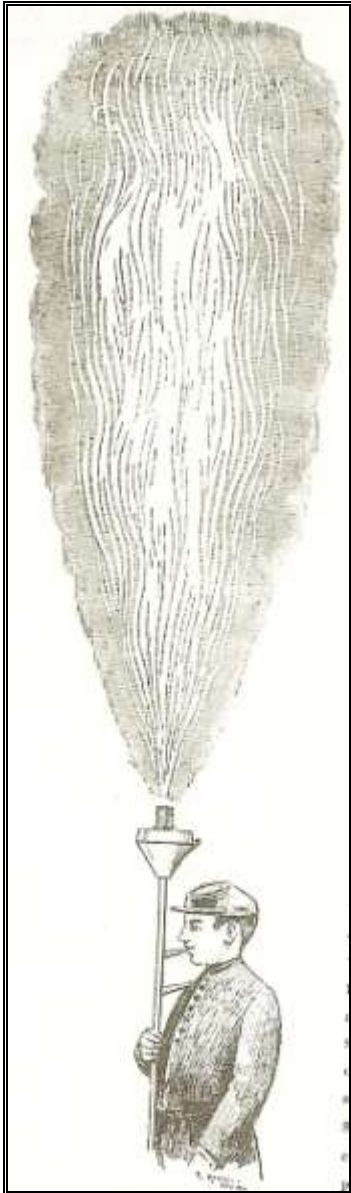
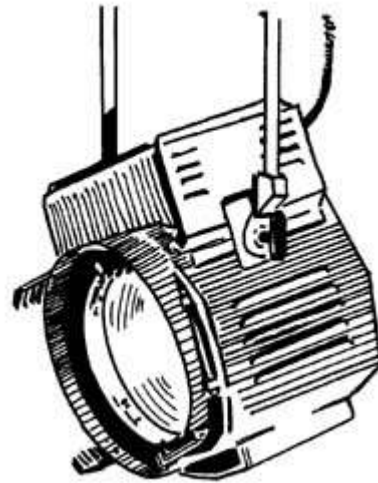


THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
Issue #36 December 2006



THE FLAMBEAU
See page 4



IN THE SPOT TORCH LIGHT

See page 7



One of the many rare torches displayed at the
9th Annual BTCA Meeting...see page 5

NEW MEMBERS

Jacques Alberts, Mions, France is an 18-year lamp collector with over 550 items in his collection. Jacques is a plumber by trade and found his first lamp in an attic...and he has been a collector ever since. He also helps his wife collect vintage hairdressing objects.

Ron Burns of Salem, Oregon rejoins BTCA after a brief absence.

Les Layton of Salem, Oregon has a real love for old engines, flashlights, and spark plugs, but he does find a little time for a few blow torches. Les is very active in the Powerland Museum where the 9th Annual BTCA meeting took place in September, and he was most helpful during our event.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!



NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Charles Smith has acquired two torches that have a unique design on the pump plunger knob...it looks like a clover leaf with multiple leaves. We believe that the White Manufacturing Co. may have produced the torch with the clover leaf design; however, we would like to confirm the information.



Clover leaf-like design on pump plunger

The second photo shows a torch that was produced from the Butler patent, no. 415,613 from 1889.



An unknown torch with clover leaf design
Photo by Charles Smith

Many other companies, including Turner, Pennsylvania Globe, and Globe Light & Heat produced or sold almost identical torches, but none that we've seen so far include the clover leaf design on the pump plunger. If any member has a similar torch with the clover leaf design, or any torch with that design, please contact Ron Carr or Charles Smith.

Paul Whiddett from Kent, England wrote in about the two Globe torches that he purchased. What's so surprising is that the two torches were probably not destined for export out of the US. One is a Globe Light & Heat Co. torch, and the other is a Pennsylvania Globe Co. torch.

It appears that **Gary & Trudy Fye** were on a fishing and antique buying trip and stopped by **Mike Jones'** home on their way back to Reno, NV, and purchased his entire collection of 200 torches and all of his soldering irons! Since the Fye's Suburban was already filled with antique tools...Mike said it was an amazing sight to see Gary repack everything to accommodate the torches and irons!

A note to all that attended the 9th Annual BTCA event in Brooks, OR in September...it seems that **Mark Pedersen** is missing a small carriage lamp with his identifying mark MP834 etched into the metal. If anyone inadvertently picked up this piece, Mark would appreciate its return. If the individual wishes to remain anonymous, then it can be sent to Ron Carr and he'll forward it on to Mark.

NOTES CONT.

We're always amazed at some of the rare torches that we hear about from across the BIG POND. **Brian Grainger** sent in a few photos and included are two rare pieces, a Karas Solder Torch and an Emmelmann Bros. Torch Co. self-heating soldering iron. We know of only a handful of members that own either of the two torches and from the photos both appear to be in excellent condition which would make them even more rare and valuable.



Karas soldering torch



Emmelmann Bros. Torch Co.
Photos by Brian Grainger

Brian had some interesting comments to make about the Emmelmann torch: *"During the dismantling and prior to cleaning, the asbestos insulation under the perforated handle was found to be in good condition. It consists of three individual sheets of asbestos, each about the thickness of blotting paper. Whilst aware of the problems with asbestos, I re-installed it as it was in good condition with no flaking."*

"Again during dismantling, upon removing the sliding collar over the burner head, (the air regulator), the original paint under the collar was found to be intact, although the rest of the burner head was rusted. The color was grey and I restored it to the original color."

John Tingle sent in a few torch photos, and included are photos of a Brown Boggs Co. Ltd. Canadian torch manufactured in Hamilton, Canada. The other photo shown is an identical torch manufactured by Clayton & Lambert, a no. 95K kerosene torch.



Brown Boggs Co. Ltd
Photo by John Tingle



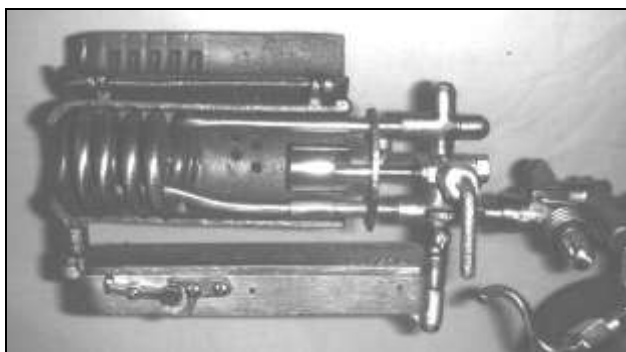
Clayton & Lambert no. 95K kerosene torch
Photo by Ron Carr

The Ashton Mfg. Co. and Barthel also had nearly identical torches except for the handle design. **Charles Smith** has an Otto Bernz no. 41 torch with an identical burner and drip cup assembly. The question is...who copied who?

We have another TV celebrity, **Martin French** from Down Under. Martin was featured on an ABC TV program in Australia called *COLLECTORS*. It airs every Friday night at 8PM and features various antique collections. Collectors' video tape their collection and submit it to the program's website, and viewers can vote on their favorite video

To view Martin's video and watch him fire up a 1947 Primus no. 607...go to <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/collectors/video/index/> and scroll down to episode no. 21 that was aired on June 30, 2006. You can view the video either on Real Player or Windows Media Player.

We received photos of a recently restored torch from **Lloyd Weber**. The torch was manufactured by the Universal Torch & Mfg. Co. of Erie, PA and has an incredibly intricate burner assembly with a hinged piece that allows access to the burner interior.



Universal Torch & Mfg. Co.
Photos by Lloyd Weber

We strongly believe that Universal either bought out or is the successor company to the Volcano Torch & Mfg. Co., also from Erie, PA. As many of you know, Lloyd is a dentist, and he treats his torch restorations as though he was restoring someone's teeth! The restoration is impeccable and includes every possible detail....great job Lloyd!!



FLAMBEAU



Charles Smith found an article with a most unusual illustration from the trade publication, *American Artisan* dated August 8, 1896 for a FLAMBEAU or flaming torch. The device is certainly not a blow torch, but it has to be the largest "torch" we've ever seen! The torch and others similar to it were called campaign torches that were primarily used in parades and other public events. Most other campaign torches were much smaller and usually burned kerosene or gasoline.

What's so unusual about this particular torch is that it did not burn gasoline, not even kerosene, alcohol, or any other LIQUID fuel. The fuel that it utilized was called LYCOPODIUM, a collection of spores from a species of club mosses called *LYCOPODIUM CLAVATUM*. The illustrated torch shows the operator blowing on an accessory whistle, and the torch was also available with a bicycle attachment. If you consider the height of the operator, that is one HUGE FLAME!



5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alan Black | Ron Burns |
| John Deatherage | Bo Escobar |
| Andrew Feast | Bruce Hagemann |
| Ken Hartman | John Jares |
| Christian Jensen | Jim Minton |
| John Meyers | Frits Ordelman |
| Peter Schmiedeberg | Don Steininger |
| Yvonne Wall | |

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

A special thank you goes out to the following eight members that joined BTCA in its second year of inception. Many thanks for your ten years as members of BTCA!

Dick Bernard

Gary T. Fye

Jr.

Mike Jones

Charles Monthy

Bob Calhoun

Ron Johnson

Bill Link

Suezy Proctor



THE BOOK

Significant progress has been made on our upcoming blow torch book, and we are on target for an early 1st quarter printing schedule. Interestingly enough it is titled *BLOWTORCHES*. You may have noticed that we have almost always referred to blow torches with two words throughout this newsletter...right from the very first issue. It appears from our extensive collection of torch literature that both versions seem to be acceptable, so we decided to go with the one-word version as **Dick Sarpolus** did in his 2001 *COLLECTIBLE BLOWTORCHES* book.

Total page count is just over 500, with about 350 names of manufacturers and brand labeled distributors, approximately 1200 torches, 250 furnaces or fire pots, and assorted other torch related items. The index lists and cross references every individual item either with a model number and/or a common or given name. You're going to be enlightened, amazed, and impressed with the history that's been captured in the book thanks to **Charles Smith's** research work and **Graham Stubbs'** writing abilities.

It is nearly impossible to establish a monetary value for each item in the book because of eBay and other variable factors. In lieu of monetary value ratings, we've elected to go with a 5-star rarity system that allows the collector to do a monetary value assessment based on current market conditions. We felt that a rarity rating system would not be affected by time or the ever changing torch market. (See page 19 for an understanding of the rarity guide.)

The current plan is to send out book order forms sometime in mid January for your ordering convenience. The order form will include shipping costs to most locations.

You have an opportunity to actually be a part of the book! The order form will include a date by which you will need to get your full payment into our hands. All paid subscribers by the listed date will have their names printed inside the back cover of the book as subscribers to the first edition printing. Also included will be a page in the book with a photo of the three authors along with original autographs...not printed...but original!



9th Annual
BTCA Meeting

What goes around comes around...and that's what happened when the BTCA group returned to the Powerland Museum in Brooks, Oregon for the 9th Annual Meeting.

This year's event was arranged by **Mark Pedersen** and **Maurice & Noma Jernstedt**. Mark and Maurice worked diligently to coordinate the event and spent many hours setting things up. Mark even made road signs and placed them strategically to direct traffic! Noma found a great local caterer that provided a very tasty lunch for all attendees.

Attendees included:

Al & Elaine Austin
Ron Burns
Ron & Janet Carr
Larry Fields & Pat Hauser
Terry Foutch
Richard & Judith Gjersee
Orthun Hereim
Maurice & Noma Jernstedt
Paul & Marge Johnson
Les Layton
Charles & Shirley Monthy
Mark Pedersen
Quentin Schwartz
Charles Smith
Graham Stubbs
Jon & Judy Suta
Vicky & Doug Teeter
Don & Nellie Weber

MEETING CONT.

Sixteen torch displays were scattered throughout the main museum building, and members spent the entire day closely scrutinizing and drooling over the rare pieces that were on display.

Maurice Jernstedt displayed not one, but two very rare Shaler alcohol torches, and presented one of them to **Ron Carr** as a gift. There are only two known to exist.

Included in **Jon Suta's** assortment of torches were two Stayhot torches, models A & B that were manufactured by the Thermo-Gas Products Co. The most popular version is the model B, and there are just a few model A's known to exist.

Paul Johnson displayed a Mahr-JIFFY torch from the Diamond Iron Works Co.

Mark Pedersen had a Lundy Double Blast furnace on display that had been fully restored. He also included a very coveted Quick Meal torch.



Lundy Double Blast furnace
From the collection of Mark Pedersen

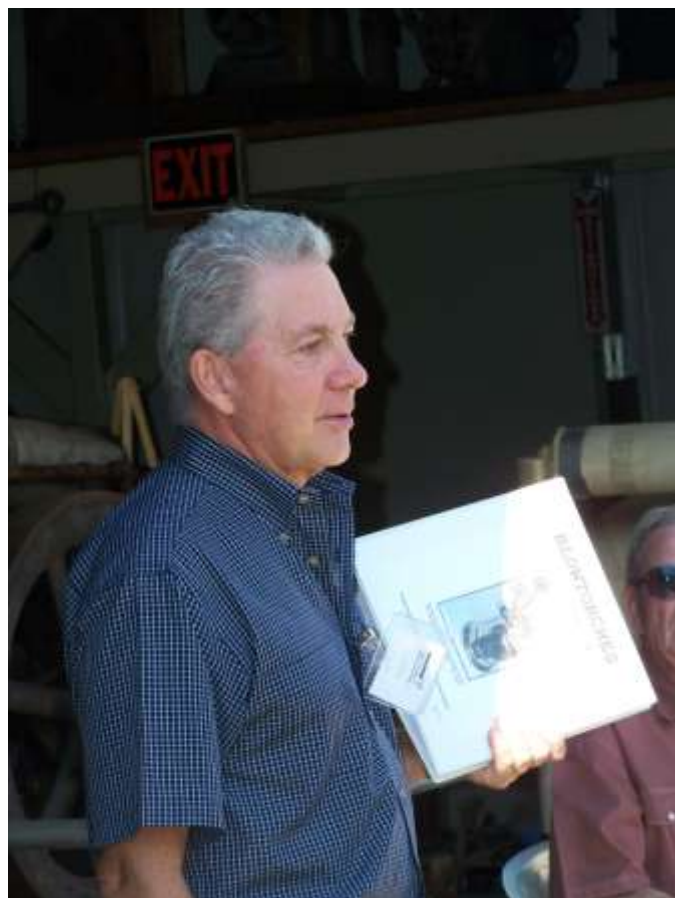
Al Austin was showing off his Alton Iron Works torch and a very rare NOKORODE soldering kit.

Don Weber's table included a P. Wall military style torch with the burner assembly mounted on the bottom portion of the fuel tank.

Quentin Schwartz displayed an early propane torch made by the Mutual Propane Co.

A buffet lunch was served during the noon hour and everyone took a break to enjoy the meal. Just after lunch, **Ron Carr** opened the meeting, welcomed the group, and thanked the hosts, **Mark Pedersen** and **Maurice & Noma Jernstedt** for all of their time spent and hard work.

Ron also talked a bit about the upcoming book and provided some updated details on its content along with an estimated printing and distribution schedule.



Ron Carr addressing the group

Ron then welcomed new member **Les Layton** to BTCA, and asked him to say a few words on how blow torches related to many of the engines that were displayed throughout the museum. Les is closely associated with the museum and is somewhat of an authority on engines.

MEETING CONT.



Les Layton enlightening BTCA members on hot tube engines.

According to Les...many of the vertical burner torches were used to start engines such as the hot tube engine. The blow torch would heat a thin walled tube that was part of the combustion chamber, and when the tube reached the right temperature, it would cause fuel ignition...the hot tube acted as a glow plug.

Hot tube engines would operate continuously only if a blow torch was continuously providing heat to the combustion tube. Blow torches started other types of engines but did not require the constant blow torch heat application as in hot tube engines. See page 20 for photo of a hot tube engine.

Charles Smith has an acquaintance in Alabama that casts items from pewter...so Charles had his friend make a small quantity of very small blow torches cast in pewter, and handed one out to each BTCA member present at the meeting.

Each pewter torch is just under ¼ inch tall with a ⅛ inch diameter fuel tank, and a very small handle and burner assembly. Considering their size, they have to be the smallest blow torches in the world!

Mark Pedersen donated a P. Wall military style blow torch as a raffle prize...the torch was raffled off and **Richard Gjersee** won!



Richard Gjersee is located in the center of the photo, closely guarding his raffle prize.

Graham Stubbs gave away two prizes to two lucky winners; **Vicky Teeters** and **Maurice Jernstedt**. Earlier in the day, Graham challenged the attendees to find any torches that were not listed in a draft copy of The Book. Vicky and Maurice each had two or more torches that were not included.

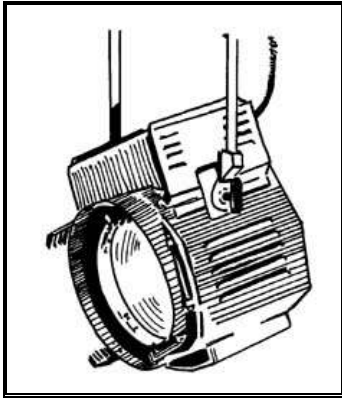


Graham Stubbs shown holding up the two Otto Bernz tags.

The prizes were two very old, but in near mint condition, Otto Bernz torch tags. The tags were the type that were attached to each new blow torch and included operating instructions.

The meeting was adjourned and shortly after lunch members started to take down displays. By late afternoon, most everyone had said their goodbyes and headed for home.





"IN THE ~~SPOT~~ TORCH LIGHT"

There have been numerous requests over the past few years for this publication to feature BTCA members and their torch collections. In the past we've printed short articles that were submitted from various members, but from some of the recent comments we've received, apparently members are interested in more details and with additional information.

This is our first attempt at an interview with a BTCA member, and we selected **Lloyd Weber** as our first guest. If the response is favorable from our members, we'll continue "IN THE ~~SPOT~~ TORCH LIGHT" on a random basis, and since we have close to 200 members....this could last for a long time!



Lloyd & Patti Weber

Lloyd and his lovely wife Patti live in Fridley, Minnesota, a suburb of approximately

25,000 people just north of Minneapolis. Lloyd is a native of Minnesota and has lived in Fridley for 11 years. He attended St. Thomas College, and then went on to the University of Minnesota Dental School where he graduated in 1965. Lloyd spent two years in the US Navy treating military dental patients in the Philippines, and when he returned home he started his private dental practice in a Minneapolis suburb. He sold his practice after serving the community for forty years.

TT: How did you and Patti get started collecting antiques?

LW: We discovered antiques on our honeymoon in 1998 in Wisconsin. We stopped in many antiques shops and malls...and we were hooked. We both like history and old things so it was a logical direction. I started with coffee mills and Patti started with antique porcelain flowers.

TT: How did you get started collecting torches?

LW: Patti's father was moving out of his home and into an assisted living facility, and I helped to clean out his garage with his grandson. He was always tinkering with mechanical things, and among his possessions included a blow torch. I asked if I could have it, and my father-in-law gave me the blow torch and included the old brass goggles that were worn when he used the torch!

TT: What year was that?

LW: 1999.

TT: What did you do with the torch?

LW: I brought it home, put it in my garage and kind of forgot about it...until we were antiques one winter day at the Minneapolis Convention Center. I met a gentleman by the name of Ken Hanes...a very interesting man about 80 years old. He polished old model A & T parts, old tools, and in his display were four nicely polished blow torches. I was so impressed with his polishing ability I asked him if I brought my torch back to him, if he would show me how to polish it.

TT: Did he agree to help you?

LW: Yes, he not only showed me how to disassemble the torch, but also what polishing materials to use and where to get them. We got to be fairly good friends and I learned a lot from Ken about restoring metal.

TT: Did you ever restore your father-in-law's torch?

LW: Yes I did, it was my first torch that I restored and I gave it to my father-in-law for Christmas that year. He was ticked to death to get it back in such a beautiful condition.

TT: Does he still have the torch?

LW: Unfortunately he passed away a few years ago, and I have the torch back in my collection.

TT: Is it a rare torch?

LW: No, it's a common Turner torch with a wood handle, but it has a lot of nostalgic value to me.

TT: What does Patti think of your torch collection and collecting?

LW: She's very excited about it...as a matter of fact, when we go out antiquing she's probably looking more for torches than things that she wants to buy. When we start out, we always tell each other that we're not going to find anything of value, but invariably we do...so, we're definitely in this together!



The Man and his torches

TT: Living in the Midwest, you have the opportunity to attend many of the Friday and Saturday night farm auctions that are so prevalent in your area...do you attend any of them?

LW: No, typically not, but I do have relatives that attend on occasion and they'll find a blow torch or two for me. That's not a place to find many torches, however, you remember Mel Olson...he covered a lot of auctions up in northern Minnesota and found lots of torches. There seems to be many more antiques up north.

TT: How many torches do you have in your collection?

LW: About 500 torches with close to 200 that are completely restored. I think the auto torches are somewhat unique and I have 75 of them.



Some of Lloyd's more rare torches

TT: There are some BTCA members that concentrate on collecting certain styles or sizes...like pint size torches. Do you prefer any particular style or type of torch?

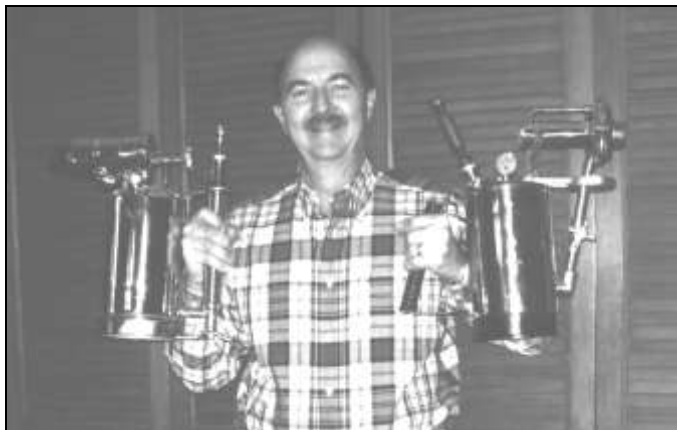
LW: Not really....I collect any torch that I believe is valuable, although I tend to lean toward the older torches, the ones with the air pump in the handle.

TT: Is your collection primarily from the US?

LW: Yes, however, I do own about 20-25 foreign or offshore torches. While in Switzerland on a tour about 5 years ago I found a great looking Swiss torch and purchased it because it was so unique and well made.

TT: If you had to pick one torch from your collection as your favorite, which one would you choose?

LW: Boy....that's a tough question. Typically it's always the last torch that I've restored. And it gets put on the kitchen counter for a few days where I can admire it before it is put away. My last restoration was the Universal torch from Erie, Pennsylvania so; I guess that would be my current favorite. I really like the Universal torch because it is so detailed and has a lot of gadgets on it.



Lloyd is holding a Sam Heath & Sons torch from Birmingham, England in his left hand. In his right hand is a Primus no. 607. Each weighs in at 10 pounds!

TT: What is your most valuable torch?

LW: That would most likely be the Invincible torch that was manufactured in Wilmington, Illinois. It is one that I purchased on eBay for a four figure sum. I recently purchased a Queen torch on eBay....not quite as expensive as the Invincible, but close to a four figure sum.



Lloyd's most valuable torch...the Invincible

TT: Do you have other favorites?

LW: Yes, I have other torches with fond memories, like the torch that the late Mel Olson gave me. There's also the torch that Mark Pedersen gave me when Patti & I visited him this past May on our Northwest trip. Those are special torches to me.

TT: Any other unique torches?

LW: I have four aluminum Phoenix torches...all different, and I've also accumulated about 25 of the Otto Bernz pint size torches, from the earliest to the latest. It's neat to see how they all evolved from the earliest with the air pump in the handle down to the wooden handle. Every time I would see one, it was different, and since they were not too expensive, I'd pick it up and add it to the collection.

TT: Where do you display your collection?

LW: Well, I have a bunch in the basement. I also collect cook books, and I have 700 cook books on the bottom shelves, and my torches on the top shelves. I keep the more valuable torches in my den upstairs.



Lloyd's basement, torches on top, cookbooks on the bottom

TT: Have you ever publicly displayed your torch collection?

LW: I have not. I'm thinking that when I fully retire next year I may do something like that. We have a lot of tractor shows in Minnesota, at least 10 shows over the summer...and I've given some thought to put some sort of display together for those shows.

TT: Have you ever fabricated any replacement parts?

LW: No I have not...I've not needed to. Speaking of fabricators, it was fun talking to Mark Pedersen because he's such a great fabricator.

He's the type of guy that can start out with a piece of brass and end up with a torch!! I do have a metal smith in my neighborhood that does any of the soldering that I need done...and he can make anything. So if I needed something made, he would do it.

TT: Do you have a buffing booth or room?

LW: Yes. I used to polish torches in my garage and in my dental office, and you know the mess that it makes. Patti suggested that I have some enclosure made in the basement that would be a permanent clean safe place to restore torches. And since I listen to what my wife says... I asked a very handy friend of mine to put something together for me. I gave him an idea of what I needed and he built it for me.



Lloyd working at one of his benches

TT: How big is it?

LW: It is approximately 4 feet by 10 feet.

TT: What sort of equipment do you have inside your buffing room?

LW: I have a friend that does sheet metal work and he made stands for my two ½ HP motors...both motors have double ended shafts. One motor has a wire wheel on one end and a 3M de-burring wheel on the other side that is made out of that Scotch Brite material. The other motor has six inch cotton buffing wheels on each end. Also in the room is a self-contained dust collecting system, a table where I do my disassembly and assembly work, and a vice. I do spray my torches with a finish lacquer inside the room as well as any required spray painting.



One of Lloyd's motors with a wire brush on one end and a 3M Scotch Brite wheel on the opposite side.

TT: How long does it take you to restore a typical torch?

LW: That's tough to answer because there are so many types of torches. A good example is the last torch I restored...the Universal torch took a long time because the torch is so complex. I would guess it took me at least seven to eight hours from start to finish...not counting travel time or drying time.



Lloyd's second motor with cotton wheels on each end

TT: Can you describe how you restore your torches?

LW: After I disassemble the torch, I take all of the cast bronze, iron, and steel parts to a dental lab that I have used for the past 40 years in my dental practice...and I use their equipment to sand blast the parts. Their sand blaster works really great. It takes all of the rust off and really cleans up the cast bronze pieces. I then take those parts back home and lightly wire brush them to bring the shine back, since the sand blasting puts a dull frosted finish on the surface. The wire brushing makes the parts look like new again!

TT: What about the brass components?

LW: For all of the brass parts that will take a shine, I start with the 3M Scotch Brite wheel and that takes all of the accumulated patina off...that's the first thing I hit the brass with that gets it down to bright metal. For the next step I use one of the six inch cotton buffing wheels and a buffing compound called Sure Shine, a dental buffing compound that's used on dentures. Then it's on to the other cotton wheel for the final buff. I polish every surface except the inside of the tank.

TT: When you say every surface, does that include the inside of the air pump handle and the burner?

LW: Yes, even the inside of the pump tube. I use some of my smaller dental buffing tools and I can get into very small places. I also polish the bottoms of all my torches...most people don't. The bottoms really look nice polished, especially the brass ones with all of the concentric circles.



Lloyd's work bench with a Hauck no. 10 blow torch waiting refinishing

TT: Do you spray a protective coating onto your refinished torches?

LW: Yes. I use the Nicholas brand lacquer and buy it by the case directly from the G. J. Nicholas & Co, in Bellwood, Illinois. All of the torch parts get sprayed all over before I reassemble the torch.



One of Lloyd's refinished torches The Queen by the Bridgeport Brass Co.

TT: Do you prepare the brass and bronze surfaces before you spray on the lacquer?

LW: Yes, I use a 4 by 4 cotton gauze, saturate it with alcohol, and clean up any residual buffing compound material, oil, or grease that's present. I also use latex gloves when handling the buffed and cleaned parts so I don't contaminate them with fingerprints.



A refinished Eclipse torch by Lloyd The Brookings Mfg. Co., Dayton, Ohio

TT: Where do you source your buffing supplies?

LW: Except for the 3M Scotch Brite wheels, I get all of my supplies from the Rio Grande Tool & Equipment Co. in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Interested members can reach the company on 1-800-545-6566, or on the Internet at RIOGRANDE.COM. They will charge you \$10 for their catalog...be sure to just order the tool & equipment catalog, and if you order anything from their catalog, you'll get a \$10 credit. If you have any questions you can reach me at 763-572-8158, or at lpweber@comcast.net

He invited Patti and me to his home in Oregon, and I had such a great time talking to him. All of these people have the same passion, not just for torches, but their whole life. They are perfectionists and they love what they are doing. What a great time I had at the Las Vegas BTCA convention and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to Graham Stubbs and Charles Smith.



This is a torch that Lloyd refinished for a 78 year old friend. His friend has a 492 piece soldering iron collection.



A refinished Doane & Wellington blow torch by Lloyd
Patented September 3, 1882

TT: Any final comments?

LW: Yes. I'd like to express my feelings for how great I felt after finding BTCA from a friend working next door to me, and talking to Ron Carr who got me so enthused about torch collecting...especially all of the great people that I've met through torch collecting...I really want you to mention that!! Dave Kolb was the first guy that I met at his home in Austin, Minnesota...I admired his torches and saw his passion for collecting. Then I found Mel Olson just north of me and met him...another passionate person. I can't forget Mark Pedersen.

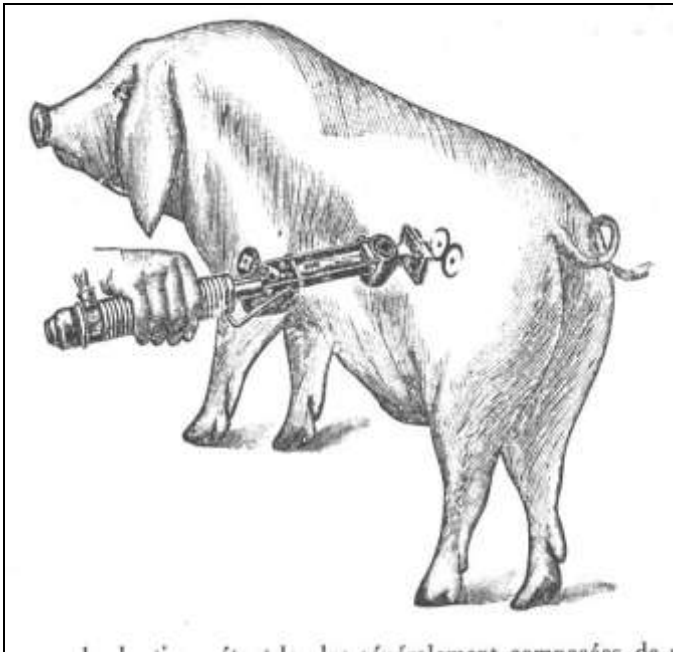
TT: Would you consider giving tours of your collections to any BTCA members that may be visiting in the Minneapolis area?

LW: Absolutely! This year the Daylily Society is having their national convention in Minneapolis. Patti and I are avid gardeners and have over 1000 annuals and perennials in our back and side gardens...and this year our gardens will be one of the open garden tours available. Anyone coming to the Minneapolis area this year that wants to see some great gardens...and see my torches is more than welcome to visit us. We'll have a glass of wine and talk torches....and flowers if they're interested.

TT: Lloyd & Patti Weber are located at 7635 Alden Way, Fridley, Minnesota 55432, or you can reach them by phone: 763-572-8158.



BTCA REMAINS A VERY GLOBAL ORGANIZATION WITH 33 MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE USA. ENGLAND TOPS THE LIST WITH 16 MEMBERS!



A pig being branded with a
Leon Guilbert branding device, made in France
Illustration from Michel Duval

Union Heater Supply Co.

The Union Heater Supply Co. manufactured a very small torch called the Diamond Gasoline Torch. We printed an illustration of the torch in issue #16, page 3, and at that time had very little information about the torch or the company. Since then **Charles Smith** has uncovered additional information that we found most useful.



Diamond Gasoline Torch
Union Heater Supply Co.

A June 30, 1894 article in the *AMERICAN ARTISAN*, a trade publication, lists the Diamond Gasoline Torch as just being introduced to the market. The torch was designed to be small enough to fit into a pocket or in a small tool kit, yet had the force and advantage of similar larger torches for light work. The fuel tank was made from brass and held about ½ pint of gasoline. The burner was so

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constructed that the flame could be regulated to suit the work, and the top of the fuel tank was concaved to form the drip cup. An important feature of the torch is that the handle could not only be adjusted to any angle, but could also be easily removed.

There are a few known Diamond Gasoline Torches in member collections, and in The Book we assigned the Diamond Torch a four star rating in the rarity listing. A four star rating is considered very rare. (See the back page for an understanding of the rarity guide that will be listed in The Book.)



Another of Lloyd Weber's refinished torches
There are no identifying marks on the torch...does
anyone have one like it with the vertical burner?

Classified Ads

For Sale....Terry Foutch is offering his entire torch collection of over 550 pieces of blow torches, soldering irons, electric irons, and plumbers' furnaces. We're not sure if Terry will liquidate individual pieces, so you'll need to contact him at 360-710-4848 or write to him at PO Box 1786, Pahrump, NV 89041.

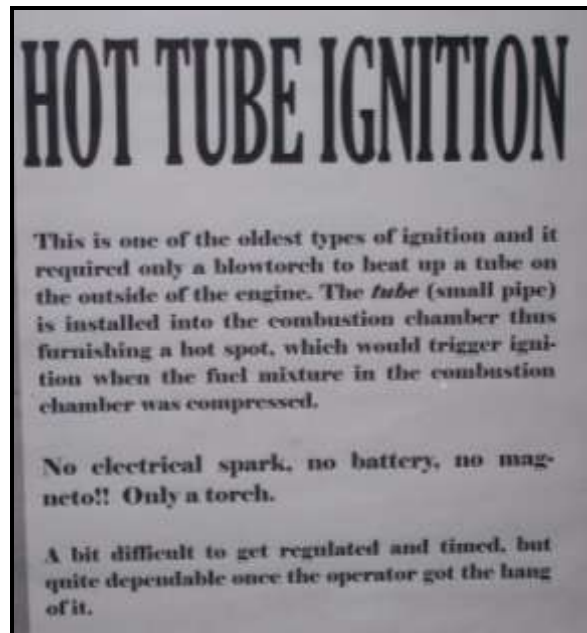
For Sale...Mark Pedersen still has approximately 100 torches for sale of different sizes and styles. Mark is downsizing his collection and would prefer to liquidate his duplicates. Contact Mark for specific details on available torches at 503-897-3101, or email pedrleen@webtv.net.

Wanted...Malcolm Forster is still interested in trading many of his lamps for US torches. If you're interested in trading with Malcolm, you can reach him in the UK at 01625 425693 for details.

WantedA number of members continues to ask for miscellaneous torch parts for sale. Older fuel caps, soldering iron hooks, burner assemblies, and air pump plungers are some of the items requested. Consider selling some of your parts....you might be surprised how valuable they are! Remember, all BTCA members are eligible to post free advertisements in the CLASSIFIED ADS.



A Hot Tube Engine as seen at the Powerland Museum in Brooks, Oregon



Description of a Hot Tube Engine

THE TORCH

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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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This is a rough draft of the rarity guide that will be included in the upcoming book.

Using the Guide to Rarity

A guide to the scarcity of torches and furnaces is indicated using one to five stars as indicated in the table below. The estimate is the consensus of the personal opinions of the three authors based on their aggregate fifty or more years of collecting blowtorches. Where the authors were not comfortable with offering an estimate, the rating is left blank.

For the major manufacturers, such as Ashton, Bernz, C&L and Turner, with many torches in their catalogs, it was difficult to distinguish between individual models, unless specific torches were well known to the authors. The higher ratings are based on information which was reported in the BTCA newsletter "The Torch" or which has been reported directly to the authors. This is a guide only to rarity; no attempt is made to estimate prices.

Rating	Category	Meaning	Examples
*	Common	The most commonly found with commonly seen features.	C&L No. 32, Bernz No. 87, Turner No. 30A, Hanau bakelite, and many small Lenk torches.
**	Uncommon	Distinctive features, fairly easy to find.	Ashton (most models), National Safety all models, all center mounted burner models, Turner horizontal pump torches, Hauck most models, all half gallon brass tank torches, halide detectors, valve handles of wire or L shaped wood, external pump and separate valve.
***	Rare	Very distinctive features and/or infrequently seen for sale.	Everhot branding torches, Willson, most Vulcans, C&L No. 8, Turner Double Jet most versions, Butler patent (Globe) torches, Ridgely Trimmer, Bernz No. 8, and "Vesuvius" brass tank.
****	Very rare	Only a very few examples (ten or less) reported by BTCA members or seen offered for sale.	Wellington, Everhot blowtorches, Bernz No.75 SHSI, Lyon & Conklin SHSI, Acorn Brass Works, Brass-tank furnaces, Downey, Union Heater, Ridgely Trimmer side mount, Hauck brass tank models, Climax paint stripper, Bolte torches, and "Vulcan" marked Bridgeport Brass.
*****	Ultra rare	Offered for sale in historical documents such as industry journals and catalogs, but not yet reported by BTCA members or seen offered for sale.	Burgess paint burner, Archambault torch, Ashton No. 145, Auto-Tool SHSI, Bernz 100 brander, Buckeye torch, C&L "Twin", and Turner 60D.
u	Unknown.	Unknown if ever manufactured.	Seen in patent illustrations or in trade journal articles but not advertised.
blank	Not rated.	Insufficient information to justify an opinion.	Most steel tank firepots and furnaces, imported torches and others unfamiliar to the authors