



**West Libertyites woke up to the white stuff last week!
Officially Winter doesn't start for 39 more days.
I guess Mother Nature didn't get the memo.**



Bible verse of the week
*May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, O
Lord, my Rock and my
Redeemer.*
Psalm 19:14

Don't forget to vote for your favorite Christmas Tree in the Silent Auction at Town Hall!



The meaning of the Christmas Wreath-

- ~The circular shape represents eternity, no beginning and no end.
- ~The Evergreen branches symbolizes everlasting life.
- ~The Holly Branches have thorns which represents
- ~The crown of thorns represents the crown of thorns Jesus wore.
- ~The Holly Berries symbolizes the blood Jesus shed for us on the Cross.

The Meaning of Mistletoe-

Most mistletoe are evergreen and bear fruit of white or green berries. It use to be hung from doors to protect from witches and demons, in cradles to protect from fairies and in the home to protect from fires. Now it can't really do things but reminds us of the one who can, Jesus.

In England servant men (later spread to the middle class) were allowed to steal a kiss from any woman caught standing under the mistletoe, and to refuse was considered bad luck. Another tradition instructed the the people to pluck a single berry from the mistletoe after each kiss, and to stop smooching once the berries were gone.



November Events-

- *Bidding for the Christmas Tree Auction
November 2nd - 23rd at Town Hall
Winner will be contacted.
- *Lions Club Ham & Turkey Raffle
Monday, November 19, 7pm - Fire House
- *Bobbi's Bungalow Christmas
Open House- 5 pm - 7 pm
- *November 23rd-
 - ~Open Houses during business hours
 - ~Marie's Candies 9 am -3 pm
 - ~Old fashioned soup supper 4-6 pm
 - ~Luminary Run 5 pm,
 - ~Christmas Parade 6 pm
 - ~Community Christmas Tree lighting-
during parade
 - ~Santa Clause will be in the Fire House
after the parade!



Let the Bells Ring!

Do you remember hearing the Church Bells ring on Sunday morning to call the community to worship? I used to loved helping my dad, Rev. Lee Birt ring the bell on Sunday. Sadly it isn't done as it was once and I think they should bring the Church Bell Ringing tradition back.

The ringing of bells can be traced back to Celtic land whose natives believed that ringing the bells would have the power to ward off evil spirits and grant wishes. Scotland bells rang as couples left the church after a wedding.

For funerals in Scotland they had a special bell called the Mort-Bell also known as a soul bell or passing bell. It was rang in tenor for an adult who died or in treble for a child. To distinguish the sex, tolling three times for a man and twice for a woman, followed by a bell stoke for each year the person lived.

During WW II in Great Britain the church bells were silenced and only rang to inform people of an enemy troop invasion.

The bells could be found in the steeple or a bell tower of the church. They were hung one of two ways. The first hung in a fixed position (hung dead) or hung from a pivoted beam (the headstock) so they can swing to and fro. Hung dead are normally sounded by hitting the sound, the sound bow with a hammer or by a rope which pulls the internal clapper against the bell. A rope hangs from wheel attached to the headstock and when the bell ringer pulls on the rope the bell swings back and forth making the clapper hit the inside of bell.

Other bells in West Liberty were also used to for different reasons. The bell at Town Hall was used as the town fire alarm for many years. It was reportedly installed in the late 1880's and was acquired second hand being about 85 years old at the time. This corresponds with the acquisition of the West Liberty Niagara Steam Fire Engine which was new in 1888, and the organization of the Niagara Steam Fire Company at the same time. Considering all of this, the bell would have been cast in the 1790's which makes it over 200 years old.

In addition to it's use as a fire alarm, the bell has been used in early history making events such as The Armistice of 1918, deaths of presidents and on New Year's Eve. The bell was originally of the conventional yoke- mounted, rocking, swinging clapper type, with this mechanism today. It has however, sometimes in past years, secured to the edge of the bell. This permits the bell to be rang as fast as the rope can be pulled, making it distinguishable from near by church and school bells.

There are several Christmas hymns and carols that have the word bell in them- "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day," "Jingles Bells," "Come On, Ring Those Bells," "Carol Of The Bells," and "Jingle Bell Rock." Can you think of any others? If so, please share on The West Liberty Star Face Book page.