

THE vanBERGEN CARILLON COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1795

FOUNDERS OF THE FINEST AND MOST BEAUTIFULLY TONED BELLS IN THE WORLD

REPRESENTED BY

Donald Beggs

Rose Valley (Moylan P.O.) Pa.
1204 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia, 7, Pa.

FOUNDRIES

Greenwood, South Carolina
Heiligerlee, The Netherlands

February 26, 1947

Mr. Amon G. Carter
The Fort Worth Star Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

My dear Mr. Carter:

I do hope you will excuse my not having contacted you before now in regard to Mr. Harry Adams' letter to me of the 4th, wherein he stated that he had turned over to you all his data on Carillons, and that you are definitely interested in giving one to Fort Worth - to be placed in the Will Rogers Memorial Tower. I have been checking with Mr. H. T. vanBergen, and the situation is as follows:

1. Prices remain as quoted in the copies of my blue-covered brochure sent to Mr. Adams with my letter of June 14, 1944, and corrected in my letter to him of September 6, 1944.
2. All features contained in that brochure also remain in effect - free training for anyone of your choice in the art of Carillon playing; absorption, on our part, of all freight charges, import duties, and complete installation of the Carillon in the tower prepared by you for it.
3. Time required to complete a Carillon of 49 bells, which would be the size we would recommend for your tower and Fort Worth, would be between nine and twelve months from date of signing contract.
4. Payment of the Carillon would be made in thirds; first at signing of contract, second when bells are ready for shipment from our foundry in Holland, and third when ready for playing in your tower.

We are presently founding the first post-war Carillon in the world at our Holland foundry. This is a Carillon of 49 bells,

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and is destined to the United States sometime this summer.

It is planned to use this Carillon as a demonstration one, and it will be hung in the tower of Clothier Hall, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. It will remain our property, but the college has allowed us to hang it in their tower so that we can demonstrate its many, many advantages and suitabilities for municipalities and colleges.

However, if you should desire this Carillon, we can easily have it diverted to you at Fort Worth. Once it is hung at Swarthmore, though, we have agreed with the college to keep it there for at least four years. The only drawback to this particular Carillon, so far as you may be concerned, is that inasmuch as most of the bells have already been cast, we would not be able to emboss any inscriptions around the lip of any of the bells.

This particular Carillon is wholly made of metals which the vanBergens hid from the Nazis when they invaded the Netherlands in 1940. They hid it deep down old wells, and the enemy never did find it, so much mud was there piled on top of the precious copper and tin. Even one of the vanBergen brothers was shot by the Gestapo for underground activities but the hiding place of the bell metal was not divulged.

We are at your service, and a word from you will bring us to your side for further consultation, advice, or action toward a Carillon for Fort Worth.

I might add, as an afterthought, that I have had cablegrams from the foundry at Heiligerlee saying that the casting of the bells of this new Carillon has been without flaw, and that they are magnificent in all their many important overtones, to say nothing about their main strike and hum tones.

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In closing, might I earnestly suggest that you do not be swayed by the propaganda or the inviting chatter or ads of any imitation Carillons or "bells". There are only three firms in the world who make real, true Carillons on a more-or-less large scale, and who have been doing it for years and have the "know how". Two are in England (tho British bells are known for their dull tone), and ourselves in Holland. There is a small, fine firm in France, but they are practically unknown outside France.

There are no American founders other than ourselves. The people in New York are too careless about the fine points, as the Carillon at Valley Forge, Pa., will attest. The people at Chicago do not make bells or Carillons, tho they claim they do. A bell is an inverted cup-like affair; a tube is not. Most important, tubes are minor in tone, and they cannot be played many at once (full harmony). No electronic "Carillon" or bells are of any account at all.

We are more interested in seeing that when people spend as much money as a Carillon costs, that they really get their money's worth in value, and only in real, true bells is this done.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Beggs
Donald Beggs

P.S. - A Carillon of 4 octaves (49 bells) hung in the Will Rogers Tower should be able to be pleasantly heard for a radius of over a mile, unless there's a strong wind. The tones will never be harsh or too loud, but always well blended and sonorous.