

P. S. Co. Oil-wick

Dave Johnson

Since publication of the latest list of oil-wick brandnames in Eureka, I have added yet another previously unpublished name to my collection. The marking on the lamp font is P. S. Co. The cap has the California Fruit Jar Co. initials and the Mar. 30, 58 and Mar. 30, 72 patent dates also found on Winfield Patent lamp caps. The brass cap measures just $3/4$ " in diameter at its top and $1\ 5/32$ " at the bottom of the flare below the thread, much smaller than the Winfield lamps. The threads on the lamp are brass and flare below to extend half-way down the sloped shoulder.

The lamp measures $3\ 1/16$ " high and the spout is $2\ 7/8$ " long. The font is $1\ 3/16$ " in diameter and, along with the spout, is tin. The hook is of a smaller than usual diameter wire stock and makes its reverse curve much sooner than most oil-wicks which usually turn at cap level or higher. This feature makes the lamp more unbalanced, causing it to tip forward more easily when hung by its hook.

I have absolutely no idea what the initials P. S. stand for. Since there is no town specified with the name there is no place to start looking for hints other than the fact that the lamp was found in Pennsylvania.

