

Our Liberty Bell

By ROBERT ORMOND CASE

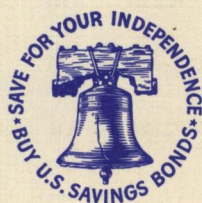
I^N 1753 it wasn't the Liberty Bell — yet. It was called the State House Bell in Philadelphia, and it was the largest in all of King George's colonies. More than a ton of metal was in it.

But they used it to arouse the people against the Stamp Act, and the Sugar Act. They rang it after the Boston Tea Party and when the Declaration of Independence was first read to the people. It tolled hopefully through the long, long years of the war with England.

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And when victory finally came it rang and rang.
You could have heard it for miles across the
Pennsylvania hills. *Then* it was the Liberty Bell!
In 1835 the venerable bell cracked. They tried
to repair it but it was no use; its ringing soul was
gone. So, after many journeys, they hung it
where it hangs today, in Independence Hall,
where millions view it reverently each year.

That it is cracked doesn't matter. For three-
quarters of a century it did its duty. The Liberty
Bell tolled the knell of tyranny and rang in the
hearts and quickened the steps of free men.
It belongs to the ages now—our noblest posses-
sion, the changeless symbol of a mighty nation's
destiny.



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