

# IOWA MINE BELL SIGN

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I have to admit--being from California--that when I think of the state of Iowa, the first thing that comes to my mind is corn. Well, they must have a fair amount of coal mining there because I found this advertisement for a mine bell sign manufactured by the Stonehouse Sign Company in Denver, Colorado. I know that we have a few subscribers from Iowa, and maybe one of them will write to us about some of the mining districts there.

As are all the other Stonehouse bell signs that I have seen, this sign--when ordered in porcelain--would have most likely been blue with white lettering. The most unique thing about this sign is the code for "SIX RINGS or WHISTLES" that calls for the reversal of the fan. This must have something to do with the ventilation system, and I bet that one of our readers can explain the meaning of this to us.

As I am sure you have noticed by now, I am always asking for answers from our readers. No matter what the question is, or from what mining district, one of our readers will be the most qualified person to answer the question. So, if you see a question in the MAC, and you know the answer, please get involved and help us share the information about this fantastic hobby that is the one thing that we all have in common.



IOWA STATE CODE OF MINE SIGNALS

## CODE OF SIGNALS

IN ALL MINES OPERATED BY SHAFT, SLOPE OR DRIFT-WHERE MACHINERY IS USED IN THE OPERATION OF THE PLANT, THE FOLLOWING CODE OF SIGNALS SHALL BE USED BETWEEN THE ENGINEER AND OTHER EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATION:

**ONE RING or WHISTLE** shall signify to hoist coal or empty cage; and also to stop when the cage is in motion.

**TWO RINGS or WHISTLES** shall signify to lower cage.

**THREE RINGS or WHISTLES** shall signify that employees are coming up; when return signal or **ONE RING or WHISTLE** is received from the engineer employees shall then be permitted to enter the cage, but not before, when **ONE RING or WHISTLE** shall be given to start.

**FOUR RINGS or WHISTLES** shall signify to hoist slowly; **IMPLIES DANGER.**

**FIVE RINGS or WHISTLES** shall signify **ACCIDENT** within the mine and a call for stretcher and supplies.

**SIX RINGS or WHISTLES** shall call for a reversal of the fan.

### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

**ONE RING or WHISTLE** shall signify all ready, get on cage.

**TWO RINGS or WHISTLES** from Top to Bottom shall signify send away empty cage, which shall be answered from the bottom with **ONE RING or WHISTLE** and the cage may then be moved.

THE STONEHOUSE STEEL SIGN CO. DENVER

To the left is a porcelain sign that is red with white lettering. It is 10" x 7" and was collected by Robert Hauck at the Sterling Hill Zinc Mine at Ogdensburg, New Jersey.