

Mine Bell Signs

by Ted Bobrink

I'm sure the eastern collectors will enjoy this mine bell sign. It comes to us from an ad by **The Stonehouse Co.** of Denver, Colorado. The style of the numbers and the extensive use of bold letters make this one of the most attractive signs I have seen. One of the major differences between the hard rock signs and the eastern coal mining signs is in using the term 'ring' or 'whistle' instead of the word 'bell'. Maybe one of our readers can explain how the whistle was used in relation to the signs. Also do you think we should call them mine whistle signs?

**ILLINOIS
SIGNALS**

FROM BOTTOM TO TOP

1 RING OR WHISTLE. **HOIST** COAL OR EMPTY CAGE.

1 " **STOP** WHEN IN MOTION.

2 RINGS OR WHISTLES. **LOWER CAGE.**

3 " **MEN** COMING UP OR GOING DOWN - WHEN RETURN SIGNAL IS RECEIVED FROM THE ENGINEER MEN SHALL GET ON CAGE AND GIVE PROPER SIGNAL TO HOIST OR LOWER.

4 " **DANGER** HOIST SLOW.

5 " **ACCIDENT** SEND STRETCHER

6 " **HOLD CAGE STILL** UNTIL SIGNALLED OTHERWISE.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

1 RING OR WHISTLE. **GET ON CAGE.**

2 RINGS OR WHISTLES. **SEND AWAY** EMPTY CAGE.

A Fire Signal Sign from Goldfield Nevada

by Ted Bobrink

Keeping on the subject of mine whistles, I remembered a cloth sign I picked up in Goldfield, Nevada some years ago. The Combination Mine and The Mohawk Mine were the largest producers in Goldfield from 1903 to 1941. The sign is white with black letters, and measures 7" wide by 11" long. It would be my guess that these signal signs were used on the surface as there is no mention of anything related to underground mining. I might add that a whistle would produce a much louder and unique sound on the surface than that of a bell.

FIRE SIGNALS.

FIRE ALARM WHISTLE WILL BE BLOWN AS FOLLOWS.
FIVE SHORT BLAST OF WHISTLE WILL BE SOUNDED, THEN THE
NUMBER OF LOCATION WILL BE BLOWN AND REPEATED THREE TIMES.

| | | |
|-----|-------|------------------------|
| 1-2 | ----- | COMBINATION MINE. |
| 1-3 | ----- | MOHAWK MINE. |
| | | } |
| | | STORE HOUSE. |
| | | COMPRESSOR PLANT. |
| 1-4 | ----- | LUMBER YARD. |
| | | ASSAY OFFICE. |
| | | ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT. |
| 2-1 | ----- | CLERMONT MINE. |
| | | } |
| | | RED TOP MINE. |
| 2-3 | ----- | LAGUNA MINE. |
| | | ROUND HOUSE. |
| | | EXPLORATION WAREHOUSE. |
| 3-1 | ----- | MILL |

RULES TO BE FOLLOWED IN CASE OF FIRE:

IN CASE OF FIRE PHONE "ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT"
AND STATE LOCATION OF FIRE.

THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT RECEIVING NOTICE OF FIRE
BLOWS FIRE WHISTLE AND GIVES NOTICE TO
PROPER AUTHORITIES.

FIRE EQUIPMENT IS FOR USE IN CASE OF FIRE AND EMPLOYEES
ARE WARNED NOT TO USE SAME FOR ANY
OTHER PURPOSE.

ALL MEN WORKING AT FIRES WILL BE SUBJECT TO ORDER OF
FIRE CHIEF. PHONE 3926 FOR CHIEF.