

## THE LIBERTY BELL

A RECENT OREGON JOURNAL GIVES HISTORY



THE liberty bell, which will arrive in Portland for a few hours July 15, is the most sacred relic and patriotic symbol of the people of the United States.

While its home is Philadelphia, millions have seen it, children have kissed it and the country through which it has passed on its few trips since 1884 has been made more fertile for patriotism.

On the trips it has been of immense educational value and has resulted in both "edification and inspiration," and according to the testimony of those who have accompanied the bell on its trips it gives children and grown-ups a thrill of loyalty and devotion that can not be forgotten.

The bell is to arrive here at 6 o'clock in the morning of July 15 and leave at noon the same day, so that there will be just six hours for the residents of Portland and nearby towns to see the relic which is held so dear to the hearts of the American people.

While plans have not been completed for the big public reception to be held on the arrival of the bell, and the city officials and others of Philadelphia who are to accompany it, it is proposed to have a committee headed by Mayor Albee and the city commissioners in charge.

J. A. Currey, a former Philadelphian, and a probable member of the committee, has already discussed the matter with Mayor Albee and the mayor has agreed to be chairman of the big reception committee.

It is suggested that Mayor Albee proclaim a holiday while the bell is here that all business men and employes alike may be given an opportunity to see the bell which first "proclaimed liberty throughout the land."

It is expected that thousands will come from towns near Portland to see the bell, for it has been the experience on every trip so far made that people who were seldom in town drove and rode miles that they might see or touch the relic. On its various trips it has caused more interest and patriotism than the visit of any president.

John J. Ridgway, former sheriff and surveyor of the port of Philadelphia, was one of those who made the first official trip with the bell when it was taken to New Orleans in 1884. Here is what he says concerning the enthusiasm and patriotism aroused:

"Every town we stopped in great enthusiasm marked the arrival of the bell. The demonstration of reverence and thankfulness for the bell at times was touching. In one little town there was a deaf, dumb and blind asylum. The children of this home were led out to the railroad