

Code of Signals

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Chicago, USA, 2017



<u>CODE</u> <u>OF</u> <u>SIGNALS</u>

That the following shall be the official code of signals for underground work throughout the region:

-One bell -- hoist.

-One bell -- stop, if in motion.

-Two bells -- lower.

-Three bells -- hoist men, run slow.

-Two slow bells -- lower very slow.

-Three slow bells -- hoist very slow.

-Four bells -- blasting signal. This is a caution signal, and if the engineer is prepared to accept it he must acknowledge by raising the bucket or cage a few feet, then lowering it again. After accepting this signal an engineer must be prepared to hoist the men away from the blast as soon as the signal (one bell) is given,--and must accept no other signal in the meantime.

 $-\underline{Six \ bells}$ -- skip or cage call. To be followed by the station signal, when the skip or cage is desired.

-<u>Nine bells</u> -- danger signal. Followed by the station signal, calls cage to that station. This signal takes precedence over all others, except an accepted blast signal.





Lyric: Stop, if in motion

TWO BELLS

A sedimentary rock that burns

A miner's son asked his mother, "Why don't you light the fire? It's so cold."

Formed by the decomposition of plant matter

"Because we have no coal."

ONE BELL

High-grade anthracite a dense, hard rock with a jet-black color and a metallic luster

"Your father is out of work, and we have no money to buy coal."

it burns slowly, with a pale

blue

flame

C240 H90 O4 NS

TWO SLOW BELLS

Bituminous coal or soft coal

contains between 69% and 86% carbon by weight

"But why is he out of work, Mother?"

It is the most abundant form of coal.

"Because there's too much coal."

 $C_{137}\,H_{97}\,O_9\,NS$

THREE SLOW BELLS

When the huckleberries were gone whatever vegetables you raised

you'd do your cannin'

Coal is unique as a source of energy in the United States

Then, you'd try and get your coal that's the anthracite to burn in the winter

None of the 2118 billion pounds used is imported. Furthermore,

You had a chance to pick it you'd take the children, you'd take them down to the slate tanks

the proven reserves are so large we can continue using coal at this level of consumption

pick some coal, have them haul it in

for at least 2000 years.

FOUR BELLS

Made the experiment of burning

the common stone-coal of the valley,

in a grate, in a common fireplace in my house

Back to the mills trudged the men, accepting hours that made them old, old men at forty

and find it will answer the purposes of fuel

making a clearer and better fire

than burning wood in the common way.

Three hundred thousand workers, living below the living wage, ate the bread of bitterness.

Borough of Wilkesbarre,

February 11, 1808

(Signed,) Jesse Fell.

ONE BELL

Senator GOODING. There is not much left for a man if you stop him

from speaking, and stop him from talking, and stop him from singing.

I say then, if he cannot do that, certainly there is not much left for a man to do. NINE BELLS

And this one man got up this morning, and he said he is not goin' to work.

THE MINING CALAMITY

Unsuccessful Efforts to Save the Buried Miners.

He said, I dreamt that I got killed. And he wouldn't go to work.

AID FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS CALLED FOR

Heart-rending Scenes in the Great Crowd About the Mine.

And you know, they made a joke out of it they said it's his imagination.

HEROISM OF THE MEN WORKING AT THE SHAFT

Extent of the Poverty and Suffering Caused by the Disaster.

No, I'm not goin' to work, he said. And he didn't go.





Threnody: Accept no other signal in the meantime.

Here live the miners and the laborers occupying in this humble style the whole western side of the town

A miner's son asked his mother, Why don't you light the fire? It's so cold.

There upon the Eastern side are gathered the elegant and respectable in their more assuming homes

Because we have no coal. Your father is out of work,

employed in the various coal and iron works These, upon the right hand, are the coral insects that work beneath the earth

and we have no money to buy coal.

with enduring toil, out of the reach of the sunlight out of the sight of flowers building up the palpable foundations of wealth

But why is he out of work, Mother? Because there's

those upon the left build upon the firm basis thus prepared for them their climbing towers of prosperity and pride too much coal. When the huckleberries were gone

made by means of the railroad For the time, one can hardly choose amiss from May, when the region

you'd do your cannin' whatever vegetables you raised

puts on its robe of greenery till November, when it assumes its gorgeous autumnal attire

Then, you'd try and get your coal that's the anthracite to burn in the winter

On the morrow we resume our journey More and more, romantic features become characteristic of the country

You had a chance to pick it you'd take the children, you'd take them down to the slate tanks

The town presents neither a very beautiful nor magnificent appearance One endless pile of brick greets the eye pick some coal have them haul it in for your stove.

wherever it turns in the large towns of Pennsylvania. But the natural scenery is of striking beauty

Back to the mills trudged the men, accepting hours that made them old

The river winds lovingly about the edges of the town and its banks are prodigal of shade trees

old men at forty The sound of their feet marching back into the mills

and the mountains have a near, familiar look about them disrobed completely of that mysterious haze in which distance inwraps them

was the sound of a funeral procession Three hundred thousand workers living below the living wage

Here and there along the horizon a beautiful glimpse is afforded of the blue heights far beyond I confess that I was best pleased *Three hundred thousand ate the bread of bitterness living below*

with that portion town which vulgarly goes by the name of Shantyville - a thousand rude huts, closely packed

And this one man got up this morning and he said he is not goin' to work

together, tier upon tier with narrow alleys between - yet absolutely refreshing to the eye There are various points of view

He said, I dreamt that I got killed And he wouldn't go to work

or he may ascend the summit and look down upon the ghastly fissure and upon the diversified landscape

And you know, they made a joke out of it they said

that stretches far away to the northward and southward along the banks of the river

He may wait till autumn has touched the forest leaves

it's his imagination No, I'm not goin' to work he said it. And he didn't go

with crimson and golden lines, pouring over them a flood of splendor, peculiar to our American forests He shall find the entire scene - the rudely broken ridge

There is not much left for a man if you stop him

with its crumbling, precipitous sides and with its two long, low ledges that on either side of the river, it puts forth

from speaking, and stop him from talking, and stop him from singing.

as if, on the one hand, it would run up to punish the bold stream at its very sources or as if, on the other hand

I say, then if he cannot do that certainly there is not much left for a man to do it were chasing it down to the bay one of remarkable scenery makes this ride interesting beyond description

A man came into the union office showed his wrists, in broken English told of being seized

and upsets all our notions regarding the necessities and limitations of railroad construction instead of slinking through the mountain

by officers, taken Handcuffed for a day to a bed, his wrists swelled

in an underhanded way, we boldly overstep its summit in open daylight while far below us curl the envious

They asked him if he would go to work

mist-clouds about the mountain sides. To those who look for the picturesque features of a colliery, the slate-picking room . . .

Though mad with pain he said no.

TWO BELLS

Most interesting of all while passing through the last shutes, the coal is separated from the slate with which it is mixed. This process is intrusted to lads of from four to ten years of age; Nothing can be more amusing than the expression of countenance and the movements of these little fellows, nothing more ludicrous than their ragged and ungainly habiliments They seem rather to be amusing themselves than working as they lazily pick out and drop the pieces of slate-rock, which the casual visitor could not tell from the genuine coal but which they detect by a sort of indolent intuition Let us ascend to this topmost room and we shall see the coal as it comes from the hands of the miner Here is a laborer, who stands by

and as the car reaches the top takes out from it a card upon which is the name of the miner to whom the load is to be accredited For each load mined the miner receives about seventy-two cents The reader will allow us one moment. with the geographical position and the geological aspects of the coal fields Ridges upheaved must have imprisoned many a large, inlying body of water, which in proportion to the resistance offered would the more violently force various outlets to the open sea beyond On its way out, the water would with its tumultuous current tear up the already loosened strata if possible sweeping them entirely away but leaving them behind in confused heaps In regions where there was no violent action of water at all

as in Western Pennsylvania we have the soft bituminous coal

There are few trips so delightful as that through the great Coal Fields of Pennsylvania.

THREE BELLS

A sedimentary rock that burns Formed by the decomposition of plant matter High-grade anthracite

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity ALCOA Allegheny Energy, Inc.

We've created Chesapeake Charlie a friendly beagle who knows all about natural gas and its benefits

a dense, hard rock with a jet-black color and a metallic luster

Alliance Coal, LLC Alstom Power AMEREN Corporation

We're dedicated to keeping families and citizens informed on the issues focusing on safety we all win

it burns slowly, with a pale, blue, flame C_{240} H₉₀ O₄ NS

American Electric Power Arch Coal, Inc. Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation Every day people use natural gas at home and at work. It helps to keep us warm and turn on your lights.

Bituminous coal or soft coal contains between 69%

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. Basin Electric Power Cooperative Berwind Natural Resources Corporation

To find the right spot to drill trucks send sound waves deep into the ground

and 86% carbon by weight It is the most abundant form of coal.

BHP Billiton BNSF Railway Buckeye Industrial Mining Co.

Seismic waves are reflected back to the surface by different layers of rock in the earth.

C₁₃₇H₉₇O₉NS Coal is unique as a source of energy in the US None of the 2118 billion pounds used is imported Buckeye Power, Inc. Bucyrus International, Inc. Caterpillar Incorporated

Geophones listen to seismic waves and measure the time it takes the waves to bounce back to the surface

The proven reserves are so large we can continue using coal at this level of consumption

CONSOL Energy Inc. Consumers Energy CSX Corp.

Can you help the gas make its way through the maze? Pipelines run safely under creeks, neighborhoods, schools and cities.

for at least 2000 years Made the experiment of burning the common stone-coal of the valley

Drummond Company, Incorporated DTE Energy (Detroit Edison) Duke Energy Corporation

A tall tower called a drilling rig is built around a hole in the ground. The well is controlled by a Christmas tree. in a grate in a common fireplace in my house and find it will answer the purposes of fuel

E.ON U.S. Express Marine, Incorporated First Energy Corporation

Water and sand are pumped into the ground to make cracks in the rock; this is called a "frac job"

making a clearer and better fire than burning wood in the common way. Borough of Wilkesbarre,

Foundation Coal Corp. Freightcar America, Inc. General Electric Capital Corporation

The drill can dig its way through rock, deeper and deeper into the earth more than a mile under ground.

February 11, 1808 (Signed,) Jesse Fell At the summit of the slope, or directly above the shaft

Jennmar Corporation Joy Global Mining Luminant Geoscientists use computers to turn data into pictures of rock we prepare a site to drill a tall slender structure is erected which contains the machinery for raising, breaking, and sorting the coal

Midwest Generation Mirant Corporation Murray Energy Corporation

Natural gas is clean, affordable, abundant and American. It supplies energy that doesn't pollute our air and helps protect our environment.

The first room which we enter contains the stationary engine, whose office is to raise the coal up the shaft, and turn the breaker

Natural Resource Partners L.P. Norfolk Southern Co. OG&E Energy Corp.

The coal is carried up to the top of the structure from the mine in deep carts, holding four or five tons each The coal is here dumped off into a shute

Oglethorpe Power Corporation Peabody Energy Corp. Progress Energy, Incorporated which conveys it to the landing where there are other laborers stationed to break the larger pieces when it passes on to the rollers of the breaker, which

Seminole Electric Cooperative SEP Corporation (Sunflower Electric) Southern Company

receiving it between their toothed surfaces, crush it, just as it happens, into various shapes and sizes

From the rollers the coal is passed down into screens

Tri-state Generation & Transmission Assn. Inc. Union Pacific Railroad Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

which allow its different sizes to pass through their different apertures.

- After being "screened" the coal is passed through various shutes,
- at the bottom of which railway cars are stationed to receive it

Western Fuels Association

where. over lateral railways, it is conveyed to the coal-vards of the Railroad, to shipped to market. be Two walls rise precipitously on eitherside height of to а sixteen hundred feet made of thin up of sandstone and conglomerate rock lavers The position of their strata indicates ancient volcanic convulsion which an bv they were upheaved above the Kittatinny Ridge which have been the appears once to margin of a vast lake. receiving within its rock-bound inclosure the waters of the Chemung, Chenango, the Delaware, and the Susquehanna rivers; Formed by the decomposition of plant matter Express Marine, Incorporated Water and

are pumped into the ground when sand it rollers of the breaker. passes on to the which Tri-state Generation & Transmission Inc. at home and work. Assn. at It helps which conveys it to the landing Corporation and they may be Oglethorpe Power curious to raise the coal up the shaft, and turn the breaker Drummond Company, Incorporated

trucks send sound waves Highgrade anthracite Natural Resource Partners L.P. the waves to bounce back to the surface Formed by the decomposition of plant matter DTE Energy (Detroit Edison) and measure the time it takes which conveys it landing to the Caterpillar Incorporated

deeper rock. and deeper earth which the allow its different into sizes through their to pass correspondingly different apertures. CONSOL Energy Inc. a friendly beagle who knows After being "screened" various shutes, the coal is passed through Allegheny Energy, Inc. back to

surface by the the stationary engine, whose office Southern Company is Natural gas is clean, affordable, abundant and the commonstone-coal valley Jennmar Corporation The coal is of the here dumped off into a shute Buckeye Power, Inc. Water and sand pumped into the ground are C₂₄₀H₉₀O₄NS Allegheny Energy, Inc. We've created Chesapeake Charlie C₁₃₇H₉₇O₉NS OG&E Energy Corp. Pipelines run safely under creeks, the common stone-coal of the valley Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. a friendly beagle who knows the commonstone-coal of the vallev Western Fuels Association drilling rigs popping up which conveys it landing to the Co. Pipelines under Norfolk Southern run safelv creeks. and find it will answer the purposes of fuel First Energy Corporation rock, deeper and deeper into the earth it burns slowly. Foundation Coal Corp. Τo find the right spot to drill Bituminous coal AMEREN Corporation Geoscientists use computers and to turn find it will of fuel answer the purposes Arkansas Electric Cooperative The drillcan Corporation dig its receiving way through it between their toothed surfaces, Oglethorpe Power Corporation to cracks in the The make rock: proven reserves large Alliance are Coal. so The LLC drill can dig its the commonstone-coal way through of the valley E.ON U.S. deeper and rock. deeper into the earth Made the experiment of burning Foundation Coal find the right Corp. To drill or soft coal spot to Southern Company Can you help through the gas make its wav the maze? than burning wood in the commonway. DTE Energy (Detroit Edison)

			pollute	our	air	and	helps
	protect	our envi	ironment.	crush	it,		
	just	as	it	happens	,		
into	various	shapes	and	sizes			Jennmar
	Corporation				The	drill	can
	dig	its	way	through		for	at
	least	2000	years			Buckeye	ePower,
		Inc.		Chesap	eake	Charlie	burns
	slowly, Co.				Norfolk	Southern	
				Geoscientists		use	
	compute	ers	to	turn	the	commor	stone-
coal	of	the	valley			Natural	Resource
	Partners L.P.				Can	you	help
	the	gas	make	its	way	through	the
	maze?						

FOUR BELLS

Their homes had names like Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn

that worked and slept Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn

Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn that work made of them

Historical markers of

were thrown on the scrap heap the men themselves

mark the sites. along with the slag were thrown on the scrap heap

its history and ecology to a place, outsiders,

were thrown on the scrap heap

its history and ecology

painted bronze Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn

mark the sites. painted bronze

that work made of them

the men themselves

nothing but bodies bodies that slept and worked

nothing but bodies along with the slag

bodies that slept and worked bodies that slept and worked

nothing but bodies were thrown on the scrap heap

bodies that slept and worked bodies that slept and worked

along with the slag They say that

from the mills along with the slag

Historical markers of Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn

that worked and slept bodies that slept and worked

Their homes had names like Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn

at early middle age were thrown on the scrap heap that work made of them that work made of them

to a place, outsiders, Can one read the signs

we are not cognizant of the landscape we are not cognizant of the landscape

They say that painted bronze

we are not cognizant of the landscape Wehrum, Vintondale, Claghorn

Their homes had names like They say that

bodies that slept and worked nothing but bodies

that worked and slept bodies that slept and worked

the men themselves its history and ecology

were thrown on the scrap heap along with the slag

history

Consider how in coming

history

mark the sites

Consider how in coming history

to a place, outsiders, the men themselves

history

along with the slag

slept worked

NINE BELLS

Consider how in coming to a place

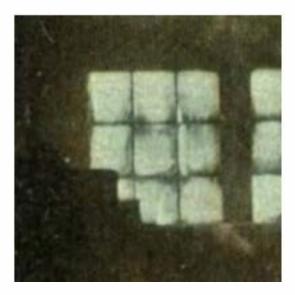
Mark the sites

Can one read the signs in our present from the hands

This signal takes precedence over all others, except an accepted blast signal

Fatal Effects of a False Theory





Coda: The young brides are seeking in the mine

Do you hear the children their young heads that cannot stop their tears poets are searching in the path tourists are walking in the woods schoolchildren are laughing in the field migrants are enduring in the earth poets are lifting in the mine mules are laughing in the church ministers are asking in the river young brides are asking in the field migrants are singing in the grave young women are speaking in the river young readers are walking in the book young brides are seeking in the mine in the country of the free.

About

This poem explores Western Pennsylvania, past and present, as a space and culture grounded in fossil fuels-from ancient dead organisms, to historical remnants of 19th century mining, to current landscape and social transformations in the era of so-called Clean Coal, Green Energy, and Fracking for natural gas extraction. Conceived initially as a digital work, the piece nonetheless takes as models several modernist books, including W .C. Williams' *Paterson*, Charles Reznikoff's *Testimony*, and Louis Zukofsky's "*A*" -- with their various interests in locating self and language in relation to place, history.

A remembered passage from Zukofsky served as catalyst when, in tracking down the reference to "striking coal miners in Penna." from his "A"-1, I learned of the infamous Rossiter Pennsylvania strike, which transpired in a nearly forgotten town just up the road from where I now write. In this sense, the project is also an auto-documentary or an exercise in self-location, as I try to use the composition of the poems as a means of reading the muted texts and landscape into which I have migrated, where coal extraction continues, powering the digital machines with which I make my art.

This piece flirts with but largely eschews the controlling energy of the lyric voice in order to compose itself as the reader "mines it," using algorithmic rules to juxtapose original and found texts in dynamic, varying patterns. The challenge has been in how to "repurpose" without doing violence to these lost discourses, to appropriate materials and, in a sense, reanimate them by placing them in new poetic contexts.

Sources

Material for this poem was gathered from a number of sources. Quotation marks are frequently omitted. Some source language is silently revised or altered, other phrases are verbatim from a given source.

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2017

Eileen Tabios – To Be An Empire Is To Burn Charles Perrone – A CAPacious Act Francesco Levato – A Continuum of Force Joel Chace – America's Tin John Goodman – Twenty Moments that Changed the World Donna Kuhn – Don't Say His Name Eileen Tabios (ed.) – Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry Gabriel Gudding - Bed From Government mIFKAL aND – Manifesto of the Moment Garin Cycholl – Country Musics 20/20 Mary Kasimor - The Prometheus Collage lars palm – case Reijo Valta – Truth and Truthmp Andrew Peterson – The Big Game is Every Night Romeo Alcala Cruz – Archaeoteryx John Lowther – 18 of 555 Jorge Sánchez – Now Sing Alex Gildzen — Disco Naps & Odd Nods Barbara Janes Reyes – Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 2 Luisa A. Igloria – Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 3 Tom Bamford – The Gag Reel Melinda Luisa de Jesús - Humpty Drumpfty and Other Poems Allen Bramhall – Bleak Like Me Kristian Carlsson – The United World of War Roy Bentley - Men, Death, Lies Travis Macdonald – How to Zing the Government Kristian Carlsson – Dhaka Poems Barbara Jane Reyes – Nevertheless, #She Persisted

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Marthe Reed – Data Primer Carol Dorf – Some Years Ask Amy Bassin and Mark Blickley – Weathered Reports: Trump Surrogate Quotes From the Underground Nate Logan – Post-Reel Jared Schickling – Donald Trump and the Pocket Oracle Luisa A. Igloria – Check & Balance Aliki Barnstone – So That They Shall Not Say, This Is Jezebel Geneva Chao – post hope Thérèse Bachand – Sanctuary Chuck Richardson – Poesy for the Poetus. . . Our Donaldcito John M. Bellinger – The Inaugural Poems Kath Abela Wilson – The Owl Still Asking Ronald Mars Lintz – Dumped Through Agnes Marton – The Beast Turns Me Into a Tantrumbeast Melinda Luisa de Jesús – Adios, Trumplandia! Magus Magnus – Of Good Counsel Matina L. Stamatakis - Shattered Window Espionage Steve Klepetar – How Fascism Comes to America Bill Yarrow - We All Saw It Coming Jim Leftwich – Improvisations Against Propaganda Bill Lavender – La Police Gary Hardaway - November Odds James Robinson – Burning Tide Eric Mohrman – Prospectors Janine Harrison – If We Were Birds Michael Vander Does - We Are Not Going Away John Moore Williams – The Milo Choir Sings Wild Boys in Trumplandia Andrea Sloan Pink – Prison and Other Ideas Stephen Russell – Occupy the Inaugural James Robison – Burning Tide Ron Czerwien – A Ragged Tear Down the Middle of Our Flag Agnes Marton – I'm the President, You Are Not Ali Znaidi – Austere Lights

Maryam Ala Amjadi – Without Metaphors Kathleen S. Burgess - Gardening with Wallace Stevens Jackie Oh – Fahrenhate Gary Lundy - at I with Haley Lasché – Blood and Survivor Wendy Taylor Carlisle – They Went to the Beach to Play Melinda Luisa de Jesús - James Brown's Wig and Other Poems Tom Hibbard – Memories of Nothing Kath Abela Wilson – Driftwood Monster Barbara Jane Reyes - Nevertheless, #She Persisted, Number 3 Maria Damon, Adeena Karasick, Alan Sondheim -Intersyllabic Weft Barbara Jane Reyes – Nevertheless, #She Persisted, Number 2 JJ Rowan - so-called weather Jared Schickling - Donald Trump in North Korea Eileen Tabios – Making National Poetry Month Great Again! Allison Joseph – Taking Back Sad Nina Corwin – What to Pack for the Apocalypse E. San Juan, Jr.—Punta Spartivento Daniel M. Shapiro - The Orange Menace Joshua Gage – Necromancy Kenneth Sherwood - Code of Signals

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