

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

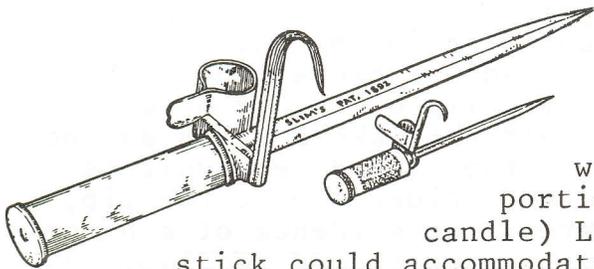


- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

Vol. V, No. 6

Spring, 1991

The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candleholders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212



Giant Mystery - Illustrated here is an oversize candlestick model now in the collection of Robert A. Kraft, 971 Baileyana Road, Hillsborough, Calif., 94010. It is 26.75 in. (668.75 mm) long, weighs 4 lbs. (1.81 kg) and is shown in proportion to a standard size (.75 in. - 19.05 mm - candle) LINDAHL candlestick. This large, mostly steel

stick could accommodate a 2.0 in. (50.8 mm) candle!

The caps are threaded, nickel-plated brass. A 1892 Liberty head nickel is brazed to the thumbpiece, reference the stamped inscription SLIM'S PAT. 1892. The date 1892 is also stamped on the hook.

As with all items of this nature, rumors and stories abound. It is said that this stick was displayed for many years in a Denver-region hardware store before being removed to Montana where it was ultimately sold as a part of a hardware family estate.

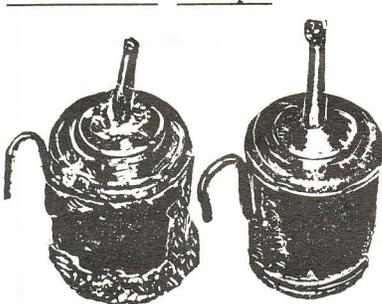
Another story says that there were two such sticks made by one Jack "Slim" Bone of Colorado Springs, Colorado, in some recent decade.

The owner proposes several possibilities:

- a) It is a machine shop term project of unknown origin and not of significant historical meaning;
- b) It was made as a window display to sell candlesticks, but its dates are irrelevant; . . . OR maybe . . .
- c) This is a predecessor to the Lindahl patent of 1905 and, although not actually patented in 1892, may have been the idea from which the Lindahl patent was derived;
- d) May be just a joke - although the quality would argue against this.

Who will ever know?

Sunshine lamps - Mr. Robert Kraft has also sent two photos as shown here.



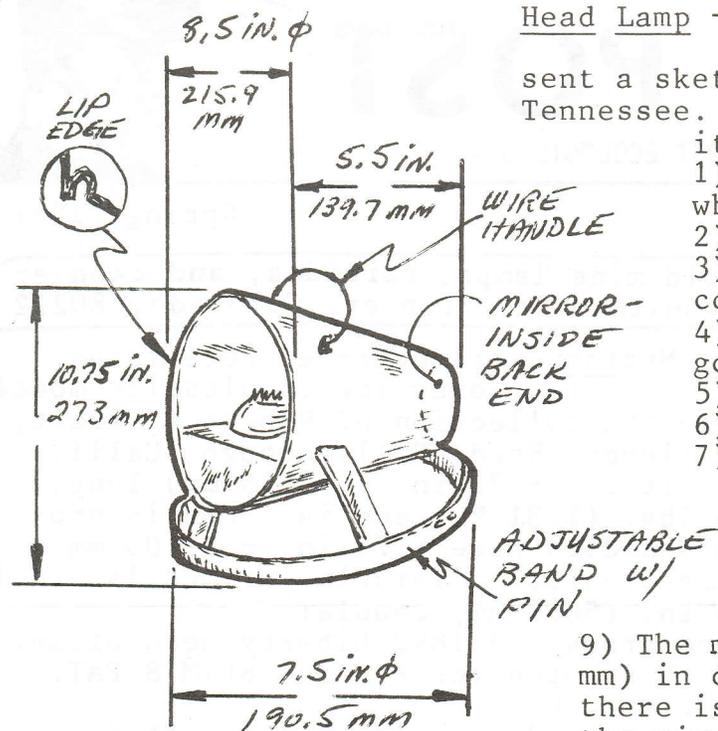
Left: A pair of unmarked oil wick lamps 1.875 in. (47.63 mm) in diameter and 4 in. (101.6 mm) tall including the spout. The closest as manufactured, and far left as crudely converted to burn sunshine fuel, wrapped with copper including the bottom. Note: the idea didn't work well because the soot on the bottom suggests that the lamp had to be heated by flame before the sun-



shine would flow up the wick. Right: This incredible copper-lined lamp was designed to burn sunshine. This is a GRIER S*T*A*R. Almost identical in construction were TRETWAY, EUREKA, CHIRRY-CHIRRY, and maybe others. The copper spout, font sides and font bottom appear to be joined, maybe soldered, before the tin parts were added. Great workmanship!

Stanley Lamp - Following up a question in the last issue, about a Stanley disaster flame safety lamp, Tony Moon in Salt Lake City offers: These are not too hard to find in England. The brass tag varies. He does not know what the W & P is.





Head Lamp - Le Roy Huehuls, 1231 Walton Lane, Cookeville, Tennessee, 38501, has sent a sketch of a lamp he found in western Tennessee. In addition to the dimensions shown,

it includes the following features:

- 1) .75 in. (19.05 mm) flat wick with wheel adjustment;
- 2) Soldered joints;
- 3) A folded seam along the base of the conical body;
- 4) Unfinished tin construction in very good shape;
- 5) No identification marks;
- 6) Tin band adjustable at the back;
- 7) The formed lip on the front of the body would not take a glass as the front of the liquid reservoir is seated and soldered onto the lip;
- 8) There is no evidence of a hinge or hinge holes around the lip;
- 9) The mirror is approximately 2.5 in. (63.5 mm) in diameter and appears to be glass as there is no distortion in the reflected image; the mirror appears to have a rolled edge back-

ing and is soldered to the back of the body.

FINE COLLECTION OF MINING ARTIFACTS FOR SALE

CANDLESTICKS, CANDLES, CARBIDE LAMPS, OIL WICK LAMPS, SAFETY LAMPS, LAMP ACCESSORIES, BLASTING EQUIPMENT, DYNAMITE WARMERS, PRIMITIVE LIGHTING, CARBIDE ACCESSORIES, AREA LAMPS, CARBIDE GENERATORS, LARGE SELECTION OF EUROPEAN LAMPS, MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT, MINE SIGNAGE, TIN GOODS, SURVEY EQUIPMENT, SOME PAPER, PICKS, HATS, LUNCH BUCKETS, ORE BUCKETS, & LAMP TOOLS

ALSO

COMPLETE ASSAY OUTFIT

INCLUDES BALANCES, PORTABLE FURNACES, CUPEL MACHINE, CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT, PORCELAIN, POTTERY, POURING MOULDS, ORE SAMPLING EQUIPMENT, ORE GRINDING EQUIPMENT, ETC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

JOHN W. COONS

1127 ADAMS STREET
DENVER, CO 80206
303-399-5176

ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE

HUSSON Wick Cap Lamps - The following patent drawing and description was found in the February, 1904, issue of Mines and Minerals magazine. It covers patent No. 744,686 issued to Lawrence J. Husson of Norway, Michigan.

If any of our readers have any information that they might wish to share with me about Lawrence Husson, I will appreciate hearing from them.

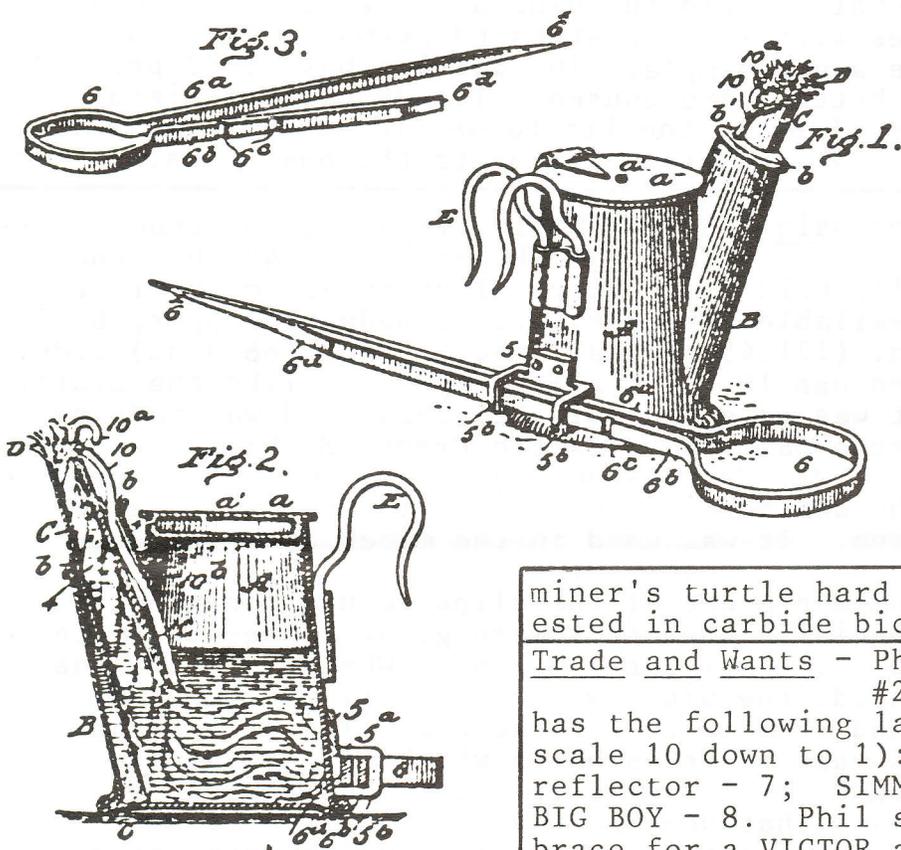
Has anyone seen copies of advertisements, literature, etc., for Lawrence Husson's lamps during the time period of 1903-1905?

Also, any information that readers might be able to share with me on Husson lamps which were manufactured in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, will be appreciated. Thank you.

Robert Fox, 1235 N. Westfield, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54901

MINER'S LAMP

No. 744,686. LAWRENCE J. HUSSON, NORWAY, MICH. Patented November 17, 1903. This invention relates to miners' lamps in which are improved means whereby the illuminant oil contained in the lamp is kept in a sufficiently liquid or soft state whereby to maintain a uniform and continuous capillary action of the wick. It also comprehends an improved arrangement of pick device and means for detachably sustaining it upon the lamp body. In the cut, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the lamp with the picker device attached. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the lamp complete. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the picker device detached. The body *A* of the lamp is of the usual construction and has the holding hooks *E*.

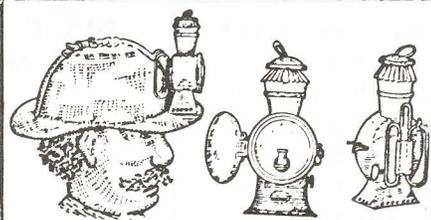


Trade - Jeff Shanks, 1351 Apple Blossom Drive, Yardley, Pennsylvania, 19067 has the following items for trade: unmarked Ideal stick; large Shanklin carbide stick; UMWA / TRET-HAWAY BROS. wick lamp; DUNLAP'S wick lamp; large driver's TRET-HAWAY; SPRING-FIELD carbide lamp; BALDWIN carbide lamp. Jeff is looking for unusual wick lamps.

Wants List - John A. Schlacter, 5701 Bramble Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45227, writes that he needs a size 7-3/4 leather miner's turtle hard hat. He is also very interested in carbide bicycle lamps.

Trade and Wants - Phil Curtin, 5433 loop 205 - #283, Temple, Texas, 76502, has the following lamps to trade (condition scale 10 down to 1): BALDWIN with push-on reflector - 7; SIMMONS - Pioneer type - 5; and BIG BOY - 8. Phil says he needs a reflector brace for a VICTOR and a reflector and burner tip for a SUN RAY.

Book - Mr. Fox's book, Husson Miner's Lamps Manufactured in Oshkosh, is now reprinted and available from the above address: \$5.00, postpaid.



Last issue - Several readers identified this lamp as the Ferguson from 1898 Sears, Roebuck ads. Tony Moon has seen one. At 6 in. (152.4 mm) tall it sure would be awkward on a hard hat.

TRADE LIST Jeff Carnes
P.O. Box 214
Dellroy, Ohio 44620
216-735-2923

Would prefer trades but will sell at indicated price.

CARBIDE LAMPS

ARROW - cap lamp, brass reflector, nickel plated-much nickel worn off water tank, base good, wire brace missing, minor dents, good lamp \$100.00
BALDWIN - 2 date, nickel plated, wire handles, no reflector very good condition, no raking wire \$80.00
CRESTELLA - "King", brass tank, no reflector, 8 hour, old style, good condition, \$60.00
JUSTRITE - belt generator with hose \$15.00
GRIER - vertical brass cap lamp, no reflector, no rear brace, crease on bottom of base, otherwise good condition \$100.00
VICTOR - (Justrite) brass, no hook or brace, no reflector brace, good condition \$80.00

JUSTRITE - 8 hr, steel, wire hook and handles missing, wrong reflector \$25.00
DEWAR - ITP hand lamp, dirty but good condition \$50.00
BIG BOY - brass 8 hr. hand lamp, good condition \$55.00

SAFETY LAMPS

HUGHS BROS. - brass clanny style, no wick tube, no screen \$100.00
Unmarked American Wolf

OILWICK LAMPS

CHIRRY CHIRRY - very good tin lamp \$50.00

MISC.

Edison model P electric cap lamp with battery \$15.00

NEEDS

Reflector for Elkhorn cap lamp
Water door for LU-mi-num cap lamp

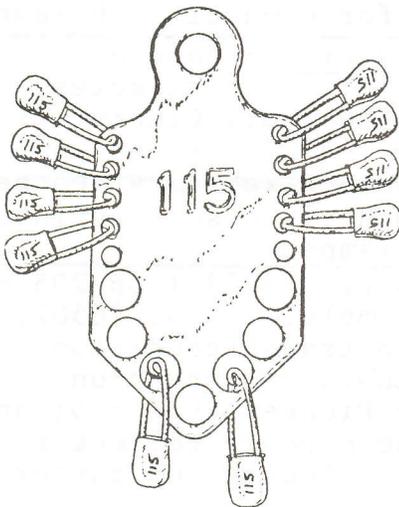
Trade - John Schlacter, 5701 Bramble Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45227, 573-271-1285, is a relatively new collector who has some needs and an interesting item for trade. John's needs are: a Wheat light, battery, and charger; acetylene bicycle head lights or tail lights and good spare parts; a horizontal JUSTRITE carbide cap lamp in good condition; and an early "turtle" type hard hat. John writes that he has the following artifact to trade to someone interested in it. . . a black box, ca. 1923, 3 in. (76.2 mm) x 6 in. (152.4 mm) x 10 in. (254.0 mm) bound with rivets, metal corners, and a canvas strap with a buckel to hold the hinged lid shut. Inside are two blown glass vacuum bottles with scratch-stressed stems that can be snapped off in a mine to take a gas sample. The bottles have 6-23 printed on information labels. Both bottles are unused. Two 38 caliber pistol shells full of beeswax are in clips in the lid to use in sealing the bottles once a sample has been taken. A metal tag riveted to the box reads:

GAS LABORATORY
U. S. BUREAU OF MINES
P. O. BOX 112
MOUNT HOPE, WEST VIRGINIA
LETTER ENCLOSED

For sale - Howard Myhre, 14548 Wilder Lane, Grass Valley, California, 95945, has the clip holder and clips illustrated to the left available for sale. It is made of copper, 6.75 in. (171.45 mm) tall and 3.5 in. (88.9 mm) wide, and has 10 clips all stamped 115 like the plate. It was patented July 22, 1924, and was made by Keyes-Davis Co., Battle Creek, Michigan.

Mr. Myhre acquired this item from a woman who was married to a miner in the Grass Valley area. It was used in the mines as a security measure. When a miner went into the mine, he would pin one of the clips to his clothing, specially when they were going to set dynamite to get ready for blasting. When the shift was ended, the miner would take the clips off and hand them in to the checker. The holder had as many clips as holes which were carefully counted. If one clip did not come back, it meant that someone was still in the mine.

Contact Mr. Myhre if you are interested in this item.



DEWAR and I-T-P - Advertisements, illustrations and model numbers for DEWAR and I-T-P carbide hand lamps are hard to find. Copies of any available material would be appreciated by your mini-editor.

MINING ARTIFACTS BOUGHT & SOLD MINING ARTIFACT ESTATES LIQUIDATED

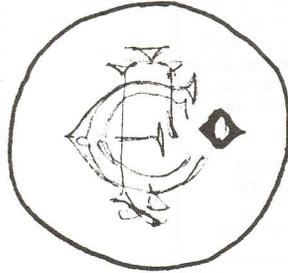
JOHN W. COONS
1127 ADAMS STREET
DENVER, CO 80206
303-399-5176

Winfield Q. & A. -The Winfield patent oil wick cap lamps carried a strange symbol as a trade mark or logo on the top of their brass screw caps. Following up on previous Lamp Post items, Mrs. B. Haynes, 7825 Eustes Ct., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45236, has sent the following:

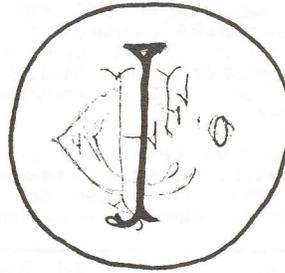
This is the lid that appears on several different lamps. The clearest stamping on any of our lamps appears on a DAVIS & MAGEE which has its own patent date of October 14, 1879.



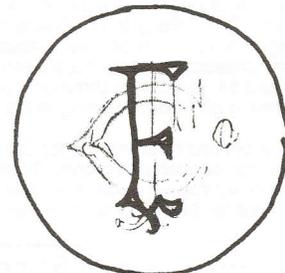
" C "



" O "



" L "



" E "

I am guessing that the monogram spells out " C O L E " - as in the inventor of the screw-cutting machine in patent #19,752 of March 20, 1858.

April 30, 1927

ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL

733

More and Better Carbide Lamps

THE EDITOR:

Sir—My plea, to quote the dying words of Goethe (who, as you may remember, was something of a geologist himself), is "*Mehr licht*"; or, as the Kiwanis would doubtless translate it, "More and better light."

Since the carbide lamp has (*Dieu merci*) replaced the candle, it has incidentally entered into a neck-and-neck competition with the broken ladder-rung for first place as a cause of profanity among miners. The offending instrument finds itself tickled with a wire, shaken, opened, spat into, and perhaps, in a fit of exasperation, thrown down the nearest winze amid an obscene and blasphemous flow of English, American, Spanish, or Cousin-Jack, according to locality and linguistic preferences.

Though occasionally some rare paragon among lamps may be cherished by its jealous owner above much fine gold (and this, for a miner, is no mean valuation), the common product of the factory is not thus but far otherwise. It flickers and sputters, it bubbles over with fiendish glee, and when raised to heaven, or at least as high as the back of the stope, it exudes a mighty outpouring of hot water into the sleeve of its long-suffering collaborator. The perpetrators of the instrument have endowed it with automatic lighters, automatic water-feeds, and automatic cleaners (few of which

work), but entirely forget (and it troubles me much) that one of the objects of a lamp is to give light and not (for example) to economize in carbide.

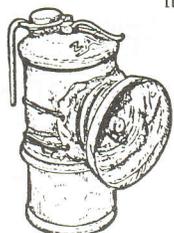
I once worked in a camp in which, immediately upon requisitioning a lamp, we sent it to the machine shop to have its reflector and jet summarily amputated. A burner was made from a Leyner water tube and inserted so that the flame would be from three to four inches long. A reflector was fashioned from solid brass to replace the miniature tin dish—a ritual which leads one to wonder what laws of nature prevent all this from being done at the factory. And ah, that the genius of man might devise a non-leakable stopper for the carbide lamp!

I, for one, shall be content to light my flame with a match, and adjust the drip with my thumb, but my prayer to the lamp makers is that they hasten the millennium when we may have a reflector that shines as a good deed in a naughty world behind a flame that not only permits us to see but to place handwriting on the wall, that the sampler who runs may read, for the miner as well as the aviator is wont to indulge in smoke writing. If some benefactor will give us this, what a generation of mining men will rise up to call him blessed!

ALADDIN, JR.

Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico.

Modified lamps - We have had several inquiries about why we waste space on "odd-ball lamps which have no historic meaning." Well, the above helps explain why we have a reverence for the inherent character of a one-of-a-kind lamp that has been modified by one miner for his own particular use. Also, we have a greater interest in the pure subject of underground light than we have in the history of a manufacturer or where he lived and worked at a given point in time. We shall continue to report on the miner and his light as long as we can. Here are a few more character lamp examples.



Needs - Your mini-editor still needs two each LITTLE GIANT water valves and water doors. Help!

SECOND ANNUAL EASTERN MINING ARTIFACT COLLECTORS SWAP MEET AND REUNION

Saturday, July 20, 1991

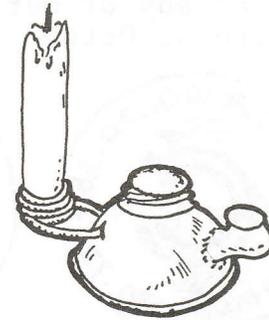
HOLIDAY INN OF LANCASTER COUNTY
Route 272 South and PA Turnpike
Denver, PA 17517
(215) 267-7541

The Second Annual Eastern Mining Artifact Collectors Swap Meet will be held in the heart of Pennsylvania's "Antique Alley," within a few minutes drive of over 2,000 antique and flea market dealers! The Holiday Inn is directly south of the PA Turnpike at Exit 21, an hour from the Harrisburg Airport. For room reservations, call (215) 267-7541. Let them know you are a *Mining Artifact Collector*: rooms have been set aside for our group. (RATES: \$50. single, \$54. double, add \$4. per cot for three or four in a room.) As usual, there will be trading, tall tales, and showing off Friday evening at the Hotel.

A conference room has been rented for Saturday, 8 AM - 4 PM, with 20 tables for trading, buying and selling, and lamp displays. Tables will be \$5.00 for those who send us the attached advanced registration, available until all spaces have been filled. Tables can be rented at the door for \$10., if spaces remain. For more information, or confirmation of table space call:

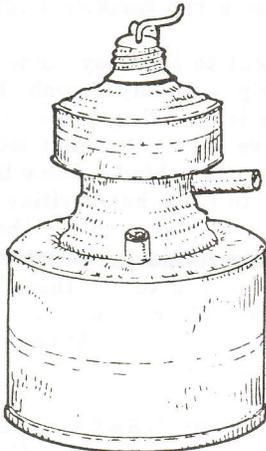
Neal Ressler (717) 392-5708
123 Crystal St.
Lancaster, PA 17603

Strange lamp - Ed Bardy, 13828 Peninsula Dr., Traverse City, Michigan, 49684, sends a photo of a strange lamp he has found in the upper peninsula. Shown here, Ed says that he had also seen another one years ago. It is made of brass with a brass threaded cap. The handle is marked "Pat. Applied For." A hollow copper coil which holds a candle is removable and also holds a wick which runs through the coil. Consensus in Ed's area is that it is a miner's lamp, but nothing else is known.



More strange lamps - Does anyone recognize these two lamps? Generally, they appear to be home-made, but a few parts are recognizable from manufactured lamps.

The lamp below was drawn from a sketch and dimensions sent to us long ago. But the source was lost to some water damage in our basement.



Dick Sears, 4831 Vespucci Dr., Sierra Vista, Arizona, 85635, sent this sketch with the following:

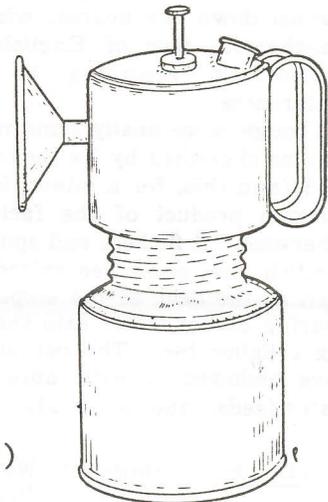
Bottom construction - male threaded portion seems to have come from a threaded can

neck and is crudely soldered onto the flat end piece. The bottom surface is a flat copper disc soldered to the cylindrical sides of the bottom.

The female thread of the top water tank is made from a male knurled can lid. The top and bottom surfaces of the water tank are domed.

The reflector is iron, as is the water valve and the handles.

Height - 6 in. (152.4 mm) to the top of the domed water tank.



Thank you - We are ever grateful to all those kind readers who again have sent us enough postage to cover the last issue of the Lamp Post and to begin this issue. We are more certain than ever that the type of information we are passing on is interesting and useful to others. Special thanks go to Germany, Utah, Washington, California, Michigan, Missouri, Canada, Oregon, Idaho, Kentucky, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Florida, West Virginia, Arkansas, France, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee and Nevada.

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