BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 53

SEPTEMBER 2005

The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society - Founded by Les Adams, August 1992

September has arrived and as I am looking out of the window, wondering what to write, the rain is beating against the glass and I have to wonder how the rather indifferent weather this summer has affected the rallies. Great Dorset is only a few days away and I am sure it will be the usual magnet for blowlamp collectors, and Keith Hawkins, assisted by Tom Bartlett will be hosting the Society hospitality suite (Keith's caravan).

The end of the rally season in my area is always signalled by the Power of The Past event at Wantisden Valley. This is a rally where every entry has to be working and it makes for a really good weekend. Unfortunately, for health and safety reasons, this years rally has had to be cancelled and I have to ask what has happened that is so different this year, which makes a very successful rally cancel at the last minute. It is a real shame and I just get the feeling we might not see the rally, as we know it, again.

In this issue there is the next instalment of "Blowlamps to Make Your Mouth Water", with the American Collection. There seems to be such a vast range of blowlamp manufacturers in America, all of whom had their own ideas on what a blowlamp should look like, so the collector is spoiled for choice, once you go beyond the larger volume manufacturers. I hope you like the pictures, provided by Graham Stubbs, Ron Carr and Charles Smith.

In the December issue I will be including the British Collection, which is proving more difficult to compile, so if you have any likely candidate, please send in a clear photograph and a brief description.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership continues to grow with the following new members joining the ranks:-

Rudy Doktor from Queensland, Australia; **John Cartlidge** from Wiltshire; **Chris Andrew** from Bolton; **John Vickers** from Devon; **Tony Crow** from Lincolnshire; **Ronald Durston** from Devon and **Adrian Cornell** from Berkshire.

DIY TIPS

Bob Prichard is continuing with his tips for DIY restoration. This time he is turning his attention to a Sievert HLL, with a copper serpentine, which is complete save for the spring adjustment clip missing from the cowl that covers the burner tube. A trip to the local dry cleaners gave Bob the answer, the wire coat hangers just happened to be the right gauge for the job. Using an Optimus Acme No6 as a template, a smaller version of the coil was fashioned using the HLL burner as a guide. Success was achieved after a few frustrating attempts, but attaching the clip to the cowl seemed impossible, as small rivets seemed rarer than hen's teeth. Soldering also failed, several times. Finally Superglue came to the rescue, after the end of the coil had been planished slightly to obtain a good bonding area.
This may all sound a bit Heath Robinson, but it worked very well and unless the lamp was to be inspected by a true expert, nobody would know. A coat of mat black paint and the whole lamp was re-assembled.

HISTORY OF THE TURNER BRASS WORKS

(Continued from part 1 in issue 48)

THE WAR YEARS

The Turner Brass Works was noticeably involved as a major supplier to the US Government in three wars, the Spanish – American War, WW1 and WW2. Because of the changing conditions under which each was waged, the materials that Turner supplied also changed.

For the Spanish – American war, Turner's efforts were directed almost entirely to supplying harness and saddle fittings. The cast brass and bronze fixtures were produced in large quantities for the duration of the war.

In World War 1, the supply of harness and saddle fittings continued, however, they were supplemented with a small line of cast brass nameplates, blow torches, brazing torches and fire pots. Turner's association with the US Government during the Spanish – American war established them as a reliable supplier with superb quality products.

It was, however, in World War 2 that Turner was called upon to devote most of their production to war materials. There were two reasons for this, Turner had a greater variety of products to offer and the US Government required many more materials. Because of their dedication, Turner was awarded the Army-Navy "E", with two added stars for successfully meeting the government's needs in its production line (an "E" award was issued by the US Government to manufacturers for quota recognition). During the war years Turner's production efforts included production of fire extinguishers, leak detectors, water heaters, cooking stoves, cast brass instruction plates (operational instructions for anti-aircraft guns and torpedo tubes), medical torches (sterilized water for instruments), blow torches & soldering irons, fire pots and gasoline lanterns.

Perhaps the most important item that Turner supplied was the inflation gear required by the Army Air Force for transferring carbon dioxide gas from a storage cylinder into the rubber life rafts carried by airplanes, and used by fliers when forced to bail out over water. Ships and submarines utilised the same life rafts when emergency made it necessary to abandon ship.

Interesting Turner facts, features and observations

In the early 1900's Turner copper plated their steel fuel feed pipes, drip cups and valve handles for a "neat appearance".

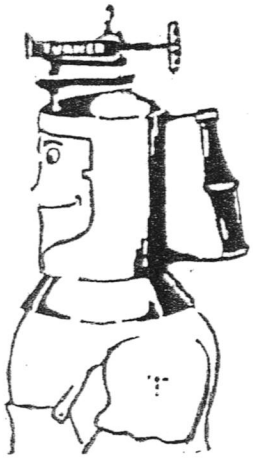
Also in the early 1900's Turner produced an air pump cap that also served as a pump leather former. The pump cap facilitated forming a new pump leather and after installing the leather and applying oil, the leather was drawn up into the pump cap, which was shaped to conform the new leather to the pump cylinder. The down side of the design was the short life of the pump cap, since it was formed from very thin brass and over time, the pumping action created excessive wear on the cap. The thin cap was also susceptible to damage and was easily split or cracked.

Turner featured a Non-Leaking filler plug in their 1916 catalogue, one that included a lead washer that provided an excellent seat for the fuel filler plug and was not susceptible to drying out or cracking, as non-metallic washers. Since Turner did not patent the feature, it is assumed that other torch manufacturers also utilised the same feature, but it appeared to be a successful selling point for Turner.

Turner often referred to blow torches in many ways, in advertising and popular communications. Their most popular reference was blow torch; however they frequently used blowtorch, blo-torch, blowtorch, gasoline torch, torch, blow pipe and gasoline appliance. In a 1925 Turner letter to a new distributor, the letterhead references blow torches and the letter refers to blowtorches.

Turner was the only known US torch manufacturer that designed and installed an automatic safety valve on a series of torches. The safety valve was advertised as eliminating all danger by preventing excess tank pressure. The automatic valve is documented to Turner torches as early as 1923 for a model #45 and continued into the early 1940's on their "MASTER LINE" of torches which included model numbers 39, 42A, 45, 45A, 48A, 52 and 52A.

During the early 1940 war years, Turner launched an advertising campaign to promote "More Mending Means Less Spending". Any type of programme to encourage repairing an item in lieu of replacement, to support the war effort, was seen as very positive and patriotic, and Turner created a specific programme ...to obviously sell more blow torches. They actually created a cartoon character, ***"TORCHY TURNER",*** a human figure with a blow torch head, from the shoulders up, and a face scribed into the front of the fuel tank. The motion pictures and theatres were a major source of entertainment during the war years and Turner took advantage by creating a ***"TORCHY THEATRE"***, although it is not known if any Turner advertising was ever shown in a theatre.



"TORCHY TURNER"

TURNER BRASS WORKS MASCOT

CIRCA 1943
Submitted by **Chuck Tobin**

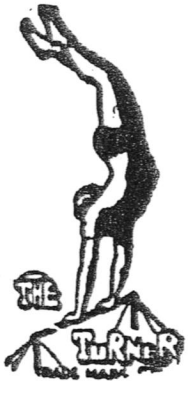
At the time of writing, the final Turner years from the late 1960's to 1999 were not readily available; however, it is known that the Bernz-O-Matic Co purchased the Turner Corporation during that period. Bernz-O-Matic was originally known as the Otto Bernz Co. and was a staunch competitor to Turner in the early years of blow torch production. Some time later the Cooper Hand Tool Co. purchased the Turner/Bernz-O-Matic operation in Sycamore and continued manufacturing operations. On January 1, 1999, after surviving more than 100 years of operation and being the oldest manufacturing company in Sycamore, the Turner-Sycamore facility closed its doors....for ever.

(The History of the Turner brass Works first appeared in "The Torch" magazine in March 2000)

TURNER TRADE MARKS

ORIGINAL TRADEMARK
CIRCA 1910

A "MODERN VERSION"
UPDATED TO INCLUDE
THE TURNER NAME
CIRCA 1925

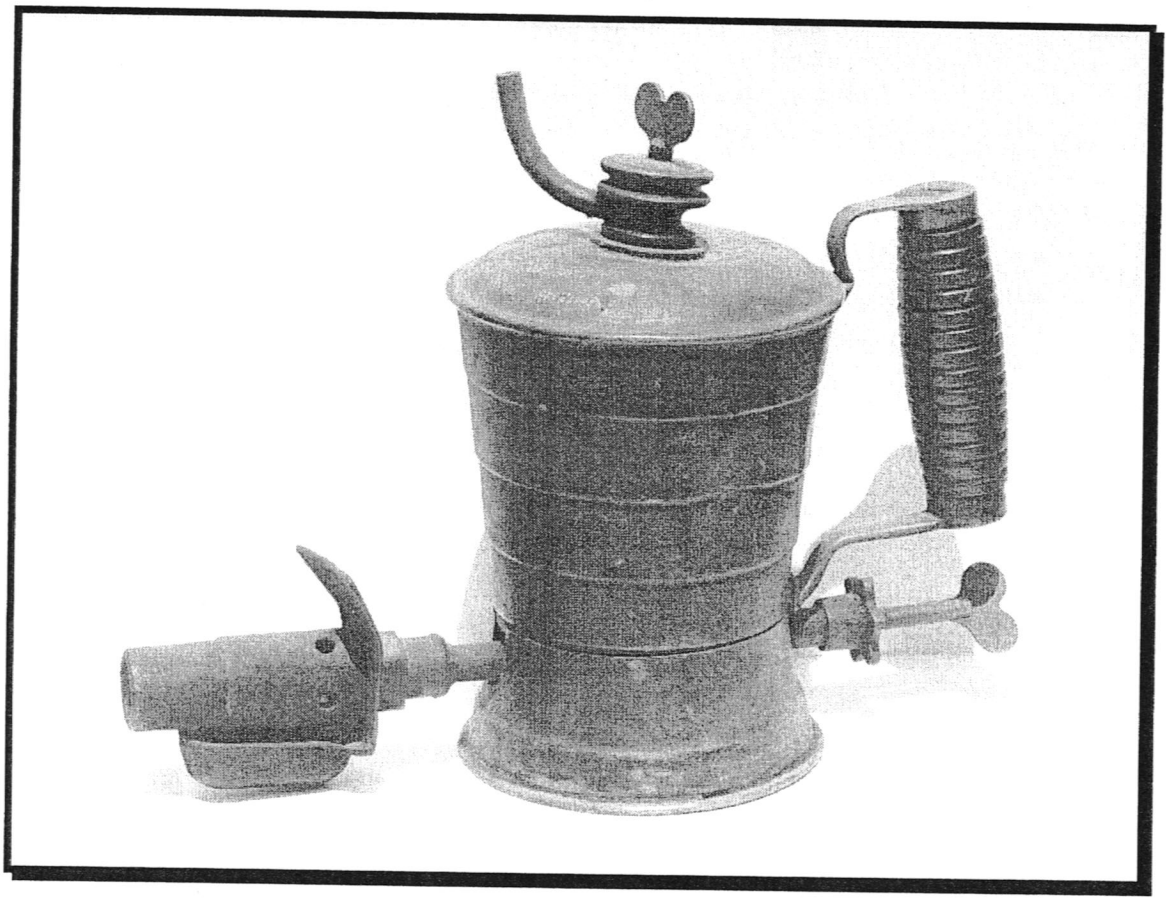


Turner

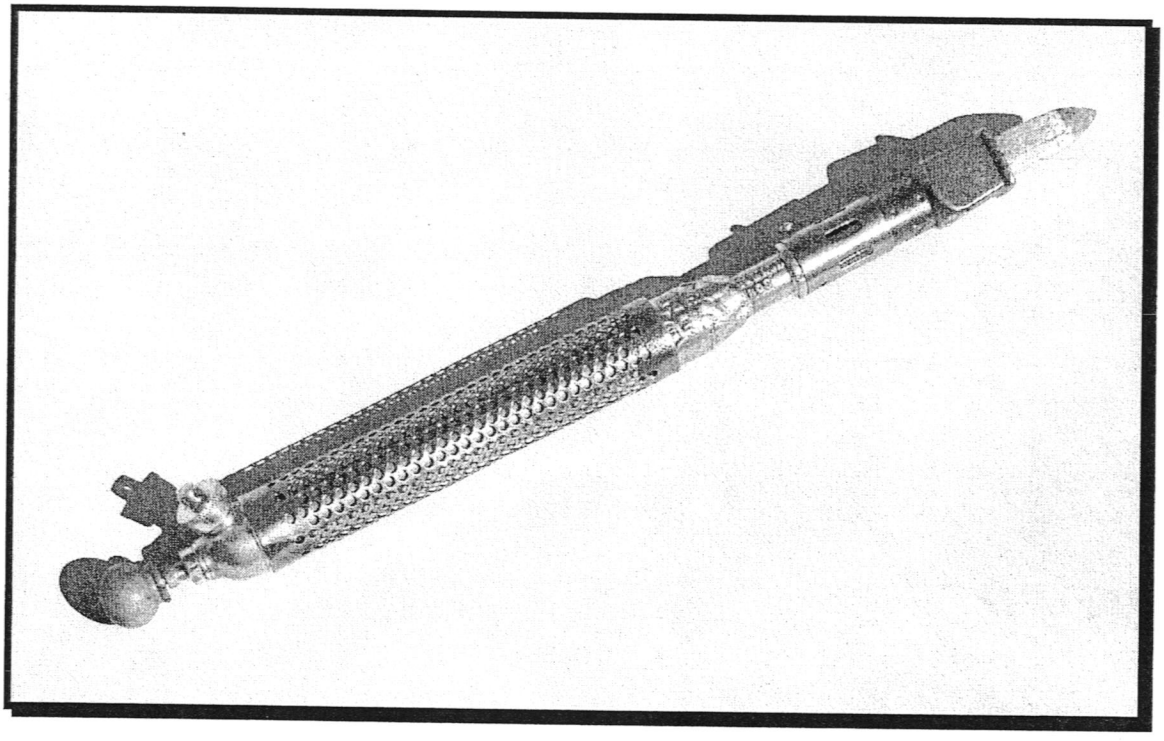
RE-FILED VERSION
REFLECTS BROAD
PRODUCT SCOPE
CIRCA 1959

THE AMERICAN COLLECTION

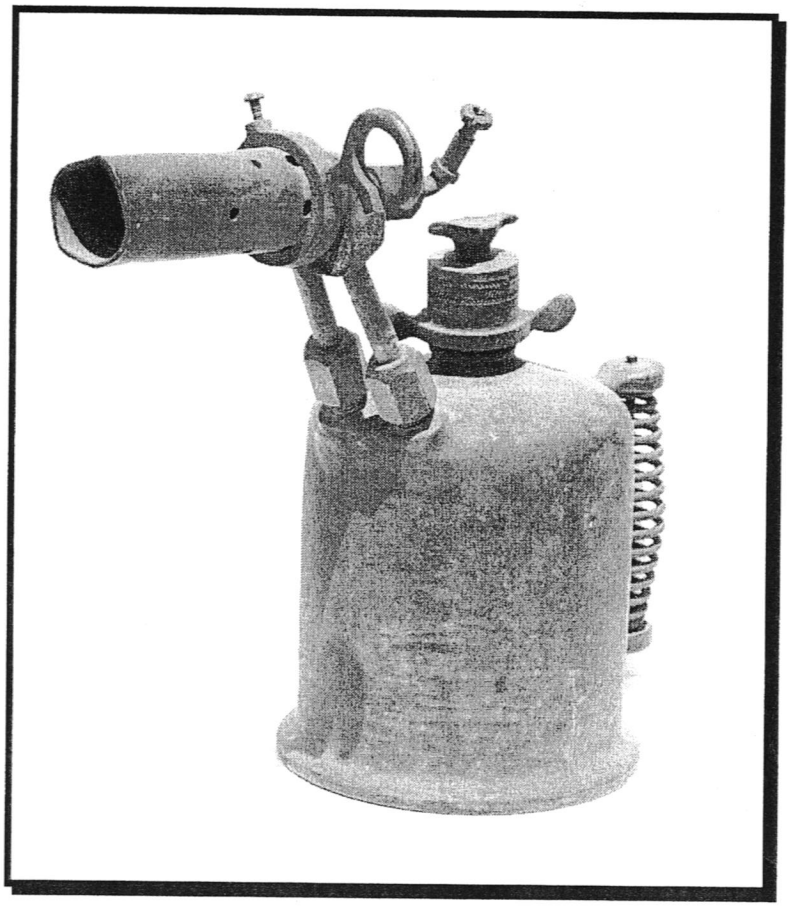
The following selection of American blowlamps was compiled by Graham Stubbs, ably assisted by Ron Carr and Charles Smith.



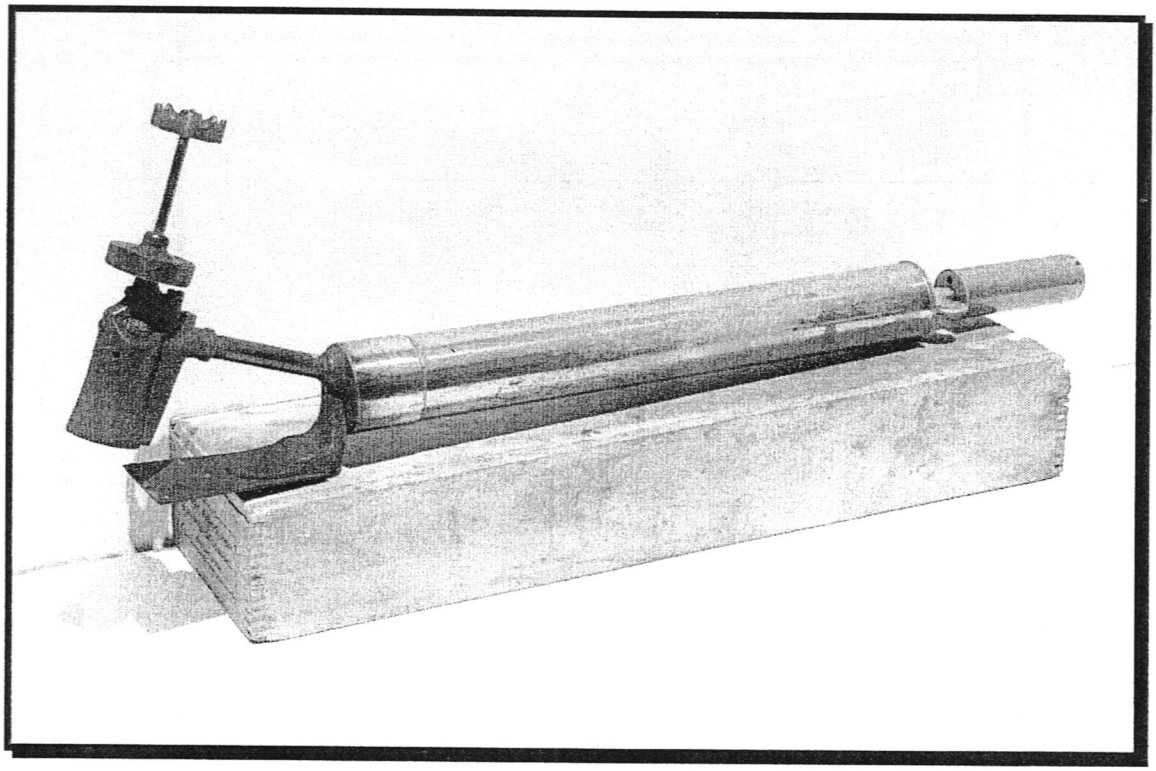
Pope Manufacturing Co. Acme paint burner, patented in 1898



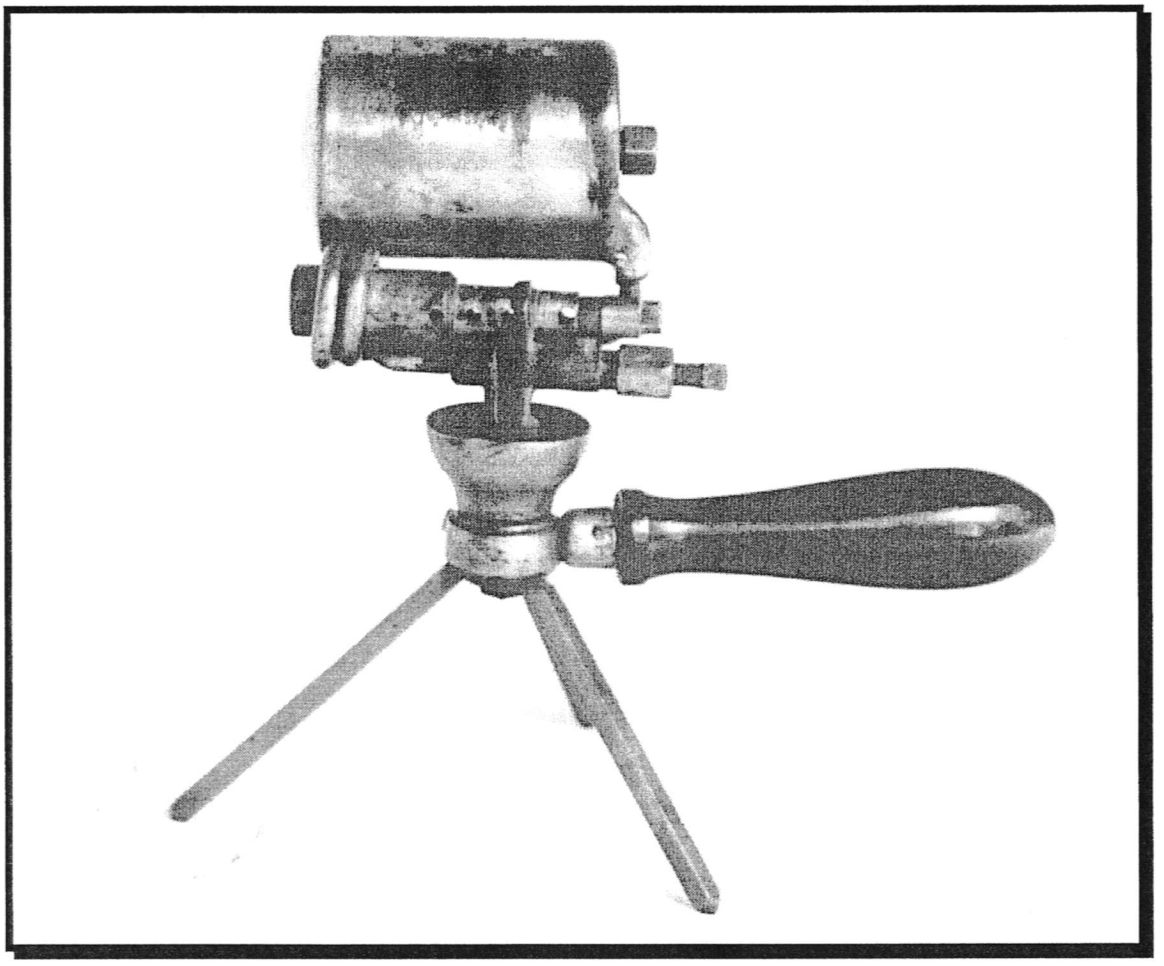
Emmelman Brothers self heating soldering iron, patented in 1904



Brookins Company "Eclipse" Torch with 2 feed pipes supporting the burner



Climax Company tubular paint burner/scraper patented in 1898

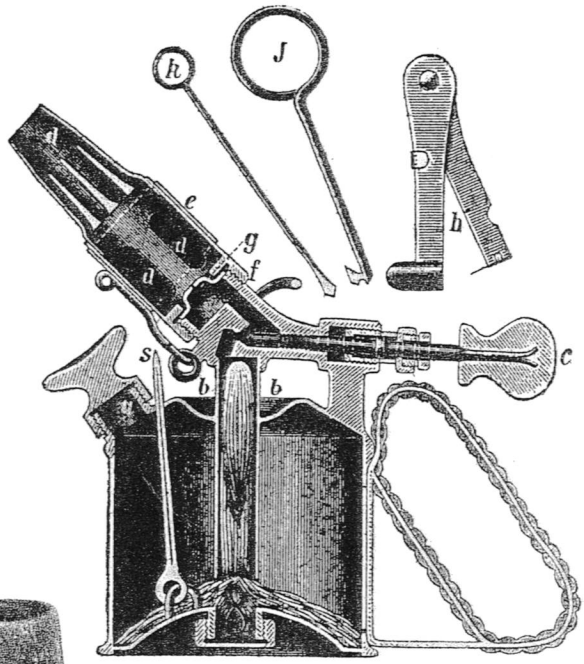


Downey Company, patented in 1925.
Mounted on a tripod stand and uses gravity feed for the fuel.

Wellington Manufacturing Company
One of two models, this being the rarer model with the angled pump

Continued on Page 11.

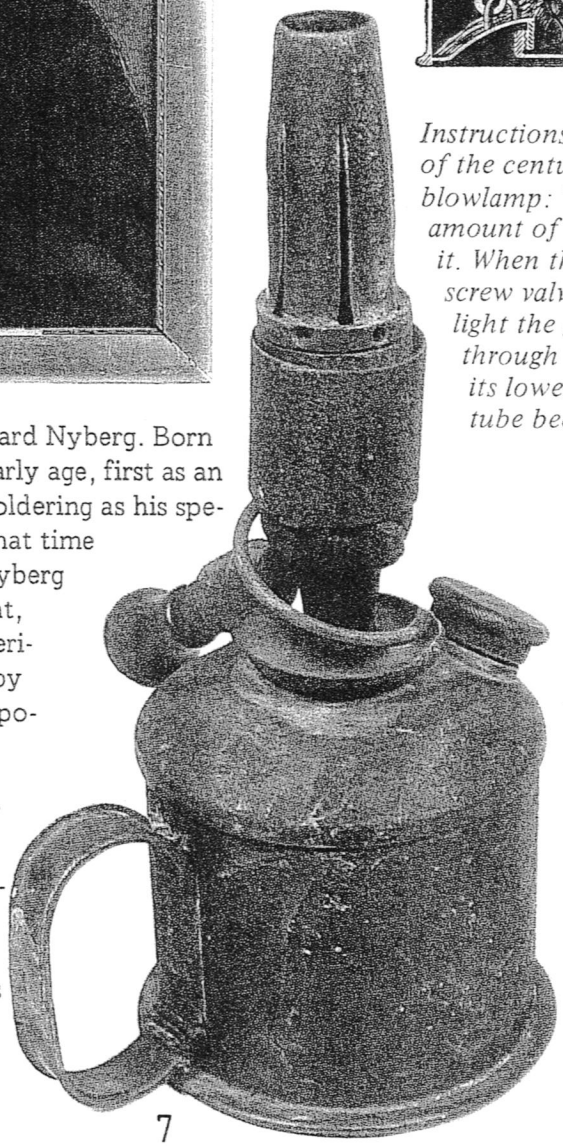
The blowlamp – an ingenious invention



Instructions dating from around the turn of the century describe how to use the blowlamp: "Close valve c. Pour a small amount of spirit into bowl b and light it. When the lamp has warmed up, screw valve c slightly to the left and light the gas flowing out of the burner through openings d. Hold sleeve in its lowest position until the burner tube becomes hot."

The inventor of the blowlamp was Carl Richard Nyberg. Born in Arboga in 1858, he began working at an early age, first as an apprentice and later as a factory hand with soldering as his speciality. The biggest problem of soldering at that time was the primitive heating devices used and Nyberg began turning his mind to new sources of heat, chiefly for hard soldering or brazing. He experimented at home in the kitchen at night and by 1882 had completed his first prototype, a vaporization torch for petrol which was called a soldering lamp or blowlamp. The first blowlamps were manufactured by Nyberg himself in a rented two-room apartment. It was not until some years into the 1890s that his company had stabilized sufficiently to allow him to purchase a site and build a factory on it.

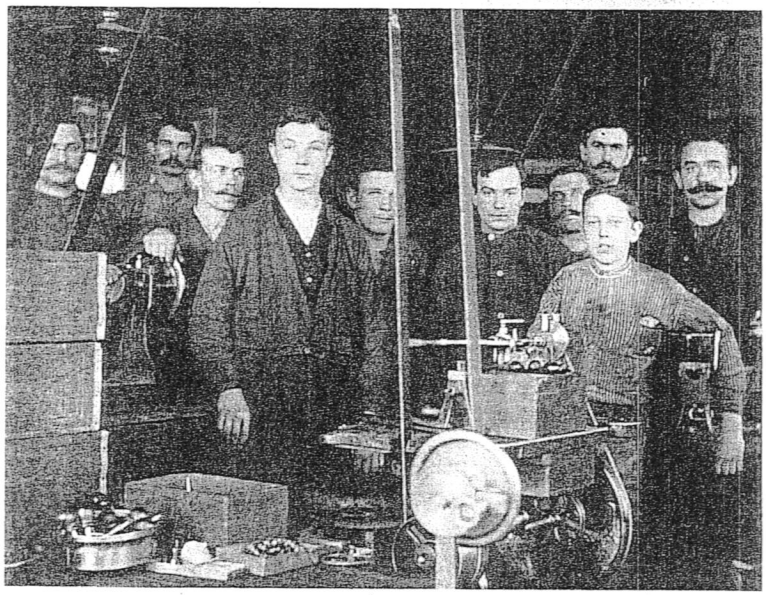
The design of the blowlamp was ingenious – present-day blowlamps are not all that different in shape and certain design details to the very first model made in 1882.

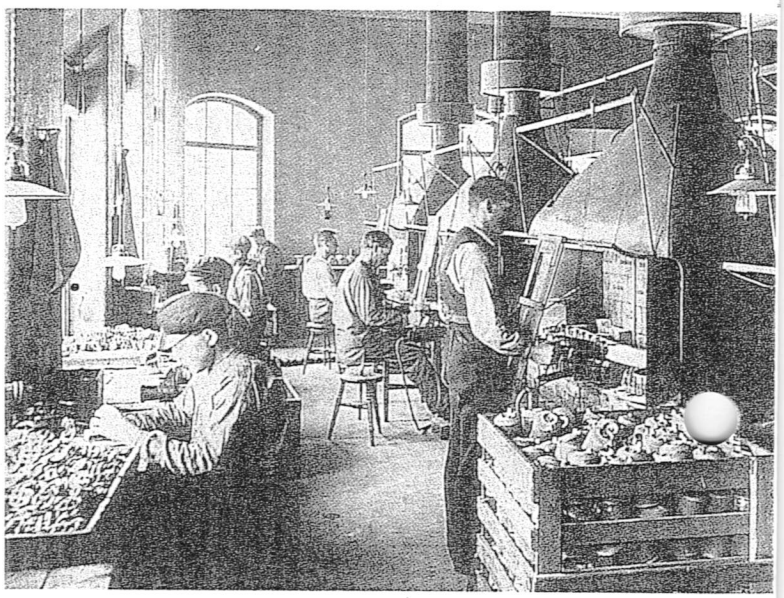


One of C.R. Nyberg's very first blowlamps is preserved in the Museum of Science and Technology in Stockholm.

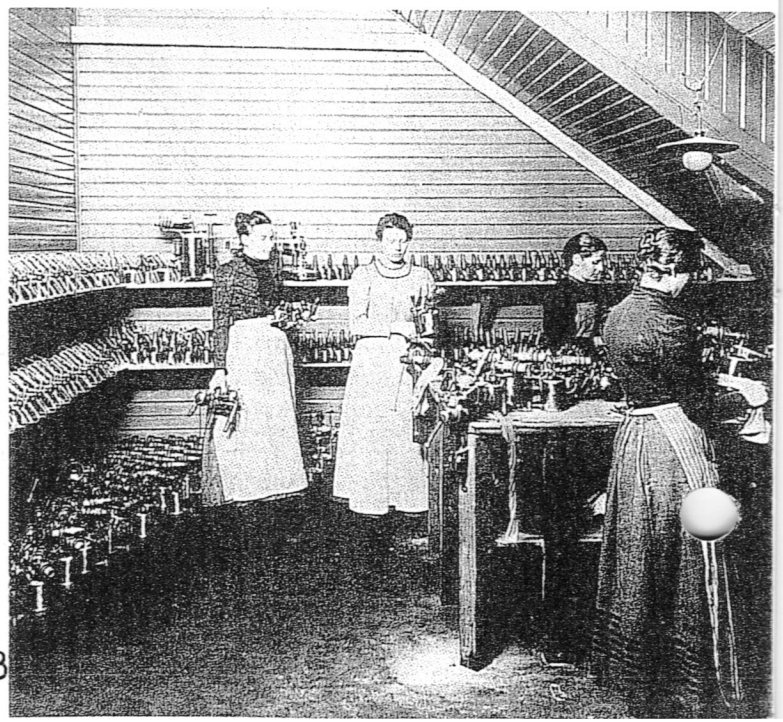
Large-scale industry

Early in the 1890s C.R. Nyberg purchased a site in Sundbyberg and built a factory there for the manufacture of blowlamps. The factory premises were extended in several stages and gradually occupied the greater part of the whole block. The company was run with a patriarchal hand by Nyberg, at least until 1906 when it was turned into a limited company. Nyberg had the ability to pick good assistants, including J.E. Brissman, who was in charge of the finances, and foreman N.V. Lindh. Without their assistance Nyberg with his numerous interests would probably have found it difficult to keep his extensive business a going concern.

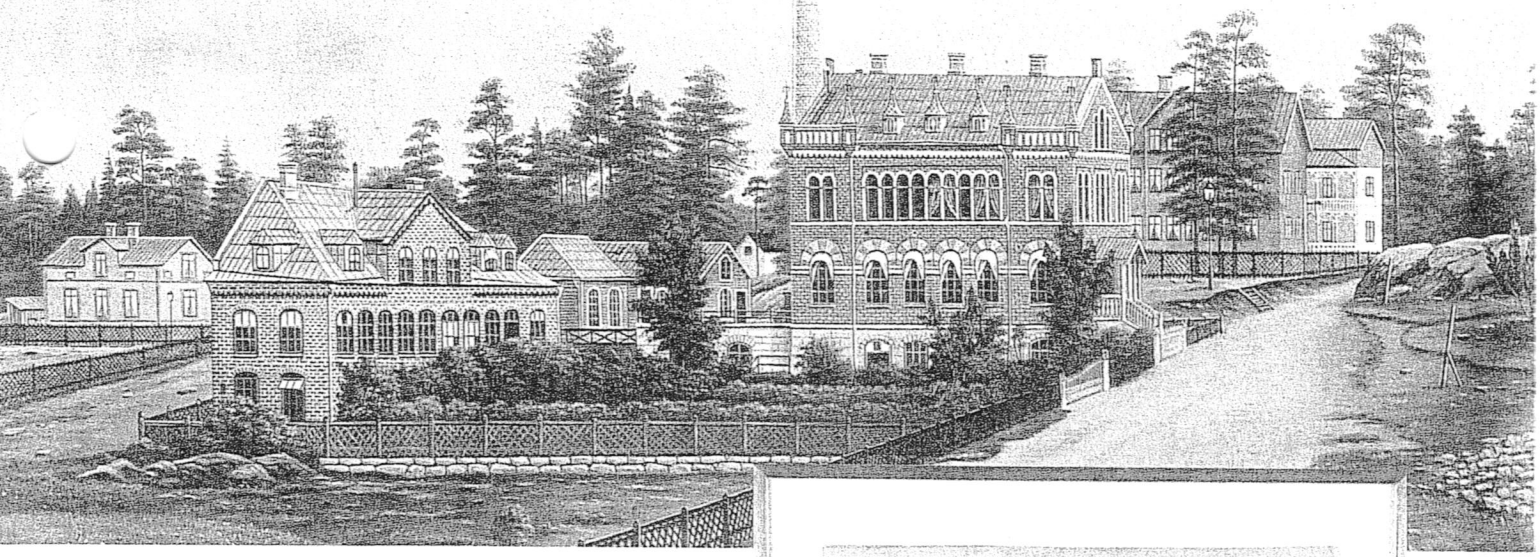




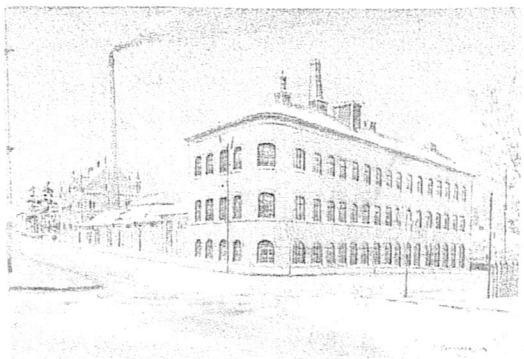
Interior views of Nyberg's blowlamp factory in the first decade of the 20th century. The painting of the factory dates from the turn of the century.

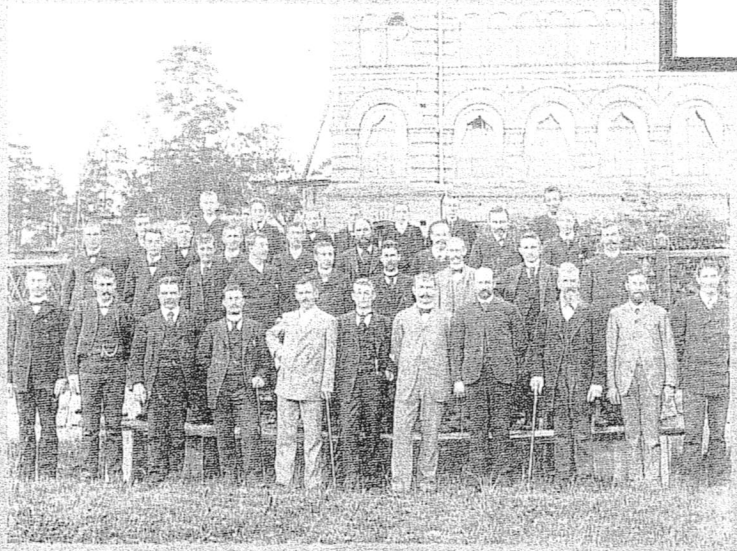


in Sundbyberg

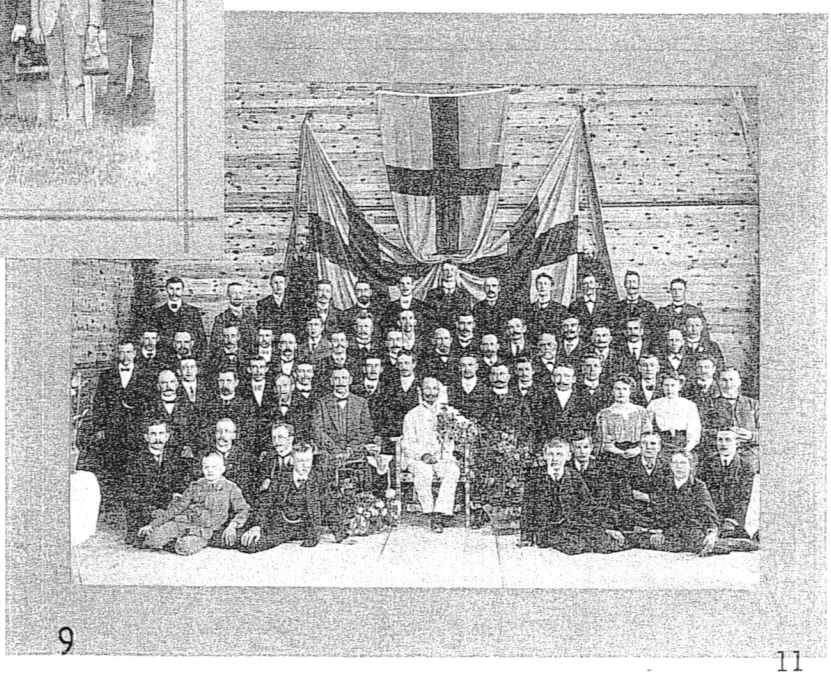


Contemporary accounts indicate that working conditions were good at Nyberg's blowlamp factory. Although he could be temperamental and demanding at times, he was also often considerate and understanding and was held in high esteem as a business leader. Being a Nyberg employee was even associated with a certain amount of status – his workers were often referred to as "Nyberg's snobs".



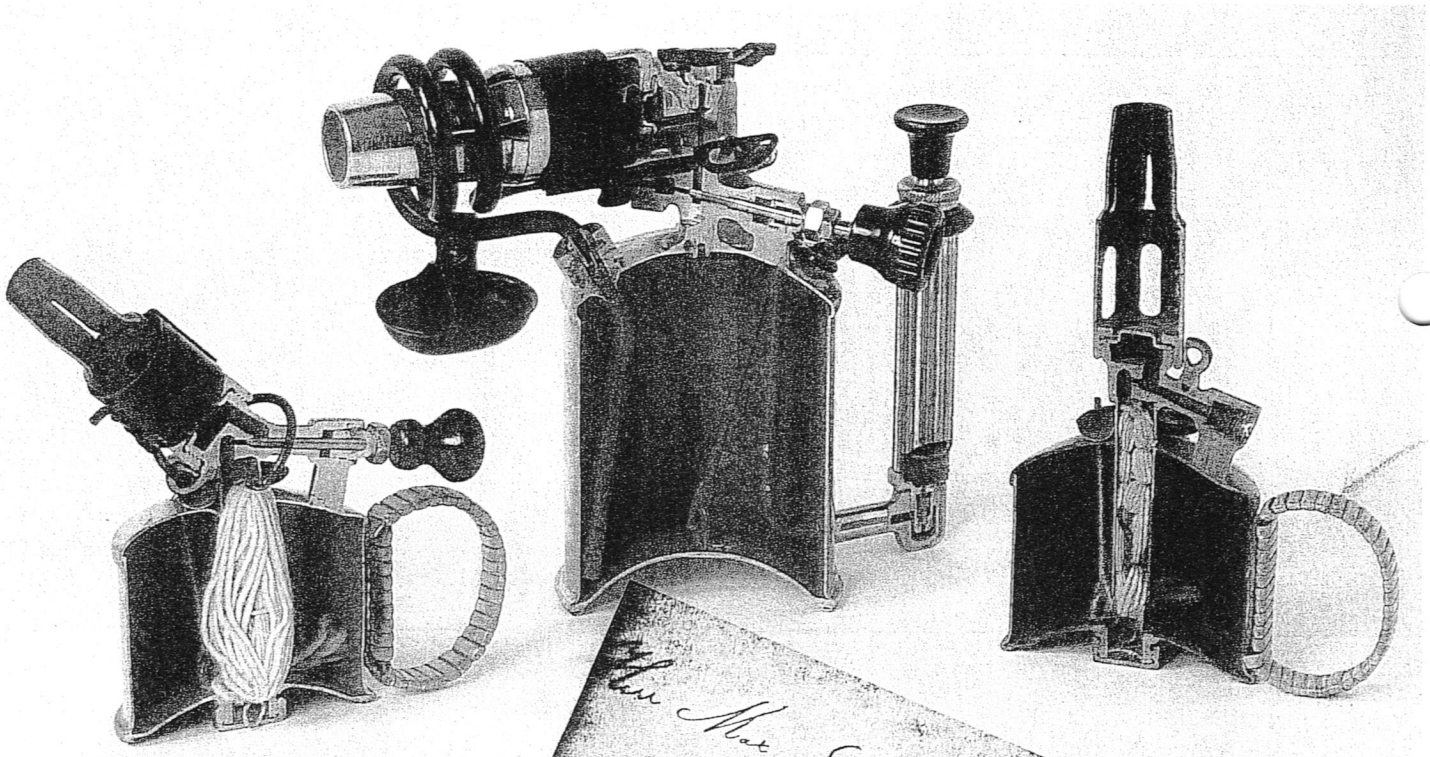


Top: Nyberg's blowlamp factory looked like this at the turn of the century. Above: The same factory a few decades later.



Nyberg's business expanded rapidly. This was mainly due to Max Sievert's efforts on the sales side. The above picture is from 1893. The employees, who even then consisted of an impressive number of factory workers, are posing in front of the newly-built factory.

In 1908 C.R. Nyberg celebrated his 50th birthday. He is seated here surrounded by flower arrangements and personnel (right).



C. R. Nyberg came into contact with Max Sievert at an early stage and succeeded in arousing his interest in taking over sales of the blowlamp. This was the start of a period of cooperation which lasted for four decades. Owing to Max Sievert's skillful marketing, the blowlamp soon became an article with world-wide sales.

Some early models of Nyberg's blowlamps – from the Sundbyberg local Arts-and-Crafts museum. At left is a receipt from 1883 which shows that C.R. Nyberg had sold two blowlamps to Max Sievert for Sw. cr. 16. In the mid-1880s they began to formalize their business dealings by drawing up detailed contracts.

C.R. Nyberg was a man of many and varied pursuits who conducted experiments in widely diverse fields. One of his designs was a propeller and for several years he was engaged in aeronautical experiments. His aircraft, called "The Fly", was powered by a steam engine and never left the ground – which prompted a cartoonist to lampoon him: "Fly, ugly Fly, fly!"

Nybergs pat. Gasoljelödlampa

kan enligt Hr Civilingeniören Otto Fahnehjelms intyg bättre än någon annan lampa användas vid lödningen af metaller. Den är äfven mycket lämplig att användas vid lödning af t. o. m. 1 tums breda bandsågar, då messing kan användas att löda med, vid rengöring af tillbeckade maskiner, för uppvärmning af större och mindre lödkolfvar m. m.

Denna lampa ger en mycket het låga, som framskjuter med stor fart 4 à 5 tum framom brännaren samt är i renhet och hög temperatur likställd med en gas-glasblåsarlampa, hvarför Hr professor V. Eggertz säger i sitt intyg, att den är mycket lämplig för åstadkommande af de högsta värmegrader, hvilka erfordras på kemiska laboratorier såsom förbränning af grafit m. m.

Lampan är tillverkad af stark blankslipad messing och rymmer omkring 300 kub.-ctm. (½ kanna) samt brinner vid fullt pådrag ungefär 2 timmar. För erhållandet af en lägre temperatur påsättes en liten plåthuf omkring brännaren, då samtidigt gaspådraget minskas.

Af erhållna intyg må följande meddelas:

Efter att mera än ett år hafva användt vid vår fabrik några exemplar af Hr C. R. Nybergs patenterade gasoljelödlampor lemna vi på begäran med nöje följande intyg:

Lödlampan är sinnrikt och praktiskt inrättad, ger en rökfri låga, som kan efter behag regleras från mycket svag till ytterst stark; lämpar sig synnerligen väl till lödning såväl med slaglod som tenn, äfvensom till åtskilliga andra ändamål såsom metall-lackering m. m. Vidare är den att rekommendera för den ansenliga ekonomiska besparing som vinnes, i det brukot af samma ställer sig mångdubbelt billigare än spritlampor och äfven betydligt billigare än lysgas.

Stockholm den 11 Juni 1883.

L. M. ERICSSON & C:o.

Priset för lödlampor med uppstående eller lutande brännare är nedsatt från 15 till 12 kronor.

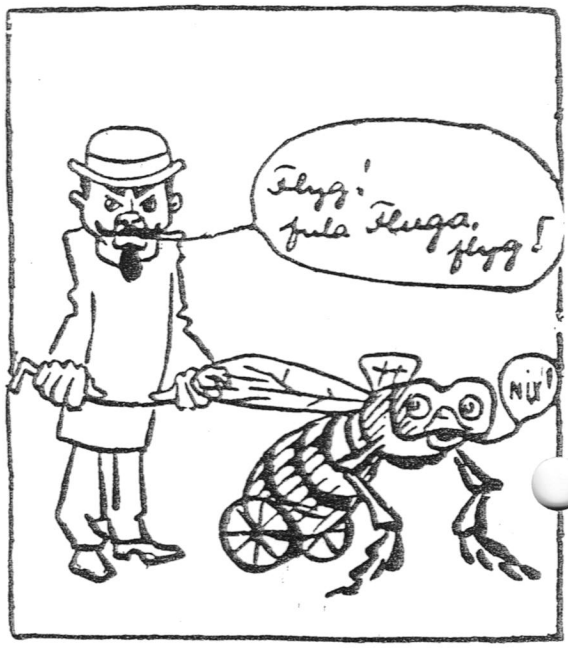
Liqviden erlägges vid reqvisitioner eller uttages den medelst efterkraf.

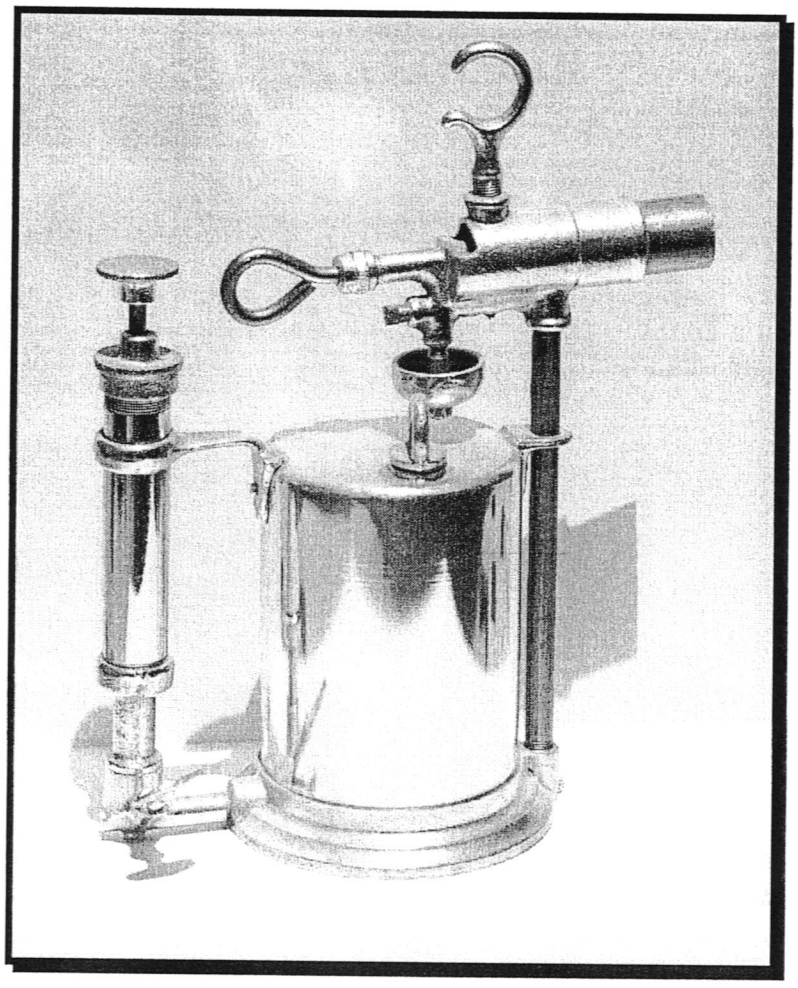
Om efter 10 dagars användning lampan skulle befinnas mindre lämplig, återtages den, hvarvid 1 kr. erlägges för fraktomkostnader m. m.

OBS. Öfver 400 äro utsålda under loppet af ett år.

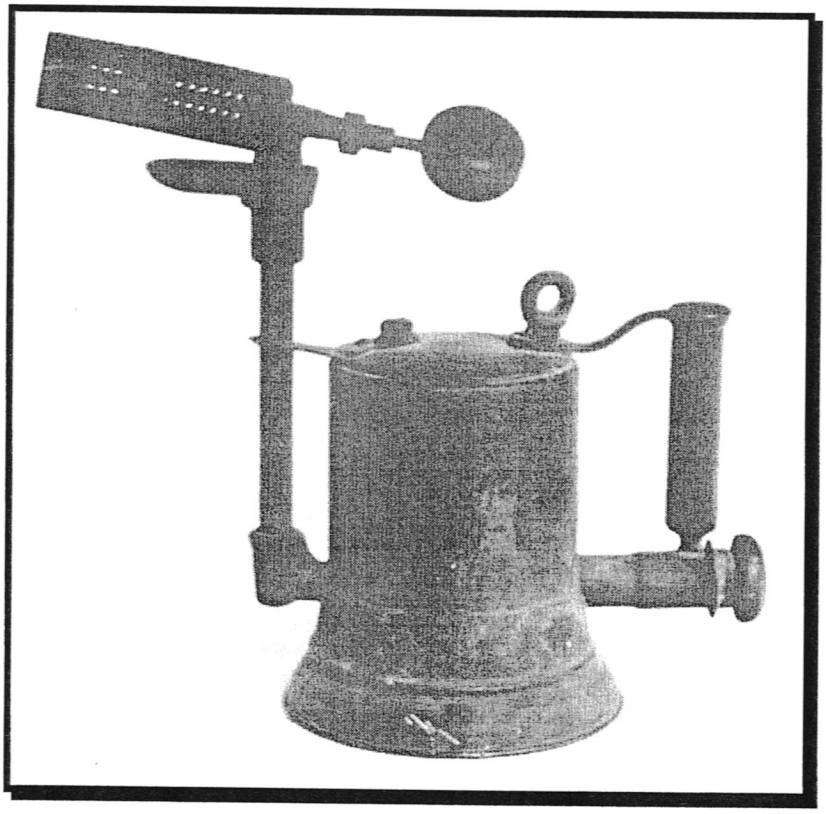
C. R. NYBERG, Stockholm, Luntmakaregatan 60.

Advertisement in a technical magazine of 1883 – Nyberg presents his patented blowlamp and reproduces a commendatory certificate from L.M. Ericsson.

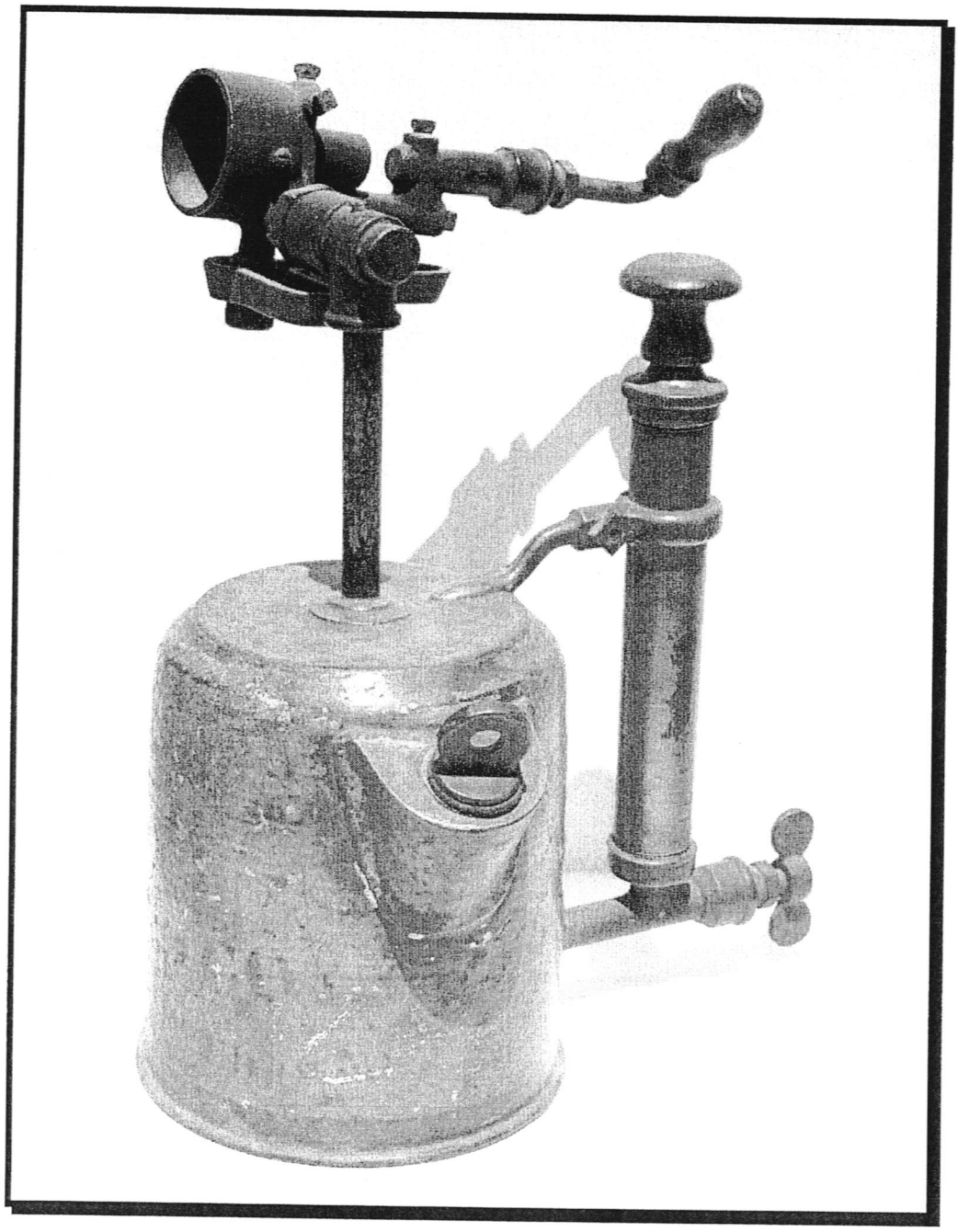




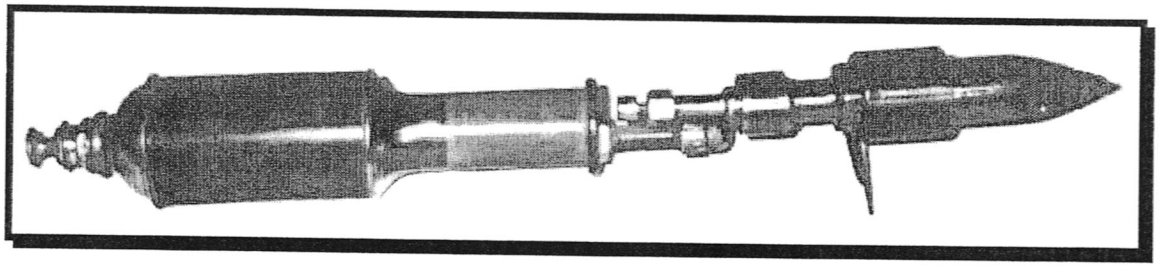
Quick Meal Company with copper tank, very uncommon



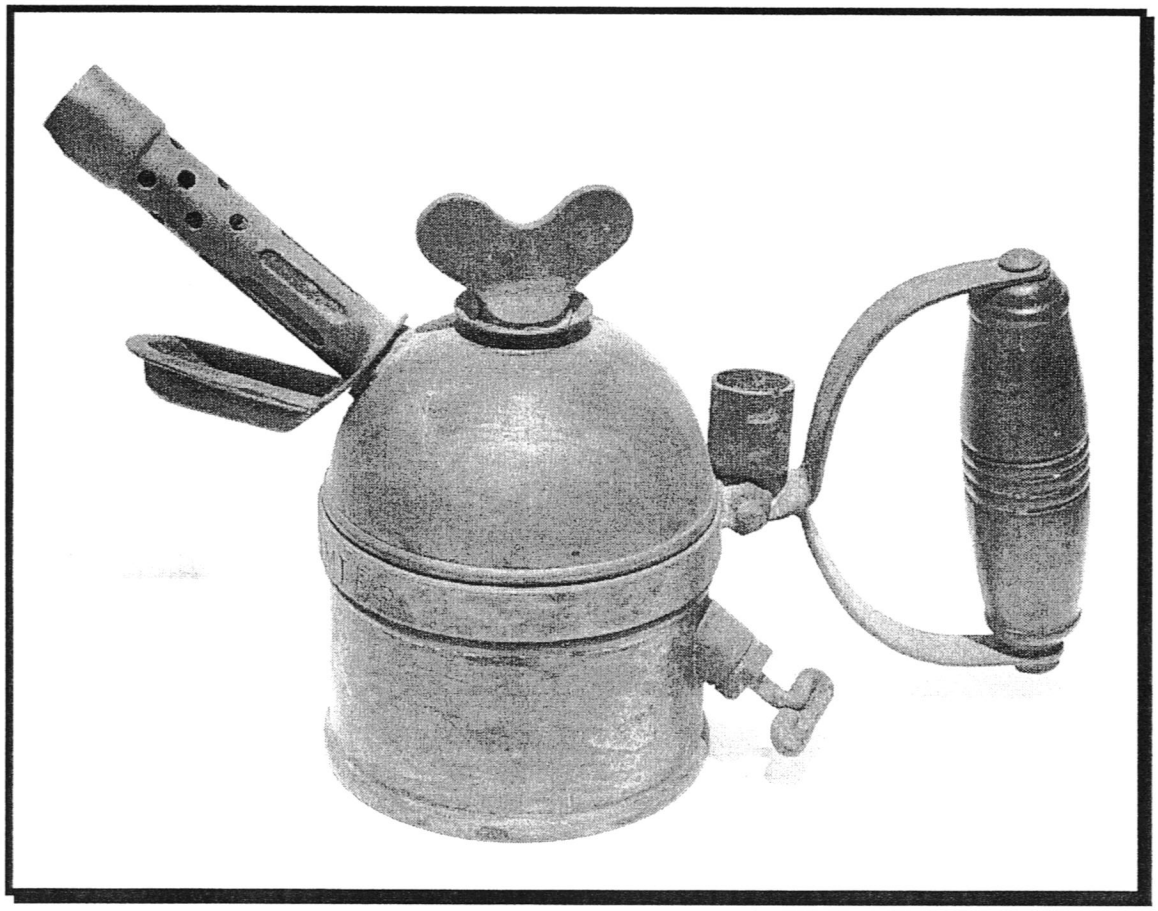
Wellington Manufacturing Company



Schneider & Trenkamp, advertised in 1888



Lyon & Conklin self heating soldering iron
Patented 1906 -1914



Bridgeport Brass Company "Queen"

Globe torch, based on the 1889 Butler Patent

2006 CALENDAR

Last year I had a calendar produced with 12 photographs of interesting blowlamps. The company, based in Hertfordshire, did a very good quality job and in the end I had 4 produced for friends.

This year I have decided to make the offer available to all members and I have been busy gathering photographs and have a good variety for possible inclusion in the finished calendar.

The cost of producing the calendar reduces, the larger the order, and we really need to order 25 to get the price to £9-40 each. (Less than 25 and the cost is £12-99) The next reduction comes when orders reach 100, and I am not sure we can achieve that this year.

If we achieve the 25 order the cost to members in the UK, including postage will be £10-50.

As you will appreciate, with the low subscription rate, the bank balance is not great and I would ask UK members to send their money with their order. Non UK members should contact me and I can advise as to the costs.

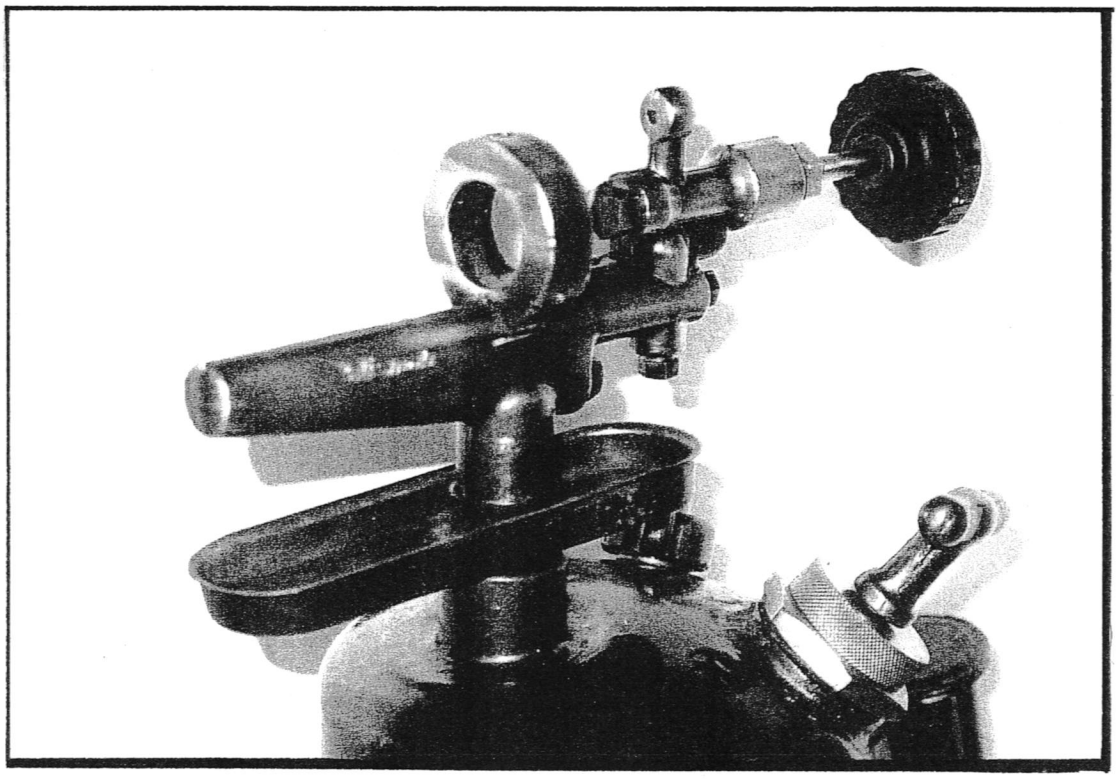
If anyone has a particular blowlamp they would like to be considered for inclusion, I will need a good quality photograph, taken against a light background, together with a description of the blowlamp.

WORKING BLOWLAMPS

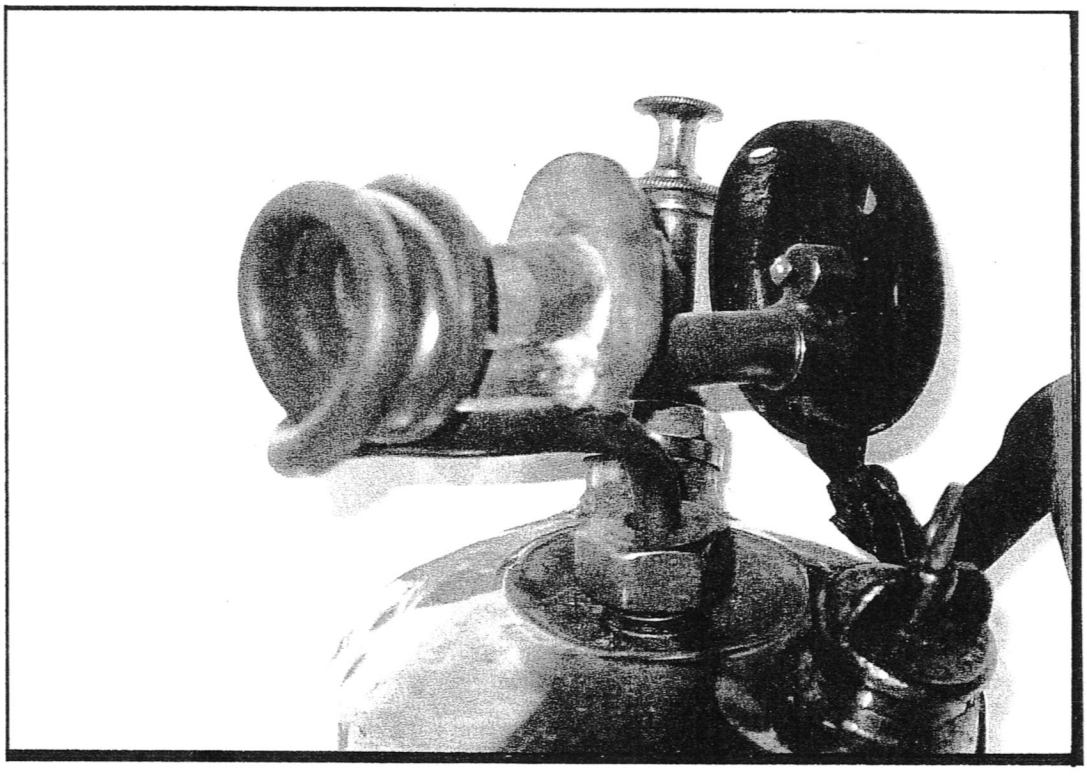
Every now and then a photograph turns up showing blowlamps being used as part of everyday working life. The photograph below comes from the Post Office Engineering Department Safety Guide of 1961.
The caption states "NEVER LIGHT A BLOWLAMP IN A MANHOLE, FOOTWAY BOX, VEHICLE OR NEAR INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL".

BURNER CONSTRUCTION

Most of us take a newly acquired blowlamp to pieces for cleaning, but I wonder how many of us make a note of the different burner constructions to be found. Keith Hawkins has started to take note and will be documenting them for us over the next few issues of Blowlamp News.



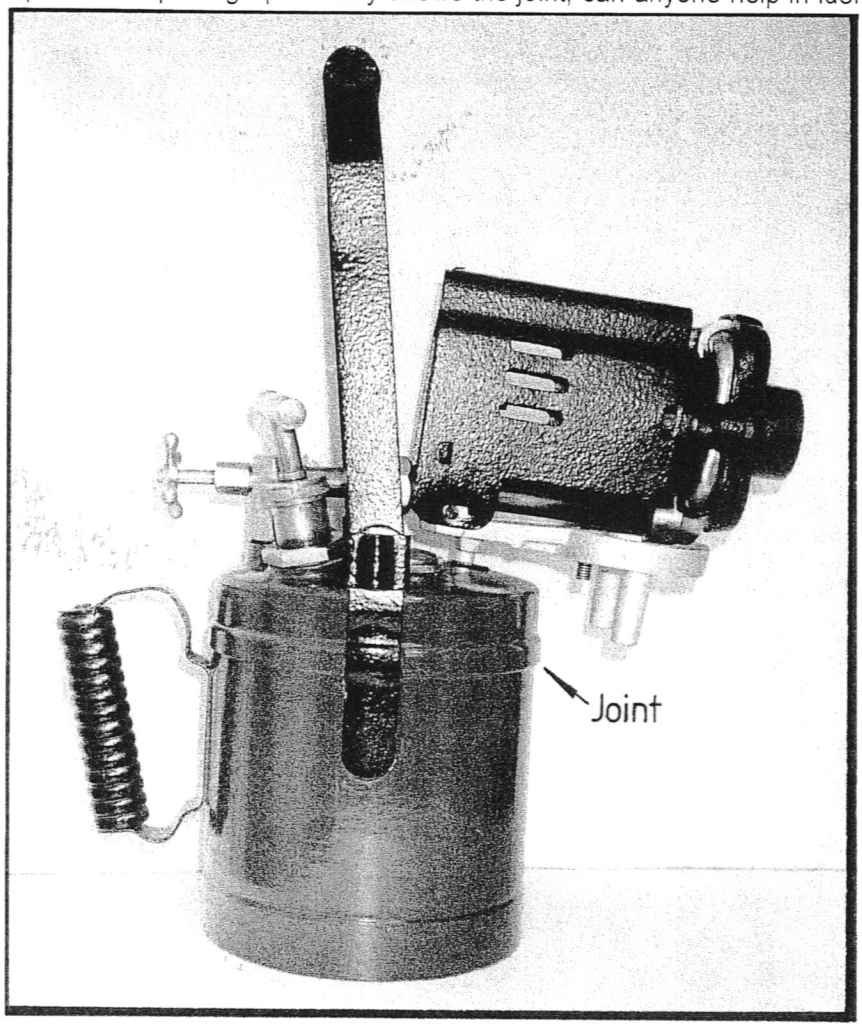
Burner assembly from a 2 litre TALISMAN



Burner assembly from a 2 pint GOVERNOR ENGINE blowlamp

IDENTITY & ASSISTANCE

Malcolm Forster has written to me with a request to help him identify a 5 pint brazing lamp. Malcolm has 10 similar lamps, all of which he can identify, the only difference with this particular lamp is that the steel tank is made in 2 parts, with the top part of the tank slipping over the bottom part. The photograph clearly shows the joint, can anyone help in identifying the blowlamp.



CLASSIFIED

WANTED - Tom Bartlett is looking for any literature which may be available on the "Justrite" No 39. He has a leaflet about the soldering iron and this time is looking for literature about the torch being used as a refrigerant leak detector. **Tel 01344 429104**

WANTED – Rudy Doktor has found a Lamb No 11 combination torch and soldering iron, unfortunately the soldering iron is missing. If anyone can help, Rudy can be contacted by email – doctor@bigpond.com.au For those who do not have access to email you can contact Rudy via the Editor.

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