

Shooter's Lamp

by Mark Ballard

About ten years ago while out on a lamp hunting trip, I stopped in Logan, Illinois, and was told to see a man with a lamp collection. I found the home of Laurl Macaroy and he showed me his collection of *two* lamps: one safety lamp and an oil shooter's lamp. According to Laurl, around 1920 Illinois had decided that too many coal miners had been killed in blasting accidents. The decision was made that there would be no more shooting down (blasting) of the coal during the work shift, all blasting would be done between shifts by four or five trained men. Laurl said they needed some type of lamp that would illuminate all the faces where the shooting was to be done. Special lamps were made by a local tinsmith in West Frankfort, IL. Laurl could not recall the man's name.

When asked about how many were made, he recalled that there were five shooter's lamps in the lamp room. The photo here shows the details of this odd miner's lamp. It measures 8 3/4 inches to the top of the wick tube, which has a drip ring. The lamp body is 3 inches in diameter, all of tin and well made. The handle has a tube soldered to it, extending into the tank. Macaroy said that when the flame would burn down on the lamp, the shooter could blow air into the tank through this tube. I asked him if this helped and his answer was "*Hell no!*"



Brass Husson

by Dave Johnson

Most collectors of oil wick lamps are familiar with the numerous Husson brand lamps produced by the Knippenberg Manufacturing Co. of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The most distinguishing design feature of the Husson lamp is the removable candleholder-like spike on some models, as well as a copper spout end on all models. Some models also come with a copper rod that slides into a sleeve at the top of the spout to allow the transfer of heat to liquefy sunshine fuel.

A unique variety of Husson is the brass model with tin cap pictured here. Unlike its tin cousins, with detachable spikes, this particular lamp has a steel spike permanently attached to the lamp base. This lamp also features double wire hooks, also found on some other Husson models.

