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Brainstorm

About Brainstorm

This series provides a visual, educational look at our world. Next week, Brainstorm examines the Haddonfield dinosaur, Hadrosaurus Foulkii.

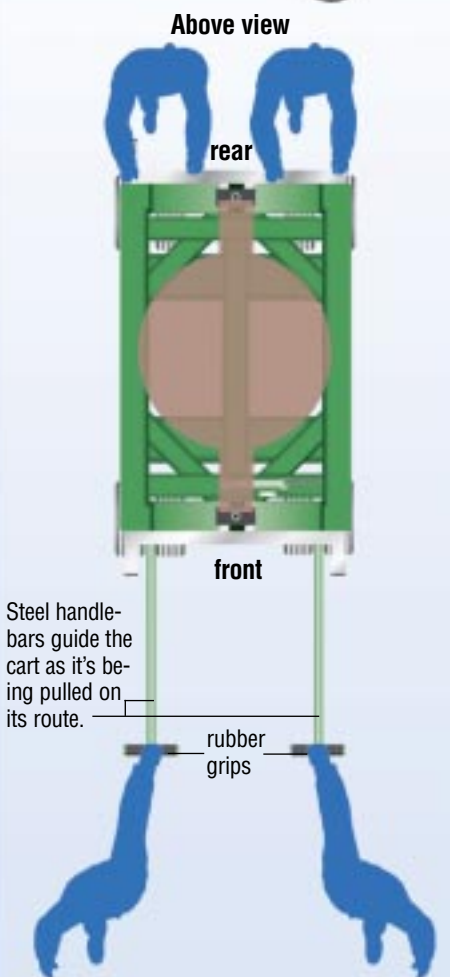
LIBERTY ON THE MOVE

And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year,

On Thursday the Liberty Bell will make a 963-foot journey to a new home on Independence Mall in Philadelphia. In preceding eras, the bell tolled for George Washington's funeral, toured the country several times after the Civil War and served as a symbol for abolitionists, suffragists, Civil Rights advocates, Native Americans, immigrants and war protesters.

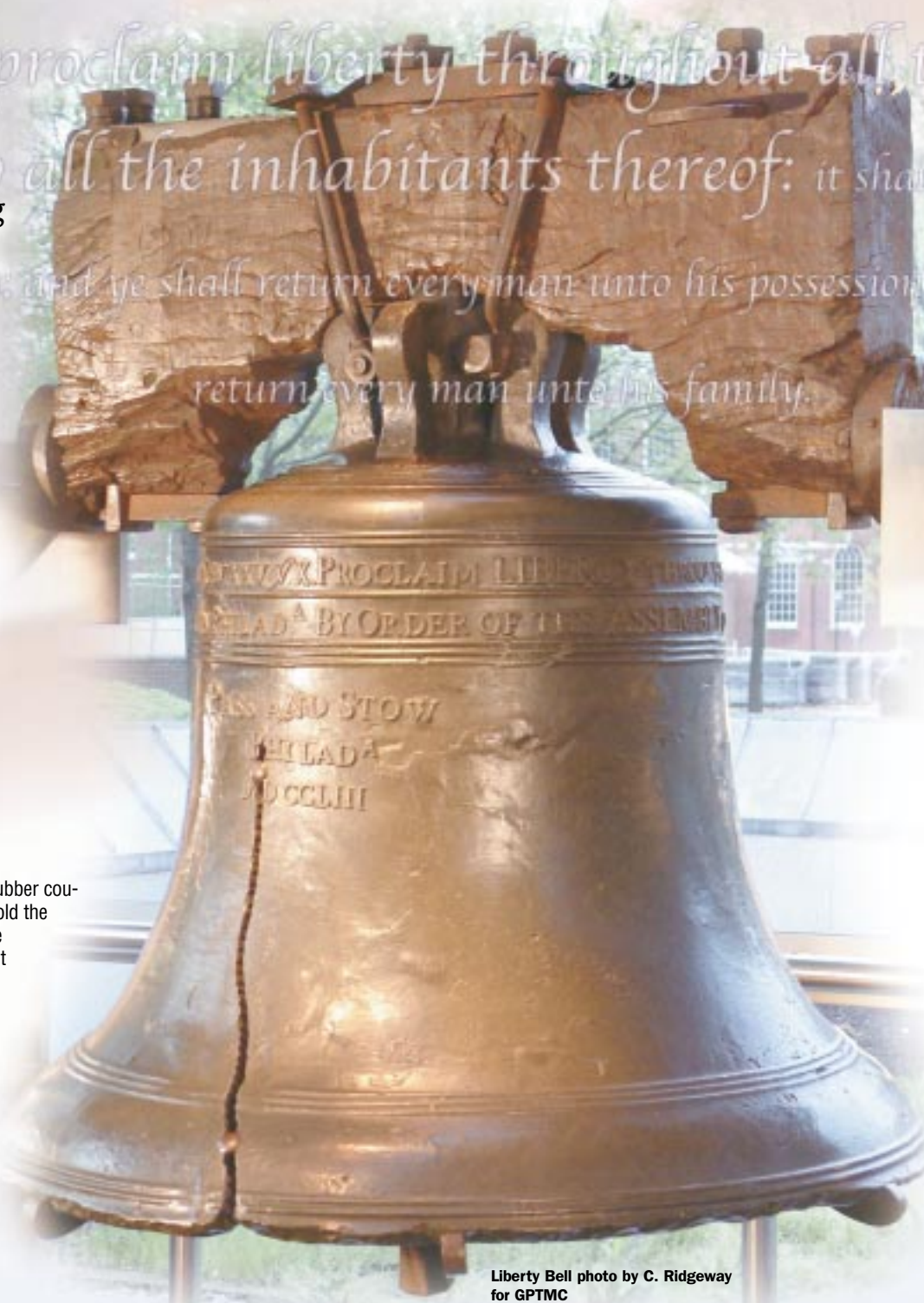
The Bell mobile

Constructed by the George S. Young company, the Bell mobile will transport the Liberty Bell to its new home at the Liberty Bell Center.



Bell facts

Bell weight: 2,080 pounds, the yoke weighs about 100 pounds
Circumference of lip: 12 feet
Circumference of crown: 6 feet, 11 inches
 The bell is composed of approximately 70 percent copper, 25 percent tin and traces of lead, zinc, arsenic, gold and silver. The yoke is made of American elm.
 The strike note of the bell is E-flat.



Liberty Bell photo by C. Ridgeway for GPTMC

Liberty Bell timeline

1752 - The Pennsylvania Assembly orders a 2,000-pound bell from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in England to place in its new State House (now Independence Hall) steeple. They request that the bell have the inscription "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."



The Bell's First note, by J.L.G. Ferris, shows first testing and cracking of the Liberty Bell.

1753 - The bell arrives in Philadelphia. Because of its brittleness, it cracks when it is first rung. The bell is recast in Philadelphia by Pass and Stow, a local maker of pots and pans.

July 8, 1776 - The bell was rung in celebration of the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Sept. 16, 1777 - The bell was loaded onto a wagon and smuggled to Allentown, Pa., to avoid it being captured and melted down by the British.



The First Journey of the Liberty Bell, by Edwin Willard Denning, shows the bell being smuggled to Allentown.

1835 - Abolitionists refer to the bell as the "Bell of Liberty." These antislavery advocates adopted the bell as their symbol because of its inscription and the bell's association with Independence Hall.

Spring 1915 - A replica of the bell, dubbed the "Justice Bell," is used by members of the women's suffrage movement to rally support, first for amending the Pennsylvania Constitution and then the United States Constitution.

June 6, 1944 - The bell is tapped with a rubber mallet during a national radio program to symbolize liberty and freedom on the day of the Normandy Invasion.

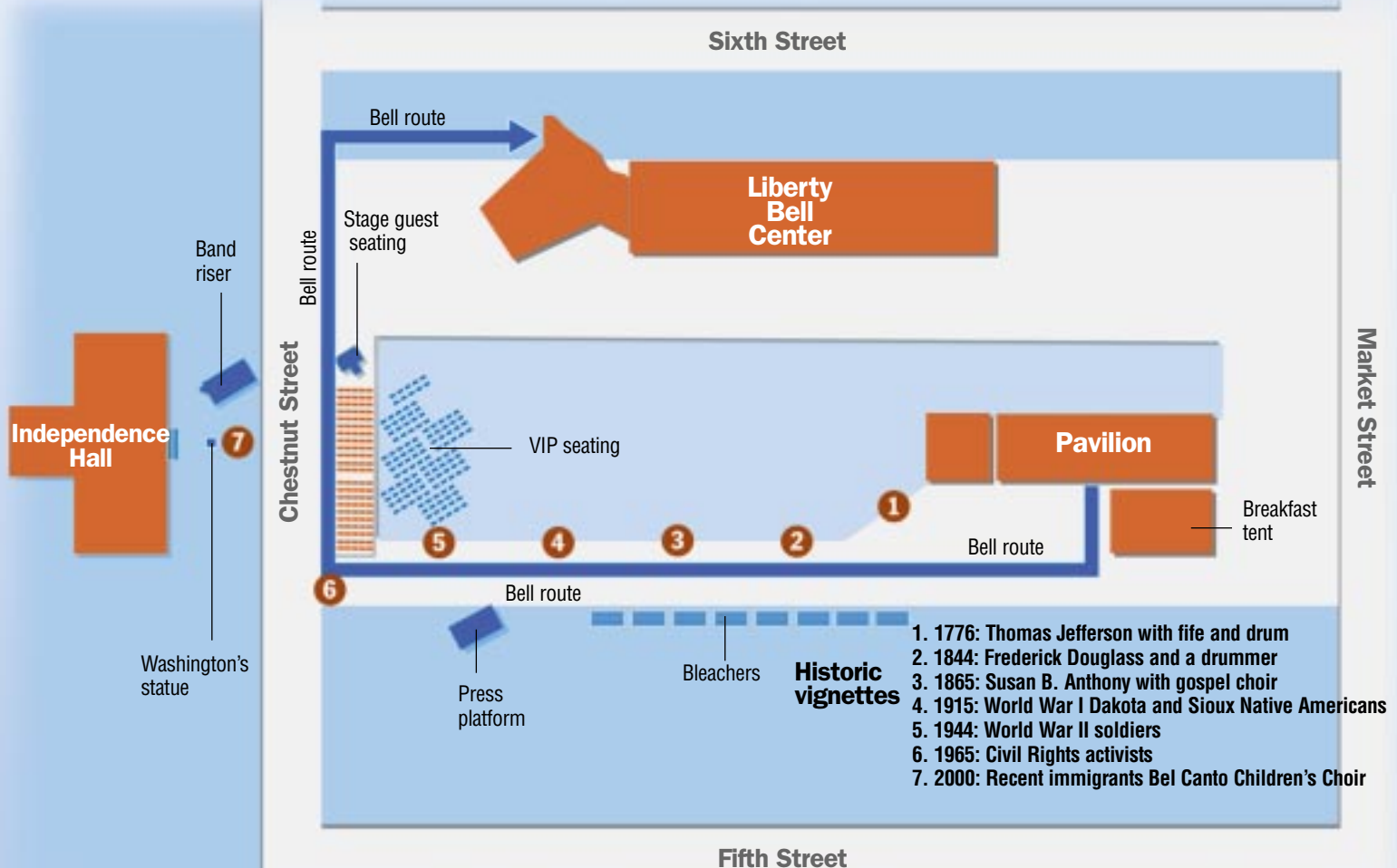
March 12, 1965 - Twenty-five civil rights protesters participate in a sit-in around the bell in Independence Hall to draw attention to the need for the federal government to protect the rights of African-Americans in Selma, Ala.

April 1, 1996 - The fast food chain Taco Bell publishes advertisements claiming to have purchased the bell. The stunt was merely a hoax in honor of April Fool's Day.

April 6, 2001 - Mitchell Guillatt from Nebraska strikes the bell with an eight-pound hammer several times while proclaiming religious statements. He is apprehended immediately and later sentenced to serve nine months in a correctional center and pay a \$7,093 fine to go toward the cost of bell repairs.

Liberty Bell route

Because of the hilly terrain surrounding the Pavilion (the present home of the Liberty Bell) and its new home, Liberty Bell Center, the bell will travel about 963 feet around the pavilion and to the bell entrance at Independence Hall.



1. 1776: Thomas Jefferson with fife and drum
2. 1844: Frederick Douglass and a drummer
3. 1865: Susan B. Anthony with gospel choir
4. 1915: World War I Dakota and Sioux Native Americans
5. 1944: World War II soldiers
6. 1965: Civil Rights activists
7. 2000: Recent immigrants Bel Canto Children's Choir

Source: Liberty Bell Center, National Independence Historical Park Philadelphia; "The Liberty Bell's Sister," by The Reverend Louis A. Rangione, OSA

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