

Speech by Governor Norman Erbe on the Dedication of the Japanese Friendship Bell, October 17, 1962

PRESS RELEASE: October 17, 1962

FROM: Office of the Governor

Remarks By The Honorable Norman A. Erbe
Japanese Friendship Bell Dedication
October 17, 1962

Inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia are the words from Leviticus 25, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

We are dedicating today a bell which might aptly be described as one which will "proclaim peace and friendship throughout all the land."

This Bell of Peace and Friendship is a gift from the citizens of Japan's Yamanashi province to the people of Iowa.

It is a gift from sister to sister, for Yamanashi province is our sister state by act of the Iowa State assembly in 1961.

This bell is a token of appreciation for help received by the Yamanashi province following a 1959 typhoon which killed 57 persons, injured almost a thousand, destroyed sixteen hundred homes and flooded another 14 thousand homes. Comparable damage was inflicted to the farmlands and livestock in which Yamanashi depends upon for livelihood--for Yamanashi, like Iowa, is an agricultural state.

When news of this disaster reached Iowa, a people-to-people program was organized to help the people of Yamanashi. Several organizations including the National Corn Growers Association, 4-H clubs, local and state officials developed a hog-lift to provide a nucleus of a new program of livestock breeding and feeding in Yamanashi.

Thirty-five breeding hogs and 60 thousand bushels of corn were obtained through the efforts of these individuals and sent to Japan.

Today, in the shadows of Mt. Fuji, the sacred mountain of Japan which province, these animals and their offspring represent the hopes and livelihood of the citizens of our sister state. Officials have kept in touch with this program in Yamanashi and report that more than 500 hogs have been produced as progeny of the breeding hogs air-lifted from Iowa 2 ½ years ago. Because Iowans were responsible for that shipment, and because Iowa is Yamanashi's sister state, this bell of friendship is a gift from the people of Yamanashi to the people of Iowa.

Last March, this bell was formally presented in Japan to a representative of Iowa. At the presentation, Governor Hisashi Amano of Yamanashi said that it was his hope and prayer that as this bell sounds for peace, the peoples of Iowa and Yamanashi, united through friendship, will proceed hand in hand as sister states for the promotion of peace, culture and welfare.

To that I would like to add my prayer, and the prayer of all the people of Iowa, that the very real friendship which exists between the people of Yamanashi and the people of Iowa will spread throughout all the world -- and peace and friendship will reign eternal.

On behalf of the people of Iowa, I say to the people of Yamanashi ... AH - REE - GAH - TOH
GO - ZAI - MAHSS.