

FASCINATING FIND

COLEMAN PRESSURE LAMP



"The Sunshine of the Night" is the motto stamped onto this Coleman pressure lamp.

In 1900 when rural electricity supplies were unavailable, Kansas school teacher William Coleman started the Hydro-Carbon Lighting Service using Irby-Gilland "Efficient" pressure lamps.

By 1914 he was producing improved lamps which gave more than twenty times more light than a wick style lamp. The company continued making kero and petrol powered lighting and cooking gear, and during the Second World War the company produced about two million lanterns and G I pocket stoves for military use. After the war Coleman have continued producing camping and leisure equipment.

This Canadian-made, two mantle, "Instant-Lite" model is constructed of painted copper and nickel plated brass, with a glass chimney, a synthetic lamp-shade, and a black fibre hold. It was donated by Ian Goodwin, and can be viewed with other old lamps in the tank at the museum.