

# Bisbee Ribbon

by Bob Schroth

I had just picked up this neat ribbon in southern Arizona, and was feeling like I'd hit the jack-pot. *Anything* Bisbee is good stuff. Even before I got home, I called all my friends to tell them what a great find I had just made. But the foreign language was a bit baffling. Most of my friends had seen mining signs and other paraphernalia with Spanish writing. After all, so many miners were Mexican....it all made sense.

I had a great idea! I dashed out of my Motel-6 room and high-tailed it for the nearest construction yard. *There they were:* real Mexicans! After stumbling around a bit, I found one who was bilingual, and was kind enough to take the time to speak to me. I think I must have looked a little anxious?

I showed him the ribbon and asked if he could translate for me. He studied it for a while, sort of squinting in the sunlight. Then the look on his face turned to one of disgust. He shoved the ribbon back to me and said: "That ain't Spanish, man."

I looked at the ribbon again and couldn't believe what a gross error I had made. In my haste, I really hadn't even *looked* at the lettering to guess the language. I was humiliated and embarrassed, and felt like I should be wearing a mule lamp for the rest of the day.

Now can anyone please tell me what language this might be, and what it says?

