

PRESS RELEASE -- Background Material

Carillon and bell instruments, produced exclusively by Schulmerich Carillons, Inc., have caused a revolution in cast bells. During recent years, however, this practice has been reversed and Europe is now turning to America for modern carillon and bell instruments. Schulmerich installations can be found in churches and missions in virtually all parts of the world, providing fine bell music which would be impossible otherwise because of the great weight and cost of cast bells.

Church bells, ringing from the belfries of our community, threatened to become a lost tradition until George J. Schulmerich revised the bell making craft in 1930. A young electronics engineer at that time, Schulmerich concentrated on solving the bell problem when his church contacts revealed the pitiful state of bells in this country. Hearing clergymen lament that they could not afford the great cost of cast bells, Schulmerich determined that there must be a new and better way to create the beloved music of bells. Spurred on by his own personal love for bell music, months of research were spent in his laboratories applying the knowledge of his engineers and noted musicians to the problem of creating the sound of a perfectly tuned bell without using the great mass of metal required to mold a cast bell. At last! A solution was found in the field of electronics.

The instrument which was finally produced--the modern carillon--consists of small bronze bell tones which are barely audible to the human ear. The resultant minute bell vibrations are then picked up electrostatically, amplified to any desired proportions, and reproduced from the tower or roof of a building. The final bell tones are just as rich as the finest bell music produced by the world-famous European carillons.