

THE SAGA OF THE PATCHOGUE KIWANIS BELL

1949 – Link’s Old Oak Hotel burns down (1st and only meeting place for Patchogue Kiwanis). The Bell was there!!

1949 – Patchogue Hotel becomes the new home of Patchogue Kiwanis Club.

1960 – Club met briefly at Felice’s Restaurant on Waverly Ave. Felice’s Restaurant burns down on April 21, 1960. The Bell was there!!

1961 – Patchogue Kiwanis Club meets at Haegele’s 112 Motel in Medford. The restaurant burns down to the ground. The Bell was there!!

1961 – Patchogue Kiwanis Club starts to meet at Tojen’s Restaurant on 112 in Patchogue. A new bell was purchased but the old Bell was recovered from the 112 Motel fire (it did not ring too well).

1964 – Due to the history and no one wanting The Bell, a tradition was started that the President of the club takes The Bell home for that year. Bob Hughes while being President had a major house fire within one year of this new tradition. The Bell was there!!

1981 – After a meeting at dockside 500, a member mentioned that the food tasted bad. There was then a fire soon after. The Bell was there!!

1982 – The tradition does not last long. Tojen’s Restaurant burns down. The Bell was there!!

1988 – The venerable meeting place, Mickey Felice’s on the Bay, also was barbecued while a meeting was in progress. The food must have been good since Wally Davidow took his steak with him while fleeing the fire. The Bell was there!!

1986 – International Kiwanis President Tony Kaiser was in town for his birthday. Tom Keegan had forgotten The Bell. He sent Tom Jr. to go get it. On Tom Jr.’s return trip, the car caught fire. The Bell was there!!

1989 – Angelo Tarantino has a bad unavoidable auto accident. In the trunk of his car, The Bell was there!!

2003 – Thinking the worst was over, Walter Ladick stores The Bell in his basement far from all. The main circuit breaker in his house caught fire. The Bell was there!!

2008- Walter Ladick refuses to recognize the curse on the bell and decides to polish the bell. In the process, he is overcome by the airborne oxidization caused by the polishing of the bell. He seeks medical attention and vows to distance himself from the bell and delivers it back to the Brickhouse Brewery where the club meets. Some months later, the bell disappears to the relief of many. This hereby gives fair notice to all that may come into contact with The Bell that there is a legacy of fire and destruction that travels with The Bell!!