

## **The History of the Asbury Park Kiwanis Bell**

*The inscription on the bell reads:*

To

ASBURY PARK KIWANIS CLUB

On the occasion of its Fifth Anniversary

May 27, 1926

Presented by the Five Past Presidents

Wm. McElroy 1921-1922

Joseph M. Turner 1923

Darius E. Burton 1924

Stephen E. Pawley 1925

Elmer E. Coyle 1926

*The inscription of the large plate on the lower level of the base reads:*

1922-1925

PRESENTED TO

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ASBURY PARK

By the Past Presidents on its 30th Anniversary

Past Presidents nameplates on the lower level of the base go through 1957. Around 1944 Harry B. (Bern) White, Norman Sauer, and Division Lieutenant Governor Channing Clapp enlarged the base to accommodate more names.

By 1983, no more space was available for names and by that time the bell had fallen into poor condition from being stored in restaurant closets. The bell itself had been covered with small dents from being struck countless times by the backs of knives instead of a gavel, because the bell is a soft brass.

Late in 1993 Past President Leon Avakian and Roy Garrabrant Jr. remodeled the base and had the bell buffed and lacquered. It was rededicated on January 27, 1994.

On October 16, 1996 the bell was destroyed by fire. During 1997 the salvaged bell was given a new emblem top, polished and lacquered. A new oak base was built and nameplates restored and updated. A protective cabinet was built to protect the bell when not in use. A compartment in the base was put in to hold the gavel, by-laws and important papers.