Bells will ring on July 4

6-29-66

Bells will be ringing in Santa Cruz county at noon on the Fourth of July, thanks to a campaign started by the county chapter of Red Cross. The noon time will coincide with the July 4, 1776 pealing of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, which was 2 p.m. EST.

There are some interesting bells in the county, with their history going back many, many years.

— The 1500 pound bell in Holy Cross church was made of two of the original bells from the Santa Cruz mission. The bells were melted down and other material added to amke one huge bells.

Then up at Boulder Creek, is the bell which officially opened the 1898 jubilee which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the discovery of gold in the state. This bell is in front of Boulder Creek's fire house. President McKinley pushed a button in Washington, D.C. which rang the bell --a great feat in those days. Boulder Creek Hose company purchased the bell from W. T. Garratt co., San Francisco for $60 and it has been used ever since.

The oldest bell in mid county is that in the Congregational church of Soquel. There is an interesting side light on the bell first used in the Santa Cruz Congregational church-but which has since disappeared.

In 1861 a drive was made to raise funds for the bell and a singer appeared at a public meeting, draped in the American flag. With patriotic fervor during the Civil war days, the funds were quickly raised as the Star Spangled Banner was sung. It was first rung on July 4, 1861, and the bell cracked --but was replaced by the manufacturer.