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E. D. Bullard catalog, 1921

Speaking of spiral feeds, the Justrite Little Giant is a somewhat elusive hand lamp dating to about 1920. Its almost twin brother, the Copper Queen is highly desired by lamp collectors, Arizona artifact collectors, and mineral collectors. The Copper Queen differs from the Little Giant only in the stamping on the side of the lamp. Otherwise, they are identical.

The Copper Queen lamp was a special order item from the Justrite Manufacturing Company for the Copper Queen mine in Bisbee, Arizona. The Copper Queen is the only known American miner's lamp that has the same name as a mine. That gives it a special place in mining history.

The Justrite spiral feed is a unique design in carbide water feeds. It was used on horizontal style cap lamps, and the Uncle Sam, Little Giant, and Copper Queen hand lamps. The long path that the water had to follow supposedly helped assure an even flow. The design did not survive long, however, probably because of clogging problems.

A few examples of the spiral feed cap lamp without water click stops have been found, many of them in California. Speculation: the ad to the left from E. D. Bullard (date unknown), a mining supply house, mentions a "Special Spiral Feed Lamp." Could this have been the model without the water click stops? Another feature of the spiral feed with variations is the water feed lever. It is been found both with and without a small spring that rests in the click stop notches. Without the spring, the click stops were not functional and the water lever can swing freely. We might then surmise that early models without the spring were also made without the click stops. We would, of course, love to hear from other collectors that have acquired this somewhat rare variety of the spiral feed.



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