

# Mine Bell Signs

by Ted Bobrink

Here is an attractive Bell sign from the state of South Dakota, the home of the famous Homestake Mining Co., the oldest active running mine in the United States. This sign measures 20 inches across by 34 inches long, and like most Stonehouse signs is dark blue with white lettering. Looking at the bottom of the sign you will notice the reference to a station tender. In the larger mines each working level had a man called a station tender. His job was to load and unload the ore cars and mining equipment into the shaft cages, secure them and signal the hoistman using the bell cord. He was the only person allowed to use the bell cord that rang the mine bell. It was also his job to give the signals when hoisting the miners or any other equipment riding in the cages.

Most of the mines using station tenders had signs like the one on this page saying "HANDS OFF BELLCORD", or a sign saying "BELL SIGNALS FOR CAGE TENDERS ONLY".

*This porcelain Stonehouse sign is blue and white and measures 9" wide by 6 1/2 " high.*

## South Dakota Mine Bell Signals

- 1 BELL —Hoist
- 1 BELL—Stop (if in Motion)
- 2 BELLS—Lower Men
- 3 BELLS—Hoist Men
- 4 BELLS—Blasting Signal Engineer must answer by Raising Bucket or Cage a few feet and Letting it Back Slowly; then 1 BELL; Hoist men away from Blast.
- 5 BELLS—Steam On
- 6 BELLS—Steam Off
- 7 BELLS—Air On
- 8 BELLS—Air Off
- 3-2-2 BELLS—Send Down Tools
- 9 BELLS—Danger Signal (Fire, Accident or Other Danger) Then Ring Number of Station where Danger Exists. No Person shall Ring any Signal Bell except the Station Tender, except in case of Danger or when the Main Shaft is being Sunk.

ENGINEERS MUST SLOW UP when Passing Stations when men are on the Cage or Bucket.

### STATION BELLS

BELLS	PAUSE	BELLS	No. STATION	BELLS	PAUSE	BELLS	No. STATION
2	"	1	1	4	"	1	11
2	"	2	2	4	"	2	12
2	"	3	3	4	"	3	13
2	"	4	4	4	"	4	14
2	"	5	5	4	"	5	15
3	"	1	6	5	"	1	16
3	"	2	7	5	"	2	17
3	"	3	8	5	"	3	18
3	"	4	9	5	"	4	19
3	"	5	10	5	"	5	20

If Cage is Wanted Ring Station Signal. Station Tender will Respond in Person  
If Station is Full of Ore and Station Tender is Wanted Ring Station Signal

COPYRIGHT 1917 STONEHOUSE STEEL SIGN CO.

