

Above the dials is a gallery, surrounding the platform from which the bells—the four quarters and Big Ben himself—are suspended.

When you are face to face with the huge bell, you marvel how such a weight could have been brought so far with the simple lifting gear that was available in those days.

Broadcaster Ben.

Suspended from a beam in the bell gallery and just above the bells, are two small microphones. It is these which relay the voice of Ben and his four smaller brothers, round the world when the chimes are broadcast in the BBC sessions.

It is nearly 31 years ago—on December 31, 1923—when the British Broadcasting Corporation used the voice of Big Ben to usher in the New Year.

Since then, Big Ben has broadcast every day to become the best known broadcaster in British radio.

On one occasion during the war, Ben's chimes caused more than a little excitement.

The chimes, broadcast always just prior to the BBC's nine o'clock news evening service, coincided with the local Westminster air-raid warning. The wail of the siren and the boom of Big Ben were broadcast throughout the length and breadth of the land.



Big Ben, in his 100 years, has become a loved personality rather than just a clock.

He has kept the time for the nation, through years of trial and triumph until he has become part of that nation.

None who listened to Big Ben's solemn voice tolling on the morning of the funeral of the late King George VI could have doubted the sorrow of a nation expressed in this faithful old bell.

Nor could any listener have doubted the triumphant joy, when a year later, Big Ben rang out on the morning of Her Majesty's Coronation.

Big Ben has outlived, by many years, those who argued so strongly over his birth.

Barry died just a year after his clock was installed in the building he had designed. Edmond Denison has been almost forgotten.

Sir Benjamin Hall, the Commissioner of Works, who helped to bring him into being and gave his name to the famous timepiece, is the only one associated with Big Ben to be remembered.

One man who would have been happy at the success of Big Ben must undoubtedly have been Professor Airy, the Astronomer-Royal who was one of those whose knowledge helped so much in the initial stages.

It was he who laid down, in his specifications, that Big Ben was to be "the King of Clocks and the Prince of timekeepers".



Elaine Stewart of Wallaga Lake looked radiantly beautiful in her full length bridal gown when she was married recently on the Station. In the photograph above we see the bridegroom, Mr. Les Darcy, his bride and one of the bridesmaids.



Charlie Moran and Kevin Dickson of Green Hills, near Kempsey, make an ideal bike racing combination.