

# W. B. Bertels Wick Lamps

*Dave Johnson*

Since writing a short article on W. B. Bertels in the Winter 1991 MAC, I have obtained more information about Bertels and have acquired several more varieties of Bertels lamps.

The Wilkes-Barre, PA City Directory for 1875 lists William B. Bertels

as a maker of stoves and tinware at Market and Canal Streets. In 1878 he was listed as a tinsmith at 1875 Market Street. W. B. Bertels appears as a maker of tinware in the City Directory from 1873 to 1894. The 1900 listing was for W. B. Bertels, Son and Co., maker of tinware at Butler and Canal Streets.

By 1908 the firm was known as W. B. Bertels & Sons, Inc., tinware manufacturer at 415 N. Pennsylvania. W. B. Bertels was listed as President and Charles E. Bertels as Secretary/Treasurer. The firm produced lamps, caps, lunch buckets, water cans, cadgers and other items.



*Bertels lamp with unusual spout shield.*



The 1916 Directory listed Franck Dart as President of W. B. Bertels & Sons at the same address, still a manufacturer of tin-ware. The 1927 City Directory listed the Bertels Metal Ware Co. with George Goeringer as President. There is a reference to a relationship between W. B. Bertels and the Wilkes- Barre Can Co.

Pictured in this article are the ten models of W. B. Bertels oilwicks in my collection. One lamp (previous page) has a unique variety of shield. The only purpose that this configuration of shield could serve would be that described in the O'Keefe Patent, which while shaped differently would serve the same purpose. The O'Keefe shield was



*Bertels Black Diamond lamp with drip ring.*



*Black Diamond Bertels stamp.*

designed to prevent spilled fuel from running down the spout and igniting, which could melt the solder joint between the spout and wick tube causing the lamp to either fall apart or leak fuel from the open joint. This shield has the potential to serve this purpose.

There are three variations of the Bertels Black Diamond oilwick. These drivers lamps are distinctly different from the better known Hardsocg Black Diamond lamp and a similar but different lamp marked Black Diamond alone. They possess a single piece brass shoulder/collar piece, a font with barely sloped sides and the stamping shown here. One has a long wick tube with a drip ring, one has a short double spout and the third has a single long spout at a higher angle than the one with a drip ring.



*Long-spout Bertels Black Diamond lamp.*



*Short double-spout Bertels Black Diamond.*





*Left: Shielded-spout Bertels lamp.*

*Below: High-spout Bertels lamp.*

Another lamp has a unique vented shield wrapped around the wick tube and attached to the font. The design is similar to, but larger than, the Hardsocg model with holes at the base of the outer wick tube.

The Bertels high spout is similar to those produced by at least three other companies.

The last four lamps are varieties of Bertels lamps, two with long spouts and two with shorter spouts. One long spout variety has a brass collar and the other three are all tin.

Given the existence of at least ten different models, Bertels appears to have been a more prolific lamp maker than I first thought to be the case.







# Standard Bertels Lamps

*Standard W. B. Bertels stamp mark.*



*Tall-font Bertels lamp.*



*Long-spout Bertels lamp with brass collar.*



*All tin long-spout Bertels lamp.*



*All tin short-spout Bertels lamp.*