

Alarm Clock Newsletter

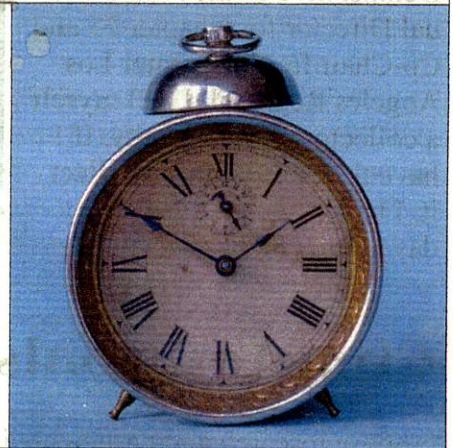
SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION!

Included in this issue is a special pullout section on the Westclox Co. provided by Bill Stoddard of Bill's Clockworks in Flora, Indiana.

Welcome to Volume 1, No. 1

Newsletter of the Alarm Clock Chapter #178 of the NAWCC. We, by that I mean the founders and charter members of chapter #178, face a daunting task of going where none have gone before. The alarm clock has been the poor stepchild of collectors since the beginning of horological collecting. No "Serious" Collector would even admit to liking alarm clocks, let alone collecting them. We now have the opportunity to change that mind set with the chartering of Chapter #178.

Howard Banta and I are both unregenerate alarm clock collectors. Howard is the one who got the ball rolling. He is a Fellow, former NAWCC National Director and co-founder of Chapter 75 here in the San Fernando Valley. Several years ago there was an article on alarm clocks in the Bulletin, which convinced Howard that more information needed to be presented. With the help of Jim Gilmore, Howard started an article on alarm clocks for the Bulletin. Well, one thing



A Gilbert with a Basket Weave Embossed Brass Case

led to another and now we have 4 slide trays full of alarm clock photos ready for national programs and still no article on alarm clocks. Then last year during one of Howard's slide presentations, he mentioned that he was thinking of starting an Alarm Clock Chapter, because there is very little known about alarm clock production and manufacturers.

Chapter Highlights

- Chapter Approved December 1999
- 1st Meeting Greater Los Angeles Regional January 2000
- Web site launched in March 2000
- Membership Growing
- First National Meeting to be held at the National Convention in Philadelphia on July 2 2000

Chapter Goals

The Alarm Clock Chapter is dedicated to the collecting, research and study of all facets of alarm clocks. In the future, the Alarm Clock Chapter will have a web site

and also hope to publish a coffee table book of interesting and unusual alarm clocks. All members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter, (see Chapter Goals — page 2)

The Chapter Starts Ticking

So last fall I asked Howard when he was going to start the chapter and he said that he would need a little help with getting the chapter started, so I volunteered. My name is Kim St. Dennis, Sr. I'm the Audio Visual Director for Chapter 75 and Co-Chair for the Greater Los Angeles Regional. I call myself a collector of opportunity. If I have the opportunity, I collect it. I have been picking up 8 day alarm clocks at flea mar-



Side view of the Brass Basket

kets for sometime now, but did not start seriously collecting alarm clocks until I saw Howard's Program. Then we also turned Mike Wilson into an alarm clock collector to help us along. Mike is a Director for Chapter 75, Illinois Wristwatch Collector and part time Seth Thomas Railroad Clock Fan. He agreed to join in, but only if he could collect Seth Thomas alarm clocks to go along with his Seth Thomas RR fetish. Famous last words, he now collects Darche & Parker Alarm Clocks too. We printed up a sign-up sheet and put the word out on the NAWCC Forum. Before we knew it, we had

Chapter Goals—Continue

propose research and participate in research projects and publications. One of our goals is to preserve existing alarm clocks. The only way this can be done on a chapter level is to make NOS parts more available to the members. We encourage all members who need parts, to place an ad in the newsletter describing what you need to finish off your project alarm clock. Email or Snail mail your want ad to the editor for publication. I have been looking for replacement glass for an Ingraham Gothic alarm for years now. Currently the chapter

has access to a large supply of Westclox Parts and will publish a list of parts on the web site in the near future. We intend to be proactive when it comes to alarm clocks. Saying that, our next meeting is scheduled for this year's National Convention in Philadelphia on Friday at 1:30 p.m. See you there!

"The Alarm Clock Chapter is dedicated to the collecting, research and study of all facets of alarm clocks"

Current Research

We are currently researching the W.H. Boos & W.M. Boos Clock Co. of Toledo Ohio. Until recently it was thought they only produced 4 models of alarm clocks with a distinctive brass or silvered dial with the "Arts & Crafts" style numbers punched through the dial. The only manufacturer name we have is because one of

Howard's Boos alarm clocks still has a label. The Alarm Clock is a wooden frame four glass sided alarm clock with a label that says "The Boos" - "W.H. Boos & W.M. Boos of Toledo Ohio".



Back view of the Gilbert

The Chapter Starts Ticking (Continues)

enough signatures and interest to start. Howard called Pam Lindenberger, NAWCC's Office Manager and Head of Member & Chapter Services, to help speed up the chapter approval process. He knew that the winter council meeting was in a week and the next opportunity to get the chapter approved would not be until the next council meeting in July 2000. She was extremely helpful getting the Alarm Clock Chapter on the agenda. She also had Howard call



OCTO Parker Alarm acquired on Ebay for a King's ransom.

NAWCC Director Richard Wipple to help. Richard said that he would be happy to put the motion on the floor and called Howard to let him know as soon as it had been approved. There was a lot of discussion on whether or not there were too many special interest chapters and if it was a good idea to have another one. When it was pointed out that the 400 hundred-day chapter was the fastest growing chapter in the NAWCC, the motion carried unanimously.

Current Research—Continues

The other 3 we currently know of do not have any markings on them at all. A previously unknown brass model has surfaced on Ebay, which I am currently high bidder on. According to the description, the brass model has four patent dates with the last one being 1909.

So, I thought what could be easier, just find a W.H. Boos or W.M. Boos in Toledo sometime around that 1909 date, say the 1910 census. Well, that is what I thought before I spent 8 hours on the Web looking up

the surname "Boos". I felt like I was a ping-pong ball being bounced from one web site to another. We did find out that the surname Boos is

very popular in the Ohio Area. We even found a reference to a William Boos in Pennsylvania in the 1700 in the Bulletin, but that was 100 years too early. Recently we have been able to narrow the search down to a few

"The motion to approve The Alarm Clock Chapter's charter and approve the chapter constitution and bylaw's was carried unanimously"

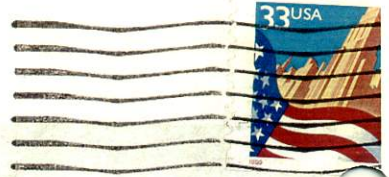
Current Research—Continues

W. Boos, but further research will take some time. Currently my cousin Patty and my Mother, Barbara, both avid genealogists, are helping me with research techniques and sources. We should have more to report next time. The Toledo library has a large historical section on Toledo Industrial History. Unfortunately, none of the Historical section can be accessed through the Web. We would appreciate any members living in the Toledo area

to check out the Toledo Library for any information on the Boos Clock Co. If you have any information or another alarm clock model not pictured with a "Boos" dial, please give me a call at (818) 349-8031 or email me at cstdennis@earthlink.net. Photos in the next newsletter



The Brass Basket Weave Gilbert in the Original Box



The Alarm Clock Chapter # 178

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National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors



We're on the WEB
alarmclockchapter.com



Future Research

I have been mulling over ideas of future projects for research by the Alarm Clock Chapter. The first idea came up at our first meeting i.e. whether or not it would be possible to recognize the clock maker by the plate layout. I had a very rusty iron clock that I was not sure of the manufacturer. I took the movement over to Howard and he took one look at it and said that's a Westclox! Sure enough, we buffed that rust off the back cover and there was the Westclox logo.

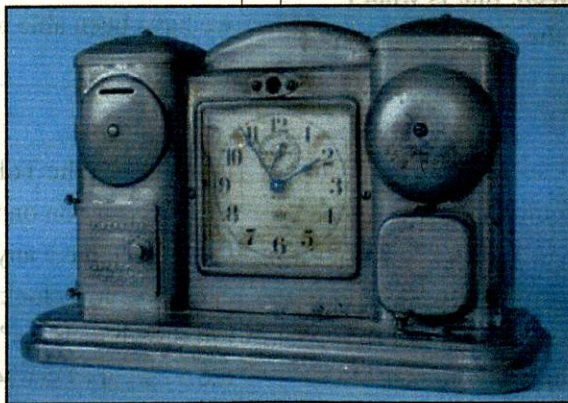
This is something we could all be involved in. We would need alarm clocks with signed dials and if possible signed movements to use as references for models without labels. We could publish a book with plate layouts and listed manufacturers like the 400 day repair guide.

The next idea comes from Daryl Johnson a local clock repairer and antiques dealer. He gave me some old Sears Catalog reprints which I found several of my alarm clocks in. Many alarm clocks have no label or manufacturer listed on them. We discussed the possibility of starting a database with pictures from catalogs. We could collect catalogs from manufacturers and dealers with an eye to publishing an alarm clock identification book.

FUTURE FEATURES

In coming issues, we would like to know what you would like to see in your newsletter. We have plans for a want & for sale section. We are interested in any suggestion you might have. Drop us a line.

The Editor



One of Mike's growing Darche Collection, sans Cord.