

# Inside a Husson Peg Lamp

*Dave Johnson*

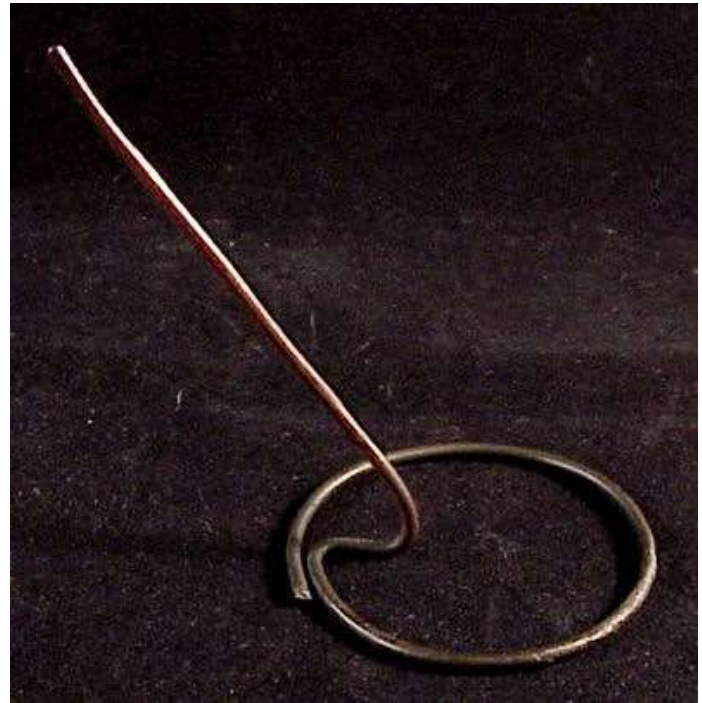
The Knippenberg Manufacturing Company of Oshkosh, Wisconsin produced a variety of different model miners' oilwick cap lamps. One of their most unusual models is the No.22 Peg Lamp. Some miners were slow to give up their candlestick for oilwick lamps. One of the two ways that Knippenberg provided lamps for this niche market was their No. 22 Peg lamp. The other was their No. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 models offered with a removable spike.

What made the No.22 Peg Lamp unique was the fact that it could be used with a miner's existing candlestick in one of two ways. First, it had a peg soldered to the bottom that fit into the thimble of a miners' candlestick. Second, it had a copper or brass (both have been found) loop that slides over the spike of a candlestick up to the thimble. While both these attributes are unique, there are surprises inside the lamp.



All Husson Lamps are easily identified by their copper spout tips and some also have copper rods on the top of the spout that ran down into the lamp to convey heat from the flame in to the font to melt the Sunshine fuel. An accessory that looked like a long copper nail that was pushed through the center of the wick into the font was also sold by Knippenberg.

Inside the Husson No. 22 Peg Lamp the copper spout continued down to the bottom of the font. This piece had holes all around to allow the melted fuel to better get to the wicking. The most unusual internal feature of this lamp was the copper wire that was installed when the lamp was assembled. This copper wire formed a loop in the bottom of the fuel font and then turned and went up the spout and projected out about ½ inch. Given the shape of this wire, with its multiple bends, it could only have been placed in the font and spout when the lamp was being assembled. This wire effectively melted the fuel through the base of the font by conveying heat from the flame.



Since the Peg lamp in my collection is filled with sunshine fuel I have not been able to see inside the lamp. It wasn't until Tony Moon recently sent me a Peg Lamp that was totally rusted out that I was able to salvage these copper and brass components. The idea was to salvage the brass bracket from the lamp lid. This lamp, which was so rusted and fragile that it could be taken apart with your fingers, was also full of Sunshine fuel. Since the lamp itself was worthless I decided to take it apart and found these two surprises inside.

