

Legends of Freeborn County

Look at the wide world of bells

by Bev Jackson

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Have you ever thought just how many bell types there are? Consider sleigh bells, door bells, school bells, dinner bells, bell-bottom trousers, people named Bell (Alexander Graham for example), crystal bells, church bells, Hummel bells, bell shaped containers, dumb bells (of various types), cow bells, warning bells, clock tower bells, wedding bells, bells on jewelry, bells on toys, even bells on the baby's shoes so you can keep track of him.

Did you know...

That many centuries ago a bell was used as the title deed to land in Scotland and was passed from owner to owner?

That the former Freeborn County Court House bell now hangs in the steeple at Grace Lutheran Church in Albert Lea?

That East Hampton, Conn. was known as "Jingle Bell Town" because of its bell factories?

That in addition to their warm and welcoming sound, sleigh bells were used to decrease the likelihood of a collision with another vehicle?

That in Europe thousands of church bells have been melted down to provide the armaments needed for war?

In a lighter vein, I wonder...

Is my woven bell authentically Hawaiian? I bought it in Honolulu and later found the exact same thing at the hardware store in the Skyline Mall.

Can the Avon lady pay a visit without first ringing the door bell?

Can the ice cream vendor legally sell all those treats if he doesn't have a bell on his wagon?

Every time I hear a bicycle bell (the kind that you attach to the handlebar), will I be reminded of my high school sweetheart?

I wonder how many bell collections are there in Albert Lea?

P.S. I wonder too, if anyone ever melted armaments in order to cast new bells?