

# THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Issue #57

December 2013



An Otto Bemz No. 82C One-Gallon Blow Torch  
From the collection of **Thierry Londiche**

# NEW MEMBERS

**Benjamin Cassel** of Marysville, Washington

**Jean-Yves Le Cam** of Saint Thibault des Vignes, Ile-de-France, France has been collecting since 2004 and has accumulated over 750 lamps along with 100 soldering irons. They are all prominently displayed on shelves in his study and in the garage. *“One day, by chance, I found two of my grandfather’s lamps, a Surmelin No. 3 and a Vesta E. I immediately realized my interest in the two lamps...and my first contact with the lamp collecting virus! My wife preferred that I broke one or two legs instead of starting a lamp collection!”* Jean-Yves is also a member of the French Collectors group and has just recently started collecting US torches.

**Walter Luther** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**John Robinson** of Blackpool, Lancashire, England is a ten year collector with nearly one hundred lamps in his collection. He purchased his first lamp, a Max Sievert, in a hardware store in Blackpool at the age of fifteen. That must be when he actually started his collection since he stills has that very first lamp. John has been a plumber all of his working life and used lamps extensively in his work. He is now retired and usually brings a new lamp home every couple of weeks...and then the polishing begins. John also has a small collection of wooden planes as well as other antique tools.

**Raymond Sigwalt** of Carroll, Iowa is one of our recent new members; however, he does not collect blow torches. He rents a farm from a widow, and her husband who recently passed, had been collecting blow torches for many years. There are an estimated four hundred torches and other related items in the collection. Raymond is trying to help the widow liquidate the collection and joined BTCA to have us assist in the liquidation. See the CLASSIFIED ADS section for more details.

**Curt Stoltz** of Andover, Minnesota is another of our most recent new members, however, he also does not collect torches. *“I joined the association on behalf of my girlfriend’s mother. Her recently deceased husband was a torch collector and unfortunately he was not aware of your association. He was a prolific collector and has over 150 torches in his collection. He restored/refinished a number of these and had a great number awaiting work when he passed away. See the CLASSIFIED ADS section for more details.*

**Kevin Tompkins** of Presque Isle, Maine

WELCOME ABOARD!



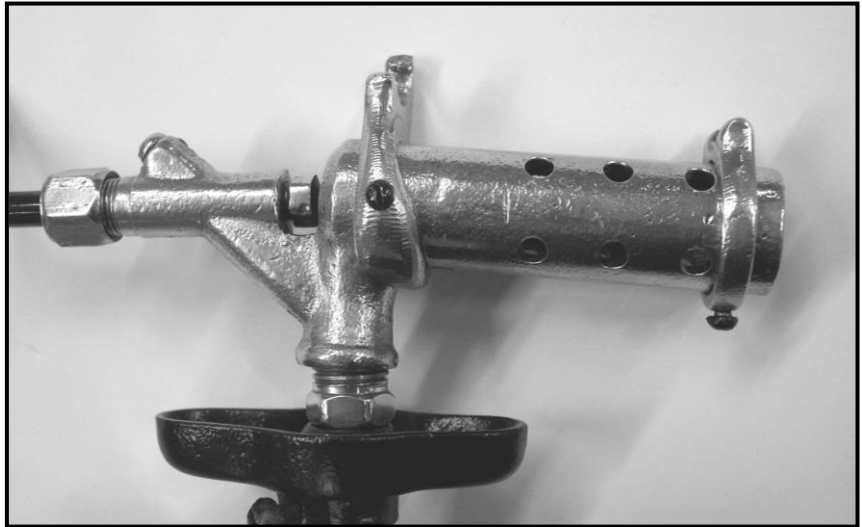
## NOTES FROM ALL OVER



Should you ever be in the vicinity of **Alan & Sylvia Black’s** home in Coleford, Gloucestershire, England...you are welcome to visit, view, and perhaps even purchase a blow lamp. The offer was open to anyone “over the big pond”, but we are confident that all visitors would be welcome. You must phone them first since the road gate is closed after the postman leaves and any scheduled guests have departed.

We heard from **Ron Hartse** regarding Graham's article on soldering iron holders that was featured in THE TORCH, issue No. 56, page six.

*"I have a White's torch with a soldering iron ring mounted on the front of the burner as shown in the article.▶▶ This torch also has a slip-on hook that is molded to fit on the rear portion of the burner and is held in place with two set screws that go into holes in the burner."*



We received an interesting note from **Maurice Jernstedt**. *"I always read THE TORCH cover to cover when it arrives, however, this year I started with issue No. 1 and re-read them all again. I was surprised at all the useful insights and information I found that the information helps me to better understand my torches. I believe it would benefit other torch collectors to see again what information we have accumulated and how far we have come since 1995. I really enjoy TED'S CORNER and look forward to similar information on restoration tips on firepots or plumber furnaces. A color guide would also help to determine how best to repaint various parts during restoration."*

**Lloyd Weber** broke two fingers in his right hand playing pickleball. We also did not know what pickleball was, so we searched the Internet. Just in case you wanted to know....pickleball is a paddle sport which combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. The sport is played on a court with the same dimensions as a doubles badminton court. The net is similar to a tennis net, but is mounted two inches lower. The game is played with a hard paddle and a polymer version of a small wiffle ball. The broken fingers are going to put a crimp in his blow torch restoration efforts!

**Arthur Nascimento Jr.** would like to communicate with other BTCA members who are willing to exchange photos of their torch collections. See the attached membership listing for contact information.

A MAN AND HIS SCULPTURES, **Mike Gratz** is at it again. You have seen some of his creations in the past two newsletters, Nos. 55 and 56. Mike has created another masterpiece from raw materials, a soldering iron heater that was patented by John S. Hull in 1880. It is another functional torch that is fueled by propane gas. It will be featured in the March 2014 newsletter.

**Andy Stratton** sent in a series of photos of his blow torch/soldering iron display at a recent tractor/engine outdoor show. He did not mention how many he displayed, but we counted over one hundred pieces. ▶▶

**George Frederick** sent in a story about "Popcorn" Sutton and his blow torch. See page nine for the article.





## TED'S CORNER



BTCA member **Ted Maire** is an avid torch collector, but also an experienced restoration expert. This is one in a series of Ted's helpful restoration tips since so many members do restoration work on blow torches and other similar items. We always welcome feedback and would like to hear from members regarding these restoration tips.

Welcome to **TED'S CORNER**.

### BURNER ASSEMBLY REMOVAL

I always find it easier to disassemble torches for restoration. It enables you to detail each individual piece. I always start with removing the burner assembly from the fuel tank. The typical way to do this seems to be to use pliers or Vise-Grips to unscrew the feed tube from the tank. I have seen a lot of torches but I have seen very few without tool marks on the feed tube where someone used pliers for removal. It is very unsightly, and there is a better way.



The best way to remove the burner without creating tool marks is to use a vise (see picture). Put a piece of leather in the jaws of the vise to protect the burner. If you don't have a piece of leather, use an old leather work glove or something similar. Insert the burner into the vise with the torch handle on the left. Tighten down the vise jaws only enough to make it snug. Do not over tighten. Place your right hand on the bottom of the tank to keep it straight. Pull the handle of the torch toward you and it should unscrew relatively easily. A steady even pressure usually does the trick. Try not to use too much force. I find a good rule of thumb is: if you start dragging the workbench around the room, you should try some other method! If it doesn't come apart, try heating the connection between the burner and the feed tube with a propane torch. This should enable you to remove the burner from the feed tube and still give you ample room to clean and polish the tank. Heating the connection between the feed tube and the tank would melt the solder on the tank fitting...and that is not good.



This same method can be used to remove frozen filler plugs in the bottom of torch tanks. The jaws of my vise are four inches wide and easily fit down into the concave bottom of torches.

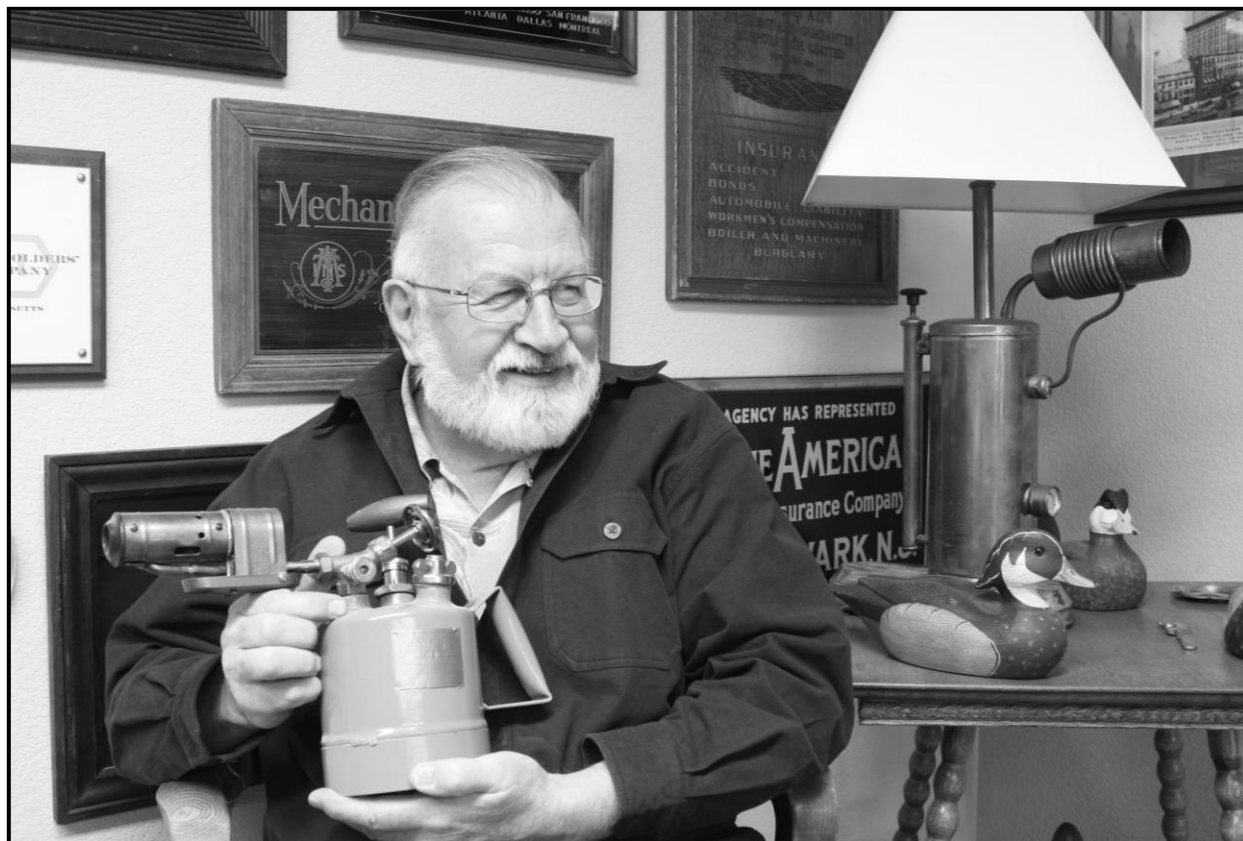
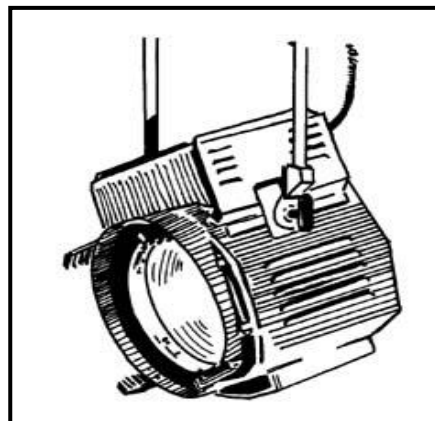


# IN THE ~~SPOT~~ TORCH LIGHT

This is the seventh in a series of personal interviews with various BTCA members. This interview was conducted via a phone call between **Gary Fye** and **Ron Carr**.

**Gary Fye** and his lovely wife **Trudy** reside in Reno, Nevada. The city is situated in the northwestern part of the state with a population of 231,027 making it the fourth most populous city in Nevada. Known as "The Biggest Little City in the World", Reno is famous for its casinos and is the birthplace of the Caesars Entertainment Corporation.

Gary was born the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor in Newcastle, PA. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, his parents and family moved to the west coast to work in the San Pedro Shipyard for the war effort. Gary grew up living in Crestline, CA, a very rural valley community. It was a tough life for a boy since there were always plenty of chores to do. Gary attended California State University, Fresno and the University of California, Riverside. He started his career with AETNA as an Insurance Claims Adjuster trainee. For the next fourteen years he worked for various insurance companies at various west coast locations, and ended up as the Western Regional Manager for Viking Insurance in Salem, OR. In 1976 Gary left the corporate world and started his own company; the Gary T. Fye Co., dealing in specialty investigation work relating to fire and accident causes. In 1999 he "retired" from handling insurance claims in the field and switched his company direction to Claim Practice Analysis that involves consulting and court testimony. After years of experience, he is an expert in his field and is called on by many insurance companies for his advice and counsel.



Gary Fye is holding a Hauck No. 381 Kerosene Torch. He also collects duck decoys.

**TT:** How did you get started collecting blow torches?

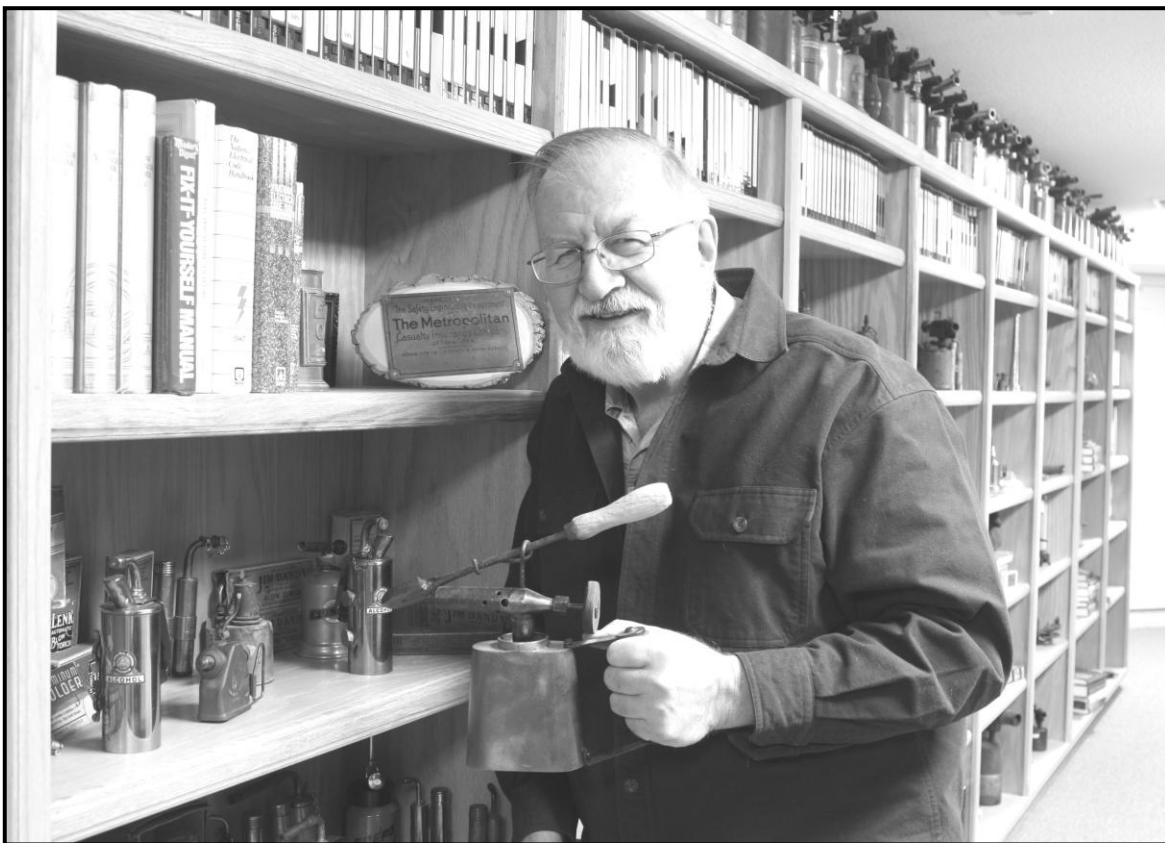
**GF:** My wife's uncle had been a steam fitter, and he retired after years of work in the Alaska bush. He visited our Oregon farm around 1974 and had with him his Clayton & Lambert blow torch that he used in his work. He placed the blow torch on our fireplace hearth as a decoration and said; *"I want you to have this, it is too nice to take to the scrap yard."*

**TT:** Why do you think he gave you the torch?

**GF:** My uncle knew that I had used blow torches when I lived with my family in Crestline, California where we had to do just about everything for ourselves. That included plumbing where I learned how to use a blow torch from my father. He also knew that my line of work included working with fire investigations, so that may have also provided a connection.

**TT:** We noticed that you have been a BTCA member for seventeen years. We also know that you were in communication with Graham Stubbs by mail in early 1986. That is way before BTCA was created. How did you and Graham meet?

**GF:** From what I recall...the school superintendent in Alaska had accumulated a small collection of blow torches and he published an article regarding his torches. The article was mentioned in a nation news broadcast that I was watching. From what I remember, I called the superintendent, and during our conversation he gave me Graham's name and phone number. Graham and I then communicated by mail for some time after that. That same superintendent wrote the poem; ODE TO THE BLOWTORCH.



Gary Fye holding a Decker blow torch with an original soldering iron holder.

**TT:** Yes, I remember that poem; we printed it in THE TORCH on page two of the First Quarter 1997 issue. Since so many new members do not have those earlier copies of THE TORCH, we will reprint it in this issue.

**GF:** I also believe that the poem somehow was a catalyst that also connected me with other torch collectors; like **Mark Pedersen**.

**TT:** In some of your photos I saw torches everywhere and in large quantities. Approximately how many torches do you have in your collection?

**GF:** I have around 3500 torches; most of them are not restored.

**TT:** Do you collect anything else? We saw some fire nozzles in your photos. Do you collect them?

**GF:** Not really; I do have a few that I've purchased over the years, but I do not actively collect them. I do collect insurance related signs, duck decoys, and paper weights. One of my primary interests includes collecting professional materials....that includes several million pages of documentation of claim practices that date back to the 1970s. Individuals in the insurance business know me for my extensive documentation collection.

**TT:** Do you utilize those documents as reference in your claim practice analysis business?

**GF:** Yes, the documents are used extensively in my research. I have what would be referred to as a library/archive.

**TT:** Do you believe that you have any valuable torches?

**GF:** It depends on what you define as valuable. I have some torches that if sold on eBay would sell in the five hundred dollar+ range. I do have one torch that I consider to be most valuable to me; it is a dentist's torch from the Comstock Lode in Virginia City, NV that dates to the 1800s. (FYI...The Comstock Lode was a lode of silver ore located in the Virginia City, Nevada area that was discovered in 1859 and was mined up to the 1920s. It was the first major discovery of silver ore in the US.)

**TT:** Is there any identifying information on the torch?

**GF:** There is no manufacturer's information, but the glass is embossed with patent dates of September 4, 1880 and March 14, 1893.

**TT:** I noticed a large number of VHS tapes on your shelves, what are they?

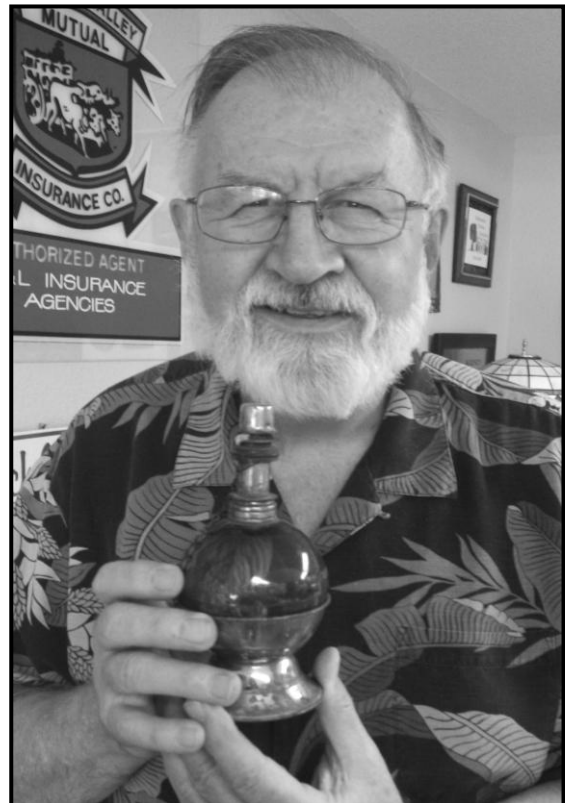
**GF:** Those are insurance claim practice training tapes and are part of my library/archive.

**TT:** You have some torches that have been refinished, did you restore them?

**GF:** No, I paid to have them refinished. I like the look of restored torches, but never had the time or the interest in restoration. I actually prefer a torch in its natural state, there is some character in a used torch.

**TT:** Does Trudy collect anything?

**GF:** Yes, she collects primitive farm tools. They are the type of tools that a farmer, who could not afford to purchase manufactured tools, would make his own.



**Gary Fye** with his Comstock Lode dentist torch.

**TT:** Do your two daughters collect anything? In many cases kids copy their parents in collecting stuff.

**GF:** No, they do not collect anything, however, they are horrified in wondering what they are going to do with all of my and Trudy's stuff when we die! Speaking of my daughters, I would like to tell you about my youngest daughter. In addition to providing consulting work for Microsoft, she is an accomplished singer, songwriter, jazz, and cabaret artist. You can tell our readers that they can see and hear a fellow BTCA member's daughter sing at [ELEANORFYE.COM](http://ELEANORFYE.COM)



Gary posing with his horse Mook.

**TT:** That is a great looking horse, what is his name?

**GF:** I actually have two horses. The horse in the photo is named Moon Struck Delight, but his nickname is Mook. My other horse is named Thunder.

**TT:** We are about at the end of our interview, any final comments?

**GF:** Yes, at age seventy two I am still avidly collecting in terms of enjoying meeting the owners of antique and junk shops around the country where I travel. It is a great way to meet interesting people, those individuals that have the difficult job of collecting, displaying, and selling collectables. I've never had the opportunity to sell anything, but I appreciate the people that sell collectables for a living. The point I am trying to convey is me getting to know these people that sell collectables that may acquire a torch and would contact me about it.

**TT:** I have a final comment for you. Over the years you have continued to provide a substantial contribution for your annual dues payment. It has not gone unnoticed and we really appreciate your continued support for BTCA.

**GF:** Thank you for the comments. Sometimes I think I'm not generous enough considering your efforts with BTCA.





# ODE TO THE BLOWTORCH

By Leroy Owens, and originally submitted by **Gary Fye** in 1997.

Tools are extensions of the human mind, And in the hand of a craftsman, turn ideas into miracles.

The blowtorch, a symbol of creative genius, can help to translate a dream into warm reality.

The blowtorch helps the workman combine the power of heat, fuel, and oxygen.

By itself, this tool is nothing, and does nothing. But in the hand of a creator, it can make hard metal bend, frozen pipes open, or melt the tin to make a child's toy.

Each of us needs a blowtorch, to remind us of our importance in the scheme of things.

For we can take the stuff around us, and make something beautiful, and like this wonderful invention, we can combine the elements of mind, heart, and hands.

To make a better world for ourselves - or we can let our tools stand idle, and in the face of great need, do nothing.

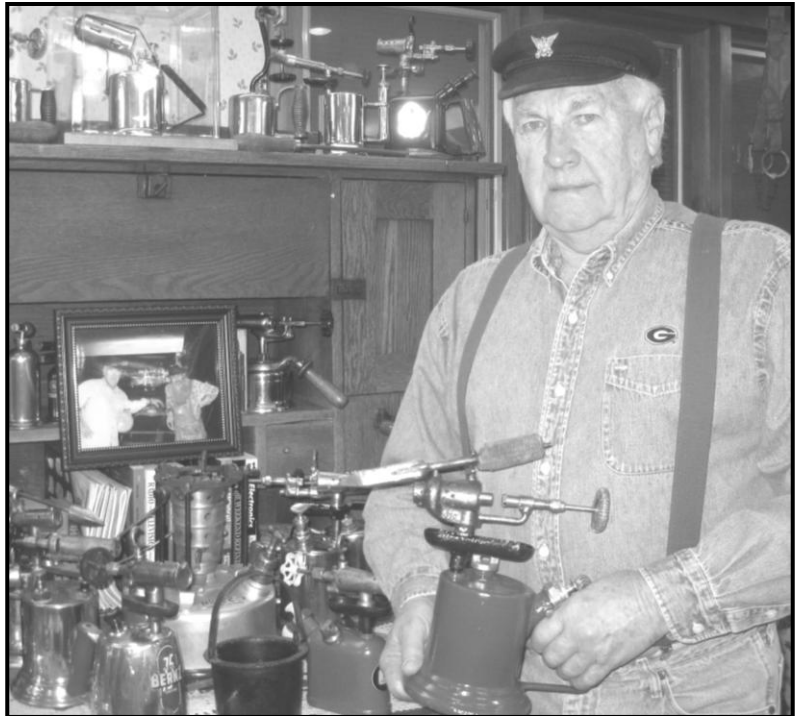
Making choices exercises our humanity, using our tools to create expresses our potential for godliness.



## MARVIN "POPCORN" SUTTON

By BTCA Member **George Frederick**

"I was visiting Ghost Town in Maggie Valley, NC about six years ago and was riding down the mountain in the front of the bus with the driver. I briefly ask the driver if they still made moonshine in these parts. He had a very quick answer with the name Popcorn Sutton, but he said his moonshine still house was destroyed by a fire (the torch Popcorn gave me was in that fire). After a few months later I went back to Maggie Valley to look him up. I did not realize he resided in Parrottsville, TN. After a full day trying to locate his phone number I was finally successful. When I returned home to Georgia my wife handed me the phone and it was Popcorn on the line, nervous and not knowing what to say I finally asked if I could come visit him. A very warm and friendly answer was yes.



The Wall torch that George is holding belonged to the late legendary East Tennessee moonshiner Popcorn Sutton.

The very first visit was like I had known him all my life. Before I arrived at his house he called and had a list of some groceries and cigarettes that he wanted me to bring to him. After that first visit I found myself going there every two weeks meeting his usual request for purchases since he was on house arrest at that time.

I spent several hours a week just talking about the old days since I grew up in rural Georgia in the Blue Ridge foothills. Popcorn had a heart of gold and would do anything for you, if he liked you! Our friendship grew deeper as time went on. When his time arrived to go to prison he seemed to change very much. I knew something was going to happen, but did not know exactly what. He was due to go to South Georgia to serve two consecutive 18 month sentences and he and his wife were going to spend the night with us before they reached their destination. I received a call from his wife Pam that he was found dead in his old Ford Fairlane from carbon monoxide poison. One thing that will never leave my mind is that he asked me to say a prayer for him the day before. I attended his funeral just before daylight on a beautiful mountain in North Carolina. His body was moved later that year to Parrottsville, TN.”

“Popcorn was my little buddy. His death was so tragic and it still hurts today. His moonshine was the best ever made. I still visit his wife often and the new distillery in Newport, TN. They have one in Nashville, TN and this one in Newport will be huge. Popcorn gave me several of his personal items before he took his life including the blow torch in my photo.”

More about Popcorn Sutton.

Originally from Maggie Valley, N.C., the notorious moonshiner Popcorn Sutton got started in the 1970s. Sutton considered moonshine production a legitimate part of his heritage, as he was Scots-Irish and descended from a long line of moonshiners. His nickname “Popcorn” came from him destroying a popcorn machine in a local bar one evening during a drunken brawl. He earned his moonshine fame from distilling whiskey in Cocke County, TN, in the Great Smoky Mountains, and publishing “Me and My Likker” in 1999 that served as an autobiography and guide to moonshine production.



He was also featured in several documentaries, including “**Last Run.**” Filming next to his last working still in 2002, the camera pans to a hand painted sign that reads, “Popcorn & J.B. Raders Moonshine Shack. Keep Yore Dam Ass Out.” The 2-hour documentary gives a firsthand account of Popcorn’s life, how to make shine and features many memorable quotes directly from the legend’s mouth, including “That’s the only thing I can brag about in my life—that’s my likker. Ain’t nobody can beat me.”

In the spring of 2009, he committed suicide by rigging the exhaust pipe of his car, climbing in and starting the engine. It’s been reported that Popcorn Sutton, 62 had been diagnosed with cancer, killed himself to avoid serving 18 months in a federal prison for illegally distilling spirits and possession of a firearm as a felon. Popcorn pleaded with the U.S. District Judge to let him serve his sentence under house arrest. Several petitions were made in attempts to reduce or commute Sutton’s sentence, to no avail. A reporter that attended Popcorn’s court hearings identified Popcorn *“as a short, skinny fella, who always wore his hat—that was kind of his claim to fame, his hat that he always wore. And his bib overalls—he always wore bib overalls. Even when he came to federal court, he was wearing bib overalls.”* A little more than a year after he passed, his legend was immortalized when country music star Hank Williams, Jr., partnered with J&M Concepts LLC and Widow Pam Sutton to distill and distribute **Popcorn Sutton’s Tennessee White Whiskey**. It is still sold today using Popcorn’s secret recipe.



# In Memoriam

**Al Austin** passed away recently at his home in Puyallup, Washington after a long illness. "Low Profit Al", as many people knew him by, was 74 years old and a member of BTCA for seventeen years

Many BTCA members remember Al and Elaine as gracious hosts when they hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BTCA Convention at their home in Puyallup, WA as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Epworth LeSourd United Methodist Church in Tacoma, WA. Both were very successful events with a large attendance.

He was a graduate of West Seattle High School and upon graduation he joined the Navy, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer after 24 years of service. The latter half of his Navy career was spent in the Naval Reserve so he could work full-time as a machinist for The Boeing Company, retiring from there after 42 years.

Al is survived by his wife Elaine, daughters Brenda Davis, Lori Culbert, son Steven Austin, step-daughters Bernita McDowell, Kimberle Reopelle, Christina Baumgras; brothers Harold Austin; Robert Austin, sister Maryann Spies, and brother-in-law Darrol Barton; 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Al was known for his jokes, storytelling and generosity. He loved sharing his "treasures" with family and friends and as a result inherited the nickname "Low Profit Al". He was loved by all who knew him. We will miss you Al.



## 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

**Ann Clark William Kerns William Poapst Roger Willgerodt**

## 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

**Martin Donnelly Jon Flora Robert Foshee John Lawler George Murray III  
William Palmer Quentin Schwartz Jean Strasser Don Weber John Zilinkas**

## 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We congratulate the following six members that joined BTCA in its third year. Many thanks for your long term dedication to our organization!

**Eddie Brown Richard Busby Richard Carter Terry Foutch  
Brian Grainger David Olson Larry Parker Harold Pope  
David Schulte David Thomas John Tingle RL Wildenradt**



# PATENT MODELS

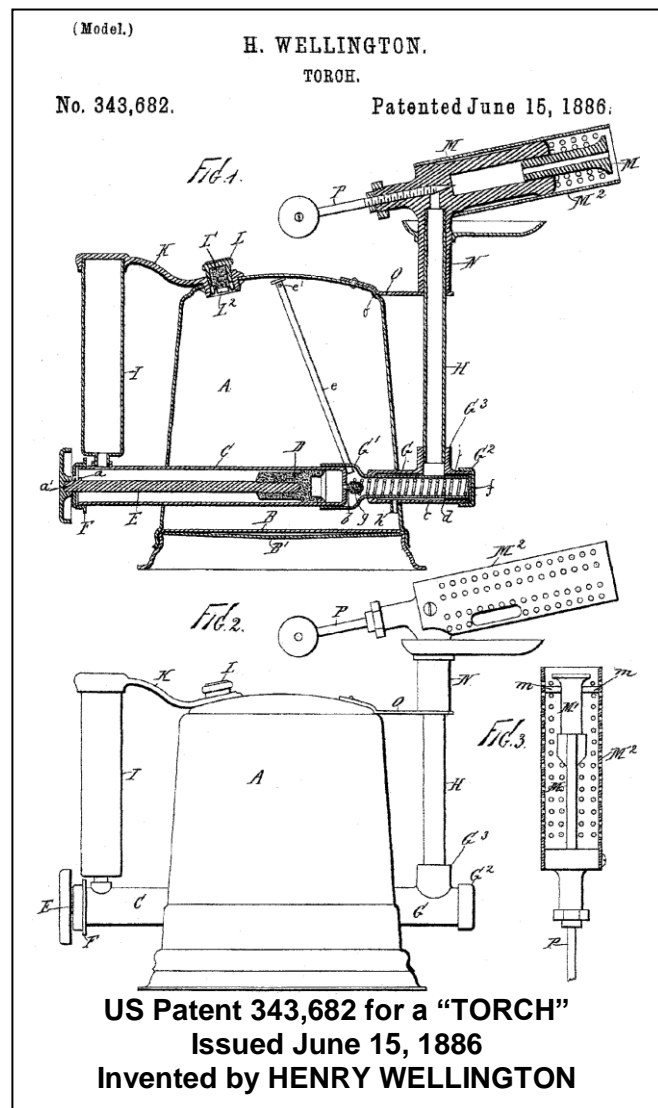
By Graham Stubbs

About twenty years ago, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Antique Show in Brimfield Massachusetts. Held three times a year, it stretches for half a mile and across about twenty fields through the town and has a huge attendance. Having spent the best part of a morning looking for my kinds of antiques -old tools - I spotted an unusual stand. Every item was a patent model, and there was one, just one, blowtorch! Even back then it cost me a few hundred dollars, but I did not haggle since it was such a valuable treasure!

It turned out to be the original patent model for the Wellington blowtorch, a maker now well known to readers of *THE TORCH*. Even better, thorough search of patents for blowtorches, revealed that this was the **ONLY** patent for which a model of a blowtorch was submitted!



**WELLINGTON PATENT MODEL  
US 343,682**



The Wellington US 343,682 patent is an improvement over an earlier patent, US 284,346, awarded to Henry Wellington on September 4, 1883. Both patents have claims related to a spring-loaded internal pump valve with no separate shut-off valve. The later patent simplifies the method of construction. The date of the earlier patent is stamped on the top of the handle.

The model is complete with its original US Patent Office (USPTO) tag and a label of authenticity from the Cliff Petersen Collection. It does not have a burner assembly, but for good reason ... more about that later.

The instruction label, pasted to the bottom and in pristine condition, reads:

#### DIRECTIONS

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Use *only* 72° to 76° specific gravity Naptha or Gasoline – steam treated is the cheapest and best.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Take out feeder screw and fill nearly full, say within one inch of the top – rub hard soap on the thread of the feeder screw, *each* and *every* filling, and replace firmly with thumb and finger. Do not use pliers.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pump air into reservoir by operating pump handle *quick full* stroke about 8 or 10 times, which gives necessary pressure.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. Place palm of hand over end of burner, turn needle screw to left two or three turns, closing same when cup beneath the burner is full, taking care not to let the fluid run over.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. Light fluid in cup and when *nearly* consumed, open needle-screw again, a little at first, and more when perforated shield becomes red hot, *if* a larger flame is desired. Should the burner not light from the burning fluid in the cup, hold a lighted match at the end of the burner.
- 6<sup>th</sup>. When the flame is sleazy or not stiff and strong, (as it should be), pump more air into the reservoir, *without* turning the flame out. Occasionally oil the pump washer.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. It may be used while burning in any position –*bottom up* or *otherwise*. It gives a pure blue flame, depositing no carbon or smoke whatever.

#### SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Never fill while burning, or when near an artificial light or fire. Never use a Can. Measure or Funnel to keep the Naptha in, or use to fill with, that has been used or is in use, for Kerosene, or Linseed Oils, Varnish or Mixed Paints. Occasionally Oil the Pump-washer, to keep it soft.



## PATENT MODELS

With the passing of the Patent Act of 1790, the United States Patent Office was created. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, a three man Patent Commission established rules that included a requirement that a working model be provided. In 1836, another Patent Act established numbering system, starting at number 1, instead of the previous practice of using names. Models were once again specified, with the requirement “The model, not more than 12 inches square, should be neatly made, the name of the inventor should be printed or engraved upon or fixed to it, in a durable manner.” This requirement was often interpreted as requiring that the model should fit within a 12x12x12 inches cube. With its burner fitted, the Wellington blowtorch model would not have fit; hence the absence of the burner.

In December 1836 a fire at the Patent Office burned the building to the ground and destroyed all the records and most of the models. (Three thousand of the most important models were restored.)

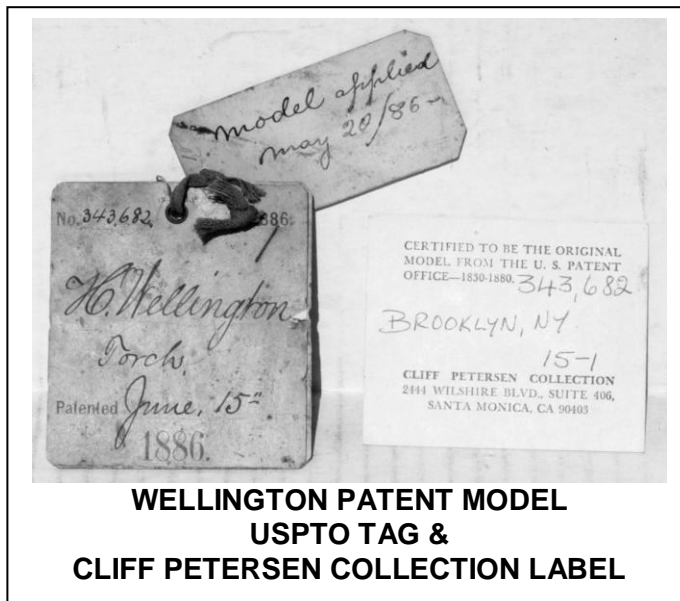
In 1870, Congress abolished the legal requirement for models, but the patent office continued to require them until 1880. Thereafter, models were permitted only when required by the Patent Commissioner; some were still being submitted until about the turn of the century. From May 1880 until December 1904, patents were marked “MODEL” or “NO MODEL” in the top left corner of the first page. In 1877, a second fire in the Patent office destroyed 76, 000 models. By 1880, 246,094 patents had been issued, of which about 200,000 were represented by models.

In 1893, the patent models were moved out of the Patent office and placed in storage, finally ending up by 1908 in an abandoned livery stable, where they remained for almost twenty years until a sale was finally organized. In 1925, the models were sold at auction to philanthropist Sir Henry Wellcome, with the belief that he intended to establish a Patent Model Museum. That plan crashed with the stock market in 1929. The models then were sold first to Broadway producer Crosby Gaige, and then to a group of businessmen who formed an organization named American Patent Models Inc., which declared bankruptcy four years later. In 1941, they were acquired by O. Rundle Gilbert, an auctioneer, who sold many of them off in successive auctions.

In 1979, Cliff Petersen, an aerospace designer, bought eight hundred crates of the models from Gilbert, some of which had not been opened for more than fifty years. Petersen in turn donated many of the models to the United States Patent Model Foundation, which has since sold off many of them.

This Wellington blowtorch patent model was evidently part of the Cliff Petersen Collection at one time.

A great many patent models found their way into the market during the past hundred years, and they are readily found at prices starting below two hundred dollars for simple examples without moving parts, up to a few thousand dollars for elaborate mechanical designs. Patent models associated with famous inventors, such as Thomas Edison, go for very much more.



(Note: As of May 2013, starting with No. 1 in 1836, about 8.5 million US patents have been awarded. The US Patent Office is now called the US Patents and Trademarks office, USPTO.)



BTCA REMAINS A VERY GLOBAL ORGANIZATION WITH 44 MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE USA. ENGLAND TOPS THE LIST WITH 13 MEMBERS AND AUSTRALIA COMING IN A CLOSE SECOND WITH 11 MEMBERS! CURRENT BTCA MEMBERSHIP STANDS AT 165 MEMBERS. AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR ORGANIZATION!

**Thank you for those members that have updated their email and mailing address. Please take a moment to verify you information in the attached member listing and send us any changes.**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

**Elaine Austin** will be selling **Al Austin's** torch collection and torch display trailer. Al has some rare pieces that are available to any interested collector. You can view Al's torch display trailer on page seven, issue No. 42 of THE TORCH. You can contact Elaine directly from the information in the attached membership listing.

**Richard Carter** has approximately eighty various torches for sale. Contact him directly from the membership listing for specific details.

**Curt Stoltz** is helping his girlfriend's mother liquidate her deceased husband's 150 piece torch collection. She is moving to a small apartment...so the torches need to go. She is hoping to find a collector who wishes to acquire some or all of his collection; otherwise, there will be an estate auction. See the membership listing for Curt's details.

**Raymond Sigwalt** is aiding a widow in selling her deceased husband's 400 piece torch collection. Please contact Raymond for more details.

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## 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: [BTCA@cox.net](mailto:BTCA@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 BTCA at the above address.

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