



FROM FIRE BELL TO WATER FOUNTAIN

We used to have a lot of bells in Brevard. There were Church bells, school bells, the Court House bell and others, but older residents remember one bell which sounded as no other did. This was the fire bell.

Yes, older residents remember the old familiar clanging—how it rang out over the town and the story it told.

Lads mowing lawns under specific instructions by their parents to finish the lawns come what may, would drop the handles of the lawn mowers and run through yards, fields, briar patches and various obstacles in the general direction of the fire bell.

On one occasion, it is distinctly remembered that one small eight year old, with great excitement written across his face, raced along the sidewalk dragging behind him a baby carriage which held his frightened, wailing baby sister. The baby's safety forgotten, baby blankets dropped to the sidewalk as the race to follow the fire truck continued.

Then there was another bell which played a great part in clearing the way for the fire truck and informed us of a fire. It was a bell which was situated on the front of the truck. As the old engine chugged along the street it could be heard above the noise ringing loudly. With these two bells, it isn't surprising that the youngsters were so greatly attracted to the fires.

Then like old Dobbin, the old bell was replaced by a siren. In 1925 it was removed and placed rather sadly in a corner in the City Hall.

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