BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 68

JUNE 2009

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

In BN67 I asked members to contact me if they wanted the annual meetings to continue, with a view to my organising one in the Ipswich area. Unfortunately there were only 8 of you who thought it was a good idea, so it looks that meetings are a thing of the past. Great shame, I will certainly miss them.

PRIMUS 850 SERIES

In Keith Hawkins article on the Primus 850 series of blowlamps, he suggested that the No 850 with a flattened burner could have been for paint stripping. Graham Stubbs has sent me the following extract from a Primus catalogue of 1938 that it was sold as a ski wax lamp.

STOVES & RANGES
SOLDERING LAMPS

PRIMUS

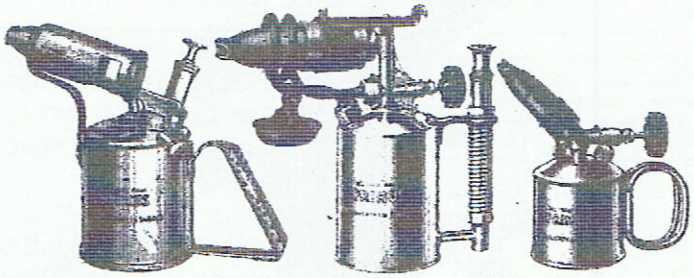
STORM LANTERNS
TABLE LAMPS, ETC.

Lamps for ski waxing

Primus lamps for ski waxing all burn petrol (gasoline), except No. 640, which is intended for paraffin oil (kerosene). They have a broad and flat flame, and the self-pressure lamps Nos. 800, 801 and 850 are of a size and construction making them convenient to take along on ski excursions. Nos. 640 and 860 are provided with a pump and may be recommended for stationary ski waxing service or for larger groups or classes.

No. 800. For petrol. *No. 801. For petrol.*

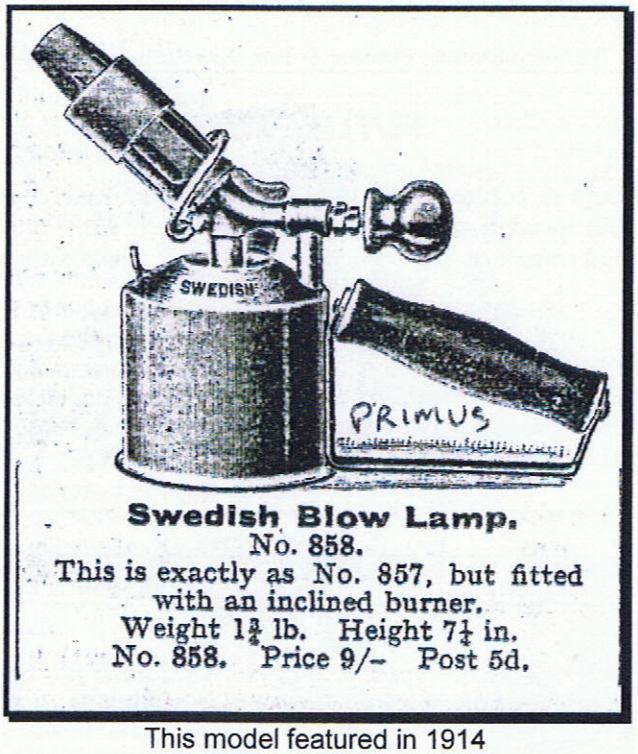
Spare parts for No. 801: folding cleaning needle No. 5480, cleaning needle only No. 5482, filling lid No. 5312, cork packing for filling lid No. 4467.



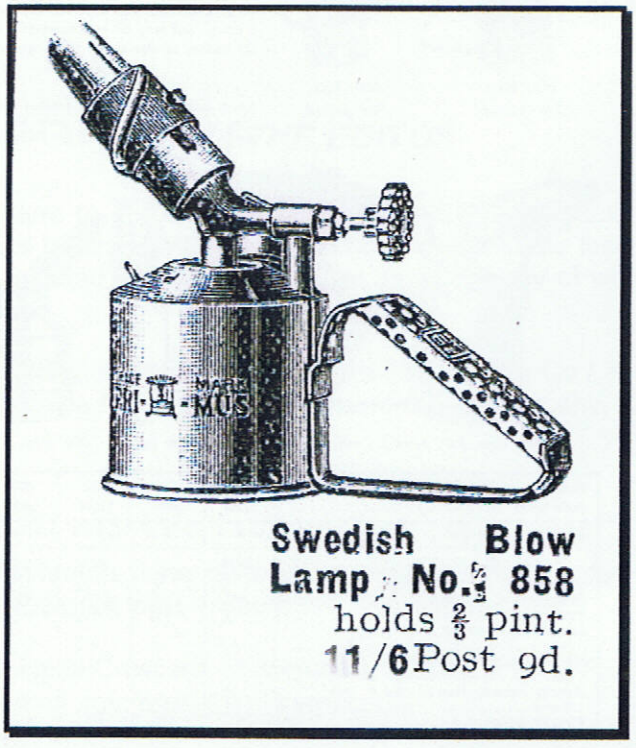
No. 640. For paraffin oil. *No. 860. For petrol.* *No. 850. For petrol.*

Number		800	801	850	860	640
Code-word		LEIAB	LINTA	LJAAX	LJAB8	LEGLO
Position of burner		inclined	vertical	inclined	horizontal	inclined
Nipple	No.	5684	—	5685	5472	5396
Capacity of oil tank, about	pints	1	1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1
Diameter of oil tank	inches	2 3/8	2	2 13/16	3 9/16	3 1/4
Full height	"	4 3/4	5 1/2	6 1/2	8 1/16	7 1/16
Length of flame by ordinary pressure	"	—	—	3 1/4	4	6 1/4
Width of flame by ordinary pressure	"	—	—	3	4 1/4	3 1/2
Hourly consumption of fuel at full flame	pints	3/16	3/16	3/4	1 1/4	11/16
Weight, about	lbs.	11/16	5/8	1 3/16	3 7/16	1 7/8

Graham also sent an extract of a W.H.Wilcox catalogue which lists a No 858 which is the one lamp in the series Keith has not got. Unfortunately the quality of the scan is not up to inclusion in the newsletter but I had a further email from Sylvia Black who confirms that she has a No 858 and has sent the following scans which show there were two models which were the same as the 857, but with inclined burners.



This model featured in 1914

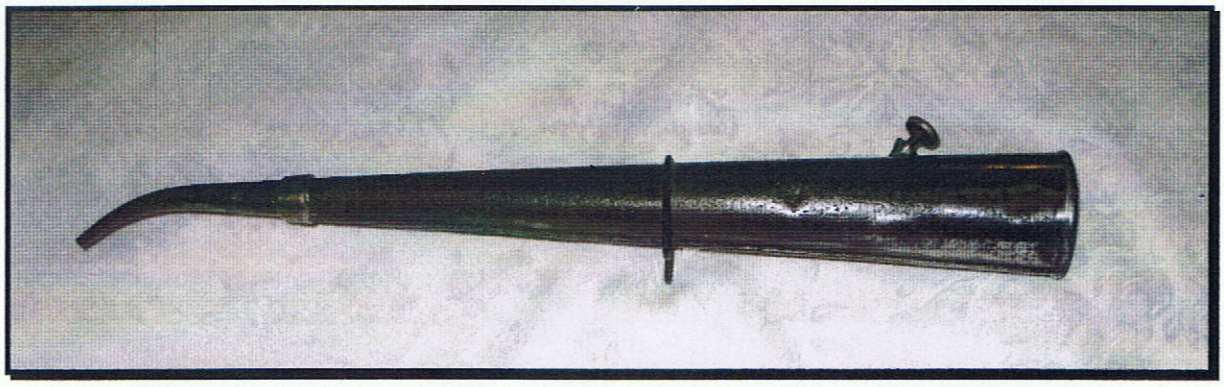


This model featured in 1926

ASSOCIATED ITEMS

It would seem that I am not the only one who likes to collect items associated with blowlamp manufacturers. Here is a selection from Bob Prichard.

Another item I have acquired since the last issue is this oil can by T.E.Bladon.



WATER HEATERS

You will probably realise from previous issues of Blowlamp News that I like any lamp that was made for a specific purpose. Some years ago I bought a Monitor water heater at an auction in Cambridge.

This unit stands over four feet high and was designed to be plumbed into the water system. There is a ball valve in the top of the tank.
As you will see it has got one of the largest blowlamps under the tank which holds about 2 gallons of fuel.

The next photograph shows a Ewart's Victor Geyser which is owned by Keith Hawkins. The tank sits on an Edgar tripod and has a 6 burner heater.

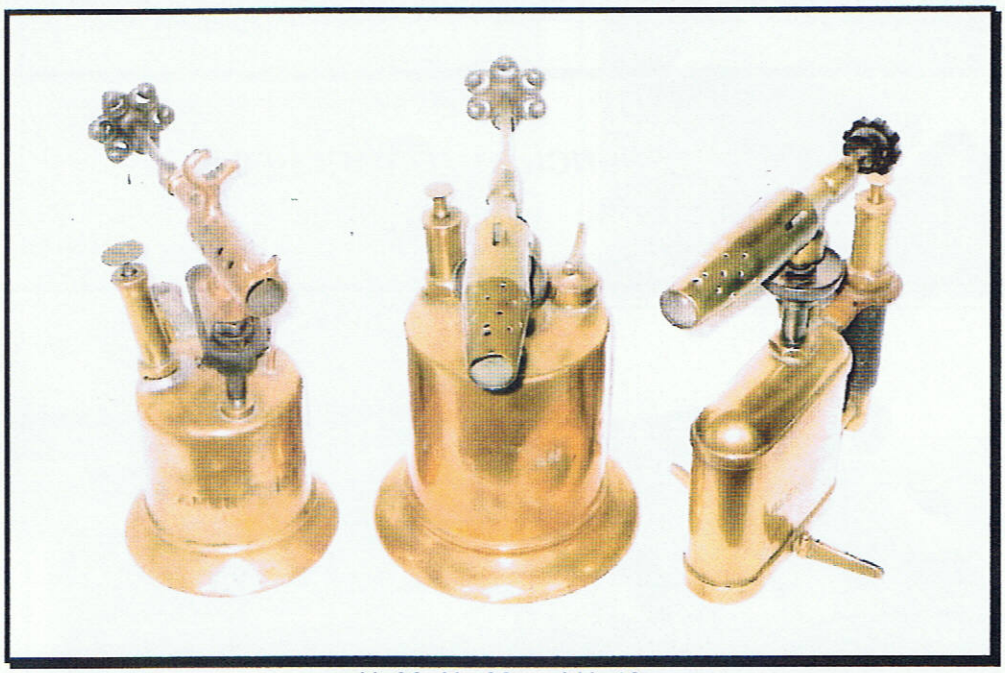
The final offering in this section is a Bristol-Geyser, which I bought some years ago and is still in need of restoration. This particular unit will heat about a gallon of water and has a 4 burner heater.

THE OPTIMUS AMERICAN

By
Keith Hawkins

In the French produced catalogue on Swedish blowlamps, Optimus have a four lamp series under the "American" range, presumably with an eye to the American market. Ever since I started collecting lamps in 1985, I have known about this series and in fact the first decent lamp I ever bought, right under the noses of Ken Longden and the late Les Adams, was the No48, which in America is known as the auto torch. I remember the occasion very well, as at the time the Blowlamp Society did not exist and it was my first visit to the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Both Ken and Les had seen the lamp, priced at £18 but had not immediately bought it. When I came across Les's stand, he and Ken were discussing the lamp and what had happened to it, not realising it was safely in my possession and bought for £16.

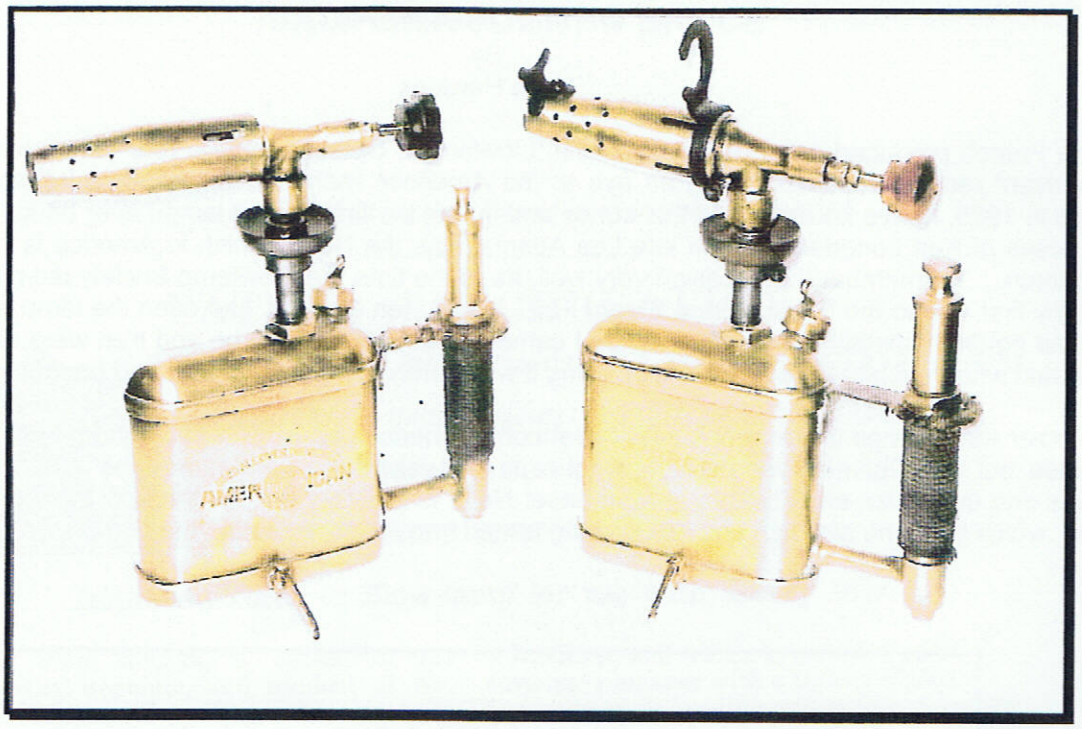
The other three lamps in the series are conventional American style, with bell bottom tanks and vertical handles, but with Optimus type burners, spirit cups and valve knobs and numbered 5, 32 and 38. The No5 is one quart size and fills through the base; No32 is identical but fills through the top, as does the No38, which is of one pint size and has a string bound handle incorporating the pump.



No38, No 32 and No48

On a rally field some years ago I found another collector who had what I thought to be a No38 and eventually was able to buy this lamp from him. I had never really taken much notice of the details, except that it was a smaller version of the No32; that was until it arrived and I noticed that it had a different spirit cup, similar to those found on the smaller Otto Bernz or Shafer & Bayer torches. (For those of you that have a copy of Vintage Blowtorches, you will note on page 320 that at an earlier date Optimus produced two more torches with this type of spirit cup, the No52 and No58) So the lamp I had just bought was a No58. These two torches had soldering iron supports cast into American style burners, thus dating them back to around 1915.

Over the years Optimus obviously produced other lamps with blank tanks, the next photograph showing a No46 with a "look alike" Marco, who I am quite sure never produced anything so sophisticated.



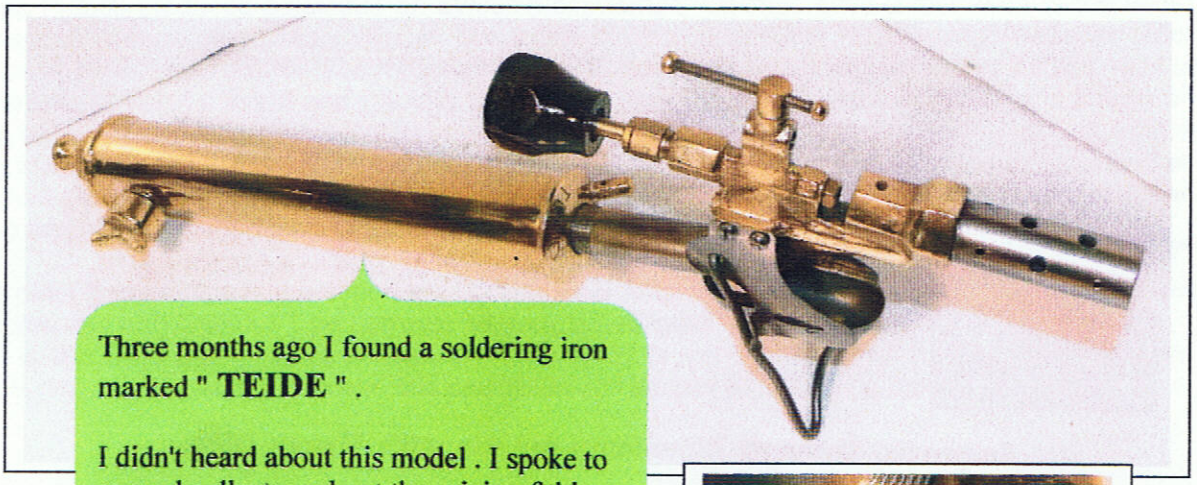
FRENCH AUTO TORCHES

By
Keith Hawkins

Apart from the USA and the one odd lamp from Sweden, made for the American market; as far as I am aware no other country made Auto torches except for the three from France. I hope I am correct in saying this, as I have personally never seen any others. However, I have three Auto torches from France, all of which look alike. From left to right in the photograph is an ML Canon 75 No M50, an F.J.Vesta Universal and the one on the right has only TL-130 round the base on the front of the tank.
The only difference between the two outside lamps is the number of holes in the burner, the TL-130 having six rows of 3 holes and the M50 having six rows of 2 holes. Nothing particularly odd about this except how did the French lamp turn up with the TL-130 markings; as TL numbers were given to all the tools supplied for re-tooling of European industries under the Marshal Plan at the end of WW2. So how did this same number turn up on a French lamp, particularly as it is an Auto torch, as all the Auto torches are from America.

TEIDE BLOWLAMPS

By
Michel Cochard



Three months ago I found a soldering iron marked " **TEIDE** " .

I didn't heard about this model . I spoke to several collectors about the origin of this model. No information !

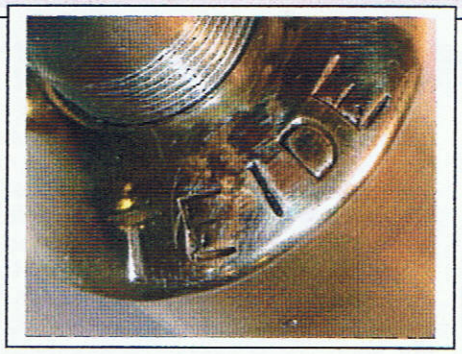
Recently I found and bought one blowlamp with strange design .

To my surprised it was also marked
" **TEIDE** "

TEIDE is the name of a spanish volcano. Perhaps common origin ?

Who already owned this brand ?

Michel COCHARD



NOTE.—*The application for a Patent has become void.*
This print shows the Specification as it became open to public inspection.

PATENT SPECIFICATION

Convention Date (Germany): July 7, 1924. **236,520**
Application Date (in United Kingdom): April 27, 1925. *No. 10,904/25.*
Complete not Accepted.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improved Torch or Blow-lamp for use with Heavy Oils.

I, PAUL MÖLLER, a citizen of the German Republic, and resident of No. 8, Kaltenweide, Elmshorn, in the Republic of Germany, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to an improved torch or blow-lamp for use with heavy oils such as crude oil and the like, the lamp being specially adapted as a starting lamp for internal combustion motors which are started by the external application of heat to an external tube or part of the combustion chamber, as the lamp can the operated with the liquid fuel of such motors. The lamp may with like advantage be employed as a soldering lamp or plumber's torch, and generally as a heating device when a thin projected flame has to be produced by the combustion of liquid hydrocarbons.

Special objects of the invention are to simplity and cheapen the construction and to render more efficient, serviceable and durable in operation torches or blow-lamps of the kind referred to.

With these ends in view the invention consists in the novel combination, arrangement and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter explained, shown in the accompanying drawings and then specifically set out in the appended claims.

The drawing represents, partly in vertical section, one constructional form of blow-lamp according to the invention.

The reference letter *b* denotes the reservoir for the liquid fuel, which is conveniently transportable by means of a handle *a*, and which is provided in the customary manner with a tightly closable fuel admission opening and with a hand pump for compressing air in the reservoir above the liquid charge.

The reservoir *b* carries, in tight connection with the tubular socket *c*, through which the liquid fuel is discharged, a detachable burner head *d* comprising the burner itself and supporting the vaporizer, the burner being in the form of an exchangeable jet *e* co-axial with the vaporizer *f*, which latter is detachably connected with the tubes *g*, *h* projecting from the burner head *d*.

The liquid fuel is supplied through the socket *c* to a bore *i* in the base of the burner head *d*, and a lateral branch *j* connects this bore *i* with the tube *g* of the vaporizer *f*. The tube *g* fits tightly within the chamber *l* of the vaporizer *f*, which chamber is formed by a jacket *k* closed at the rear and at the front of the vaporizer. The tube *h* similarly fits into the chamber *l* of the vaporizer *f* and communicates with a bore *m* at the upper end of the burner head *d*, substantially co-axial with the above-mentioned bore *i* through a lateral branch *o*.

The bore *m*, which is tightly closed by, and easily accessible for cleaning by removal of, a screw cap *n* possesses another lateral branch *p*, midway between the two branches *j* and *o*, for the burner in the form of an exchangeable jet *e*.

The burner head *d* carries, besides the parts already described a needle valve *q* for closing the branch *j*, the screw-threaded spindle of this needle valve being axially displaceable by means of the external hand wheel *r*.

[*Price* 1/-]

When the branch *j* has been opened more or less, according to requirement, by actuating the needle valve *q*, the liquid fuel is forced from the reservoir *b* through the socket *c* into the burner head *d*, and reaches ultimately the jet *e*, following the course indicated by the arrows in the drawing. This course leads the liquid fuel from the bore *i* into the branch *j* and through the tube *g* into the chamber *l* of the vaporizer *f*, from this chamber *l* through the tube *h* and the branch *o* into the bore *m* and from the bore *m* through the branch *p* into the jet *e*. In passing the tube *g*, the chamber *l* of the vaporizer *f* and the tube *h*, the liquid fuel is heated and vaporized by the flame issuing from the jet *e*, which flame is encircled by the inner wall of the vaporizer *f*.

In burning heavy oils, such as crude oil or the like, a continuous combustion with a thin projected flame of the required length can only be obtained, if the fuel is perfectly vaporized. This is rendered possible according to this invention by constructing the vaporizer *f* in the form of a jacketed cylinder producing an evaporation chamber *l* which extends from the rear end of the vaporizer *f* to the front end thereof or approximately so. The chamber *l* provides a heating surface sufficient for the complete evaporation of the liquid fuel, even if the fuel is in the form of crude oils such as are suitable for internal combustion motors of the kind previously referred to.

To use the blow-lamp, the flame has to be started in the customary manner by pouring and igniting liquid fuel in the starting pan *s* below the vaporizer *f*. The flame issuing from the pan *s* effects the required heating of the liquid fuel flowing, as before described, from the reservoir *b* into the vaporizer *f*, so that the required flame issues in a short time from the jet *e*.

A simple and cheap construction of the blow-lamp is obtained by the use of the novel burner head *d* and its connections with the vaporizer *f* and the jet *e*, which construction has the further advantage, that the lamp may be quickly and conveniently taken apart for the purpose of thoroughly cleaning it. All the channels run straight, and each of them can be easily and perfectly cleaned separately.

The possibility of removing and exchanging the several parts of the blow-lamp when unfit for further use is another important advantage, which keeps the costs for using such blow-lamps low.

I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do not limit myself to the precise construction shown seeing that various modifications may be carried out in the adaptation of my improved blow-lamp to different purposes and I therefore reserve the right to all such modifications as properly fall within the scope of the following claims.

I wish further to point out, that the connection between the receptacle *b* and the vaporizer *f* may be effected in such a manner, that the flame issues axially in regard to the receptacle *b*.

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

1. In a blow lamp, the combination of a burner head, and a vaporiser detachably secured thereto consisting of a tube co-axial with the burner and through which the flame passes, and a closed jacket surrounding the tube extending substantially the full length thereof provided with an inlet and outlet communicating respectively with the reservoir and the burner through channels located on respectively opposite sides of the burner.

2. In a blow lamp, the combination according to Claim 1, characterised by two separate co-axial straight channels in the burner head, one of which communicates with the reservoir and has a lateral branch to the inlet of the vaporiser jacket, and the other of which is closed at one end by a plug and has two lateral branches leading to the outlet of the vaporiser jacket and to the burner respectively.

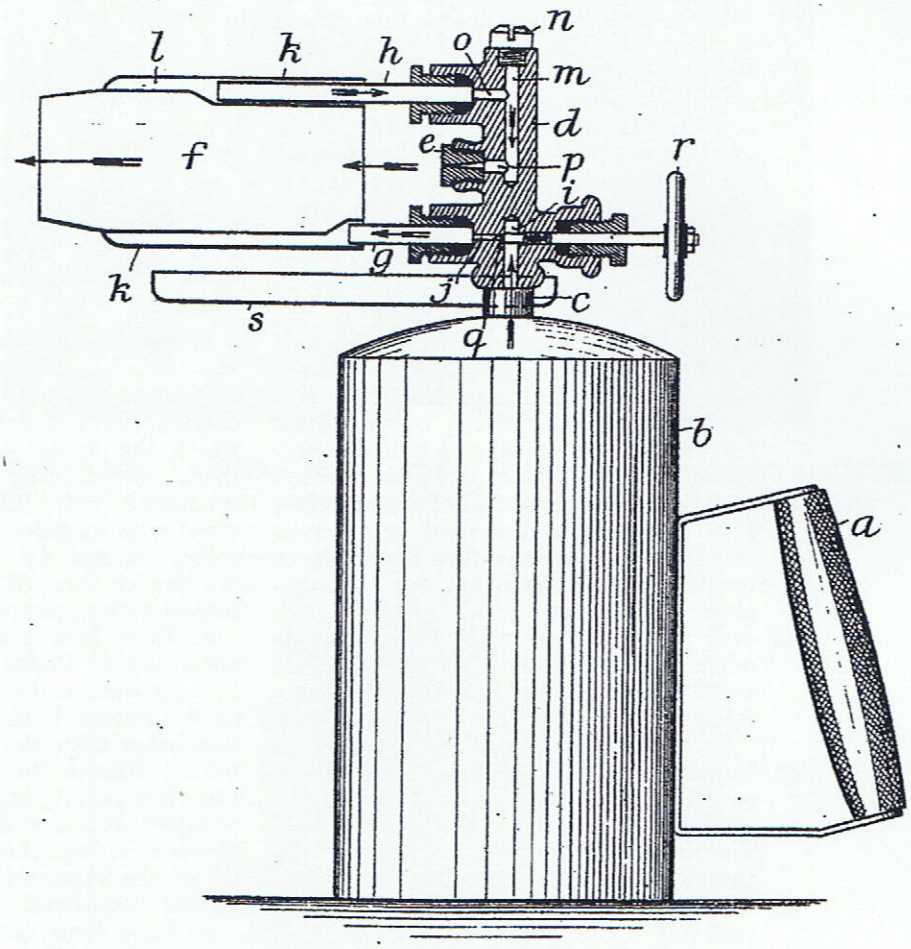
3. In a blow lamp, the combination according to Claim 2 characterised by the two lateral branches in the burner head on either side of the burner being each in communication with a tube detachably connected to the said head and to which tubes the vaporiser is detachably connected, and by the burner being detachably secured to the head.

4. In or for a blow lamp, a burner head and vaporiser constructed substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

Dated this 27th day of April, 1925.

W. H. WILLIAMS,
Agent for the Applicant.

Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Love & Malcomson, Ltd.—1926.



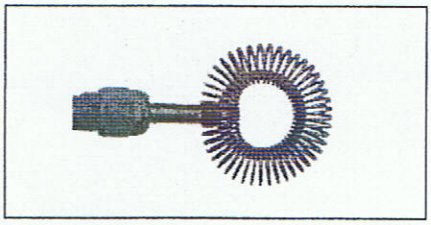
Charles & Read Ltd. Photo Litho.

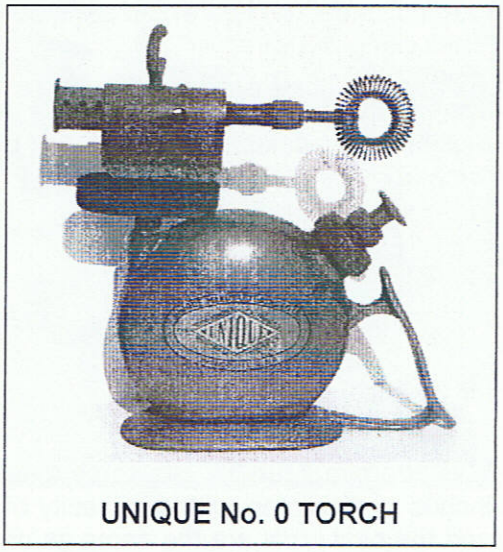
Unique Manufacturing Company

By Graham Stubbs

The Unique Mfg. Co. of Chicago, Illinois is best known to blowtorch collectors for the distinctive red-painted torch with the oval tank, of which at least six different versions are known.

This example of the Unique No. 0 torch has a cast steel tank and handle. The valve knob is formed from wire, and is, unusually, oriented sideways. The oval label on this torch is the earliest known.

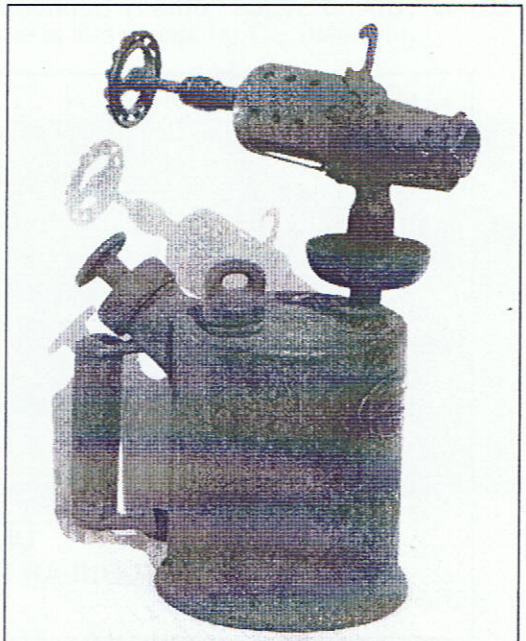




UNIQUE No. 0 TORCH

Not so well known is this one-quart No. 103 torch, which was advertised in a catalog from 1930. The unusual burner routes the liquid fuel to the front of the burner nozzle and back and then through a tube suspended directly in front of the nozzle jet. The purpose, according to the US patent 1,677,766, awarded to Unique Mfg. Co. in 1928, was to provide as much hot surface area as possible to pre-heat the fuel prior to delivery to the nozzle jet.

The nameplate is brass, applied to a steel fuel tank, which was at one time painted red.

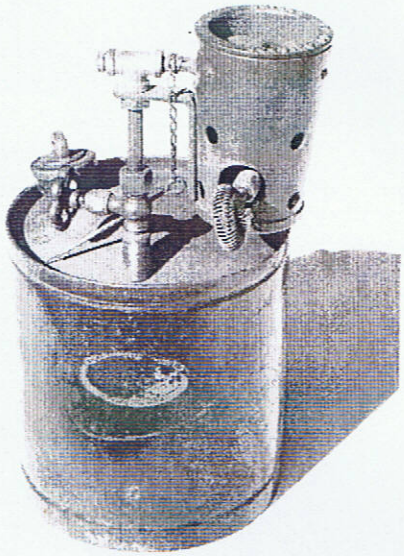


UNIQUE MFG. CO.
No. 103 TORCH

Unique Mfg. also supplied this firepot / engine heater, owned by Dr. Charles Smith.

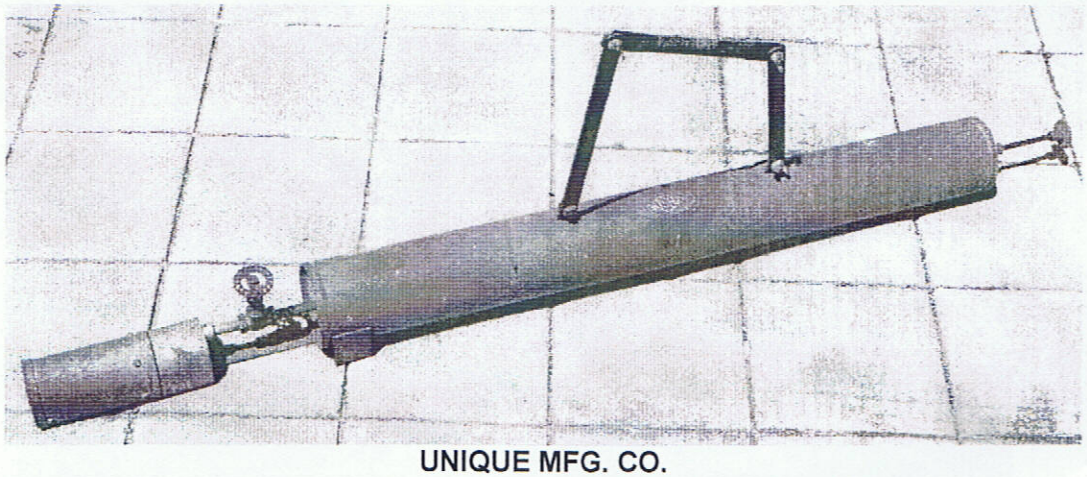
The burner rotates or swivels some 270 degrees horizontally so that it can be positioned over the center or outside the rim of the tank. The green-painted steel tank, is 8-inches in diameter and is 9-inches high from rim to rim, with a capacity of 1 1/2 gallons. The burner is a tight coil except for an upper "figure of 8" section. A small chain attached to the burner tube secures a four-inch steel rod into which are embedded three small clean-out wires.

The coil flame adjuster knob and the oval label are like those on the earliest cast-metal-tank Unique No. 0 torch above.



UNIQUE FIREPOT / ENGINE HEATER
(Photo BTCA Member Charles Smith)

This enormous tubular blowtorch measures 43 inches long; the bright red steel fuel tank is 3 ¼ inches in diameter, with a capacity of a little more than three US quarts. The pump, filler cap and the oval label are the same as on the early No. 0 torch, dating it to the 1930s. The letters "USFS" (United States Forestry Service) were painted on the tank to identify the former owner.



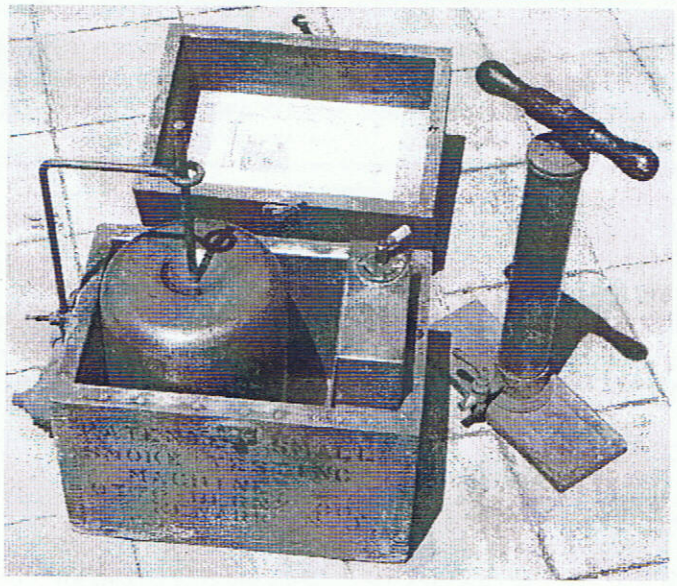
UNIQUE MFG. CO.
TUBULAR FORESTRY BLOWTORCH

Otto Bernz's Smoke Test Outfit

By Graham Stubbs

Combine the name Otto Bernz, a pump, fire, smoke, and polished copper parts in something made for a plumber, and you don't necessarily have a blowtorch!

Bernz provided a variety of other tools and equipment for use by plumbers, and Otto Bernz's Smoke Test Outfit is one of the more interesting. Some municipalities required smoke testing of drains for leaks of noxious sewer gases after plumbers made repairs and in new construction.

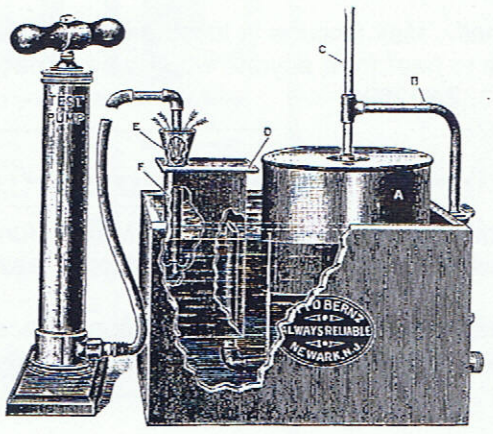


OTTO BERNZ'S SMOKE TEST OUTFIT

Housed in a copper-lined dovetailed wooden box measuring 13 ½ by 9 inches by 13 inches high, the outfit was portable enough for the plumber to haul to a job site.

Water was poured into the box filling it almost to the rim; the water provided an air seal for a copper dome, similar to the bell of a gasometer, under which oily shop waste was set afire to create smoke. A plumbing fixture, to the left side in the photo below, was connected to the sewer drain system to be tested. Pressure was applied using the Bernz pump, causing the lid of the dome to rise. When the pumping stopped, the workman would watch to see whether the dome sank under its own weight. If it did not, everything was sound. If the dome dropped, there was a leak, and the plumber would look for plumes of smoke to detect the leak's location.

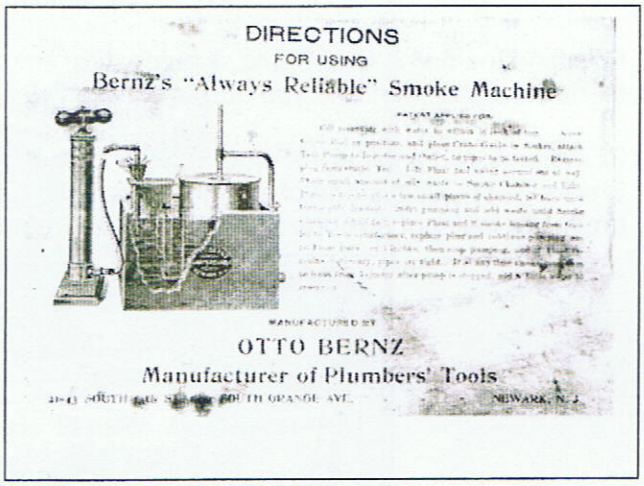
SMOKE TESTING APPARATUS for use in connection with plumbing systems to which the fixtures have all been connected is shown in the accompanying illustration. This particular smoke machine is known as the Always Reliable and is manufactured by Otto



Bernz, 27 Ashland street, Newark, N. J.

The smoke testing apparatus thus served the dual purposes of determining whether there was a leak, and determining the location.

Directions for using Bernz's Smoke Machine
"Fill reservoir with water to within ½ inch of top. Screw Guide Rod 'C' in position, and place Crane Guide 'B' in Socket, attach Test Pump to Injector 'E', and Outlet to pipes to be tested. Remove plug from Outlet Tee. Lift Float 'A' and swing around out of way. Place a small amount of oily waste in Smoke chamber and light. Place on top of this a few small pieces of charcoal, let burn until thoroughly ignited. Start pumping and add waste until Smoke Chamber is half full, replace Float and if smoke issuing from Outlet in Tee is satisfactory, replace plug and continue pumping until Float rises 3 or 4 inches, then stop pumping, and if Float remains stationary, pipes are tight. If at any time smoke continues to issue from Injector after pump is stopped, add a little water to reservoir."


DIRECTIONS
FOR USING
Bernz's "Always Reliable" Smoke Machine
OTTO BERNZ
Manufacturer of Plumbers' Tools

Smoke testing of drains is still common practice, and modern equipment is sold for the purpose; however today the concern has much to do with the ingress of storm water and overloading of sewage treatment plants.

FROM THE EDITOR

My thanks to all the contributors to this issue, Michel Cochard, Sylvia Black, Bob Prichard and Keith Hawkins; with a special thanks to Graham Stubbs, who not only found the time to prepare two items for the newsletter but has also updated the Blowlamp News index, a copy of which you will find with this issue.

Finally, Max Rhodes is looking into the history of the Portable Furnace Co / Tyres Furnaces and would like to hear from anyone who has a furnace or any literature on the company. You can contact Max on 01332 812892.

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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