

# Patented Oil Wick Shield

*Dave Johnson*

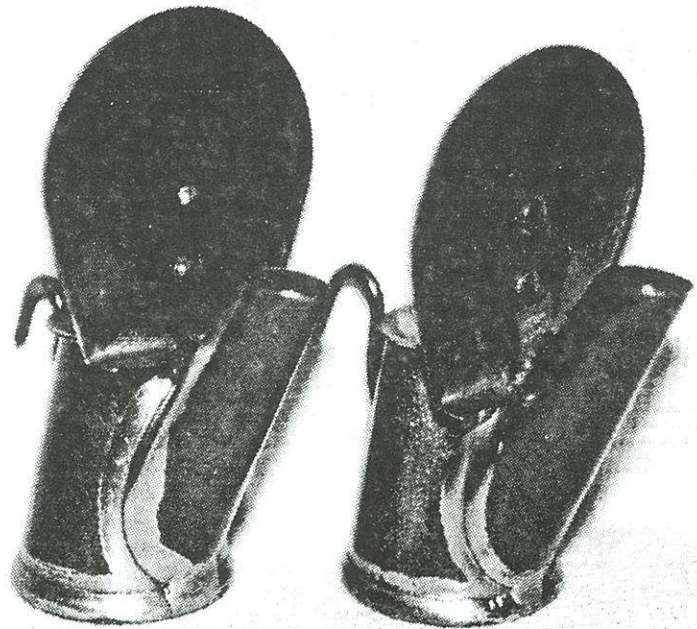
On June 1, 1909, Zachariah Hough and Leslie F. Weaver, both of Banning, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, received patent number 923,655 "for certain new and useful improvements in reflectors for miners' lamps." Prior to the design described in their patent all reflectors, better described as shields, were attached to oil wick lamp spouts. These earlier shields, attached close to the font, made it more difficult to fill the lamp than if it had no shield. According to the patent, prior shields resulted in the waste of fuel when it was spilled due to overfilling resulting from the inability of the miner to see inside the lamp because the shield was in the way.

The design described in this patent had the shield attached to the lamp cap so that when the cap opened the shield tipped to the side, out of the way of filling, allowing the miner to better see the lamp's fuel level.

In their patent, Weaver and Hough state that "while in the drawings forming a part of this application there is illustrated the preferred embodiments of our invention, we would have it understood that the detail construction thereof can be varied or changed without departing from the spirit of the invention." Apparently at least two major lamp manufacturers took this to heart and produced variations of the Weaver and Hough Patent. Shown in the accompanying photos are two variations of this patent, one appearing on a Hardsocg Imperial lamp and the other on a Grier Bros.

lamp. Both examples are marked: WEAVER & HOUGH BANNING, PA, Pat. June 1, 1909. Both examples differ substantially from the patent drawing, but maintain the origi-

nal concept. Lamps with the Weaver & Hough patent shields are very rare and highly sought by collectors. Few examples of this product have survived.



*Front view. Hardsocg Imperial (L), Grier Bros. (R).*



*Rear view. Hardsocg Imperial (L), Grier Bros. (R).*

Z. HOUGH & L. F. WEAVER.  
 REFLECTOR FOR MINERS' LAMPS.  
 APPLICATION FILED FEB. 1, 1909.

923,655.

Patented June 1, 1909.

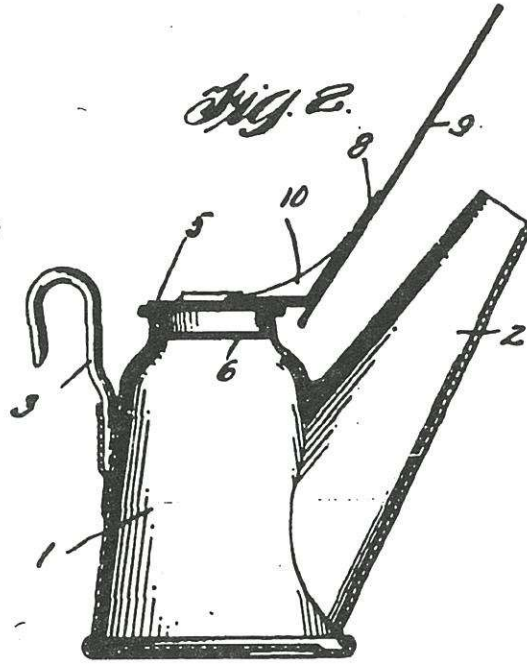
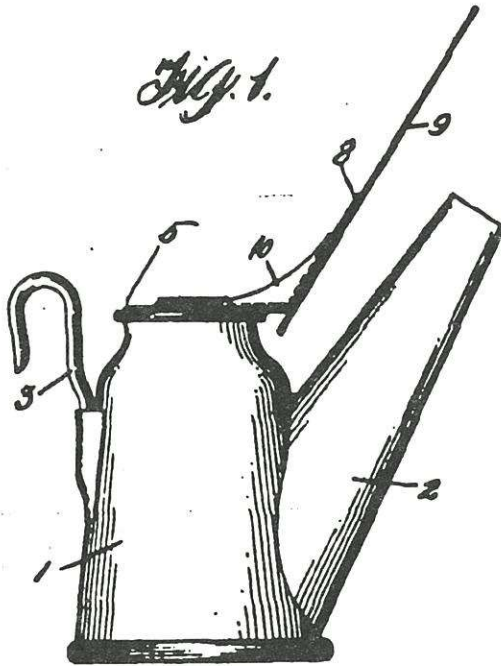


Fig. 3.

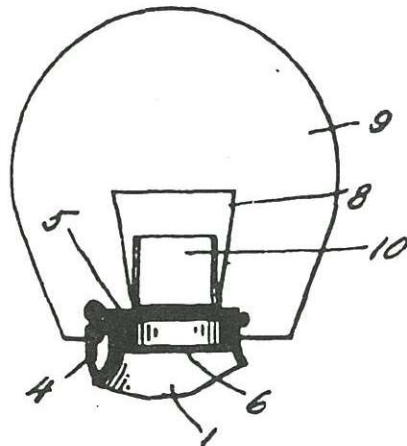
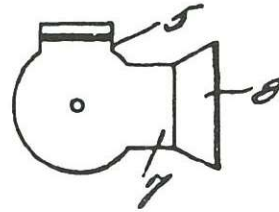


Fig. 4.



Witnesses  
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