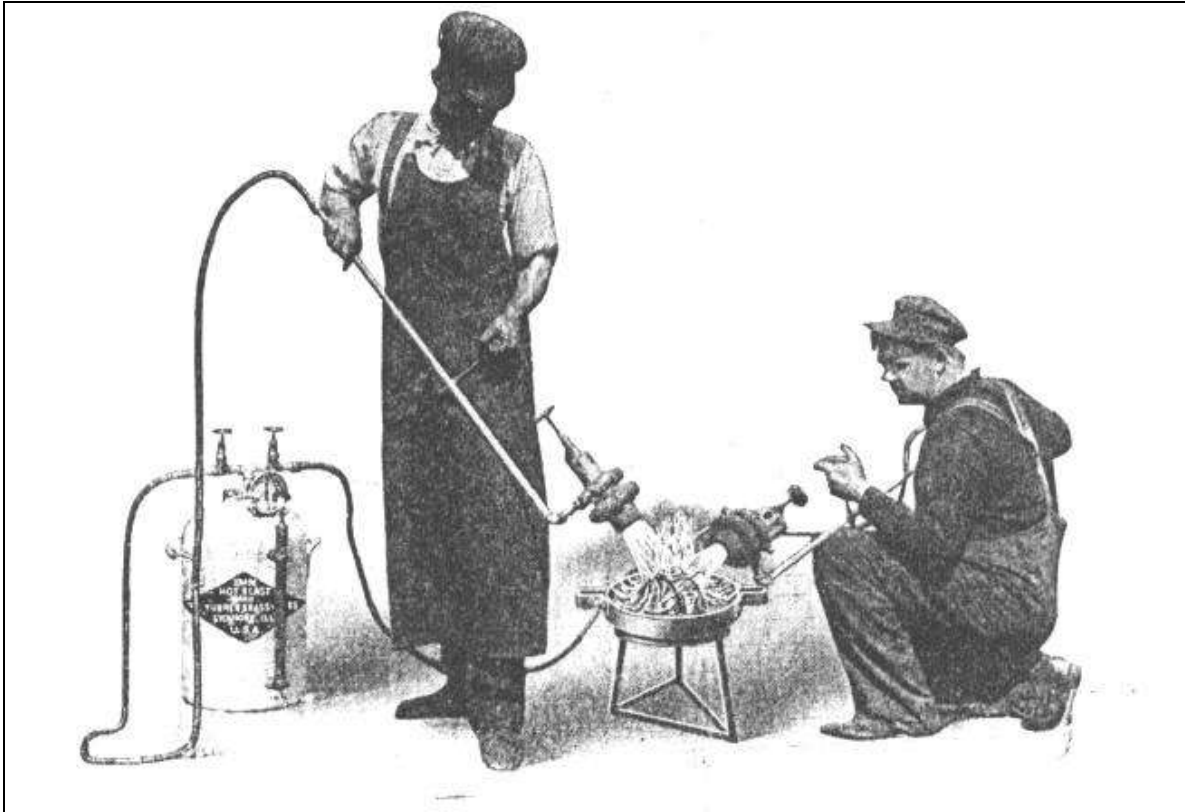


# THE TORCH

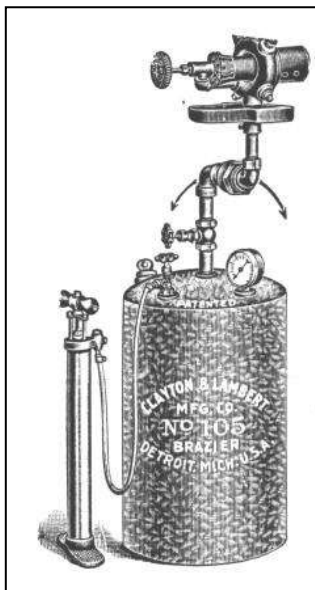
NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Issue #34

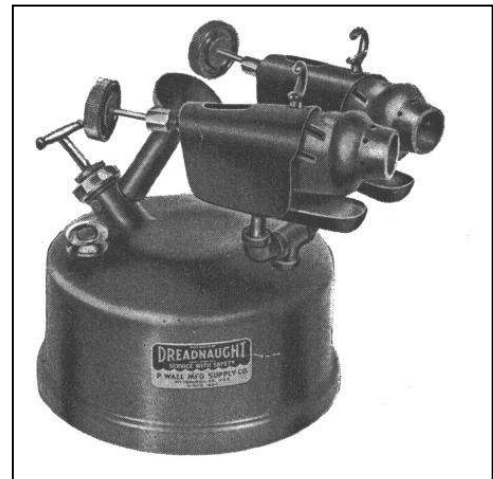
March 2006



No, they're not cooking lunch...they are annealing or heat treating what looks like a bearing with a Turner Brass Works No. 68A Hot Blast Brazier Machine with dual torches. Photo is circa 1911.



A 10 gallon behemoth.  
The Clayton & Lambert  
No. 105  
gasoline brazier torch.  
Photo is circa 1914.



THE GIANT...see P Wall, page 9.

# NEW MEMBERS

**Gerard Guy**, Lalinde, France, started his collection in 1986, but did not get serious until this year due to extensive traveling for work. He learned how to use a blow torch at 14 years old during his 3-year apprenticeship with a blacksmith. With over 350 torches in his collection; 90% have been restored to almost perfect condition.

**Paul & Jean Jedzejek**, Hatboro, Pennsylvania, are relatively new to torch collecting and started their collection in July 2005. They were actually influenced by BTCA member **Jerry Watson**, and after seeing his collection....were hooked on torches. The couple also collects a variety of antique children's toys.

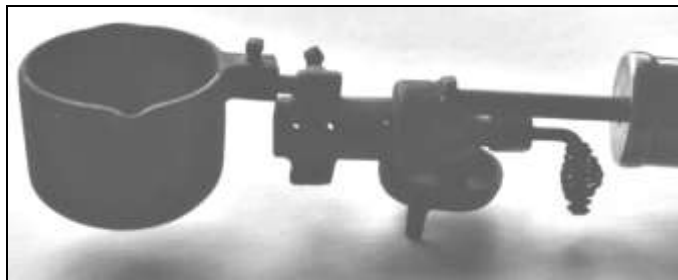
**Jean-Pierre Menard**, Saint-Etienne, France is a 20-year collector with over 400 lamps in his collection. Jean-Pierre discovered his first lamp in his grandparent's attic. He was hooked on lamp collecting after he polished the lamp.

**WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!**



## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

We heard from **Richard Gjersee** earlier in the year about an Everhot torch that a friend purchased at an Entiat, WA flea market for Richard. What was so unique is that all of the accessories were part of the deal.... including the solder pot. Now that's a great friend!!!



Everhot burner assembly w/solder pot  
Photo by Richard Gjersee

**Mel Olson** sent in great photos of some of his collection. One photo in particular depicts a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Otto Bernz aluminum blow torch, and right beside it is an absolute identical torch with a Lenk label. There has to be no doubt that Bernz produced the torch for Lenk. Great photos Mel!



L to R, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary O. Bernz & identical Lenk  
Photo by Mel Olson

A friend of **Bob Scheiderman** brought him 13 torches that included a Hibbard Spencer & Bartlett torch (another good friend)! There are remnants on the HS&B torch of a "TRUE VALUE" decal on the fuel tank....we're not sure if that reflects the TRUE VALUE HARDWARE STORES logo, or it just identified the torch as being a real TRUE VALUE.

**Dave Kolb** sent in a photo of a SOLAR torch that was manufactured by the Otto Bernz Co. In addition to the SOLAR decal, the number 200 is stamped into the handle bracket. Does any other member have a SOLAR?



SOLAR  
Blow torch

Photo by  
Dave Kolb

**Al Austin** sent in a few photos of his latest finds...one that included a Clayton & Lambert No. 5 firepot, patented 2/20/1900. Considering its age...it looks to be in excellent condition...and knowing "Low Profit Al", he didn't pay much for it!



Clayton & Lambert #5 firepot  
Photo by Al Austin

**Dick Sarpolus** gave us an update on sales of the *COLLECTABLE BLOWTORCHES* book that he authored.... it's just over 1000 copies. It appears that the publisher, Schiffer Publishing, is out of stock and it's unsure when they will do a reprint. However, Dick did say that his book is also readily available at Amazon.com. A recent check by us at Amazon.com found 1 new book available at \$29.95, and 27 used books with prices starting at \$11.65 plus shipping. They will ship internationally at a shipping cost of just under \$10US per book.

**John Tingle** recently purchased, what we believe is, an A&A torch, manufactured in Chicago, IL. It's very similar to a torch that **Hilton Shackley** purchased in Florida while on holiday in 2002. John's photo shows a European style burner assembly with the burner sleeve removed. We would like to hear if any member has an A&A torch in their collection.



Unknown torch...looks like an A&A  
Photo by John Tingle

**Graham Stubbs** acquired two very unusual torches that we've never seen before. The first torch is almost completely chrome plated and has a very unusual drip cup or pre-heater cup. There's also a clean out wire located in the base of the fuel tank. The second one is a Lenk style alcohol torch with a cast brass burner head. There's no other identifying information or indications of manufacturer. Anyone having any information on either torch should contact Graham or Ron so we may update our database.



Unknown torch  
Photo by  
Graham Stubbs



Unknown torch, w/cleanout wire in base  
Photo by Graham Stubbs



Unknown torch, burner assembly close up  
Photo by Graham Stubbs



Unknown alcohol torch w/cast brass burner assembly  
Photo by Graham Stubbs

We heard from **Tim Szabo** back in December on a few torches that he acquired. Three are real winners; an Imperial Lamp. Co., a Brookings ECLIPSE, and an American Hardware Supply Co. that looks suspiciously like a C&L No. 800...and probably is a No. 800 since American Hardware was not a manufacturer. And speaking of Brookings ECLIPSE, **Wendel Fritz** also purchased one at a summer flea market in the Maryland area...it's raining Brookings!!!

On the way back from a family visit in Ohio, **Ron Johnson** stopped in a Medina, OH antique shop and purchased a great looking Turner No. 50 Double Jet torch. (See page 11 for photo.)



**“USED ANTIQUE  
SWEDISH  
SOLDERING TORCH”**

That’s how the ad reads in a recent *SPORTSMAN GUIDE* magazine sent in by **Larry Fields**. The ad displays an Optimus blow torch, and states that the size may vary indicating that they’ll send different Optimus models.

The ad is somewhat misleading since the title says “WORKS” and “must have for the welder, metal worker, or collector”, however a caveat at the end states: “Sold as a collectible.” (We suspect that that last statement may alleviate any liability in the event that anyone is injured while actually using one of their torches.)



Used Optimus soldering torch ad  
Photo by Larry Fields

The torches are sold at \$49.97 plus postage. If anyone is interested, you can contact the company at 1-800-458-3006 or order online at: [www.sportsmansguide.com](http://www.sportsmansguide.com) ....but you should first check out eBay where you can probably find a less expensive similar torch!



**TORCH PHOTOS**

**Just a reminder...when sending in photos of your torches, please use a plain white background such as a sheet or towel.**

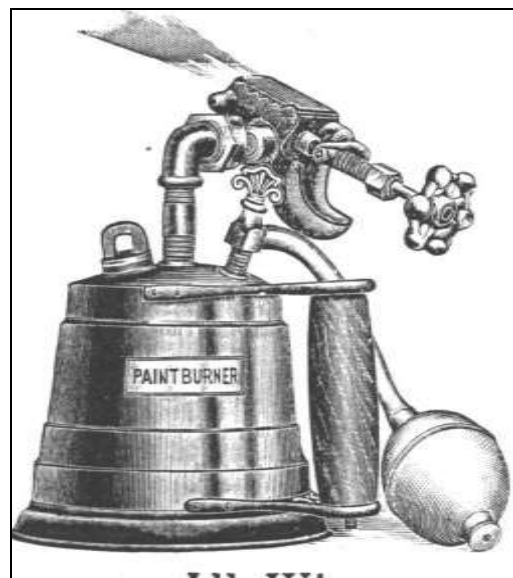
**Actually, white towels work much better because the towel texture seems to reduce shadows. Many photos are sent in to us; however, because of their quality...they cannot be reprinted in *THE TORCH*. Ask **Mel Olsen** how well a white background works; he’s now a photo expert!**



**D.M.I. MFG. CO.**

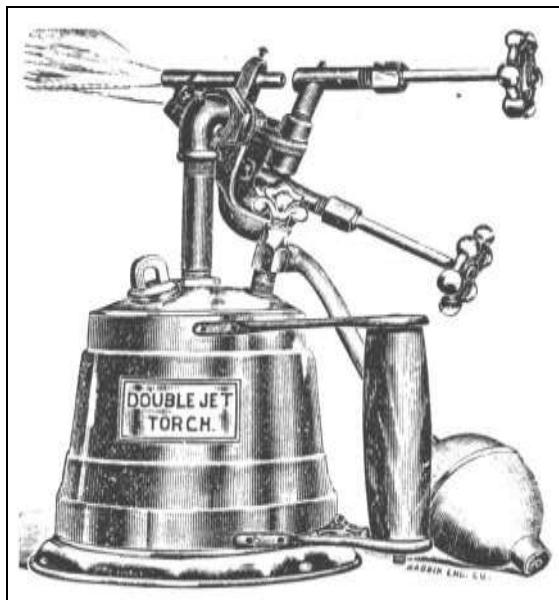
Just when we think that we’ve seen “it all”, **Charles Smith** uncovers an all-new, never seen before US manufacturer. For a short 6-month period of time, from 1895 to 1896, the D.M.I. Mfg. Co. of Detroit, Michigan advertised their tinner’s furnaces and torches in *THE AMERICAN ARTISAN*, a trade’s publication. In the limited number of advertisements that the company had during the period, they advertised 3 tinner’s furnaces or firepots and 4 torches. From observations of their ads and information from other manufacturers, we believe that D.M.I. may have only manufactured the firepots, and they sourced the 4 torches from other companies.

The Paint Burner is a single burner torch, with a squeeze bulb for air pressure and a swivel joint for burner adjustment. The Paint Burner is nearly identical to a torch manufactured by the Union Heater & Supply Co., also from Detroit, Michigan.



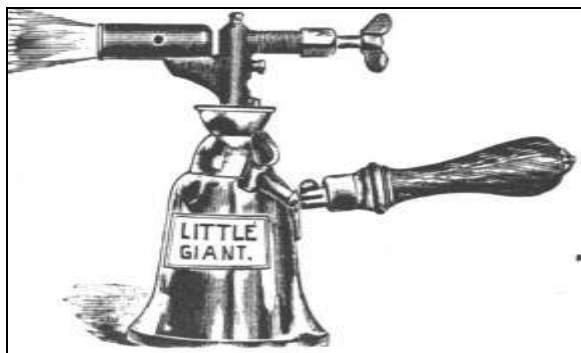
D.M.I.  
Paint burner  
Circa 1895

The Double Jet Torch has a double burner design, also with a squeeze bulb for air pressure and a swivel joint for burner adjustment. We would guess that each burner could be operated independently or together for one awesome flame! The Double Jet Torch is also nearly identical to a torch manufactured by the Union Heater & Supply Co., also from Detroit, Michigan.



D.M.I. Double Jet Torch  
Circa 1895

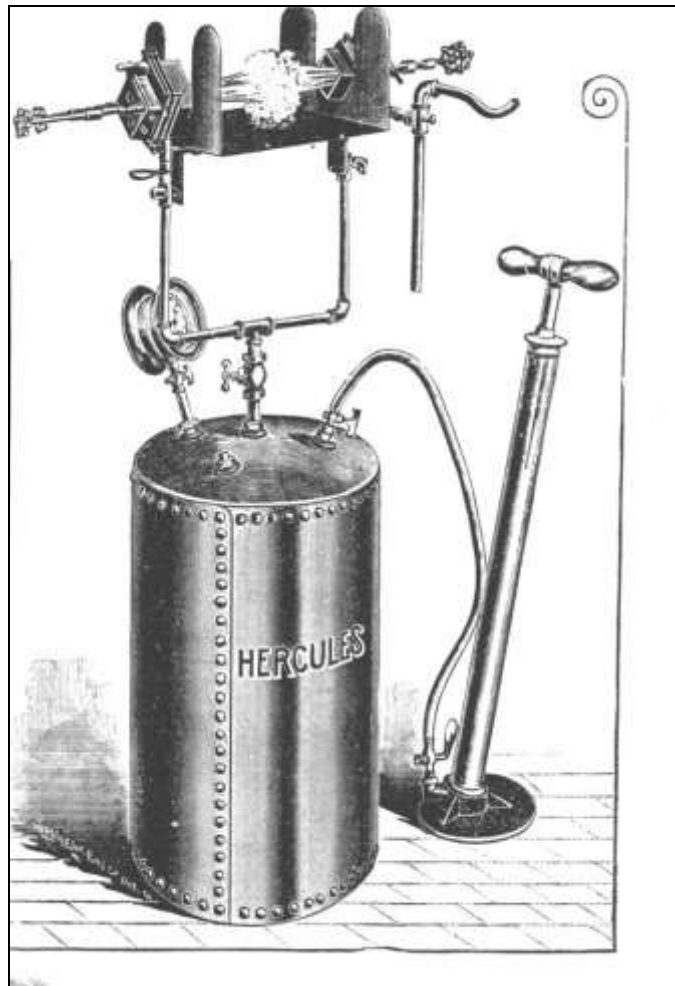
The Little Giant is relatively small in size with an estimated fuel capacity of less than ½ pint. It also was probably manufactured by the Union Heater Co. because of some of similar characteristics to a Union Heater torch. The fuel tanks are very different; however, there are other common features that lead us to believe that Union also made this torch for D.M.I.



D.M.I. Little Giant, Circa 1895

The Hercules was a behemoth of a torch that is very similar to torches manufactured by Turner Brass Works, White Mfg. Co., and Clayton & Lambert...and since Clayton & Lambert were located in the Detroit area during that period, it's most likely that D.M.I. sourced their Hercules from C&L.

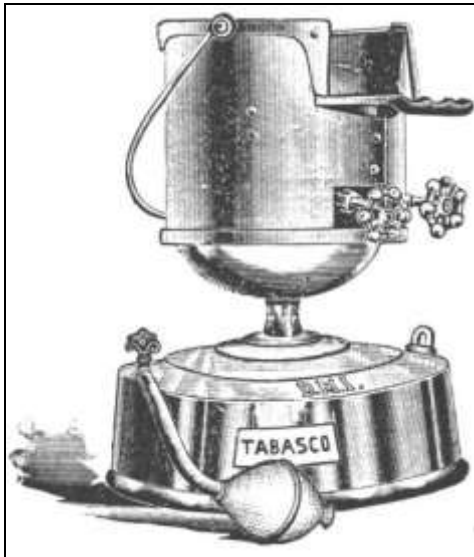
The Hercules was in the 10-gallon range, with a galvanized steel riveted fuel tank, a tire pump for air pressure, included a pressure gauge, and was used for brazing and annealing.



D.M.I. Hercules  
Circa 1895

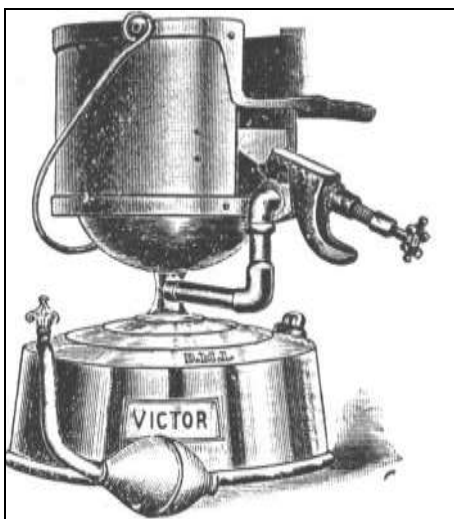
The Tabasco firepot appears to have been manufactured by D.M.I. and had an all-brass fuel tank, squeeze bulb for air pressure, steel hood, and two bronze burner assemblies that could be used combined or independently. The Tabasco could melt ten pounds of lead in six minutes, in the coldest weather...now that's one hot firepot!!

The ad stated: "Remove the hood and you can use this "hot stuff" furnace in every position", which translated meant that the firepot could also be used as a blow torch since the burner assemblies had swivel arrangements.



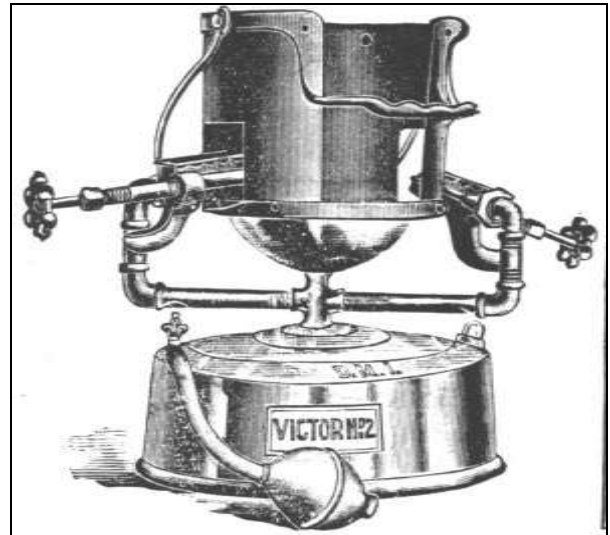
D.M.I. Tabasco Firepot  
Circa 1895

The Victor firepot also appears to have been manufactured by D.M.I.; however it's interesting to note that the Victor burner assembly looks nearly identical to Union Heater burners. There was no firepot construction details provided on the Victor other than the observed single burner design.



D.M.I. Victor Firepot  
Circa 1895

The Victor No. 2, big brother to Victor, had two opposing burner assemblies with swivel arrangements and could be utilized as blow torches. The firepot hood was extra large to handle bigger pots, but because of the larger size of the firepot, it was limited in how it could be used. The fuel tank had a larger capacity and was made from 16 gauge brass...pretty heavy duty stuff!



D.M.I. Victor No. 2 Firepot  
Circa 1895

And in closing, we have no idea what D.M.I. stands for. Charles thinks it could be **Detroit Michigan**, but that leaves an "i"...so no idea and no clue from any of the advertisements.



## 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BTCA CONVENTION

Thanks to **Mark Pedersen**, we've lined up our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual BTCA gathering for Saturday, September 30, 2006 in Brooks, Oregon. We utilized the same facility, the Powerland Museum, in 2001 & 2002 and we'll again have the same opportunity to display our vintage torches among the many antique "one-lung engines" or one-cycle engines.

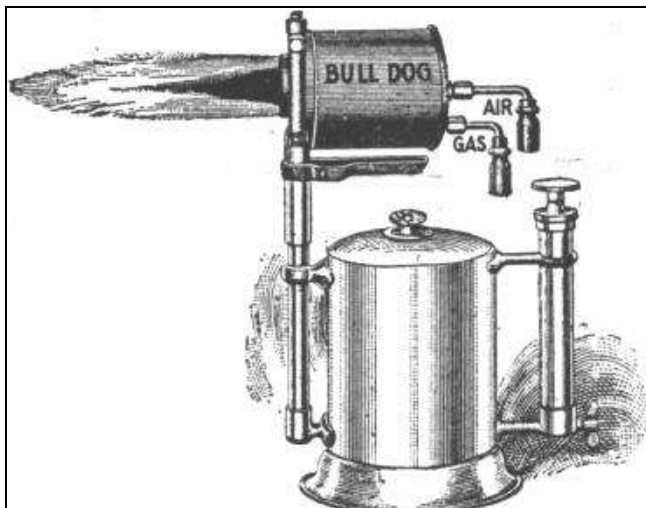
We're currently working on firming up all of the details, so you'll be seeing more information in a follow-up mailing sometime in April. So...mark that date on your calendar, and we'll see you all in Oregon!

# THE BULLDOG, THE COMBO, & No. 232

Additional Turner Brass Works literature was uncovered by **Charles Smith** during his ongoing torch literature research. While reading through a 1903 copy of *THE PLUMBERS TRADE JOURNAL*, Charles found an article on a Turner BULLDOG blow torch.

The torch is similar in construction to Turner Double Jet gasoline torches; however, the BULLDOG burner assembly is much larger and was fitted with a wind shield, thus making it a most powerful generator suitable for outside work in windy weather. The double jet burner allowed the operator to adjust the air and fuel mixture precisely for an optimum temperature that could reach up to 3,500 degrees F. It could easily flow brass that melts at 1,873 degrees F, and could fuse nickel that requires a temperature of 2,912 degrees F.

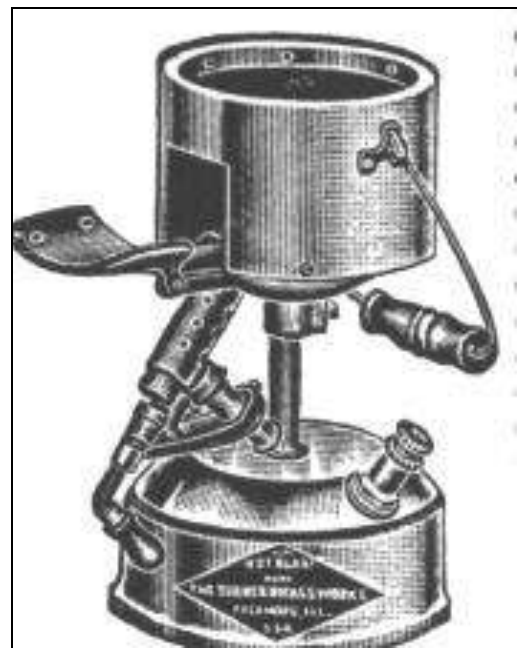
The torch had an air pump located in the handle with an air valve at the base of the handle. Fuel was added into the top center of the fuel tank. There was no mention of a catalog number, but it looks like an early version of a Turner No. 97 Double Jet.



Turner Brass Works BULLDOG  
Circa 1903

Another interesting Turner product advertised during the 1912-1913 period was the No. 112 Combination Furnace. It could melt solder and heat a pair of soldering coppers simultaneously.... and also operate as a blow torch.

The No. 112 was a gasoline-fueled plumber's furnace that was easily converted to a blow torch by removing the top section of the furnace. With a three-quart fuel capacity, the device would operate 6 hours on one filling. It must have been difficult to use the device as a blow torch because of the fixed angle of the burner assembly. From the illustration, it appears that the operator had to tilt the device on its end to properly utilize the drip cup on the burner assembly to ignite the burner. It was a most unusual configuration that did not seem to endure the test of time.... great idea, bad design.

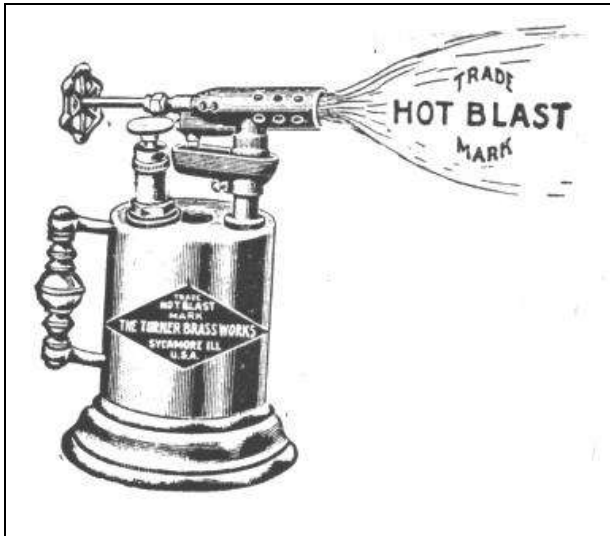


Turner Brass Works, No. 112 Firepot  
Circa 1912

And lastly, a very rare Turner torch not seen before is the No. 232 Hot Blast. For a short period of time...from early 1915 until mid 1916 the No. 232 was observed in only four advertisements in *THE PLUMBERS TRADE JOURNAL*.

It appears to be a quart size torch with an air pump in the fuel tank, and is described as having a "back flow" burner that produced the maximum heat efficiency.





Turner Brass Works, Hot Blast No. 232  
Circa 1915

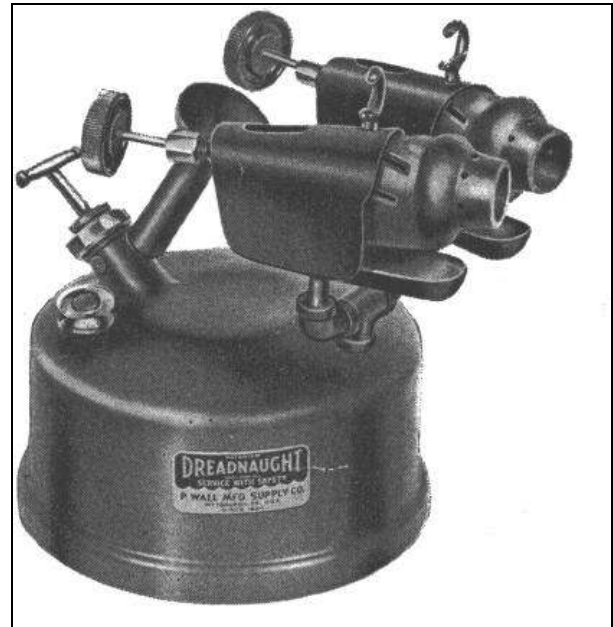
Improvements in the torch included their non-leaking filler plug, air pump with check valve, and a patented former pump cap that reformed the leather for the air pump. It's noted that the handle is very similar to the style used on early Clayton & Lambert blow torches.



## THE GIANT

The P. Wall Mfg. Co. produced a Dreadnaught twin burner blow torch that should have been named THE GIANT!! In 1945 the company introduced a gasoline-fueled blow torch, model No. 49 (model No. 49A utilized kerosene).

The twin burners each had individual fuel valves and the burners could be operated independently or simultaneously. Independently each burner could produce a flame 12 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. When the two burners were operated simultaneously their flames converged 6 inches from the nozzles and produced an awesome flame that would probably melt just about anything!



P. Wall Mfg. Co., The GIANT No. 49  
Circa 1945

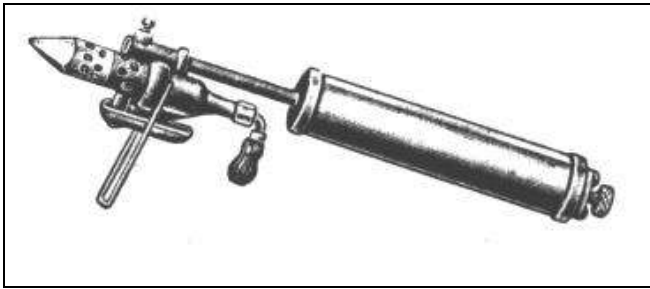
The one-gallon fuel tank held a firepot-sized air pump, and the safety grip handle was positioned for proper balance. Let us hear from you if you have a P. Wall GIANT



## AEROIL BURNER CO.

We printed an article on the Aeroil Burner Co. in issue # 23, June 2002, page 11, and displayed a few illustrations of their torches. Their line of products were typically fairly large in size with large fuel capacities, and were used for thawing railroad tracks, melting roofing tar, heating mixed concrete to prevent freezing, etc. So it was a bit of a surprise when **Charles Smith** discovered an Aeroil advertisement for a self-heating soldering iron.

A 1923 ad in the *SHEET METAL WORKER* described the SHSI as burning either gasoline or kerosene. They produced two sizes; Nos. 110 and 115. The No. 110 had a capacity of 1/2 pint of fuel, would burn for 2-7 hours, and could solder material up to 20 gauge thick. The No. 115 had a fuel capacity of 3/4 pint, would burn for approximately 2 hours, and solder up to 10 gauge galvanized iron.



Aeroil Burner Co. Self-Heating Soldering Iron  
Circa 1923

As with similar self-heating soldering irons produced by Everhot and Geo. Diener, the soldering iron tip was removable so that the device could be used as a basic blow torch. At this point, we don't believe that Aeroil actually manufactured the SHSI since their device looks nearly identical to Everhot self-heated soldering irons of the same time period. We would love to hear from any member that happens to own a self-heating soldering iron marked Aeroil.



## SAM'S BLOWPIPE OUTFIT

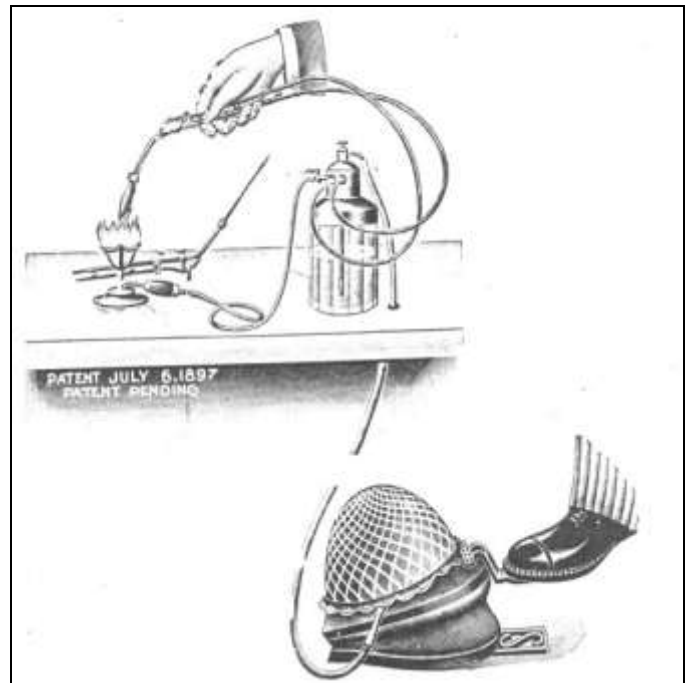
On July 6, 1897 Walter Sams of Warrensburg, Missouri was awarded a US patent, No. 586,066, for a blowpipe burner assembly. The patent is associated with Sam's Blowpipe Outfit that was manufactured by the Metal Specialties Mfg. Co. of Chicago, Illinois during the late 1800's – early 1900's.

The outfit included a very large foot bellows that was connected by a rubber hose to the fuel container. An early photo, circa 1902 depicts a large nickel plated brass fuel tank and a large foot bellows relative to the operator's size. The device was advertised as using very little gasoline, and that one pint of fuel would last one month. Apparently the burner design allowed the operator to adjust the flame from a heavy size down to the finest needle point. We suspect that Sam's Outfit was used in the dental or jewelry industry.



Sam's Blowpipe Outfit  
Circa 1902

Illustrations in a follow up article from an August 1914 monthly *Magazine of Dental Art, Science, and Literature* show the fuel tank converted from brass to thick faceted glass. The top portion remained nickel plated brass, and the glass portion was significantly reduced in size from the 1902 style.



Sam's Blowpipe Outfit  
Circa 1914

It's interesting to note that in 1902 the complete outfit cost \$12.50, and 12 years later the complete package cost only \$15.00...that is very low inflation compared to today!!



# CEDARBERG

**Charles Smith** acquired a Cedarberg Manufacturing Co. firepot in December 2005, and submitted the following article on the company. Cedarberg is a new manufacturer to us and has been added to our manufacturers list.

“The Cedarberg Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis, MN, is known for their manufacturing of plumbers' and tanners' furnace as shown in the accompanying photograph. This furnace was supplied with a tank pressure gauge as well as a bicycle-type air pump for generating tank pressure. The pump was fitted into a metal "sleeve" attached to the carrying handle.”

“Although the cover plate on top of the furnace says "PAT PEND", we know that the patent application was made on June 11, 1945 and patent, No. 2,500,610 was awarded on March 14, 1950. From this information, we can speculate that the furnace I acquired was manufactured in the late 1940's.”

“The company, is now known as Cedarberg Industries and continues today in the Minneapolis and St. Paul areas as a manufacturer of a wide variety of industrial products...however, no firepots.”



Cedarberg Mfg. Co. Firepot, circa 1940's  
Photo by Charles Smith

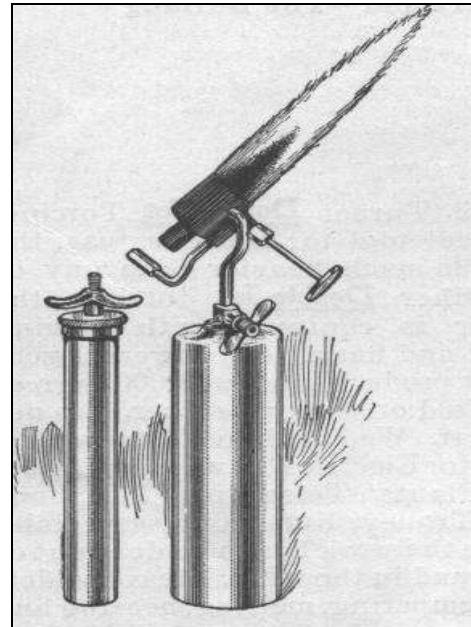


Ron Johnson's Turner No. 50 Double Jet Torch  
Circa 1920's

# Classified Ads

It seems that one of our new members, **Jean Jedzejek** is in need of a fuel control valve for a Unique Mfg. Co. blow torch...the torch that looks like a large red M&M. If you have such a part that you would like to sell, you can contact Jean at 215-674-2257 or mail to 39 E. Moreland Ave, Hatboro, PA 19040.

**John Tingle** and **Malcolm Forster** are always interested in buying or trading for US manufactured blow torches. They'll even consider purchasing complete collections. You can call Malcolm at 01625 425693, or write to him at the address listed in your membership list. You can reach John via email at [JMTINGLE@TISCALI.CO.UK](mailto:JMTINGLE@TISCALI.CO.UK) or write him at the address listed in your membership list.



Turner No. 60 Gasoline Torch  
Circa 1905



Huey, Dewey, or Louie giving Donald Duck a hot one with an unknown pistol grip blow torch.  
Unknown photo contributor.

## WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

One of our members, **Ron Bunting** lost his battle with cancer not long ago. Ron was a very active BTCA member along with his friend **Beau Sinkler**. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Beau and Ron's family.

## THE TORCH

Official publication of the Blow Torch Collectors Association and 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](mailto: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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