

ALFRED MAY BUY 9 BELLS HIDDEN FROM NAZI ARMY

Negotiations Under Way
With Belgian Owner; Price
Of \$40,000 Set; University
To Get First Chance

Special to The BUFFALO EVENING NEWS.

ALFRED, May 12.—Nine ancient carillon bells whose owner buried them in Belgium to keep them out of German hands in two wars may some day be added to Alfred University's carillon if sufficient funds can be raised to finance their purchase. University officials recently received a cablegram from the owner of the bells that he will give first choice to Alfred, though others are seeking them.

The price, however, has risen to \$40,000—more than double the figure set on the bells prior to World War II, when lack of funds here made it impossible to complete negotiations. In fact, a price of \$47,000 had been quoted, but this figure was reduced during recent correspondence.

Now in Sweden

Just how the bells were kept away from the Nazis hasn't been told fully. It is known, however, that their owner secretly dug them up from the old Belgian estate where they had been concealed so long and smuggled them to Sweden, where they are now in storage.

The nine bells, cast in 1674 by Peter Hemony, would provide the lower range of tones needed to double the scope of the present 35-bell carillon, according to Alfred's carillonneur, Ray W. Wingate. The 18 smaller Hemony bells which are part of the present Alfred carillon once hung in a Belgian campanile with the nine larger bells now in Sweden.

Would Tune In Correctly

The Hemony bells now hanging in the Davis Memorial Carillon on Alfred's campus were brought here in the Summer of 1937 after a fundraising campaign headed by Dr. Lloyd Watson, member of the Alfred faculty. Also in the carillon are bells cast by George Dumery between 1748 and 1786 and by A. Van den Gheyn in 1784.

University President J. E. Walters said the addition of the nine bells to Alfred carillon would provide a Hemony series such as no other carillon has. Experts have advised the university that the additional bells would tune in correctly with those now hanging in the Alfred tower.