

New Year's Day Recalls 3 Bells of Olden Times

Rang Out Glad Tidings During Pioneer Days; Now Repose Among Relics of Utah

Three bells, which, during the history of Salt Lake, have rung out the glad tidings of the New Year, were silent Thursday night. Only old timers recalled them as the bells of cathedral and church chimned the entrance of 1926. One reposes in the collection at the state capitol and two are in the bureau of information at the Tabernacle grounds.

Around these bells hangs a unique story. The one at the capitol served to ring in the New Year and dismiss the old on the Fourteenth ward chapel for many years. It was brought to Salt Lake by the L. D. S. church, was used as a warning bell on the trek across the prairie and later called the children of Brigham Young to school from its place on a building, which at one time stood north of the present site of the Elks club.

Probably the most unique history is recalled by the bell at the bureau of information, which to old-timers is known as the "Hummers bell." First record has it being hung in the steeple of the Presbyterian church at Iowa City, Ia., by Rev. Edward Hummer, pastor of the church. For many years it called the church-goers to worship.

But one day the peaceful routine of the bell was interrupted. Rev. Hummer disagreed with his flock, argued and left the parish. He endeavored to take the bell, claimed it was his, but the parishioners objected. When the fight waxed warm, parishioners took the bell and sunk it in the Iowa river with the intention

of returning it to its place when the trouble subsided.

Apparently the "hide-and-seekers" did not cover their tracks to the river. Several days later the bell was found and sold to the pioneers, who were beginning their long march to Utah. The pioneers took pride in the bell and constructed a special wago to bear it on the journey. The bell was used by the pioneers for several years. In the early sixties, Iowans discovered the bell in Salt Lake and attempted for several years to buy it from the Church. Negotiations ended when the parties failed to agree on a price. Since then the bell has remained in its place at the bureau of information.