BELLS OF CHRISTMAS

World's Oldest, Simplest Musical Instrument Is Universal Yuletide Symbol

Each nation has its individual symbols of Christmas: In England there is the Yule log, in France the candles and in Holland the wooden shoe. But throughout the entire world there is one universal symbol, the bells of Christmas.

This is strange because bells were not associated with the church until at least 400 A. D. when Paulinus, an Italian bishop installed them in his church. Some bell authorities claim that Pope Sabinianus gave us the first church bells in 604.

The custom has grown until there is perhaps no use of church bells so widely known in Christian countries as the ringing of chimes to herald the advent of the birth of Christ. From huge cathedrals to tiny country churches, from the frozen arctic to the sunny tropics, the bells peal forth each Christmas season an old, old story of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."

America's very national existence is wrapped up in the priceless Liberty bell at Philadelphia, and certainly no one can say that bell music isn't the most democratic music in the world. It's always free, unrestricted to any few who can buy tickets to a concert.

In recent years the ancient bell has "grown up" into the carillon, a highly sensitive instrument on which Christmas carols seem to find their most perfect expression. There are now more than 200 of these instruments, 30 of them in the United States. Similar to the carillon, but differing in the number of bells, tuning and arrangement of keyboard, are chimes. Some of the finest chimes hang in English cathedrals and spread the Christmas message each December.

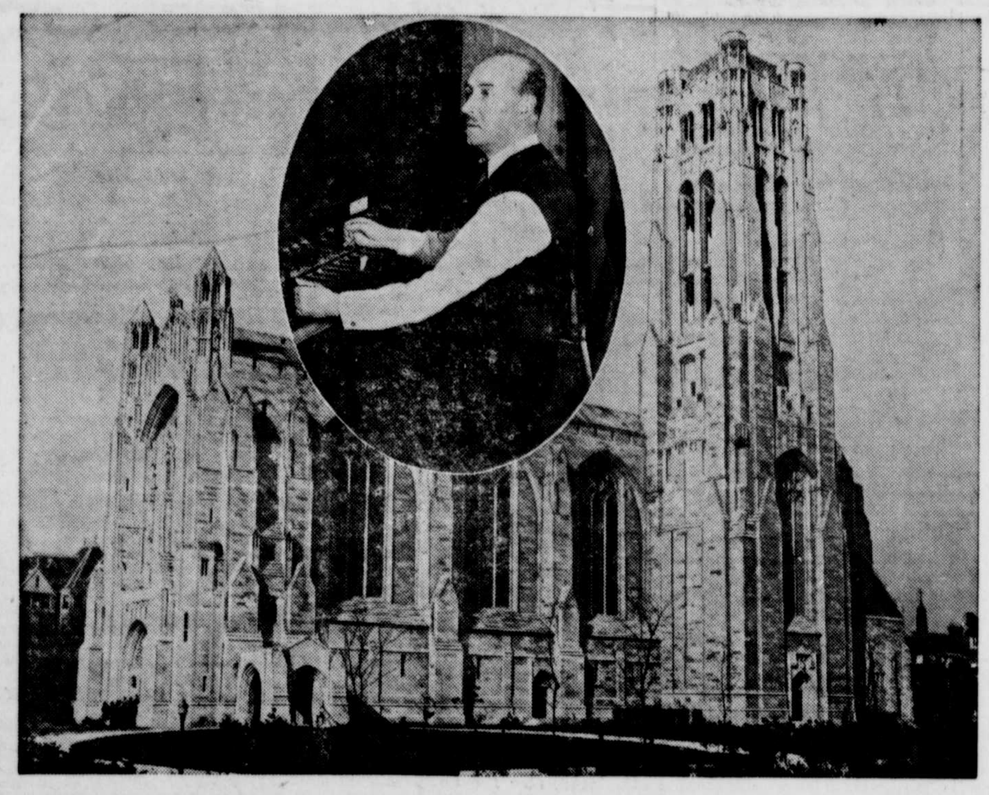
A chapter in the history of bells may be found in the story of almost any creed or culture. First known in the East, they were used by aboriginal people as ornaments. They came down through Grecian days and called Roman citizens to the forums, later summoning early Christians to worship. In the Middle ages they called people to arise, guided the far-away traveler.

Napoleon loved bells so dearly he would not destroy them, while Henry VIII took fiendish delight in destroying them.

Bells have made people laugh and cry, have stirred them to action and lulled them to sleep. Bells are the simplest, yet the most compelling musical instrument in the world and it is fitting that they should toll the universal message of Christmas, of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."

RIGHT—Bok singing tower and bird sanctuary at Mountain Lakes, Fla., said to be the most ideally conceived and located carillon in the country. It rings each Christmas day.

ABOVE—Mrs. A. S. C. Forbes tests the tone of a replica of a California mission bell, which were among the first church bells in the territory later to become the United States.



The University of Chicago chapel which has one of America's most beautiful carillons, the gift of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Inset, Kamiel LeFevere, noted Belgian musician who was brought to the United States to play it. This carillon, too, rings out the story of Christmas each year.

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A Free land needs two parties, a radical one to think up ideas and a conservative one to make them work.

A free land is one where you have the right to be robbed and shoved around by politicians of you own choosing.

The radio can carry an idea around the world in a second, but it still takes years to get through a quarter-inch of skull bone.

DEAR'S CHRISTMAS DOLL

By Helen Gaisford Waterman

DEAR was really too big to play with dolls. Yet, when she said that all she wanted for Christmas was a really nice doll, of course mama and everyone gave in.

People always were nice to Dear, probably because Dear was so nice. That was why everyone called her "Dear" instead of by name.

Such a doll, on Christmas morning, with real eyelashes, and long curls. It could walk, talk, and sleep. And it had a whole truck of lovely dresses and shoes, and a little fur coat.

Dear dashed down to see it first thing Christmas morning, and then, when breakfast was over, she got her wraps, dressed the doll in its fur coat, and set out with its trunk under one arm, and it in the other. "She's so proud, she has to show it to her friends," smiled mama.

But when Dear returned, she had neither doll or trunk. "Why, Dear," said mama, "where's your doll?"

"I gave it away," Dear answered. "I do hope you won't mind. You see, I knew a little girl who had never had a doll in her whole life, and I wanted so to give her one on Christmas."

"But Dear, why didn't you say so? We could have bought one that would have been good enough, and you could have kept yours."

"That's why, mama," Dear explained. "It had to be just the nicest doll ever, to be fun. And oh, mama," she cried, her face beaming with happiness, "did you ever see a poor little girl with her first lovely Christmas present?"

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The Christmas Party

By Katherine Edelman

IN SPITE of the gay music, the Christmas atmosphere, Doris Brian was miserable. For the first time in his life Dick was neglecting her for some one else. Ever since the first dance he seemed to have eyes and ears for just one person—Barbara Overton, a visitor from Chicago. Doris couldn't understand it; Barbara was not even pretty. But there was Dick, hanging on every word she was saying, and leaving Doris unnoticed.

Only yesterday he had been suggesting that they get married. There was his writing; he had told her something would come from it before long. Editors couldn't keep saying "no" forever . . . But now he seemed to have forgotten that she even existed. Doris had heard of men growing suddenly infatuated like that . . .

Snatching a wrap she hurried out on the veranda. She couldn't bear the gayety another moment. Suddenly she felt herself whirled around. Dick had come quickly through the doorway. "I've got the whole dope from her," he was saying excitedly. "I'm on the way to riches. Don't you know she's THE Barbara Overton who took first place in the biggest contests last year—and, honey—she's put me right on the track. I'm going to win big money next year—you see if I don't. Doris, are you willing to take a chance, and marry me right away—to make it a Christmas wedding?"

Which was exactly what Doris did.

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DADDY NO SAINT

"Mama, isn't Santa Claus a saint?"

"Yes, dear."

"I knew I was right. Johnny said that Santa was only your father and I told him I knew that Santa wasn't daddy 'cause he's no saint."

HOLLAND'S SANTA

CHILDREN of Holland believe that St. Nicholas was a kind-hearted Spanish bishop who had heard about their land of dikes, windmills and tulips and decided to pay it a visit, says Johan Hart in "Picture Tales from Holland." He arrived there long years ago on December 5, and began giving children presents. Since then he has always returned on that night to fill the wooden shoes of Dutch children with gifts. The children in turn leave out some carrots or hay for his horse.

OLD AGE INSURANCE

Q. My husband was lost at sea and his body was never found. He had a social escurity account card and was covered by the old-age insurance law. Would it be possible for me to file a claim for his benefits?

A. You should certainly file claim for your husband's old-age insurance benefits. It is suggested that you go to the Baltimore field office of the Social Security Board and talk with the Manager or one of his assistants. Submit all the evidence you have, and ask his advice about proper procedure. Claims were recently paid to the widows of two men who were drowned when their boat capsized; three other men who were in the boat escaped death. Affidavits of the surviovrs were accepted in lieu of a death certificate, which is usually required in connection with the payment of death benefits. Wage records of the deceased workers were checked and it was found that benefits were due the widows.

Q. I have worked in a textile mill for the past 20 months. In that time I earned $1,800. The company took out one percent of my wages every week for the security tax and I understand that they paid another one percent tax on my wages. In all that makes $18 that I have paid and $18 the company has paid for my wage tax. Now is that whole $36 credited to my social security account or just the amount I paid myself?

A. You have the wrong impression about the credits on your wage record. Your account is credited with the amount of wages you have received in the mill since the law went into operation (on January 1, 1937). Your $1,800 wage earnings are posted by accountants of the Social Security Board on the ledger sheet containing your name and account number. As long as you work in a job that comes under the law (until you are 65 years old) your wage earnings will be posted (periodically) on that same wage record. Your benefits will be based on the total amount of all the wages credited to your account.

Q. I recently started in business for myself, and I employ three clerks. I should like to have some information about the wage report to the Government which I have to make in January.

A. Employers' quarterly wage tax returns must show each employee's name and his social security account number, and the amount of taxable wages paid to him during the quarter. Each employee's benefits are based on his total wages from employment covered by the old-age insurance plan, and for this reason employers should see that the names shown on their pay rolls conform exactly with the names on their employees' cards. A printed circular "Outlining Employer's Duties Under the Social Security Act", can be obtained from the Board or from the Collector of Internal Revenue. You can call, write, or phone the office and the phamphlet will be mailed to you free of charge.

Q. I am 55 years old, and have been working in employment covered by old-age insurance provisions, and now I am disabled so that I cannot work any more. Could I draw out what is due me under old-age insurance provisions of the Social Security Act

A. You will not be allowed to collect your old age insurance until you are 65 years old. Even though you never work again in employment that comes under old-age insurance, you will be entitled, when you reach 65, to a lump-sum payment amounting to 3½ percent of the wages credited to your account.

Telephones Play Important Roles In Stage And Radio Presentations

Used To Give Plots Backgrounds, Credibility; "Phony" Numbers Protect Subscribers

More and more the use of the telephone is gaining popularity in the theatre and radio as a means of giving audiences the background of the plot and of giving credibility to the action. The demand has grown in New York City until The New York Telephone Company has established a section devoted to supplying the theatre and radio with "phony" numbers and period telephones.

Hundreds of telephones, dating from the time of its invention by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, are kept on hand to be loaned free to metropolitan producers.

Of the plays on Broadway "Hooray for What" tops the list with a total of six modern hand sets. "The Star Wagon" uses an old type wall set, and the late lamented "How to Get Tough About It" used a pay booth importantly in one scene. Other shows using telephones are: "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," "Golden Boy," "Susan and God," "The Women," and "Room Service."

Authors frequently call the company to get numbers which sound right but will not bring the wrath of an unsuspecting subscriber down on the company's head when the pranksters in the audience try it on their dials the next day. The telephone company keeps a file of fictitious numbers which have an authentic sound geographically.

IS YOUR BIRTHDAY INCLUDED

Forecast Of Influences For The Year

If you were born between Jan. 3rd and 13th of any year you are under influences favoring new ventures and creative efforts. Romance and speculation favored. Heart ties under influences making for favorable changes.

If your birthday falls between January 18th and 24th, you are due for events of a partnership or matrimonial nature which are related to transmutation, reform, salvage. This is a regenerative influence. It may bring death in legal relationships. Be very circumspect in your dealings with others.

You folks born between February 3rd and 12th, prepare for changes, new moves and associations involving home, parent, estate. Make no sudden changes, and be prepared for the sudden and unexpected. Avoid the eccentive or unconventional.

All born between February 19th, and March 20th, of any year, should realize that opportunity for personal growth and development present themselves during the first five months of 1939. Push your personal affairs, and seek reward for personal services. Take up new studies. Travel if opportunity to do is yours.

Those born between March 21st and March 30th, will find the period between May 12th, and October 29th, favorable for travel, distant interests, new studies, religious or philosophical contacts, and matters of law, higher education or publishing.

If your birthday falls between April 1st and 23rd, you are warned to be circumspect in all your dealings; to accept responsibility; to give up as wisdom counsels. That which is taken away will prove a blessing in disguise—later on.

You Taurus folk born between May 6th and 13th, should prepare for moves, shifts and changes as affecting personal and occupational affairs. Some of you have already felt this influence. Possible disruption, separations, sudden developments, and association with the new. Adapt yourself to new associations and conditions. Do not resist wise changes. Your views on many matters are in for no gentle shocks. When the smoke has cleared away you will look at life in an altogether different way. Creative efforts favored. Some of you will product masterpieces. The months of July and August, this year, particularly favorable for those born May 11th, 12th or 13th, especially along creative lines emphasizing the idealistic or compassionate.

If born between June 22nd and July 22nd, you are under favorable influences as affecting law, credit, foreign or distant affairs, higher education, philosophy or religion. Start new studies and be optimistic during the period Dec. 28, 1938 till May 12, 1939.

Those born between June 19th and July 25th will have some connection with death, reform, salvage, inheritance, medicine or occultism, during the next two years. Best go slow for awhile. (Concluded next week.)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Christian Science" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, December 25.

The Golden Text will be from Isa. 9:2: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible, Matt. 5:13: "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt hath lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted; it is thence good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include passages from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, among which is the following, page 473: "Jesus established what he said by demonstration, thus making his acts of higher importance than his words. He proved what he taught."

CHICKEN THIEVES SENTENCED

Louis Brown and James McKinley, both colored, of Havre de Grace, were arrested by Chief of Police Lawrence L. Boyd on Tuesday last for breaking into the chicken house of Lillian Brown, also colored, the night before, and stealing nine chickens. They were taken before Justice Harry W. Cooling the same day and following their conviction, were each sentenced to 18 months in the Maryland House of Correction. Justice Coolings says he intends to break up chicken stealing in Harford county an dwill impose heavy sentences on prisoners brought before him on such charges.

LEGENDS OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS

First of a new series of captivating paintings reproduced in full color reveals fascinating works of art inspired by legends of our own Indians. Don't miss this feature, Jan. 1st issue of The American Weekly, the big magazine distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Fault is the one thing that is frequently found where it is not.