

July 2016

JAKE'S JABS & JABBER

People's perception of me is that I'm a ding-a-ling. Even my friends call me that. How appropriate it is, then, to write about the Liberty Bell which may or may not have tolled for the announcement of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

The original 1751 bell was cracked on the first test ring. Very brittle metal. After melting it down in Philadelphia, it was molded into the current "Liberty Bell" with the inscription, Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof.

A narrow split resulted after years of use. (Dates are uncertain, but damage occurred between 1841 and 1845.) Every July 4th it used to be tapped since the cracks prevented ringing. Metal workers tried to repair it and botched it (those ding-dongs), creating a 2nd crack. The remedy was "stop drilling" - a method widening the crack to stop the split. The large crack we see is actually the repair job.

The bell was silenced permanently 170 years ago (in 1846). At 2:00pm ESDT, churches, centers, and national landmarks all over the nation toll now on July 4. The Liberty Bell is entrusted to the care of the National Park Service.

JOKE of the MONTH:

*Why is electricity an ideal citizen? Because it conducts itself so well.

Arfin' is Awesome; Yippin's so Yuckie!



- Jake

