

Husson Oil Lamps

by Robert L. Fox Jr.

Knippenberg Manufacturing Company supplied the demand for oil lamps to miners toiling underground in the lead, iron, and copper mines of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. In addition, the Husson oil lamps were popular with miners in other mining regions.

Knippenberg Manufacturing was started in 1905 by Mr. Phillip Knippenberg in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In addition to the oil lamps discussed in this article, Knippenberg also manufactured candle holders as well as "Western Stove Boiler Compounds."

From 1905 to January 4, 1912, Knippenberg operated his factory producing lamps. However, the January 4, 1912 edition of the Oshkosh Northwestern published an article that



Double Spout Lamp

No. 2

Height of body 2 in. Diameter at top 7-16 in.

Made of XX Charcoal Tin.

For different hooks see page fourteen.



Single Spout Lamp

No. 2

Height of body 2 in. Diameter of spout at top 7-16.

Made of XX Charcoal Tin.

For different hooks see page fourteen.



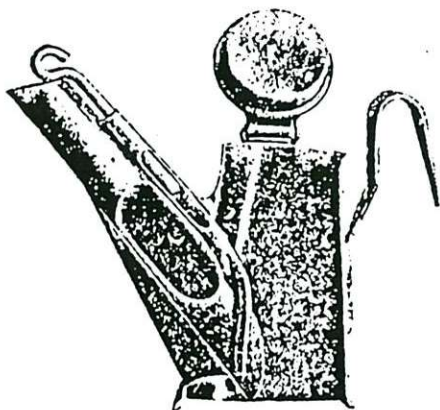
Husson Oil-Wick Cap Lamp Trade Mark

*Early Underground Mine Lamps, p.94
Illustrated by Henry Pohs.*

stated: "Oshkosh Metal Products Company bought the entire property of Knippenberg Manufacturing Company including machinery, patents, and the like. The deal was consummated today and the price was not made public."

Little information has surfaced on either Phillip Knippenberg or Knippenberg Manufacturing Company. We do know from comments written to the company that Knippenberg lamps were of the highest quality.

E. W. Hopkins, Superintendent of Commonwealth Iron Company wrote: "Your Patent Sunshine Lamps which we are now using, are given excellent satisfaction."



Patent Hard Oil Lamp

SECTIONAL CUT

The melting of the oil in this lamp is accomplished by means of a permanently attached wire loop and tube which conduct the heat to the base of the spout. This method of heating does away with the scorching of the wick by the passage of a hot wire through it and the lamp throws off much less smoke. The loop can be raised or turned aside to regulate the flow of oil and, as it is permanently attached, cannot become lost. The convenience and lighting results of this lamp are winning a great many satisfied customers.



Patent Hard Oil Lamp

No. 2

Height of body 2 in. Diameter of spout at top 3-8 in.

No. 5

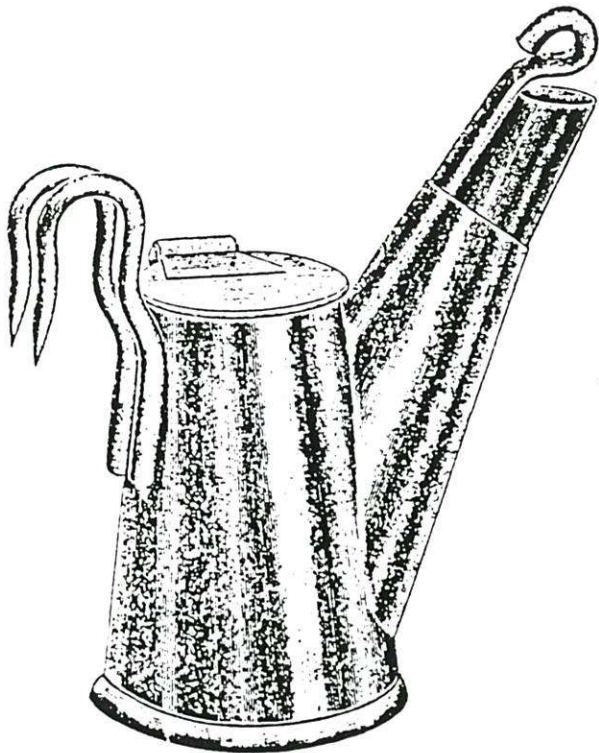
Height of body 2 7-16 in. Diameter of spout at top 3-8 in.

Copper spout and heating tube. Made of XX Charcoal Tin. For different hooks see page fourteen.

D. C. Davidson, General Superintendent of Oliver Mining wrote: "The Patent Sunshine Lamps and Candle-sticks, manufactured by you, have been in use on this range for some months. They are the best articles of this kind I have seen, and fill a long felt want. The demand for them is growing rapidly among the men, as they realize that they are greatly superior to other articles on the market."

The Husson oil lamps produced were designed to burn soft oil, lard oil, and hard oil. The advantage of the oil wick lamps were:

- Lower cost
- Longer burning than tallow candles
- Light in weight - 2 to 8 ounces



Patent Hard Oil Lamp

No. 4

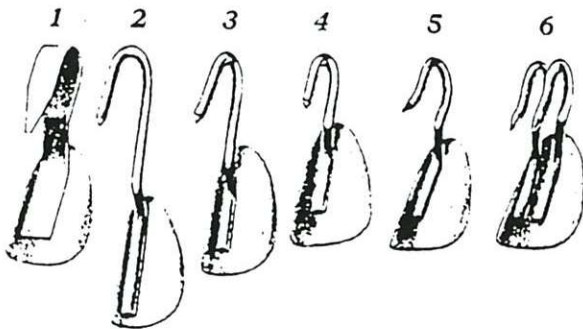
Height of body 2 7-16 in. Diameter of spout at top 15-32 in.

No. 6

Height of body 2 7-16 in. Diameter of spout at top 13-32 in.

Copper spout and heating tube. Made of XX Charcoal Tin.
For different hooks see page fourteen.

*Hooks Furnished on any of the Different Lamps
Specify Number of the Hook Desired*



After Oshkosh Metal Products Company took over ownership of the company, production of the oil lamps and candleholders continued. The "Oshkosh" carbide lamp was also developed and manufactured.

Future articles will discuss the Husson candleholders and "Oshkosh" carbide cap lamp.

References:

Early Underground Mine Lamps, Henry A. Pohn, 1984, Arizona Historical Society.

Husson Miner's Lamps Manufactured in Oshkosh, Robert L. Fox Jr., 1985

Oshkosh Metal Products Company Catalogue, No date.

Oshkosh Northwestern, January 4, 1912



Single Spout Lamp

No. 4

Height of body 2 7-16 in. Diameter of spout at top 9-16 in.

Made of XX Charcoal Tin.

For different hooks see page fourteen.