCA. Graham took the floor and proceeded to demonstrate his "blowing ability".

Certain types of blow torches required the operator to provide the air power that shaped and determined the flame intensity. The operator had to learn to provide a constant stream of steady air while continuing to breath...an impossible task if you try it without knowing the method.

Graham mastered the cheek flapping and breathing technique after reading about it in a late 1800's publication on alcohol torches. The technique involves flapping your cheeks with short rapid movements while breathing in and out of your nose. Graham had a number of attendees blowing like professionals in a short time!



Graham Stubbs demonstrating his "blowing" technique

Included in Graham's torch display were a number of torches along with copies of their associated patents. Many torches were produced under US patents...and some were actually identical to the patent illustrations. Graham highlighted a few of those patented torches.... including an 1886 Wellington torch model, and an 1898 Climax Co. paint burner.

Just before the meeting was adjourned, Ron presented a memento to **Charles Smith**, a beautifully engraved Howard Miller clock, as a thank you for his dedication to blow torch research.

Graham Stubbs was also presented with a memento, an engraved marble clock and thermometer for his continued service to BTCA.

The event wound down by late afternoon, torches were packed up, goodbyes were said, and everyone left for home. All in all, it was another successful event!

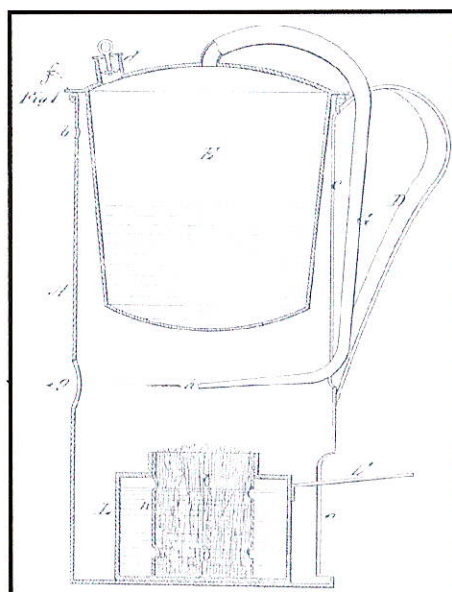
CONVENTION ATTENDEES:

Ron & Janet Carr, Las Vegas, NV
John & Mary Denison, Bakersfield, CA
Bo Escobar & Linda Lopez, Las Vegas, NV
Larry Fields & Pat Hauser, Greensboro, NC
Jim & Marlys Janke, Sun Lakes, AZ
Paul & Marge Johnson, Vancouver, WA
Charles & Pat Smith, Northport, AL
Bob & Marjorie Spear, Council, ID
Graham Stubbs, Poway, CA
Jon & Judy Stubbs, Mt. Vernon, WA
Michael Thornhill, San Diego, CA



REITZ AUTOMATIC SOLDERING LAMP

Ads began appearing in *THE METAL WORKER* starting in July 31, 1875 for the Reitz Automatic Soldering Lamp.



F. Reitz Co.
Soldering Lamp
As advertised
in
The Metal Worker
July 31, 1875

The inventor, Ferdinand Reitz, was issued US patent number 154,618 on September 1, 1874 for the very early designed soldering tool. The ads for the F. Reitz Company Automatic Soldering Lamp ran for approximately one year, and then abruptly stopped.

Interestingly, in all of the ads there was never an illustration of the actual soldering lamp, instead, they elected to use the illustration from the original patent. And because there was never any illustration depicting the actual lamp, there rose a bit of suspicion on whether the lamp was actually manufactured. Because the ad indicated a lamp would be sent to anyone submitting \$5.00 to F. Reitz, we assumed it was a legitimate product.

There was a subsequent article in *THE METAL WORKER*, dated January 1, 1876. It was sort of a Consumer's Report article, where the lamp was actually purchased and tested. The article not only gave the lamp high marks, but went on to describe how one would use the tool to solder lead pipes and tin, iron, or brass faucets. We will add the F. Reitz Company to our growing manufacturer listing.



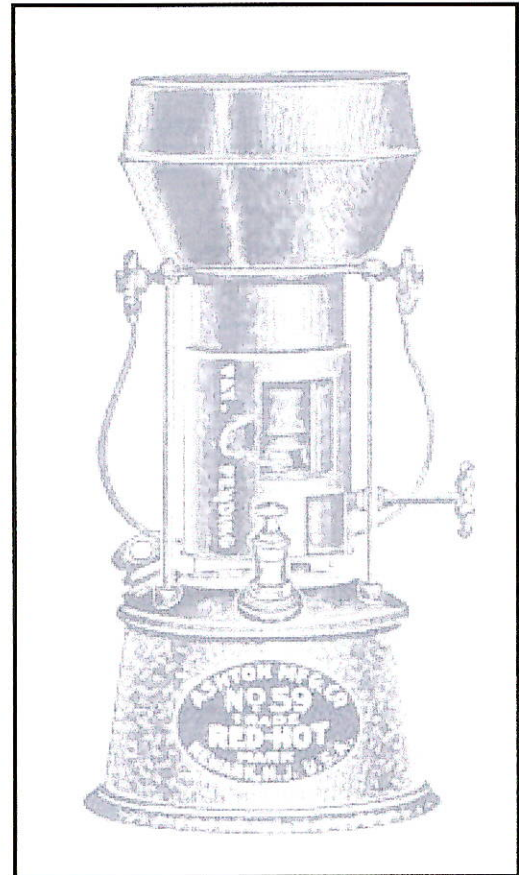
ASHTON MFG. CO.

Recent information on the Ashton Manufacturing Company sent in by **Charles Smith** prompted us to review our Ashton file.

We were aware that sometime early in the 20th century, insurance companies in the US lobbied for stricter policies on gasoline fired blow torches and fire pots operating in and around commercial and residential buildings.

All too often fires were started by careless workers operating gasoline-fueled devices, causing thousands of dollars in damages. In situations where the devices malfunctioned or exploded, they caused serious damage to property and/or workers. Since gasoline is such a volatile fuel, even a leaking torch or fire pot would cause extensive damage or injuries if an unwanted spark ignited the fumes.

As a result of the pressure from the insurance companies and construction contractors, new regulations were created for the use of gasoline fueled devices in and around building sites. In most cases, kerosene fueled devices were required, and gasoline was banned. The new policies forced the blow torch manufacturers to modify their products in order to meet the new regulations.



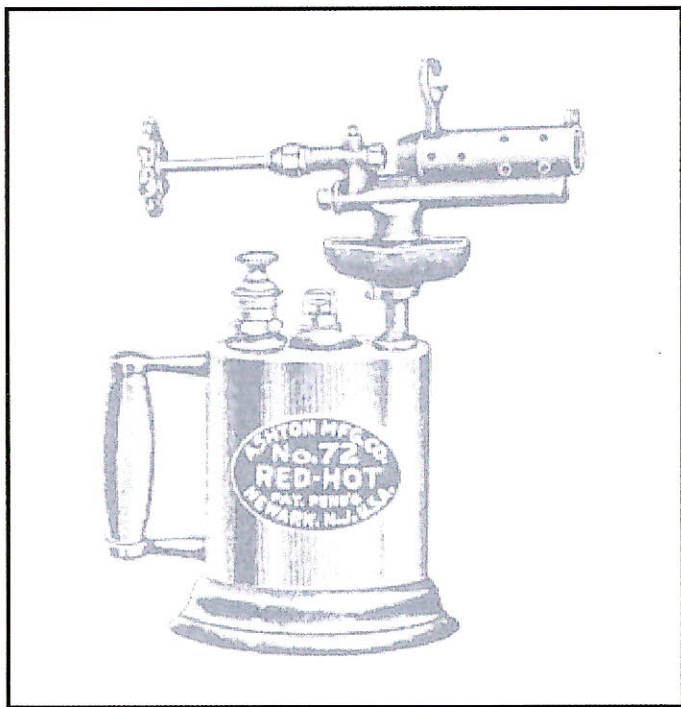
Ashton Mfg. Co. Kerosene Fire Pot
RED HOT No. 59

As advertised in *THE METAL WORKER*
December 20, 1912

The Ashton Manufacturing Company responded in late 1912 by introducing their RED HOT No. 59 fire pot fueled by kerosene. The fire pot is described as being made of galvanized iron with a heavy cast iron top plate and bottom ring to protect the fuel tank. A center support rod running from the top of the tank to the base was designed to make the pot stronger and more durable.

The burner was made of special generated metal to retain the heat and to enable it to work perfectly both indoors and outdoors, whether below zero or in windy and stormy weather.

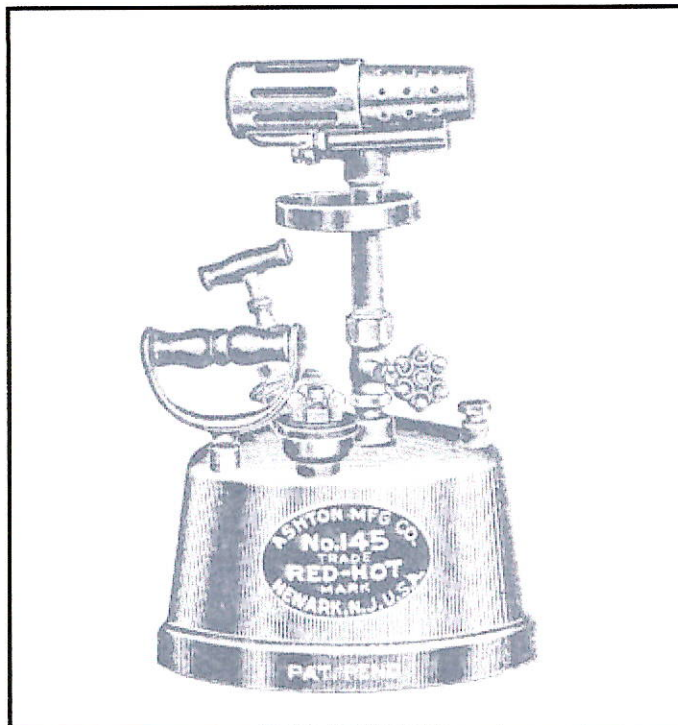
In a May 16, 1913 issue of *THE METAL WORKER*, Ashton announced a new kerosene fueled blow torch, the RED HOT No. 72, that met the new insurance code requirements. The 1-quart torch was made from heavy seamless reinforced drawn brass, and was equipped with an improved automatic brass pump. The filler plug was made with an air valve so that the pressure could be released readily after use.



Ashton Mfg. Co. Kerosene Blow Torch
RED HOT No. 72

As advertised in *THE METAL WORKER*
May 16, 1913

The burner was made with a chamber in which the gas was superheated, and was also provided with cleanout plugs. The plugs enabled the user to clean out the burner easily should it become clogged with impurities from the kerosene (since kerosene burns at a lower temperature and has more impurities, it tends to create coke that can clog burners).



Ashton Mfg. Co. Kerosene Blow Torch
RED HOT No. 145

As advertised in *THE METAL WORKER*
March 11, 1921

In a subsequent article on the Ashton Manufacturing Company, which appeared in the March 11, 1921 issue of *THE METAL WORKER*, another kerosene-fueled torch was announced. The article described a RED HOT model No. 145 blow torch with a much larger capacity for extra heavy work such as brazing, tempering, and re-heating. (There is no mention of the fuel capacity, but from the illustration we conclude that it was at least 1 to 1½ gallons.)

Because of the large fuel capacity and intense flame, the torch was well adapted for work on automobile axles and frames, aeroplanes (airplanes) and hydroplanes. The fuel tank was made of heavy gauge seamless drawn steel, and it was fitted with patented base bands, designed to prevent damage to the base of the tank.

The Ashton base bands were similar to the Clayton & Lambert Cushion Bands that were featured in *THE TORCH*, issue #27, page 2. While the C&L Cushion Bands were shrink fitted to the base of fuel tanks, the Ashton Base Bands were welded in place.

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5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The following members are celebrating their 5th anniversary as members of BTCA. Congratulations on your first five years and continued support of BTCA!

Phillip Anderson
Tom Bartlett
Chris Bayer
Edwin Beer
Stefan Berg
Don Bishop
Glenn Burch
Howard DeRosa
John Dorffeld
Don Farwell
Clarence Goldberg
Leroy Goodwin
Clyde Halsey
Billy Hart
Orthun Hereim
John Hoffman
Tom Holder
Allan Houghton
Donald Huntington
Jim Janke
William Kitazaki
Richard Lenke
Bobby J. Lester
Chase McKnight
Lee Miller
Bob Scheiderman
Hilton Shackley
Tom Smith
Robert Spear
Mel Stoddard
Andy Stratton
Vicky Teeters
Merlin F. Vandenplas
Dave Weaver
Kelly Weaver

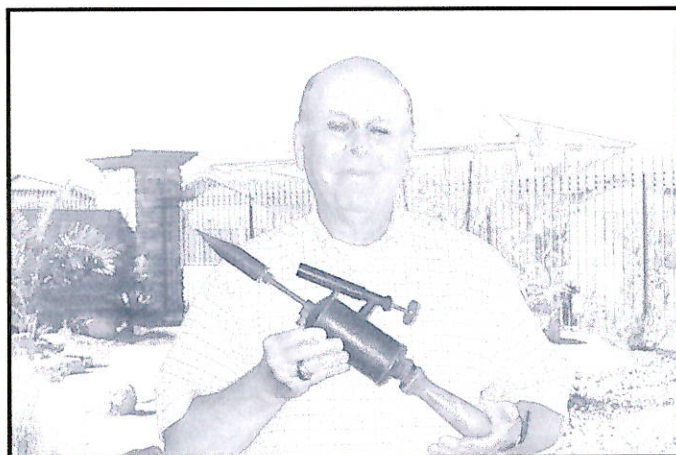
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L. S. FROST CO.

About 3 months ago **Charles Smith** was the successful bidder on ebay of a most unusual blow torch. At first glance one would guess that, while the design seemed practical, the device did not appear to be a functional torch.

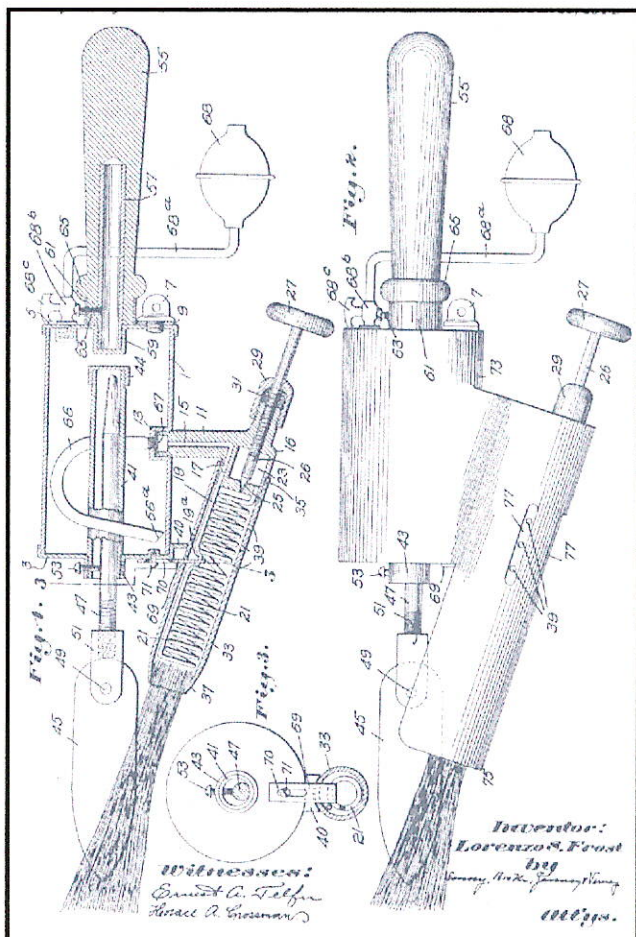
The torch does not contain any manufacturers information, but stamped into the fuel tank is PAT. PEND., an indication that it was actually manufactured under a US patent.

The blow torch is fueled by unscrewing the wood handle that is also the fuel cap. The soldering iron assembly is inserted into a sleeve in the fuel tank and held in place with a setscrew. There is no drip cup, air pump, rubber squeeze bulb, or safety air release valve. Without a drip cup, the operator would have to somehow get the fuel vaporized in the burner before igniting... perhaps using another small torch or a lot of matches!



Charles Smith holding an L. S. FROST CO. Blow Torch
 Identical to US patent No. 1,113,324
 Dated October 13, 1914

The evening before the 7th annual BTCA convention in Las Vegas, **Charles & Pat Smith**, **Graham Stubbs**, and **Ron & Janet Carr** got together for a dinner meeting at the Carr's residence. Charles brought his unknown ebay torch, and after dinner Charles, Ron, & Graham perused through blow torch patent books looking for the patent.



L. S. FROST CO. Blow Torch
US Patent No. 1,113,324 dated October 13, 1914
Internal & External Views

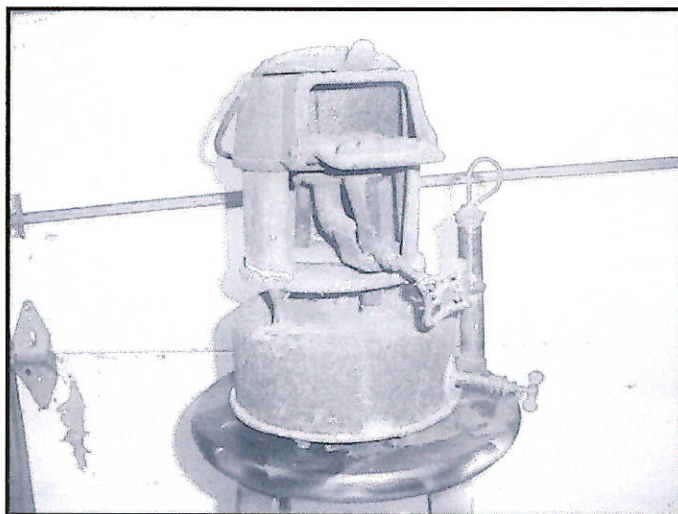
It didn't take long to find the L.S. Frost patent #1,113,324, dated October 13, 1914. What's so unusual is that the general construction and design of the actual torch are almost identical to the patent illustration. You'll note on the patent illustration that the inventor originally allowed for a rubber squeeze bulb. There is also some sort of fuel coil arrangement in the burner assembly that may have had some sort of connection to the start up process.

Since we have no information on the manufacturer, we'll assume that it is the L. S. Frost Mfg. Co, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. We ask any member that has a torch resembling the patent illustration to please contact Ron Carr, Charles Smith, or Graham Stubbs.

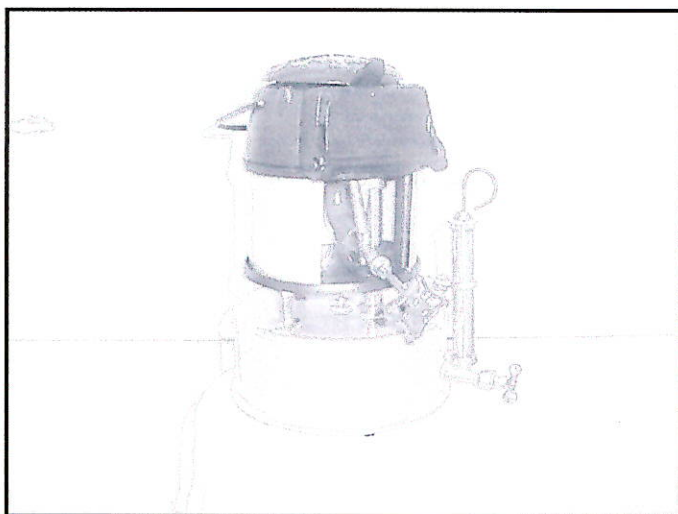
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SCHNEIDER TRENKAMP RESTORED

We printed a Schneider Trenkamp photo in newsletter #29 that **Dave Schulte** sent in a few months ago. The fire pot was in very good condition, although it did have a damaged cast top piece. Dave vowed to restore it to near original condition...and he did.



THE BEFORE PHOTO



THE AFTER PHOTO

The "after" black and white photo does not do justice to the colored version. Dave did an excellent job of restoration including the repair of the cast top piece.

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Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Terry Foutch has expressed an interest in selling his entire collection of 550 blow torches to any interested individual.

You can reach Terry at 2656 SE Tucci Place, Port Orchard, WA 98367, phone number 360-874-9533.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Jeannot Strasser sent in a list of blowlamps that are available for exchange. The list includes; Surmelin #10, Surmelin #20, Vesta Double Burner, Vesta Three Burners, Vesta Old Models Fouilloud, and Paquelin Éolipyle.

Contact information is 7 rue de la chaine, Wissembourg, France 67160, or email to janlamp@wanadoo.fr

FOR SALE: Andre LeFrancois has approximately 20 torches for sale. All have been refurbished to a high quality shine and are in very good condition. Andre will also provide his services to restore any blow torch.

For more details, interested individuals can contact Andre at 466 Evelyn Lane, Hayward, CA 94544, or call 510-886-1478.

FOR SALE: An Otto Bernz blow torch, model number unknown, circa 1930's – 1940's. Red wood handle, air pump in brass fuel tank, quart size, all intact and in very good condition. Will accept any reasonable offer.

Contact Edward Davidson, 305 6th Street, Corning Iowa 50841

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Just a reminder....**THE TORCH** is published and distributed three times per year, at the end of March, June, and December. Please advise us of any address changes as soon as possible to prevent delivery errors or delays.



An illustration from the cover of a New Year's card

The logo in the upper left is of the French Blow Lamp Collectors Group

Sent in by Michel Duval

There is a blow lamp hanging from the shoulder strap

THE TORCH

Official publication of the Blow Torch Collectors Association is published three times per year, March, June, & December.

Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr
Graham Stubbs
Dr. Charles Smith

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, 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131-0119, email to: RMCarr1@cox.net, or by phone: (702) 395-3114.

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.

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