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THE LIBERTY BELL

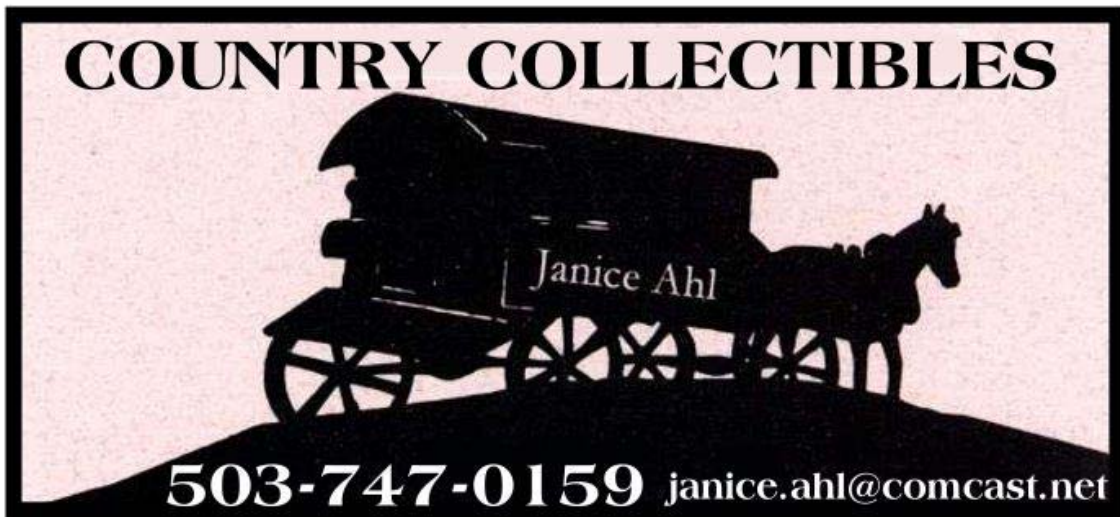


See the story of the Liberty Bell on page 3.
See Member News on page 2.

Next Meeting – July 16, 2011

At Russellville Grange – 12105 NE Prescott Street

10 am to 3:30 pm



Now Located at:

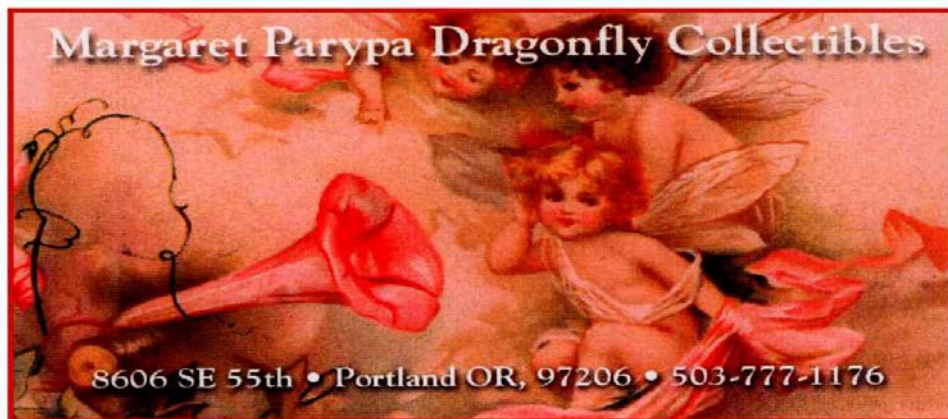
FARMHOUSE ANTIQUES

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(paid advertisements)

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Member News

It is with sadness that we report the passing of longtime Webfooter no. 68, Don Swearingen, after he battled a rare form of cancer for over a year. He had surgery a year ago and later radiation treatments, but he hadn't been able to attend meetings since last Fall. For service info, contact Rod Cardwell at 503-789-4002.

We also learned of the passing of Webfooter no. 576, Geoff (Bob) Wright, who passed away on June 5, 2011. He was born in England and served as a radio man in WWII in the British Navy. He moved to Portland after the war where he met his wife Jean and they became antique appraisers. They held estate sales and Geoff was highly regarded in deltiology circles.



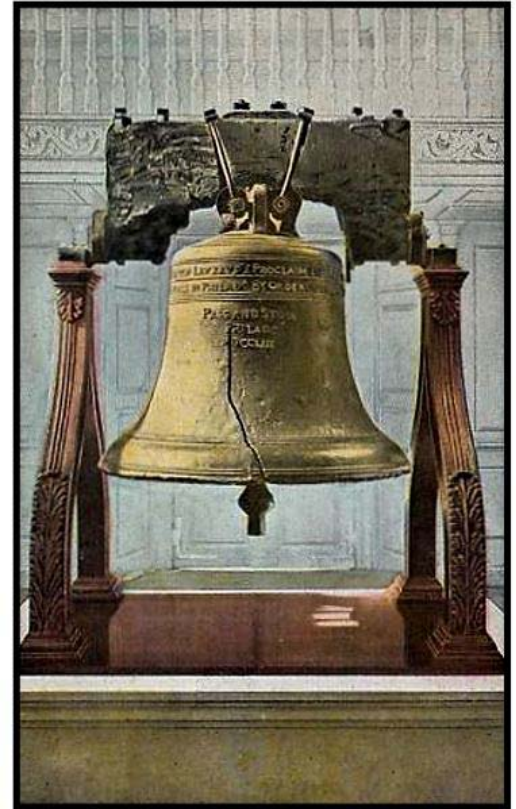
THE LIBERTY BELL

In the early days of America, nearly every town or community had a bell to alert its citizens to proclamations or to civic danger, but none became as famous and well known as the Liberty Bell, which is an iconic symbol of American independence.

Philadelphia's bell had been in use since the city's 1682 founding. The original bell hung from a tree behind the Pennsylvania State House (now known as Independence Hall) and was said to have been brought to the city by its founder, William Penn.

In 1751, with a bell tower being built in the Pennsylvania State House, civic authorities sought a bell of better quality, which could be heard at a further distance in the rapidly expanding city. The Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly gave orders to the colony's London agent to obtain a "good bell of about two thousands pound weight."

Robert Charles ordered the bell from Thomas Lester of the London bell founding firm of Lester and Pack (now known as the Whitechapel Bell Foundry) for the sum of £150 13s 8d, (equivalent to approximately \$36,400 today) including freight to Philadelphia and insurance. It arrived in Philadelphia in August 1752. The bell was cast with a quote from the Bible: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10). Norris wrote to Charles that the bell was in good order, but they had not yet sounded it, as they were building a clock for the State House's tower.



The bell was mounted on a stand to test the sound, and at the first strike of the clapper, the bell's rim cracked. The episode would be used to good account in later stories of the bell; in 1893, former President Benjamin Harrison, speaking as the bell passed through Indianapolis, stated, "This old bell was made in England, but it had to be re-cast in America before it was attuned to proclaim the right of self-government and the equal rights of men." Authorities in Philadelphia tried to return it by ship, but the master of the vessel which had brought it was unable to take it on board.

Two local founders, John Pass and John Stow, offered to recast the bell. Though they were inexperienced in bell casting, Pass had headed the Mount Holly Iron Foundry in neighboring New Jersey and came from Malta, which had a tradition of bell casting. Stow, on the other hand, was only four years out of his apprenticeship as a brass founder.

At Stow's foundry on Second Street, the bell was broken into small pieces, melted down, and cast into a new bell. The two founders decided that the metal was too brittle, and augmented the bell metal by about ten percent, using copper. The bell was ready in March 1753, and Norris reported that the lettering, which included the founders' names and the year was even clearer on the new bell than on the old.

The bell was inscribed:

**PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS
THEREOF LEV. XXV. V X.
BY ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE
STATE HOUSE IN PHILAD**

PASS AND STOW

PHILAD

MDCCLIII

At the time, "Pensylvania" was an accepted alternative spelling for "Pennsylvania." That spelling was used by Alexander Hamilton, a graduate of King's College (now Columbia University), in 1787 on the signature page of the United States Constitution.

After George Washington's defeat at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, the revolutionary capitol of Philadelphia was defenseless and the city prepared for what was seen as an inevitable British attack. Bells could easily be recast into munitions and locals feared the Liberty Bell as well as other bells would meet this fate. The bell was hastily taken down from the tower, and sent by heavily guarded wagon train to the town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Locals transported the bell in a wagon to the Zion German Reformed Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania where it waited out the British occupation of Philadelphia behind a false wall. It was returned to Philadelphia in June 1778, after the British departure. With the steeple of the State House in poor condition (the steeple was subsequently torn down and later restored), the bell was placed in storage, and it was not until 1785 that it was again mounted for ringing.

Placed on an upper floor of the State House, the bell was rung in the early years of independence on the Fourth of July and on Washington's Birthday, as well as on Election Day to remind voters to hand in their ballots. It also rang to call students at the University of Pennsylvania to their classes at nearby Philosophical Hall. Until 1799, when the state capital was moved to Lancaster, it again rang to summon legislators into session.

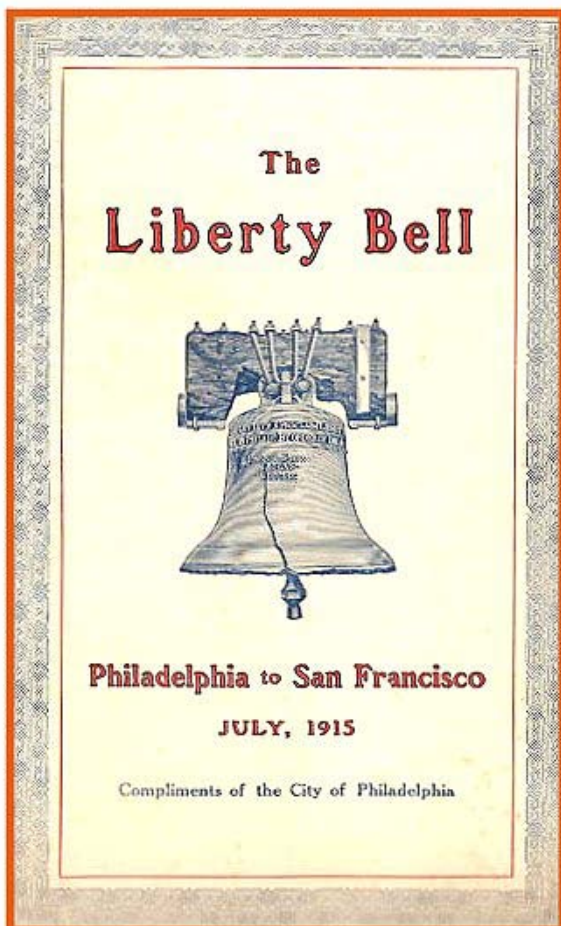
When the State of Pennsylvania, having no further use for its State House, proposed to tear it down and sell the land for building lots, the City of Philadelphia purchased the land, together with the building, including the bell, for \$70,000. In 1828, the city sold the second Lester and Pack bell to St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, which was burned down by an anti-Catholic mob in the Philadelphia Nativist Riots of 1844. The remains of the bell were recast into a new bell, which is now at Villanova University.

It is uncertain how the Liberty Bell came to be cracked; the damage occurred sometime between 1817 and 1846. The bell is mentioned in a number of newspaper articles during that time; no mention of a crack can be found until 1846. In fact, in 1837, the bell was depicted in an anti-slavery publication—uncracked.

In February 1846 *Public Ledger* reported that the bell had been rung on February 23, 1846 in celebration of Washington's Birthday (as February 22 fell on a Sunday, the celebration occurred the next day), and also reported that the bell had long been cracked, but had been "put in order" by having the sides of the crack filed. The paper reported that around noon, it was discovered that the ringing had caused the crack to be greatly extended, and that "the old Independence Bell...now hangs in the great city steeple irreparably cracked and forever dumb".

The most common story about the cracking of the bell is that it happened when the bell was rung upon the 1835 death of the Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall. This story originated in 1876, when the volunteer curator of Independence Hall, Colonel Frank Etting, announced that he had ascertained the truth of the story. While there is little evidence to support this view, it has been widely accepted and taught.

Beginning in 1885, the City of Philadelphia, which owns the bell, allowed it to go to various expositions and patriotic gatherings. The bell attracted huge crowds wherever it went; additional cracking occurred and pieces were chipped away by souvenir hunters. The last such journey occurred in 1915, after which the city refused further requests.



Because of the concern for the potential damage caused by travel to the Liberty Bell, officials in Philadelphia initially denied San Francisco's request to exhibit the Bell. However, city officials changed their minds when they received a petition signed by over 200,000 California schoolchildren requesting the Liberty Bell. The bell traveled over 10,000 miles on the San Francisco trip, stopping in many towns and cities along the way. Vibrant, patriotic crowds greeted the bell waving flags, blowing whistles, with brass bands, and gun salutes.

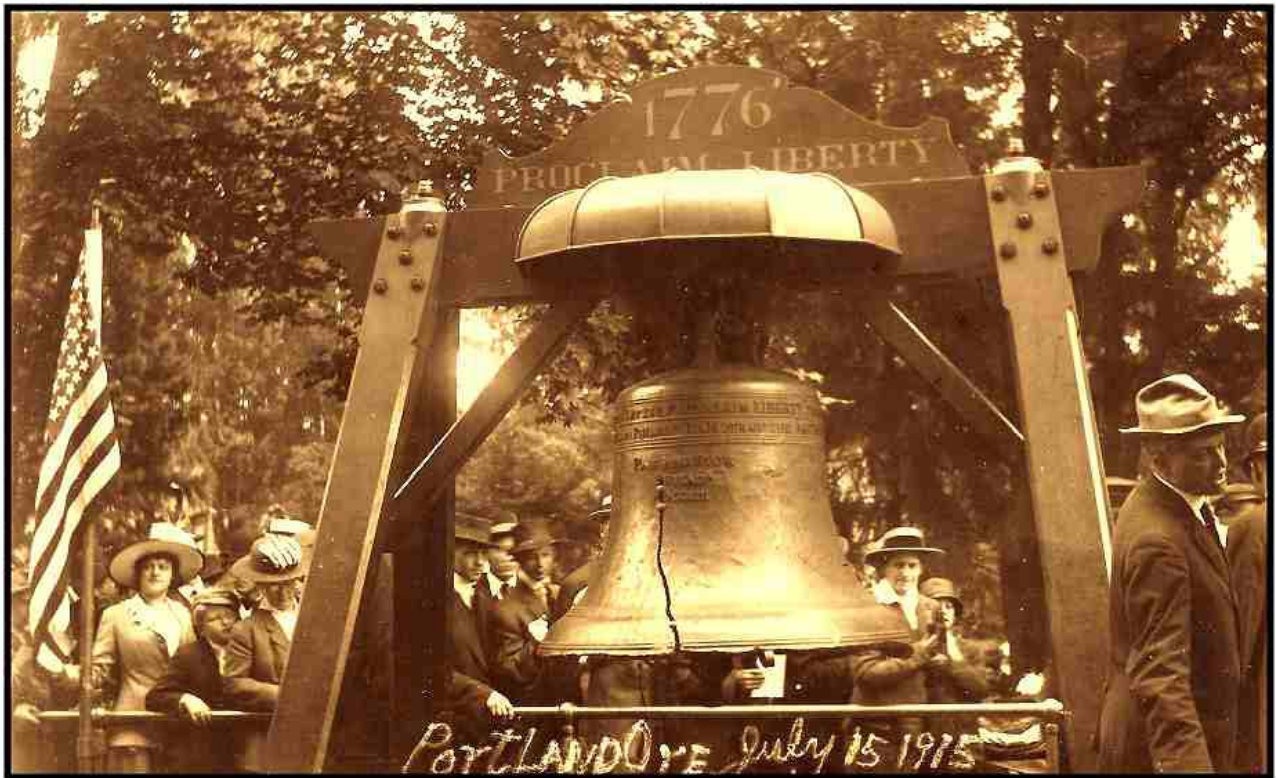
The Liberty Bell Train left Philadelphia on July 5, 1915 and traveled through Ohio and Indiana. Two days later, the train went through Kansas and Missouri. Then it traveled through Nebraska and Utah, and on to Idaho, Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington. On July 14, 1915, the train arrived at King Station in Seattle, after a stop in Everett. After festivities in Seattle, the train made its way south to Tacoma.

Then, the following day, on July 15, 1915, the Liberty Bell Train pulled into Union Station in Portland. On July 16, 1915, the Liberty Bell Train pulled into San Francisco where it was readied for display at the Pacific International Exposition. It was on display the following day for Liberty Bell Day on July 17.

The Liberty Bell remained in San Francisco until November 11, 1915 when it was moved to an exhibit at the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Diego. The Liberty Bell Train returned to Philadelphia on November 15, 1915. Enthusiastic Philadelphians welcomed the Bell back upon its return to Philadelphia. It was the Bell's final rail journey.



On July 15, 1915, the Liberty Bell Train arrived in Portland.



While the Liberty Bell was in Portland, a parade was held in its honor.

See the full color version of this newsletter at www.thewebfooters.com



That same day, on July 15, 1915, the Liberty Bell Train made a very quick trip out to Gresham.



These rare postcard views show the Liberty Bell Train near Gresham.



After leaving Gresham, the Liberty Bell Train went back to Portland and headed south, making quick stops in Salem and Eugene before reaching San Francisco the following day.



After World War II, the city of Philadelphia allowed the National Park Service to take custody of the bell, while retaining ownership. The bell was used as a symbol of freedom during the Cold War and was a popular site for protests in the 1960s. It was moved from its longtime home in Independence Hall to a nearby glass pavilion on Independence Mall in 1976, and then to the larger Liberty Bell Center adjacent to the pavilion in 2003. The bell has been featured on coins and stamps, and its name and image have been widely used in advertising.



Club Officers

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Treasurer.....	Arne Soland
Membership Chairman.....	Krissy Durden
Director.....	Irene Adams
Historian.....	Joe Macdonald
Librarian.....	Steve Kuryk



Calendar

- July 13 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)
- July 16 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm
- August 20 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

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WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240
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SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE STORY OF THE LIBERTY BELL SHOWN IN PORTLAND.