

Oshkosh

The Editors



Four different Oshkosh cap lamps, all different, all unfired.

The owner of these four lamps wishes to remain anonymous. Really! His phone would be ringing constantly if he were to divulge his name. In the future he promises to tell us more about the four rare Oshkosh lamps he has acquired. As you can see, each is different. One (far left) seems to use an inverted set of tank threads for a base. Some have spade mounts, others have a round hook. Some have a lever feed, others have a twist-ball. Two of them have no water door and only one has a reflector. The best we can determine is that these were prototype experiments at the factory. At least some, and possibly all of the lamps are stamped on top like the "standard" production model seen in a few collections. Now if there was a war, and we had to pit these four lamps against the seven Acme Brothers, who do you think would win? Any answer is correct!

To quote Gregg Clemmer: "The Oshkosh carbide cap lamp was produced between 1912 and 1914 by the Oshkosh Metal Products Company. The cap lamp was fabricated from brass, was 2 1/8 inches in diameter, and stood 2 7/8 inches tall. Reports of an Oshkosh hand lamp are still unverified. Oshkosh Metal Products was presided over by President C. H. Hartley and Vice-president C.C. Nelson. In January of 1912 they bought the Knippenberg Manufacturing Company, a prominent miners' oil lamp and candle holder manufacturer. This acquisition and the addition of a brass foundry paved the way for the first manufacture of the brass carbide lamps by the company. By 1914, however, forced to move operations to 18 Main Street and strapped for working capital, the company ceased business."

