

"Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land--"

The Voice of the Nation

WHEN IN... THE ABOVE IS A REPRODUCTION OF A SOUVENIR OF THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION HELD IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1876. IT SHOWS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE FORM OF THE LIBERTY BELL...

July 4, 1776

The above is a reproduction of a souvenir of the Centennial exposition held in Philadelphia in 1876. It shows the Declaration of Independence in the form of the Liberty Bell...

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

SK the average American what took place on July 4, 1776, and he will probably reply in some such words as these: "Why, the Declaration of Independence, which made us free from England was written by Thomas Jefferson and signed by John Hancock, George Washington, and some others. Then in celebration of the event they rang the Liberty bell until it cracked wide open."

In contrast to this misinformation, consider these simple chronological facts in regard to the making of the Declaration of Independence and Proclaiming of Liberty: On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, delegate to the Second Continental Congress from Virginia, acting under his instructions from that colony, presented a resolution declaring that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states."

On July 2, 1776, Lee's resolution was put to a vote and approved by the delegates of twelve of the colonies. The only dissenting voice was that of the New York delegation. The Declaration was penned by Thomas Jefferson and offered to congress, sitting as a committee of the whole, for revision before its adoption.

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence, as revised, was adopted by the delegates from the colonies with the exception of the New York representatives. The men who had voted for the Declaration of Independence realized that it would be nothing more than a scrap of paper unless it received popular support and received it immediately. So arrangements were made at once to have the document put before the public in the form of a broadside. Therefore, after recording the vote on the main question, it was "Ordered, That the Declaration be authenticated and printed; That the Committee appointed to prepare the Declaration, superintend and correct the press, that copies of the Declaration be sent to the several Assemblies, Conventions and Committees, or Councils of Safety, and to the several

commanding officers of the Continental troops; That it be proclaimed in each of the United States and at the head of the Army."

It was late in the afternoon of Thursday, July 4, when this action was taken, so the committee, composed of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin immediately hastened from the state house on Chestnut street, in Philadelphia, to a little building on High street, where Dunlap and Claypoole conducted a print shop. These printers were prepared to do "rush jobs." They had put out broadsides immediately after the Battles of Lexington, Bunker Hill, and upon receipt of the news of the disasters at Ticonderoga and Quebec. So they at once set to work and gave their personal attention to the setting in type of this greatest of all documents, which had fallen to their lot to print. Since the printing of it had to have official supervision, Jefferson, Adams and Franklin stayed in the shop until the Declaration was set in type and the first proof of it was pulled. They then made corrections on this proof, (the major responsibility for catching any errors resting on Franklin, no doubt, since he was a practical printer) and remained in the shop until this Magna Charta of American Liberties had been placed on the old flat hand-press and was being printed.

On July 5, 1776, when congress met again, a supply of these printed copies of the Declaration were on hand, and one of them was "wafered" in the blank space left for it in the rough "Journal of Congress" before the reading of the minutes of the preceding day took place. In the meantime letters transmitting the Declaration to the various assemblies had been prepared by John Hancock, president of congress, his signature attested to by Charles Thompson, secretary, and some of these were printed on July 5 and the remainder some days later. The first one was sent to the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, dated July 5 and delivered to the committee on July 6. The committee decided to promulgate the Declaration on the following Monday, July 8, since elections for membership in the new convention were to be held throughout the state on that day and would furnish a better opportunity than usual to secure a large public attendance to hear the reading of this important document.

On July 8, the Declaration of Independence was first proclaimed to the citizens of the United States from the balcony of an observatory attached to the building in the state house yard which occupied the site of what is now the home of the American Phil-

sophical society. The man who read it to the assembled people was Col. John Nixon, formerly an alderman in Philadelphia and commander of a regiment in the Continental army at the battle of Long Island and at Valley Forge. He acted for the sheriff who would by right have read it.

The reading of the Declaration was received with much enthusiasm by the Philadelphians. It is true that the Liberty bell in the state house steeple (that bell whose makers had placed upon it the prophetic inscription "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof," when it had been cast some twenty-three years before), was rung at this time—to call the Philadelphians together for the reading of the Declaration and to celebrate the occasion after they had received the news. But the cracking of the bell did not take place at this time. That occurred exactly 50 years later while it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, which took place July 8, 1835. Other bells chimed in the chorus, bonfires were lit that evening and all in all it was one of the most memorable days in the history of the historic City of Brotherly Love.

Although the first official proclamation of the Declaration of Independence took place on July 8, in Independence Square, this was not the first knowledge which the public had of the great news which it contained. For on Saturday, July 6, the Pennsylvania Evening Post, "published every Tuesday and Saturday evenings" at a "price only two coppers" devoted the entire front page of its issue for that date to the publication of the Declaration. On July 8, Dunlap and Claypoole also published it in their weekly, the Pennsylvania Packet, and within the next week or so it had been published in nearly all of the Colonial newspapers, as well as having been proclaimed in various places by the assemblies, councils of safety and the like, for post riders were carrying some of Dunlap and Claypoole's printed copies throughout the newly-created nation. In Massachusetts where the struggle for liberty had begun, it was first proclaimed on July 14, 1776, and the interesting fact is that it did not take place in Boston. For, according to a contemporary account, "at about noon on Sunday (July 14) a messenger on his way to Boston stopped at one of the taverns on Main street (Worcester) for dinner for himself and team. While waiting for his team to eat and rest he was met by Isaiah Thomas, who obtained from him a copy of the Declaration which he took to the church and read from the porch."

Wanted Real Service

Not every one has so clear a conception of the duties of a public service commission as the Baltimore woman who rang up the Maryland department of public service one day and inquired for the service engineer. "May I leave my baby in your office for a while? I want to go down town and do some shopping!" "Why, you must have the wrong number!" the man gasped. "This is

the public service commission office!" "Well, I know that," was the quick answer, "and if you don't consider it a public service to take care of a baby once in a while I think you'd better change your name until you can begin giving real public service!" And she rang off.

New Model Children Every child is himself and nothing is gained by trying to standardize children and infancy.—Woman's Home Companion.

Worry If you worry about the possibility of getting ill, you will be ill. The mind affects the body, lowers its power of resistance, and makes it "receptive" of disease germs. To keep well, don't worry.

Longer One Needed A new jazz composition is said to be so difficult that very few musicians can play it. This is certainly a step in the right direction.—London Hu

Community Building

Wise Owner Makes His Garden Part of Home

If you really use and enjoy your garden, you must make it look as though it were a part of your home. If the only way you have of getting to it is through the kitchen and the back porch where only the garbage can or ice box or cleaning bucket live, your garden will not look that way. The transition from house to garden must be gradual and attractive, if the house and garden are to seem like one unit.

If it is possible to enter the garden from a living-room or dining-room, so much the better. In that case, even if the garden is tiny, it is well to make a small brick platform or an informal flagging around the steps. If the lawn is low below the doorway, a prettier effect is gained by making a small terracing up to the steps, than by having a long flight of steps. One step or two down to the terrace will be prettier than six steps down to a flat lawn. On this flagstone or brick platform you can put comfortable porch furniture, and perhaps a bright awning or lawn parasol. Here you can have a place more out-of-doors than a regular porch, and yet as comfortable. It will be dry to your feet, and yet there will be comfortable chairs to sit in. The older members of any family will enjoy it more than sitting in the real garden.

Model Street Incentive to Better Conditions

In Philadelphia, according to reports, is a mile of model streets—which means a mile of clean streets. The idea of clearing and maintaining this limited street area absolutely free of litter and the hundred and one other objects and features that mar attractiveness was carried out a short time ago. So impressive were the results that now schools, women's groups and other organizations in various parts of that city are out for more model streets. Eventually, a model city from the standpoint of tidiness may be the outcome. Who knows?

Certainly the movement is altogether wholesome and encouraging. The idea may prove contagious. Probably a city once clean and attractive could be kept in that condition. How refreshing it would be to have one genuine effort in that direction!—Kansas City Times.

Plea for City Beautiful

An appeal to householders to form themselves into "Neighborhood Beautiful" groups was made recently by H. A. Harrington, Detroit board of commerce secretary.

"We are attempting to conduct a city-wide spring house-cleaning," said Harrington, who is in charge of the 1929 clean-up and paint-up campaign. Under the plan advocated by him residents of each block would form an organization for the supervision of a thorough clean-up, not only of their own premises, but of adjacent alleys and vacant lots.

"It does little good to clean up occasional spots," he pointed out. "The impressions visitors carry away are molded by the general appearance of the city."

Stake Around Your Trees

Large trees or trees planted in exposed places should be staked. To prevent chafing, protect the tree with old rubber hose or with burlap, says the American Tree association of Washington which will send anyone tree-planting suggestions for the asking. A stake driven in the ground along side the tree with a rubber or burlap covered wire attached to the tree is a good support. Until the tree becomes firmly established see to it that the earth is closely packed about the trunk.

Outdoor Room

Let us think of a garden as an attractive outdoor room, rather than a place of orderly beds, where flowers or other plants are grown. No matter what type of design or what type of furnishings—if one may speak of the elements of a garden as furnishings—a garden usually does not offer its full complement of enjoyment without that desirable feeling of intimacy and privacy.

Trees and City Beautiful

Worth of trees to a city is by no means confined to beauty, says the American Tree association of Washington, which will send you tree planting suggestions for the asking. The city of fine shade trees is the City Beautiful as well as the City Beautiful.

Garden Individuality

One privilege of life in the country is the possession of a garden, and preferably of a flower garden. A garden owes any distinction it may possess to first-hand attention, and consequently can hardly be anything but individual. There are too few opportunities for individuality left to us.

Worth Thinking Over

Towns that can't afford playgrounds for their children must be prepared to spend considerable money for care of those run over by automobiles.—Garibaldi (Ore.) News.

No Time for Business

With the Smelt Biting

Charles Francis Adams, who resigned as treasurer of Harvard university to become secretary of the navy under Hoover, is as typical an Adams as Samuel, John Quincy and all the rest, and inherits from them a love of the sea and fishing and sailing—also their characteristic independence.

The story is told how, while he was practicing law and was scheduled to make a plea before the Supreme court he could not be found and finally a deputy sheriff was sent to procure his presence. The officer traced the lawyer to Hingham, Mass., hired a boat and rowed out to Hangman's island and found Mr. Adams.

The lawyer sent him back with a line scrawled on the back of an envelope: "Can't come now; the smelt are biting like thunder."—Los Angeles Times.

One Way Out

Lee—Does your wife ask you for things she knows you cannot afford? Paul—She hasn't asked for a thing since we were married.

Lee—Great! How do you manage it? Paul—When she wants a thing she does not ask me; she tells me.

The Trouble-Seeker

William S. Vare, the Pennsylvania political leader, was congratulated, at a luncheon in Philadelphia, on his amiability, a trait which makes his joke pleasant to bear.

"Well," the senator-elect said, "I don't go round looking for trouble, certainly. I try not to resemble Anthony Trollope.

"At a literary dinner in London Edmund Yates was holding forth to a group of literateurs at one end of the table when Trollope roared at him from the other:

"Yates, I disagree with you in toto. What was it that you said?"—Detroit Free Press.

Something Wrong

Angry Parent—These much-advertised "school shoes" I bought of you for my boy didn't last two weeks, when you said they would wear a whole year.

Dealer—Why, there must be some mistake; perhaps the boy's been wearing them outside of school.

Better Take a Chance

Those who take no chances generally have to take what's left over by those who do.—Boston Transcript.

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Tempus Fugit "Here, waiter, let me have a three-minute egg." "Yes, sir. In just a second, sir."