

THE TORCH

Newsletter of The Blow Torch Collectors Association

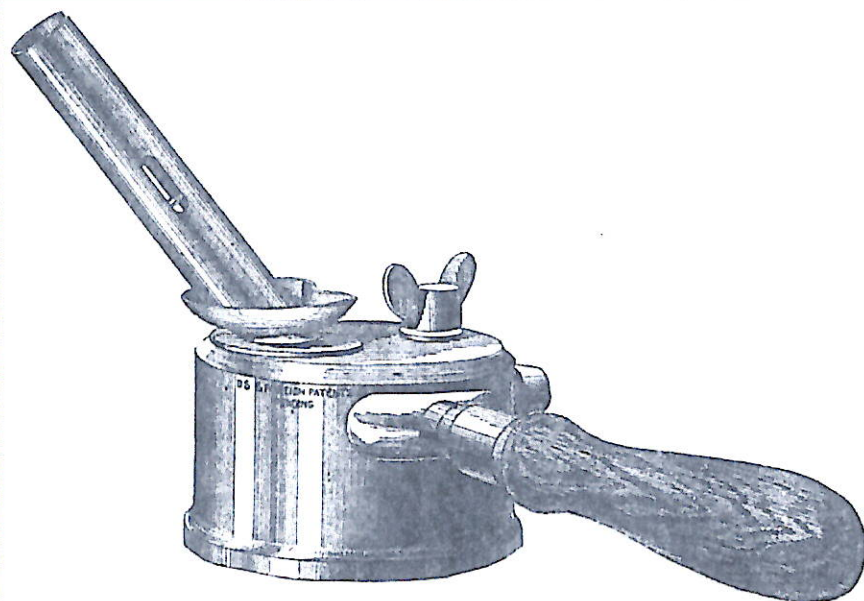
- Issue #28 -

- March 2004 -



AUTO-TOOL MFG. CO., VULCAN Self-Heating Soldering Tool, see page 7

Circa 1901, as advertised in *THE METAL WORKER*



Bridgeport Brass Co. Vulcan Torch

Illustration from an 1892 publication, *The Metal Worker*
See page 6

Quick Meal, see page 5

Blow Torch Patents, see
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Phillips & Harmon Mfg. Co.,
see page 9

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Gasoline Torch Mfg. Co.,
see page 11

Mead-Morrison Mfg. Co.,
see page 6



Emmelmann Bros. Torch Co., see Notes From All Over – Tobin, page 2

NEW MEMBERS

Jack Crooks, Martin, Georgia, a 4-year collector started blow torch collecting after drooling over BTCA-member **John Dennison's** torch collection! Jack now has over 100 pieces and polishes many of them. He also collects church keys, (the kind that open cans), meat grinders, and old hand tools.

John DiFrancesco, Dallas, Texas, received his first blow torch from his father, a pint-sized Otto Bernz, in 1934 for his 14th birthday. His father was a New York State master plumber from the early 1920's. After John served 6 years in the US Navy, he relocated to Dallas and started his own plumbing business in 1950. John's son is now a Texas master plumber and part of the company. In addition to over 60 torches, John also collects lead pots, fire pots, and soldering irons.

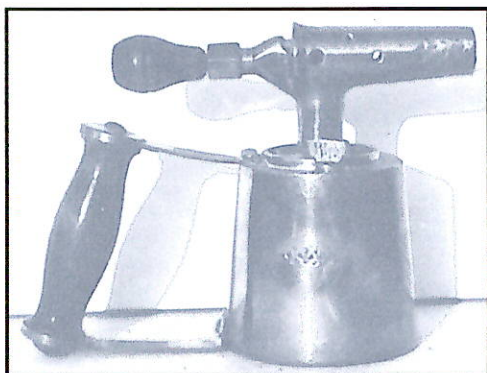
Jimmie Mayes, Bellevue, Washington, is relatively new to blow torch collecting, but has been collecting soldering irons for many years. He worked in the heating and sheet metal business for most of his life and used soldering irons in his trade.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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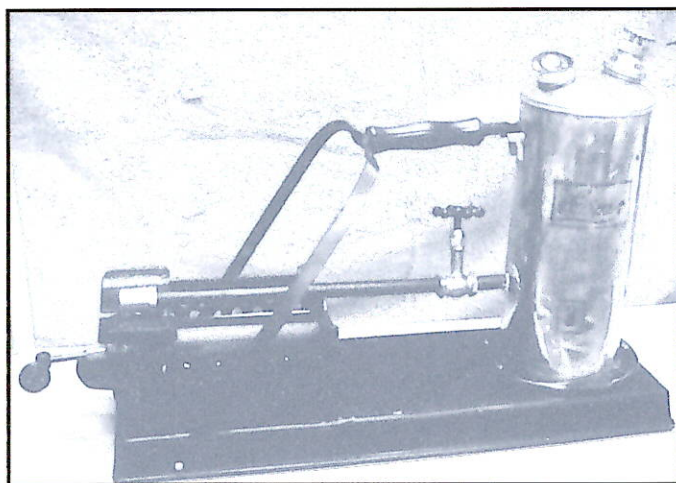
NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Ray Hyland, BTCA member and Editor of the *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, sent in photos of his PHOENIX torch, an earlier version with a heavy cast brass fuel tank (later versions were all aluminum). The tank weighs in at over 3 pounds and has a soldered plug in the base of the tank.



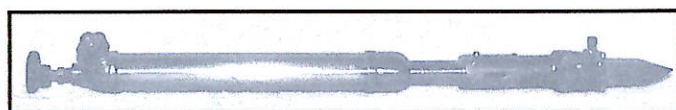
Ray Hyland's
PHOENIX
TORCH

Chris Jensen acquired a very unusual looking torch device of unknown origin. While there are numerous patents referenced on the torch...13 to be exact, only two of them reference blow torch related patents, and only one relates to a torch manufacturer – Turner Brass Works. The air pump looks very much like an Otto Bernz pump, and the fuel cap on top of the fuel tank is similar to most torch fuel plugs. Please contact us if anyone has a clue on what it is or what it was used for.



Chris Jensen's unknown "torch", can you identify it?

JoAnn & Chuck Tobin sent in a note about a PHOENIX torch that was manufactured by the Decker Mfg. Co. (We've received great response from the article in the last issue of *THE TORCH* and now realize that there is a large population of PHOENIX torches out there...thanks everyone!)



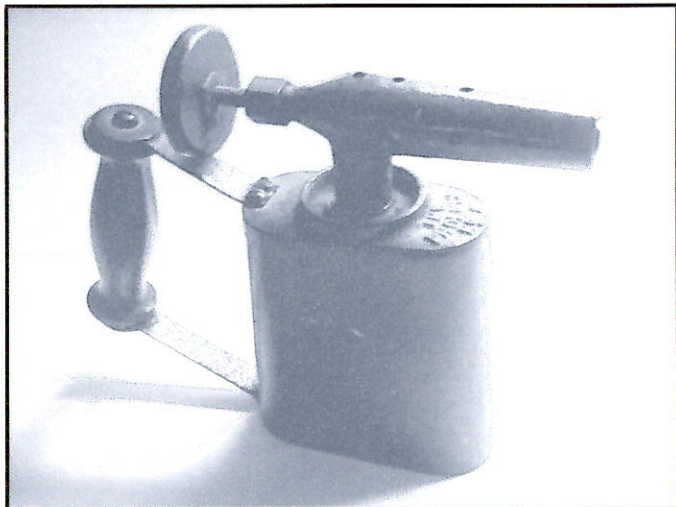
Tobin's Emmelmann Self-Heating Soldering Iron

Of great interest were the Tobin photos that included an Emmelmann Bros. Torch. Co. Self-Heating Soldering Iron. Chuck is the second collector, that we know of, that owns an Emmelmann torch, and Chuck's torch appears to be a later version.

The only differences noted are the omission of the mesh steel hand guard over the fuel tank and

NOTES CONT.

a Bakelite valve knob in lieu of the round wood version. Manufacturer's data was also cast into the burner housing in the earlier version, while Chuck's torch has the data stamped onto the fuel cap.



PHOENIX NO. 4, photo by William Kitazaki

William Kitazaki sent in photos of his PHOENIX No. 4 blow torch with Decker as the manufacturing company. While the torch is painted black, it has the original pressed fiber valve knob and appears to be in excellent condition.

Tom Bartlett provided information on a recently acquired Coleman blow torch with "HECHO EN MEXICO", (translated: MADE IN MEXICO) stamped into the front of the fuel tank. The torch is described as having a Bakelite pistol grip handle, it is made mostly from brass, including the drip cup, the air pump is in the fuel tank, and it has a single valve burner assembly.

Dick Sarpolus provided photos of two Cushion Band Clayton & Lambert torches, a No. 208 quart size and a No. 9 pint size. In addition to the Cushion Band feature on each torch, Dick pointed out that the quart-size torch has aluminum handle standoffs made from castings, and the pint-size has machined aluminum handle standoffs. Dick also came to the same conclusion on aluminum parts...we believe that materials were substituted due to lower cost or an improved process or technology.

Glenn Harrison gave us a heads up on an Otto Bernz torch that he recently acquired. From the photos we believe he is the proud owner of a model 81 two-quart blow torch, circa 1916. The No. 81 and 82 model series were unusual torches inasmuch as they had the fuel valve located under the burner assembly. Those burners tended to be much larger with powerful flames, and the torches were designed for heavy industrial purposes.

Keith Hawkins believes he also owns a PHOENIX torch, however his torch does not have any markings to confirm. Overall, it's a dead ringer for a PHOENIX, and according to Keith, the burner assembly looks very much like the Wm. Gierth version. From his photo, we suspect that the original fuel valve knob has been replaced.

Bob Steinke submitted a note with photo of his PHOENIX No. 4 blow torch. His PHOENIX still has the original pressed fiber valve knob, aluminum oval fuel tank, and appears to be in excellent condition.

Charles Smith broke the record book with his four PHOENIX torches! One is a $\frac{3}{4}$ pint No. 2 with the original pressed fiber fuel valve knob. (You'll note that we've been referring to the PHOENIX fuel valve knob as "pressed fiber", since it's uncertain what the material really is.) Two other PHOENIX torches are unmarked and appear almost identical to the No. 2. The fourth torch is a 1½-pint No. 3, and 3 of the torches carry the July 10, 1910 patent date.

Al Austin sent in a note regarding his two C&L Cushion Band torches, a model No. 32 and a No. 208. The No. 208 is in perfect condition but needs to be cleaned up. It's a different story for the No. 32, a real "beater". Al thinks he may mill out the side of the tank for a cut-a-way for show & tell.



Clayton &
Lambert
Cushion
Band
Torches

L to R

No. 9
No. 208

Photo by
Dick
Sarpolus

Michel Duval advised us of his progress in collecting different torch/lamp manufacturers. To date he has accumulated an impressive 340 different labels.... some very rare pieces, like the STEFFAN hand torch. The circa 1932 STEFFAN torch is the only known US blow torch that was patented under a design patent.

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RESTORATION TIPS

(An article from *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, September 2003, No. 45, authored by **Ray Hyland**)

"Many European blowlamps and soldering torches have string binding on the handles and it is not uncommon for the original binding to be very tatty, or missing altogether, which detracts from the overall appearance of the lamp. Personally, I will always try to replace the string, but doing so throws up two problems."

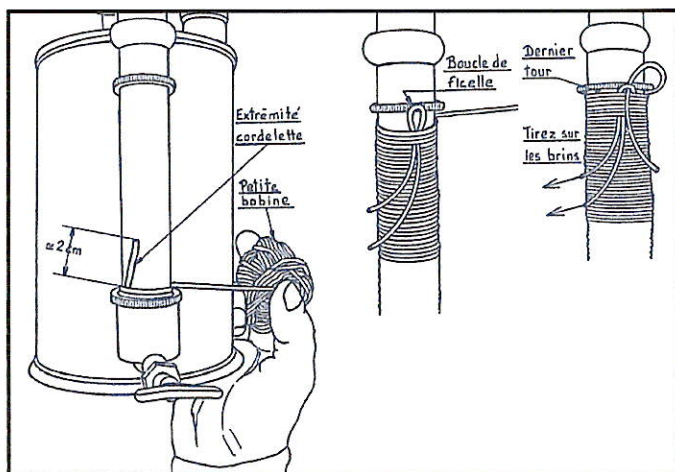
"Firstly, finding string that looks right as it is invariably too thin and white in colour, so it needs to be "aged". Soaking the string in strong black tea for a couple of days can do this quite successfully. It provides a nice brown colour, but it still needs further ageing by the laying on of "dirty hands" when the binding is complete."

"The second problem is how to tie off the string when you get to the end of the handle. I have tried tucking it in, and even resorted to a glob of glue to try to stop the unraveling. The answer to this was found in a back issue of "*La Gazette des Lampterophile*" and I hope the editor does not mind me letting you in on the secret. A loop of string is held against the handle when you are a few turns from the end. The binding string is threaded through the loop on the final turn, and the loop is then pulled out, tucking the end of the binding string behind the last few turns. All will become clear when you study the illustration."

(A subsequent article in *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, December 2003, No. 46, also authored by **Ray Hyland**, provides additional details on "aging" the new handle binding.)

"I have had good feedback from the last newsletter, particularly in respect of restoring string bound handles. **Brian Grainger** suggests that a good source for finding string, which "looks right", would be a boat chandler or rope wholesaler."

"With regard to "aging", his method is to apply several coats of shellac varnish. After about 5 or 6 coats a deep brown colour is achieved, and although at this stage it has a gloss finish, it can be dulled down by carefully rubbing with 0000 wire wool. Finally, apply a thick coat of dark colored wax. When the wax has been well worked in and left to dry, it has the appearance of having had several years use with hot greasy hands."



Handle Wrapping Illustration
From *La Gazette des Lampterophile*

"**Bob Pritchard** ages his newly bound string handles by applying dark oak wood stain. After the stain has dried, the string shrinks slightly to give a nice tight finish. To complete the illusion of age, Bob applies a liberal coating of black boot polish, which when buffed gives the appearance of years of handling."

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BTCA WEBSITE

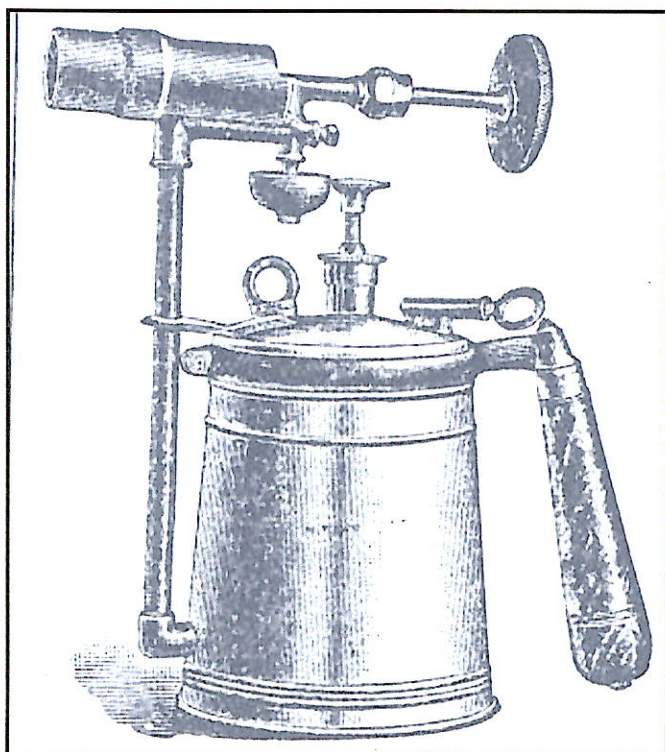
Our Webmaster, **Phillip Anderson**, is back and has re-instituted the BTCA website at www.roncalli.net/blowtorch. Much of the information has been updated and we'll do everything possible to keep it current. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions.

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QUICK MEAL

Charles Smith uncovered two articles for Quick Meal paint burners during his research using turn-of-the-20th-century issues of *THE METAL WORKER*.

The 1893 version depicts a fuel tank made from lightweight brass, and includes the signature small round drip cup that was provided on all Quick Meal torches. The article refers to an “adjustable” paint burner, and goes on to describe that the handle is attached to the fuel tank by an adjustable strap. The arrangement allows the user to position the handle in any position. We believe that some of our members own this version of a very rare and valuable torch.

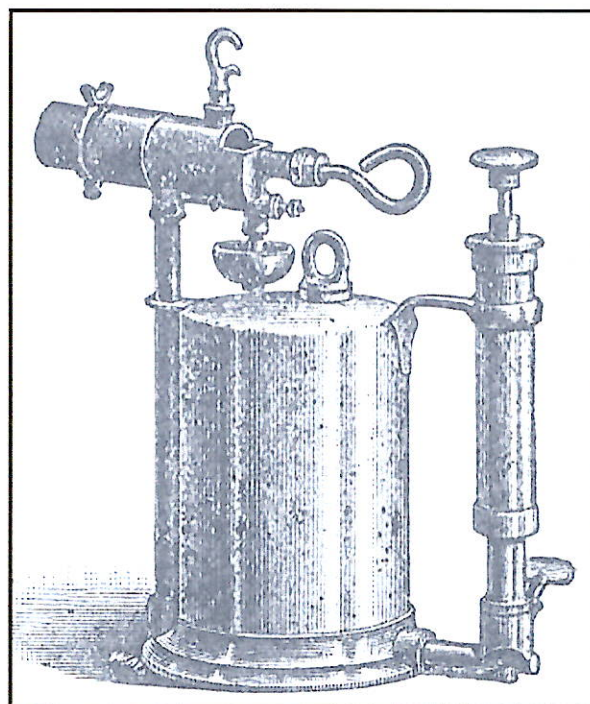


QUICK MEAL BLOW TORCH
Circa 1893

The 1901 article refers to the RINGEN STOVE CO., St. Louis, MO, as the manufacturer of the Quick Meal paint burner or painter's lamp. We believe that sometime between 1893 and 1901 there was a name change whereas Quick Meal changed hands from the Quick Meal Mfg. Co. to the Ringen Stove Co.

The new paint burner was described as having a fuel tank made from heavy drawn brass with a cast brass base...a major improvement over the earlier version. The air pump was moved to the handle position and included a valve at the base of the pump. Up until now we had assumed that the 1901 version wire loop valve handle was missing a wooden cover. Other torch manufacturers used two shaped pieces of wood screwed together to make a comfortable and easily held valve handle, however the Quick Meal valve handle was designed to be turned by inserting a screwdriver or other tool into the metal loop.

The other new feature in the 1901 version was the addition of the soldering iron hook and notch so that the paint burner could also be used as a traditional blow torch.



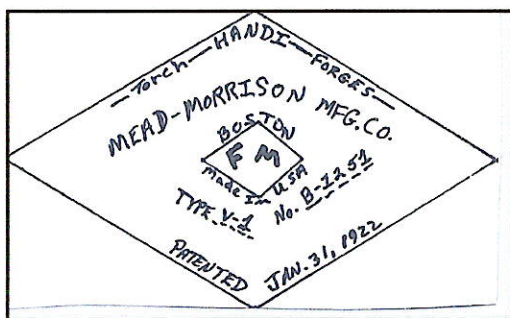
QUICK MEAL BLOW TORCH
Circa 1901

Shortly after Charles uncovered the Quick Meal articles, he purchased a 1901 version of the paint burner on ebay. “Quick Meal Stove Div, St. Louis, MO” was cast into the brass base. We’re not sure how much Charles paid for the Quick Meal, but considering eBay’s reputation and the condition of the torch, we suspect that Charles took out a second mortgage to pay for it!

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MEAD-MORRISON

One of our members, **George Murray**, sent in photos and nameplate information on another unknown blow torch manufacturer, the MEAD-MORRISON MFG. CO., Boston, Massachusetts. He not only uncovered the unknown manufacturer, but he also owns one of the original blow torches, a type V-1, patented on January 31, 1922, patent number 1,405,147.



Nameplate data from Mead-Morrison blow torch

The torch is fairly large with a 1-gallon capacity, and has a huge burner assembly that would produce a very large and hot flame. External air pressurized the fuel tank, and there is a pressure relief valve to prevent over-pressurization.



MEAD-MORRISON MFG. CO. BLOW TORCH
Photo submitted by George Murray

The patent describes built-in safety features in the fuel tank that prevents fuel leakage in the event that the torch is overturned. Fuel is added from a top filler pipe, and there are two "T" valves; one for air pressure adjustment and one for fuel control. The fuel tank and burner assembly are heavy gauge iron or steel, and all of the accessories including the handle are brass.

The torch includes a heavy duty carrying handle on the top of the fuel tank, and according to George, it's fairly easy to manipulate (George actually filled the fuel tank with water just to see how it would handle). George's torch also includes, what appears to be, a heat shield that does not show up in the patent description.

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THE REAL VULCAN STORY

Information uncovered by **Charles Smith** provides solid evidence that the Bridgeport Brass Company was the original manufacturer of the Vulcan torch.

Up until now it was thought that the Otto Bernz Co. was the manufacturer since the only known Vulcan literature came from a very early Bernz catalog, circa 1905. One of the two referenced patents listed on most Vulcan torches did indicate an assignment to the Bridgeport Brass Co., however, we still leaned more toward Bernz as the manufacturer since they were in the "torch business", and Bridgeport was not (at least we thought so at the time)...until we discovered the Bridgeport Brass Co. Queen torch.

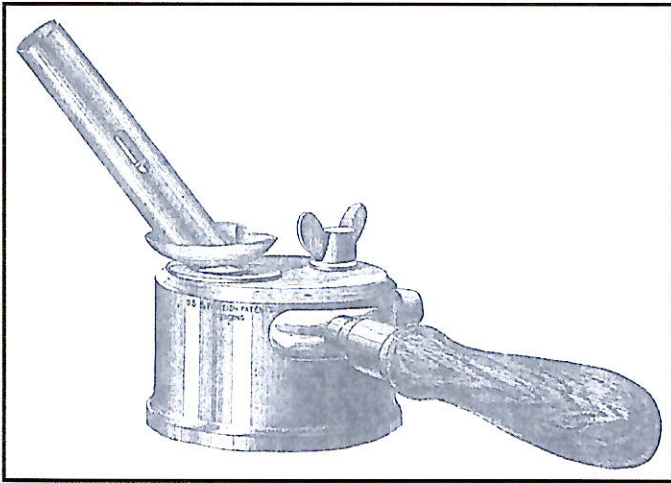
When the Bridgeport Brass Co. produced The Queen torch, they prominently displayed their name on the torch, however, for some unknown reason they elected not to display their name or the Vulcan name anywhere on the torch.... a mystery yet to be explained.

The Bridgeport/Vulcan information was discovered in the trade periodical, *THE METAL WORKER*, dated July 30, 1892, and shows an early version of a Vulcan torch with "US & FOREIGN PATENTS PENDING" stamped into the side of the fuel tank.

The article refers to the Bridgeport Brass Co. as offering the Vulcan Torch as illustrated herewith, and goes on to describe the torch: "as burning 76° naphtha, and at a cost of less than 1 cent will generate 2000° of heat, and maintain a steady blast for one hour and thirty minutes."

VULCAN CONT.

It is absolutely safe and extremely simple, little likely to get out of order and can be taken apart and carried in the pocket. It is invaluable to railroad men, coppersmiths, tinsmiths, plumbers, gas fitters, car & wagon builders, machinists, and is unequaled for burning off paint." (Editor's note: I can't imagine that a worker would carry around a torch filled with gasoline...in their pocket!)



THE VULCAN TORCH, produced by the Bridgeport Brass Company
Illustration from THE METAL WORKER, dated July 30, 1892

Other than a few minor differences, the illustrated Bridgeport Brass Vulcan torch is identical to most known Vulcan torches. From the information provided we can now assume that Bridgeport Brass Co. was the Vulcan manufacturer and that at some point the Bernz Co. became a distributor of Vulcan torches. Please contact us if you have a Vulcan that has stamped PATENTS PENDING into the fuel tank. If you own one, it's a real winner!

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A JOHN TINGLE EXPERIENCE

By John Tingle

"I agreed to buy a collection of 1000 torches for 500 pounds because there were 12 really good ones amongst the entire lot. Having paid over the cash, I selected the 12 good ones and agreed to collect the rest later from a storage shed.

At the insistence of the former owner, who wanted to use the shed to store a very special Harley Davidson, I was obliged to hire a 7½-ton lorry to collect them.

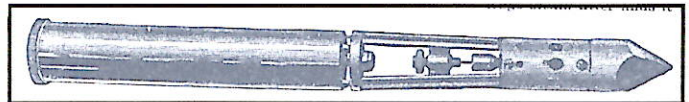
I left home at 4:30AM and arrived at my destination at about mid-day, loaded up all 988 torches individually, and at 6:30PM started my return journey. At midnight in the Bristol city center my front tire burst. I was too scared to get out of the vehicle because the streets were filled with weird anti-war demonstrators wielding weapons of destruction! I was obliged to drive on, until a safe location was found, upon which I discovered that the spare wheel was padlocked on to the chassis.... and there was NO KEY! I finally arrived safely home at about 2:30AM, along with all 988 torches.

Then there was the incident following the European collectors meeting at Mouscron when I was detained by French Customs for 5 hours because they did not appear to understand the inscription (in French) on a Sievert Rapide lamp, and thought it was a BOMB!"

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VULCAN TWO

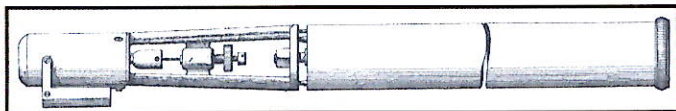
Another Vulcan torch? Can you believe YES? Our Contributing Editor, **Charles Smith**, has uncovered another torch named Vulcan that was patented and manufactured by the Auto-Tool Co. of New York, NY, and it was called the Vulcan Self Heating Soldering Tool.



Vulcan Self-Heating Soldering Tool
Manufactured by the Auto-Tool Co.

During Charles' continued research with *The Metal Worker* publication, he found an article in the April 13, 1901 issue describing the Vulcan Self Heating Soldering Tool (SHST), a Vulcan No. 4, and a Vulcan No. 5.

The Vulcan SHST was described as being 18 inches long, 1½ inches in diameter, and would only consume about 1 cent worth of gasoline for a day's work (during that time period, it could mean a 10-12 hour day!). The tool was advertised as providing perfect combustion with a smokeless and odorless flame that was completely regulated to any degree of heat necessary. No time was lost in reheating, as it could be easily and quickly re-lighted. The tool was simple to manipulate and was designed to perfectly balance in the hand of the workman.



Patent No. 706,842, dated August 12, 1902
Note drip pan under burner assembly

The copper soldering head was attached by a clip, was removable, and heads of different shapes were available and readily interchangeable for a variety of work. The SHST could easily be converted to a brazing implement by simply removing the soldering point and substituting a brazing nozzle. With the brazing nozzle, there was sufficient heat to fuse brass and copper, and take the temper from steel. It could also be used as a painter's torch to burn off paint, and thaw frozen pipes.

The Vulcan No. 4 (no illustration was available) was specially designed for plumber's use with interchangeable soldering points of different shapes.

The Vulcan No. 5 (no illustration was available) was described, as a featherweight tool specially made for light work, such as electrical inside wiring, jewelry or electrolier work (electrolier, according to a 1904 Webster dictionary is a fixture for supporting electric lamps), and weighs less than one pound.

Through additional research we've been successful in matching up the patent associated with the Auto-Tool Vulcan torch, patent No. 706,842 dated August 12, 1902. The patent application was filed with the US Patent & Trademark Office on February 14, 1901 and the date ties into the article date of April 13, 1901.

The patent illustration very closely resembles the final product, however, there does not seem to be a drip cup on the actual product as illustrated in the patent. It's possible that in the final design, the drip cup was incorporated into the burner assembly as we've seen on a few other torch designs.

After studying the patent illustration and text in detail, it's understandable why the Auto-Tool Vulcan torch did not stand the test of time and why we may never find one. A quick count resulted in over 50 parts that were included in the torch.... an unheard of number considering that most torches have fewer than 20, and in many cases less than 10. Many of the parts appear very small and delicate, and probably did not endure the use experienced by most tools of that period.

Charles will continue his research using *THE METAL WORKER* publications beyond 1901 to see how long Auto-Tool continued to advertise and manufacture the Vulcan. Please contact us if you own an Auto-Tool Vulcan torch.

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VULCAN CLEANING TOOL

Speaking of Vulcan torches, did you know that your Bridgeport Brass Co. Vulcan torch has a cleaning tool screwed into the end of the wooden handle? If you remove the screw, you should find a small piece of fine wire that was used to clean out the orifice in the burner assembly.



Vulcan
Cleaning
Tool
Photo
By
Graham
Stubbs



Details of Vulcan Cleaning Tool
Photo by Graham Stubbs

Depending on the age and amount of usage, the small piece of fine wire may have been worn away or simply lost, but that is what was threaded through the hole in the end of the screw in the handle.

(Editor's Note: We've seen the name "Vulcan" used in reference to blow torches and fire pots and were perplexed about the frequency of the name.... until we visited Mr. Webster's dictionary. According to Webster, Vulcan is the god of fire and craftsmanship, especially metalworking, and is identified with the Greek god Hephaestus. So Vulcan is the Fire God! It makes sense to name a fire-breathing tool after a Fire God!

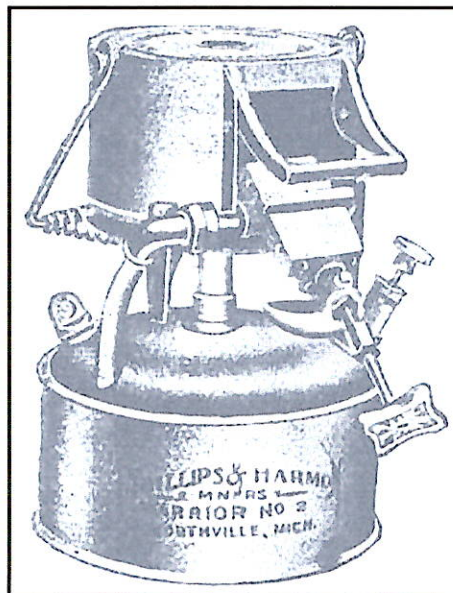
Ironically enough, there's another Vulcan...a 55-foot-tall statue in Birmingham, Alabama. It's the largest cast iron statue in the world and the largest statue of any kind in the US after the Statue of Liberty. Birmingham was founded in 1871 and grew rapidly into a major iron-making center. The colossal iron statue was created for the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, and became a tribute to the capabilities of Birmingham's industry. According to local Birmingham historians, the statue was cast in honor of Vulcan, the Roman God of The Forge. A look into Roman history tells us that Vulcan was the son of Jupiter and Juno, and was the God of fire and volcanoes.

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PHILLIPS & HARMON

Dr. Charles Smith has struck gold again in his research efforts...uncovering another unknown blow torch manufacturer, PHILLIPS & HARMON MFG. CO., Northville, Michigan. Phillips & Harmon produced a line of fire pots and blow torches with the trade name of *WARRIOR*.

Advertisements in *THE METAL WORKER* trade periodical from 1902 & 1903 describe the Warrior Gasoline Fire Pot No. 1 and No. 2, the quart size Rifle Barrel Warrior blow torch, No. 52, and pint size blow torch, No. 53.



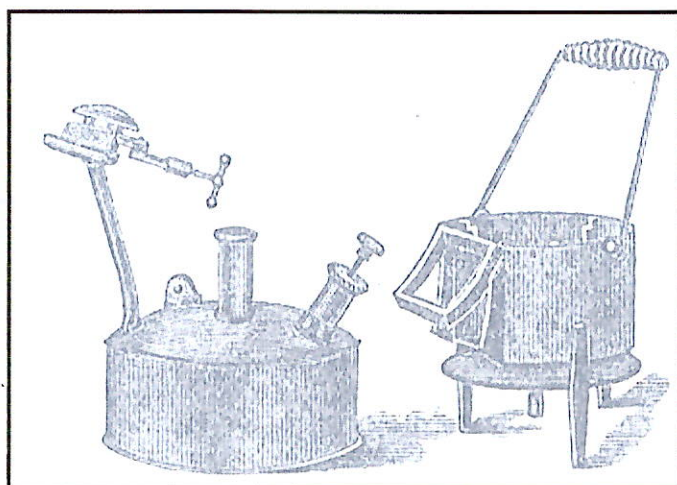
PHILLIPS & HARMON

WARRIOR
FIRE POT

MODEL #2

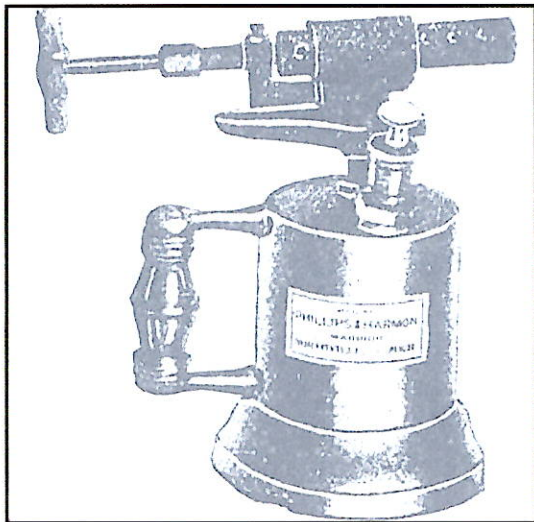
Circa 1902

A November 15, 1902 article describes in detail the Warrior Fire Pot, No. 1, and its unique feature of converting to a blow torch with the aid of a swivel joint on the burner assembly after the top part of the fire pot is removed. We also believe that patent #725,078, Gasolene Burner, which was assigned to the Phillips & Harmon Mfg. Co. is the same burner featured on their Warrior Fire Pots.



PHILLIPS & HARMON
WARRIOR FIRE POT, MODEL #2
FIRE POT REMOVED AND CONVERTED TO BLOW TORCH

The fire pot included an air pump mounted on the fuel tank, and as an (unusual) option, a rubber bulb and air valve was available to supplement the air pump. The rubber bulb and air valve were also available in lieu of the air pump. We suspect that during that period, circa early 1900's, the air pumps of the era were somewhat unreliable, or users were so accustomed to the rubber bulbs and unsure of the "new fangled" air pumps!



PHILLIPS & HARMON MFG. CO.
WARRIOR NO. 53, PINT CAPACITY

There's limited information on the #52 quart size or the pint size #53 blow torches, other than they had a wind screen, included an air pump in the fuel tank, and had a handle very similar to early Clayton & Lambert torches. And...we have no idea why they named it the Rifle Barrel! Please advise us if anyone owns a Phillips & Harmon torch or fire pot.

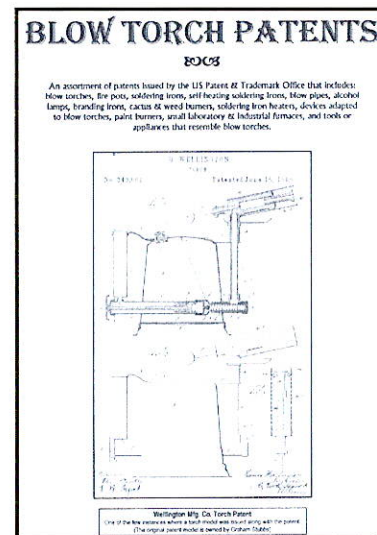
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BLOW TORCH PATENTS

Over the past few months, the staff at *THE TORCH* have been painstakingly assembling a revised list of blow torch related US patents, and

we have enclosed a copy with this newsletter. After selecting a criteria for our patent search, we've identified close to 800 US patents that are, in some way, associated with blow torches. Those criteria, in addition to the standard gasoline, kerosene, or alcohol fueled blow torches, include:

- Plumbers' fire pots (solid or liquid fuel).
- Devices and fixtures to adapt blow torches to other tasks.
- Blow pipes with integral fuel supply.
- Alcohol lamps for jewelers and/or for soldering.
- Tools which contain a blow torch, or contain a heater operating like a blow torch, and operate on solid or liquid fuel, including:
 - Paint burners with self contained fuel supply.
 - Soldering irons with self contained fuel supply, and gas operated soldering irons.
 - Cactus and weed burners.
 - Soldering iron heaters.
 - Branding irons with self contained fuel supply.
 - Small laboratory and industrial furnaces.
- Tools or appliances that resemble blow torches.



In past issues of the patent list, we did include a few fire pots along with other types of blow torch attachments and related tools.

The enclosed issue incorporates a large number of fire pots, soldering iron heaters, cactus and weed burners, and many branding irons. While many of the patents are listed with odd or unusual names, most are adaptations on a standard type blow torch or self heated soldering iron.

Anyone with a computer connected to the Internet can now download any of the patents from the US Patent Office in Washington, DC website. On page two of the attached patent list you will find instructions on how to access and print any patent. Some people experience difficulties in viewing and printing from the USPTO website, and if you run into problems, there's a helpline that you can call for assistance, 1-800-786-9199, US & Canada only.

Many thanks to **Graham Stubbs** for his diligent patent research that resulted in adding over 300 patents to the list!

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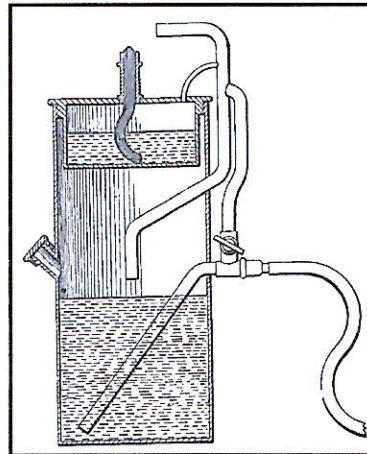


On December 23, 1884, John C. Walsh was issued a patent for a Gas Fitter's Torch, patent no. 309,753. At some point in time between 1884 and 1889, John Walsh started a company, the Gasoline Torch Mfg. Co., of Chicago, Illinois.

A few years later, on January 10, 1893, Walsh was issued another US patent for a Plumber's Torch, patent no. 489,513. We know that the Gasoline Torch Mfg. Co. still existed at least up until 1891 since Walsh's second patent application date was May 9, 1891 and the patent was assigned to the Gasoline Torch Mfg. Co.

Our Super Sleuth, **Charles Smith**, uncovered an article dated June 15, 1889 for a gasoline torch produced by the Gasoline Torch Mfg. Co. The torch is very similar to Walsh's 1884 patent, with a few exceptions on various item location changes. The article describes the torch as..."made of the very best brass and highly finished. This torch is 6 inches high, 2½ inches in diameter, and is adapted for use by plumbers,

gas-fitters, jewelers, silversmiths, and in fact all who are called upon to solder or braze. The makers state that the flame can be easily regulated, making a long bushy flame, a long thin flame, a short flame, or a flame as fine as a needle. The device may be turned bottom side up or in any position while in use without danger. The cost of using this torch is said to be exceedingly small, not amounting to more than one cent a day."



Gas Fitter's Torch
Illustration from patent
No. 309,753
Issued to John C. Walsh
December 23, 1884

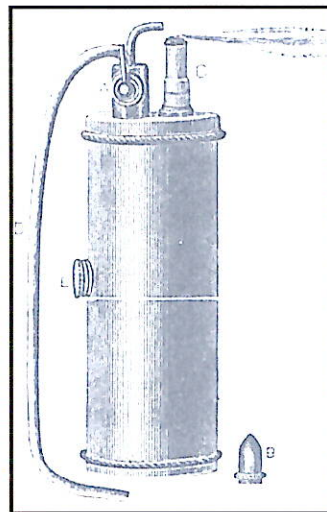


Illustration from
The Metal Worker
June 15, 1889
Gas Fitter's Torch
Manufactured by
The Gasoline Torch Mfg. Co.

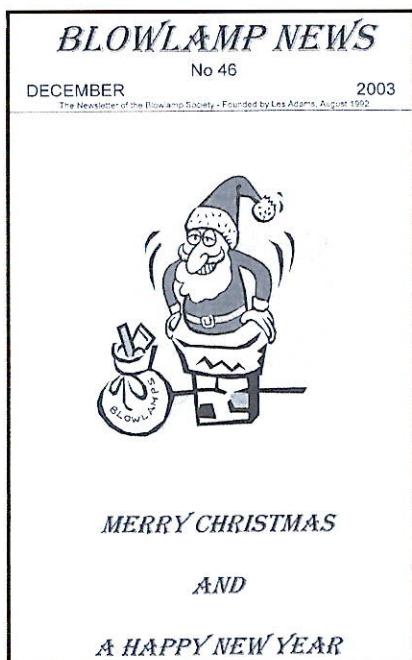
This torch is designed with two inner chambers, both enclosed in the same housing. The upper chamber had a wick and was filled with gasoline or alcohol. The lower chamber was filled with gasoline. A small valve at the top was the fuel control and regulated the flame.

We're not aware of any torches out there carrying the Gasoline Torch label, but if you have one, please let us know...and guard it carefully!

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THE BLOWLAMP SOCIETY

Membership is available to our sister organization across the "big pond", THE BLOWLAMP SOCIETY, for anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of European blowlamps.



Ray Hyland manages the British group, is the Editor of their newsletter, *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, and is also a BTCA member. Their newsletter is published four times per year, and membership dues for the US are \$10. Interested individuals should contact Ray Hyland or Keith Hawkins at the addresses listed in your membership roster.

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ANCIENT BLOW TORCH?

Michel Duval sent in an article from a European publication discussing ancient soldering techniques.

A case of mistaken identity could solve the mystery of how ancient metalworkers fashioned intricate jewelry. Ceramic pots that archaeologists thought were used to strain curds may actually have been Bronze Age Bunsen burners!

Jewelry dating to 1500 BC often features delicately soldered knots and scrolls of wire. How metalworkers produced such details has been a puzzle, because anyone trying to solder over an open fire would certainly have burnt their fingers.

Jacqui Wood, an archaeologist who runs the Cornwall Celtic Village, a re-construction of a Bronze Age settlement, has studied a ceramic pot in the Lake Ledro Museum in northern Italy with its sides riddled with holes. "When I looked inside the pot, I saw it was almost vitrified," she said. "This shows that it had been heated repeatedly."

Thinking that the pot might be a lantern, Wood lit a rush light underneath it. Immediately a flame about 20 centimeters high leapt from the top. When Wood put a slate over the top of the pot, the flame kept burning inside, as air could still circulate through the walls. "This could be very useful for soldering," she said. "You can put it on a bench and cover it until you need it."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

THE TORCH

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THE PURPOSE of BTCA is to preserve the history of blow torches and related equipment, to encourage the identification, classification, and exhibiting of such equipment, also to promote the study and better understanding of operation, purpose, and application.

Membership in BTCA is open to any person sharing its interests and purposes. For membership information, write to: Ron Carr, 3328 258th Avenue SE, Sammamish, WA 98075-9173, email to: RMCarr@comcast.net, or by phone: (425) 557-0634.

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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