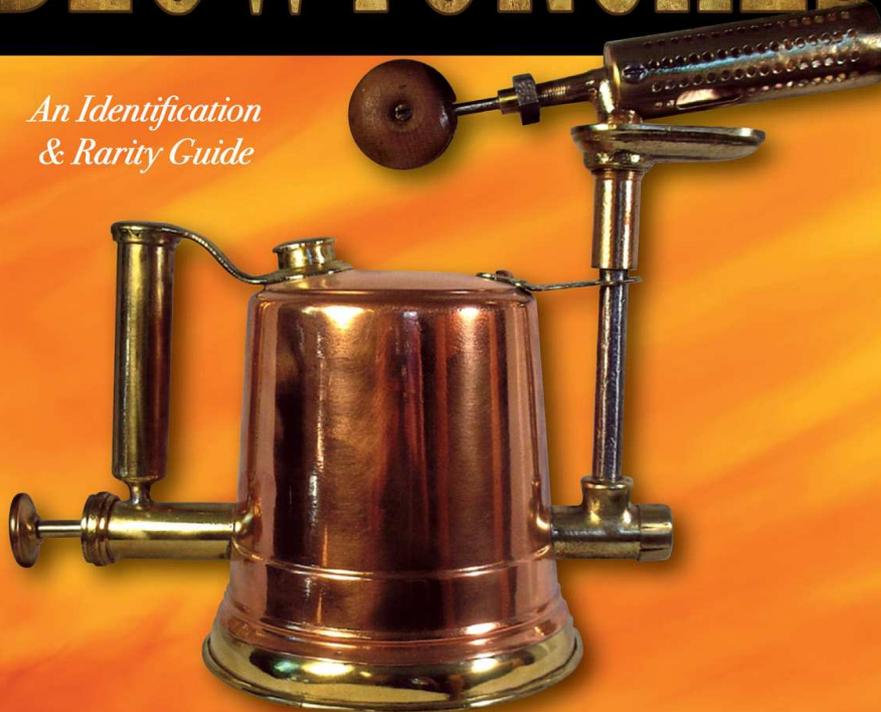


THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
Issue #48 December 2010

More Vintage BLOWTORCHES

*An Identification
& Rarity Guide*



Ronald Carr, Charles Smith, Graham Stubbs

Graham, Charles, and Ron are proud to announce the release of *More Vintage Blowtorches*, a supplement book to *Vintage Blowtorches* that was published in 2007. See pages 10, 12 and 14 for follow up articles.

NEW MEMBERS

George Bittner of Chester, Vermont is relatively new to collecting torches and has only recently started his collection. However, he has been an antique dealer for thirty years and has sold hundreds of torches during his career. Blow torches have always intrigued George and he decided to keep some of them rather than sell them.

Max Bradey of Lynn, North Carolina has been collecting torches for a very long time...according to Max; *"I am an old retired man and have always collected torches. I spent my life in construction and am a retired Navy Seabee Chief Petty Officer. As a child growing up in the late 1940s and 1950s, my father and grandfather were in construction and often used blow torches...always Clayton & Lambert or Detroit torches. There were always lots of torches around, and I witnessed several torch explosions. How many torches do I have in my collection? I don't know, maybe 500, or up to 1000. I collect to hold them in my hands and reflect on them. The work they performed to build this great nation of ours...to remember in my own way the toil of all those workmen, and to realize that this is a part of history of our nation now long passed. I only collect Clayton & Lambert torches unless I end up with another make by mistake. I do not polish my torches nor do I publically display them...only to visitors privately. I am probably the most eccentric torch collector you may know. I really prefer exploded Clayton & Lambert torches...those torches that have blown up. Exploded torches are somewhat worthless to most, but to me, they are gold! I am the BOOM TORCH MAN and Clayton & Lambert is my brand!"*

Rob Chalmers of Forestdale, Queensland, Australia started his torch collection just a few months ago and has accumulated just over thirty to date. *"I really don't know why I started collecting torches...it just seemed like a good idea one day. They are certainly something different and not everyone is collecting them. I also have a few soldering irons, but I really only acquired them to display with my blow torches. I have a few torches that I purchased already polished, and I am in the process of polishing one now...and hope to pick up some polishing tips from the BTCA newsletters."*

George Gerry of Huntsville, Alabama is so new to torch collecting; he has zero torches in his collection! *"Prior to collecting blowtorches I collected vintage ginger beer bottles, although I have collected many items in my life including stamps, railroad lanterns, etc. I became interested in blowtorches, while surfing eBay. I purchased the two blow torch reference books so that I could gain some insight and knowledge about the hobby, before I made significant purchases. Currently, I do not own any blowtorches, but I am bidding on a couple on eBay. Since I have been retired for over 5 years now, I have plenty of time to devote to a hobby. I have decided to focus on torches in a nice used condition. Many of the restored torches I see on eBay look very nice, but are somewhat expensive."*

Gene Hjerleid of Eau Claire, Wisconsin started collecting torches as a joke. Back in 1970 he was at an auction with his father-in-law who was buying another spare tractor. Gene saw a blow torch come up for auction and put in a bid of 75 cents. As a joke, he told his father in law that he was going to start collecting blow torches. Twenty years later and he's still collecting torches! He still has his first torch that only cost him the 75 cents. He has over 100 pieces in his collection, some are polished, and he also has a fair amount of soldering irons.

Gerard Muller, of Colmar, France is a ten-year blow lamp collector with approximately 1200 lamps in his collection. Gerard is a member of the British collectors group and met Graham Stubbs at a blow lamp rally in Belgium where he became interested in a BTCA membership. He specializes in Swiss blow lamps and has over 150 in his collection.

Stanley Phillips of Port St. Lucie, Florida is another very new torch collector since he started just two weeks ago! His old memories from the early 1950s gave him the idea to start a torch collection.

Geoffrey Strand of Manhattan Beach, California started collecting torches about twenty years ago, but did not get serious about his collection until two years ago.

"I am a useful tool guy. I have always loved classic 1850 – 1950 ingenious tools. I have always driven vintage cars as my main mode of transportation since I was sixteen. Currently I drive a 1934 Plymouth Sedan and a 1956 Chevy Wagon. Blow torches just seemed to fit into my idea of a collectable." I also collect circa 1930s cameras, carbide bike lamps and numerous brass/bronze tools...however, I'm running out of space to display items and my wife is running out of patience!"

Les Taylor of West Preston, Melbourne, Australia is a veteran torch collector. The photo at right is a wall of Taylor's torches.

"As a fifteen year old plumbing apprentice, I acquired my first blow torch and blowpipe during my apprentice work. I am now seventy years old and seriously started collecting blow torches and blowpipes about three years ago. I was searching for old tools when I started buying torches from swap meets and markets. I then advertised in the Trading Post newspaper for torches and received a response from another retired plumber who had a torch collection of approximately 150 pieces for sale. I purchased thirty from his collection.

Since then my wife Jan is constantly on the eBay site looking for torches for me. She will even get up in the middle of the night to bid for me. The American eBay is our favorite site. We have three torches from the Olson collection and others from different areas of the US. All of my ninety brass torches are restored and in working order...and many are displayed throughout our home."

Les also has another passion, his 1928 Rugby Tourer car...see the follow on article in this newsletter.



WELCOME ABOARD!





NOTES FROM ALL OVER



We heard from **Dave Schulte** about some of his recent purchases. One is a Geo. Diener No. 2 blow torch that looks nearly identical to the unknown numbered Diener torch show on page 107 of *More Vintage Blowtorches*...except the one shown in the book is a pint size and Dave's is a quart size.



Another of Dave's finds shown at right is a Clayton & Lambert No. 3 gasoline torch (sometimes referred to as the "Pet" torch) with a four-star rarity rating...a very rare torch.

It appears to be in excellent condition, and a bonus for such a vintage torch from the early 1900s.

We have found that there are early and later versions of the C&L No. 3 Pet torch...see page 68 of *More Vintage Blowtorches*. Please let us know if you have one of the earlier versions?

From **Dick Sarpolus**: *"Hey Guys, you did a great job on your new More Vintage Blowtorches book! Thanks for the plug for my book! Although I sold all my blowtorches I still have the interest and consider myself a collector, still looking for them at the antique flea market places Lynn & I like to frequent. I picked up a few, usual stuff, so I'll have some on hand. Your books are great for identifying the different brands and models, a big help to collectors! I enjoy reminiscing about starting with this blowtorch collecting some twenty plus years ago, and that early phone call with Ron when I was amazed and happy to find that there was someone else interested in and collecting blowtorches."*

"One short story - some years ago I made a blowtorch into a lamp for our son. Recently he took the torch lamp into his office at the Northrop Grumman Corp. located in the Los Angeles area. He was amazed at the reaction he got from people coming into his office! They are all engineers, they had technical questions on what that thing was, what it burned for fuel, what it was used for, etc. So he asked me all those questions, I supplied answers, now he's the local expert on blowtorches."

We heard from **Al Austin** and his latest torch acquisitions. He attends an auction almost every Friday night, and since the owner knows Al, the owner will set aside any torches up for auction that evening. Al was fortunate enough to purchase a No. 0 Unique torch in excellent condition. If you will recall from the information in *Vintage Blowtorches*, page 454, a No. 0 Unique torch is the earliest known version. There are additional No. 0 Unique torches in the latest reference book, *More Vintage Blowtorches*. Al also purchased a No. 43 Unique firepot. You can see another No. 43 firepot photo in *More Vintage Blowtorches* on page 278 that was sent in by Dave Kolb.

Lloyd Weber liked the **Dr. Tingle** interview, and since we've "used up" all of the BTCA dentists for interviews, Lloyd suggested that we interview Graham, Charles, and Ron. We will consider it for future newsletters, but it may be awhile since there are many BTCA members that have agreed to be interviewed for IN THE TORCH LIGHT.

We could not resist printing this photo of **Graham Stubbs** doing a bit of electric arc welding on a flower arbor in his back yard.

This was his first experience in welding and, as you can see, he completed six arches that started out as twenty foot lengths of half inch rebar.

We were disappointed that he did not use one of his brazing torches!



Bob Thompson gave us a heads up on a torch he purchased in July, 2010. He belongs to an Antique Tractor Club and works at the entry gate for three days during the club's annual antique show. Since he's at the gate, he usually does not get a chance to roam the antique show looking for torches. One of his friends told Bob about some torches being sold and watched the gate while Bob went "torch shopping". Bob found a No. 342 Hauck kerosene torch with a \$15 price tag. While the torch in the photo looks incomplete, it is because this particular model burns kerosene under 35 pounds of compressed air pressure. The air pressure hose

would be connected to the pipe on the left side and there would also be an air shutoff valve connected to the hose. With the air pressure, the torch would light instantly and did not require preheating. The torch retailed for \$17.50 in 1929.

Want to know what else you can use brown vinegar for....just ask **Jim Hunter** of Australia. He restores his blow torches by soaking the torch parts in straight brown vinegar, and then he uses a tooth brush to clean off the corrosion.



VOLCANO TORCH

By Graham Stubbs

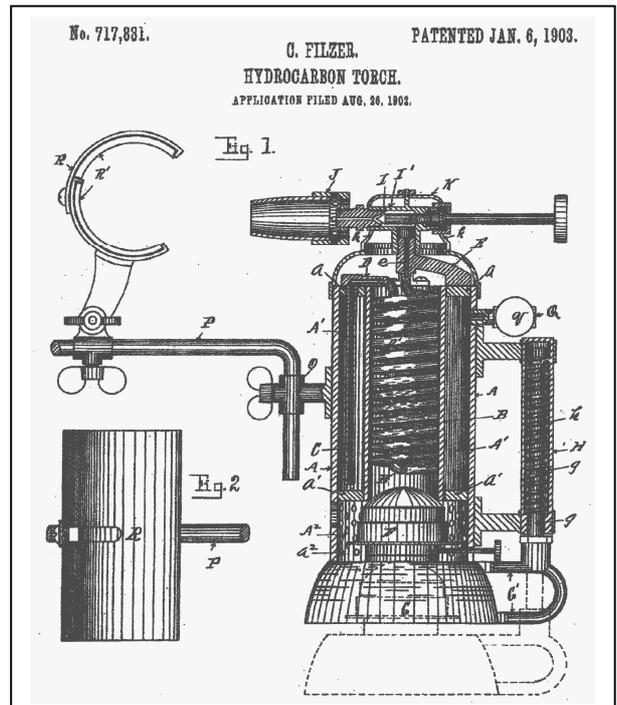
The magnificent twin burner blowtorch shown in these pictures was manufactured by the Volcano Torch & Mfg. Co. of Erie Pennsylvania. This is the first reported example of the larger style torch made by Volcano Mfg., and it fetched \$3,200 when it sold on ebay in November 2010 to a European collector. The amount set a new record for the same of an American-made torch. These outstanding photographs were taken by **Mary Bittner**, and are reproduced by permission of the ebay seller and BTCA member **George Bittner**.



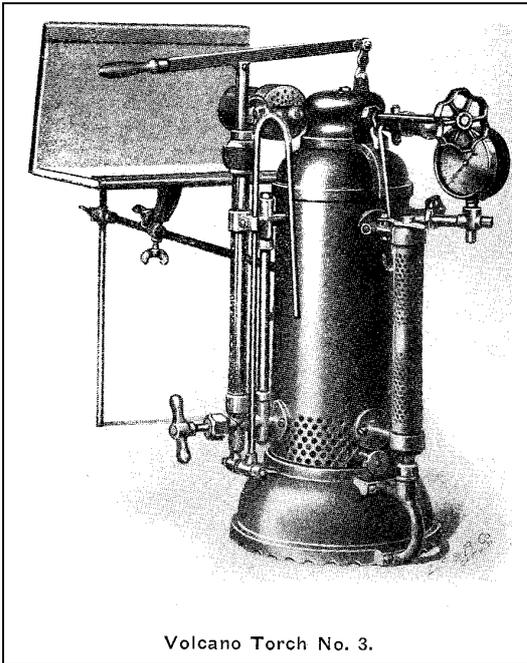
Weighing in at thirty-one pounds and standing eighteen inches tall, this is a very impressive tool. The construction is primarily of nickel-plated steel.

It is marked with the company name and city, and with the patent date JAN 6, 1903. This patent was awarded to Christian Filzer for a torch that does not require either a pump or a priming cup. The hollow center of the torch contains a helical pipe in which the fuel is preheated by a lamp placed in the base. Heat from this source also raises the vapor pressure in the fuel reservoir, maintaining the flow of fuel. As shown in the patent illustration, the entire torch stands up on the heating lamp.

Literature describing similar torches dates from 1906. Volcano claimed to offer as many as eleven variations, including torches with one, two, or three burners.



This example appears to be a variation of the Volcano Model No. 3, shown at left below. At right is shown an illustration of a three-burner torch.



Volcano Torch No. 3.

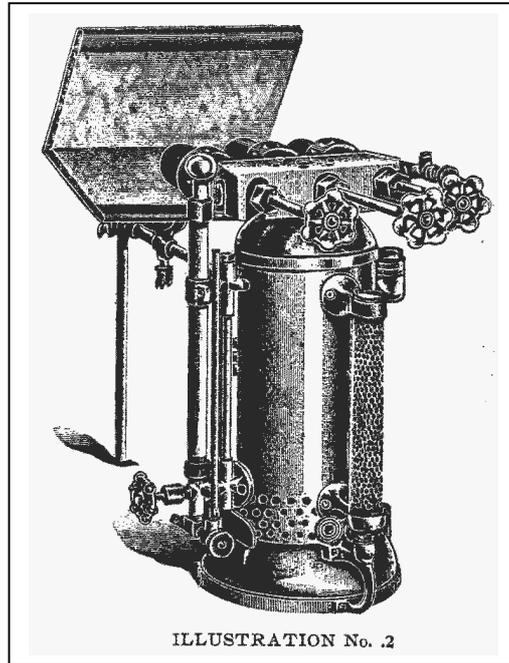


ILLUSTRATION No. 2

A torch weighing thirty-one pounds empty, and upwards of forty pounds full of fuel, would seem to be an impossibly heavy thing to manipulate. The Volcano literature included this cartoon of a man holding with one hand a torch supported by a chain and pulley!

The bracket and wing nut shown in the upper left of the photo below served to support a tray upon which a work piece could be placed for heating.

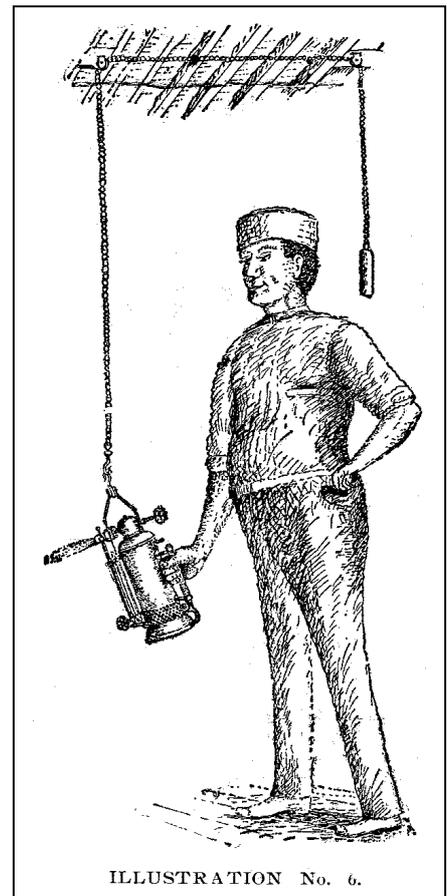
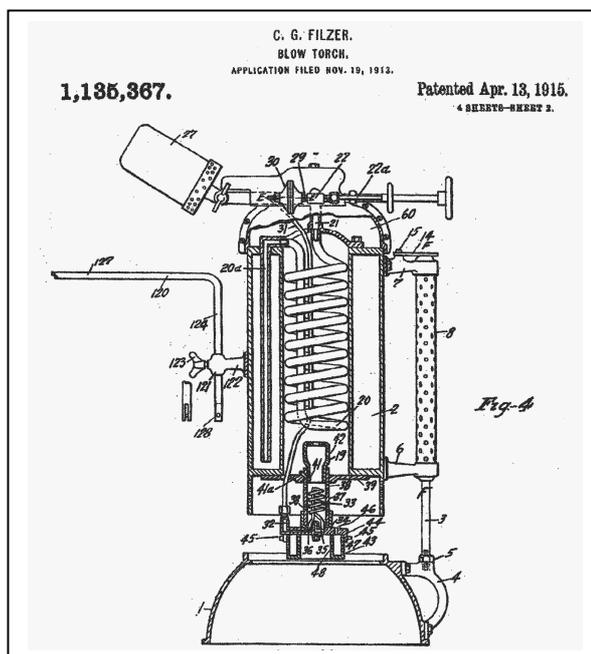
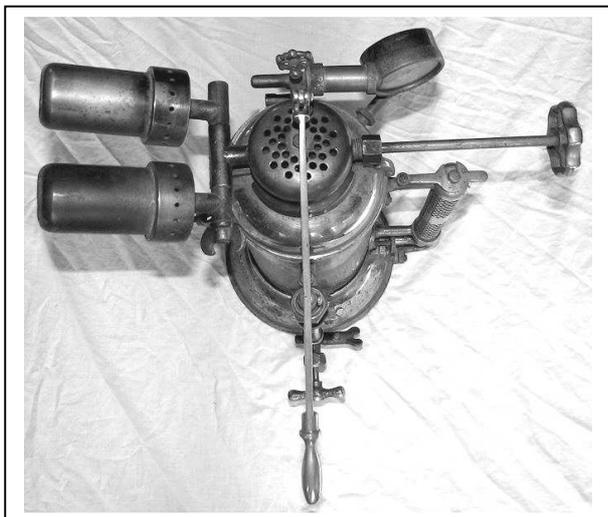


ILLUSTRATION No. 6.

Some details of the construction are shown in these illustrations that accompanied improvement patents awarded to Filzer.

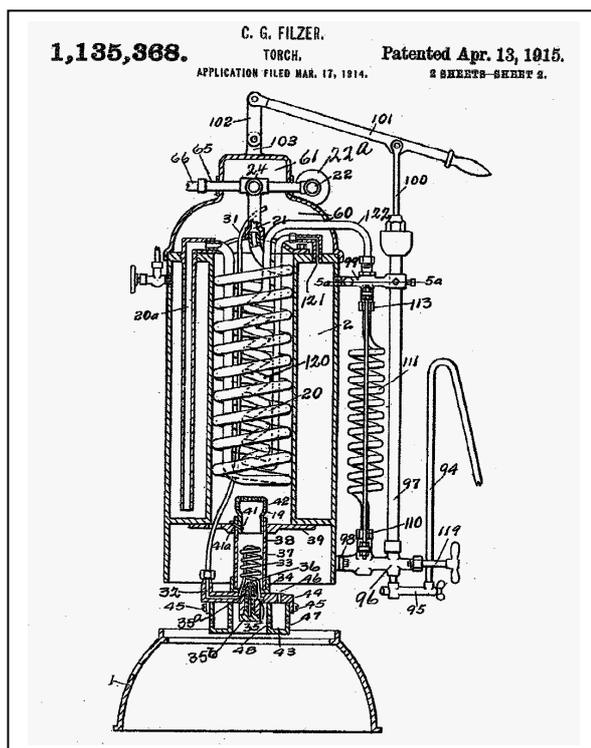
The two burners are hinged, as shown in the photo below, and the patent at right. This feature was continued into the smaller Volcano torches that have been described in the pages of *The Torch*.



The pump handle shown above and in the patent illustration at right, moves a suction pump intended to draw fuel up from an open can of gasoline through the hair-pin shaped tube at far right. In the close-up photo of the base of the torch, this vertical tube would connect into the horizontal portion with a wing nut. It was advertised as “the only machine of its kind that can be refilled while in action”!

Although these torches were widely publicized when they were introduced around 1906, this is the first reported surviving example. Possibly the large size combined with steel construction contributed to their early demise. They were also costly with prices that ranged from \$12.75 to \$25.00 or more. Those 1906 dollars translate to upwards of \$500.00 today.

Its appearance on ebay and the availability of photographs were just too late for this outstanding torch to be included in the new BTCA book, *More Vintage Blowtorches*, so we've taken this opportunity to feature it here in *The 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.

**Wendel Fritz
Bill Goetzing
Lee Heintzelman
Carl Josey
Keith Mahaffey
Robert Meister**

**Max Rhodes
Metro Roark
Marnik Van Insberghe
Ed Weinert
Paul Whiddett**

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

A special thank you goes out to the following 10 members that joined BTCA ten years ago! Many thanks for your long term support of our organization!

**S.B. Brilla
Joseph Burns
Bobby Hartness
Keith Hawkins
Richard Hunter**

**Gregorio Lopez Benito
Mal Mutimer
Lloyd Weber
Robert Whitaker
Tom Wilfong**

15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We started the Blow Torch Collectors Association 15 years ago in early 1995. It was a difficult time locating torch collectors since the Internet was just coming of age and web searching was still somewhat new. In spite of all of the difficulties in seeking out other blow torch collectors, we prevailed and BTCA was born. We congratulate the following 14 members that joined BTCA during its first year! Many thanks for your long term dedication to our organization!

**John Forhan
Leon Hall
Glenn Harrison
Louis Klein
Dave Kolb
Larry Parker
Mark Pedersen**

**Dick Sarpolus
Bob Steinke
Gary Stelmach
Graham Stubbs
Jon Suta
Mike Thornhill
Chuck Tobin**



MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES COVER PHOTOS

For the cover of the recently released *More Vintage Blowtorches* reference book, we decided to use as many photos from BTCA members as possible. Many of you had sent in awesome photos, and it was a difficult decision in selecting just the right photos. For those of you that have purchased the book...you will see the photo credits on the inside front cover.

We selected a photo for the front cover from **Dr. Lloyd Weber** of his circa 1883 Doan & Wellington Mfg. Co. Automatic Torch. The photo for the spine was selected from **Michel Duval** of his circa 1938 Hull Mfg. Co. Halide Detector as seen in the photo at right.

Lloyd Weber sent in these comments regarding *More Vintage Blowtorches*:

"I was overwhelmed that you selected my Doan & Wellington torch to grace the cover of "More Vintage Torches". I know you each had at least a hundred vintage torches that would have made a great cover. I can only say "Thank You" and to tell you how proud I am of the honor."

"It has rekindled an urge to get polishing again and I have already started. I was working on a Quick Meal Paint Burner that a friend found for me, and when I was all finished I found I had lost the small thumb screw shut-off piece. I was quite upset as I will now have to make my first copper casting. I also will try casting the front soldering rest that was also missing."



The brass nameplate on the Duval Hull Halide Detector

"My friend had sold me my first Quick Meal Paint Burner ten years ago when I had just started getting into torch collecting, so I have the parts to make a mould from. Wish me luck."

"Oh, and I think the new reference book is just great. You men have worked so many hours on this and it will be the ultimate source for collectors forever."



RUGBY, THE CAR THEY DRIVE IN HEAVEN

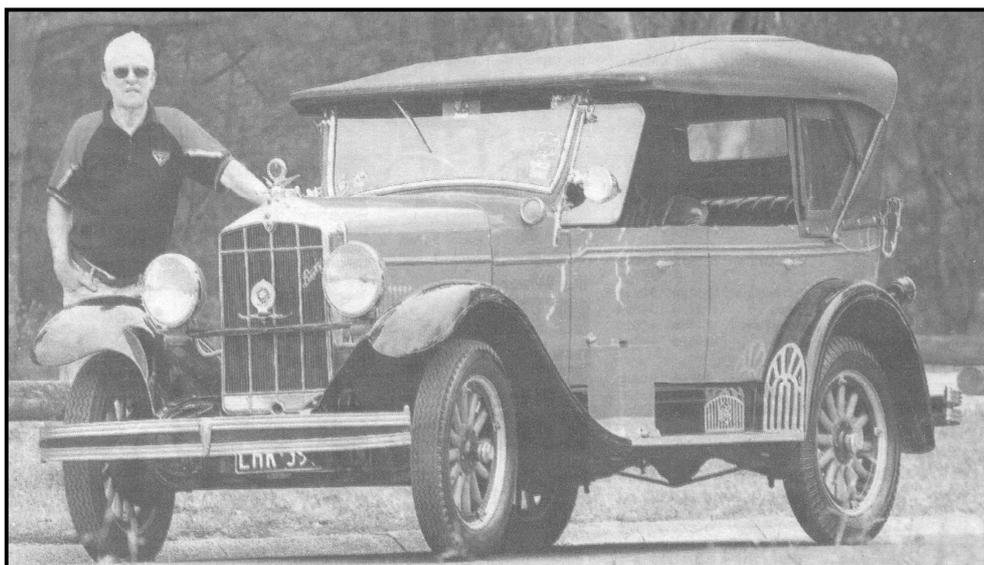
That was the title of an article authored by BTCA member **Les Taylor** regarding his Rugby Tourer car. The article was printed in the Australian Herald Sun newspaper on November 22, 2003.

"My interest in rugby is not confined to the World Cup, which finishes tonight. My car is a 1928 four-cylinder Rugby Tourer (Silent Four) Model M2.

The cars were produced from 1922 to 1930 in five US states and Toronto, Canada. They were sold in the US with the brand name Star and exported under the name Rugby. Mine was brought from Canada as a running chassis and the body was built here by Melbourne Motor Bodies. In 1928 the car was priced at £285. Many cars of this vintage were used on farms to carry fence posts and stock feed. The engines also found their way into small fishing boats.

My restoration began in 1965 with the purchase of a dilapidated farm tourer minus the back half of the body. Many parts were unsuitable or missing, so I bought two other vehicles of the same era. I used the chassis from a sedan and a utility vehicle. The three vehicles cost me a total of \$150. It took me eight years to complete the restoration, working mostly on weekends or after hours. The motor was fully reconditioned, the chrome work was re-plated, the body stripped and repainted, and the seats, side curtains, and bonnet replaced.

A recent engine overhaul required hardened valve seats and valves to be fitted to allow for unleaded fuel. The car cruises at more than 80km/h and does more than 4km per litre. The car has four-wheel mechanical Bendix brakes. The engine temperature is checked by an instrument on the radiator cap called a motormeter. It is a handy device to have. The car has a large can for petrol



on the running board in case of emergencies. Because there is no boot, you can store items in a luggage rack at the rear and a folding rack on the side.

The car has taken part in rallies around New South Wales and Victoria and has been seen in films such as Phar Lap. I have been a member of the Vintage Drivers Club of Victoria for 38 years. The club features cars made from 1919 to 1930."





SUPPORT-A-LIBRARY PROGRAM



Here is an opportunity for you to support your local library, or any library. BTCA will supplement a portion of the cost of any *More Vintage Blowtorches* book that you would like to donate to any library. The cost per book for any US library is \$15, for any Canadian library is \$25 USD, and for the rest of the world is \$27 USD.

Our first book, *Vintage Blowtorches*, is also available for the same Support-A-Library Program. The cost per book for any US library is \$32, or any Canadian library is \$45 USD, and all other locations would be \$60 USD.

Here's how the program works. You identify your library of choice, and then send us payment and the name and address of the library. We will ship the book directly to the selected library along with a letter identifying you as the sole donor. In most cases the library will send you a letter of thanks.

Here is your chance to support a library. Don't have a library...not to worry. We have a few US libraries that specialize in antique tools and they would be very pleased to have such a donation. You can send your payment payable to BTCA and information to our BTCA, 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131. To make it easier for you, we also accept payment through PayPal...just make payment to our account: BTCA@COX.NET. Be sure to identify the payment as "Support-A-Library Program".



DANGLER VAPOR STOVES

We have seen the blow torches and plumber's furnaces manufactured by the Dangler Stove & Mfg. Co. of Cleveland, OH, but we've never printed what their main products were...gasoline vapor cooking stoves. During the late 1800s, 150,000 Dangler vapor stoves were being manufactured and sold annually. An 1898 Dangler catalog was uncovered by **Charles Smith** that included very detailed illustrations of Dangler vapor stoves. Dangler offered a large variety of large and small stoves, ovens, and other assorted items of every description.



The vapor stove shown in the illustration at left is a No. 242 Process Stove with two burners and an oven that sold for \$22 in 1898. The burner assemblies are the cylindrical tubes located under the burner plates and oven. The gasoline fuel tank is the long tube affixed to the top of the stove.

All of Dangler's vapor stoves utilized mostly cast iron components that included very intricate filigree designs, that being the style in the late 1800s. The burners and fuel tanks were usually made from brass and all could be easily detached or removed.



PAINT BURNER CAUSES HOUSE FIRE

An article in an 1881 *Sanitary Engineer* trade publication that was uncovered by **Charles Smith** faults a gasoline paint burner for a disastrous fire. In 1881, gasoline was relatively new to workmen, and they had very little knowledge of the volatile fuel. There were also very few tools or devices that utilized gasoline during that period since blow torches and the like were just coming onto the scene. Also, since many similar tools utilized alcohol that cost as much as \$2.50 per gallon, while gasoline was only fifteen cents a gallon...there was a big incentive to switch to gasoline devices. Due to the large number of fires caused by gasoline devices in the late 1800s and early 1900s, laws were passed to prohibit the use of gasoline during commercial building construction. Most devices sold as a result of the passed laws then used kerosene as a fuel for all commercial building construction.

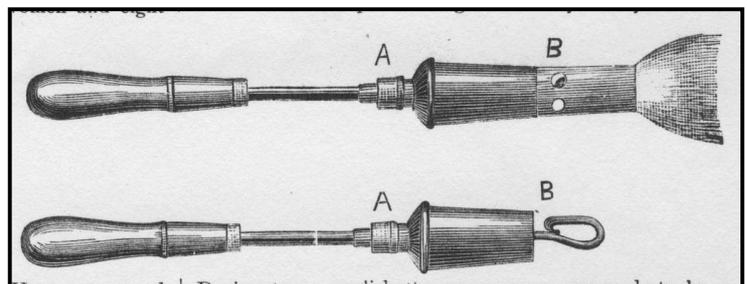
The following are excerpts from the article and a sworn statement from the plumber:

The tenement building was totally destroyed on January 4th, 1881 with two women and eight children killed in the blaze, and several other individuals were seriously injured. January was a time for freezing cold weather and frozen pipes, and the landlady hired a plumber, Harrington, and his apprentice, McGloin, to thaw out the tenement house pipes.

The plumbers arrived at the house with a paint burner and two gallons of gasoline. (Note: neither plumber had ever used gasoline before.) They started work in a dimly lit area in the cellar, so Harrington lit a small candle for illumination and placed it on the floor. Harrington then fashioned a small funnel out of thin sheet tin and McGloin poured the gasoline into the paint burner. They went up a few floors and began thawing out water pipes with the gasoline paint burner. Since the fuel capacity of the paint burner was so small, they returned to the cellar after fifteen minutes for a fuel refill. They could not find the funnel that had been fashioned earlier, so Harrington told McGloin to hold the paint burner while Harrington poured gasoline into the paint burner. At this time the lighted candle was still burning on the floor about six feet from where they were working. Harrington spilled a small amount of gasoline on to the floor during the refilling process, and then he set the gasoline container down on the floor. Harrington then took the paint burner from McGloin and screwed on the handle or filler cap.

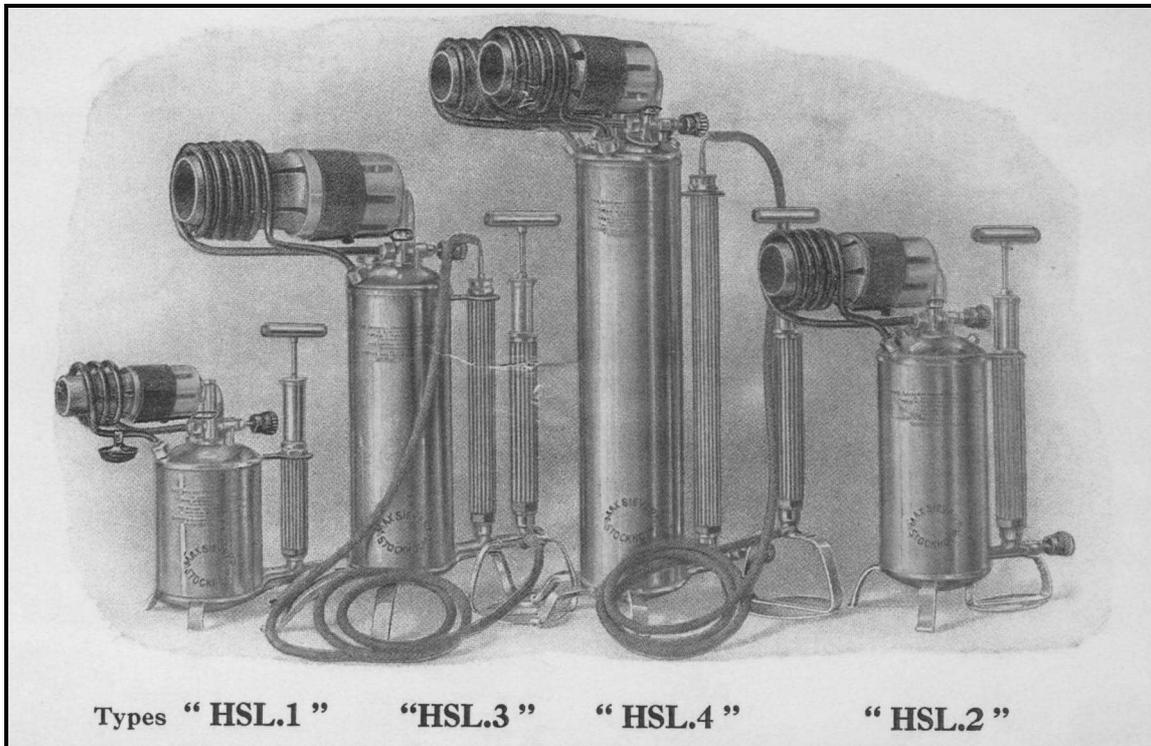
The gasoline fumes reached the candle and in a flash the flames shot up next to Harrington where the fuel had spilled. McGloin was standing in the spilled fuel that was now in flames and with his clothes on fire, he ran out of the cellar! Harrington ran to the cellar window and opened it, however the blinds were fastened shut and he could not get them open. Now the gasoline can was on fire. Harrington seized the burning gasoline can and ran to the door to throw it into the yard, but, the outer door was bolted and he could not open it. Now Harrington's clothes were on fire! He dropped the gasoline can and ran out of the cellar afraid for his life. He encountered a policeman on the street, and with the help of a passerby, Harrington's flames were extinguished.

The device utilized by the plumbers was identified as a Patented Paint Burner, with no further information on a manufacturer, or patent date, or patent number. From the two illustrations you can see the handle that would unscrew from the body for fuel filling. The small bent tube on the front had a pinhole at the end to permit the gasoline to escape. A funnel pierced with holes to admit air is placed over the bent tube as seen in the top illustration to provide the proper air/fuel mixture.



SIEVERT BRAZING LAMPS

You've most likely read the article on page 6 of the US manufactured Volcano torch, and saw the immense size of the torch weighing in at 31 lbs empty and eighteen inches tall. It appears that US manufacturers were not the only ones producing such large behemoths. **Ray Hyland** sent us circa 1934 catalog sheets from Wm. A. Meyer Ltd., an agent in London for Sievert lamps of Sweden.



One page in particular caught our attention, Sievert Standard Pattern Brazing Lamps...types HSL.1 – HSL.4. From the colored illustrations, it appears that most of the lamps are made from brass with steel burner heads, can be operated in any position, and the two largest lamps each have a detached air pump connected to the lamp with an air hose. The HSL.4, or MAGNUS is the real behemoth with two burners and weighing in at just over 21 lbs empty (filled with gasoline, it would weigh in at around 58 lbs), and has a total height of 26¼ inches...that's over two feet! It has a fuel capacity of six quarts and will burn the entire six quarts in just 25 minutes! With its 19 inch flame, it can melt a one-inch diameter copper rod in two minutes!



MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES

We thank the many BTCA members that have already purchased the book, and we have already received numerous accolades on the publication. If you have not already purchased the book...are asking yourself, what is so different about this book, and why should I purchase it? This book is a supplement to *Vintage Blowtorches* that was published in 2007 and contains over sixty never seen before manufacturers or brand names, and includes over 700 new photos and illustrations. We have also included nearly 100 firepots, and the index includes all of the listings from both books. There is also new historical information on many manufacturers. We wish to thank all of the BTCA members that contributed photographs and information to make this second book possible.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Jim Hunter would like to let his fellow Australian blow torch collectors know that he is interested in purchasing torches. You can reach him at 035 127 6420 in Newborough, Victoria, or see the enclosed member listing for a mailing address.

Max Bradey is seeking Clayton & Lambert torches...especially those that have been blown up...or exploded. We suspect that since he really prefers this type of torch, he would not be interested in any other make. You can contact him at 828-859-9227 in Lynn, NC, or see the enclosed member listing for a mailing address.



Shown above is a No. 75 Otto Bernz Co. Self-Heated Soldering Iron. Total length is 25.5 inches.
A four-star rated very rare torch/soldering iron made in the US with many European features.
From the collection of Ron Carr

THE TORCH

Official publication of the Blow Torch Collectors Association is published
three times per year; March, June, & December.

Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr
Graham Stubbs
Dr. Charles Smith

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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Stubbs, Carr & Smith

Graham Stubbs was born and educated in England, and immigrated to the USA forty years ago. His professional career has encompassed research and design in the fields of radar technology and cable television. His inventions have resulted in the awards of ten patents. As a tool enthusiast, Graham likes to find those categories of objects which have escaped the attention of most collectors; for many years blowtorches constituted such a category. He enjoys exploring the history of blowtorches through the study of patent documentation. The task of editing and compiling so much new new material for this follow-on book has been a continuous process of discovery. Graham and his wife Stephanie reside in San Diego County, California.

Ronald Carr was born and educated in Syracuse, NY. He spent most of his working career with the General Electric Co., and his last assignment was in Seattle, WA as a Commercial Aircraft Programs Manager. Ron also served five years as a non-commissioned officer in the US Air Force. He has collected blowtorches for over twenty years and found that researching blowtorch history was just as rewarding as collecting them. After realizing that others also collected torches, he founded the Blow Torch Collectors Association in March, 1995 and continues to author the BTCA newsletter as a means of exchanging and communicating torch information. Ron and his wife Janet live in the Las Vegas suburbs enjoying their retirement years.

Dr. Charles Smith was born in Paris, Texas, educated in other areas of the state, and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Dallas. Professionally, he is a microfossil (nanofossil) paleontologist. He has worked for several major oil companies and for fifteen years conducted paleontological research with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. He has recently retired from the Geological Survey of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Charles has published more than 250 professional papers in geology and now readily admits to achieving the same level of satisfaction in conducting research on early blowtorches and the history of blowtorch manufacturing and marketing. His association with his two co-authors and the many blowtorch and blowlamp collectors both in the U.S. and throughout Europe continues to be especially fulfilling. Charles and his wife Pat live in Northport, Alabama.



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This is the back cover of *More Vintage Blowtorches*. Since the cost of printing the front and back cover of this newsletter is the same, we thought we might as well also print the book back cover. If you are wondering about the Sarah Fink logo in the lower right hand corner...Sarah is a graphic design artist that we commissioned to design the book cover.