

# ***BLOWLAMP NEWS***

No 57

SEPTEMBER

2006

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

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September is upon us again and the rally season is almost over. So far this year I have had a good response from the rally's I have attended but I will say that it is getting harder to find decent blowlamps for sale at these events.

With rallies behind us, we can look forward to the meeting at **Toddington on October 21<sup>st</sup>**. If you haven't put your name forward and would like to attend, please telephone Keith Hawkins on 01525 290122, but don't leave it too late as final arrangements have to be made.

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When I took on the role as Editor of the newsletter, I negotiated a good deal with the local Copy Centre, for undertaking all our photocopying and to be honest, the amount he charges barely covers his costs. It helps that I use his services a lot in my business, but unfortunately things are about to change.

I heard recently that the owner plans to retire shortly and has put the business up for sale, so there is no guarantee that any new owner will be as enthusiastic about club magazines as the current one.

I realise it might be jumping the gun a bit, but we can't afford to wait for the new owner to arrive before we make plans for the continued production of the newsletter. With this in mind, I see no alternative but to increase the subscriptions for next year to make sure we have sufficient funds.

The current level of subscription just allows us to jog along, but does not give the opportunity to improve, so I would ask that for next year only we raise the level of subscription to £8-00 for UK members, 15 Euros for members in Europe and \$20 for members in USA and Australia. We can review the situation in a year's time, when we know what the new printing costs will be.

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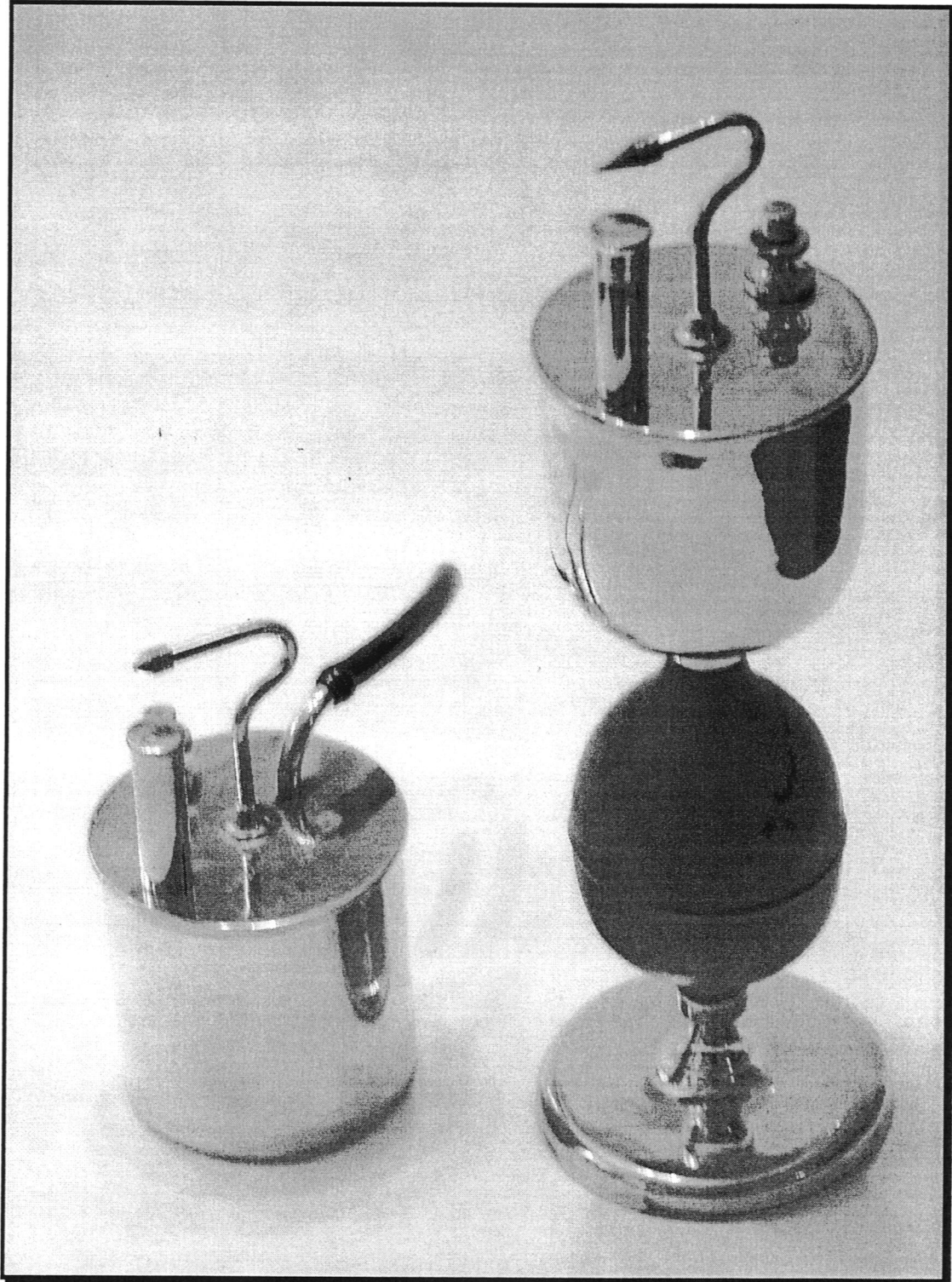
The response for the 2007 calendar has not been as good as I hoped and we still have not reached the target of 25, at which point the costs become reasonable. So if you want a copy and have just not got around to letting me know, you have until the **8<sup>th</sup> September**, when I have to place the order.

In this issue, Keith Hawkins recounts his adventure to Holland with Tom Bartlett, where they visited friends, both old and new as well as attending rallies at Dordrecht and Almere. Dr Charles Smith shares some photographs from his collection, Paul Whiddett sent in 2 photographs of different Globe torches and Keith Hawkins continues his theme of engine starting lamps.

There is also the regular feature from the Patent's Office showing more of the unusual inventions.

## ***KAPLAN DENTAL TORCH***

Dr Charles Smith has sent a photograph of two Kaplan dental torches he has in his collection. Despite extensive research, Charles has been able to find very little information about the company and would hope that there are other collectors out there who might have similar torches and perhaps some literature on the company that produced them.



The torch on the left has a conventional blow pipe and the one on the right has a rubber squeeze ball.

## **DUTCH TRIP – 2006**

*By Keith Hawkins*

On 12<sup>th</sup> May, Tom Bartlett and I set out on our travels once again, to Holland, where we were due to show my blowlamps at rallies in Dordrecht, near Rotterdam and the following weekend at Almere. Our first visit, however, was to catch up with fellow Society member Janus Nooijen, who lives at Deurne, just east of Eindhoven.

We crossed at Dover to Dunkerque, having overnighted in a field at Dover. I can quite understand why the ferry company does not carry foot passengers as the port of Dunkerque is miles from anywhere. Anyway, setting off for Eindhoven, everything went well until a navigational error took us round Bruges on the wrong side and thence onto the wrong road for Antwerp. By the time we were approaching that city the diesel situation was getting critical and we had driven miles without finding a single garage. After a bit of panic stricken searching and having to leave the motorway, a kindly motorist took us to a garage where we refilled to the brim. Unfortunately the motorway was not accessible where we had come off and we received instructions as to where we had to go in order to get back on. Having missed the turning we again got hopelessly lost and took 2 hours to find out where we were and get back on the right road. Consequently we never got to Eindhoven until 8-30pm, more than 8 hours from Dunkerque.

However we set up camp in the yard behind Janus's house. The next day Janus and a friend, Pierre Donkers, took us to see a German collector of just about everything. He had blowlamps, including the biggest display of electric soldering irons I have ever seen, machine tools, engineering machinery, electrical tools, lathes, milling machines, stationary engines, etc. You name it, he had it. He had served in and survived the second world war in the Luftwaffe, there were photographs in one room of German air crew, officers etc. including Galland, their fighter ace who once, when chastised by Goering as to why it was that he had failed to destroy the RAF in the Battle of Britain and was then asked what he wanted in order to gain victory, said "Give me a squadron of Spitfires". The story did not relate what Goering said in reply. So we had an interesting day and returned to Deurne in the late afternoon.

The following day, Sunday, Pierre took us to an amazing military museum, some of which was scattered about in the woods, the rest and majority of it being in a huge complex of buildings. I thought I knew quite a lot about US military equipment, but there was stuff in that museum that I had not even dreamed about. I seem to remember one enormous low loader which could carry 3 damaged tanks at the same time. Then there was a huge amphibious vehicle, so big that it had tyres eight feet high and one engine to drive each of its 4 wheels. The museum was set up by General Marshall Overloon, which is not far from Eindhoven.

Before Pierre took us to the museum said he would show us his flat in Helmond. I am not sure how big it was but something in the region of 25 feet by 20 feet (7.6m x 6.1m), the one room being the only room apart from a tiny hall, a toilet and a bathroom. So in the living room there was a basic sink, cooker and worktop, a large up to the ceiling cupboard, a big table to eat and model make at and a bed, with some bookshelves; and every other square metre of space was occupied by 400 blowlamps, from 3 litres downwards. They were on the floor, on top of the shelves and the cupboard, hanging on the walls, on the windowills – everywhere. You had to be terribly careful where you put your feet, in case you stood on one.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May was resting day, when we got down to serious blowlamp business. Janus saw my Wellington and immediately played me at my own game of persuading me that his need for it was greater than mine. The argument had raged for a day or two, which I had managed to resist, but the pressure was too great and eventually, at lunch one day, he disappeared, only to return with an Express Phlox, one of the circular numbered ones and to add weight to his offer he included a 2 litre Barthel HSCS tractor ignition-lamp for the hot bulb. How could I resist an offer like that, especially as at the 2 or 3 rallies where I had the Wellington on display, not one person had noticed or commented on it. But when I put the

Phlox out at Dordrecht and later at Almere, it attracted enormous attention, about 20% of spectators asking what it was.

Apart from all that, there was much to see with Janus' collection. I think he had about 1500 lamps, all polished and varnished, which of course retained their appearance from when we had visited two years before. He had acquired some extra lamps since our last visit, including a Landini starting lamp (see Blowlamp News No 54, page 13/14) and a vertical FJ model "A", very impressive. Unfortunately I failed to acquire either. I don't mind about the FJ, but I would like a Landini lamp to add to my ever growing collection of tractor lamps.

(While on the subject of engine starting lamps, I recently met an engine owner who expressed an interest in buying my entire collection of engine and tractor lamps, when I eventually dispose of them. He did not flinch at the mention of an average price of £85-00. As I have about 45 of them – wow!!)

Back to the blowlamps, we looked at, admired, marvelled at his great collection, including a 3/4 litre Sievert which had assumed an interesting shape after "blowing out" – very bulbous. I did manage to acquire another soldering butt, a Lotkunze, from Germany and Tom bought several lamps of various makes and sizes. I felt rather like a small boy let loose in a wonderful toy shop, only to be told "don't touch, you cannot have any!" There were so many variations of different lamps which had had so many modifications through the ages. Now he has a Wellington, but a little bird told that he tried to acquire a whacking great vertical off another member of the Blowlamp society by offering him the Wellington.

The following day we visited Toon and Nellie Van Ool, but although he has a vast collection of blowlamps – some 2500 I believe, most were stored away, out of view, in his enormous shed full of goodies.

Having spent a very pleasant week discussing and photographing blowlamps, we moved on to Dordrecht and the first of the rallies. It was at this point that the weather took a turn for the worse. We set up the stand on the quayside in the Nieuwhaven, which was the inner part of the harbour. I was told it was the oldest part of the oldest town in Holland. We had to set up the stand both days and then take it away at night, as it was on the public highway. Tom and I were paying our second visit to this excellent rally, having first gone there in 2004 as it a biannual event. It is said that 250,000 people visit the rally over the 2 days, as many as the Great Dorset Steam Fair gets over 5 days, and having taken part I can believe it, although the weather probably had an effect on numbers this year. However there were plenty of English engine men and steamers taking part. In 2004, Old Glory did a good write up on the rally and even came and introduced themselves to us, but we did not get a mention in the article despite the fact that we were the first blow lamp display they ever had and also the fact we came from England might just have been interesting to the readers.

Despite the poor weather, Dordrecht was a great success and the Phlox attracted much comment, especially when we explained that it was a branding iron, mainly for use on wooden crates. However the Dutch seemed to think that all those sent to prison should maybe be branded on the forehead to show that they had been involved in criminal activities. I was quite amazed how many people came up with similar comments, over the 2 days.

After the rally was over we spent a couple of days resting in the campsite as a couple of "Golden Oldies" like Tom and I get quite puffed with all the travelling (over 1000 miles round trip), but nevertheless I hope to do it once more, if I am not too clapped out.

On to Almere, which is a 4 day show, starting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. I think this was some sort of Bank Holiday and was probably the best day, which included a wandering jazz band, New Orleans style, and a superb pipe and drum band which I think came from Scotland. We only made one purchase here, both getting an Oerlikon for 25 euros.

Again the weather was not kind to us and at one stage the standing water was almost flowing into the awning. One of the visitors, who came from England, on finding out where lived, immediately invited me to put on a show at Wolverton Museum of Country Life, which is just



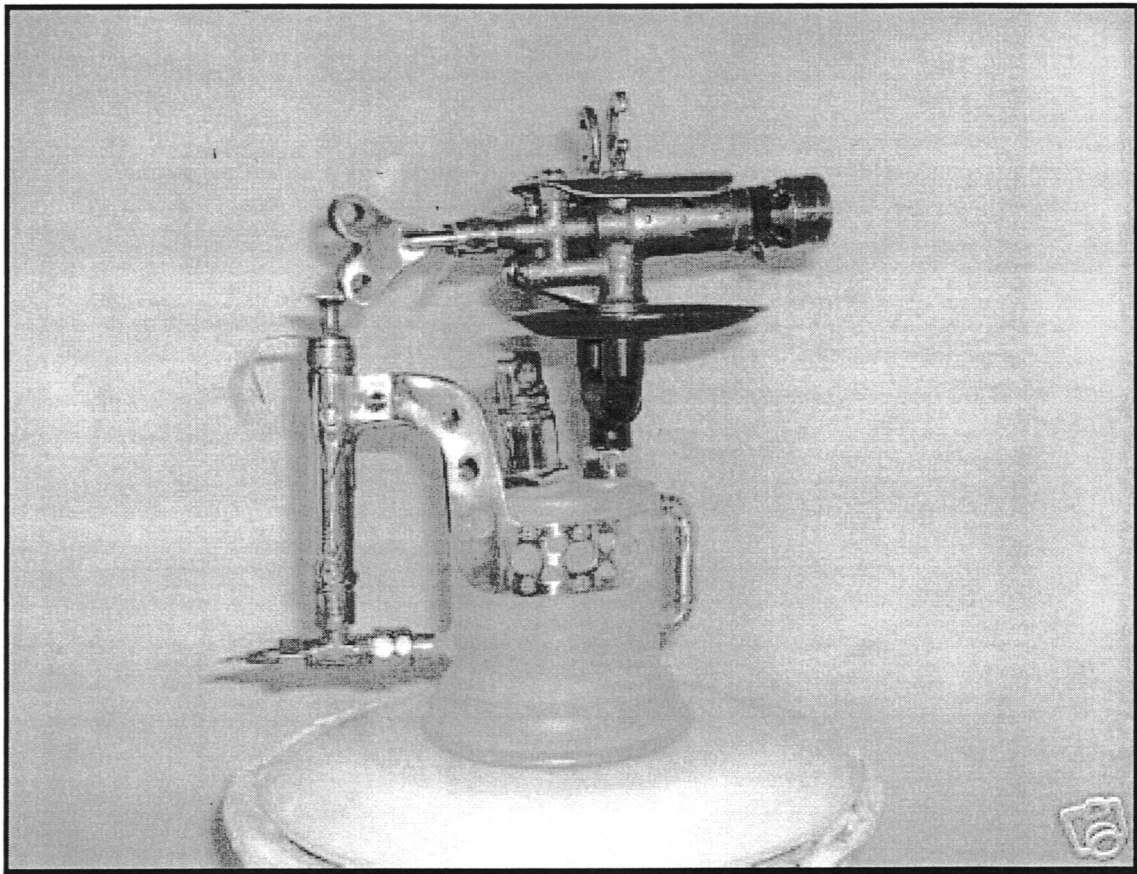
down the road from home. One thing at Almere, which is always quite interesting is the "Boys with their toys" who play with digging equipment, draglines, amphibious vehicles, tanks, lorries, caterpillar tractors etc., both on the sandy beach and in the water of the Inland Sea.

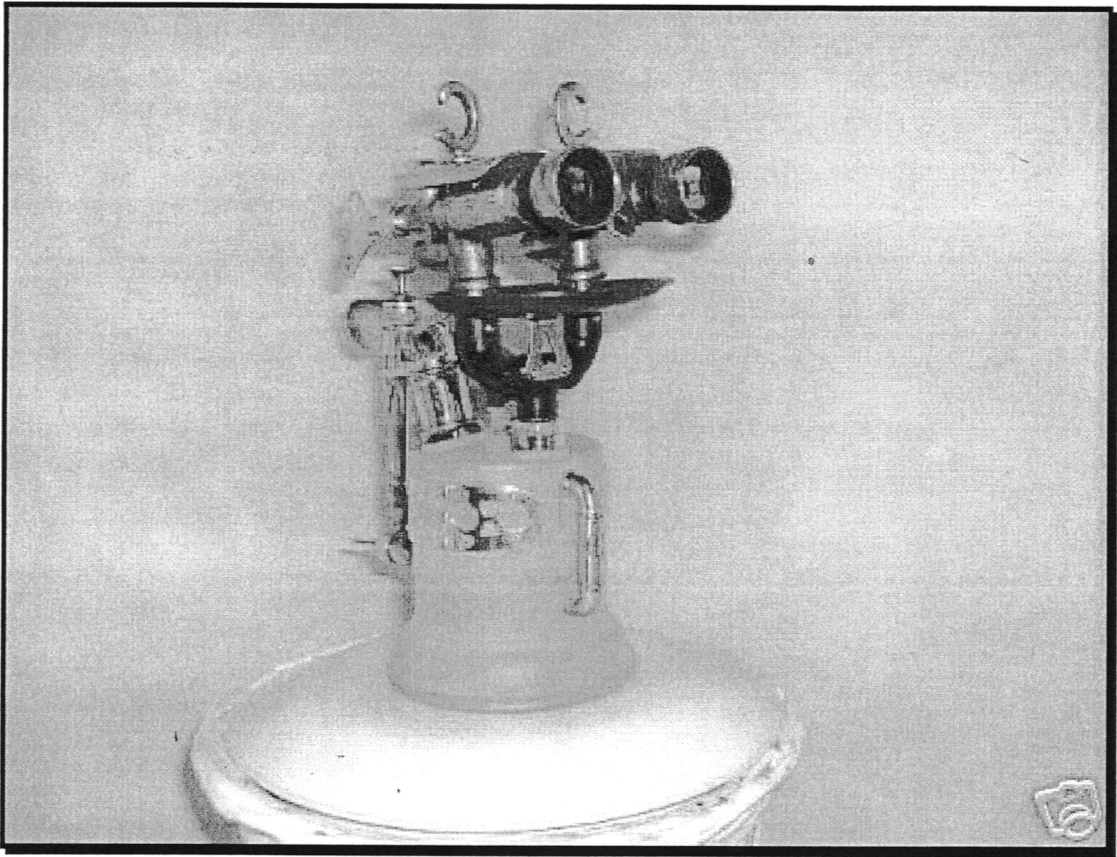
All good things come to an end so we packed up and left on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, returning to Dunkerque and catching a late ferry back to Dover on Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, eventually reaching home on the Tuesday.

### **EBAY FIND**

One lucky member is now the proud owner of the blowlamp shown in the following photographs. It appears to be a one off, with all the fittings and double burners made of copper. One interesting feature, on the front of the tank is a copper tube with a sight glass, enabling you to see the fuel level.

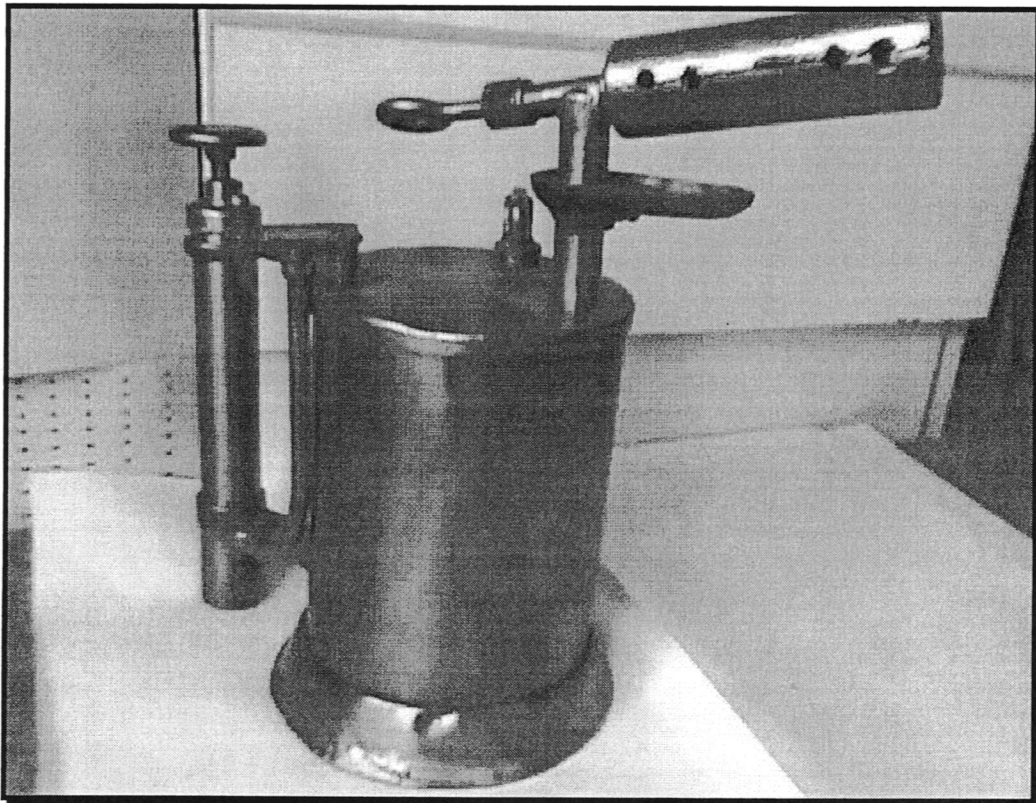
Obviously a lot of time and skill went into making this lamp; unfortunately producing the photos in black and white does not do it justice.





### ***GLOBE BLOW TORCH***

Paul Whiddett has sent photographs of 2 Globe blow torches, the first one is has the logo Chicago.

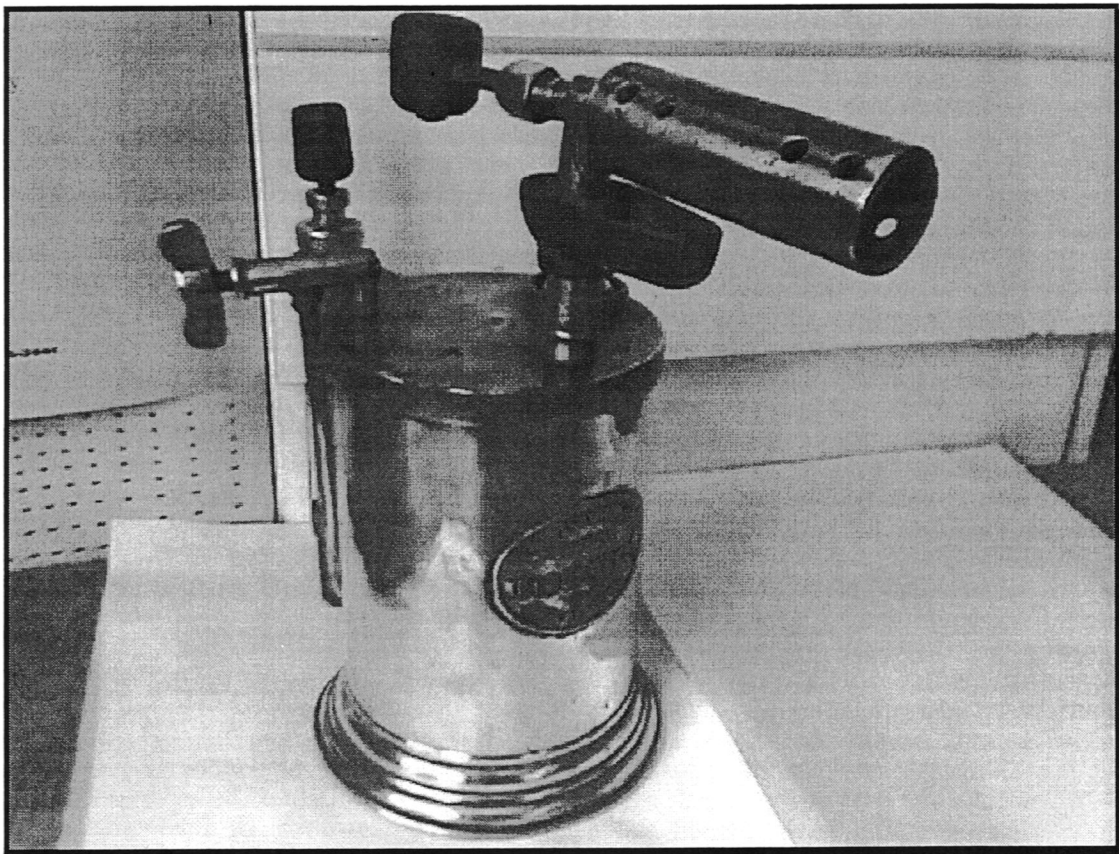


Paul sent an email to Dr Charles Smith to find out the difference and this is his reply.

There are a number of these same torches, each with different labels, such as Best Street Light Co of Clanton, Ohio; Sun Vapour Street Light Co also of Clanton; Boston Globe Gas Light Co of Boston, Mass; Knapp Mfg of New York and the Chicago and Pennsylvania Globe torches, among several others. All have the external front mounted feed tube to the burner, all have the pump in the handle and all have the same pressure feed tube from the base of the pump to the top of the tank, with the shut off valve where the tube enters the tank. These features were included in a patent by William P Butler, in November 1889 (US Patent No 415,613). When we see these torches we simply refer to them as from the Butler patent.

All of the companies were involved in early street lighting. At the time, natural gas was fed to the burner of the lamps and blow torches were used in lighting the vapours. In the early days, a guy would actually rest a ladder against the lamp pole and climb to the top of the burner. So we believe that Pennsylvania Globe (and others) had the manufacturer label their torches with their logo.

About the manufacturer, we feel reasonably certain (not positive) that The Turner Brass Works of Chicago manufactured them all. We think this because William Butler lived in Chicago, the same town as the Turner operations. But more telling is the fact that Turner manufactured and marketed an identical torch to the Butler Patent. We believe Turner acquired the Butler patent, produced the torches for themselves as well as labelling the same torches for other lighting companies.



The Pennsylvania Globe

FROM THE PATENTS OFFICE

N<sup>o</sup> 23,131



A.D. 1900

Date of Application, 18th Dec., 1900

Complete Specification Lett, 18th Oct., 1901—Accepted, 23rd Nov., 1901

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

**A Portable Vapour Lamp or Stove for the use of Plumbers and the like**

ARTHUR SHIRLEY and EDWARD SHIRLEY both of Camden House Foleshill Coventry Manufacturers of Bicycle Materials do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 Our invention consists of an improved portable vapour lamp or stove such as is used by plumbers, painters and electricians. According to our invention we construct our improved lamp of brass or other suitable metal or metals & we prefer to arrange the various working parts in the following manner. We provide a cylindrical holder for the liquid fuel provided with cotton wool or other suitable filtering material. Through this cylindrical holder we pass a  
10 tube which extends into the liquid fuel, which tube is slotted or open at its lower extremity to permit of the liquid fuel being sucked into same. Through the length of this tube another tube slotted to admit the fuel passes and through this internal tube a regulating needle is passed for the purpose of opening or closing a hole in the end of such internal tube thus forming a regulating  
15 valve. The burner is an ordinary vapour lamp burner affixed to or connected with the aforesaid internal tube & provided with holes for the admission of air. Underneath the tube & at or near the end thereof when the needle valve operates a tray to hold spirit is provided for the purpose of applying the necessary heat for the purpose of starting the operation of the lamp.

20 The operation of the lamp is as follows. The spirit contained in the aforesaid tray is ignited and generates heat in the tube. This causes liquid fuel to be drawn up the tube & passed through the valve in the form of vapour to the burner where it mixes with air drawn through the holes in the burner and forms an inflammable mixture. A light is applied to the burner & the heat  
25 thereby generated maintains a constant feed of liquid fuel until the supply is exhausted thus rendering our improved lamp perfectly automatic.

An adjustable handle and metal band is fitted also thus enabling the lamp to be worked in any position

Dated this 18th day Decr 1901

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ARTHUR SHIRLEY  
EDWARD SHIRLEY

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

**"A Portable Vapour Lamp or Stove for the use of Plumbers and the like."**

35 We, ARTHUR SHIRLEY and EDWARD SHIRLEY, both of Camden House, Foleshill, Coventry, in the County of Warwick, do hereby declare the nature of this  
[Price 8d.]





*A Portable Vapour Lamp or Stove for the use of Plumbers and the like.*

invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to improvements in portable vapour lamps or stoves for the use of plumbers and the like.

According to our invention the reservoir of the lamp is provided with a tube 5 which extends completely through the reservoir and communicates with the inflammable fluid in said reservoir. Within this tube is situated a slotted tube, and the space between these tubes is filled with vapour filtering material. One end of these tubes is closed and the other end communicates with a nozzle provided with air holes and adapted to receive a suitable burner or tool. The 10 communication between the tubes and the burner or tool is controlled by a regulating valve. We also provide the lamp with a tray in which inflammable liquid is burnt for heating the nozzle to start the operation of the lamp.

The handle of the lamp is carried by a band adapted to move in a groove or guide carried by the reservoir. 15

In order that our invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect we will proceed to describe the same more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings in which;

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of the lamp.

Figure 2 is a section on line A—B Figure 1, and 20

Figure 3 is a side view of a soldering tool for use with said lamp.

*a* is the reservoir for containing the inflammable fluid. *a*<sup>1</sup> is cotton wool or similar absorbent material situated within the reservoir *a*. *b* is the tube passing completely through the reservoir *a* and communicating therewith through an opening *c*. *d* is a tube situated concentrically within the tube *b*, and provided 25 with a longitudinal slot *e* communicating with the annular space between the tubes *b* and *d*. This annular space is filled with suitable filtering material such as asbestos *f*. One end of the tube *d* is provided with an extension *g* having air inlet holes *h*, and the opposite end of said tube is closed by a plug *i*. The tube *d* is provided with a nozzle *j* which communicates with the extension *g* and is 30 controlled by a screw valve *k*. The stem of the valve *k* passes longitudinally through the tube *d*, extends fluid-tight through the plug *i*, and is provided with a finger-piece *l* by which it can be manipulated. A band *m* which is capable of moving in a groove *n* round the reservoir *a*, carries the handle *o*. The extension *g* is provided with a bayonet slot *p* with which a pin *q* carried by a burner *r* 35 of any convenient form engages. The burner *r* may be replaced by a burner such as *s* for removing paint from painted surfaces, or by a plumbers soldering tool such as *t* (Figure 3). *u* is the tray in which inflammable liquid is burned for starting the operation of the lamp. The reservoir *a* is provided with an opening or mouth *v* which is closed by a screw plug *w* and through which the 40 said reservoir is filled or replenished with inflammable liquid.

To start the operation of the lamp some inflammable liquid is first burned in the tray *u*, thus heating the tubes *b* and *d* and thereby vapourizing some of the inflammable liquid in the reservoir *a*. The vapour thus produced enters the opening *c*, passes through the filtering material *f*, enters the tube *d* through 45 the slot *e*, and then passes through the nozzle *j* into the extension *g* and burner or tool where it is mixed with the necessary quantity of air and burned. When once the burner or tool has been started, the heat generated is sufficient to maintain the feed of vapourized fuel, until the contents of the reservoir *a* are exhausted. 50

The amount of vapour escaping through the nozzle *j* is regulated by turning the finger piece *l* and thereby adjusting the screw valve *k*.

The handle *o* may be moved around the reservoir *a* into any convenient position for working; the band *m* sliding freely in the groove *n*.

*A Portable Vapour Lamp or Stove for the use of Plumbers and the like.*

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

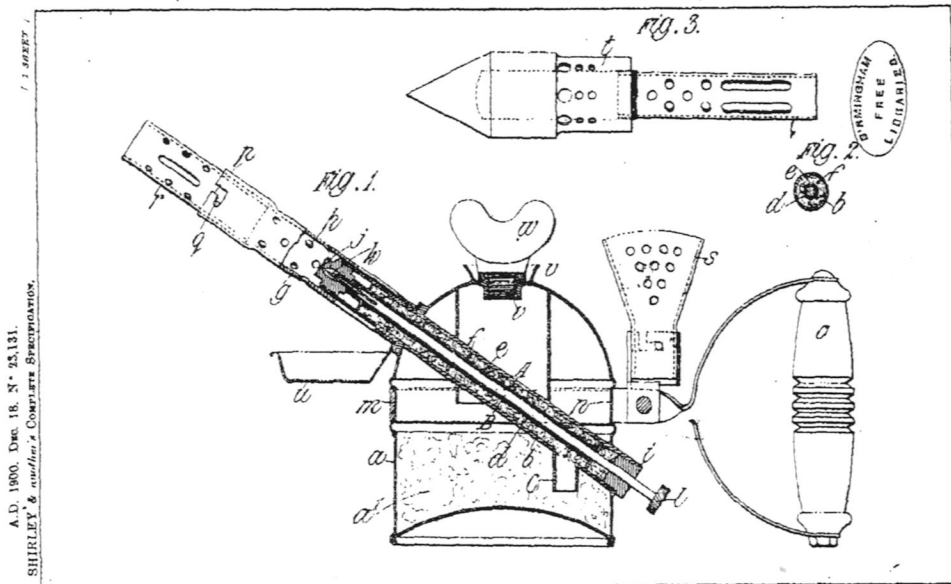
1. A vapour lamp provided with a tube which passes through and communicates with the reservoir and which is adapted to carry a burner or soldering tool, substantially as described.
2. In the aforesaid vapour lamp, concentric tubes which communicate with the reservoir and have the space between them filled with filtering material, substantially as and for the purpose specified.
3. The combination with the aforesaid concentric tubes, of the valve for controlling the outlet from said tubes, substantially as and for the purpose specified.
4. In the aforesaid vapour lamp, the handle carried by a band adapted to move about the reservoir substantially as and for the purpose specified.
5. A vapour lamp having its parts constructed, arranged and adapted to operate substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings for the purpose specified.

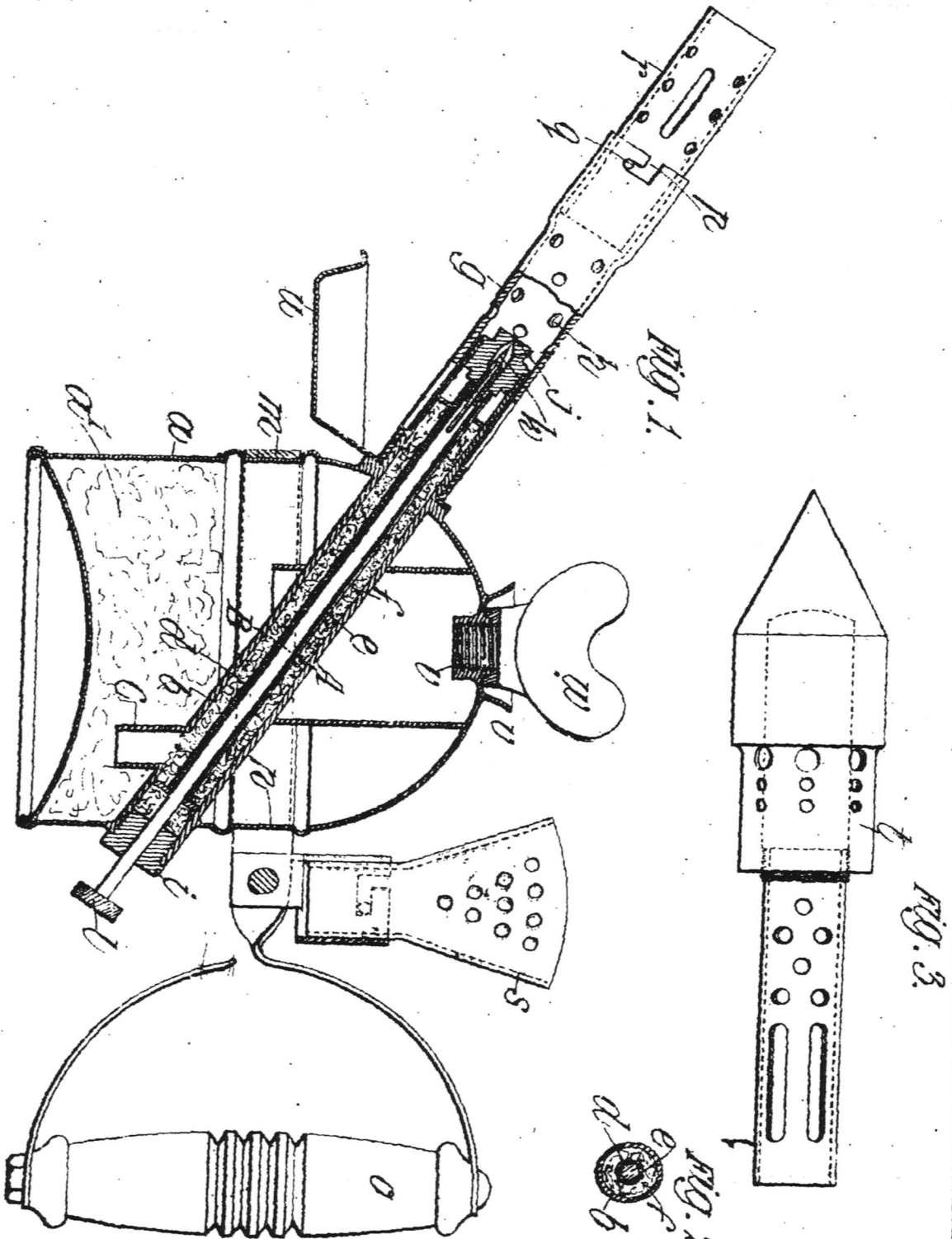
Dated this 18th day of October 1901.

HASELTINE, LAKE. & Co.  
45 Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.,  
Agents for the Applicants.

Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Malcomson & Co., Ltd.—1901.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]





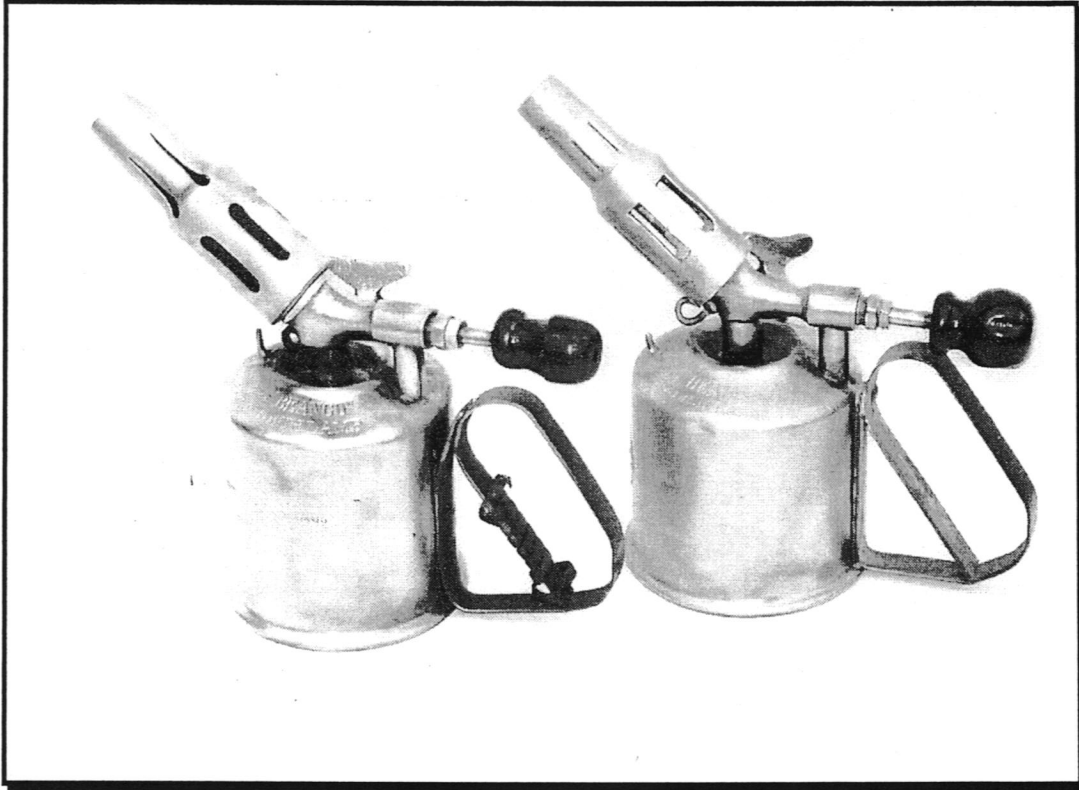
[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale]

BIRMINGHAM  
FREE  
LIBRARY.

## ***IDENTITY AND ASSISTANCE***

Keith Hawkins has sent in this picture of 2 lamps which look very similar. One is made by Primus and the other by Optimus. On the top of each tank is stamped "BEANCO".

Does anyone have any similar lamps, either made by the above manufacturers, or by others, and where did the name come from?



## ***ENGINE STARTING LAMPS***



The Sievertia blowlamp



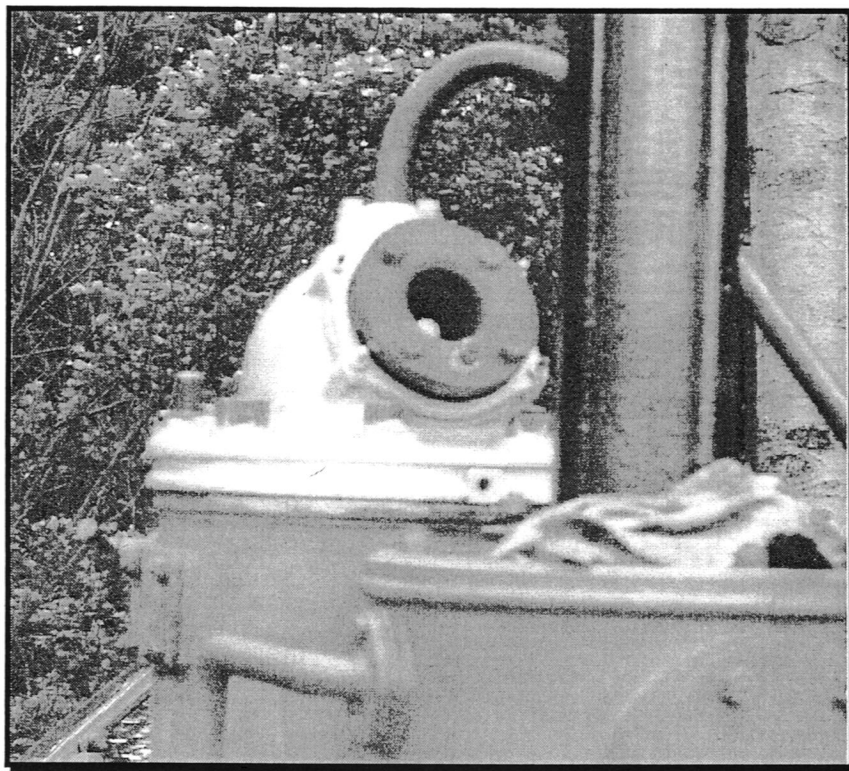
The Sievertia blowlamp seen here is starting a Bolnes, hot tube marine engine. This was a large single cylinder engine, standing some 3.0m high.

One of the more unusual starting lamps is the Kromhout, owned by Keith Hawkins and I must admit that having seen it, I was not quite sure how it worked.



Ignoring the nice wooden plinth which Keith has mounted the lamp on for display purposes, the lamp is attached to the engine by means of the nut at the bottom right of the picture.

This is attached to a ring which surrounds the hot tube, at the top of the cylinder, a close up of which you will see in the next photograph.

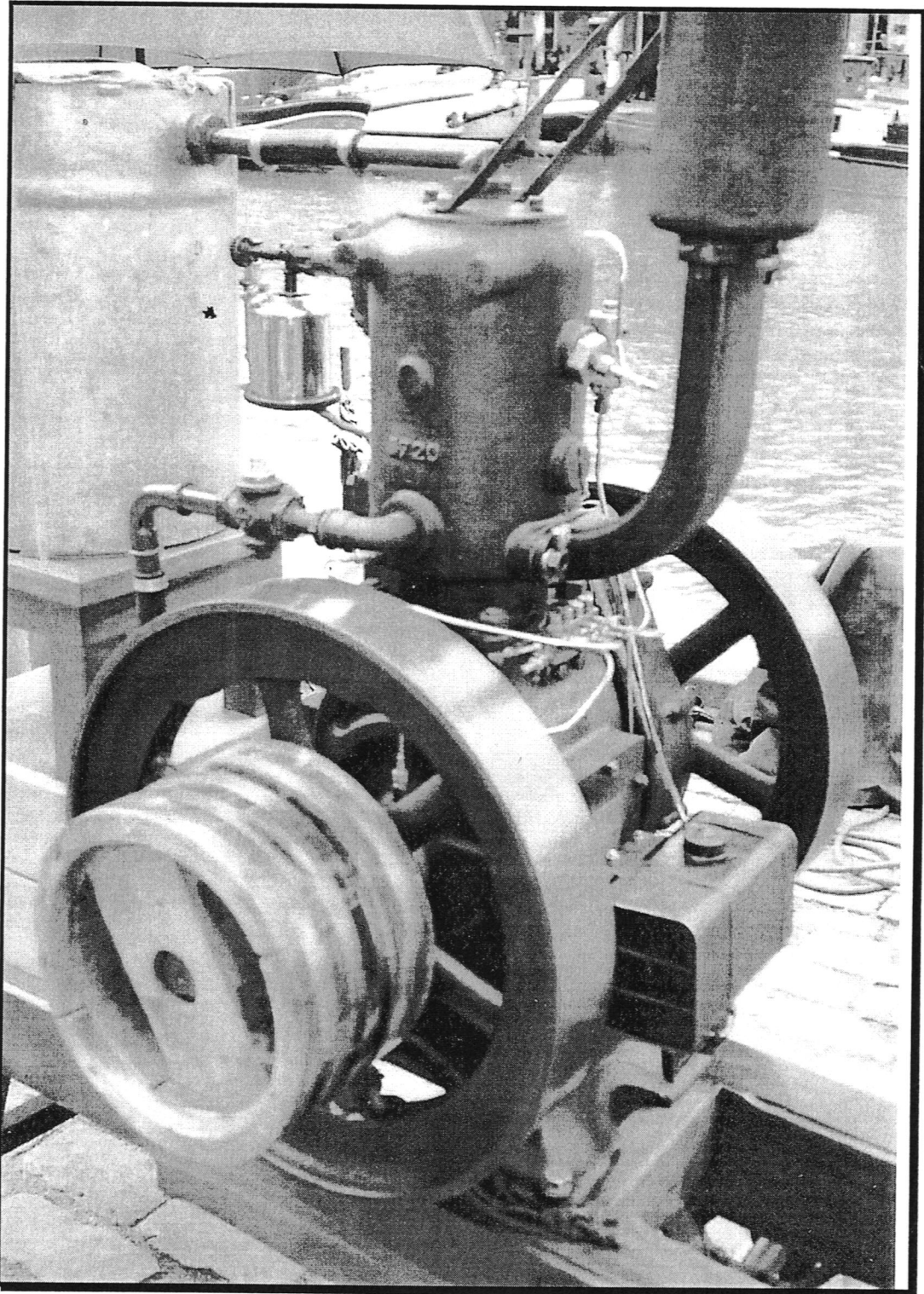


The bolt protruding at 6 o' clock is the point of attachment, with the flame trained down onto the hot tube.



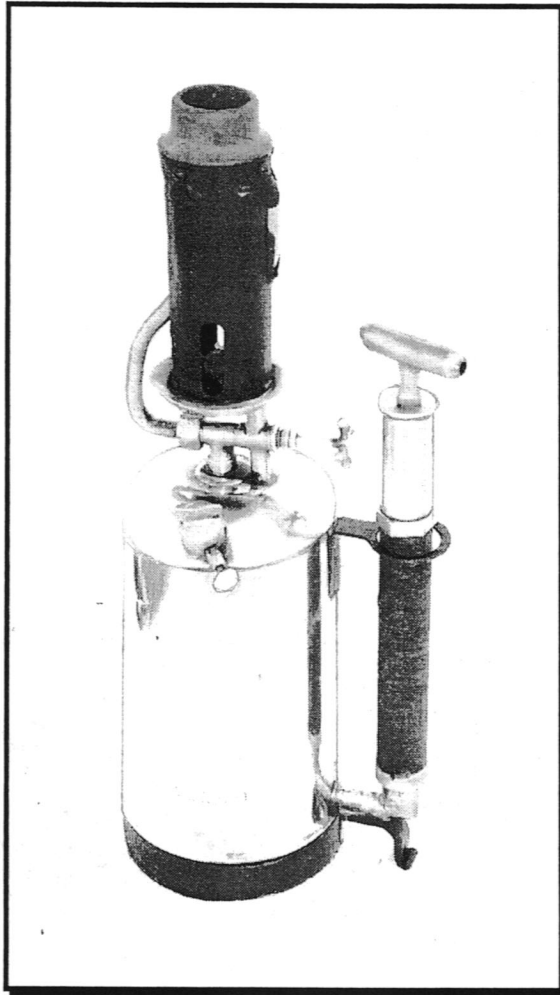
A view of the complete engine.

The final offering in the working lamp section shows a "Fivet - Rip hot tube stationary engine, seen at this years Dordrecht rally. The blowlamp being used is not the correct one and the engine owner was not sure which lamp it should have.



Whilst on the subject of engine starting lamps, Dave Thomas has found a Primus 620, which was used at Littleborough, just north of Rochdale for starting a large mill engine.

The burner arrangement looks a lot like the burner on a 617 which was extensively by the Allen engine company. The difference with this lamp is that it has a tank capacity of 3.25 litres, so you can imagine it was used to heat a pretty large hot bulb.



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Blowlamp News is published in March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion in the next issue should be with the Editor at least 4 weeks before the issue date.

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