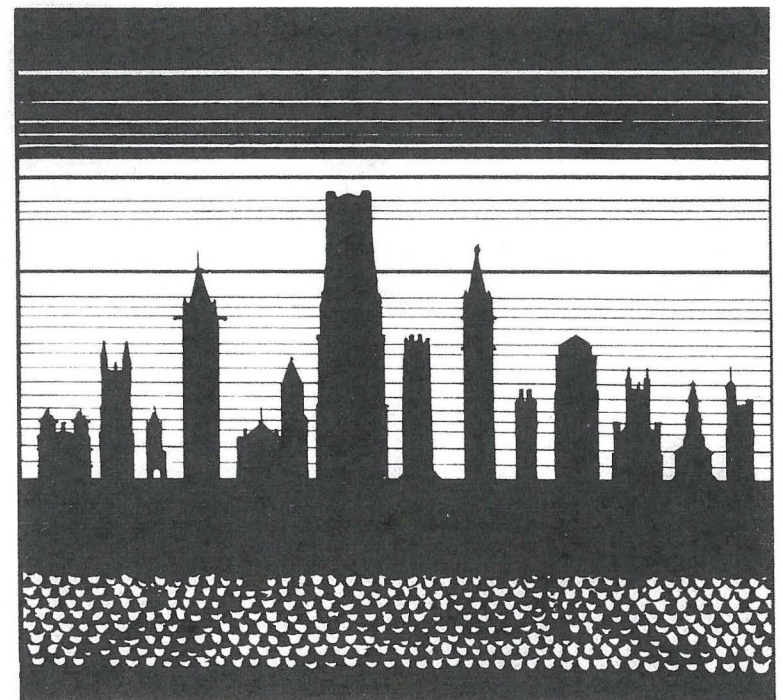


# BULLETIN

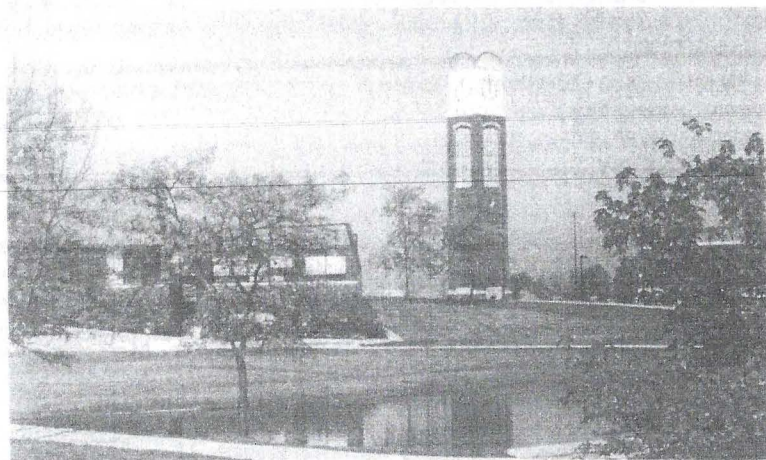
OF  
THE GUILD OF CARILLONNEURS IN NORTH AMERICA



## A New Carillon Sings in West Michigan Grand Valley State University, Allendale

by Barbara Kindschi

It is not surprising that West Michigan, with its prominent Dutch heritage, should adopt The Netherlands tradition of singing bells. Every spring Dutch bulbs bloom profusely in this area. Tulips, especially, reign in vibrant colors, reminiscent of the motherland. Now with the coming of Dutch bells to the campus of Grand Valley State University in the heart of West Michigan, cultural roots have deepened. Most of all, the university community is enriched by the vibrant tone colors of the bells floating over the campus.



The Cook Carillon Tower becomes the centerpiece of the Grand Valley State University campus.

The new carillon has 48 bronze bells with a combined weight of over eight tons. The smallest bell weighs 22 pounds, has a diameter of 7.5 inches and sounds D sharp three octaves above middle C. The largest bells, weighing 2,836 pounds, has a 51.7 inch diameter and sounds D sharp below middle C. (See Appendix B for complete specifications.)

These new bells are an achievement resulting from many years of artistic and technological development at their place of origin, Royal Eijsbouts Bellfounders and Tower Clockmakers, in Asten, The Netherlands. The Eijsbouts Bellfoundry collaborates with the Technical University at Eindhoven to design bell profiles by computer. A modified Hemony profile was recently developed to create a warm sounding bell, and the Grand Valley carillon was the first casting using this design. The university is proud to have acquired such lovely sounding as well as visually beautiful bells.

A color photo of these shiny new bells can be seen in a recent issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, (November 1994, p. 116). The author refers to Joost Eijsbouts stepping "through a field of polished bells, their mouths upturned, tuliplike, awaiting shipment." On the next page is another photo of a bell undergoing the precise tuning process.

What the article does not say is that these bells were awaiting shipment to Allendale, Michigan, where a great flurry of activity had been underway for several months preparing for their arrival.

In actuality, it took a year of planning and six months of construction to prepare a tower that would be a fitting place for the new carillon. However, the vision for this event grew over many years. Grand Valley's president, Arend D. Lubbers, dreamed of having an architectural landmark on the campus with bells that could be played by musicians. As a boy he remembers lying in bed at night listening to the bells in a nearby clock tower. In later travels to European cities he was impressed with the ringing of bells as an integral part of daily life. He sensed that bells help draw a community together. These experiences nurtured his dream of a carillon for Grand Valley's campus. Although the idea of a carillon tower was talked about for many years, 1993-94 turned out to be the time period when all of the important ingredients fell together to turn the dream into a reality.

Grand Valley is currently building a new science complex, a large structure of three interconnected buildings. In the midst of the designing process, the architects looked at the total layout of the campus and determined a central point in relation to existing buildings, roadways and the new buildings. They saw that when entering the campus from the north, one approaching the new science complex would look through a giant archway leading to a courtyard. When entering the campus from the west, one would be looking directly onto this new courtyard surrounded not only by the new buildings but also the student center, the recital hall and the library. These two approaches to the campus formed an intersection in the courtyard requiring something prominent. President Lubbers saw immediately that this was the ideal location for the carillon tower.

It was at this point in the spring of 1993 that the architects drew up a picture of "the dream." With drawings in hand the president went to the summer Board of Control meeting with the possibility of incorporating the carillon tower into the science complex project. The board members were intrigued, but they knew it would have to be built with private funds. One inspired board member presented the idea to Peter and Pat Cook, a couple who have shared many gifts with organizations and colleges around West Michigan. The Cooks became enthusiastic about the project and made a generous donation for the bells and clock. In recognition of their gift, "the dream" was named Cook Carillon Tower. This major donation together with other private gifts enabled the university to put together a three-quarter million dollar budget for the carillon tower.

With funding a reality, serious architectural designing commenced in late 1993. Grand Valley officials and Design Plus architects researched the subject of a carillon. What is it? How big is it? Who will play it? An important goal emerged that the carillon tower being conceived would result in a musical instrument that would look and sound beautiful on the campus and be a joy to play.

Early in 1994 the university contracted with Professor Margo Halsted, Carillonneur at Burton Tower on The University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor, to become consultant to the project. As they became aware of the potential size and weight of the carillon, the architects gave special consideration to the height of the tower,



the dimensions of space for the carillon, the grill surrounding the carillon, and the keyboard chamber with hatches and operable windows for sound and ventilation.

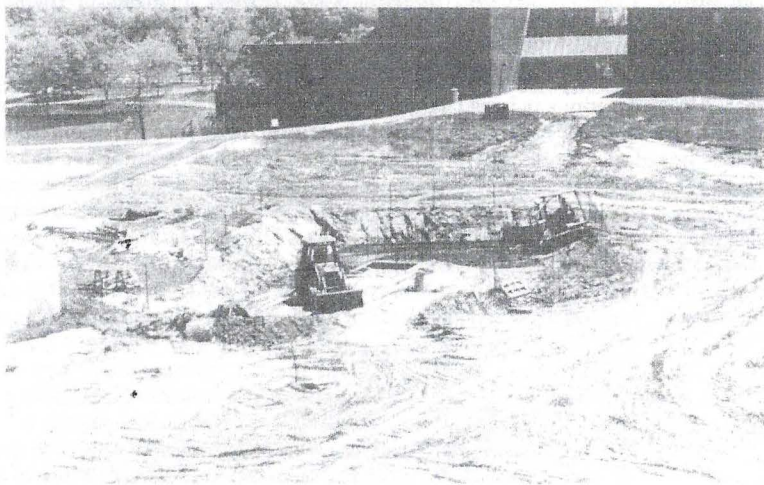
The committee also deliberated at length over what the size of the lowest bell could be and still stay within the budget. It was learned that although the first note on the keyboard would be C, it would be acceptable for the sound to be D sharp. With the decision to begin at D sharp, Grand Valley was able to order a four octave carillon.

The Pioneer Construction Company was already on campus building the science complex, making it advantageous to contract with them to build the carillon tower as well. Subsequently, this firm became a key negotiator with the bellfoundry and was able, through their contacts and use of their own construction equipment, to reduce the cost of installation.

The resolution, proposed budget and schedule for construction of the Cook Carillon Tower were approved by the Grand Valley Board of Control on April 27, 1994. Wasting no time, ground was broken for the tower on May 1, and on the next day the casting of the bells began in Asten.

Just as tulip bulbs are planted in the fall to bloom six months later, the foundation for the tower went into the ground in the spring and in six months grew into a giant flower pot filled with forty-eight bronze blooms. The series of photos show the monthly progress of the building of the tower, the casting of the bells, and the installation.

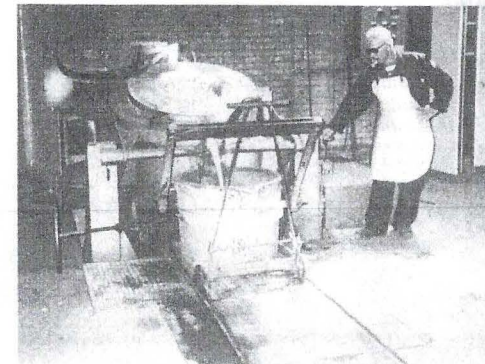
#### MAY



*The foundation for the Cook Carillon Tower has been laid.*

#### JUNE

*The molten bronze for the bourdon is being poured at the Royal Eijsbouts Bellfoundry.*



*The casting of the bourdon on June 28. The event was attended by several representatives of Grand Valley including President Lubbers and Vice President VanSteeland.*



#### JULY

*The skeletal steel went up in two days.*



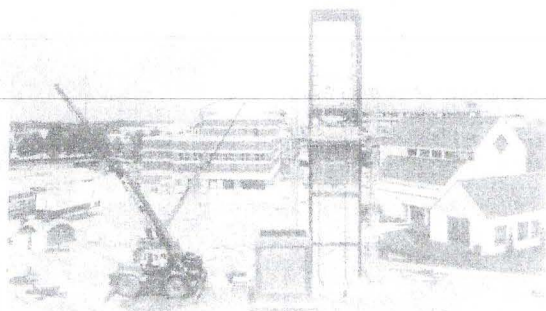


AUGUST

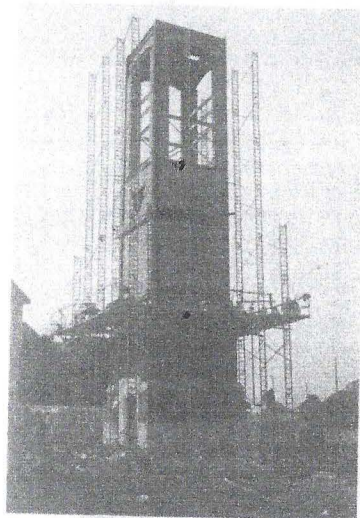
Margo Halsted visited the Eijsbouts Bellfoundry on August 9. Here she holds the smallest bell while standing next to the bourdon.



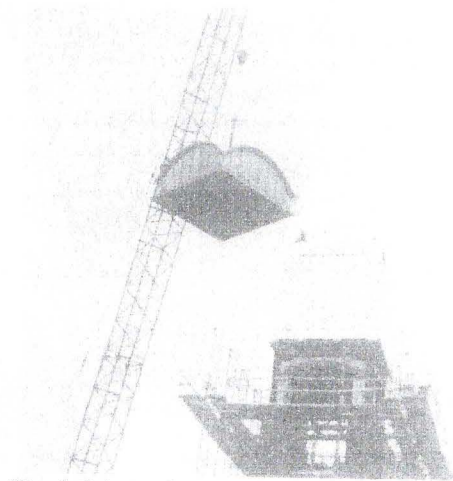
The cement blocks have reached the keyboard level. The large wooden box is the clock structure, and the roof cap is seen at the far left.



SEPTEMBER

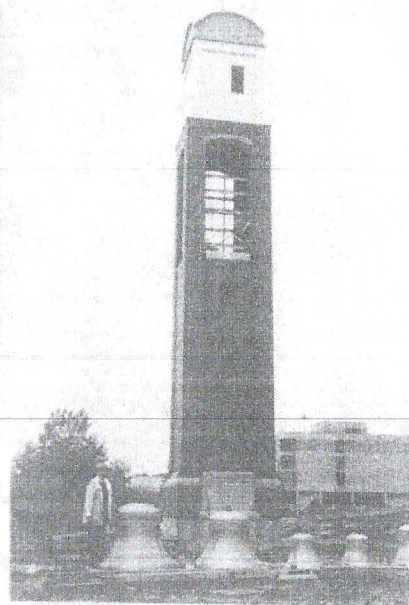


The tower is being clothed in brick and limestone.



The clock box and copper cap are installed.

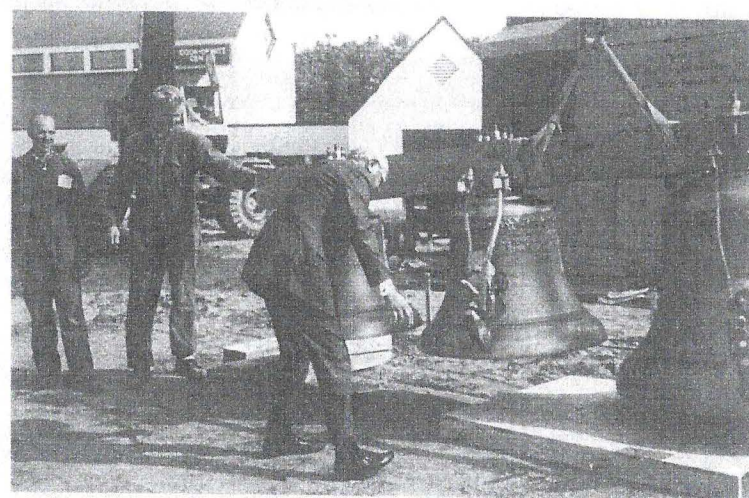
OCTOBER



The bells have arrived from The Netherlands and are uncrated. The scaffolding has been removed from the tower, and all is ready for installation.



Pat and Peter Cook in front of the engraving on the west side of the tower

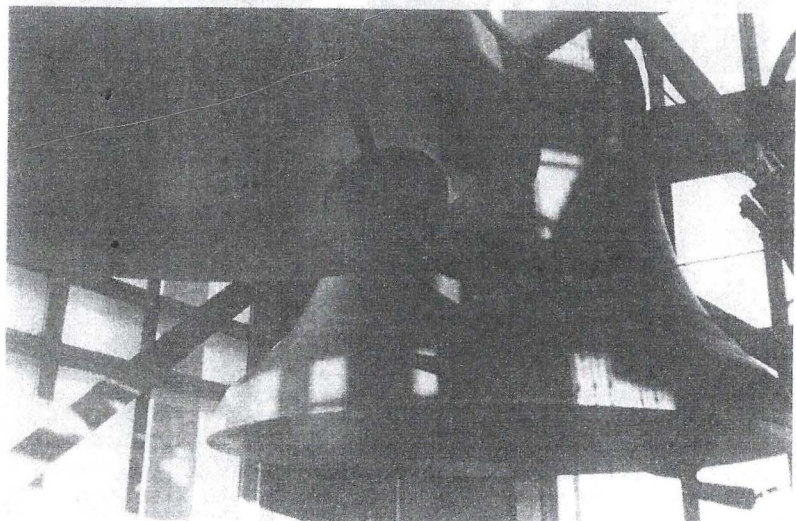
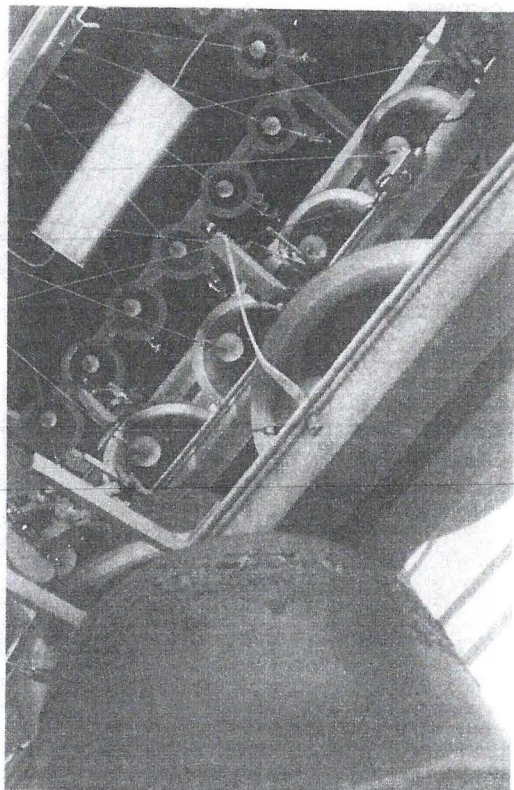


Peter Cook rings the bells as the Eijsbouts' installers, Frank Lubbers and Marcel Huibrechts, enjoy the moment.



## OCTOBER

*At the end of October the installation of the bells is completed.*



The tower is sixteen feet square and rises to a height of one hundred ten feet. The lower third contains a sixty-two step stairway leading to the heart of the tower where the keyboard and bells are housed. The upper third of the tower features a four-sided clock, copper cap and spire.

The heated cabin holds the oak console, as well as a computer for automatic play by means of outside hammers on sixteen of the lowest bells. There is also a small piano-type keyboard from which melodies may be programed into the computer. On each side of the console are diamond-shaped pivoting windows. This room also contains ladders leading to two hatch doors opening into the bell chamber.

The exterior of the tower is clad in terra cotta brick with a darker diamond pattern and is trimmed with Indiana limestone. The design and materials coordinate with the neighboring science complex. Small brass boxes on either side of the entrance door hold tower brochures and programs. The grillwork in front of the bells is aluminum with fine screening to protect them from birds and insects. The clock face of Roman numerals is nine feet in diameter and is coated with twenty-four karat gold. The copper cap has been treated giving it an aged-green color.

The Dedication of the Cook Carillon Tower took place on November 15, 1994. The event began with a University Convocation in the Cook-DeWitt Center next to the tower. There the Prime Minister of The Netherlands for the past twelve years, Rudolphus Lubbers, was presented with an Honorary Degree. The new carillon and tower were celebrated with a litany incorporating the two quotes engraved on the tower. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands - Psalm 100:1," and "People who make music together cannot be enemies, at least while the music lasts - Paul Hindemith." Then, as the audience proceeded to the base of the tower, a very "joyful noise" was heard as Margo Halsted played the forty-eight bells individually from top to bottom. Her program featured the premier of "Fantasia for Carillon" composed by Grand Valley professor, Robert Shechtman. (See Appendix C for the Concert Program.)

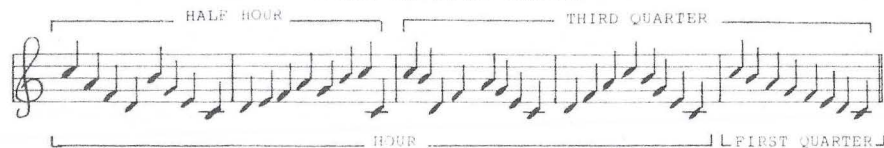


*After the Dedication Concert shown left to right, Eijsbouts Bellfoundry owner Joost Eijsbouts, U.S. Representative Peter Hoekstra, former Netherlands Prime Minister Rudolphus Lubbers, University of Michigan Carillonist Margo Halsted, Grand Valley President Arend Lubbers, Michigan Senator Leon Stille.*



With the concert at 11:30 a.m. the Cook Carillon Tower came alive. At noon the bells were heard playing the Whittington Chime and tolling the hour. Each quarter hour during the day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. a portion of the Chime is heard. A fifteen

#### WHITTINGTON CHIME



minute program of manually played carillon music is heard each week day at 11:45 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m. When a carillonist is not available to play, the computer signals the automatic play of pre-programmed melodies.



*Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, chair of the Music Department, is in charge of the musical life of the carillon.*

To create interest in playing the carillon, Music Department Chair, Professor Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, set up a series of four one-day workshops with Margo Halsted. They were scheduled at weekly intervals in October and November to coincide with the completion of the bell installation. At the first workshop several group lessons were given to interested keyboard musicians. In the succeeding weeks, those who developed a more serious interest in playing the carillon were given private lessons, and classes were held in the tower for students to perform. As a result of these workshops a number of regular carillonists has emerged, and the carillon is now heard several times a week. Students plan to go to Ann Arbor periodically to continue lessons.

The carillon has also been played on special occasions: the bells accompanied faculty and staff as they walked to their annual Christmas party; Christmas music was played on the carillon as part of the December Lunchbreak organ and brass concert; carillon music added to the celebration festivities at the mid-year commencement; and hymn tunes and "We Shall Overcome" were heard on the bells as Martin Luther King's birthday was commemorated with a march ending at the foot of the tower.

The Cook Carillon Tower in its brief few months of life has made a statement on Grand Valley's campus. The bells have distinguished Grand Valley by making it the youngest university in the world to have a carillon. Perhaps the greatest gift the carillon brings to the university community is inspiration and challenge. At the dedication luncheon Grand Valley English professor, Jon Jellema, said it this way: "Let the bells ring as a celebration of life's beauty and sweetness. But also, let them ring to remind us of our responsibilities to one another and to our world."

As Grand Valley enters its thirty-fifth year, the carillon will gladly sing in celebration of the university's contributions to higher education. The Cook Carillon will also sing proudly of its heritage, of the land of its origin, The Netherlands, and of its home in West Michigan.

## Appendix A

### Key Persons in the Life of the Cook Carillon Tower

#### Major Donors

Peter and Pat Cook, Grand Rapids, MI

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Arend D. Lubbers, President

Ronald VanSteeland, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Gregory Houghtaling, Architect

Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, Music Department Chair

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Margo Halsted, Carillonist and Consultant

Design Plus, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI

Vern Ohlman, Architect in Charge

Tom Roode, Designer

Craig Nicely, Project Manager

Pioneer Construction Company, Grand Rapids, MI

Thomas Beckering, President

Larry Heubner, Project Manager

Royal Eijsbouts Bellfounders and Clockmakers, Astén, The Netherlands

Joost Eijsbouts, Owner

Frank Lubbers, Installer

Marcel Huibrechts, Installer

## Appendix B

## Bell Specifications

BELL TONE	WEIGHT (Lbs.)	DIAMETER (Inches)
D#7	22.0	7.5
D 7	24.2	7.7
C#7	24.2	7.8
C 7	24.2	8.0
B 6	26.4	8.2
A#6	26.4	8.4
A 6	26.4	8.6
G#6	28.6	8.8
G 6	28.6	9.1
F#6	30.8	9.3
F 6	30.8	9.5
E 6	33.0	9.8
D#6	33.0	10.1
D 6	35.2	10.4
C#6	37.4	10.7
C 6	39.6	10.9
B 5	41.8	11.3
A#5	46.2	11.7
A 5	50.6	12.1
G#5	55.1	12.5
G 5	59.5	12.9
F#5	66.1	13.4
F 5	70.5	13.9
E 5	77.1	14.4
D#5	88.1	15.1
D 5	96.9	15.6
C#5	105.7	16.3
C 5	116.7	17.0
B 4	129.9	17.8
A#4 *	145.3	18.4
A 4 *	165.2	19.3
G#4 *	187.2	20.4
G 4 *	209.2	21.2
F#4 *	242.2	22.2
F 4 *	277.5	23.3
E 4 *	317.1	24.5
D#4 *	361.1	25.7
D 4 *	411.7	27.1
C#4 *	482.2	28.6
C 4 *	572.5	30.1
B 3	691.4	31.8
A#3 *	810.3	33.8
A 3 *	973.3	35.8
G#3 *	1158.3	38.0
G 3 *	1393.9	40.5
F#3 *	1660.3	43.0
F 3 *	1988.4	45.8
D#3 *	2836.2	51.7

\*indicates bells with outside hammers, keyboard notes: C, D, E, F, F#, G, A, A#, B, C, C#, D, E, F, F#, G

## Appendix C

## Dedicatory Cook Carillon Concert

November 15, 1994

Margo Halsted, Carillonist  
The University of Michigan

Sounding of all 48 bells from top to bottom

The Star Spangled Banner	John S. Smith
Wilhelmus	Valerius
Hail to Thee, Grand Valley	Arthur C. Hills
Fantasia for Carillon (first performance)	Robert Shechtman
Sicilienne from <i>Serenade for Carillon</i>	Ronald Barnes
Two Familiar Pieces	
Postlude in D Minor, for carillon	Matthias Van den Gheyn



Early in May 1994 Barbara Kindschi was introduced to carillon playing on the Baird Carillon in Ann Arbor, Michigan, by Professor Margo Halsted. It was a magic moment when she first pressed the wooden batons and heard a melody ring out on the bells above. She earned a bachelor's degree with a music minor in 1962 from Houghton College in New York State, attended Springfield College in Illinois, and studied piano and pedagogy with Julianne Vanden Wyngaard at Grand Valley State University. Barbara and her husband Douglas live in Hudsonville, Michigan, and have four grown children.