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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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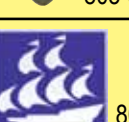
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This Month's Theme: Bells

The Many Uses of Bells

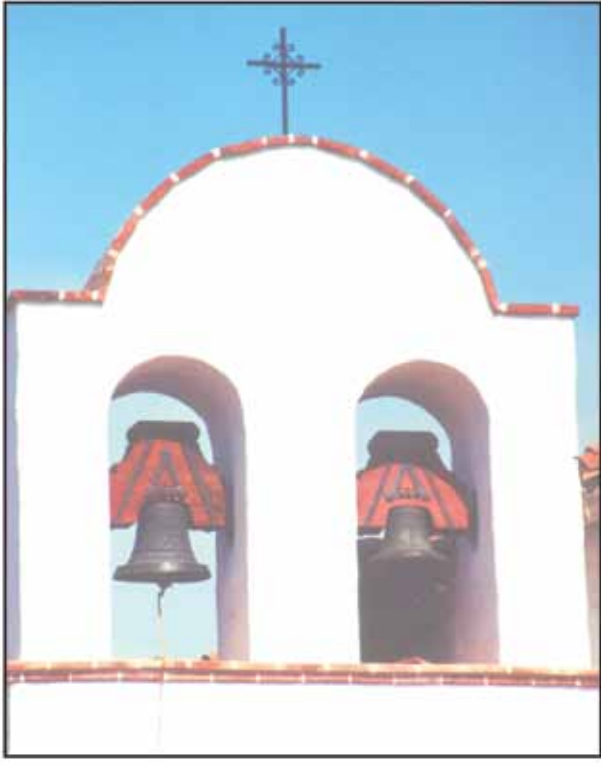
By Jenna Berger and Sybil DeMauro, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

When you are in school, what tells you that it is time for recess, for lunch, or time to go home? Without the ringing of school bells, how would you know where to go and when? Maybe you could look at your watch, but not all kids wear watches.

Bells have been used for hundreds and hundreds of years. The first known bells are from the 5th century B.C. in Asia. A recent archaeological dig recovered 65 bells buried deep within the tomb of an ancient Chinese ruler! Bells have been used for many purposes all over the world and in many different cultures.

The chime of a bell has been used to warn people of bad weather, inform a town about the arrival of visitors, announce a celebration, or simply to tell the time of day. For years, bells have been tied around the neck of cows and other animals so they are more easily found if they stray from the herd. The beautiful and various musical sounds of bells have long been a part of song and dance around the world.

When have you seen a church without a bell tower? Since life is often centered around religion, bells have had many religious uses, marking times of prayer, mourning, and rejoicing. How many bells can you find around town? Listen for their chimes and think about the wonderful history of bells!



Chapel bells at the Santa Barbara Presidio.

Bells of Santa Barbara

By Kristina W. Foss, Santa Barbara Mission Museum

Listen carefully during the day in Santa Barbara, and you will hear lots of different bells ringing. The oldest continuously rung bells are at the Old Mission. The Presidio recently installed its original bells in the restored bell tower after 150 years of silence. Both sets of bells arrived in town either as gifts or as purchases of the Franciscans who served at the Presidio Chapel and who founded Mission Santa Barbara.

In the Mission's early days the bells rang four times daily: 6 A.M., noon, dinner, and again at bedtime. Bells were important to daily life because most people didn't have their own clocks. For this reason, the King of Spain gave each new mission a gift of two bells. Santa Barbara's original gift bells were loaned to Mission San Buenaventura and never returned, but our town received new ones by

1797. These are the oldest bells we have in town and were made in Peru by Ruelas who put his name on them. The Vargas bell of 1818 and several bells from the 1800s complete the set of eight bells in the towers today.

Long ago these bells were rung by hand, and young bell ringers were trained from childhood in the special language of the bells. Today the Mission's old bells still ring daily, but they are on a computerized system. They ring to start each day at 6 A.M. as well as at noon and 6 P.M. The Presidio bells also ring at noon daily. They make different sounds depending on how they are rung. Many bells rung quickly together make a joyful sound while slowly pealing bells have a sad sound. The tower bells are also rung for church services, weddings, funerals, and the fun start of Fiesta every August. These bells

have been heard in our town for over 200 years by Native Americans, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans, as well as visitors from all over the world. You can still hear bells of the Mission and the Presidio in many parts of town.

In addition to the big bells in the towers, Mission Santa Barbara had a bell wheel in the church. This was a wooden stand with a wheel covered with small bells attached to the rim. A crank handle in the center of the wheel could be turned to make a loud and joy-

ful noise. This old bell wheel can be seen today in the Mission Museum.

If you have a bell at home, you may want to ring it on New Year's Eve. It's common practice to ring bells and make noise to welcome the New Year and some other holidays. Remember - bells are a Santa Barbara tradition that is all around you every day of the year. Enjoy them!



This Santa Barbara Mission bell was cast in Lima, Peru in 1818.

Adapted from the Plugged-In Page of December 2001

New Year's Bells



By Marcelino Jimenez, Art From Scrap

To make these colorful and festive holiday bells you will need:

- 1 film canister
- 1 plastic fruit, applesauce, yogurt, or other container
- Colored tape
- 1 pipe cleaner or piece of ribbon
- 2 small bells
- 2 small pieces of ribbon or string
- Glue and scissors

Then, follow these steps:

1. Tie each bell onto a piece of string.
2. Poke a small hole into the bottom center of the plastic container.
3. Put the end of the string through the hole in the container and tie with a knot so bells hang 3/4 of the way down the middle of container.
4. Glue film canister onto bottom of container so that it covers the knot; let it dry -- now your bell is ready to decorate.
5. Wrap colored tape around outside of bell and handle.
6. Use stickers, glitter, and/or sequins to make designs.
7. Secure the pipe cleaner or ribbon at the base of the handle in a bow.
8. Let all glue dry - now your bell is ready to ring!

Bells Crossword

By Jenna Berger and Sybil DeMauro, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

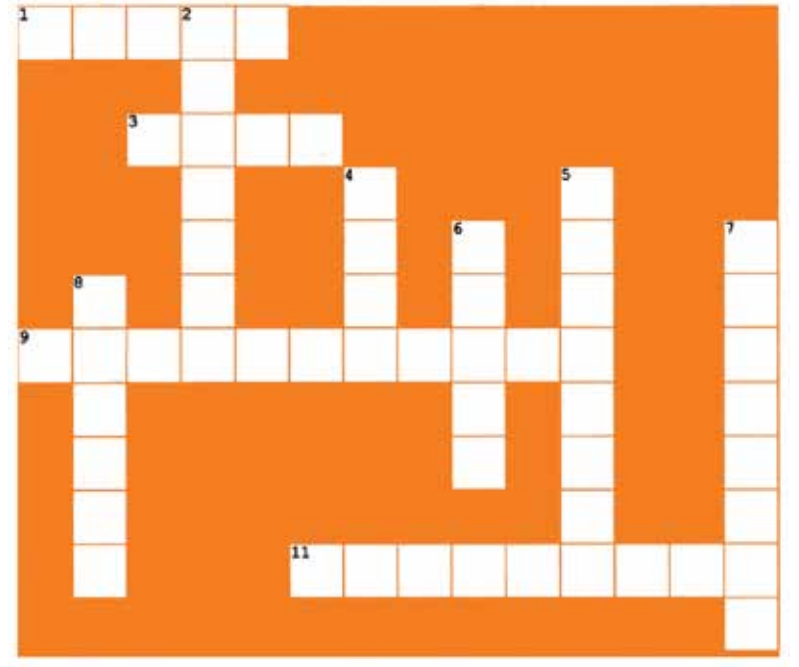
Down Clues

1. A noise that bells make.
3. Where the first known bells were made.
8. Since bells have many religious uses, they often call people to _____.
9. People who founded the Santa Barbara Mission.
11. The structure that holds the church bells.

Across Clues

2. Home of the oldest continuously rung bells in Santa Barbara.
4. Putting bells around their necks help keep track of them.
5. Where the recently restored bell tower can be found.
6. The country that gave each new mission a gift of two bells.
7. Bells alerted the town to arriving _____.

Read the articles on this page to find the answers to this puzzle.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS: ACROSS - 1. CHIME, 3. ASIA, 9. FRANCISCANS, 11. BELLTOWER, DOWN - 2. MISSION, 4. COWS, 5. PRESIDIO, 6. SPAIN, 7. VISITORS, 8. PRAYER.

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