

A Carillonneur Talks of Bells and Bells

By MYRA MacPHERSON
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Arthur Lynds Bigelow, a Princeton University professor and carillon expert, adjusts the mechanism which sounds the carillon bells in the tower at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.—Star Staff Photo.

Crisp winds moved through the belfry tower of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Up there, where a man could seemingly get away from it all, bellmaster Arthur L. Bigelow heard the sounds of traffic drifting up from 325 feet below.

He was somewhat oblivious to them as he worked at his hobby—scrambling and kneeling on all fours as he wired the bells to his keyboard, preparing for today's Carillon concerts. Nevertheless, he said, "I think Washington's one of the noisiest cities. Listen."

A truck changed gears and it was hard as clearly as if it were on the same level. Mr. Bigelow, who has spent a major portion of his last 30 years up in the air, has installed and played carillon bells in several dozen towers throughout America and Europe.

He will come down to earth next week when he returns to his working world of 22 years. In a neat business suit, he will conduct classes in graphics as professor of engineering at Princeton University.

Thinks best Working

But yesterday, there was grease and tar on his work trousers and the hands that will play the bells for the first time at 4 and 8 p.m. concerts today, were twisting bolts with wrenches.

"People sometimes say I'm out of my frame here, but I've found I've done some of my best thinking when working this mechanically. It is relaxation and pure joy. Besides I find it less difficult, as a consultant, to do the work rather than tell someone else how."

Mr. Bigelow has spent months on the 56-bell carillon—whose total weight is 37,150 pounds—beginning when he went to the foundries in France and Holland to supervise the casting.

"The bells are tuned in the foundry when they are cast. If the founder knows his business they will never get out of tune. But if they're installed when they're not in tune, no amount of playing or working with them will rectify this," he said.

Cites Childhood Appeal

Mr. Bigelow is a slim, muscular man who, at 54, darts up and down the ladders and in the small corners of the tower with the quickness of a child.

"I liked to listen to the bells ringing when I was a child. I wondered why there was this long ring of a bell, and when I got a bit older I proceeded to find out," he said.

As a student at the University of Pittsburgh he played the carillon, then went abroad to study at the School of Carillons in Mechlin, Flanders. In the Belgian town of Louvain he rang out the music of the bells for 11 years. The tower in which he played was destroyed by bombs in the war and has since been rebuilt.

Mr. Bigelow counts the installing and playing of the bells as his only hobby, and a summer one at that. He said "at least my wife and I go golfing."

He added that his wife, who was working at the University of Louvain when he was there, "practically met me in the belfry, anyway."

Ignores Bells' Din

He will play the bells sitting at a bench in front of the controlling keyboard, in a cabin between two belfries. The three base bells are in the lower, the medium and treble bells in the upper.

"It is ordinary to have a split belfry. Then the bellmaster has all the bells within easy reach or control. If he were on top of or below all the bells, he would not have the sound surrounding him.

"All the feelings, sentiments and moods of the bellmaster can be expressed by this contact between the keyboard and the clapper of the bells," Mr. Bigelow said.

As he touched one wire of a bell, it pealed a gentle treble note into the air. Asked if all the bells going at once ever deafened or frightened him Mr. Bigelow said with a satisfied smile, "no—because I'm making them go."

Early Housing Project At Cambridge Is Seen

CAMBRIDGE, Sept. 7 (AP)—A Public Housing Administration official says Cambridge, one of the Nation's racial trouble spots earlier this summer, could have the first public housing project on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

John Shriver, assistant director of programs for PHA's regional office in Philadelphia, said that although Crisfield is ahead of Cambridge in planning, the Cambridge Housing Authority is moving ahead so rapidly that it could have the first units built before Crisfield.

Mr. Shriver attended a meeting of the Cambridge authority last night. He told its members that contracts for 150 units

may be signed by the end of this year. The cost of the project has been estimated at \$1 million.

The authority last night signed for a preliminary loan, the amount of which was not disclosed. Architects are due here next week to discuss plans and consider possible sites in Cambridge.

The initial work on a public housing project was started about 18 months ago, but bogged down during the racial flare-ups of June and July.

One of the provisions of the racial agreement which ended anti-segregation demonstrations was that the city expedite the housing project.

Wallace Backing In Maryland Vote Doubted by Bailey

BALTIMORE, Sept. 7 (AP)—John M. Bailey, national Democratic chairman, doubts that Marylanders would vote for what he termed "the irresponsible racist program of Gov. Wallace" of Alabama.

Mr. Bailey's view was contained in a letter to Herbert R. O'Connor, jr., who had written the Democratic leader about the possibility of Gov. Wallace's entering Maryland's presidential primary next May. The Alabama Governor has said he will enter primaries in several Northern States to bring out what he says is voter resentment to President Kennedy's stand on equal rights for Negroes.

Mr. O'Connor had wired Mr. Bailey that if President Kennedy doesn't file in the Maryland primary Gov. Tawes should be persuaded to do so to prevent Mr. Wallace from capturing the State's Democratic convention votes.

Mr. Bailey replied: "And I cannot believe that the Democrats of Maryland would reject a great Democratic President and cast their support behind the irresponsible racist program of Gov. Wallace."

Commissioner Praises Rival for Transit Post

District Engineer Commissioner Charles M. Duke last night praised a rival candidate for a vacancy on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.

"I have the greatest respect" for James Washington, chairman of the District Public Utilities Commission, Gen. Duke said yesterday. His judgment is based on working with Mr. Washington as a fellow member of the three-member P. U. C., he said.

But his remarks do not mean that Gen. Duke is supporting Mr. Washington's candidacy for a vacancy on the transit commission. The interstate compact which established the area commission said the District representative had to be a member of the District utilities commission, but did not say he had to be the chairman.

There has been a great deal of public interest in the vacancy, and the appointment has to

be made only after careful consideration, Gen. Duke said. In the meantime, District residents have not suffered because of the vacancy, because the Maryland and Virginia transit commissioners have been keeping in close touch with District officials, he said.

Mr. Washington's chief rival for the vacancy is Gen. Duke himself. Former District Engineer Commissioner Frederick J. Clarke was on the area transit commission before he left his District position, creating the vacancy.

The three District Commissioners have the responsibility for naming the public utilities commissioner who's to represent the District bus riders on the metropolitan group.

Gen. Duke's comments were recorded on radio station WWDC's Report to the People, which was broadcast last night and is scheduled for rebroadcast today.

D. C. Man's New Trial Brings Stiffer Penalty

Aaron Thomas, a Washington mechanic, obtained a new trial on an assault charge in Prince Georges County Circuit Court only to have the penalty increased.

Last June, Thomas, 48, of the 100 block of Fifty-sixth

place, S.E., pleaded guilty to charges that he shot a Brandywine man and woman in their car. The man, Charles Elliott, was wounded five times, and his companion, Mrs. Agnes Slater, twice by bullets from a .22 caliber rifle.

Thomas was sentenced to six

Directors Named By Family Service

Six new members have been elected to the board of directors of the Family Service of Montgomery County, which provides professional counseling service for families and individuals.

The new board members are Philip Pear of the State National Bank; Dr. Maxwell Boverman, a psychiatrist; Mrs. John T. Crippen; Mrs. James Douthat, Mrs. Justin E. Farrell and Mrs. Gilbert Mead. Special certificates of merit have been presented to Mrs. Harry Morgan and Edward L. Stock, who have retired from the board after many years of service.

Florida Car Crash Kills Maryland Youth

VENICE, Fla., Sept. 7 (AP)—An 18-year-old boy from Maryland was killed Friday when his car ran off U. S. 41 south of Venice and hit a bridge rail.

The Florida Highway Patrol identified the youth as Charles Ridenour of Hagerstown.

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