

The South Eureka Bell Sign Revisited

by Ted Bobrink

Most of our early subscribers will remember our first article on mine bell signs in MAC Number 1, Fall, 1988. In that article I explained the use of mine bell signs, the different types, and how to collect them. However, I failed to talk about the sign illustrated in that article.

This sign is one of my favorite as it is from a very famous gold mine in one of the nicest towns in the California Mother Lode. The South Eureka Mining Company of Sutter Creek, California, was first developed in 1891. Its nextdoor neighbor to the north, the huge Central Eureka Mine had an incline depth of 4,855 feet. These two mines along with the Argonaut and Kennedy of Jackson, are probably the four most famous mines in California.

The South Eureka bell sign is porcelain steel, white with black lettering, 22" long and 14" wide. This sign follows the California State Codes to the letter and you can compare it with the California State bell sign covered in MAC Number 6, Winter 1990, page 34.

Some of the codes in the South Eureka sign are unique and were designed specifically for this mine. One of the codes leads to a very interesting question and can be found on line 10. **2 & 2 BELL TO LOWER SKIP TWO LEVELS & SCT.** I have been unable to find an explanation of what **SCT.** means. It can be seen again on lines 13, 14, and 15. If anyone knows the meaning of **SCT.**, I would very much like to hear from you and will print your reply in the next issue of the MAC.

HOISTING & STATION SIGNALS AT ONEIDA SHAFT SOUTH EUREKA MINING CO.

1 BELL TO HOIST SKIP	
2 " " LOWER "	
1 " " STOP " IF IN MOTION.	
3 " " HOIST " WITH ORE OR WASTE FROM CHUTE.	
3 & 1 BELL TO HOIST SKIP WITH MEN RUN SLOWER THAN WITH ORE.	
3 & 2 " " LOWER " " " " " " " "	
3 & 3 & 1 BELL TO HOIST SKIP VERY SLOW	
3 & 3 & 2 " " LOWER " " " "	
2 & 2 " " " " TO NEXT LEVEL	
2 & 2 & 2 " " " " TWO LEVELS & SCT.	
1 & 2 " " " " FROM STATION TO CHUTE	
2 & 1 " " HOIST " TO NEXT LEVEL OR FROM CHUTE TO STATION	
2 & 2 & 1 " " " " TWO LEVELS & SCT.	
2 & 1 & 1 " " " " TO THE NEXT CHUTE & SCT.	
2 & 2 & 1 & 1 " " LOWER " " " " " " " " " " " "	
3 & 2 & 1 BELL READY TO BLAST. ENGINEER MUST SHAKE SKIP OR BUCKET TO INDICATE THAT HE IS READY TO HOIST WHEN GIVEN THE SIGNAL.	

1200 LEVEL 3 & 3 BELLS	2400 - 1ST. WINZE LEVEL 5 & 4 BELLS
1300 " 3 & 4 "	2600 - 2ND. " " 5 & 5 "
1500 " 4 & 3 "	2800 - 3RD. " " 5 & 6 "
1700 " 4 & 4 "	3000 - 4TH. " " 5 & 7 "
1800 " 4 & 5 "	3200 - 5TH. " " 5 & 8 "
1900 " 5 & 1 "	3400 - 6TH. " " 5 & 9 "
2000 " 5 & 2 "	3600 - 7TH. " " 6 & 1 "
2200 " 5 & 3 "	

CALLING THE DIFFERENT LEVELS BY TELEPHONE WILL BE RUNG AS THE LEVELS ARE INDICATED ABOVE. FOR EXAMPLE (1200 LEVEL) 3 & 3 BELLS ON THE TELEPHONE WILL CALL THE 1200 LEVEL.

SUPERINTENDENTS OFFICE 1 LONG & 1 SHORT BELL

MASTER MECHANIC	2	" " 1	" "
ENGINEER	1	" BELL	" "
SAW-MILL	2	" "	" "
SKIPTENDER	3	" "	" "

*SOUTH EUREKA MINING CO.
SUTTER CREEK, CAL.
MARCH 1ST. 1916.*

*WM. H. SCHMAL,
SUPERINTENDENT.*