

# That Bell Will Ring Again...

By MARGARET KOCH  
Sentinel Staff Writer

There is a new note in the welcoming peal of the bell at historic Calvary Episcopal Church these days . . . a positive note.

The old bell was about to fall down; timbers holding it were rotted almost through and its protective belfry was riddled with holes.

After all, it has rung from the same belfry for about 93 years without extensive repairs of any kind to its framework. And when a Church committee took a good look at the belfry recently, they pressed the panic button — almost. Heading the group is Mrs. Charles Leamy.

When builder and "bell expert" William T. Winkel took a look at the bell, HE almost pressed the panic button.

"The bell was just about ready to fall down."

It weighs about 1000 pounds.

Winkel got a block and tackle and secured the bell, first thing. Then he got a small crane to remove the bell and place it on a truck. It was taken to his shop at 121 John Street for safekeeping while he rebuilt the belfry.

In looking it over, Winkel found the bell had been cast in West Troy, New York, in 1875. It was probably hung in the Calvary belfry in 1875-76. When it was purchased, the belfry was added to the rear of the church which was built in 1864.

An open type of belfry called a quadpode was put together with wood dowels instead of nails. Some of the actual construction of the church itself was done the same way, other parts were nailed together with the old square handmade nails, according to Winkel. Some of the huge old beams were adzed by hand.

The bell itself is a valuable



Now it will ring again without falling down! Calvary Episcopal Church Rector, The Rev. Alexander Anderson, center, watches as Clarence A. Mendoza pulls the bell rope. Responsible for the repair job on the belfry was William T. Winkel at left.

item, notwithstanding its historical value.

"It's a very good alloy—it had hardly corroded at all, even with being exposed to a certain amount of weather for so many years," he explained. "The metal in it alone would cost at least \$1000 today."

The bell is about 28 inches in diameter and about three feet high. It is called an "open trunion" type of bell.

After several weeks of what

he calls "careful work," Winkel was able to install the bell in a new belfry. Next job will be to run the bell rope into the church music room, so it may be rung from inside the building.

Winkel, a member of the church, is extremely interested in preserving the historic building. He recently replaced the main doors and was instrumental in getting the beautiful and valuable stained glass windows

repaired, with Mrs. Leamy's church committee heading the project.

"When you think this part of town was just a cow pasture when that church was built—it's amazing," he said. "We sometimes overlook these treasures today in our struggle with the dollars and cents."

Mrs. Leamy, who has spearheaded the church's historical-minded group, had one word to add to Winkel's comment: "Amen."

## Christian Speaker

Christian minister, he also became president and a member of the faculty of San Jose Bible College from 1939 to 1960.