



250 N. ST. FRANCIS

by Tim Daniel

It was a few short years after W.C. Coleman started his business in Wichita, that he felt growing pains. His Company was growing at a pace that the infrastructure could hardly keep up. In 1909 he constructed a 75' X 140' two-story building at 220 N. St. Francis. Between 1909 and 1929 he made five additions to this campus to keep pace with the ever expanding business.

The last addition in 1929 was a former Catholic church at the corner of 2nd and St. Francis. The congregation had declined, and when the church closed its doors, Coleman purchased the property and used it for a warehouse for a while. Ultimately, the church came down and the administrative offices went up.

For the next 67 years, 250 N. St. Francis in Wichita, Kansas was the headquarters for The Coleman Company. It housed the executive and administrative offices, sales, marketing, engineering, research and development, test laboratories, and more.

In 1996, these offices were moved to the new location adjacent to the Northeast plant and the building at 250 N. St. Francis stood vacant. Issues clouded the old property, most notably, ground water pollution. Coleman committed to and had been working on cleaning up the property in hopes of selling it to an investor looking to cash in on the growth of the Old Town area. The responsibility for these issues would fall on the new buyer, thus putting a large risk on the property.

When the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ruled that the only use could be an open air structure, prospects for selling the building

dimmed. The building fell into disrepair. A deal was struck with Sedgwick County to purchase the property, tear down the structures, and make a parking lot to support downtown growth and the new arena.



Photo credit: Keith Wondra, Wichita, KS

During the planning process for the parking facility, the Wichita Downtown Rotary Club came forth with the idea to have an urban park on the corner of 2nd and St. Francis. Both W.C. and Sheldon had served as president of the Rotary, and together they gave over 97 years of service to the community. This park would also serve as a monument to the Rotary's 100th anniversary and feature a large moving tower that strikes the hour.

The entrance arches to the building were preserved to be installed as a pedestrian entrance to the parking lot. Also, 44,000 bricks were reclaimed during the demolition to be used in the

walls around the property.

As the news spread that the building would be coming down, I was inundated with calls and e-mails from former and current employees, citizens, and the media, expressing their sadness in losing such a landmark. At first, I took their side and shared those same feelings. But, as I reflected on the church that once stood on the property, I began to wonder how that congregation must have felt to see their church used as a warehouse, and then torn down to make way for a new office building. It soon became obvious to me that without the congregation, the church was only a structure that had been designed to meet their needs. It became a place of worship when people graced its doors and came together as a congregation.

The same holds true for 250 N. St. Francis. Yes, I'm sad to see it go, but it wasn't the building that made it so important to so many people over the decades. It was the people who passed through those arches. All the employees who designed, manufactured, and sold such great products and all the executive and administrative people who planned and operated the business.

So, in my opinion, would I rather have seen the building turned into apartments? Or a parking lot? Well, obviously I would prefer seeing such a great part of our history still standing there. But, on the other hand, I will enjoy walking through those historic arches, touching those bricks, and thinking back about all the great memories I've had over 30 years. Our once grand building leaves lasting memories.



The Official Publication of The International Coleman Collectors Club, Inc.

The Purpose of the ICCC is (1) to pool together as much information as possible to assist Coleman collectors in the restoration/preservation of their collections; (2) to promote interest in the hobby and, above all, (3) to make Collecting Coleman an enjoyable experience.

ICCC Membership ICCC Membership is \$25/year for Single, \$30/year for Family, \$30/year for Corporate and International. Membership includes subscription to the *Coleman Light*. We can accept U.S. funds only and checks must be drawn on U.S. banks. International money orders in U.S. funds are accepted. We accept PayPal on the website in the Join us/Renew section. You don't have to have a PayPal account and you use a credit card.

The Clubs Membership Year is July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Your membership expiration date is on your ICCC Newsletter mailing label above your name. The ICCC Newsletter is sent out the first week of Sept., Jan., and May.

Classified Ads and Advertising deadlines are the first of the month prior to issue. The *Coleman Light* is published in January, May, and September. Classified ads are available to members only. Display advertising is available to members and non-members alike.

Submission for the *Coleman Light* can be sent directly to:
Coleman Light
c/o Bud Michael
PO Box 1236
Lincolnton, NC 28093-1236
or E-mail to: iccceditor@gmail.com



**ICCC
BOARD
MEMBERS**

President - Brent Zier
7019 NE 165th St
Kenmore, WA 98028-6312
E-mail: icccpresident@comcast.net

Vice President - Jon Schedler
N8802 Big Lake Road
Gresham, WI 54128
E-mail: schedler@frontiernet.net

Treasurer - Kay Browning

Secretary - Peter Ecklund
10 South Main St
Mt. Vernon, NH 03057-1620
E-mail: icccsecretary@comcast.net

Librarian - Lita Wright
1525 Ritter Blvd
Huntington, WV 25701
E-mail: colemancollector@gmail.com

ICCC Office
Send Address Changes, Dues
& Roster Updates Here:
ICCC
10 South Main St
Mt. Vernon, NH 03057-1620
E-mail: icccsecretary@comcast.net



2012 ICCC Convention Information

Location: Lake George, New York
Date: June 28-30, 2012
Our Hosts: Steve & Robin Miller



The International
Coleman Collectors
Club, Inc.

Visit your website at
www.internationalcolemancollectors.com

Upcoming Conventions:
2012 – Lake George, New York
2013 – Tempe, Arizona

The President's Message

Well, it was a great 2011 Convention in Tulsa. Old friendships reacquainted, new life long friendships established and faces placed with familiar names. We certainly thank Mary Beth and Dick Sellers for hosting an unforgettable event and for the hospitality they provided at their ranch. If a picture is worth a thousand words, we need more words to describe Dick Seller's collection, truly among the most extensive collections around. Thanks, too, to Jim and Miranda Pritchard and their boys for opening up their home and providing Thursday's Ice Cream Social. And finally, a special thanks go out to Jim & Jan Nichols for four years of service to our club. This issue of *The Coleman Light* contains many memories of the 2011 Tulsa Convention, as does the ICCC website.

Speaking of our website, have you visited our website recently? Ed Dennis is our new Web Master. He took over for Kay Browning, who we all owe a special thanks to for her for the last three years as Web Mistress, as she transformed the website from a 'static' site to an updated and active website. Ed has reconstructed our web space with lots of new and interesting departments. Read fresh member profiles and much more. We invite you to take a look to see what he has been up to. Thanks, Ed, for the many hours you have put in and the outstanding job you have done. **See for yourself at: www.internationalcolemancollectors.com**

The Members Only section has a new User ID and Password effective with this issue:

User ID: _____

Password: _____

Ready to go green? We are working on an online option for your Newsletter. We will soon ask you if you want to download your Newsletter instead of having it mailed to you. It will save paper, trees, money and time by speeding up the newsletter delivery time to your home. Currently, our newsletter is mailed out via bulk rate to save money, the offset being that it typically takes the postal service two weeks to deliver the newsletter. Members may still choose to receive a mailed copy of the Newsletter instead of an electronic copy. We are looking at ways to reduce expenses before dues are raised beginning in 2012-2013 membership year per the 2011 Business Meeting in Tulsa. There has not been a dues increase in 20 years, despite increases in the cost of every expense category the Club encounters.

Speaking of the Newsletter, a warm welcome to Charter Member, Bud Michael, who takes over for Dave DeFrates as Newsletter Editor. A special thanks to Dave for his years of service to the Club, and for his assistance to Bud in transitioning the duties.

Bud is working to make the newsletter bigger than ever. You'll see a few new Newsletter departments with special features. Now that you have the Newsletter in hand, enjoy Dan Boschen's column "Coleman Tech", Don Burchell's article and the True North and Great Lakes articles. Remember, the Newsletter is created by member-edited articles and stories. We will get out of *The Coleman Light* what we are willing to put into it. Everybody has a story to share!

Next year's ICCC Convention is June 28-30, 2012 and is already nearly complete in preparation. This will be our 20th gathering, the first Convention on the East Coast since our humble beginning in 1993. Hosts Steve & Robin Miller of Saratoga Springs, NY invite us all to the resort community of Lake George, New York. It's an excellent opportunity to visit upstate New York, the Adirondacks, and a gorgeous area of the US. Meet members from True North and Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada Chapters. Check out the information and links on our website and mark your calendar for next June.

Start planning further ahead to attend June 2013's ICCC Convention in Tempe, Arizona, hosted by ICCC members Al & Jennifer Cerino.

Lastly, a warm welcome to our new Secretary, Peter Ecklund, an ICCC member since 2002. Peter complements the current management team for the Club. Our collective goal is to grow the ICCC membership and add value to your membership dollar. The ICCC's website is your source of daily information, the Newsletter for tri-yearly information, followed by our annual Convention, which is the ultimate experience for the Coleman collector. We will do our best to produce results and live up to expectations and we all thank you in advance for your support and contribution to take this Club to the next level.

Brent Zier
ICCC President



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Bud Michael

I know you'll enjoy this issue—it's chock full of good news. Coleman Vice President and ICCC member Tim Daniel was deeply engaged in the transition of the old Administration building on N. St Francis to a parking facility. He writes what we all feel—it's difficult to lose an icon. More than a parking lot, it will be a pocket park.

Photos and news about the Tulsa convention right here. New departments in every issue: Coleman Tech edited by Dan Boschen, a What Is It? puzzle based on your finds and surprises, Websites of Interest, and lots more as space permits.

A word to the wise: Somebody (in this case, me) needs to remind us about an important issue. The Coleman Company, like all big corporations, must and does protect its brand. We are blessed to have Coleman support and permission to

use their copyright image in ICCC activities. That permission does not extend to individuals in the club unless you have express written permission to use the corporate brand. Simply put, you may not sell any item of any kind upon which you have placed any protected Coleman Company logo or design unless you have specific permission. Be wise—don't plagiarize. Got it?

We take our privacy very seriously and the Board is formulating an ICCC privacy policy. In a nutshell, the membership list is available only to members and contains only our name, address, and phone number—the same stuff anyone can find on the internet in about a minute. We will not share your e-mail address. You may

opt out of having your name on the membership list if you really want to. But why?—you'd be invisible. Keep our membership within the membership: Don't share your website member password.

Coming in the Winter Coleman Light, look for 2012 convention details, more Coleman Tech and a new What Is It?, the Coleman Pendant lamp, the Canadian 236 lantern, and an update on the new Coleman/Rotary Pocket Park across from the Outlet Store. Oh, and a lantern puzzle suggested by Jon Schedler. Support your newsletter—send ideas to me at iccceditor@gmail.com or mail to: Bud Michael, PO Box 1236, Lincolnton, NC 28093-1236.

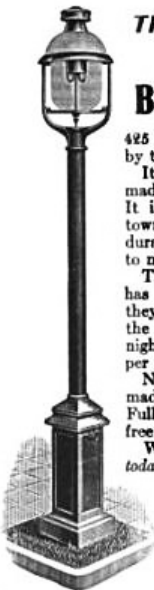


WHAT IS IT?

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS COLEMAN PART?

BAFFLED?

SEE ANSWER ON THE BACK COVER.



This is the COLEMAN BOULEVARD LAMP

425 of which were recently purchased by the city of Des Moines, Iowa.

It is a high pressure gasoline lamp made both 300 and 1000 candle power. It is adapted to suburban use and towns of medium size. It is simple, durable, economical and easily moved to new locations.

The low cost to install and operate has made these lamps popular and they are used by hundreds of cities in the United States and Canada. All night service 5c., midnight service 3c. per night.

Nothing to wear out or rust out, made of cast iron, brass and copper. Fully guaranteed and sent on 30 days' free trial.

Write for catalog and full particulars today.

THE
Coleman Lamp Co.
Wichita, Kansas
Toledo, Ohio St. Paul, Minn.

Welcome New ICCC Members

Dave Uehling <i>Hampton, Nebraska</i>	Dan Imming (Member #1000) <i>Galena, Kansas</i>	Shawn Melvin <i>Banning, California</i>	Dan, Nancy, Lilly & Nathan Kehoe <i>Ashford, Connecticut</i>
Greg Diehl <i>Rootstown, Ohio</i>	Jun Arizona <i>Mission Viejo, California</i>	Brian Rudloff <i>Niles, Michigan</i>	Mark Gillian <i>Worcester, Massachusetts</i>
Jeff James <i>Frotenac, Kansas</i>	Jimmy Dodson <i>Cushing, Oklahoma</i>	Dale Troyer <i>Goshen, Indiana</i>	Warren W. Baker <i>Frazzysburg, Ohio</i>
Roy Acuff <i>Burnet, Texas</i>	Leonard Stolz <i>Clarksville, Tennessee</i>	Rod and Debbie Earnheart <i>Whitewright, Texas</i>	Bill Hiedelmark <i>Lenoir, NC</i>
James Cowan <i>St. Peters, Missouri</i>	Daniel Mertes <i>Chanassen, Minnesota</i>	John Case <i>St. Johnsville, New York</i>	Bill Moody <i>Lodi, Wisconsin</i>
Ed Dennis <i>Reno, Nevada</i>	Greg Jones <i>Grandview, Texas</i>	Steve Petticofer <i>Ephrata, Pennsylvania</i>	Rich McElhoes <i>Derry, Pennsylvania</i>
Gene and Betty Pyeatt <i>Tulsa, Oklahoma</i>	Roy Soza <i>Tucson, Arizona</i>	Rolf Huebener & Ulle Koch-Huebener <i>Castrop-Rauxel, Germany</i>	

IT'S MORE THAN LIGHT

Occasionally a Coleman Collectors Forum (CCF) member requests we light a lantern for a family member, friend, or co-worker who needs emotional, financial, or prayerful support.

When Coleman enthusiasts gather in groups large and small, we light our lamps and lanterns celebrating friendship, fellowship, unity and a shared interest. Sometimes we light a lantern at home as a symbol of triumph—man over machine. Success at reviving a once abandoned 202 or 220 or 220 or 242. Sometimes just to savor the glow. Mike in Ontario says it well: "Some of the special ones I light have been brought back from the brink. I light them as a sign of respect for someone special and for the lantern."

Humankind has always been comforted by light. We rise by it, work by it, even gravitate to it. ("Whoa. What's that light?" "Dunno. Let's go see.") Light signifies warmth, security, comfort.

Ed Erb, on the Thursday of the 2011 Tulsa Coleman Convention, carefully, meticulously, very purposefully prepared his Coleman 160 kerosene lamp. Topping up the fount, attaching the delicate mantle he'd hand carried 500 miles from Sugar Creek, then testing it at the light up at Jim Pritchard's gathering. It was preparatory. Our ICCC tradition of beginning the annual meeting with a spirit lamp lighted in remembrance of members and close family who have died symbolizes unity, fellowship, and respect. Ed's Kerolite was our spirit lamp on Friday as names were solemnly sounded.

Some of our members have established personal traditions of lighting a particular lamp at a gathering. For them it commemorates meaningful things important to the group, yet has a deeper personal significance as well. Remembrance for a friend or family member, mentor, or perhaps of things past. Del Schroh lights the very first lantern he ever owned, purchased in 1958, and recalls a youth without rural electrification and the first time he was given the honor of lighting the household lamp more than 60 years ago.

All too often we take light for granted. Flip a switch. But not so once upon a time when light, fire itself, meant survival. Lighting a lamp especially a gas pressure lamp or lantern continues a ritual—fuel/air mixture, pressure, preheat, vaporize, all critical to the outcome. As a group, we translate that into a means of celebration.

Three friends on a Smokey Mountains deck, guys on a New York cabin porch, a gathering in Texas, Georgia, Indiana, Washington, Quebec, Germany, Netherlands, Japan. It's all the same. We celebrate light, celebrate success, celebrate fellowship, remember people and recall times past. Good people recognize a moral and spiritual obligation to care about others. Lighting a symbolic lamp or lantern demonstrates that measure of care.

Thanks to Don Burchell for generating the idea for this and to members of the Coleman Collectors Forum (CCF) for sharing their personal thoughts about this topic.





OUR 2011 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brent Zier, President

I have been a Coleman fan since I was a kid camping with my family. Lighting the Coleman lantern was always a fascination to me. OK, so I liked fire. As years passed I ended up with the family 220F and my brother with the older crummy lantern. Who wanted that one anyway? It had only one mantle and a tarnished tank. I married 26 years ago and my wife and I carried on the family tradition, camping with our kids every year and adding a 228 along the way. About 15 years ago I spotted my first 200A and my favorite Coleman item grew into a passion. I found Frank Bebb's website and became a product of the CCF which led me to the ICCC. To keep my collecting focused, I've concentrated on birthday lanterns. But, I like the slants, 228s, table lamps and Coleman international offerings. I'm still actively employed, with Wells Fargo for 27 years. I hope to look back at my service to the ICCC with having grown the membership and having added value to your membership. In case you wondered, my brother ended up with the 202.

John Schedler, Vice President

Peter Ecklund, Secretary

I have been a Coleman enthusiast for most of my life. My widowed grandmother at 60 bought a Coleman 413E and a Coleman folding suitcase table for a winter picnic. I marveled at how she was able to fire up and use the stove so easily. I still have and use



both regularly. I later inherited a Bernz-O-Matic lantern from my Dad and I was hooked. My serious collecting began in 2002 with joining the ICCC and of course eBay. I've always been mechanically inclined and my machinist career leads me to tinkering with and restoring my finds. Retirement now gives me the time to enjoy this pastime. My first convention was Tulsa, where I was able to meet my heretofore invisible mentors and my election as Secretary of the ICCC has cemented my interest in being a part of the ICCC family. I hope to be a part of this wonderful group for many years to come.

Ed Dennis, Webmaster

I had no intention to collect Coleman lamps and lanterns when I brought one home from a garage sale and fixed it up. It reminded me of enjoyable camping days in my youth and adult years living and camping in Alaska. It's an old story for collectors—I have a lot of them now! My goal on the team is to bring you a useful and attractive reference source on our website. Membership stories, profiles and other contributions make the website and membership is what the page is all about.

Bud Michael, Newsletter Coordinator

I'm honored and pleased to be allowed the opportunity to coordinate our Newsletter. I've been a Coleman enthusiast for 25 years and an organizer and charter member of the ICCC. I'm a retired health care professional and have contributed articles to professional journals as well as enthusiast magazines and newsletters since 1967. I've enjoyed writing for our newsletter since 1993. My goal is to continue the excellent work of Dave DeFrates and the *Coleman Light* editors who preceded Dave.

To All my fellow Coleman Collectors:

It has been a great pleasure serving as your president for the last 4 years! It was an opportunity I will never forget. The challenges and decisions were my enjoyment during my presidency. Thank you for the opportunity and trust you had in me. It will be nice to be on the other side of the podium and catch up on some things I missed while being president.

I had a great board to work with too. Speaking of the board, Brent Zier is the new president now and will do a great job for you. He showed me his skills when he served as Secretary the last 2 years. I have all the faith and confidence in him to serve you and keep the ICCC rolling. Jon Schedler stays on as VP.

Another new face to the ICCC is Peter Ecklund in New Hampshire. He is taking the Secretary position and will bring some new ideas to the club. I met him in Tulsa and feel that he will do a great job as Secretary and running the auction. Bud Michael in North Carolina is replacing Dave DeFrates as the Newsletter Coordinator. This is the position that gets the ICCC newsletter out 3 times a year. He is on his toes getting articles and info to fill the newsletter. Please send him articles and ideas to make this newsletter interesting to all collectors.

The Board members keep this club going. They organize, communicate, plan and implement all the things that make the ICCC what it is today. Please support them and help them along the way.

Keep finding those great Coleman items and sharing with all the ICCC members.

Jim Nichols



Coleman Tech

Edited by Dan Boschen

First, do no harm...Hippocrates

DEFUELING THE FOUNT

Welcome to **Coleman Tech!** This is my first column featuring techniques and tools you can make to help repair and restore your Coleman treasures. **Coleman Tech** tackles common problems and helps devise solutions whether a technique that alleviates the problem or a simple tool that you can make to help you with your restorations. This column is limited only by your imagination. If you have a recurring problem that you want investigated or a simple solution to share with the club membership, contact us and we'll look into a solution and share it!

Defueling a lamp, lantern or stove can be as easy as tipping it over and pouring it out into your waste bucket or fuel can but often the fuel will drool all over the freshly cleaned nickel or

waxed fount. Many of us try to save and reuse the fuel after running an appliance to check its operation. Coleman made two tools that were used to de-fuel a fount using the pump that was designed into the appliance. Both tubes were inserted into the filler neck and the tube bottomed out in the fount. A few quick strokes of the pump pushed all the fuel out of the fount into a container.

A modern equivalent can easily be made with some improvements. You need a rubber or cork stopper with hole, some plastic rigid tubing and a cheap automotive fuel filter. The rubber stopper or cork can be found at a scientific supply company, local hardware, or on eBay. The stopper needs to be a size '0' and have a single one inch hole in it. I use plastic icemaker supply line for the rigid plastic tubing. Whatever you use must be 1/4 inch in diameter, have a stiff cross section but still be flexible lengthwise. The final part is an inexpensive car or

mower fuel filter to exclude the sediment from the gas that you are pumping out of the appliance. I recommend a clear filter as it lets you monitor the sediment buildup. Assemble the filter to the plastic tubing with a small section of hose. Just make sure that the ends of the filter are a close diameter with the plastic tubing. Some filters come with a couple of sections of hose and clamps; they should tightly fit the 1/4 inch plastic tubing. Insert the stopper into the filler plug hole, push the tubing down to the bottom of the tank, and place the fuel filter end of the line into your catch can. Gently pump out the contents.

Here's a useful tool idea from Dave DeFrates: an ultrafine jeweler's brass wire polishing wheel that fits on your buffer/grinder. It comes in 3, 4 or 6 inch diameter with a drillable wood hub to fit your arbor. These wire wheels do far less harm to nickel and brass than heavier duty brass or steel wire wheels. One source Dave has used is Shor International at www.shorinternational.com in Madison, NJ. (phone 973-520-8777). Dave says, "After a vinegar bath, polishing with this wheel makes brass shine like gold." Dave prefers the #16.446 4 inch crimped brass wire brush. About \$11.05 plus shipping.

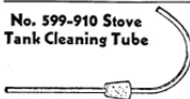
Dan



No. 599-910 Stove Tank Cleaning Tube

For removing dirty or stale fuel from 1-gallon stove tanks which are equipped with built-in pumps.

Retail Price, each..... 25¢



No. 199-910 Fount Cleaning Tube

Provides an easy method of removing dirty fuel from founts of lamps and lanterns which are equipped with built-in pumps.

Retail Price, each..... 15¢



TULSA 2011 CONVENTION

By Bud Michael

It was a feast, a party, a gathering of the faithful. It was a jubilee! Two hundred Coleman enthusiasts travelled to the rolling green hills of Tulsa, Oklahoma for our 19th annual gathering. We ate, we traded, we displayed & demonstrated, and we bought and sold.

At least 38 heavily laden sale tables filled the enormous Renaissance Center meeting space offering collectors a treasure land to explore. In the words of 8 year old Mason Otto, "Man, this is really neat!" Two dozen impressive displays lined the walls: A unique outdoor bracket lamp, an array of fully restored hollow wire lamps, not one but two Coleman Sportster cycles, and 32 distinctly different Model 4 Coleman irons grabbed our attention. Foreign and domestic lamps & lanterns, parts racks, lamp shades, one-of-a-kind finds and a range of Coleman goodies shined like new.

How can we sufficiently thank Mary Beth and Dick Sellers, our hosts, for

producing one outstanding Coleman collector convention? Dick and Mary Beth kicked off the celebration on Wednesday with a grand Bar-B-Q at their Drumright, OK ranch. Two busloads of folks filled plates with beef, pork, chicken, even smoked bologna, and picnicked under the canopy of an enormous tent. For dessert, we savored Dick's onsite Coleman museum filled floor to ceiling with rare lamps, lanterns, and stoves. It was mouth-watering.

The Tulsa meeting hall was exceptional with plenty of space for displays and sale tables. Leonard Johnson coordinated five presentations all held in a separate meeting room complete with PowerPoint presentations. Thanks to Terry Marsh and Darcy Vantiger for so smoothly running the audio/video for the presentations.

Attendees enjoyed an ice cream social hosted by Jim and Miranda Pritchard on Thursday evening complete with a show

and sale as well as a light-up and "parade of light" around their pond.

After our delicious banquet Friday night, we heard Tim Daniel's dialog about the demolition of Coleman's N. St. Francis building in Wichita. Tim's report was accompanied by photographer Mike Miranda's nostalgic slide show of the demolition. Mike was one of only two people allowed in the building once the demolition began. His photos are stunning.

Tim surprised us all by announcing that, compliments of Coleman, each member in attendance at the Tulsa convention would receive a commemorative brick with name plate. Tim's article in this issue tells much more about the conversion of the historic building.

Our business meeting elected new officers, recognized and rewarded significant contributions by several members, honored Dick and Mary Beth for hosting the convention, and presented well deserved prizes for outstanding displays.



Convention Co-Host, Dick Sellers, at the helm.



Voting was close and concentrated on three really outstanding Coleman displays. One can argue that it was a tie for first place. Members' choice awards for the displays went to Jim and Jan Nichols, second for their display of rare and gorgeous hollow wire system lamps; third to Bob and Jane Fladung for their two restored Coleman Sportster minicycles complete with advertising, helmet, gloves and accessories. Pat and Jerry Engbring took the blue ribbon for their mirrored display of the Coleman Model 4 irons. They set 32

distinct #4 iron variations on clear plastic stands with a mirror base to allow viewing of each iron from all angles. These three displays were the result of many years of hard work and preparation. The awards are well deserved.

Saturday brought the finale, our annual auction, where many interesting and rare items went on the block and where energetic bidding prevailed among close friends and fellow bidders. As one bidder put it, "It's changing hands, but it's still in the family."

Two items that brought great attention and high bids were large wall posters, one from an employee retreat and the other a factory poster of lamp and lantern generators.

Thanks to all who volunteered, assisted, attended, and assured that our convention was successful. A final word, many thanks to Jim Nichols for four years of excellent leadership.

(See more Convention photos on pg. 10)

Photo credits: Tim Murphy, Bob Fladung, Darcy Vantiger, Jim Pearson, Jim Pritchard, Leonard Johnson



CONVENTION SEMINARS INFORM AND ENTERTAIN

The 2011 International Coleman Collectors Club Convention in Tulsa was a great success! Five seminars given by respected and knowledgeable Coleman collectors throughout the four days of the convention delivered valuable and interesting information. Four were videotaped and are available on DVD for those who couldn't attend.

Terry Marsh gave a history of the Yale Manufacturing Company and Robert Lucas. As you know, Yale was purchased by WC Coleman in 1920 after many years of competition. Terry lit a Yale Model "R" reading lamp to highlight his presentation.

Leonard Johnson moderated a discussion on "Obscure Topics of Little Interest to Most Collectors" and the "Collected Wisdom of the Coleman Community- Harnessed" Will you take the bait: "little interest to most Coleman collectors". An excellent dis-

ussion including so many topics!

Bud Michael our new newsletter editor gave a seminar on "Hiram Strong, Engineer, Inventor and Coleman Icon - The Other Man Who Made, Coleman" Bud opened with his rendition of the first conversation and job interview between WC and Hiram at the Hydro Carbon Lite Co building in Wichita. It was just like being there! Bud's co-host, Hiram's Granddaughter, Vera White, told us about the wonderful grandfather this man was and how privileged she was to attend this event honoring him.

Dan Bosch gave a presentation on "Tools, Processes, and the Tricks of the Trade". You don't want to miss this one! We members of the Coleman Collectors Forum (CCF) know Dan as dbosch "The Coleman Silverback". Dan is a mechanical engineer and a former Club President.

Sam Blank gave an excellent pres-

entation about his Peerless mantle production in Manila. His mantles are receiving high marks from users all over the world. He graciously distributed samples to the attendees. Because of proprietary restrictions, Sam's presentation could not be recorded. (See Bo Keller's article in our January 2011 issue.)

A DVD of the 2011 Coleman Convention in Tulsa including four of the five seminars is available for \$10 plus \$5 for one or multiple copies thru Mike Shockley in Wichita, KS: leamarkproductions@cox.net

Thanks and happy hunting,

Peter Ecklund



TULSA 2011 CONVENTION

More photos (continued from pg. 9)



REGIONAL EVENTS SPARK ENTHUSIASM

A year ago in April six Coleman collectors gathered near Atlanta for a one day event. Six months later, more than 40 enthusiasts from 6 states attended a full weekend event nearby.

This year already a half dozen regional meets have been held around the country including two on the same weekend in Georgia and Texas. The TrueNorth group has met several times in the past year. The Great Lakes regional gatherings draw significant numbers of collectors from the US and Canada and abroad. A few individuals have set up displays at related events such as antique power shows.



The biggest gathering is virtual and ongoing—the Coleman Collectors Forum (CCF)—where on any given evening 12 to 40 members celebrate new finds, offer technical assistance, classified ads, and share tales, tall and otherwise. An added feature of the CCF is the meeting calendar where coming events are announced. At least two regional groups run online bulletin boards. The Pacific Northwest group established a model for regional groups by partnering with the ICCC to form an official club chapter at the Wichita convention.

How does all this translate to ICCC member support? By one measure, the ICCC is growing at a faster rate than it has in the past. We're up to 297 members as of this issue of the newsletter. We grew by 58 members in 2010 and in May, 2011 we regis-

tered our 1000th member number.

While the direct benefit of regional events on club membership is difficult to measure, it's not hurting. The new members list over the past 12 months, shows CCF members as well as folks who have participated in at least one of the several recent gatherings. One fact is certain, regional events have a positive impact on the discovery, preservation and restoration of Coleman collectibles, while at the same time expanding the knowledge base. The club encourages members to participate in regional events and to promote the benefits of the ICCC. Among the member benefits we can promote are the annual convention, access to website extras including back issues of the newsletter, three newsletters a year, and the membership list to find others nearby.

COLEMAN COLLECTORS GREAT LAKES SPRING 2011 GATHERING

By Steve Potter

Jerry and Pat Engbring, their family and the other fine folks at Jerry's Camping Center hosted our spring gathering on March 4th and 5th. It served as a great warm up for the coming flea market and garage sale season. Despite uncooperative weather, plenty of warmth and fellowship were shared in Madison amongst 21 participants from three countries and five states.

The Engbring clan once again showed themselves to be superlative hosts, taking care of most of the food over the weekend. Pat's lunches featuring Chili and Sloppy Joes are a much anticipated tradition. Friday night in Jerry's garage we were treated to pizza and a visual feast of lamps and lanterns hanging from the ceiling to say nothing of the Coleman shrine in the basement. Saturday night we assembled at Fat Jack's – a

local rib joint – for food, drink, and an opportunity to recap the weekend with friends old and new.

As usual, a stunning variety of pressure appliances were displayed. Everything from Terry Marsh's Nite-Hawk lantern to an Akron Chandelier lamp brought by Jon Hiederich. Roger Hill had a variety of military items on display. Many items changed hands including Jerry Engbring's purchase of Tim Truetler's unfired AGM medical stove. Several folks bought Canadian 200s from Roland Chevalier's large cache. Jon Shearer had a nice Coleman #2 stove on display. Among other things, Shirley Willard brought a Gold Bond stove which was on the way to Les Davis. Bob Fladung received a Petromax clone made in India from Terry Marsh who had been holding it since the convention last year. Dave DeFrates brought Terry an early 200A

to be used in the restoration of an infra-red lantern for Ed Erb. A number of lanterns were brought back to life including my 555 Col-Max that benefited from Bo Keller's expertise.

Our Saturday night light up was limited by the weather. Still several rare appliances got to shine: The Nite-Hawk, a Model IR, and a rare AGM 33 brought by Gary and Deb Cuper, my Col-Max, Roger's military stoves, a Petromax, Dave DeFrates' blow torch, Jon Schedler's Lindeman Hoverson lamp, and several other strange and wonderful devices. It was magical.

The Great Lakes Fall Fest will be September 16-18 at Twin Mills Camping Resort, Howe, IN. E-mail to: TwinmillsRV@equitylifestyle.com or call 260-562-3212. Everyone is invited no matter where you live. For questions about the event, contact: Steve Potter (608-334-4197) or Jon Shearer (812-637-6622)



TRUE NORTH GROUP CELEBRATES THIRD GATHERING . . . IN ONE YEAR

by Agostino Del Coro



This summer marks the first anniversary of the TrueNorth Coleman Gatherings. Northeast US and Eastern Canada Coleman collectors enjoyed Steve Cullins' hospitality at his rustic cabin in Hannibal, NY, about an hour's drive from the Canadian border.

September, 2010 marked our first meeting. A rustic wilderness log cabin combined with the North Woods' quiet beauty assured a memorable experience. We shared hot coffee, hearty food cooked on Coleman stoves, and had great fel-

lowship lighting up the night. The gatherings from then on have become a tradition of friendship and a world of Coleman knowledge for all to enjoy.

February in the North Woods is a Robert Frost poem. A few of us

braved the cold again at Steve's cabin. The snow-covered woods combined with an awesome display of the Northern Lights (aurora borealis), not to mention Coleman lights, made it unforgettable.

We gathered again in April, 2011. Hard to believe, but rain and mud didn't keep us from having a fine old time. Collectors and enthusiasts from Ontario, Quebec, New York, Ohio, Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island made the journey to Hannibal to fellowship, eat, and share great Coleman wisdom.



MAKE PLANS NOW FOR 2012 CONVENTION

The 2012 ICCC Convention at Lake George, New York – June 28th-30th

Steve and Robin Miller, our hosts for the 2012 convention, have been hard at work planning next year's Lake George, New York convention. Lake George is at the southeast corner of the Adirondack Mountains, a large forested and lake-filled natural area with a number of nearby historic sites that date back as far as the French and Indian War.

Members flying to the convention should check flights to nearby Albany International Airport (ALB) as well as John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City (JFK) and Boston's Logan Airport (BOS). Car rental, bus, and train serv-

ice from the Albany airport to Lake George are available.

Once you're in Lake George you can walk or take a trolley to almost all area attractions. Robin is planning activities for spouses and families. The convention is at the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center. There are several nearby full service campgrounds.

Did you know there is a Coleman Factory Outlet only four miles from the Conference Center?

For more about the convention: tmarsh.faculty.nocrl.edu/iccc2012convention/index

Questions? E-mail Steve at adirondacklanterncollector@yahoo.com or Robin at rocking59rob@yahoo.com or call them at 518-798-1693.

NOTES OF THANKS

My family would like to thank the Club for the flowers for my father. They were a lovely bouquet and were the first to arrive at the house. When I started collecting Coleman pressure lamps and lanterns, my Dad took an interest. He was always interested in them and it was something we liked to talk about. He found many great (Coleman) things and was always looking out for them.

Many thanks,

Dwayne Hanson

(Dwayne Hanson's father passed away while Dwayne and Darcy were on their way home from the Tulsa convention.)

The family of Margaret DeFrates wishes to thank all of our Coleman family for your caring support before and after Margaret's passing. Especially Jim and Jan Nichols, Terry Marsh, Dean and Linda DeGrof, and Shirley Willard, all of whom came so far to be with us. It meant more than you will ever know. We love you ALL! Hope to see all of you in Lake George, NY in 2012.

Dave DeFrates

(Margaret DeFrates passed away in late June after a lengthy illness. She was very supportive of Dave's Coleman enthusiasm and attended many annual meetings.

Charleen and Ron Becker sent a phone message thanking their Coleman collector friends for the outpouring of sympathy following the yet unsolved murder of their niece Jennifer Heckel of Hutchinson, Kansas.

Jim and Jan Nichols sincerely appreciate the sympathy extended to them by friends and fellow Coleman enthusiasts upon the death in July of Jan's father, Phillip Comer who was blessed with 97 years.



THIRTY THOUSAND YESTERDAYS

By Terry Marsh

This is the fifth installment of this serialized history of the Coleman Lamp and Stove Company appeared in "The Factory News" in the July 15, 1942 issue. All subsequent issues were titled "The Coleman Victory News." The publication may have been promoted by the U.S. Government to help boost morale during WWII. At least one other company, Aladdin, had a similar publication during this time.

The serialized history appeared in 14 installments, ending in February 15, 1943. Copies were saved by our late Historian, Herb Ebendorf. We will present them all in coming issues of "The Coleman Light" in the order that they were published. Some minor grammatical errors have been corrected and we have added chapter numbers in brackets where they appear to be missing in the original.

THE FACTORY NEWS

August 1, 1942

THIRTY THOUSAND YESTERDAYS

By BLISS ISELY

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an unpublished history of The Coleman Lamp and Stove Company, or perhaps more properly the biography of W. C. Coleman, our President, whose ideals have been the dominant influence in its long and successful development. We will run it serially and believe that many of us will want to clip each installment and make a scrap book history of the company that has come to mean so much more than "a place to work". If you wish to make a scrap book of this serial and do not have the July 1, 1942, issue of the Coleman Victory News, which contained the first installment, you may procure an additional copy from Brad Corbin.

CHAPTER III (The Beginnings of an Industry)

(continued from last issue of newsletter)

They were not easy to convince. They had struggled for years with partial crop failures and low prices. When they had at last saved a little ready money they did not want to part with it on a promotion scheme. Coleman showed his subscription lists. He admitted that it would cost considerable to operate the lamps, but how could a business with a gross income of \$100 a week be anything but a good investment? In the end Judson Wilson wrote a check for \$1,000 and Coleman jubilantly ordered 100 lamps from Irby-Gilliland and paid for them with cash.

His experience in getting the \$1,000 loan taught Coleman a respect for capital such as he had never known before. His previous experience had taught him that salesmanship is very important, that management is important and that labor is important. But now he realized that capital is also an important partner. Without capital he never could have launched the Hydro-Carbon Light Company.

Back in Kingfisher, Coleman employed an assistant and rented a basement room to serve as office and lamp-filling station. With his assistant

in tow to learn the business, he set out to hang lamps in the stores under contract. He instructed the store keepers how to turn off the light as they closed their shops at night. He soon discovered that a part of the merchants neglected to turn off the lamps. It was not their gasoline and they did not care if their stores were lighted all night or not.

This required Coleman to devise another system. Instead of filling the gasoline well to capacity, he measured out just enough to last until shortly after the closing hour. Then the lights went out of their own accord.

He collected on Saturday night, just before closing time and returned to his office with 100 silver dollars in his pockets, for in 1900 silver, rather than paper, was the medium of exchange in Oklahoma. Kingfisher merchants were pleased. They had the best lighted town in Oklahoma. News of what was happening spread over the countryside and farmers drove from other trade territories on Saturday night to see the wonders of light produced by the Hydro-Carbon Company.

Then came trouble. The first night one of the lamps in the system flickered and went out, Coleman hastily pumped up a spare lamp, hurried with it to the store

and exchanged it for the dark lamp. Every night other lamps failed. Each night was worse than the night before. Coleman, as soon as he had collected enough money to buy more lamps, had intended going to Hennessey to install a lamp system there, but now he was kept in Kingfisher, repairing lamps. The trouble was easily found. The lamp had been made in contract by a New England company that was in the business of making wick-fed kerosene lamps. They had built the wells of the gasoline lamps like the kerosene lamp wells and they were not strong enough to withstand air pressure. After a week or two of use, the air leaked at the seams.

Fortunately Coleman had spent his boyhood on a farm where every child must learn something about shop work. He was not a skilled mechanic, but he could tinker well enough to repair the lamps. It meant, however, that instead of selling lamps in new territory, he had to spend his time at Kingfisher. Either he or his assistant had to remain beside the office telephone ready to answer calls up to midnight. They were kept busy every night replacing bad lamps with good ones and busy every day making repairs. Not only did they work eighteen hours a day, repairs were eating up the profits.

(continued on pg. 15)



THIRTY THOUSAND YESTERDAYS

(continued on page 14)

One evening, between telephone calls, Coleman took a drawing board and sketched plans for a lamp found that would not leak at the seams. After he had done that, he drew a plan for a vaporizing tube that could be cleaned more easily in case it should become clogged with carbon particles. This he took to Irby-Gilliland and eventually persuaded them to have all future lamps made on that plan.

In time the new-style lamps arrived and Coleman was able to turn the Kingfisher servicing to his assistant while he sold light service to the merchants in other towns. He prospered after that. By the end of the year he was servicing fifteen Oklahoma towns and one in Texas.

September came and time to return to school, but how could he return to school? He still owed \$1,000, for, although the light service had made money, expansion of business kept his earnings tied up and he needed the loan. His brother-in-law, however, was satisfied. Coleman agreed to share some of the profits and the investment seemed safe enough.



-Picture Courtesy of William Schreffler
Hydro-Carbon Co. Filling Station
Las Vegas, Nevada, 1905

Seeing that he had to stay with the Hydro-Carbon Company whether he desired to do so or not, Coleman decided to give up law. He broke the news to Fanny Sheldon and found her willing to marry the man she loved, even if he gave up his ambitions for a professional career. Since he did not intend to return to school, why delay marriage any longer? The wedding took place at Ottawa, January 1, 1901, just one year after Coleman's arrival at Kingfisher to fail at selling lamps and to succeed at selling light.

While Coleman was wrestling with the leaky lamps in Kingfisher, he knew what it meant to be discouraged. He felt that his time was being wasted as he labored unceasingly to give service. But later, he realized that the experience had taught him a valuable lesson

that was to be of great importance when he entered the manufacturing business. He then resolved that when his factory made a new article it should be thoroughly tested before it was placed on the market. Every defect was to be discovered and if possible be corrected before a single unit should be offered for sale.

In November, 1901, Coleman received a message from Irby-Gilliland urging him to come to Memphis on important business.

When he arrived, they offered to sell him their lamp business for \$10,000. He thanked them, but explained that although his light service was bringing in \$1,000 a week gross revenue, expenses had to be met and capital had to be found. He therefore could not think of buying out the company.

(continued in the next issue)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

For the next few issues (or until we run out of interesting websites to tell you about) we will suggest a few internet sites you might want to visit. Usually they will be about lamps, lanterns, irons and stoves. But not always. We'll start with a few respected and certainly familiar sites to many of us. Send your website discoveries to iccdditor@gmail.com

Terry Marsh's web page tgmarsh.faculty.noctrl.edu/lantern/ Or Google: Terry Marsh and click on his web page. ICC Member Terry Marsh has assembled nearly 2000 images of lamps, lanterns, stoves, tools, and a vast array of other interesting items to help you identify your most recent find and perhaps see what it might look like when you restore it. Terry assembles the wisdom of more than 200 collectors the world over. A must-use reference.

Coleman Outdoors (www.coleman.com) The latest and greatest from Coleman Outdoors, Inc. including new gear and equipment, instruction manuals, parts and a nostalgic history of the Company. Order stuff online, get a phone app, download a

cookbook, or shop the outlet store.

International Guild of Lamp Researchers (www.lampguild.org) This web site is managed by Darcy Vantiger, herself an avid Coleman enthusiast, club member, and valued contributor to the ICC. The Guild is composed of experts in all varieties of liquid fuel lighting. The site includes helpful restoration information, links to collectors all over the world, and an enormous file of U.S. patent documents. Lots of links to other web pages. Need help? Go here.

Old Coleman Parts:

(www.oldcolemanparts.com)

Talk about a two edged sword. Mike Merz offers an extensive Coleman parts inventory. Here's the place for new and vintage parts including a gazillion varieties of generators. Even some good, clean NOS and used stuff when the new item is long gone. He's got pictures and details, too. But, there's more. Mike hosts the Coleman Collectors Forum (CCF) managed by several familiar ICC members. It's an excellent place to find out what's going on around the corner and across the globe—in real time. Join and chip in. Don't just sit there wishin'—buy that hard to find part while you can.

Want to know everything there is to know about Coleman lantern generators? Need to know what generator fits what lantern. Check out Doron Papo's lantern site for a wealth of useful info about Coleman and other makes as well (www.pressure-lanterns-il.com)

And, one more (www.blurb.com) Blurb is a vanity press that publishes your book in single servings or as many as you want to consign. If this site seems a little offbeat, then go there and search for Vapalux and Bialaddin Pressure Lamps. You will see Ian Ashton's 65 page book devoted to these important lamps produced by Willis and Bates, Halifax, England. You can review the book on-line or purchase it.



ICCC MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

This section is reserved for classified ads received from our paid ICCC members seeking information, services, appliances, parts, etc. Each ICCC member is allowed to advertise free-of-charge. Each member can have as many separate ads as wanted, however, a 100-word limit applies to the combined submissions. Ad requests must be received no later than one month prior to the next issue of *Coleman Light*.



Send classifieds to iccceditor@gmail.com or Mail to *Coleman Light*, c/o Bud Michael, PO Box 1236, Lincolnton, NC 28093-1236

Note: All prices in USD unless otherwise noted.



For Sale: Moved to a smaller shop. Need to sell some stuff! Advise anything Canadian that you need for your collection. Can ship to you. Also, obsolete parts for sale.

Write via snail mail to Elmer Kuepfer, 560 Bervie Sideroad, RR#4, Kincardine, Ontario, Canada N2Z 2X5. Phone 519-395-3593.



For Sale: Check Valve Removal Tool- Fits slotted check valves with air stem. Both sizes 1/4-32TPI (old) and 8-32TPI (new).

Tool is 6" long and fits most stoves, lamps and lanterns. Priced at \$40 which includes shipping to US addresses. Shipping slightly higher to Canada and overseas. This is the ORIGINAL design by Matt Reid, formally sold by Don Burchell. For information contact Dan MacPherson at Phone 626-794-9215 or email at dmacp@dslextreme.com.



For Sale: Reproduction globes & shades for: 316 Coleman/Sunshine Arc \$45; Coleman 321 half frosted \$45; 317 frosted \$60; 317B frosted w/nickel band \$80; 317 band only \$45. Shipping and handling is \$20 per item. Contact Craig Seabrook at 440-338-5950 or email to: seabrook@en.com

For Sale: Reproduction Mica Chimneys, fount labels for Coleman, Sears, AGM, Turner. Filler cap gaskets of all types. Contact Fred Kuntz 440-352-9630 or email to: fredkuntz@adelphia.net



For Sale: Reproduction decals for Coleman blow torches, easy to install. Contact Dave DeFrates, 1092 Gregory Ln., Charlotte MI 48813. Phone 517-543-1691 or email to dmdefrates@cablespeed.com



For Sale: Hot Ray heater ceramics. NEW, made of stainless steel. We have tested them and they work superbly. No more worries of breaking or chipping. If you have a Coleman Hot Ray heater sitting around gathering dust because you do not have the heating element, now is your chance to bring it back to life!! These Coleman heaters really throw the heat. Prices are \$35 USD ea. including postage in North America \$40 USD elsewhere. A photo can be emailed to you by contacting Don Colston at red33555417@yahoo.com. If you would like a photo sent via regular mail please contact us. Ed or Duane Erb, 3139 T.R.155, Sugarcreek, OH. 44681 Phone 330-893-3903.



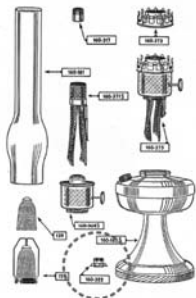
For Sale: Kerolite Model 160 table lamp mantle holders. NEW, made of stainless steel. Now you can get yours working so the Kerolite will light up the world again! \$35.00 USD in USA \$40.00 elsewhere. If you would like a picture via emailed, contact Don Colston at red33555417@yahoo.com To get a picture via USPS, contact Ed or Duane Erb, 3139 T. R. 155 Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681 or phone 330-893-3903.

For Sale: Vintage Coleman parts AGM L593 single mantle worm gear generators \$25.00; AGM L705 double mantle worm gear generators \$25.00; Coleman 502 Stove generators \$7. Many more vintage Coleman parts. Contact Warren Wright via Email with your needs to Colemancollector@gmail.com

WHAT IS IT?

ANSWER:

Wick Trimmer for 160 Kerolite



REMEMBER . . . THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

We are always looking for interesting and informative articles, photos of vintage Coleman products, etc., for the *Coleman Light*. Send photos or articles to: Coleman Light, c/o Bud Michael, PO Box 1236, Lincolnton, NC 28093-1236 or E-mail files to: iccceditor@gmail.com

