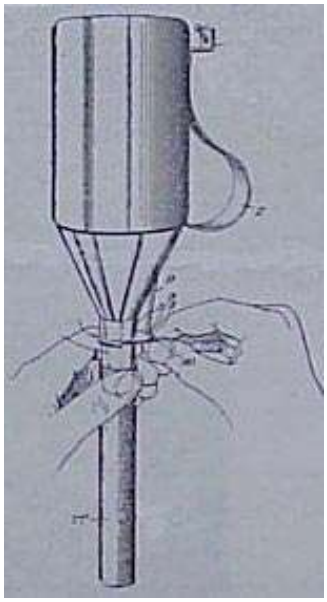
Patented Powder Can

by Dave Johnson



Every once and awhile you get a pleasant surprise when a purchase arrives in the mail. That is what happened when this powder can arrived and I removed the cap to find that this New Old Stock piece had a very prominently stamped patent date that the seller had missed and thus failed to put in his ad.

This all tinned steel powder can (with the exception of the slide spring, which is brass flat stock) measures 10 1/2" to the top of the cap and is 5" in diameter. Beneath the cap stamped on the spout is PAT. Jan. 10, 1905. On January 11, 1904 Sherman Rohree, of Selea, Pennsylvania, filed a patent application for a powder can and on January 10, 1905 he was granted patent 779,670. The patent reads: Claim - 1. A powder can having a nozzle and a spring actuated slide engaging a slit in said nozzle forming a closure for the latter, a handle upon said can and bracket near the bottom of said can, placed in alignment with the handle and having a perforation whereby the can may be suspended. Claim - 2. A powder can having a tapering nozzle provided with a corrugation and with a slit in alignment with said corrugation, a slide engaging said slit and corrugation, and having an extended perforated end, and a spring attached to the side of the can, extending through the perforation in the slide and bent to form a handle.

This is yet another in the vast number of new mining items that keep appearing each year, new finds are what help make the mining artifact collecting hobby interesting, there is always something new.

(left) Detail showing patent date and spring device.