

Mine Bell Signs

by Ted Bobrink

This porcelain Colorado State mine bell sign is considered to be one of the earliest of the Stonehouse metal type, due to the fact of the name Victor, Colorado and the patent applied for at the bottom. Later signs of this same type, but with the name Denver and a patent date of 1912 are known. These signs are blue with white lettering and measure 18" by 36". Any old porcelain mine bell sign in fine condition without a number of chips and dents is considered very rare, as these signs were used underground, and were very much abused. Early mine bell signs of any type are rare, as they were only used in mines with shafts and there was only one bell sign on each level plus one at the headframe. If a mine was worked out, it would usually flood thus ruining the signs forever.

COLORADO STATE CODE OF MINE BELL SIGNALS.

1 BELL HOIST
 1 " STOP IF IN MOTION

2 BELLS LOWER

3 " MEN ON, RUN SLOW

7 " ACCIDENT HOIST OR LOWER BY VERBAL ORDER

3-2-1 " READY TO SHOOT
 ENGINEER SHALL AFTER SIGNAL 3-2-1 RAISE BUCKET OR CAGE TWO FEET AND LOWER AGAIN AND SHALL REMAIN AT HIS POST UNTIL FINAL SIGNAL IS GIVEN AND COMMAND EXECUTED.

LEVELS

1-1 BELLS 1 ST LEVEL	4-1 BELLS 11 TH LEVEL
1-2 " 2 ND "	4-2 " 12 TH "
1-3 " 3 RD "	4-3 " 13 TH "
1-4 " 4 TH "	4-4 " 14 TH "
1-5 " 5 TH "	4-5 " 15 TH "
2-1 " 6 TH "	5-1 " 16 TH "
2-2 " 7 TH "	5-2 " 17 TH "
2-3 " 8 TH "	5-3 " 18 TH "
2-4 " 9 TH "	5-4 " 19 TH "
2-5 " 10 TH "	5-5 " 20 TH "

RULES GOVERNING SIGNALS.

RULE 1. IN GIVING ORDINARY SIGNALS MAKE STROKES ON BELL AT REGULAR INTERVALS SIMILAR TO "READY TO SHOOT" 3-2-1 BELLS, EACH (-) MUST TAKE THE SAME TIME AS EACH STROKE OF THE BELL.

RULE 2. WHEN MEN ARE TO BE HOISTED OR LOWERED, GIVE SIGNAL "MEN ON, RUN SLOW" 3 BELLS, MEN MUST THEN GET ON BUCKET OR CAGE, THEN GIVE SIGNAL TO HOIST OR LOWER, 1 OR 2 BELLS.

RULE 3. AFTER SIGNAL "READY TO SHOOT" 3-2-1 BELLS, ENGINEER MUST GIVE SIGNAL THAT HE IS READY TO HOIST BY RAISING AND LOWERING BUCKET TWO FEET. MINERS MUST THEN GIVE SIGNAL "MEN ON" 3 BELLS THEN SPIT FUSE GET ON BUCKET OR CAGE AND GIVE SIGNAL TO HOIST.

RULE 4. ALL TIMBERS, TOOLS, ETC., LONGER THAN DEPTH OF BUCKET OR PLACED WITHIN A CAGE MUST BE SECURELY LASHED BEFORE BEING HOISTED OR LOWERED.

RULE 5. SIGNAL OF 3 BELLS MEANS "MEN ON, RUN SLOW" AND NOTHING IN CONFLICT THEREWITH WILL BE ALLOWED. SIGNALS TO MEET LOCAL DEMANDS AND NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE ABOVE MAY BE ADDED BY INDIVIDUAL OPERATORS, BUT THE SAME MUST BE POSTED IN CLEAR AND LEGIBLE FORM IN CONJUNCTION WITH ABOVE CODE.

T. R. HENAHEN, COM. OF MINES.

J. W. STONHOUSE SIGNS, VICTOR COLO. COPYR. T. D. FOR. (REGISTERED)

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