

Alarm Clock Newsletter

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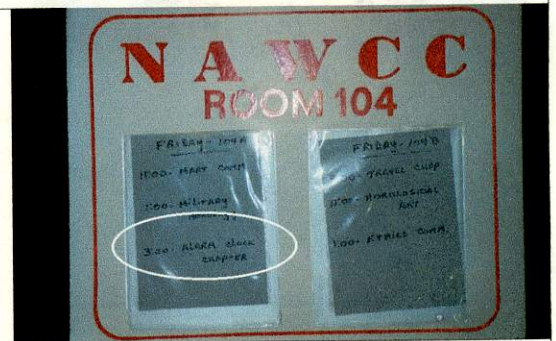
Newsletter Highlights

- First national meeting report
- Alarm Clock Chapter 1st Regional Display
- Boos research continues.
- A Very Unusual Big Ben.
- A big price paid on Ebay for Parker Alarm Clock.

The Alarm Clock Chapter's First National Meeting

The Alarm Clock Chapter's first meeting was held this last July at the NAWCC 2000 National Convention in Philadelphia. A national officer cautioned me that only 5 members may attend, due to the busy National schedule. So it was with some nervousness that I located the room and setup for the meeting. Of course, the slide projector and screen that Howard Banta had requested were not there. I had an inkling that there might be a little problem with this, so I lugged Chapter 75's slide projector along with our slide show all the way from L.A.

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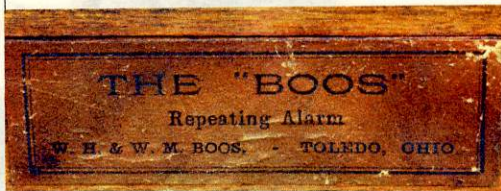
Schedule sign for the 1st National Meeting

log (See Tran Duy Li's Ingraham Book pages 91 & 92). The models are the "Merrimac" Li's Number 173 lower right hand corner page 91, The "Dryad" Li's number 176 & the "Admiral" Li's number 178 page 92 (See Photos). The description of these alarm clocks included the following: "These clocks may also be had with

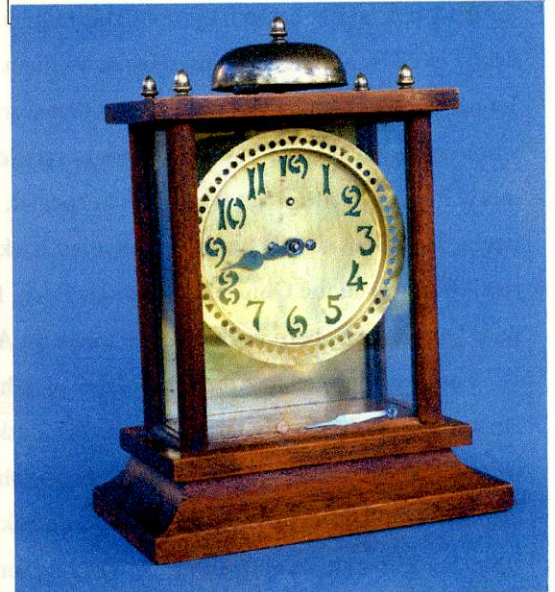
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The "Boos" Alarm Clock

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The Label from the "Boos" Alarm Clock.
Right — Front View of the "Boos"



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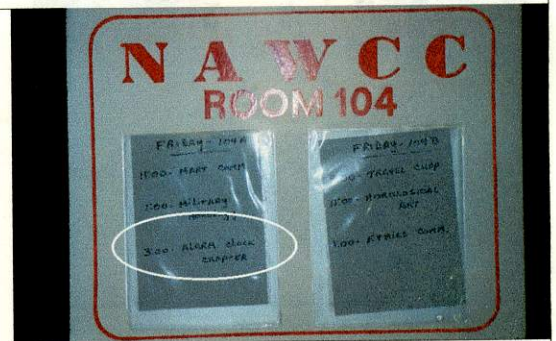
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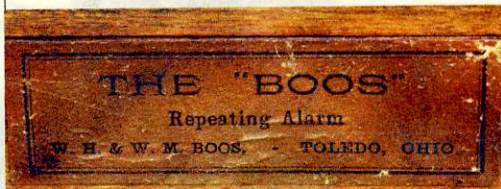
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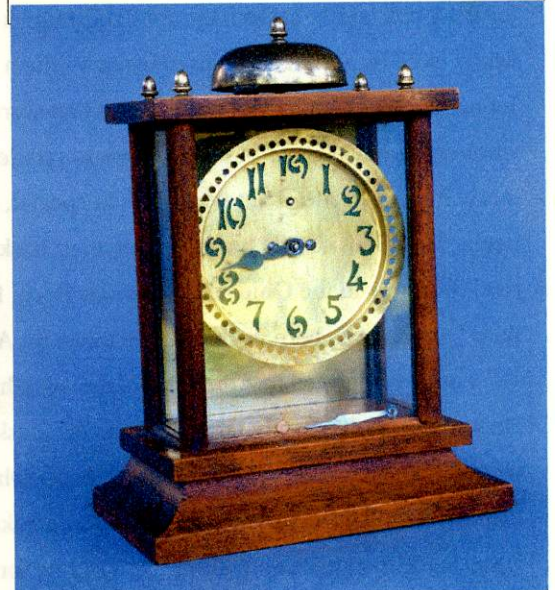
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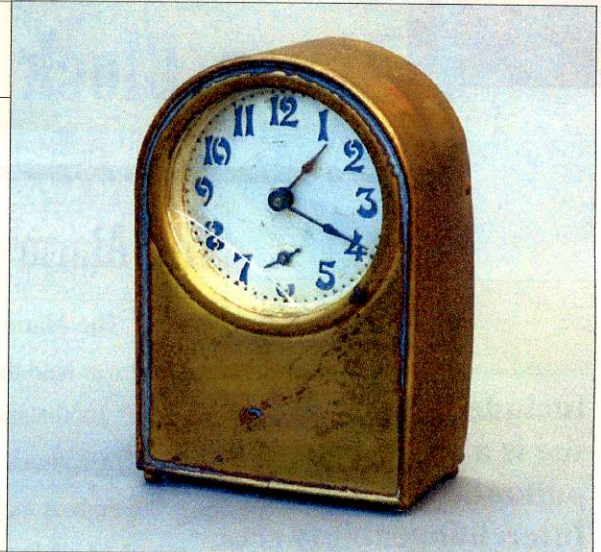
The Label from the "Boos" Alarm Clock.
Right — Front View of the "Boos"



The "Boos" Alarm Clock continues



To the Left:
Ingraham
Alarm Clock
Model
Marrimac
1911 list price,
per clock
\$ 1.97



1911 Ingraham Model "Dryad" Alarm Clocks.

(Continued from page 1)

name and address imprinted on paper dial, in case lots, without extra charge". Obviously the sales of these clocks were directed at the "Jobber". At that point it looked as though that would be the end of the Boos research. But, I had not counted on my mother's research abilities. While visiting Sunny Southern California, she paid a visit to our local Mormon Library to do a little research to finalize the project. She came home with the 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1920 census record for the Boos family and a biography of Mathias Boos published in 1876. The 1910 census listed William M. Boos as a Jobber and the current interpretation of that word is "a wholesale merchant selling their wares to retailers". But formerly it meant a merchant who deals in special, odd or job lot items. The Boos family has a 3-generation background in the retail business in the Ohio area. Mathias Boos, father of William H Boos, was born in Baden, Germany on August 11, 1814 and immigrated to America in 1833 with his parents. He worked on the family farm in Upper Sandusky till 1836, when he started work as a baker in Sandusky Ohio. In 1837 he moved to Toledo continuing to work as a baker until 1838 when he opened his own Bakery. In 1842 he formed a part-

nership with Lyman Wheeler and opened a ship chandlery and supply store on the docks in Toledo. A chandlery is a business that makes and or sells candles. A

"John Darrow pointed out that the Brass Faced Alarm Clocks were Ingraham Models Sold in Box Lots to Jobbers."

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An Ingraham 8" wide Black Mantel Alarm Clock, Model Unknown.

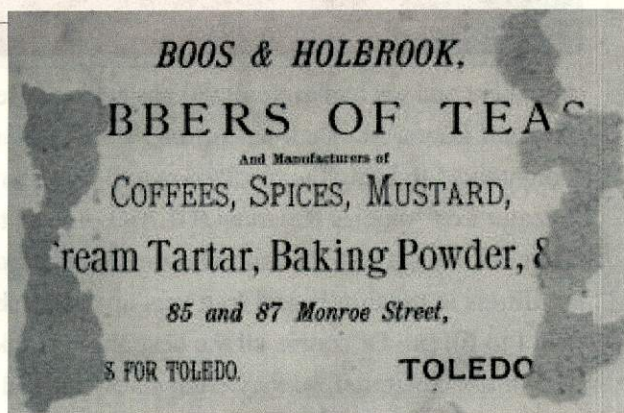
The "Boos" Alarm Clock continues

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short time later they started another store on Monroe Street (see photo of Boos label* (?) where the name Holbrook comes from is still in question). In 1865 the partnership was dissolved due the ill health of Lyman Wheeler and in the 1860 census lists William H. Boos as a clerk. William H. Boos was born March 1842 in Toledo, Ohio. He seems to have worked in his father's store all his life inheriting the business when his father passed away. His son, William M. Boos was born in October, 1872 and worked with his father until his father retired sometime before 1910, where he is listed as a "jobber" and his father as "none" (retired?) in the 1910 census. The business seems to have continued past 1920, because William M. is listed as a "Manufacturer" of "Premium Goods" in the 1920 census. The 1920 Census Trade or Profession entry is the most interesting. It indicates that William M. had started to manufacture some of the goods he was selling. After reading this entry, I began to suspect that he might have had the "The Boos" alarm clock manufactured locally with movements and dials supplied by Ingraham. Who designed the case and where

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Label from Boos & Holbrook Store



"William H is listed as retired and William M. is listed as a "Manufacturer" of "Premium Good" in the 1920 Census

Library Photo : Toledo Public Library.



A Very Unusual Roman Numeral Big Ben



An Unusual Big Ben: Vince Angell emailed me in late August with some photos of a very unusual Big Ben with Roman Numerals! Vince wrote: "I came across this today at a flea market. I have NEVER seen a Big Ben with Roman Numerals. There are NO patent dates on the back. Notice that there are no screws (3 of them) around the bezel that are usually there. I am not sure about the bow but I am going to leave it for now. Please give

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me some input on this." I forwarded the email and photos to Bill Stoddard of Bill's Clock Work in Flora Indiana. Bill is a recognized Westclox expert and alarm clock collector. He also supplied the Westclox handout for the first two Alarm



Alarm Clock Chapter Helps

The Alarm Clock Chapter Helps the Del Mar Regional.

We got an email from the program chairman of the Southwest Regional regarding their display.

Hi, I'm Richard Horvath from chapter 59 NAWCC. I'm pleased to have seen the article on alarm clocks in the bulletin, it just so happens to be the subject of our display for the upcoming regional in del mar. Sept. 21-23. I'm chairman of the display committee and so far no one has offered to display any clocks but me. I have 20 or 30 desk type alarms but that might not be enough to interest many people. I'm hoping you can help me out? datelines and manufacturing details diagrams of some sort also add interest. I don't even know if there are books on the subject.

Please let me know if you can help out. regards Richard Horvath
A quick call to some of our local



Above: The Southwest Regional Display

Clock Chapter newsletters. Bill emailed Vince & I back, "Kim St. Dennis sent me the roman numeral Big Ben photos. This clock is most interesting! I've never seen anything like it. The dial has "Westclox" in italics, so it should date from 1917 to 1922. From the photo it looks like a regular Big Ben case from 1919 - 1922

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members and we had around 250 alarm clocks ready to go. Howard Banta, Marshall Knowlton, Mike Wilson and I volunteered to bring the clocks down to Del Mar. The Greater Los Angeles Regional (GLAR) offered to lend us their display stands. Howard was unable to attend due to an illness in the family and so it was up to Marshall, Mike and I to fill in. Of course all the best alarm clocks are in Howard's collection, so they were sorely missed. Jim Chamberlain of the GLAR and I went to storage to pick up the stands, but they turned out to be 6 inches longer than

my Volvo could take, so that was out. But I want to thank them for the effort. Marshall and I spent a couple of hours setting up the display. Even without Howard's Alarm Clocks, we were able to fill in rather nicely with what we had (See pictures). We received several compliments from attendees, including "Where are the price tags?"



Ingraham Alarm Clock Model "Admiral"

1911 catalog indicates "Twenty-four clocks in a case, each in a pasteboard box. These clocks may also be had with name and ad-

The "Boos" Alarm Clock continues

(Continued from page 3)

it was manufactured is still open to question. John Darrow had indicated he had seen one some years before, but could not remember if it had a label. The next phase in the research will be to look up the records in the Toledo City Directories. These records should show what kind of manufacturing business William M. was into. None of these directories are available at our local genealogical libraries. We would like to encourage any of our members in the Toledo, Ohio area to help with this project.

1.) Biographical Encyclopaedia :

Published 1876 – LDS Library 977.1 D3bi.

2.) Unites States Census Records:

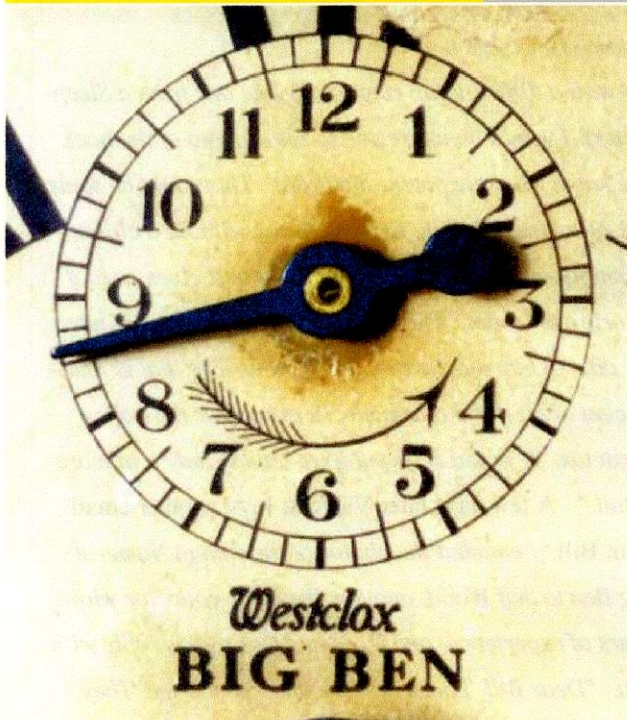
1850, 1860, 1870, 1900,1910, 1920

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but with a different top ring (looks like one from a Sleep-Meter). I would be interested to see a photo of the back and know what the patent dates are. This could be some one-of-a kind Big Ben, its hard to say without a closer examination. The dial would give the best clues as to if its original or not. The movement would probably have the date of manufacture stamped on it. The dial is reminiscent of ca. 1905 alarm clocks except for the italics Westclox. It would be great if we could study it in more detail." A few days later Vince & I got another email from Bill "I emailed the photos of the roman Numeral Big Ben to Jeff Wood, another Westclox collector with years of experience, and thought I'd share his reply with you. "Dear Bill, Looks all very authentic to me. They must have revived a turn-of-the century printing plate for this limited production. Probably made for export to a country where they hated Arabs. Israel, perhaps? Or maybe it went to the Vatican..... Gee, your friend may have the Pope's personal alarm clock! Best, Jeff"

Bill went on to say: "Westclox made so many clocks - that's what makes collecting so interesting - there's always something new to see! It makes sense that they would have made special productions items from time to time. Vince, is it okay with you if I out photos of your clock on my web site? I'll give you credit, of course." Bill's next email was more detailed "Hi Vince, I am 95% certain that the dial is original - it looks that way from the photo - the stains seem to be in the right places, etc. And I don't believe there would have been any reason for anyone to fake this particular dial -the big money seems to be in "fake" advertising dial clocks - I hope to post some of these on the web site soon (Big Bens advertising John Deere tractors, Indian Motorcycles, Victrola, and various newer models featuring "black memora-

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just in case. I set the slide project up on a chair and pointed it toward a blank wall. We set up 4 large tables in a square and put the rest of the chairs along the wall. When about 25 showed up for the meeting from all over the US and Australia, I was greatly relieved. The meeting opened with a lively discussion of what exactly is an alarm clock? John Darrow indicated that he felt that the alarm clock really got started with the invention of the technique for plating tin onto brass, thereby fostering the tin can alarm clock to come into existence. Vince Agile contended that any clock with an alarm was an "alarm clock". Other members wanted to particularly exclude kitchen clocks with added alarms. The final outcome of the discussion was that there was no consensus of the members. My feeling is that the Alarm Clock Chapter should focus on all interesting alarm clocks. I have recently acquired a small wooden case E.M. Welch Sharp Gothic "Alarm" Clock. The normal time & strike move-

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bilialia".) As I mentioned before in my quote from Jeff Wood, your clock seems to be a special order clock for a particular market. Jeff sent me some more thoughts on this which I quote below: Dear Bill, It had occurred to me that Israel as we know it today did not exist when the clock was made. And I doubt that anti-Arab fanatics of any era would tolerate the Arabic numerals on the alarm dial! (Editors note: I think that the use of roman numerals by American clock manufacturers was to make the clock look classy and to cater to the high end market.) Back in the days of Roman Catholic masses in Latin, many areas even in this country

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Photos of the Vince Angell's newly restored Roman Numeral Big Ben, courtesy of Bill Stoddard of Bill's Clock Works.

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ment has the alarm mechanism mounted in the plates on the "strike" side of the movement (see photos). Until recently I thought that all these were time & strike or time only with an alarm mechanism attached to the backboard separate from the clock movement

The need for members to get involved in research was emphasized at the meeting. We are wrapping up the "The Boos" research and will soon start the "One Spring Alarm Clock Company" project, but we need more topics. Also discussed was a proposal for the chapter to produce a book on the evolution of the alarm clock. We are currently researching the book and writing a grant proposal to fund the project. We hope to publishing about 1000 well illustrated and researched books of the best alarm clocks in America from current member's collection. Next meeting will be at the Greater Los Angeles Regional in February 2001.

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were more heavily steeped in the Roman traditions than they are today. So somewhere in the world there may have been a strong enough preference for Roman numerals to have Westclox respond in this manner. I agree that you really need to see this clock to make a judgment. If the rust spots are photographically reproduced, they would look different. Could there be any Big Bens with Turkish numerals? Or Chinese numerals? Best, Jeff

Bill goes on "Not having patent dates could relate to being sold overseas where the U.S. patents might be irrelevant. If there's some way I could examine this clock I could tell for sure if the dial is original and also look for the movement date - it should be visible. If you trust sending the clock by mail or UPS, I would be most happy to examine it and ship it right back to you. Then I will make an appropriate category on the web site to show this interesting clock." Vince for-

(Continued on page 8)



The Alarm Clock Chapter # 178

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This Mission Style Parker went for a cool \$ 712.00 on Ebay earlier this year.

We're on the WEB
alarmclockchapter.com

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warded the clock to Bill and Bill sent us the following: "Dear Vince, The Roman numeral Big Ben arrived today, and it is definitely a genuine clock. The only thing not correct is the top ring and pendant - I can see marks where the original one was - it originally had one with the same size base as on regular Big Bens and so I assume it had the standard ring with it too. The replacement is mounted with a Phillips screw - definitely not correct! If you'd like, I will install the correct type at no charge - I have a nice factory original one. I'll give you the old pieces back if you'd like - the top ring appears to be one of the variations that were used on Sleep-meter and Jack O'Lantern (its just like one on my 1923 Jack O'Lantern but different from my Sleep- Meters) The glass is too small for the clock also, I'll replace it with a factory original one if you'd like (again at no charge). The movement is dated 11/7/19 (Nov. 7, 1919) and the back has patent dates at the upper right that are very hard to read - this back must have received just a light stamping. The back is identical to the type I call 1a.1914.1, which I have seen on clocks made from May 1918 to February 1920. The dial

looks like the right paper for a Westclox dial and the printing looks just like that on other old dials. There is some extra glue in the 10:00 area, I think that someone has reglued the dial where it perhaps came loose. I'll study it some more when I get time and photograph it with the correct ring and pendant. I'll let you know before I ship it out to make sure you'll be home to receive it. I probably won't get the pictures taken until Thursday or Saturday. Again, thanks for letting me see this rare clock! Bill"

We at the Alarm Clock chapter were happy to help get this very interesting alarm clock authenticated. Our thanks to Vince Angell, Bill Stoddard & Jeff Wood for their efforts and generosity with the information and photos contained in this article. The roman numeral Big Ben was return to Vince with the original parts and the photos can be viewed at Bill's web site http://clockhistory.com/westclox/unusual/rn_bigben/index.html. I would suggest that anyone with a computer and interested in Westclox's history visit Bill's web site <http://clockhidity.com/>. It is a very interesting site with lots of information and photos. I think that Bill said it best in one of his emails: "Westclox made so many clocks - that's what makes collecting so interesting - there's always something new to see!"

Correction: Web Address is <http://clockhistory.com/>