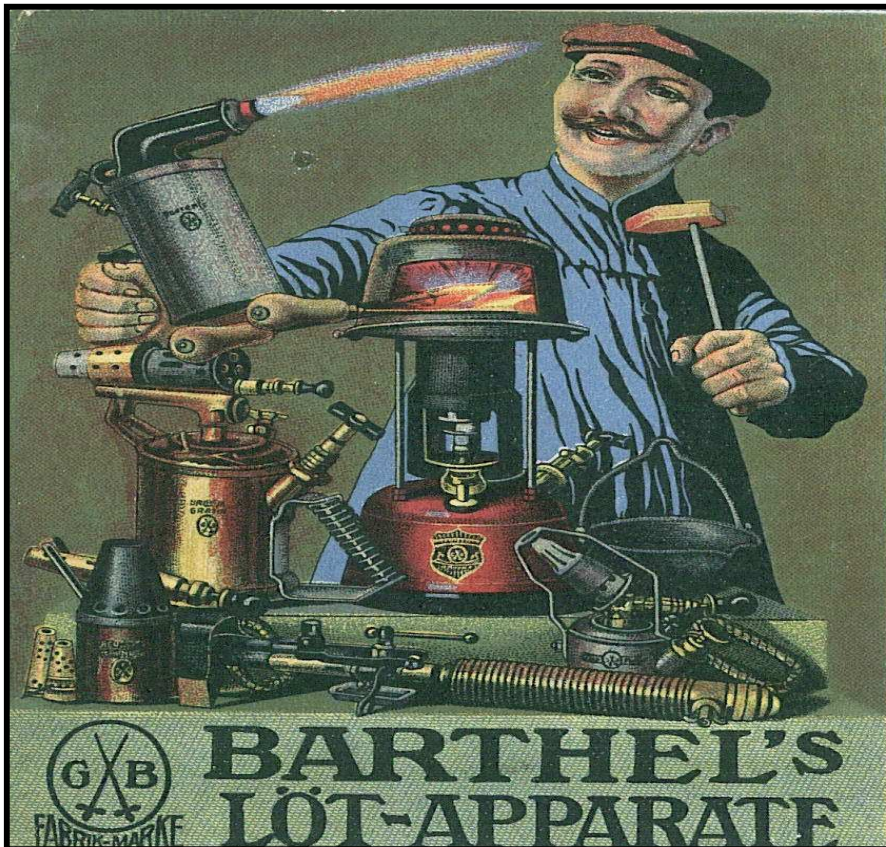
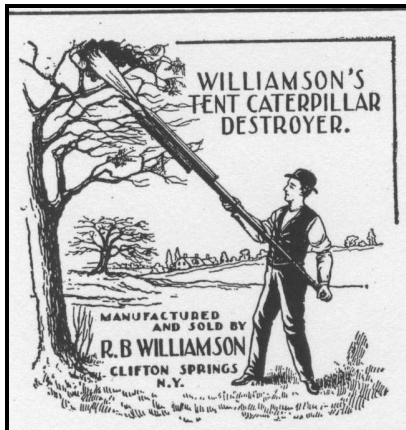


THE TORCH

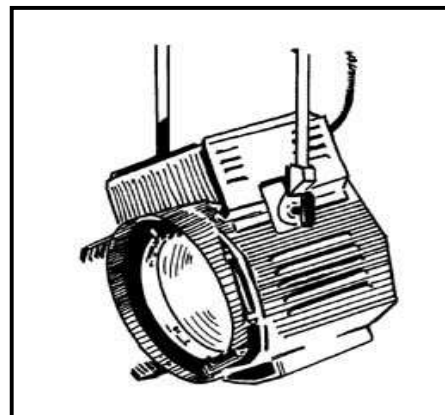
NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
Issue #44 June 2009



The above poster is from the collection of Michel Duval.



Need a seven foot torch?
See page 13 for details.



IN THE SPOT TORCH LIGHT, see page 8.



NOTES FROM ALL OVER



We received this cartoon from **Lee Miller** that he found in a recent issue of the *GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE* newspaper from Great Falls, Montana. If the Mr. Coffee Company ever manufactures one of these combo items...we will be first in line to purchase one! →→→

George Stevens sent us a note regarding a recent purchase; "My best find remains my little Phoenix torch that my wife found in a box at a local garage sale. She purchased it for \$10. I have a small budget for torches, plus I collect other items; monkey wrenches, smudge pots and oil and gasoline cans. It is fun visiting rural stores and farm auctions looking for treasures. My torch collection stands at about forty pieces and most are the common variety. *THE TORCH* newsletter helps me to determine what to look for in the out of the way places."

George, please send us a photo of your Phoenix torch.



While digging thru his "stuff", **Mike Kitazaki** found this item manufactured by the Quick Meal Stove Co., Div. of American Stove Co., St. Louis, MO. ←←←

According to Mike; "This is a model called *Vesuvius 200*. It is similar to the one shown on page 7 of *THE TORCH*, issue #43 from Dave Schulte. Mine is missing one of the cast iron burner plates which I assume diffuses the flame. The wire key-like piece on top of the tank has a small wire on the end to clean the burner orifice. The base is a cast brass piece but the top cover, which I believe is copper, is only a decorative skin that covers a brass fuel tank."

We featured a Clayton & Lambert no. 75 firepot in issue no. 43 of *THE TORCH*...a firepot that we have never seen before. After reading about the no. 75 firepot, **Dave Kolb** realized that he had one in his collection.

According to Dave; "I purchased the no. 75 firepot from a friend who had been using it as a flower pot for a few years. Having been outside for some time, it was quite dirty, but overall in excellent condition. With some sandblasting and a new paint job...it looks great, not bad for a \$17 investment! I've added a few items to my firepot. One of the items is a very large seven inch diameter and four inch deep lead pot which I suspect could hold at least twenty pounds of lead. It is marked: Made By Clayton & Lambert Mfg. Co., Louisville, KY, USA, and number 6688.

Other items that I have added include a lead ladle, an orifice cleaning tool, and a pipe joint runner. The joint runner is made of asbestos and was used as a "dam" when pouring lead around cast iron pipe joints. The firepot weighs in at twenty pounds....just as the article in issue no. 43 stated. It is just over nineteen inches tall...including the wind shroud; the wind shroud is ten inches in diameter and six inches deep. The fuel tank is just over nine inches in diameter and four inches high. This is, without a doubt, one of my prized firepots!" →→→

Carl Oxley's P. Wall Mfg. Co. torch is not chrome plated like the one shown on page 3 of *THE TORCH*, issue #43, but his does have the coiled spring retainer piece on the end of the pump assembly. Carl also sent in a great photo of some of his various sized soldering coppers.



Dave Schulte recently purchased a Turner no. 2 Double Jet blow torch. What is so unusual about his torch is that; #1...we do not have it listed in the *VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES* book, and #2...the fuel tank was manufactured in Turner's Chicago facility and the burner assembly was manufactured in their Sycamore facility. This would date Dave's torch to late 1907 or early 1908....just after Turner's relocation to Sycamore from their Chicago location. See the follow up article on more details of Turner history. ←←←

If you need to burn the hair off the butt of your pig, **William Palmer** has just the torch for you! He purchased a Trench Art blow torch at an antique fair four years ago. →→→

The torch has three wicks. The first bullet wick feeds kerosene to the main head. The second bullet wick feeds kerosene to burn the wick to heat the main head to vaporize the kerosene. The third wick at an angle is lit to ignite the vaporized kerosene. William did not indicate if this was a homemade device.



Dick Sarpolus sent in a photo of his P. Wall torch with the burner assembly extending from the bottom of the fuel tank...and nearly identical to the torch shown on page 475 of the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES book.

When he purchased the torch it was painted olive drab, so he assumes it was made for the Military. He cleaned it up and painted it a bright red, for fun.



Turner Brass Works, Follow-up History

Additional historical information was uncovered by **Charles Smith** on the Turner Brass Works that is worth mentioning. It appears that the Turner Brass Works was constantly harassed by labor troubles in its Chicago location during 1905 and 1906. The labor unions were very strong in Chicago during that period, and Turner was feeling their pressure. Their Chicago facility was also becoming inadequate for their sales volume of business, and it was for these two reasons that they relocated to Sycamore, Illinois, a small town just outside Chicago and away from the labor unions. While the company successfully relocated and continued operations in Sycamore, their business languished a bit from 1907 to 1915. Manufacturing in a small city, changes in management and business policy, and many other minor issues all combined to interfere with Turner's progress and profit.

Nineteen hundred and fifteen marked the timely arrival of William F. Pagel. Pagel traveled to Chicago to have some of his automobile inventions manufactured, and was referred by some of his friends to the Turner facility in Sycamore. Pagel came upon the Turner scene just at the time new management and a driving force was badly needed. Shortly after, William Pagel became Vice President, Treasurer, and General Manager of Turner Brass Works.

William Pagel was a driving force indeed! He immediately made sweeping changes in the plant layout by regrouping machines and reorganizing departments. The changes allowed the manufacturing to progress through the facility with a minimum of handling and transportation. In the blow torch department, twenty nine different styles of fuel tanks were formerly used, and all were purchased outside from other brass companies as complete fuel tanks. With Pagel's direction the number of fuel tank styles was reduced to four and all were made at the Turner Sycamore facility. To accomplish this, Turner purchased an \$11,000 huge press that would draw out the fuel tanks from brass sheet. Many other torch parts were also purchased from outside companies, but eventually every torch part was made by Turner in Sycamore....nothing was purchased other than the raw materials.

From the new management and sweeping manufacturing changes, Turner emerged as a very strong company and continued as one of the leading manufacturers of blow torches and other brass related items.



National Safety Device

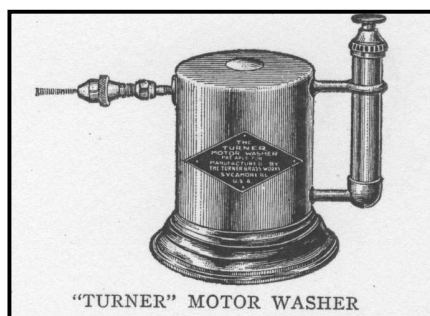
We believe that **Charles Smith** has acquired one of the earliest designs of the National Safety Device Model No. 200 one-pint pump-less torch. The torch has no maker's marks on it, nor any patent information, yet its shape and function leave little doubt that it is an early design of the National Safety Device No. 200. The major difference with this early model on the left side from the later one shown on the right side is that this has the handle as an extension of the burner rather than as an attachment to the upper rim of the tank. Both have identical, or closely similar, features including the size and shape of the burner, the unusual "V-shaped" front soldering-iron rest, the wind screen, the elongate locking nut on the control stem, the size and shape of the drip cup, and the welded convex plate on the base of the tank. You can view the side-by-side photo **↑↑** showing both "varieties". Does anyone else have one of these early versions shown on the left side?



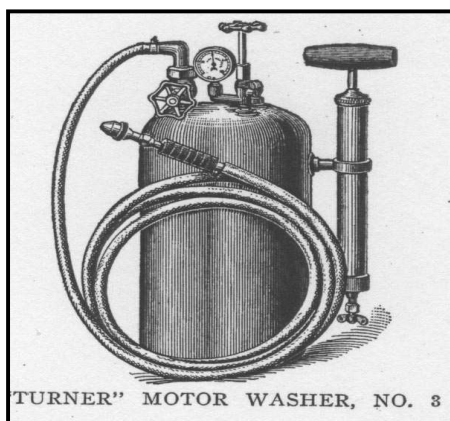
TURNER MOTOR WASHERS

While they are certainly not blow torches, nor do they burn any type of fuel, however, since many of our members collect motor washers and they employ many of the same parts as used in blow torches, we report on them when information becomes available.

The Turner Brass Works produced a line of motor washers that they introduced to the trades in 1913. The motor washers utilized gasoline, kerosene, or other cleaning liquids that were applied through an adjustable nozzle and could provide a spray pattern or a very fine intense stream under pressure from the air pump. The most common size was the brass one-quart "hand" washer, shown above; however, Turner did offer a two and a five gallon size that were more suited for use in garages.



"TURNER" MOTOR WASHER



The two larger sizes featured drawn steel tanks equipped with pressure gauges registering up to one hundred pounds, large hand pumps, connections so they could also be attached to a pressure tank. The larger sizes could also be used to blow air instead of cleaning fluids. This feature was especially useful in drying off parts or blowing dust or debris.

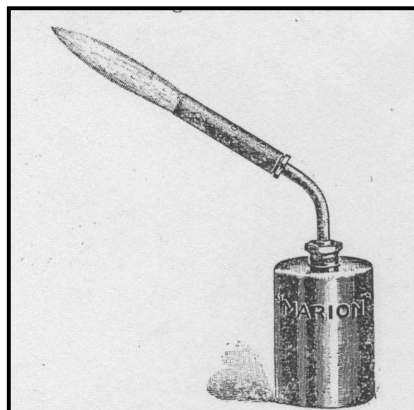
The article never stated the capacity of the no. 3 washer shown in the illustration on the left.



ANOTHER BABY TORCH

Yes.....another BABY torch! The Marion Co. of New York, NY manufactured their version of a BABY gasoline torch based on a September 1907 advertisement in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine.

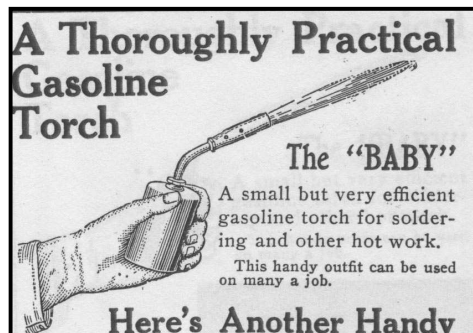
The company stated that *"It is a practical tool for use in a large number of trades. It combines utility with compactness; it has volume without bulk and avoids troublesome features. It is automatic, works without air pressure, has no pump or valves, lights with a match and burns up to two hours on a gill of gasoline."* (Note: **Charles Smith** had to look up the capacity of a gill ...it is equal to four ounces.) *"The BABY torch will burn gasoline, benzene, or naphtha. Its handy size makes it convenient to be carried in any tool bag. It also is used in households for soldering purposes and for thawing out frozen pipes."*



YET ANOTHER BABY TORCH

We thought by now we would have seen every imaginable BABY torch made....guess again! It seems that M. Klein & Sons also produced their version of The "BABY".

An advertisement in a January 1914 Hardware Dealers' Magazine featured the Klein "BABY" torch. The company stated that their BABY torch was *"A small but very efficient gasoline torch for soldering and other hot work. This handy outfit can be used on many a job."* The BABY torches we have seen to date are all very similar in design and construction to each other, and they are also very similar in design and construction to all of the IMP torches....so we now have BABY or IMP torches made by Klein, Bernz, Crescent, Welch, Carleton, Lenk, Mossberg, Scovill, Zeidler, McGill, Marion, and Ransom & Randolph. Does any member have a Klein or Marion BABY torch? Does any member have all of the referenced BABY and IMP torches?



SUPPLEMENT TO VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES

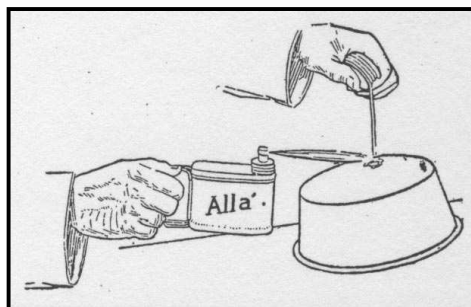
We have mentioned a supplement book to the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES book in a few past newsletters, and we continue to make great progress in what may be a book titled **MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES**. To date we have identified twenty nine not seen before makers and eleven brands that cover **over 240 pages...that is nearly half the size of the original book!** The supplement would be laid out in the same format as the original book and would include a comprehensive index that will blend all of the items in both books.

At this point in time we are uncertain as to exactly how and when we will "go to press" with the supplement book. We are looking for your input on the subject and are interested to know if you would purchase a supplement book. We would guesstimate a price of around twenty four dollars. **Please**, take the time now to let us know by mail, email, or phone as to your interest in purchasing the supplement. Your inputs will give us guidance and direction...so **PLEASE...contact us**. Email contact: RONLV@COX.NET, phone contact: 702-395-3114, mailing address: BTCA, 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131.



ALLA TORCH

The American Alla Solder Co., Philadelphia, PA produced a small alcohol blow torch called the ALLA. It is very similar to the small TINOL torches made by Hess & Son...also of Philadelphia, PA. It may just be a coincidence that both companies were from Philadelphia, or Hess produced the torch for American Alla. Records show that Hess TINOL torches were being advertised nearly four years before the American Alla Co. 1914 advertisement in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine.

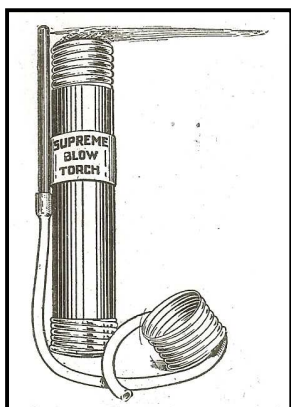


The Alla torches were packaged with a quantity of self-fluxing solder in wire form in a sturdy box. With the Alla torch and solder, no other soldering iron, rosin, or acid flux was required.



VANDAM, FEDERAL

Charles Smith's research through a series of 1920s issues of the Hardware Dealers' Magazine uncovered two unknown and what appear to be interconnected companies marketing the same single-tube blow torch.



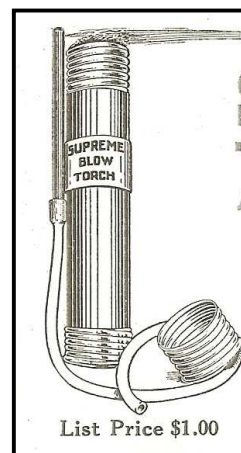
VANDAM

The Vandam Specialty Co. of New York City advertised their SUPREME BLOW TORCH during April, May, and June of 1920 in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine. The small torch burned denatured alcohol and was considered a "vest pocket torch" in size and price...the price tag was one dollar. It held sufficient alcohol to burn continuously for up to one hour, and due to its construction would not leak. It could be used in any position and "*no stream of burning alcohol would drop from it.*" The needle point flame gave a clean and intense heat of over one thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The torch was made from drawn brass seamless tubing, highly polished, and heavy nickel plated.

FEDERAL

The Federal Mfg. Co. of Boston, MA advertised the same SUPREME BLOW TORCH from December 1920 through March 1921 in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine. No other Vandam advertisements were seen during or after the Federal advertisement period. See the follow-up article on page fourteen on the Hunt-Lasher Co. that is the successor company of the Federal Mfg. Co.

The Federal Co. description of the torch is identical to the Vandam advertisements; however, Federal provided a detailed description of their unique wicking system. "*The wick construction is unique in that it is a tight fine-fibred cotton wicking that extends approximately one-third of the length of the torch barrel from the top down; and then from the bottom of this wick there is a small tail or leader attached, which feeds the denatured alcohol just fast enough to the larger wicking above to enable it to burn freely.*"

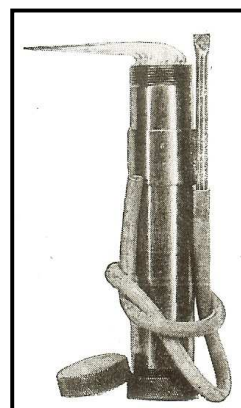


The Federal Co. stated that because of their wicking system, it all but eliminated any possibility of alcohol leakage. The torch was seven-eighths of an inch in diameter and five inches long. It is interesting to note that the company felt that the torch “*was no larger than some fountain pens that are carried in the vest pocket.*” Now, that would be ONE LARGE FOUNTAIN PEN!



TROJAN ELECTRIC CO.

The Trojan alcohol torch was uncovered by **Charles Smith** in a single May 1921 advertisement from the Hardware Dealers' Magazine...and manufactured by the Trojan Electric Co. of New York City. No other Trojan blow torch advertisements have been seen in this magazine or any other trade journal.

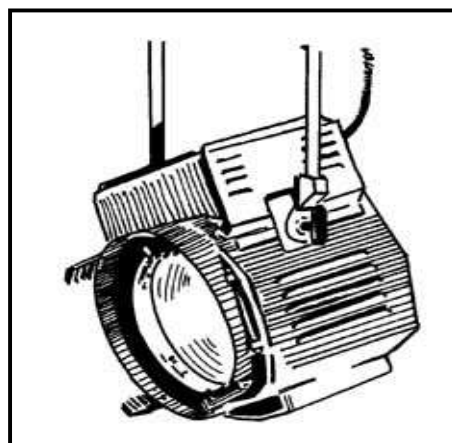


The Trojan alcohol torch was called the TROJAN PERFECT and was made entirely of polished brass followed with a lacquer finish. The size was one inch in diameter, five inches long, and weighed one-quarter pound. Trojan also advertised two other torches that they manufactured at their West Forty Second Street factory...the ELECTRICIANS' HELPER with a capacity of one half-pint and a self-blowing two-tube torch of an entirely new design known as the TROJAN AUTOMATIC. No additional information on the ELECTRICIANS' HELPER or the TROJAN AUTOMATIC was made available. Let us know if you are fortunate enough have one of these alcohol torches.



IN THE ~~SPOT~~ TORCH LIGHT

This is the third in a series of personal interviews with selected BTCA members. **Martin French** and his lovely wife **Cindy** live in the semi-rural town of Somerville, Victoria, Australia. Somerville is a town of approximately 11,000 people and is about fifty kilometers south east of Melbourne. They actually live on a peninsula that has the Port Phillip Bay on one side and French Island on the other side, and it juts out into the Indian Ocean. Martin and Cindy are native to Australia and have lived in Somerville for many years.



TT: Before we started this interview, I took a moment to check Google Earth to see exactly where you live. Since you are on a peninsula, you must be very close to beaches?

MF: Yes, we live very close to the east side of the peninsula, and fortunately we have lots of beaches. There are so many beaches close to us, and they are never crowded. You might see five people on a beach that is one quarter mile long!

TT: When looking at a map of Australia, it appears that your state of Victoria is the smallest state in Australia?

MF: Actually Tasmania is the smallest state. It is an island just off the southern coast of Australia, but it is still a state. They get very upset when they are not mentioned as one of the Australian states.

TT: And because you live on the southern most part of Australia, are your summers fairly nice?

MF: In the summer time it can get very hot. Last year we had the hottest summer on record. We had 40°C days for about two months in a row. Fortunately because we live so far south, the humidity is relatively low most of the time. Even our winters are relatively mild, it can get somewhat cold, and it does rain, but we rarely will ever get any snow. There are mountains just north of us that will get snow, but rarely in Somerville.

TT: How long have you been collecting blow torches...or blow lamps as you call them?

MF: I started about eight years ago.

TT: What got you started collecting lamps?

MF: We were down in the country near Gippsland which is about two hours away by car, and we stopped off at a sale or auction. There were many tools about, but there were also four blow lamps. This was an auction and I won the bid for the four torches. I just wanted one blow lamp, but it was a package deal for all four lamps. After I got them home, I was interested to see how they worked, so I took them apart and cleaned them up. My father showed me how to light them and to fire them up.



Martin is holding a 1946 Primus no. 607 in each hand.

TT: You had not collected lamps prior to the trip to Gippsland. What prompted you to all of a sudden to bid on those four lamps?

MF: I remember my father using blow lamps all of the time. He used to work on old cars and he used blow lamps to loosen brake drums and axles. I decided that I just needed a lamp since it is such a useful tool. So, my first purchase was not intended as a collection, just as a useful tool. I could use my lamps to burn weeds in the driveway, I also have old cars, and I thought that I would use my lamp just as my father did to loosen brake drums, nuts and bolts.

TT: Do you polish or restore any of your lamps?

MF: About one half of my lamps are polished. I take each one completely apart, get them into working order, polish, and reassemble. It is important to me that I take them apart so I can get them operational....then I fire each one up so that I know that they work. Depending on the condition, if a lamp has a nice patina I will not polish it. But if it is extremely dirty and cruddy, I'll polish it up and bring in into the house for display.



A Primus 618 with a pre-heater and a Barthel 901

TT: If I heard you correctly, you said that you get each lamp into working order, and then fire each one up?

MF: That is correct, every one of my lamps are in working order. Well, all but one...it has a steel tank with some corrosion on the bottom and will not hold air pressure. That is the only one that is not operational.

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

MF: The last count was 288 pieces.

TT: So, just to verify....you have 287 blow lamps in operating order that you have fired up?

MF: That is correct.

TT: I think it is fair to say that no other member has all of their lamps in working order. I would guess that most members do not even have a few lamps if any in working order.

MF: From what I have read in the newsletter, most members just polish them up and put them on shelves for display. To me, it is very important that I get each one in working order, or I would find them useless. Maybe not useless, but they are not up to their full potential. I like to bring them back to life and so I fire each one up.

TT: We all have lamps in various degrees of condition. Many need replacement parts to be operational. How do you deal with replacement parts?

MF: I am fortunate that my father is a tool maker so he has made many little parts for me. He can re-tap threads and make many other things as needed. I make the leathers for the air pumps. Old thick leather belts work best. I cut out the needed size and reform the leather cup for the air pump.

TT: What does your father think of your blow lamp collection?

MF: He is amazed! I think he is really secretly proud of me because I am collecting old historical tools and he respects and enjoys old tools. He loves to see them fired up. He has actually given me a couple of lamps that he had hidden away.

TT: What does Cindy think of your blow lamp collection?

MF: She is very supportive of my lamp collection because she also collects lots of things. We have a great compromise! She actually helps me to clean them, she will take them apart for me, and I have even taught her how to fire them up.

TT: That has to be another first...a wife that knows how to use a blow lamp!

MF: She actually has used my blow lamps to remove paint off of furniture and has helped me remove paint from old car parts....yes; she is right into it with me.

TT: It is great that you have such a supportive wife.

MF: Yes, I am very lucky. She is also standing just behind me, so I will also say that she is also the most beautiful supportive wife! When I started collecting lamps, they started to creep into the house little by little and slowly started replacing books on the bookshelves. All the books have now been replaced by lamps. I do not know how that happened, they just all appeared!

TT: Does Cindy collect anything?

MF: She collects Smurfs. She has over four hundred Smurfs and all of the paraphernalia that goes along with them. Things like posters, books, records, radios, pencils & pens, cookie jars, money boxes, thermos cups, plates...you name it in Smurf, she has got it. She also collects various types of antique scales, most are brass. She has all sorts of sizes; from very large round ones down to small pocket size scales.



Cindy French with her Smurf collection

TT: Can we assume that she also displays her Smurf collection in the house?

MF: Yes, I built her a series of shelves where just about all of her Smurf collection is displayed.

TT: Are you aware if any American torches were imported into Australia?

MF: No, I do not believe that they were imported. Many European lamps were imported, like Primus and Optimus.

TT: Are there any lamps made in Australia under license?

MF: Yes, the Companion brand is made under license from the Max Sievert Co. of Sweden. All of the other lamps sold in Australia are imported. Darlton is a brand of blow lamps that are made in Sydney, Australia. Lanray is another blow lamp made in Australia. I would guess that ninety five percent of all blow lamps imported into Australia come from Sweden.

TT: Do you have any preference for the types of lamps that you collect?

MF: My preference is for the vertical burner torches because they seem to be rare. These were the types of lamps that were used to start engines.



Imbert, Primus 634, and Primus 702 Vertical Burner Lamps

TT: Do you have a favorite lamp?

MF: Yes, that would be my Sievert upright blow lamp.

TT: Have you ever publicly displayed any of your blow lamps?

MF: Not really. We do belong to two car clubs, so we frequently have club members over to our house during a Morris Minor rally. We do show our collections to the club members, and I do fire up a lamp for them. I did submit a video to an Australian television show called COLLECTORS. The video was shown on Australian TV in June 2006. It was still available on the Internet up until recently. You can still go to the website for a short story of my lamp collection. Go to www.abc.net.au/tv/collectors/segments/s1675423.htm&rank=24&collection=abcall



TT: You indicated that you belong to a car club. What type of car do you drive?

MF: We actually belong to two car clubs; one in Australia and one in England. We are very involved in the Morris Minor Car Club of Victoria, and I am the current Club Captain.

TT: You mentioned that you own six Morris Minor vehicles. You never mentioned that you also collect Morris Minors.

MF: Yes, over the past few years we have purchase six Morris Minors, five are completely restored and we are working on the sixth one. The oldest is a 1949 "Preston" ↑↑↑ a 1949 Lowlite Morris Minor that was made in England.

The first Morris Minor models were made in 1948 in England, and by 1954, parts were shipped via containers to Sydney, Australia where the vehicles were assembled and sold throughout Australia. Our 1949 Morris is totally restored with all original parts.

TT: Any final comments?

MF: I look forward to the BTCA newsletters and enjoy reading about other collectors. One day Cindy and I would love to travel to the US and attend one of your BTCA conventions.



A 1960 Series 3 Utility Truck



Shrewsbury Man Has Collected Some 300 Antique Blowtorches

Excerpts from the Ashbury Park Press newspaper article regarding **Dick Sarpolus**, January 2009

Lynn Sarpolus enjoys searching for antiques. Glass water bottles from old iceboxes, teddy bears, Pepsi Cola items and memorabilia of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan are among the collectibles in the small, immaculate home she shares in Shrewsbury, New Jersey with her husband, Dick.

Dick always accompanied her to the flea markets, garage sales and other places, where they often were joined by his wife's sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Bobby Wheeler of Cleveland, Ohio.

"But I wasn't collecting anything. I sort of tagged along," says Sarpolus.

That changed 15 years ago when he bought an old blowtorch for \$2.

"It's a tool, and I'm a handyman type. I wore a suit and tie for 40 years, but when I wasn't in a suit and tie, I liked to work on things and get my hands dirty," says Sarpolus, who retired in 2002 after working 41 years as a technical marketer of electric power systems for aircraft and helicopters.

That initial purchase led to a collection of 300 blowtorches, each from 50 to 100 years old and each a bit different from the other, he says. It also led to publication in 2001 of his book "Collectible Blowtorches" by Schiffer Books of Pennsylvania.

"I think it's great. There are some blowtorches that are really unusual," says his wife, a Fair Haven native who owned a furniture-refinishing business.

In their compact living room, 150 restored blowtorches are on display with his wife's many collectibles. The rest of his blowtorches need restoration.

"A blowtorch is an ugly item, a messy thing. They have corrosion. They're charred. They're dirty. But with some wire brushing and a powered buffer wheel, they clean up and look as good as new," he says, cautioning that they're never used.

The tool was created in the late 1800s to use with gasoline, he says. Today, they sell for \$5 on up, with some selling for as much as \$1,000 and higher, he says.

"They show American ingenuity. There were hundreds of companies that had their own ideas of how to make a better blowtorch. What makes them collectible is they're made out of brass or bronze, which will last forever...they don't rust."

"They used it to solder plumbing or on roofs for flashing. Electricians used them to solder wires together. Auto mechanics used them for body work," says Sarpolus, who grew up in Cranford, NJ. The tool has a gasoline canister — most hold about a quart — and a handle, an air pump and a burner on top with a control valve. A few are painted because they're made of steel, which does rust, he says. "You put gasoline in the fuel tank. You pump up the fuel tank for pressure. You crack open the valve and light the vaporized gas as it comes out of the fuel nozzle," he says. "It's a miniature military flame thrower. If there are any gasoline leaks, you can set your house or garage on fire, which can be very dangerous."

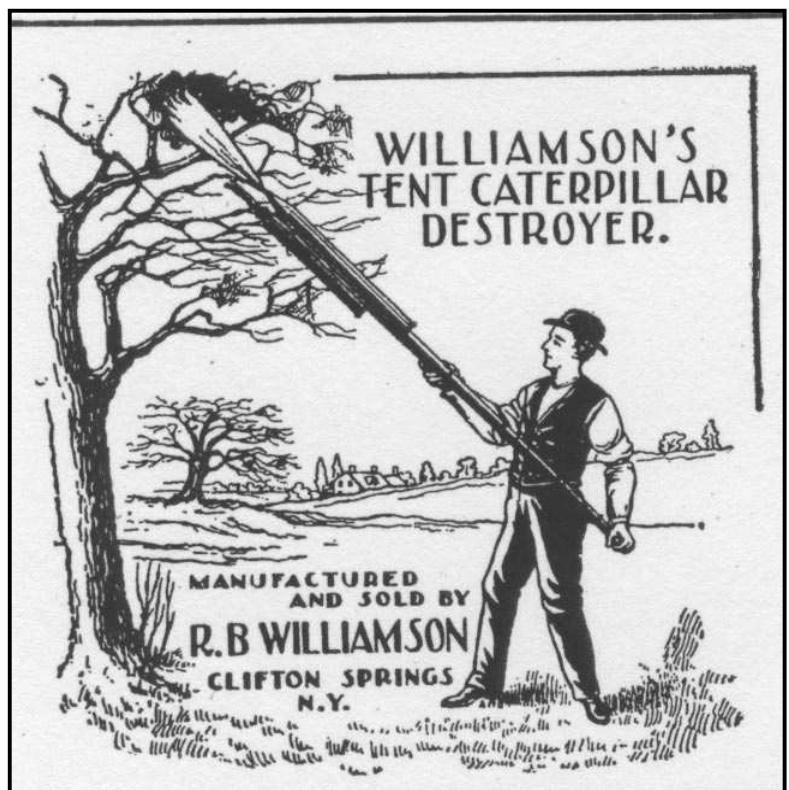
In the 1960s, people switched to propane blowtorches, which are safer, says Sarpolus, who soon did with blowtorches what he's done with other hobbies: He got serious. A lifelong love of radio-controlled model aircraft — he was 10 when he began flying them — led to his own designs for the aircraft and the publication of more than 500 articles and two books. An interest in photography yielded a home darkroom and work as a wedding photographer. When he picked up a 1957 Chevrolet 2-door sedan, he and Scott, the younger of their two sons, refurbished the car, complete with automatic transmission, air conditioning and power steering. The couple also has a daughter and seven grandchildren. And when he learned no book existed on blowtorches, he wrote one. He also joined the Blow Torch Collectors Association, founded in 1995 by Ron Carr of Las Vegas. The group has 200 members, according to Ron Carr, adding that collectors groups exist in England, France and Germany. Dick & Lynn have attended a few of the group's conventions... "We've met people from all over the country," Sarpolus says. "Like anybody who has a hobby and collects, we like to talk about them. It's fun."



R.B. Williamson Co.

The R.B. Williamson Co. of Clifton Springs, NY produced the Kerosene Gun. The seven feet long gun weighed in at five pounds and could make one hundred shots with one pint of fuel.

The maker stated that; "*Kerosene oil sprayed from the gun is distributed so finely that the mist remains in the air, settling gradually on all parts of the foliage. The atomizer on this gun was perfected by us for spraying with kerosene oil, and is one of the best lice exterminators. It is designed for throwing fire or fluid. Every stroke of the plunger produces a strong blast of fire two and one half feet long! It will destroy all insects without injury to the tree caused by a steady flame. It is the great destroyer of the tent caterpillar worm and nests.*"



MASBACK HARDWARE CO.

The earliest version ever seen of the LS Brach SOLDERALL torch was advertised in a 1921 issue of the Hardware Dealers' Magazine. The advertisement → lists the Masback Hardware Co. as the exclusive distributing agents for SODERALL in the New York City area. What's so interesting about this ad is that it is just after the inventor, Joseph Knapp, applied for the patent on this torch.

The illustration of the torch indicates "PATENT PENDING". The Patent, no. 1,469,795 was applied for in early 1921 by Joseph Knapp, subsequently issued on October 1923, and was assigned to the LS Brach Co. What is also interesting is the torch in the illustration closely resembles the patent illustration. In most cases, the final production models very seldom resembled the patent illustrations. The SODERALL torch was advertised as a moderate priced alcohol torch, priced at \$1.50. It was used by electricians, motorists, sportsman, and general use in all trades. Burned any form of alcohol.

SOLDERALL

What it is——

A new patented metal solder 50% tin — 50% lead
Ready for instant use. No flux or acid needed
Retails for 25c a tube

SOLDERALL TORCH

New Improved

A moderate priced alcohol torch
Used by electricians, motorists, sportsmen and general
use in all trades. Burns any form of alcohol
Retails for \$1.50 each

We are exclusive distributing agents of Solderall
in the Metropolitan District

Wholesale Exclusively

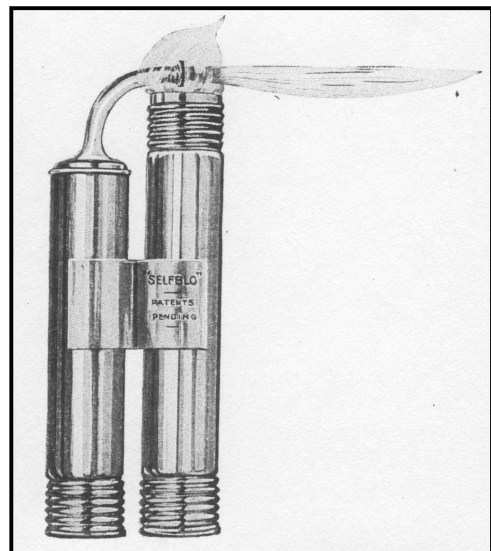
MASBACK HARDWARE COMPANY
Incorporated
Established 1875
NEW YORK CITY



HUNT-LASHER CO.

This is a follow-up article from page seven to the Federal Mfg. Co. that manufactured the SUPREME ALCOHOL TORCH. An article in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine dated April 1922 states that that the Hunt-Lasher Co. of Lynn, MA was the successor to the Federal Mfg. Co. According to the article, Hunt-Lasher was to continue manufacturing the SUPREME torch, but also announced a new two-barrel torch that would generate its own pressure thereby eliminating the necessity of blowing through a rubber tube.

The new torch was called the SELFBLO →→→ and burned denatured alcohol. The company stated that; "After filling the SELFBLO with fuel, all that is necessary to start it operating is to light the pilot wick; in twenty seconds it will emit a clean intensive flame of approximately fourteen hundred degrees Fahrenheit. The SELFBLO will burn constantly for forty-five minutes on one fill of fuel. The SELFBLO is made from heavy drawn seamless brass tubing, heavily nickel plated and highly polished.

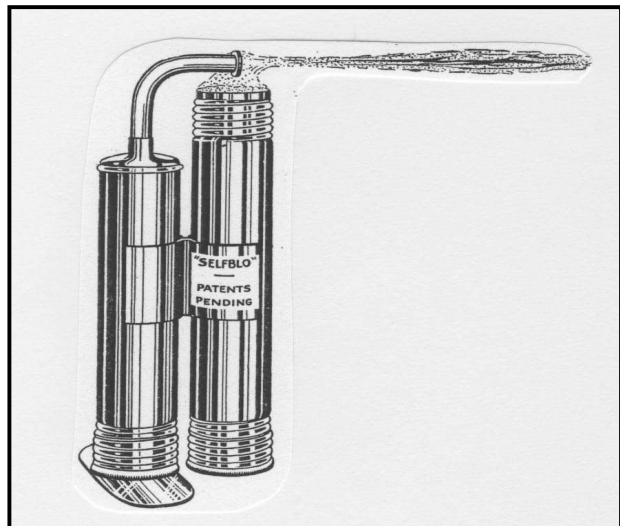


It is constructed and gets its pressure in the following way: the end of the tube which extends into the pilot flame is threaded inside to take a small flange plug. This plug is hollowed out, making a

small conical shaped gas or combustion chamber. Through this plug, and leading to the gas chamber is drilled a small hole. The small tube extends down into the barrel. There is a wick inside the small tube which carries the alcohol by capillary action to the combustion chamber. There the fuel is heated and vaporized by the pilot flame, creating a gas which in turn blows through the small hole in the plug, and as it is passing through the portion of the pilot flame, it fires, giving forth a real pressure flame." Getting this alcohol torch up and running in twenty seconds was a real benefit to the company, and they sold many units because of this feature. The intensity and volume of the flame could also be adjusted by sliding one of the brass tubes up or down. The torch was also leak proof and could be used in any position.

Hunt-Lasher advertised frequently in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine and from April 1922 through March 1923 numerous advertisements for their SELFBLO appeared. They featured an improvement in the SELFBLO that was only mentioned but not shown in a February 1922 advertisement, a new crossbar base that would prevent the torch from tipping. The metal crossbar could be turned "closed" when not in use and also acted as a lever to screw the cap on tighter to prevent leakage.

Finally, in a March 1923 advertisement, →→ the crossbar was shown in an illustration. They also reduced the selling price from two dollars to one dollar fifty cents.



CLAYTON & LAMBERT NO. 7

In a June 1899 advertisement in the Hardware Dealers' Magazine, Clayton & Lambert announced to the trades their new no. 7 blow torch. The no. 7 torch was to fit in between two other torches that C&L had previously offered to the market, the no. 2 or "ALL RIGHT" torch and the no. 3 or "PET" torch that can be seen in the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES book on page 112.

Since C&L refer to the no. 7 torch as larger than the no. 3, but smaller than the no. 2, we can assume that the fuel capacity of the no. 7 would be approximately one pint.

This no. 7 torch is a much earlier version of the no. 7 torch as seen in VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES, page 114...with a much different handle style.



The real surprise is that C&L also offered the no. 7 torch with the option of having the fuel filler hole on the TOP or on the BOTTOM of the fuel tank. We are not aware that any other

torch manufacturer ever offered such an option. That would be a real prize in your collection to have both versions of the 1899 no. 7 torch! Does any member have both versions?



Editors note; much of this issue of THE TORCH is a result of the tireless research efforts of **Dr. Charles Smith**. He spends hundreds of hours painstakingly going through old trade magazines and publications, page by page, looking for torch related advertisements and articles. His affiliation with a library allows him to order sets of old trade literature from other libraries around the country...that is the easy part. Since the information he is looking for is not listed in a table of contents or index...the hard part is looking through each publication, page by page, seeking out torch related information. Much of the information that you will read about in an upcoming supplement to the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES book was also provided by Charles through his research. Graham and I would like to say thank you Charles for your continued dedication to this endeavor.

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: Blow Torch Collectors Association, 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131-0119, email to: RONLV@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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