

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 64

JUNE

2008

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

The year is passing by all too quickly, I seem to have had little time to devote to blowlamps; hopefully things will improve from now.

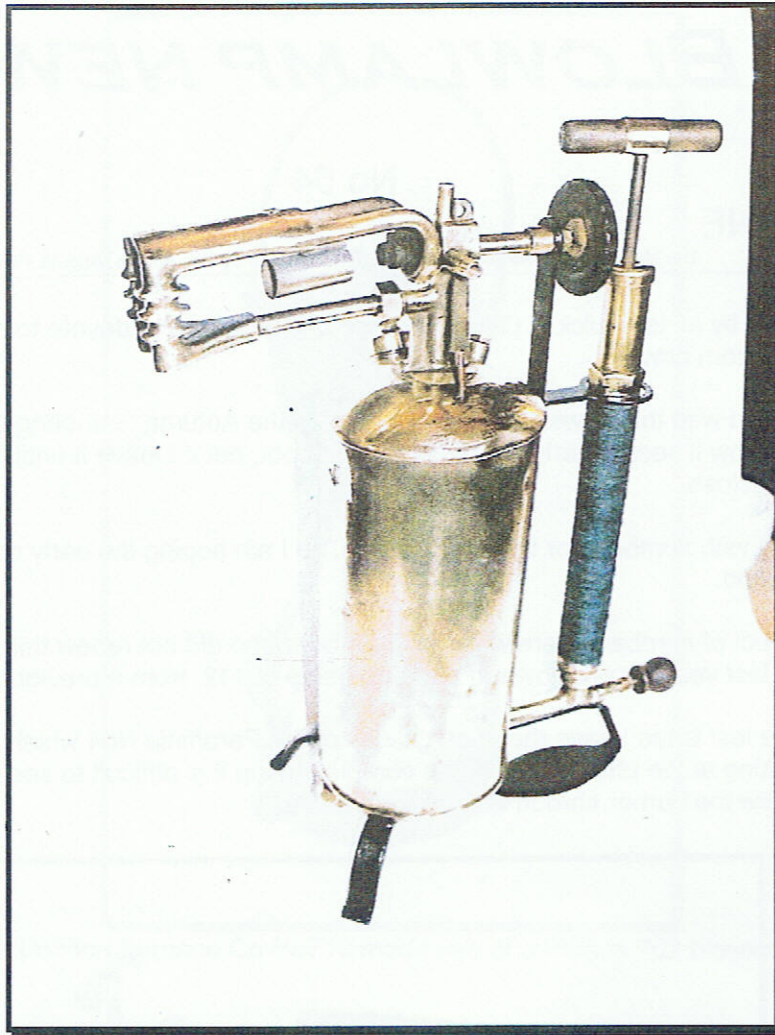
You will find included with this newsletter, an invitation to the Autumn Gathering at Toddington on October 25th. I know it seems early to start thinking about, but if I leave it until the September issue it will be getting a bit close.

We have struggled with numbers for the past 2 years, so I am hoping the early notification will encourage many of you to attend.

Whilst on the subject of numbers there were 18 members who did not renew this year and putting that with the losses of last year we are down to a membership of 112, from a previous high of 135.

As promised in the last issue I have the photographs of the Paraffina No4 which Paul Whiddett brought to Belgium. Looking at the photograph of the complete lamp it is difficult to see what is so special; it is not until you remove the burner shroud that all is revealed.





As you will see, the burner is quite unlike anything you would expect to find. The blowlamp is now in the ownership of Gerard Muller, who has done a fine job in restoring the lamp.

DIARY DATES

For those of you who like to attend Steam Rally's, the following dates and places are where you will find Keith Hawkins, who is always ready for a chat and a cup of tea.

5/6th July – Chiltern Rally, Great Missenden; 19/20th July – Much Marcle; 1st to 3rd August – Gloucester Rally, Kemble; 9/10th August – Driffield; 16/17th August – Lincoln; 27th to 31st August – Great Dorset Steam Fair; 13/14th September – Barleylands; 8/9th November – Tractor Rally, Newark.

LENK TORCHES (Part 2)

*By
Keith Hawkins*

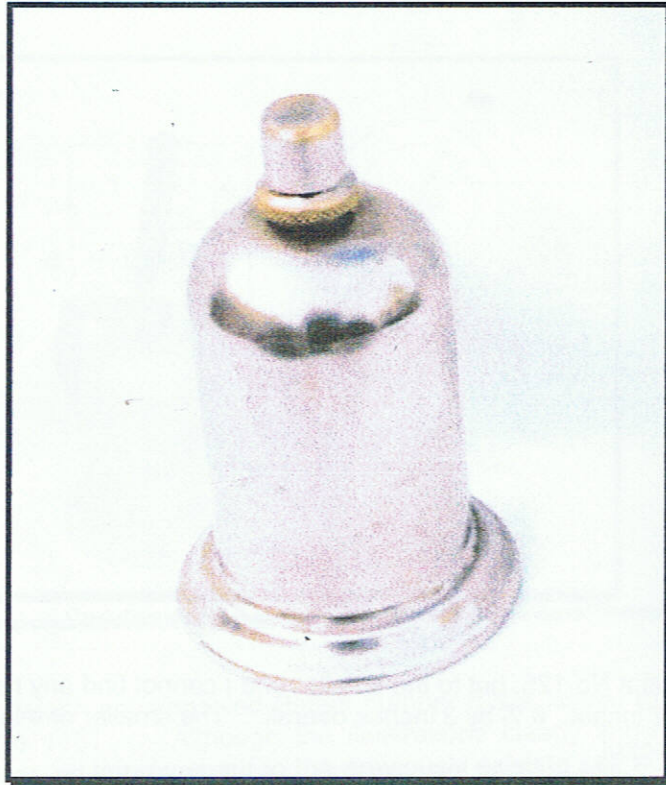
The second part of the feature starts with a bit of a mystery, the tank on this torch is four and seven eighths inches high and one and three quarters wide, with total dimensions being six and one eighth inches both in height and width. I think it is probably alcohol fuelled and the nearest I have seen to it seems to have a tube fitting fixed to the front, beneath the burner, but this one does not have a clip to fit it in place. For those of you with a copy of Vintage Blowtorches, there is a picture on page 274.



Are these "Red Dragon" torches?

The taller one maybe is a No 125, but to the smaller one I cannot find any reference. The tank on the former is 5 inches by 2 inches, 8 ½ by 3 inches overall. The smaller one is 7 ¾ by 3 inches overall and both are for use with petrol.

The next photograph shows a model 205A alcohol torch which is a Halide detector, with a bottom filler. The overall size of the torch is 5 ½ by 3 inches and dated from around 1941.



I think this next torch is a No 25; the measurements are 5 by 3 inches and numbers 26, 27 and 28 all come with special fittings to provide equipment for use in medical / dental laboratory work.



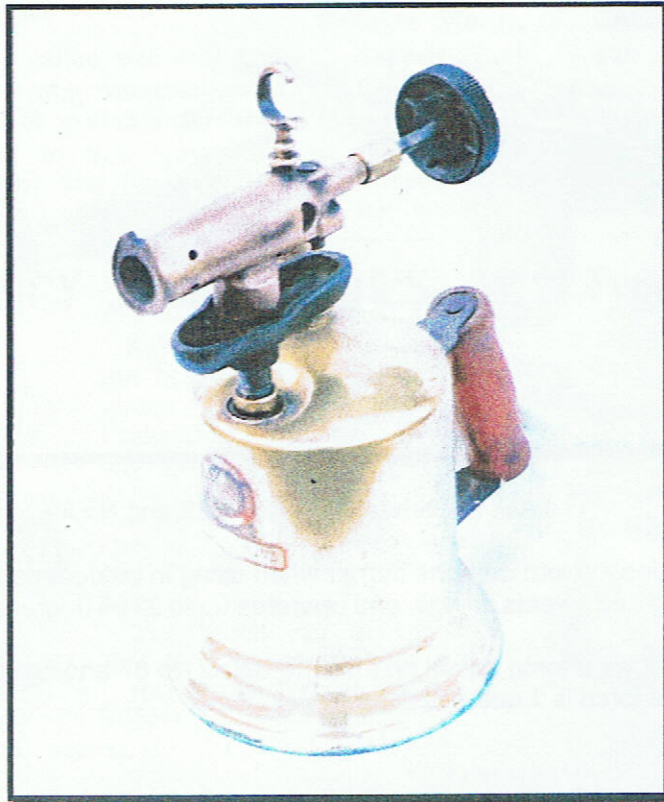
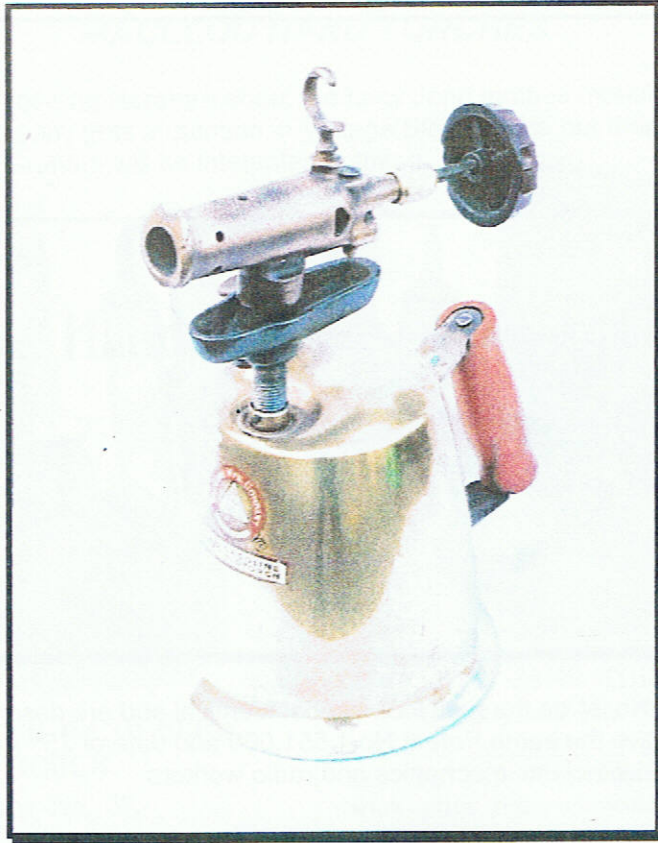
No 108 on the left and No 24 on the right look almost identical and are described as "automatic alcohol blowtorches". Both have the same Patent No 1,551,069 and date of 25th Aug 1925 and were particularly for use by electricians, mechanics and radio workers.



Lenk Superheat No T72 – 222 and No 99

The T72 windshield slides forward over the burner when using in outdoor conditions. It does light brazing, silver soldering and sweats fittings, and operates up to 2700 degrees Fahrenheit.

The next photograph shows a torch based on the Otto Bernz No 87 and no doubt was supplied by them, but in brass form. The torch is 1 quart size.



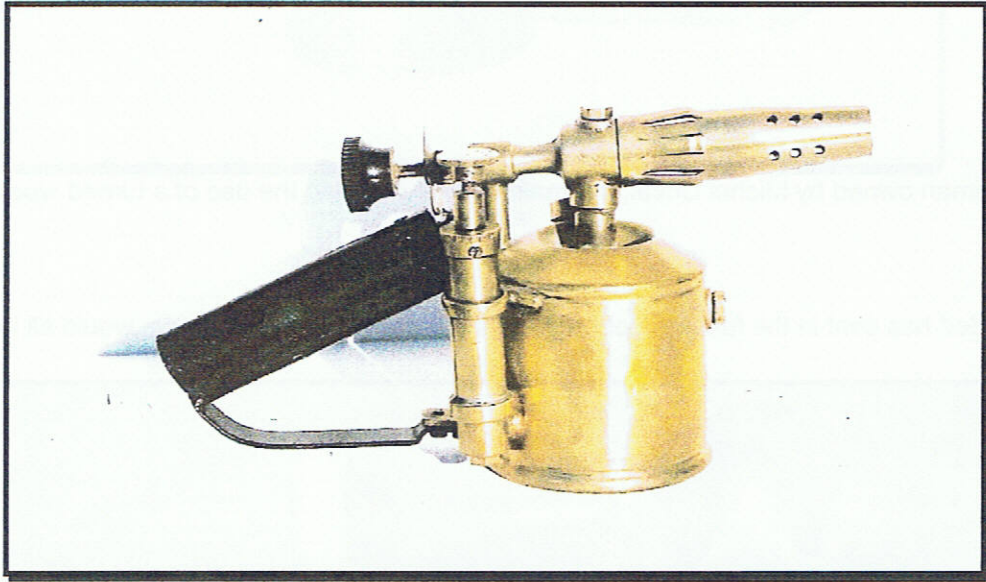
This torch is again based on an Otto Bernz, this time a 15A and is also 1 quart size.

WRIGHTS OF LYMM

Over the winter months I have managed to photograph several British blowlamps with a view to including them in the proposed Catalogue. Using a list of manufacturers compiled from the member's survey, two makes listed were Firefly and Fireman.

I must admit that until the Toddington meeting last year, I had not connected the two, which are both lamps distributed by Wrights of Lymm.

Malcolm Forster had discovered that Wrights distributed lamps under their own Brand, although they did not manufacture. They were selling a range of Sievert lamps during the 1950's and were also agents for Taymax. Nothing could be found about their association with Bladon, who obviously manufactured the blanks for the Firefly and Fireman brands, but at a guess they could date back to the 1930's.



The Firefly owned by Tom Bartlett with the very distinctive Bladon layout.



The Firefly owned by Dave Thomas, this time without the pump



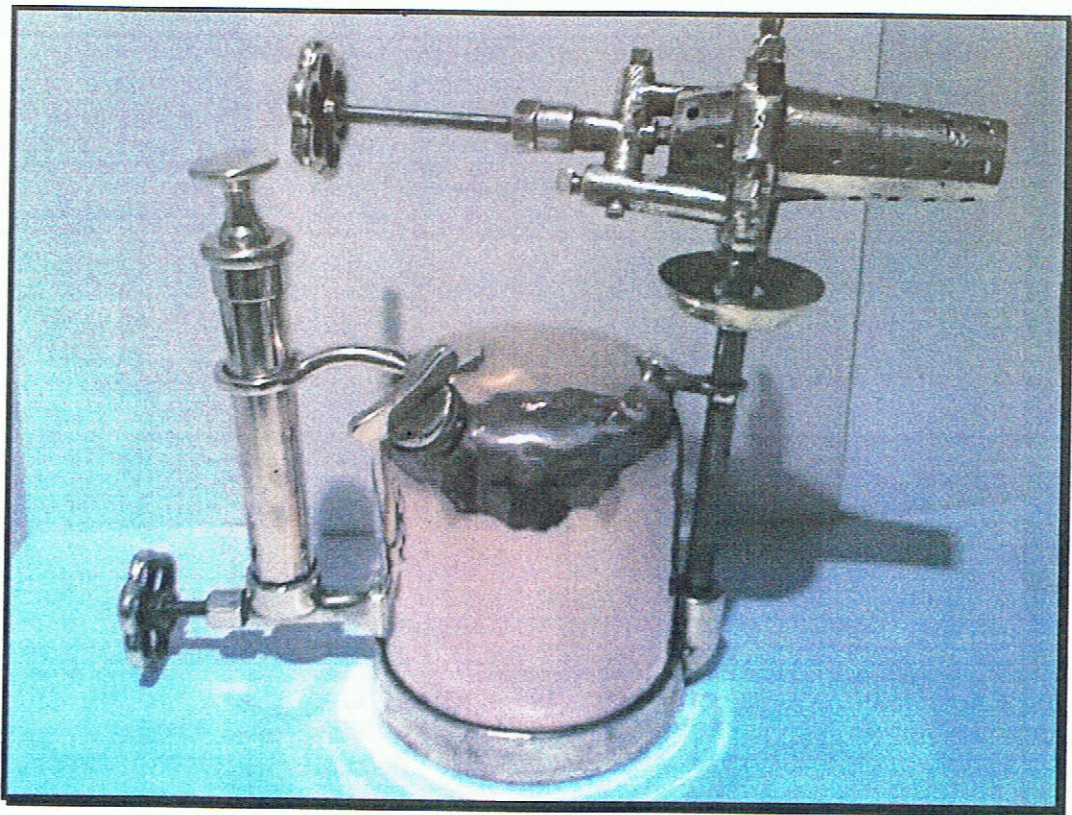
The Fireman owned by Michel Duval, the main difference being the use of a turned wooden handle.

PICTURE GALLERY

Paul Whiddett has sent in the following photographs of blowlamps I am sure we would all like to own.



We have all probably heard of the British Invincible but how many of us know that there is also an American Invincible



This is a Lyss lamp which Paul found in quite a poor condition. It is obvious from the photograph that a lot of hard work has gone into the restoration.

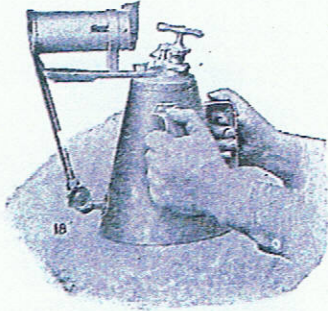


And finally one spotted on ebay; a very rare vertical Burrige.

MACLEOD HAND TORCHES

Chris Naylor acquired the following literature about the Lucy Jane torches manufactured by Macleod & Co of Cincinnati. The company gets a mention in Vintage Blowtorches but there are no pictures, so I am sure Ron, Charles and Graham will be interested in these.

Macleod Hand Torches--Kerosene Fuel Only



KEROSENE HAND BLOW TORCH.

Our No. 37.

Gives a hot flame 12 inches long.

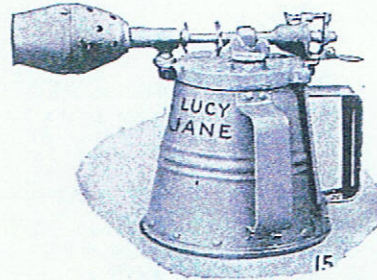
Code Word, BABSH.

Price

Made in 1 gallon size only.

Note the strong construction as compared with ordinary torches.

Burner is of the Vaporizing type and must first be preheated. Use refined oil only.



LUCY JANE TORCH. Compressed Air Type.

Lights instantly, no preheating, can be supplied with a candle wick pilot light if desired.

Will give any size of flame.

Will give any color of flame.

Our No. 38 39

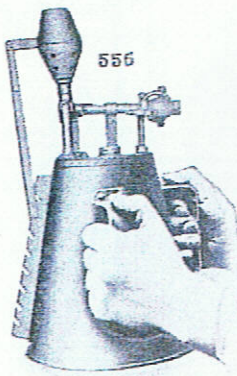
Code Word... WYCAC WYBUG

Capacity Tank. 1/2 gal. 1 gal.

Price

Burner syphons the oil from the tank to the atomizer. Tank is open to the atmosphere and is not under any pressure.

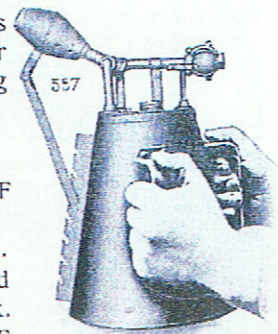
LUCY JANE TORCHES--Angle Type



Burner will swivel to any angle in a vertical plane. This makes it a handy outfit for Preheating, Brazing, Welding and general repair work.

Our No...	40	41	42
Code ...	WYCED	BABZM	WYCIF
Cap. Tank,	1/2	1	2
Price			

The Torch can be adjusted and left to heat up the work.
HANDIEST TORCH WE HAVE SEEN.



Section No. 200. Page 10.

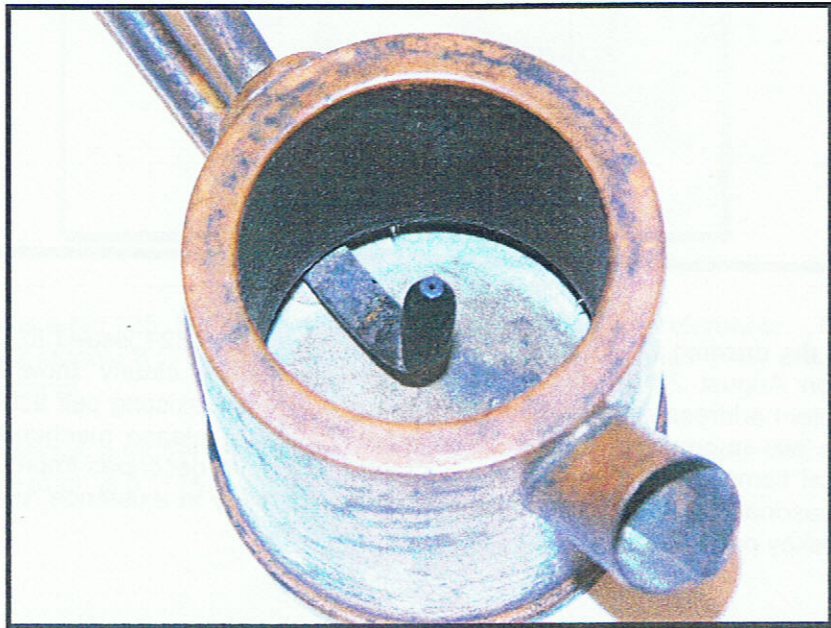
EARLIEST NORTH AMERICAN TORCH

Charles Smith has sent details of what he believes to be the earliest known North American torch, dating from before 1851. He is aware of a number of earlier patents, but believes this to be the earliest actual torch.

The operation of the torch is quite simple and in general similar to the little European self acting alcohol blowlamps, often called "Eolipyles".

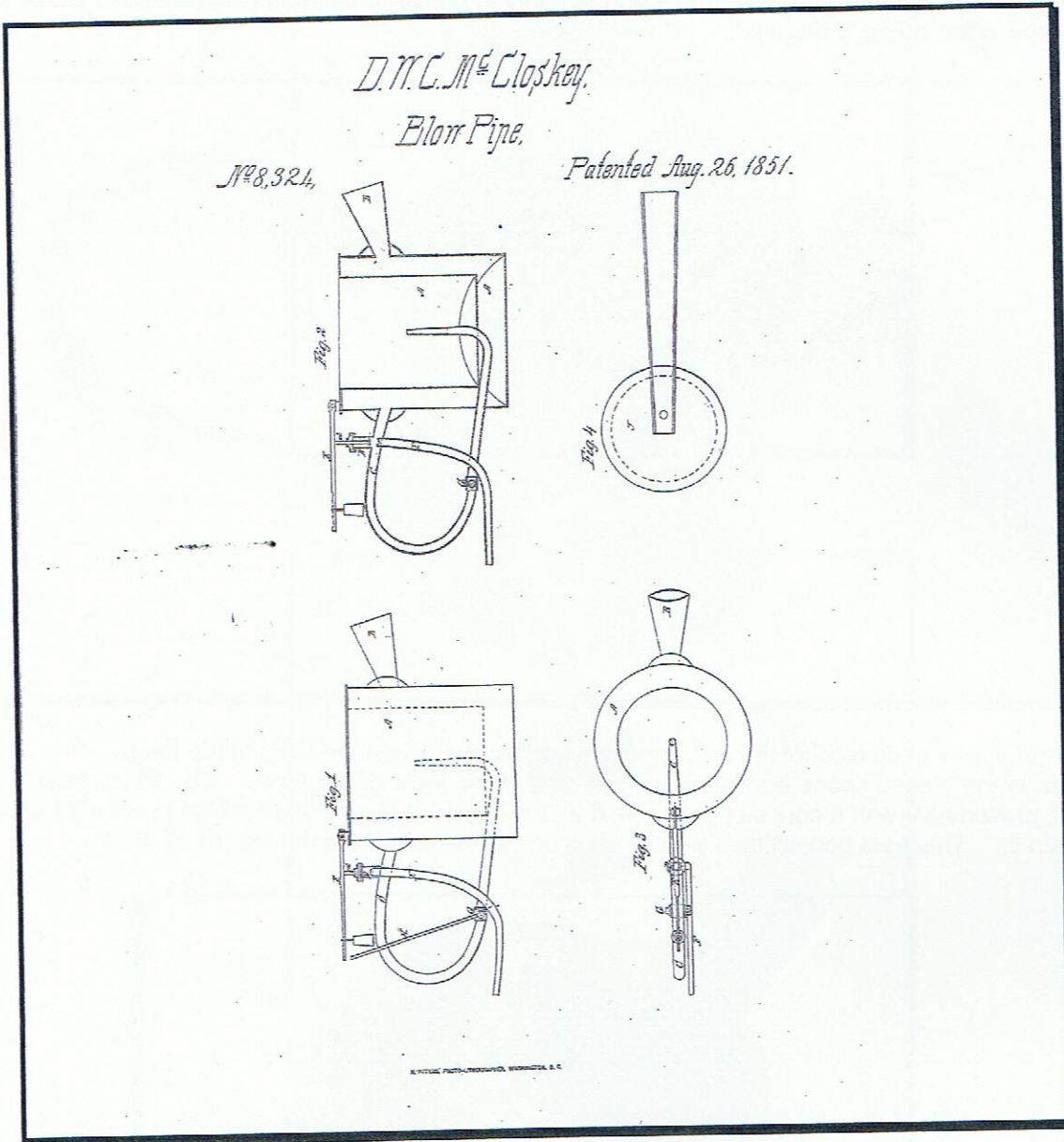


In this torch, one adds alcohol through the large tubular opening in the front of the torch. The alcohol is retained in the closed space between the inner and outer walls of the tank. The filler opening is then sealed, presumably with a cork stopper. Next a small amount of alcohol is added to the central opening and then lit. This heat generates a vapour pressure on the alcohol in the wall of the tank.



The pressure forces alcohol vapours through the top of the burner tube which is also the upper part of the handle. The vapour is forced further along the handle to the burner tip which is located in the middle of the central opening of the tank.

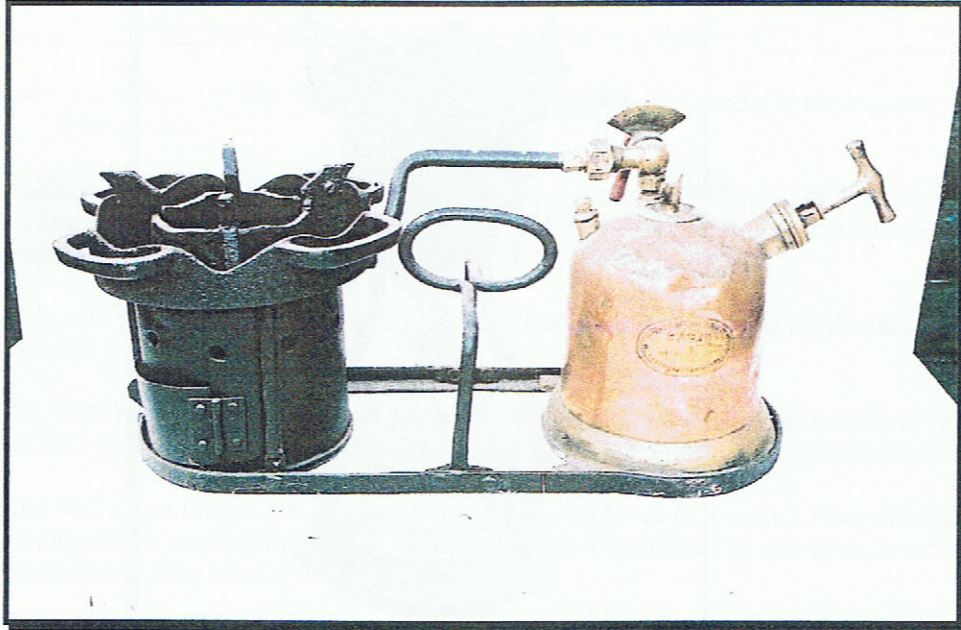
As the vapour exits the burner tip, it is ignited by the burning alcohol in the bottom of the cup. Once the burner tip was ignited, a vertical flame would be present until the alcohol was exhausted, or the lamp was snuffed out. The Patent illustrations show a little snuffer lid.



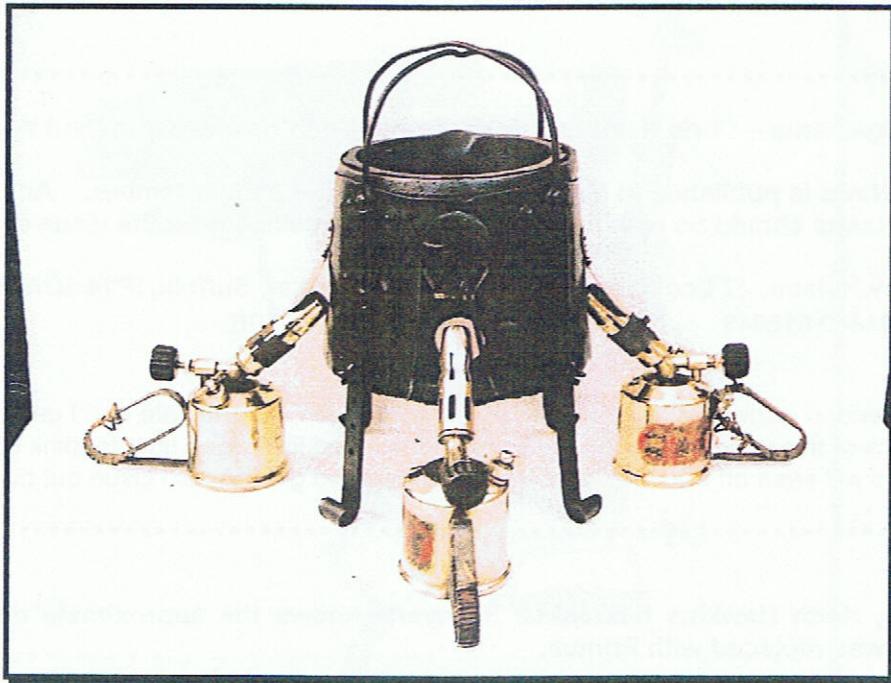
This is a copy of the drawing which accompanied Patent number 8,324 issued to D.W.C. McCloskey of New York City on August 26 1851. Although the illustrations clearly show the little blow torch described, the patent addresses an improvement to the previously existing self acting blow pipe. The patent addresses two improvements, namely a safety pressure release mechanism and a means to obtain a horizontal flame from a "resting" torch. As this patent describes improvements to the blow pipe, it seems reasonable to presume that the torch was already in existence, perhaps several years before the McCloskey patent

FURNACES

This year I have altered my display I take to shows, to include some furnaces. I think they are a great addition to any blowlamp display and they seem to be a talking point with the public. They were used for melting glue, lead and other metals, the larger ones being used by electricity companies for melting bitumen for use in jointing cables.



The Portable Furnace & Patent Co No2



The Governor melting pot made use of 3 of their standard blowlamps



The London Furnace Co No710 made use of a Primus 702 blowlamp.

Acknowledgements – Chris Naylor, Charles Smith, Keith Hawkins and Paul Whiddett

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

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This is the second issue of Blowlamp News which has been a month late and I can only apologise. The first 6 months of this year have been hectic and I have had little or no time to think of blowlamps. I hope things will ease off from now and I will endeavour to get the next issue out by 1st September.

And finally, Keith Hawkins has asked if anyone knows the approximate date when the name B.A.Hjorth was replaced with Primus.