

# Quilting Project Financed Neb. Bell

Fifty-eight bells representing states and territories of the United States make up the carillon at Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and none has a more unusual background than the Nebraska contribution.

Nebraska's bell was installed in 1939 only after the Daughters of the American Revolution had successfully managed a quilting project to underwrite the cost when public funds were denied the carillon project. The Nebraska Legislature, strapped for funds during the depression 1930's, had refused to appropriate the \$650 necessary for the purchase of the bell and its installation.

The quilt is now preserved in the Museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln. It is to be displayed early in 1976, the bicentennial year. Mrs. Benjamin G. Miller of Crete, who headed the quilting committee, explained the money-making scheme in a paper now filed in the Society Library. Excerpts follow:

"At the State D.A.R. board meeting in September of 1938 a plan was adopted whereby a benefit quilt would be made of rayon silk taffeta of royal blue with lining of same material in old gold. There would be a huge gold bell applique on the blue with the name of every individual who had given one dollar embroidered on the bell . . . At the state conference in Columbus, March 7, 1939, the amount raised in so short a time was \$471.15, leaving a balance of \$178.85. This so impressed the Daughters that they voted at the conference to pay the difference and instructed the Nebraska Bell to be ordered . . .

"This Nebraska Valley Forge quilt is completely filled with (371) names of Daughters of the American Revolution, their chapters and friends; the embroidery is on the bell, and was done by Mrs. Louise Weiss of Crete." Of the names on the quilt, one, A. L. Johnson of Crete, was grandson of a Revolutionary War soldier.

At one time, the first Sunday in October (and the 37th in the year to correspond with the state's ranking according to en-

try into the Union) was designated Nebraska Day. A Nebraska concert in charge of the Colonial Dames and D.A.R. was played. Similar concerts were arranged by other states. This practice has been discontinued except for the nearby states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Maryland. All states are still honored, however, in order of their entry into the Union with week-by-week display of state flags.

Following World War II, the national D.A.R. raised funds to provide a permanent bell tower to replace an inadequate structure; it was dedicated in 1953. The present carillonneur, Frank Pechin Law, who calls his instrument "one of the largest in the world," says about 200 persons can be seated in the chapel when a concert is played. During the summer months visitors may ascend the 112 steps to the playing cabin to watch the carillonneur. "An explanation of the entire procedure for performance is given at this time," Law says.

Of the first bells installed in 1926, Pennsylvania's weighs 3,500 pounds, and Delaware's 225 pounds. Illinois' bell, the largest, weighs 8,000 pounds and has a 71½ inch diameter. The smallest bell at 13½ pounds belongs to Wake Island. The lowest 28 bells were cast by the Meneely Bell Foundry at Watervliet, New York, and the top 30 at the Pocard Bell Foundry, Ancey, France.

## Livestock Report

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) (USDA) — Livestock quotations Monday:

Hogs: 4,000; barrows and gilts fairly active, 200-280 lb 1.00-1.50 lower, instances 2.00 off; over 280 lb 50-1.00 off; U.S. 1-3, 200-240 lb 49.50-50.00; sows over 450 lb steady to 25 higher, instances 50 higher; under 450 lb steady to 50 lower; 350-600 lb 43.50-45.00.

Cattle and calves: 6,000; slaughter steers and heifers fairly active, 50-75 higher; cows moderately active, firm to 50 higher; load choice and prime 1.165 lb steers 41.00; load choice with few prime 1,200 lb 40.50; choice 1,000-1,500 lb mainly