725 MILES PER TOWER
or Canadian Campanologists' Convention

CANADA is a very long way from Texas, where everything is supposed to be 'The Biggest,' but nevertheless distances between cities in this country tend to be great. It was, therefore, with no small amount of apprehension that four ringers from Calgary set out on a tower grab to Vancouver, some 700 miles to the west, across the Rockies. The date was Friday, October 9th, 1964, the time 7 p.m., and the transportation a 1958 Ford station wagon. Fortunately, three out of the four held driver's licences and were able to take turns at the wheel. Thus we were able to keep moving throughout the night, with only periodic stops for gas (sorry, petrol) and coffee.

Vancouver was reached about 10 a.m. next day, much to everyone's relief, and we made tracks for the beautiful home of Jeff White, where we were greeted with an abundant supply of yet more coffee, and allotted to our various accommodation for the stay. Wasting no time, we were ringing at the Cathedral of the Holy Rosary soon after 2 p.m. These bells are somewhat of a mixture, some being French in origin. However, considering that they are hung on plain bearings, they go exceedingly well, and are a credit to those responsible for their maintenance.

They did prove to be rather a handful for two of our number from Calgary, who are used to our own light eight, especially as this was the first opportunity that either had had to ring outside their home tower. Methods rung here included Grandsire Triples, Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Oxford Bob Triples (for some reason known only to the Vancouver band) and of course rounds. Supper on Saturday was taken at the Barkworth residence, and since this was Thanksgiving Week-end, this naturally consisted of roast turkey, and most acceptable it was too.

MISSION CITY

Sunday dawned fine, much to the surprise of the contingent from the Prairies, all of whom firmly believe that it rains far more frequently in Vancouver than it does in England. By 10.30 a.m. we were once more at work on the bells of the Holy Rosary, ringing them for half an hour before the 11 a.m. Mass. Following this we set course for Mission City to try our hand on the ring of 10 which is to be found there, at Westminster Abbey. This is a monastery set on the top of a hill in the Fraser Valley, and commanding a most glorious view. From the ringing chamber window the Fraser Valley can be seen stretching away to the north-east, with the river of the same name winding its way to the sea. On either side of the valley are the Rocky Mountains, crowned in the south by the snow-capped peak of Mount Baker in the States. The bells that hang in this tower are an equally fine ten, which are probably the only bells which are rung to changes every day. The monks have their own band, which is under the able leadership of Father Dunstan, and they ring every day before Mass.

A Wolverine Belboys arrival by Father Dunstan Wulfram's, Grantham, and enjoyed some more excellent turkey until the early hours.

A start was made on the long road home at 9 a.m. on Monday, and we finally made it by 11 p.m., all somewhat tired and exhausted, but having enjoyed every minute of our stay in Vancouver.

It now only remains to thank publicly our hosts, the Vancouver ringers in general, and in particular Jeff and Jean White, Mary and Delia Barkworth, and family, and Ron and Edith Hyatt who provided the accommodation, and to remind them that there is a dozen of beer to be provided by whichever tower, Vancouver or Calgary, which does not score the first peal. We in Calgary are going to enjoy drinking it.

J. M. SIMPSON.

Memorial to Albert Walker

Dear Sir,—Reading through 'The Ringing World' of November 6th, I notice that the memorial tablet to the late Albert Walker has now been unveiled.

I am sure it would be very interesting to other old ringing friends of Albert's, as well as to myself, if the wording on the tablet could be published as I doubt if many of us will ever see this memorial.

May I also ask what amount of money was donated; also, have all the donors received their receipts?—Yours sincerely,

HECTOR G. BIRD.

East Brent, Somerset.

THE SOUND OF BELLS

A comprehensive study of bellringing unique in character has been published by Record Books, Limited. This book, entitled 'The Sound of Bells,' written by Edgar C. Shepherd, incorporates a completely new dimension in sound as well as vision—by linking the book to a record which in this case demonstrates different rings of bells, some from famous cathedrals, as well as an indication of the art of the carillonneur, and of tune ringing on handbells. The book is in four parts and covers the history of bells and bellringing, the growth of change ringing, eye witness accounts of notable occasions and a description of some well-known ringing towers.

The author, Mr. Shepherd, is the former Master of St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham and convener of the Literature and Press Committee of the Central Council. He is a man well versed in the art of bellringing, having had over 50 years' experience. At present he represents the Salisbury Diocesan Guild on the Diocesan Advisory Committee on Faculties and the Care of Churches.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

Eastern Branch

Mr. P. Kindred had prepared a splendid tea for the meeting of the Eastern Branch at Pakefield in September and the service was conducted by Canon D. N. G. Bringloe (Rector).

At the meeting Mr. H. W. Barrett paid a tribute to Mr. Neville Brown, of Ashby St. Mary, who had died since the last meeting. Miss D. Toone (Gorleston) was elected a ringing member, and belfry elections of Mr. T. F. Metcalfe (Flookburgh) and Mr. N. M. Newby (Kirkby-in-Furness) were ratified. Evening quarterly meetings were proposed and started with Ditchingham on October 31st.

Next quarterly meeting, Lowestoft, December 5th.

N. P. J. C.

Northern Branch

Members and friends of the Northern Branch in numbers visited Reepham on October 24th. After the service, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. Hurst), the Buttery seemed to expand its walls at tea-time as over 40 tried to sit down (30 booked). It was, nevertheless, enjoyed

Two new members—Alan R. Buxton and David House—were elected. Mr. W. R. West reported that four bells were being obtained from St. Margaret's, Norwich, to increase the ring at Holt to six. Difficulty was being experienced in moving these bells as it would nessitate splitting the organ.

The president said he had a pleasant and instructive week-end at Grantley Hall; it was hoped a similar one could be held in Norfolk in the not too distant future.

Hethersett had been offered the annual general meeting in January if Wymondham Abbey was not available.

C. B.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT TOUR

OCTOBER is usually an ideal month for ringing outings and it was no exception this year on the first week-end in October, which was the time chosen by the Rochester District, K.C.A., for their coach tour to Somerset and the Bristol area. Leaving Sittingbourne at 6.30, our stopping place for the Friday night in Reading was reached in three hours.

The first tower of the week-end was Hungerford, and the other tower of the morning was the beautifully-toned 17 cwt. six at St. Mary's, Marlborough. A good lunch was enjoyed in the Pump Room in Bath.

We had heard so much about the majesty of Chewton Mendip that some were almost prepared for an anti-climax—but be soon found out for ourselves that everything we had heard was true—our only regret was that we didn't have longer to enjoy the bells.

Gough's cave in the Cheddar gorge was inspected and all were duly impressed, although the gorge itself was to most people, more outstanding. After a ring at Cheddar, we moved on to Congresbury where we were privileged to ring from the brand new belfry floor, which must be a great improvement on the old ground floor ringing chamber. The 35 cwt. eight proved rather too heavy for some, but all agreed that the tone is excellent. Clevedon, the last tower of the day, has light and easy going bells. A touch of Stedman here provided the best ringing of the day. Afterwards a short service was conducted by the Vicar.

The night was spent at Bristol. After breakfast (very rushed by some), everyone was collected on time to ring at Emmanuel, Clifton prior to a service of Holy Communion, held especially for us by the Rev. Rees. A long and picturesque drive through the Cotswolds brought us to Cirencester for lunch. Faringdon, (8, 17 cwt.) was the first tower of the afternoon and the scene of the only ladies' touch of the tour. A run through the Vale of White Horse brought us to the the last official tower, Harewell, where the church was most beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival. Cambridge was the best touch here, but in seemingly no time we were being summoned back to the coach again. Tea was partaken by the river at Henley-on-Thames, where afterwards some of us were privileged to ring for Evensong with the local band.

We thank sincerely all incumbents for the use of their bells and local ringers who met us: to Wally Smith who drove so efficiently and above all to Laurie Mitchell, whose meticulous organisation ensured that the tour was an outstanding success.

D.M.

FIRST 720 ON KENT FOUR

For years visitors to St. Bartholomew's Church, Waltham, near Canterbury, have concluded that there are only two bells as two very decrepit ropes hang down on the ground floor of the little oblong central tower.

Stahlschmidt's 'Church Bells of Kent' gives four bells, and an unlocked trapdoor enabled the writer to confirm this. Later in the year the bells were inspected and although the third's wheel was broken they were rung up singly and proved better than expected.

On St. Bartholomew's Day (August 24th) the bells were rung in peal for the first time for 30 years, and in October a 720 was rung there in 23 minutes by A. Davies 1, M. Ostler 2, C. Beeching 3, D. Cawley 4. It is hoped that when proper ropes can be purchased regular ringing can be arranged.

All the bells are by Joseph Hatch. The No. 3 bell, however, bears his father's mark and is dated 1602. The weights are approximately 4¼ cwt., 5¼ cwt., 6 cwt. and 8 cwt. in about A.

The following four-bell towers in Kent are now ringable: Alkham (6½ cwt.), East Langdon (7 cwt.), Newnham (7¼ cwt.), Plumstead (7 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb. in A) and Waltham (8 cwt. in A). There is a possibility that the four at Fordwich are also ringable, but the Vicar isn't! The four steel bells of Bicknor could be rung (with chiming ropes—tenor 2¼ cwt.). Recently news has come that the four at Ickham (7¼ cwt.) are to be rehung and the No. 3 recast.

D. C. L.