

# Found in a Photo

*by Dave Johnson*

Recently, while looking at an old photo owned by Deric English, I spied a miner with an unusual square font oil-wick lamp. This is the first time I have seen one of these pictured in use. I have an example of such a lamp that is very similar.

The lamp has a copper font and spout, steel hook and brass threaded lid. It stands 3" tall to the top of the lid and 5 1/2" to the top of the spout. It has an unusually long single wall spout, longer than the one in the photo.

This square font design, while not patented to my knowledge, would have the advantage of keeping the lamp from flopping from side to side as cylindrical oil-wick lamps with wire hooks are prone to do.

I have enjoyed examining old photographs in detail. This blowup of a portion of one shows that you never know what you will find. I appreciate Deric allowing me the use of his photo for this article. It was pleasant assurance to know that this style of lamp was used in mining.

*Right: all copper oil-wick lamp from author's collection.*

