

Mine Bell Signs

by Ted Bobrink

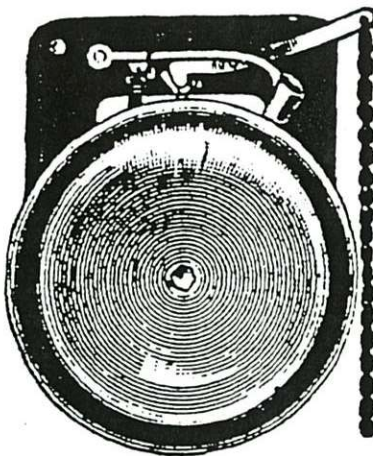
The California State mine bell sign illustrated here was acquired recently in a trade from Rick Yarborough of Concord, California.

Printed on cloth, the lettering is black on a white background. The sign is 34" long and 12" wide.

The code of this sign went into effect on July 1, 1908 and is listed as Mine Safety Order 1741. I assume that these signs were issued free for the asking from the California Industrial Accident Commission to any mining company that required them,

The most unique feature of the California mine bell signs is that they leave the level codes up to the individual mining company, by leaving a large blank space under the word "levels" so they could write in their own code.

Standard Trip Signal Gong



The No. 60 Standard Trip Signal Gong has superior ringing qualities and is practically indestructible.

The base of the gong is attractively finished in black japan; hammer and levers are bronzed; gong shell is highly polished nickel.

A signal bell ad from Globe Mine and Factory Supply Catalog, 1925.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA MINE BELL SIGNALS

ISSUED BY INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COMMISSION
STATE BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO STATE BUILDING, LOS ANGELES

Mine _____ County _____

Mine Safety Order 1741
Effective July 1, 1908

Where it is necessary to use signals by means of bell or otherwise for hoisting or lowering; the following system or code shall be used:

Signals from Mine to Hoist Engineer

- 2-1 bells, to hoist rock
- 1 bell, to stop if in motion
- 1-2 bells, to release skip
- 2 bells, to lower
- 3-1 bells, man on; run slowly; men to be hoisted
- 3-2 bells, man on; run slowly; men to be lowered
- 7 bells, and repeat, accident
- 3-3-1 bells, hoist cautiously
- 3-2-1 bells, ready to blast

After signal "ready to blast," engineer must give his signal when he is ready to hoist.

Engineer's signal that he is ready to hoist, is to raise the bucket, cage or skip two feet and lower it again.

Easily legible copies of the signals shall be posted in a convenient location at the collar of the shaft, at each station, and in the engine room.

LEVELS

Superintendent

Mining Company