

## Mine Bell Signs

by Ted Bobrink

Brian Ross of Grass Valley, California, recently came up with this porcelain mine bell sign from New York. The sign is white with black lettering, is 31" long and 12" wide. At the top, the sign reads "Republic Steel Corporation, Adirondack Ore Mines, Mineville, N.Y."

One of the most interesting features of this sign is that there are no level codes, just an extensive amount of unusual codes, ranging from handling explosives (3 bells, four times) to locating new marks (11 bells). What exactly is "locating a new mark?"

As unique as this sign was, I was very curious to find out what I could about Mineville, N.Y. and if possible, something about the Adirondack Ore Mines. I will have to admit I didn't even know there were underground ore mines in New York, so after making several phone calls to fellow collectors on the east coast, I located Mark DeLawyer of Syracuse, NY. Mark specializes in the history of mining in New York state and is currently writing a book on the subject. Mark graciously offered to do an article on the Republic Steel Corporation and its Adirondack mines. The article appears on the next page.

### REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION ADIRONDACK ORE MINES MINEVILLE, N. Y.

## HOISTING SIGNALS

### ALL SIGNALS EXCEPT STOP BELLS TO BE REPEATED

WHEN A SIGNAL IS GIVEN TO THE HOISTMAN, HE SHALL ANSWER THE SIGNAL AND WAIT UNTIL HE HAS RECEIVED THE SIGNAL THE SECOND TIME BEFORE MOVING THE CAGE OR SKIP. HE SHALL AT NO TIME REPEAT ANY SIGNAL UNTIL HE IS READY TO OPERATE THE HOIST.

1 BELL — HOIST  
2 BELLS — LOWER  
3 BELLS — PRECEDING 1 OR 2 BELLS — MEN ON, RUN SLOW  
1 BELL — WHILE IN MOTION — EMERGENCY STOP

WHEN THE CAGE OR SKIP STOPS AT A STATION, THE HOISTMAN SHALL SIGNAL 3 BELLS, DO NOT ENTER OR LEAVE THE CAGE OR SKIP UNTIL THIS 3 BELL SIGNAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

WHEN NECESSARY TO STOP CAGE OR SKIP AT A STATION, SIGNAL 3 BELLS AS THE CAGE OR SKIP APPROACHES THE STATION.

### HOISTING OR LOWERING MEN

3 BELLS — 1 BELL — HOIST FROM ANY STATION TO TOP OF SLOPE  
3 BELLS — 2 BELLS — LOWER FROM ANY STATION TO BOTTOM STATION

### INTERMEDIATE LEVELS

3 BELLS — LEVEL SIGNAL — REGULAR SIGNAL TO HOIST OR LOWER IN NO CASE SHALL THE HOISTMAN HOIST OR LOWER MEN WITH A LOADED SKIP ABOVE THEM.

### HANDLE MATERIAL — SERVICE SKIPS

4 — 3 BELLS — READY 3 — 3 — 1 BELLS — HOIST SLOWLY  
3 — 3 — 2 BELLS — LOWER SLOWLY 4 — 4 BELLS — FINISHED  
HOISTMAN MUST NOT MOVE CAGE OR SKIP ON ANY SIGNAL OTHER THAN 3 — 3 — 1 BELLS OR 3 — 3 — 2 BELLS AFTER HE HAS RECEIVED 4 — 3 BELLS, UNTIL HE HAS RECEIVED 4 — 4 BELLS, MOVE VERY SLOWLY ON THESE SIGNALS.

### HANDLING EXPLOSIVES

3 BELLS — FOUR (4) TIMES IN SUCCESSION FOLLOWED BY LEVEL SIGNAL WHERE EXPLOSIVES ARE GOING AND REGULAR SIGNAL TO HOIST OR LOWER.  
IN NO CASE SHALL MEN RIDE WITH EXPLOSIVES.

### CHANGING CAGES AND SKIPS

3 — 1 — 3 BELLS — READY TO CHANGE 3 — 3 — 1 BELLS — HOIST  
3 — 3 — 2 BELLS — LOWER 1 BELL — STOP  
3 — 2 — 3 BELLS — CHANGED

### LOCATING NEW MARKS

11 BELLS

AFTER CAGE OR SKIP HAS BEEN STOPPED AT PROPER LOCATION, SIGNAL 11 BELLS.

### LOCATING CAGE OR SKIP

ALWAYS CALL HOISTMAN ON THE TELEPHONE.  
TELL HIM WHERE YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.  
IF TELEPHONE IS OUT OF ORDER, SIGNAL 10 BELLS FOLLOWED BY THE LEVEL SIGNAL WHERE CAGE OR SKIP IS WANTED.

### ACCIDENT SIGNAL

5 BELLS — THREE (3) TIMES IN SUCCESSION  
REPEAT UNTIL ANSWERED BY HOISTMAN, THEN RING LEVEL SIGNAL WHERE CAGE OR SKIP IS WANTED.

FOR ANY UNUSUAL CONDITION, ALWAYS NOTIFY THE HOISTMAN AND MAKE A SPECIAL SIGNAL.

NO ONE SHALL RIDE A LOADED ORE SKIP.