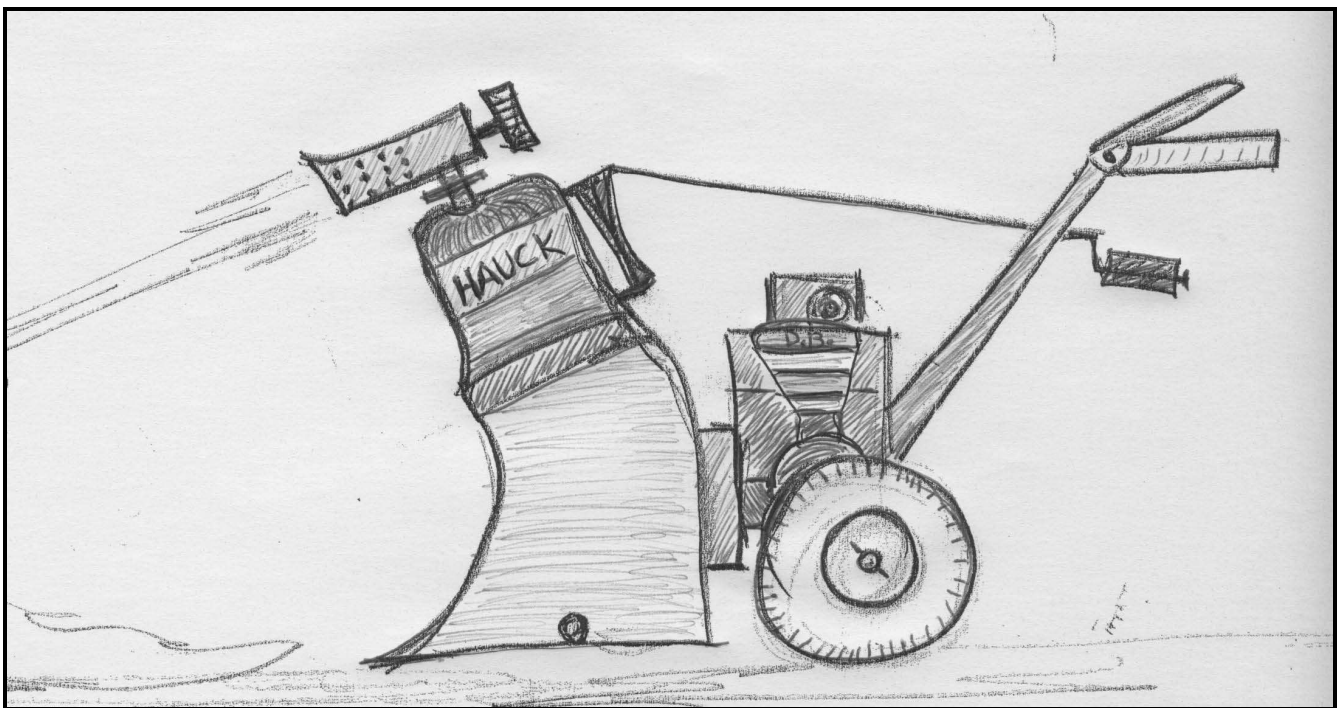


THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
Issue #45 December 2009



Dick Bernard's version of a Hauck Snow Blower



All about alcohol lamps, see page 7.

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Moore is a ten-year collector from Yerington, Nevada. He is a welder by trade and enjoys working with all varieties of metals. Most of his 75+ torches are displayed on shelves throughout the house along with soldering irons, old hacksaws, apple peelers, unusual tools, and an assortment of other items.

WELCOME ABOARD!



NOTES FROM ALL OVER



We were saddened to hear that BTCA member **Dr. George Schumann** passed away in May 2009. You may remember his name....George brought us the blow torch cleaning fluid "MAGIC FLUID". We printed the recipe a few times in past newsletters and many members have successfully utilized the fluid in their torch restoration efforts. **Dr. Charles Smith** even modified the "MAGIC FLUID" recipe utilizing less expensive ingredients. According to Charles, the revised recipe also works great!

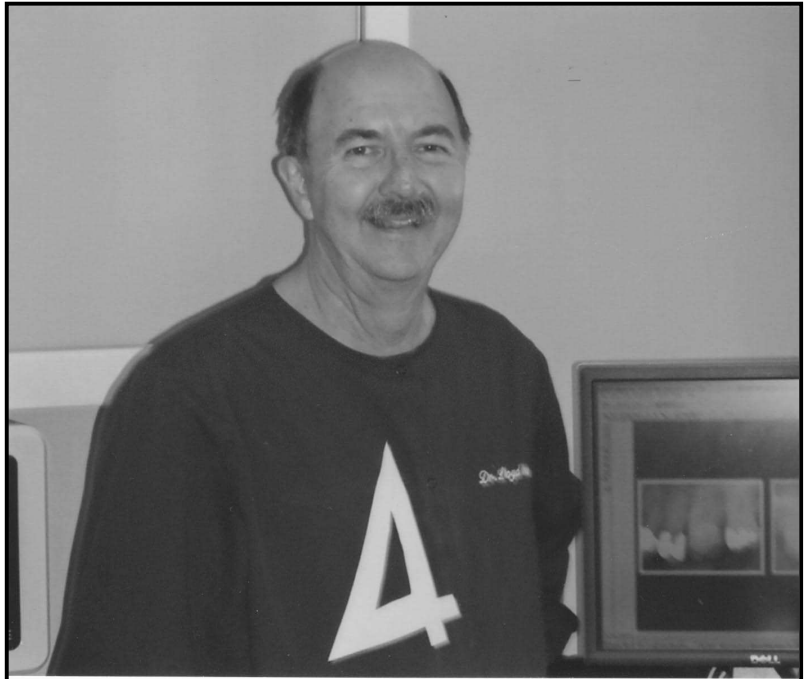
George's widow, Marion, will be listing his torch collection on eBay in early 2010. According to Marion, *"his blow torches are getting tarnished since they have not been cleaned in some time. George's secret cleaning formula is more than I want to tackle, so I will be selling his torch collection as is."*

Dave Schulte sent in photos of his recently acquired Barthel firepot. The German Barthel Blow Lamp Co. established offices in Boston, MA in the early 1900's and distributed blow torches and firepots throughout the US. Dave thought that this Barthel firepot would look great next to his Schneider Trenkamp firepot that was featured in a past newsletter. Dave....you're going to have to refinish this one as well! ↓↓↓↓



News flash, **Lloyd Weber** is retiring, again! According to Lloyd, *"I'll be officially retired from my dental practice as of December 31, 2009. What a great profession! I have retired so many times, my staff gave me a lab coat with the #4 embroidered on the front...just like the great Viking football player, #4 Brett Favre who has also retired so many times."*

Congratulations Lloyd, now you will have more time for torch refinishing, not to mention all the things Patti will have you doing around the house!



George Stevens III sent in an interesting story along with his dues payment: *"Even though I am getting up there in age, I still consider myself a novice collector. I am awaiting the reference book supplement with eagerness. My torch collection is at about 50, and most are not refurbished. Unless I find a torch in a refurbished condition, I leave them as I find them. Leaving the torches in their found condition just reminds me of a time gone by."*

"When I was a youngster in the late 1940's, I remember the man across the alley from my house. He was a welder, but also had some blow torches. We kids would watch him for hours...fortunately he made us all stand at a safe distance and wear goggles. I still collect long spout oil cans and oil cans of all types and varieties...except motor oil cans. I like the Golden Rod can because they were manufactured in Hastings, Nebraska. (George lives about 90 miles east of Hastings in Lincoln, NE.) "I also collect old furnaces/firepots, plus pots for melting lead and the ladles, smudge pots, square back monkey wrenches, copper soldering irons, electric soldering irons, long handle railroad and tractor wrenches, and an occasional lantern (D&RG) and old gasoline and kerosene cans (Justrite Safety Cans)."

"Torches remain my main interest. I do look for different valve and burner types and have a few torches from non US manufacturers. I am now leaning toward collecting the smaller pint-size torches. The center piece of my collection is a "Phoenix" round torch with Decker & Gries stamped onto the flat knob. My wife found it in a box with an assortment of tools at a garage sale in Lincoln. It is the thrill of the hunt, especially when we only paid \$15 for the lot!"

This in from **Ray Hyland**...Ray is the author of *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, the British newsletter: *"I enrolled our youngest member to our Society at just eleven years old at a recent steam rally in Henham. He came to see me last year and I explained all about the lamps, and when he returned this year he had remembered everything I had told him and spent most of the day with me asking further questions. It was nice to find someone so young with such enthusiasm. As a result of the meeting I gave him about twenty of my spare lamps to start his collection."*

According to **Charles Smith**, another record price was paid for a small Famous brand blow torch that sold for \$3,427.73 on eBay in September. Contrary to popular belief, Charles was not the highest bidder, although he did bid on the item and contributed to the high price!

We also heard from **George Husen** with another interesting story: "I would like to start this letter by first telling you how important I believe THE TORCH newsletter and our organization is to the members. It puts us in touch with other people of a like interest and provides us with a lot of valuable information that they are willing to share with us."

"About two years ago, while at a tractor and engine show in Inman, Georgia, a man who knew I was interested in blow torches approached me with one for sale. It was very intricate and complex in design, and I had never seen one like it before. I thought it was a little high priced, but I purchased it anyway. When I got home with the torch, I used the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES reference book and was able to identify it as a **Universal Blow Torch** that was manufactured in Erie, PA. According to the photos in the book, I noticed the priming cup was missing. In spite of the missing part, I restored what I had and proudly displayed it."

"As time passed, I thought that it should be brought back to its original condition. In my dealings with old tractors and engines, when a part is not available we try to find one and then duplicate it....usually through dimensions, drawings, or patterns."



"With that in mind, I contacted Lloyd Weber who has the identical torch and asked him for close up photos and dimensions. His reply was that he could do better than that, as he is a dentist, and could make impressions of the parts I needed. So, lo and behold after a short while I received the impressions and photos in the mail. Armed with this information I contacted a friend, Bill Orr, who is a master mechanic and dabbles with a small smelter and casting materials. Bill made the castings for all of the parts I needed. All I needed to do after was a bit of drilling, tapping, filing, and a final polishing and assembly. Now my torch looks complete! A special thanks to

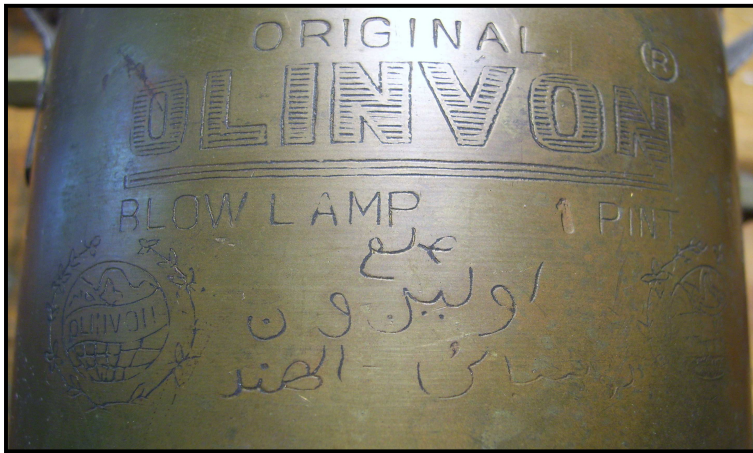
Lloyd and Bill for all of their help on this project."

Are they referred to as blow torches or blow lamps in Kenya? According to **Maurice Jernstedt**, it is blow lamps.

While in Kenya last year, he looked in several places for blow torches, but no one knew what they were. He started asking for blow lamps and finally found a used OLINVON blow lamp →→ with its original box. No other information regarding the manufacturer is on the lamp or box...only a note that it was a Swedish-style lamp.

Michel Duval was able to determine that OLINVON blow lamps originated in India.





OLINVON blow lamps originated in India. Michel has a friend with a son that worked in India, and was able to procure many Indian lamps for Michel's ever-growing collection. ←← Michel now has about forty lamps of different makes from India.

Jim Minton put a short note in with his dues payment asking about sources for replacement pump leathers. In *THE TORCH*, one of the earliest issues; 1st Qtr. 1996, there was an attachment authored by **Dave Kolb** and **Dick Sarpolus** on BLOWTORCH REPLACEMENT PARTS.

Dave's solution: "Pump leather can be easily sourced. Ask for scrap leather at a shoe repair shop or take the tongue from an old leather shoe....it is about the right thickness and you can get quite a few pump leathers from one tongue. Soaking the leather in NEATSFOOT OIL will soften it nicely." Dick suggested that you could also use 1/8" thick rubber or neoprene in lieu of leather.

Those of you that have retained copies of all past newsletters, you can easily find past articles utilizing the index that **Graham Stubbs** authored. We can email you a copy of the updated index if you request one.



UNKNOWN TORCH

Here is another unknown torch that you'll find in the upcoming supplement book. **Charles Smith** acquired it on eBay in August 2009. The torch is entirely brass, although the burner is probably bronze. Even the little screw on top of the burner is brass. The burner is not threaded and simply slips over the piece holding the face of the needle. The small screw locks the burner tube into position over the needle assembly.

The tank is three inches in width, 1.5 inches in depth, and is 7.25 inches in height. The base and top pieces of the tank appear to be brazed to the rectangular body. The overall height of the torch to the top of the set screw is eleven inches. The tank capacity is about sixteen ounces, or one pint.

The wing-nut type pump knob is identical to the control knob, both being threaded and screwing on/off their respective brass shafts. We've not seen this shape knob or this shape drip-cup on other torches. We've also have never seen this type of sharply-angled rectangular torch. Does anyone else own a similar torch?



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!

Ken Blackwell
Martin Donnelly
Mike Flora
John Lawler

George Murray III
William Palmer
Stan Slawnikowski
John Zilinskas

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

A special thank you goes out to the following 13 members that joined BTCA ten years ago! Many thanks for your long term support of our organization!

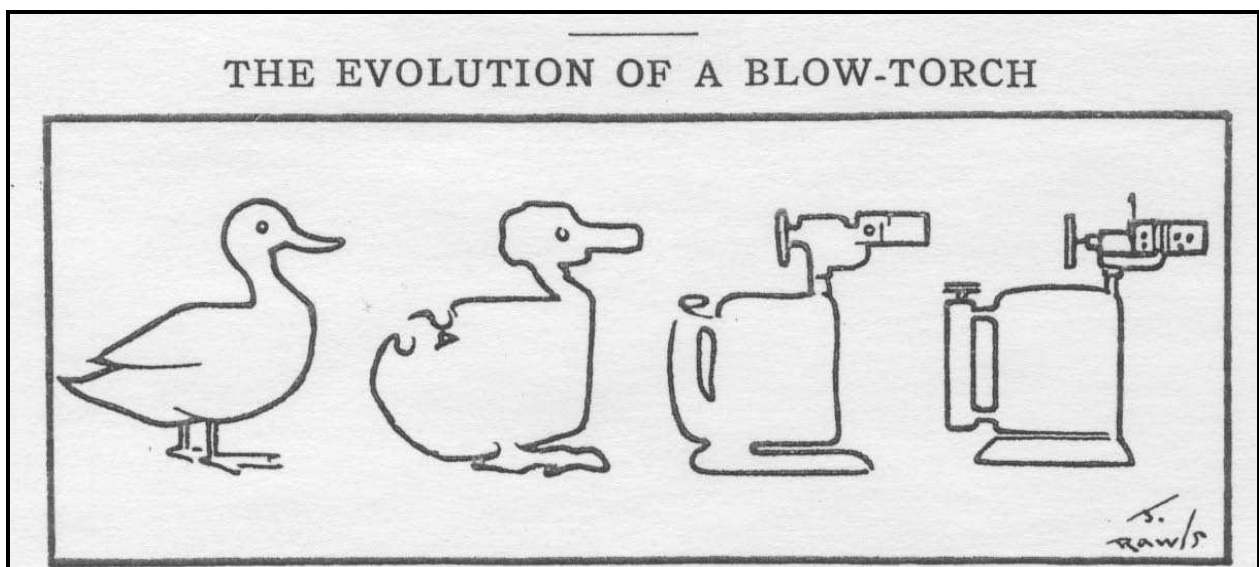
Eddie Brown
Richard Busby
Charles Butcher
Richard Carter
Terry Foutch
Mark Hahn
Brian Grainger

Buzz Kleemeyer
David Olson
Harold Pope
Dave Schulte
Dave Thomas
John Tingle



THE REAL STORY

While perusing through a 1925 trade journal called "GOOD HARDWARE" looking for torch related articles, **Charles Smith** noticed a series of illustrations, and one in particular caught his eye. It is the evolution of a blow torch. So now we know where blow torches originated....from a DUCK!



ALCOHOL LAMPS

We listed some alcohol lamps in the original *VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES* reference book; for example four Lenk alcohol lamps with brass fuel tanks on page 271, and a series of Dixon alcohol lamps on page 164. At times in the past some of these devices were made and advertised using the terms "alcohol lamp" and "alcohol torch" somewhat interchangeably. The authors prefer to differentiate between alcohol lamps and alcohol blow torches since lamps do not include a blow pipe, although in some instances lamps may have been used with a blowpipe that was supplied separately. The alcohol lamp is a simple device with a fuel tank, and a cap with a cotton wick that burns various types of alcohol. Many alcohol lamps were made with glass fuel tanks, and were indispensable for jewelry, laboratory, medical, and dental work, while others were used in chemistry labs as well as other applications. More alcohol lamps will be included in the upcoming supplement book, titled *MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES*.

The ubiquitous alcohol lamp, or "spirit lamp", is one of the oldest pieces of laboratory apparatus. The earliest versions burned oil and, used in conjunction with the blowpipe, were employed by goldsmiths in ancient Egypt for making jewelry. Alcohol lamps have been present throughout the history of chemistry. There was even one included in virtually every child's chemistry set, or, if not included, directions were supplied for constructing one. In spite of its long history, most alcohol lamps were not used properly, resulting, most often, in flooding of the fuel, leading to burning corks and other fire hazards, as well as corrosion of the metal parts. Additionally, most commercially available alcohol lamps needed to be modified for use in the microscopy laboratory, where, in addition to general heating requirements, the flame needed to be made smaller, in keeping with the scale of micro chemical glassware and technique.

The photo below illustrates two alcohol lamps found in a typical industrial laboratory; they both have glass stoppers, and employ a cork surmounted by a metal disc and wick support.



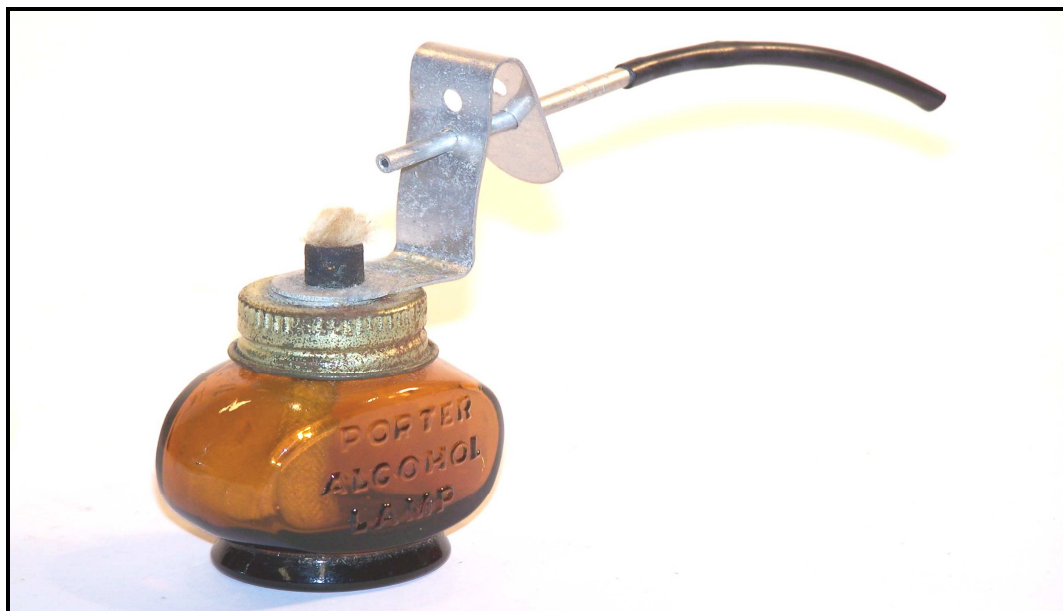
The photo below illustrates two examples of faceted fuel reservoirs. The faceted feature is not merely decorative; it is an old design purposely made so as to be able to tip the lamp while it is in use, as illustrated by the lamp on the right. The reason for tilting the lamp while in use is so that when soldering, or performing other functions, drippings will not fall on to the wick, extinguishing the flame. This style of alcohol lamp is often called a "Jeweler's Alcohol Lamp". The jeweler's lamp on the left has been fitted with a cork, and modified for micro use. The jeweler's lamp on the right employs a threaded metal cap and hood.



The photo below illustrates three alcohol lamps that are components of chemistry sets for youngsters; similar alcohol lamps have been supplied in such kits for over 80 years. The lamps illustrated here are all relatively small, about one ounce capacity, but that size is totally adequate for both these sets and for general microscopy; indeed, similar lamps are often a part of microscope sets for youngsters. The three lamps here are all 40-50 years old. The alcohol lamp on the left, from a Gilbert Chemistry Outfit, is fitted with an arrangement for elementary blowpipe work; the tip is constricted to a narrow opening, and when used... a piece of rubber tubing is fitted to the lower end, and the user blows through the other end of the tubing, keeping the cheeks fully puffed out, inhaling through the nose in typical blowpipe fashion, so as to maintain a steady stream of air to produce a very sharp, intensely hot flame. The alcohol lamp in the middle, from a Gilbert Chemistry Outfit of a different era, is typical and unremarkable. The alcohol lamp on the right is from a Chemcraft Chemistry Outfit (Porter Chemical Company), and has the molded-in legend "Porter Alcohol Lamp".



The Porter Chemical Co. was in business in Hagerstown, MD from 1916 to 1984. The Porter Co. had chemistry sets, called "Chemcraft" sets, and alcohol lamps, earlier than Gilbert. When the Gilbert Co. diversified into the erector set business, Porter filled the void in the chemistry field. By the 1970's, however, safety concerns dealt a death blow to the chemistry sets. Soon after (1984) the Porter Chemical Co. plant closed its doors. The photo below is a Porter Alcohol Lamp from the collection of **Charles Smith** and is configured with a blowpipe. The Porter lamp shown below is identical to the one shown on page 8, except for the blowpipe.



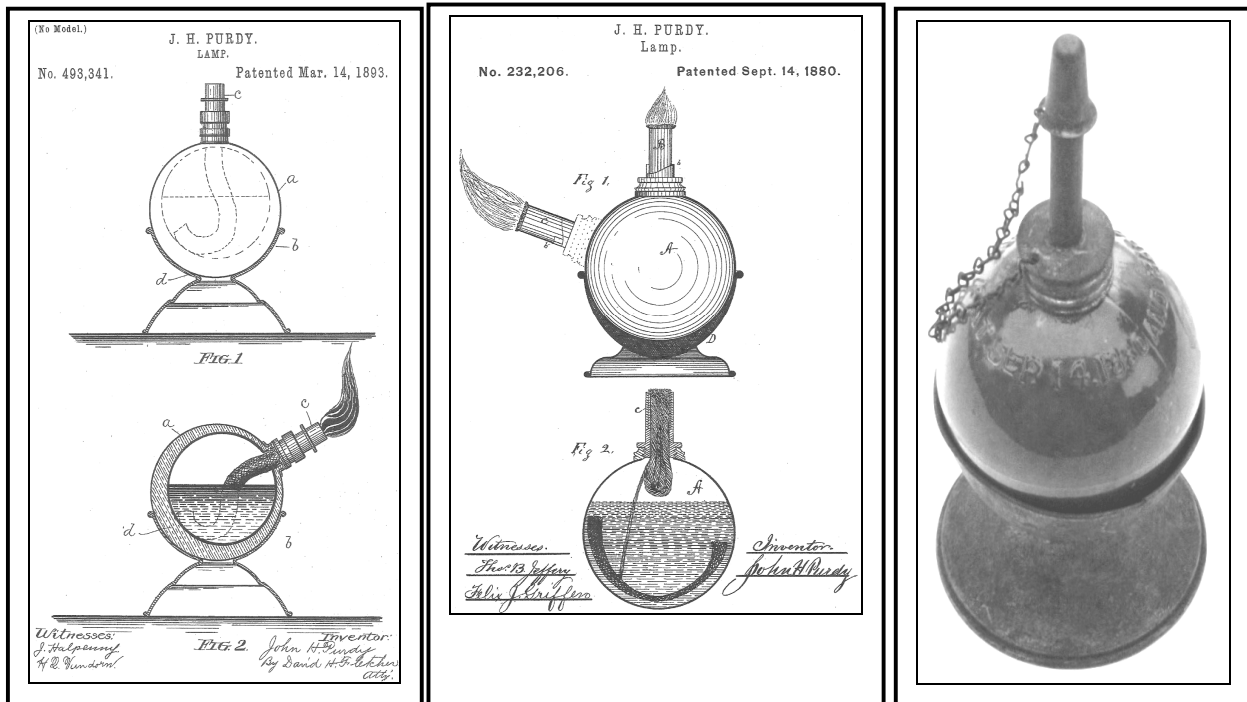
The photo below illustrates two British-made alcohol lamps, both are in excellent condition. The capacity of both lamps is about two ounces. They are both dimensionally stable, and both employ ground-glass hoods of different design. The lamp on the left has a loosely laid in ceramic wick holder, and is vented by its loose fit. The lamp on the right has a female-threaded brass fitting cemented to the glass neck, and a threaded screw-in brass top/wick holder, and a vent hole. Filled no more than about half way, this lamp is ideal for general heating purposes. In Britain, these "spirit lamps" commonly burn "Methylated Spirit" that was often slightly tinged with Gentian Violet.



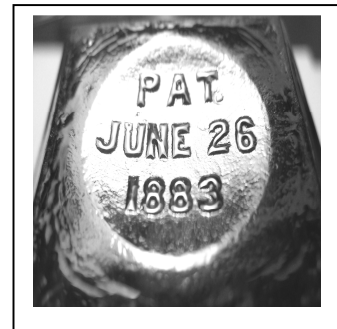
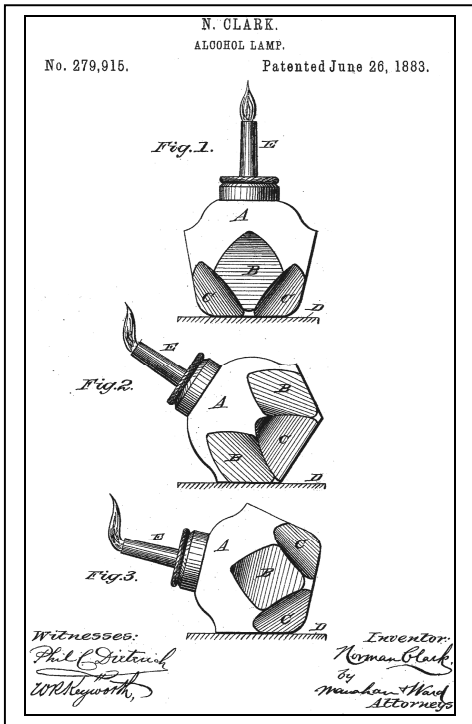
The photo below illustrates an interesting alcohol lamp for portable or field use. It is part of a World War II Field Needle Sterilization Kit. It is nickel-plated brass, and fits in the bottom of a cigarette-package-size, front-opening metal box with this burner at the bottom. There was an elongated, round-bottomed sterilization tray on top, which was just large enough to hold one or two hypodermic needles. A quarter-ounce of alcohol provides enough fuel for this lamp to burn for one hour.



John H. Purdy of Chicago, IL was awarded patents in 1880 and 1893 for alcohol lamps with a spherical glass fuel container; the 1893 patent thickened the glass at the bottom to counterbalance the wick holder. These torches were made in at least two sizes and in various colors, and were marketed by several laboratory equipment distributors, including Dixon Inc. As with Norman Clark, we do not have much information on John Purdy other than many alcohol lamps were produced with reference to his patents. Purdy lamps are identified with the two patent dates embossed on the glass. The lamp on the right is from **Graham Stubbs'** collection.



US Patent 279,915 was awarded to Norman Clark in 1883. We do not have much information on Norman Clark other than many alcohol lamps were produced with reference to his patent. There could have been a Clark Co. since earlier alcohol lamps bear the patent date, however, no information supports that theory. As shown in the patent below, the Clark lamp may be positioned on one of its facets at any of three angles. This type of lamp is still made and sold today. They were and are made in various colors of glass; the example in the photograph below from **Graham Stubbs'** collection is cobalt blue.



The two best, and least expensive fuels for alcohol lamps are denatured ethanol (ethyl alcohol; grain alcohol), and methanol (methyl alcohol; wood alcohol; methylated spirit); both can be cheaply obtained at hardware stores or home-improvement centers. Some individuals use absolute ethyl alcohol in their alcohol lamps, but, in addition to being wasteful of high-grade ethanol, the disadvantage is that the flame produced with absolute alcohol is non-luminous, so that it is easy to forget that it is burning, and difficult to see the flame's dimensions. Denatured ethanol, without added dye, seems to be more commonly used in North America. In the British Isles, "methylated spirit" or "meths" is generally used. Methylated spirit has, as its principal component, ethanol greater than 60% (commonly 90%) which is denatured (made unsuitable for drinking) by the addition of around 5% of methanol or a similar amount of methyl isobutyl ketone; there is also a small quantity of water, together with a trace of bitrex to add an unpleasant taste, or pyridine; and a dye is added as a visual indicator that the product is not for drinking—this may be fluorescein or a blue or purple aniline dye.



BLUE HIGHWAYS

Gary Fye sent in a passage from a book titled BLUE HIGHWAYS. The book was authored by William Least Heat-Moon, byname of William Lewis Trogdon. His pen name came from his father saying, "I call myself Heat Moon, your elder brother is Little Heat Moon. You, coming last, therefore, are Least." BLUE HIGHWAYS spent 34 weeks on the [New York Times](#) bestseller list in 1982-83, and is a chronicle of a three-month-long road trip that Least Heat Moon took throughout the United States in 1978 after losing his teaching job and being left by his first wife.

He traveled 13,000 miles, as much as possible on secondary roads (often drawn on maps in blue, especially in the old-style Rand McNally road atlas) and tried to avoid cities. Living out of the back of his van "Ghost Dancing", he visited small towns such as Nameless, Tennessee; Hachita, New Mexico; and Bagley, Minnesota to find places in America untouched by fast food chains and interstate highways. The book chronicles the people he talked to in roadside cafés as well as his personal soul-searching.

"Harbor Beach, a factory village and a pleasant one, had both a harbor and a beach inside a long stone breakwater; it also had a plant manufacturing plastics, one making food seasonings, and another producing pharmaceutical goods, as well as a big power station. People who argue that pretty towns and industry cannot live together should look at Harbor Beach."

"A very long wooden pier ran out toward the breakwater. That Friday evening the whole village must have been fishing from it; although nobody was having any luck, the night before a crazy run of perch had swum in."

"This water was something to see" an angler said. He had that blankness of expression that comes only from years of watching eight-pound-test monofilament disappear into placid water. "Fish assaulted our bait."

"He usually fished for whatever was running....perch, steelhead, and chub; and in the winter he opened the ice and fished for pike. Most of his life he had worked in Detroit as a machinist turning parts for gasoline blowtorches"

"Now kids don't know what a gas blowtorch is, but they were beautiful things that built this country. Precision brass fittings machined to critical tolerances. Blew like thunder and ran like steam engines, and they lasted forever because they were designed and built and not just assembled. The throwaway propane bottle put us out of business. Those things are designed as junk and built accordingly. But the true blowtorch! A son inherited his dad's torch. I loved the work because I knew somebody would keep what I made."



Burning Brand Co.

The Burning Brand Co., Brand-It Corp. and the Combination Blow Torch Co. were companies organized by the inventor John T. Peterson to commercialize several of his inventions following his tenure at the Everhot Mfg. Co.

BTCA members **John Jaress** (top photo) and **Keith Hawkins** (bottom photo) have reported two examples of a Burning Brand blowtorch. The burner is described in detail in Peterson's patent No. 1,527,269. Estimating the fuel tank capacities and comparing with the table in the Burning brand advertisement was used to identify the model numbers. No. 200 ½ pint; No. 201 ¾ pint; No. 202 one pint; and No. 203 one quart.



UNKNOWN WILLSON-STYLE TORCH

Charles Smith acquired this torch many years ago, and it still remains unidentified. According to Charles; *"This is certainly one of my more intriguing unknown torches. There are no markings anywhere, yet I'm sure it was manufactured and I believe there are more out there somewhere."*

"This one is very similar to the Willson torches. The shape of the base is certainly similar, as is the handle (which is hollow) and handle support. The handle has a screw cap with a twisted wire firmly attached to the "bottom" of the knob. I believe this wire once held a small piece of cloth for applying some sort of flux or cleaning compound. The wire is slotted on the end, much like a cleaning rod for a rifle or shotgun."

"The tank is constructed of thick heavy brass and measures about 7.5 inches in height (with the lid attached), with the tank diameter being 2 inches. The length of the base plate is 4.5 inches, only 1/2 inch "longer" than on a typical Willson torch. The only magnetic iron or steel pieces are the base and the upturned wick holder. Even the chain is brass. The little blow pipe, however, appears to be copper."

"The copper blow pipe is very ingenious and readily adjusted in or out of the flame by loosening the thumb screw on top of the holder and simply sliding the pipe toward or away from the flame. The blow pipe is also adjustable up or down (somewhat) by loosening the larger thumb screw on the side of the holder and then tipping the pipe up or down. It won't move far because it hits either the front or back of the lid."



We would like to hear from anyone that might have this particular torch....especially if you have any manufacturer's information.



UNKNOWN PAINT BURNER

Charles Smith recently purchased what appears to be a paint burner of an unknown origin. According to Charles; *"the tank is made of galvanized tin, with a brass filler cap, brass handle and burner tubes, and a brass wick-cover arm. It is ovate in cross-section with the base being 3.5 inches in width and 1.5 inches in depth. The tank is three inches in height with the total height being 4.5 inches. All seams are soldered and the tank appears to be airtight. Even the little control arm raising and lowering the wick cover is internal in a thin brass tube, the tube sealed at its exit points at both ends."*

“The tank contains two wicks; one flat and fairly broad. The wider wick extends up into the flat holder at the rear of the tank. A second smaller wick extends up into the angled wick holder in the top front part of the tank. There are two tiny holes on top of the horizontal burner just above the front wick. What I would regard as the paint scraper is attached to the front edge of the tank just below both burner tubes. There is additionally a small white bone knob attached to one end of the brass control arm. When this knob is pulled backward toward the base of the handle, the wick at the end of the angled burner is entirely exposed. As the knob is inserted, a short sleeve is extended further and further over the wick. With the knob totally inserted the wick cover would be fully extended over the wick and, I believe, would effectively smother the flame.”



“I believe alcohol was the likely fluid. In operation, I think the wick cap would have been lowered and the front wick lighted. After a short time, this must have produced an internal pressure forcing vaporized alcohol through the two holes above the wick. These offset holes would cause a "V"-shaped flame to be generated perpendicularly to the horizontal vapor tube. With the torch held by its handle, and the knuckles resting on the wide filler cap, it is easy to tip the tank forward at a 45-degree angle allowing the flame to impinge on a painted surface, this followed by scraping up and down to remove the blistered paint while continuing to "burn" the painted surface.”

“The burner is so intricate that the maker surely produced multiple copies. It is unreasonable for me to think that only one of these was made? I believe that this particular paint burner was hand made and not manufactured.”



WHITE FURNACE

We're always amazed at how many vintage blow torch related items show up outside of the US. **Jeff Battye** from Australia sent in photos and information on a rare find: *“I have found an unusual torch here in Australia; it's a White Mfg. Co. Hot Blast 'Oil Tinnens' furnace, similar to the model #33 on page 437 of the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES book.”*

“As you can see by the photo, →→ it is missing the soldering iron holder parts and is yet to be cleaned up. The furnace was found by my brother in a barn. He said it was hidden away and looked as if it had been there for decades.”



It has patent # 585,641 on the oval Hot Blast nameplate as well as five other dates and numbers on the Parts Pending nameplate. It is nine inches in diameter at the bottom flare and 6.5" in diameter at the top. The tank stands 6" tall."

Graham Stubbs reviewed Jeff's furnace photos and came up with the following conclusions: "Jeff, you have an **EXTREMELY** rare piece. Brass-tank furnaces of any kind are very rarely seen. With a large somewhat flat tank, the bottom (and sometimes the top) was apt to bulge out from the stress of pumping, or even worse perhaps explode. By the early 1900's most makers had switched to galvanized steel fuel tanks for furnace construction."

"I have a #31 furnace, →→→, in the same family as the #33, made by Turner the successor to the White Co. (After Turner's acquisition of White in 1904, Turner kept the White designs and model numbers for a short period of time.) My tank measures 6.5 inches in diameter over the cylindrical part. The vertical supports are 1/4 inch diameter steel. The top of the tank has a fancy corrugated design; I think that it was intended to strengthen it. It's the only one that I've ever seen of the types represented by #31, #33 and #35.

In the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES book you'll see that the #37 furnace and several others are described as the fuel tanks made with galvanized iron."



Alcohol Blow Torches

We printed an article on an ALLA alcohol torch in *THE TORCH* newsletter, #44, page 7. It is very similar to TINOL torches that were made by Hess & Son and can be seen in the VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES reference book. We received an email from **Michel Duval** with attached photos showing a large number of similar looking torches....all made outside the US. Some of the names are JOGRE, FLUDOR, KANCELARSK, BRITINOL, RAWLPLUG, VULCANO, SONA, STANNOL, ADKIS, EGONA, BARTHEL, KI, and FLUXITE.



TRACTOR EXHAUST HEATS BLOWTORCH

Got a tractor....want to start up a blow torch? **Charles smith** found an article in a November 1949 POPULAR MECHANICS magazine relating to the title. The article reads: *If you happen to be working where a tractor or truck is available, you can preheat a blowtorch in a hurry by idling the engine and holding the nozzle of the torch over the exhaust. In about thirty seconds, the hot exhaust will heat the torch sufficiently for quick ignition, eliminating the bother of burning gasoline in the preheating cup.*



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: **Terry Foutch** would like to liquidate his entire collection of 500-550 blow torches. Terry has a lot of specialty torches, Self-Heating Soldering Irons, and a least 15 firepots. He would like to sell the entire lot to the best offer. You can reach Terry at 360-710-4848, or write to him at 2656 SE Tucci Place, Port Orchard, WA 98367....sorry no email address.

WANTED: **Don Steininger** is looking for the top portion of an Otto Bernz #50 firepot, the one that is shown on page 58 of the *VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES* book. Remember, some parts are interchangeable, so if you have any firepot top parts available, give Don a call at 715-275-4101.

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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