

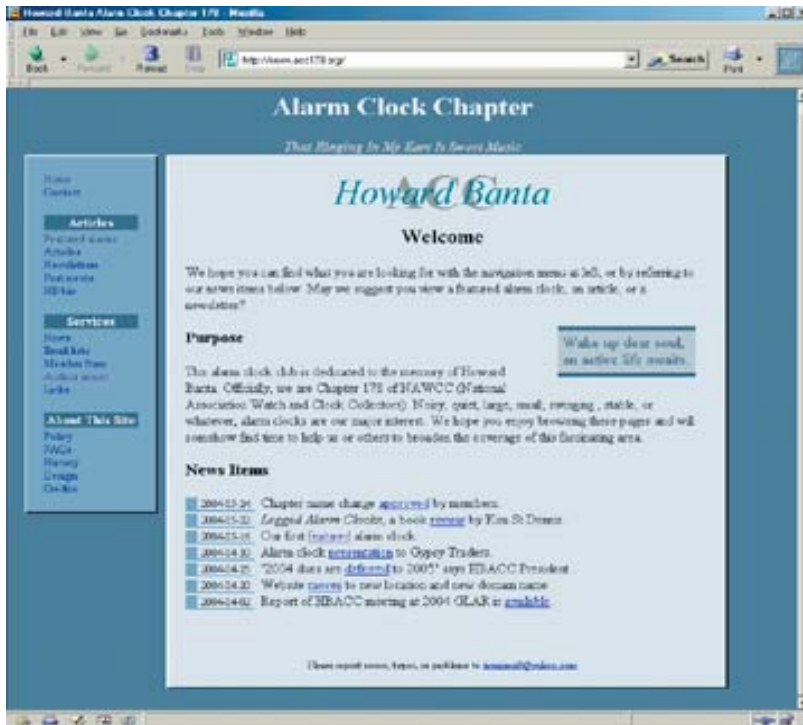
# The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

[www.acc178.org](http://www.acc178.org)

2004 Volume 2



## New Website for Our Chapter

[www.acc178.org](http://www.acc178.org)

We would like to announce the new Alarm Clock Chapter #178 website at [www.acc178.org](http://www.acc178.org). We are now linked in the NAWCC website of "Chapter Links" and various other clock related sites.

Thanks to our Webmaster, Jim Angstadt, and with the input from Mary Maier, Mike Wilson and myself, we have created what we feel is the most informative website on the collecting of and the promoting of interest in alarm clocks. The site is associated with the Alarm Clock Chapter #178 and the Newsletters that are associated with the Chapter. There are many interesting facets of the website including the past Newsletters, contacts for the Alarm Clock Chapter, membership bios and our new "Featured Alarm Clock" column. We will continue having updates, new features and announcements of alarm clock related issues. We hope you will take time to browse the pages and somehow help us broaden the coverage and knowledge of the fascinating area of collecting alarm clocks.

- Vince Angell -
- President Chapter 178 -

I try to take one day at a time, but  
sometimes several days attack me at  
once.

Jennifer Unlimited

## Doug Stevenson

In this issue we are pleased to present a reprint of Doug Stevenson's article "Wakers and Shakers" appearing originally in **Clocks**. The article is located at the end of this newsletter.

## Upcoming: NAWCC National Convention July 2, 2004 Oklahoma City Alarm Clock Chapter Program

We are pleased to announce that Kim St. Dennis, moderator of the Alarm Clock Chapter #178 Yahoo Group,<sup>(1)</sup> is giving a slide presentation at the NAWCC National Convention in Oklahoma City.

The slide program will be of the John Darrow Alarm Clock Collection. Anyone attending the convention is encouraged to view this fascinating slide program of John's collection. The collection is massive and some of the early alarm clocks are very unique and rare.

Date: July 2, 2004  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Room 4, Convention Center  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

<sup>(1)</sup> Alarm Clock Chapter #178 Yahoo Group has URL <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alarmclockchapter>

**Officers, Contacts, etc.**

Alarm Clock  
 Chapter Newsletter: Quarterly  
 Annual Dues: \$15.00

PRESIDENT: Vince Angell  
 PUBLICITY: phylathome@hotmail.com

TREASURER: Mike Wilson  
 SECRETARY: mike@oldephotog.com

EDITOR: Mary Maier  
 saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

**Officers and Dues**

Since the illness and untimely passing of our Chapter President/ Founder, Howard Banta, and his wife Marge it has been very difficult to keep The Alarm Clock Chapter going. During the 2004 Greater Los Angeles Regional I spoke with the newsletter editor, Mary Maier, and we agreed that it was in the best interest of the chapter that we ask Vince Angell to become more involved in the day to day operation of the chapter. Vince, as acting chapter president, has stepped up to the challenge with enthusiasm offering his time, skill and knowledge of alarm clocks to help the chapter come back. We, your officers, have concluded that currently there are sufficient dues to allow us to forgo this calendar (2004) year's dues in the hope that you will continue to support us in the future so that we can grow and share our passion for Alarms.

- Mike Wilson -
- Secretary / Treasure Chapter 178 -

**Sell it Through the Newsletter**

Every member may submit one ad per newsletter. This includes a *Wanted to Buy* or *Wanted to Sell*. The newsletter comes out at the beginning of March, June, September and December.

**New Section: Member Feature**

We're trying out a new column called "Member Feature". Since the Alarm Clock Chapter has members all over the world, its difficult for us to get to know other members. This column's objective is to help members introduce themselves via a short biography. We're pleased to kick off this section with three member features in this issue. The first is for Rod Lewis from Queensland Australia. The second and third are from the United States, Joel Zautner from Wisconsin and Phil Haltigan from New York.

**Instructions to Authors**



All are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the *Alarm Clock Chapter* newsletter. Please include your name, address and phone number with the article. Although

certainly not a complete list, suggestions for topics are:

- Specific alarm clocks or manufacturers
- Unique design - movement or case
- Special methods of cleaning
- Descriptions of interesting repairs
- History of a manufacturer
- Helpful tips on repair

Photos along with the text are always appreciated. Please email to the editor at:

saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

The short biographies presented in this issue give an idea of how to get started on your own. Please let us hear from you by mailing or emailing your biography to the newsletter editor.

**Update: Chapter Name Change to The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter**

Postcards were sent to all members of the Alarm Clock Chapter #178 to vote on the Chapter's proposed name change. From the total of 60 members the 32 returned their ballots provided:

- 27 In Favor of the change.
- 4 Wishing to keep the name the same
- 1 Abstaining

Based on the final result, a motion has been made by Vince Angell to the Counsel of the NAWCC to finalize the change. An update will follow in the next newsletter.

**Review:  
April 2004 The Gypsy Traders  
by Vince Angell**

**Review:  
March 2004 Sunshine Regional  
by Mike Wilson**

The Gypsy Traders out of Sacramento California organized in 1967 and had their first meeting in the county refuse site - or as some of us call it - the Dump! They're interested in all types of antique collectibles. After a few years their meeting place went "up town" and is now held at the Sacramento Garden and Arts Center McKinley Park. Mandie Fossette is the outgoing program director. She has also



been quite involved with the Sacramento Valley Chapter #71 and was a key contributor to the Alarm Clock Slide Show "Alarm Clocks are Collectible" when it was developed in 1978. Mandie invited me to give the presentation to the group - made more appropriate since it was the week starting Daylight Savings Time.

It was a beautiful March spring weekend in Arizona. The Sunshine Regional and Baseball's spring training were in full swing. Both events attracted large crowds to watch baseball up close and to look for and find numerous watch and clock treasures.

Mesa's Centennial Hall was filled with over 200 tables and more than 700 attendees. The regional had a great selection of a large variety horological items ranging from books, watches, parts, tools, bands, floor and wall clocks. John Hubby, NAWCC 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President gave a program "La Bulle-Clock, Electrical Elegance in Timekeeping and Tom Mc Intyre 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President presented a program "The Development of the Marine Chronometer, 1712 to World War II" and spoke at the annual breakfast meeting giving those in attendance an update on the status of National.

Universal positive feedback from all who came to the regional was heard they would be back next year.

- Mike Wilson -

(More photos follow on page 5 )



In the photo below there are three rare clocks. The one on the left is a German figur of a man with the clock in his body and his hat being the bell. The next is a



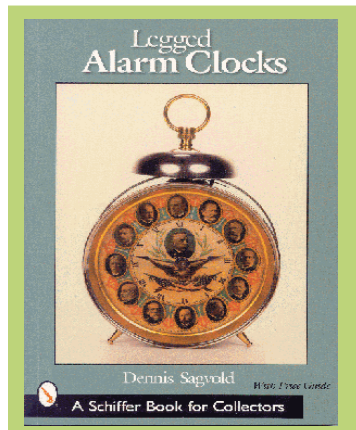
Parker and Whipple alarm clock with a bird sitting on top of the bell ca. 1880. The last on the right is a Parker Alarm clock ca. 1903.

I've given the "Collectible" presentation and slide show quite a few times now. The Gypsy Traders are the most gracious and interested group that I have had the pleasure of presenting this program to.

- Vince Angell -



**Book Review**  
**by Kim St. Dennis Sr. <sup>(2)</sup>**



**Legged Alarm Clocks**  
 by Dennis Sagvold

Published in 2004, 192 pages, by Schiffer Books Ltd. 4880 Lower Valley Road, Atglen, PA 19310

Phone (610) 593-1777

E - Mail  
 info@schifferbooks.com.

My enthusiasm for alarm clocks often takes me to Ebay to see if there is anything interesting up for bids. Mostly the items listed there are either too new or extremely boring, but every now and then something catches my eye. A few months ago I came across a listing for "Legged Alarm Clocks" by Dennis Sagvold and was intrigued. The price was very low, under \$20.00 and the description was interesting. I placed my bid and in short order the book was mine. When it arrived I was pleasantly surprised, the book was exactly what the description said it would be. Often Ebay sellers have a tendency to exaggerate the wonderfulness of the item they are trying to sell.

Mr. Sagvold has put together a very nice picture book filled with 192 pages of alarm clocks, alarm clock ads and details that make it a very nice little read. The black & white photos are for the most part well done, if not a bit static. All the shots are dead on front views with no side details showing. It would have been nice to see more of a 3D view or what is called a "¾ full" shot of some them. The catalog ads are very sharp and are great fun to see.

The values are such an ephemeral item that my comments must be limited. I will say that I have bought some of the alarm clocks shown for less and some for much more. As a friend of mine once said about antiques "If you like it, buy it because you may never see it again".

The cover photo is of a very rare commemorative Spanish American War of 1898 alarm clock and the author states that Westclox manufactured it. Ay, there in lays the rub. The dial

has a patent date of 9-12-99 by the Regent Mfg. Co., Chicago, while the case has a June 4, 1907 patent date. None of the Western Clock Company alarm clocks I checked had this patent date on them. The author provides no other proof of his contention that Westclox manufactured the clock. It is also interesting that the trademark "Westclox" was registered in 1909 and at the time the alarm clock was manufactured the company was known as the Western Clock Company.

I would have liked to see a little more support for this assertion, i.e. a photo of the movement or a reference to the patent to support his claim. The Regent Mfg. Co. did use Western Clock Co. movements and cases in a lot of their novelty clocks, so his contention is not out of bounds. But, it would have added a certain air of authenticity to the book if he had supported the assertion with some details.

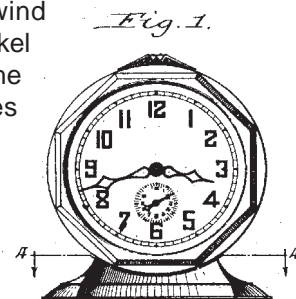
Saying all that, I still enjoyed the book very much and think it will make a great addition to anyone's library.

- Kim St.Dennis Sr. -

**Members Corner**  
**Wanted to Buy**

**SESSIONS OCTAGON REAR COVER**

I am trying to locate a rear cover for a 1931 Sessions Octagon or Sparta 8 day wind Alarm. Crackled green or Nickel plus winders and four nuts. The design patent number is Des Pat 75078<sup>(3)</sup>



Thanks very much - Rodney

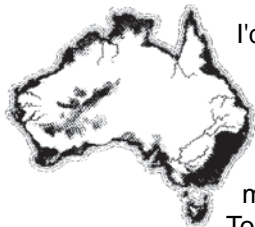
<sup>(2)</sup> Reprinted with kind permission from the author. Originally appearing in NAWCC Chapter 75s' newsletter "The Regulator".

<sup>(3)</sup> Image is from the US Patent Office Website

**Member Feature: Rodney Lewis**

Member of NAWCC since 9/2000  
Member of Chapter 104 - Brisbane, Queensland Australia  
Member of Chapter 178 - Howard Banta Alarm Clock Group

Hello Fellow Members,



I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself through the newsletter's "Feature Member" section. I collect mainly Western Clock Company products and have a total of 469, which includes 25 pocket bens. I have all Series 1 to 8 Big and Baby Bens and a lot of other models. Pride of place goes to two 1948 Clocks of Tomorrow in mint condition.

I also have collected 21 of the original boxes that the clocks came in.

My Westcloxs have been manufactured in USA, Canada, Scotland, Australia and South America. I purchased new parts in South Africa at Cape Town (but no clocks?). The earliest Westclox has a patent date of 1902. I also have Waterbury, Ansonia and Seth Thomas alarm clocks and a few from England and Europe, which brings the total to 91. Also in my collection are wall and mantle clocks from Ansonia, Waterbury and English totaling 34. So with boxes and other items my collecting runs to over 600 items.

As for my favorite Westclox, that must be Series 1 Baby Bens. I have 19 of them, and I'm still looking for one in pristine condition with its original box.

The family Ansonia King has a special place in my collection, it was my grandmothers, (whom I never met) then passed on to my mother, then to me. I fully restored the clock in 2002. The mechanism has been overhauled once in 100 years and the glass has been replaced with an original patterned one. The clock would have been in everyday use until the advent of electric clocks. I try to remember to give it a run occasionally.



I am not a horologist but I do repairs, replacements, painting, French Polishing and general restoration work. I don't do outside work.

Near half my alarm clocks were purchased from flea markets within 1-1/2 hours drive from the museum in Columbia PA. On my visits I spend up to 8 weeks doing this. I thoroughly recommend the library at the museum for all research and general interest.

- Rodney Lewis -

Continuation of photos from Page 3 for the March 2004 Sunshine Regional.



**Member Feature: Joel Zautner**

I've collected alarm clocks for quite some time. As far as repairing these myself, I have worked on them in the past and when I feel the need I can make them run. But basically I just enjoy having them to look at and am not especially interested in hearing these little monsters tick. They do make a lot of racket when they tick and can become quite nerve racking. I'm including a few photos that I thought other members might enjoy.

The clock shown at upper left is a calendar clock called *The Campus* made in the USA. Its a New Haven alarm clock as is the one shown to its right. There is no patent date or name on either of the movements. I suspect these are made around 1910 or so because of the more sophisticated calendar dial and movement. The first one I got at a near by flea market in the early days when I was crazed for the Alarms. I loved the prices and they were so interesting to me. I love the simple engineering and design of these little mechanical creatures.

Alarms seem to have been made from 1877 to the present. I would almost think 1877 could be considered to be the earliest start of the alarm. This was due to the industrial revolution and all the production going on in the US at that time. You could no longer count on the chickens to get you up in the morning. Time had to be slightly more accurate.

I believe the alarm shown second row - left was also produced in the industrial revolution period. The clock would seem to be made in Germany. Top Bell Alarms are in a class by themselves, but this one is particularly interesting in that it is 'alarmed' on each side.

Two other examples of German alarms are shown second row - right and third row. Both are of the double-bell design. In general, I'm not a collector of German alarms as I just don't find them to be as interesting. The American Alarms are more primitive in design which gives them great character. The Germans refined them way to much for my taste. I don't believe they are as well liked as the American tin cans.

Lastly, the bottom row shows two more American Alarms. The alarm on the left is the Ansonia Amazon made around 1910. It is one of the largest tin can alarms made by Ansonia.

I've found collecting Alarm Clocks to be an enjoyable and interesting hobby. I hope you've enjoyed the 'snapshots' of a few in my collection.

- Joel Zautner -



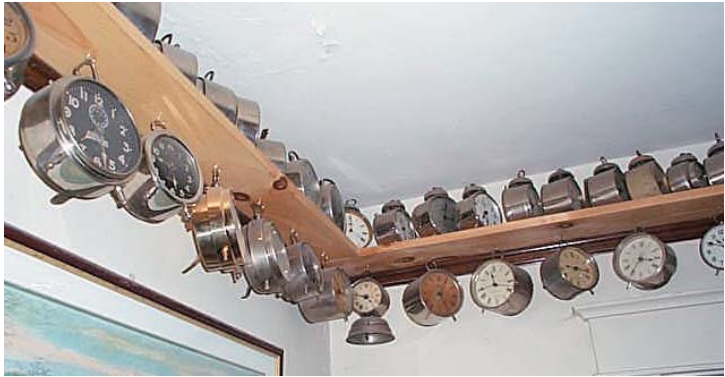
**Member Feature: Phil Haltigan**

When I stopped drinking beer back in 1995, I needed a hobby, badly! I became interested in antiques. One day browsing in a shop I spotted a Ben Hur & an old style peg-legged Big Ben alarm clocks. That was it, I was hooked! Since then, I've accumulated over 1000 alarm and novelty clocks. After finding out about NAWCC from a local clock dealer and then joining the organization, I started a friendship with a fellow collector from New Mexico named Howard Bradshaw. We remain good friends today. Anyway, he told me about this alarm clock fanatic from California. It was Howard Banta. I learned so much from him over the years. We would talk for hours on the phone mainly about alarms but life in general too. We would talk about new finds and purchases and would trade and buy clocks from each other. When I told him about the Spanish American War clock, the Nine-O-Clock Tea clock and the only belltop Parker I had ever seen that were in my collection, he got very silent. I said, "Don't worry Howard, if I ever sell them, you'll get them." Well, they're all in his collection now, and I'm proud that they are. Howard became a great friend and I miss him very much as I'm sure all of you do. So, now I have this fantastic collection of pieces of the past representing all of the great and most of the smaller companies. And my advice to members with small but growing collections is - keep collecting, its a very rewarding hobby!

-Phil Haltigan -



More images of Phil Haltigans' extensive collection.







Optimist: "The glass is half full."  
Pessimist: "The glass is half empty."  
Engineer: "That glass is twice as large  
as it needs to be."

- Unknown -

# WAKERS & SHAKERS

by DK Stevenson<sup>(3)</sup>, Germany

'Wakers & Makers', the first in this pair of articles, was concerned with how many different, rather different German alarm clocks there were. More specifically, it approached those 12 groups of DRP class 83a patents which are dedicated to *Wecker*. And even the simplest or ungainly appearing device — a *Kerzenwecker* or a clepsydra alarm — might resound to those of antiquity.

This second article has a more fundamental interest and structure, namely, the bed. Over the years, some of our German inventors noticed that most people sleep in beds. In addition, that most alarms were intended to get these people out of bed.

They concluded that if alarm devices were directly connected to beds, those in the beds would be more directly affected. There was nothing subtle about it. Nor was there anything to be subtle about.

If this syllogistic approach isn't actually malevolent, one might wonder — as a non-male friend did — if there wasn't something overtly male to it. For instance, the most effective alarm she could imagine, what would have her out of bed before you could ask 'what's that?', was the sound of the cat retching on her quilt. The mind was bogged, not just the body.

She admitted nonetheless that histories of the alarm have tended to front the finer, not to mention otherworldly types. That delicate candle alarm with its little tingle-bell that whispers it's time for morning prayers. The beautifully cased ding-a-ling travel alarms favoured by French officers.

The horological niceties have similarly been observed. Bells that ring a bit louder or longer. Alarms that play music. Their cause-and-effect roles in the age of industrialization. Changing tastes in case design.

In our literature the morning might well kneel gently. In the real-world, by contrast, it was often less well-mannered. The new day might dawn via a cut hammock-line, or a bucket of cold water, an overturned cot, ripped-off blankets, or a bellowing NCO beating out the *1812 Overture* on a garbage can.

In short, seeing gender attributes in alarms seems a bit much. Yet there is a cline of subtlety along which they can be ranked. And the

alarming inventions in this article — those found shelved in DRP class 83a group 71, *Weckeruhren in Verbindung mit Betten*, alarm clocks connected to beds — define the least subtle pole.

Only seven actual DRP patent specifications were found filed in this group, numbers 25838, 75816, 111780, 128209, 198682, 219147, and 229984. This isn't many, and the thought did occur that perhaps there was a limit of one per dwarf. What's more likely is that other inventors with great ideas were discouraged from patenting them by concerned friends and family.

The simplest of the seven was DRP 128209 from Julius Cordes, in Hannover. It was granted effective as of 5<sup>th</sup> April 1901 by the Kaiserliches Patentamt, and originally categorized as a *Klasse 74a* patent. Four of the seven patents were also from this apparently non-horological class 74, so a brief explanation is appropriate.

Newcomers to the German historical (1877-1945) patent system often quite reasonably expect all clock-relevant patents to be in class 83, *Uhren und Zeitmessung*, clocks and watches and the measurement of time. They assume that ploughing this class 83 with its four major subdivisions *a b c d*, and its 108 subgroups will harvest all patents related to clocks and watches and the measurement of time.

That such appears reasonable overlooks the delightfully messy complexity of the DRP (and later as well, DRGM) classificational system. And with a copy of the appropriate guide to this classificational system — for this earlier period it is the 6<sup>th</sup> (1949) edition of the *Gruppeneinteilung der Patentklassen* — its own internal logic is revealed.

If one had an alarm device invention, for example, that was mechanical in nature and was operated or controlled at the device, it would likely fit class 83. But if the mechanical alarm device had a remote control (whether mechanical or electrical or through air-pressure) it would be within class 74. This is because 74 was concerned with signalling devices and signalling functions.

More specifically, in fact, it would be in class 74a group 20. The point however is that what we might casually categorize as so obviously 83ish was sometimes not obviously so to those

<sup>(1)</sup> Reprinted with kind permission from the author. Originally appearing in CLOCKS - 29.IV.2002

who actually decided. Nicely enough though, the German patent office generously provided street signs (eg ‘without remote control see classes 83a, 71, 73’) for the patently provincial.

In the midst of such complexities was Julius Cordes’ simple patent. The single illustration in the specification, **figure 1**, is indeed so simple that the fellows at the *Reichsdruckerei*, the official German printing office, must have wondered if they were being April-fooled. As was true in all seven cases, the patent was quite serious.

The problem addressed was waking *im Bett schlafende Personen*, people asleep in bed. But without the application of excessive noise which, for instance, might also wake someone sleeping in the next room. The problem was solved by attached a knocking ‘or similar device’ to the bedframe so that the noise is carried by the shortest route to the sleeper.

Somewhat sadly, where other patent illustrations had flocks of impressive italicized letters, Cordes’ has but the pitiful *a* and *b*. The *a* is the ‘noise generator’ which could be powered mechanically, electrically, or through air pressure. The *b* could be a case or shield to protect the device. It could also be placed in a specially hollowed out portion of the bed, for instance, in a bedpost.

In hotels and guest houses similar alarm devices could be operated from a central office, floor by floor, or individually and by hand. Historically, by the way, there was an alarming difference between British and American English understandings of what being knocked-up in the morning entailed. One can be grateful that Cordes spoke German, and therefore this need not be mentioned.

The second of the seven patents, 198682 of class 83a, group 71, is a distinct improvement on Cordes’ in that it is less subtle and more direct. Then too, the illustrations — here compressed into one, **figure 2** — were of a complexity more appropriate to *Reichsdruckerei* expectations.

The patent was granted effective from 6<sup>th</sup> August 1907, to Rudolf Metz, in Oberursel a.T. (Oberursel is about 10km northwest of Frankfurt am Main). Metz’ concept was straightforward as well. A normal alarm clock and a special knocking device are brought together in one case. The device is portable, and can be attached to any headboard.

The invention, the specification states, was especially intended for those who are hard of hearing. ‘Or those who will be after they use it’ one might think. Still, just the thought of this device going off, the whirling hammer slamming into the headboard like a beaver on crack, does approach the ‘cat retching...’ effect mentioned earlier. The mind would remember and the body pre-shudder.

Further down the cline was our third example, 75816. Originally categorized as a class 74, it was patented from 13<sup>th</sup> October 1893, and granted to a Richard Hochheimer in Frankfurt am Main. Hochheimer’s invention is one of the most delightful and down to earth, if not quite at 9.8m/sec<sup>2</sup>.

The illustrations alone however — here again, compressed into one **figure 3** — cannot reflect the true impact of this invention. It is termed a *Wecker mit Fallgewicht*, an alarm with a weight that falls. Until the penny drops though, it’s hard to grasp that that is basically it.

A weight is slipped over a pole, the pole securely fastened to the head or foot of the frame of a bed. A ring-and-string arrangement is used to cock the raised weight, so to speak. When the (normal) alarm clock goes off, and the trigger is pulled, the weight crashes down onto a metal plate ‘giving a strong jolt to the frame’.

Hochheimer notes that one could strengthen or lessen the effect by varying the height the alarm is on the pole. Or by altering the length of the string. One could also place leather or rubber disks as padding over the metal disk the weight crashes down upon.

Then again, bells could also be set off by the falling weight — in addition to, mind you. It would also be ‘simple enough’ to connect an electric switch to the falling weight whereby bells would be set off in a distant room. The person so awakened in that room could then make sure that the person in that bed, who might have somehow slept through the weight...etc.

Such effete addenda however should not detract from the purity of Hochheimer’s way of separating the potentially quick from the definitely dead. It was ‘a manner of awakening recommended to all’.

Our fourth invention at first glance seems not to fit this decline and fall approach to alarm patents. It appears to be more indirect in conception. The relatively early, effective 6<sup>th</sup> July 1883, DRP 25838 of *Klasse 83: Uhren* was granted to Hugo Liebscher, in Chemnitz.

Yet Liebscher’s invention shows an understanding of getting-up behaviour that is refreshingly cynical. The problem with so many alarms — including (we might note) Mum’s sweet ‘are you awake?’ call to her children on a school day — is that once answered — ‘oh you bet, dear Mother!’ — it’s roll over and resnore time. What Liebscher came up with therefore or, more appropriately, down to, is a mechanical alarm that stops ringing when someone gets out of bed. Yet starts ringing again when the person gets back into bed.

The mechanics of the invention are interesting, for instance, the originally weight-driven alarm is bed-driven by a spring-and-chain adaption, **figure 4**. Still, it is Liebscher's anticipation of Pavlovian belling-of-the-dog techniques which secures his admirable below average ranking today.

The fifth patent DRP 219147 was another class 74a group 20 which was later shelved with the class 83a group 71 'alarms connected to beds'. Effective from 8<sup>th</sup> January 1909, it was granted to Bernhard Birkenfeld in Münster in Westfalen.

Both the title, as well as *Fig. 3.* and *Fig. 4.* of the patent illustrations, **figure 5**, serve to give the basic principle. The long of the former, *Weckvorrichtung, bei welcher der zu weckenden Person die Bettdecke durch mittels einer Weckuhr ausgelöstes Federwerk entzogen wird*, shortens down to an alarm device that yanks the blankets or duvet off someone.

The two drawings at the bottom spell it out as it were. A normal alarm is linked to a more strongly-powered springed barrel. A cord is 'attached in some manner' to the blanket. When the alarm goes off, the cord is wound onto the barrel, the blanket is removed, and 'the person who is to be awakened' is.

But 'what distinguishes this invention' Birkenfeld stressed 'from previous ones of the type' is shown in the top two drawings. The pawl device is so arranged that when the cord is set, the drum itself carries the tension. Which means that when for instance '...the sleeping person happens to unknowingly hold fast to the blankets' it won't work. In other words, it still will. This is because '...the slightest loosening of the grip will allow the blankets to be immediately removed'.

Which of course is the sinker to this hook-and-line approach. Try as he may, our sleeping fish will be landed. Should he stay awake, and try to hold on to the blanket, he will remain awake. Should he drift off, his grip will soon lessen and he'll awake when all is uncovered.

That a cord stretched across a bed might lead to various entanglements — the slang term 'to clothesline' comes to mind — went without saying. And it's also hard to imagine that any self-respecting cat would leave a string on a bed unpawed. Nonetheless, this tug and lose, or don't tug and lose concept is perverse enough to take this place.

I must admit that the sixth invention, DRP 111780, a straight 83a, from Johannes Pötzsch 'in Kirchedlau near Könnern' (Könnern is about 20km northwest of Halle), effective from 4<sup>th</sup> June 1899, immediately won my heart. It was probably the two small arrows in the illustrations, **figure 6**, which first touched it.

Pötzsch has one pointing down, just below that weight in the part of the illustration, *Figure 2*. And the other arrow, pointing up, is just below the *c* for cord, left of where *Fig. 1.* is written. He wanted us to understand that when that weight falls down, that duvet shoots up. That the weight's fall (and the duvet's rise) are triggered by a comparatively tricky triggering device, which connects to a normal alarm, might be supposed.

Pötzsch was evidently a careful man. He noted for example that in order to prevent the cord from jumping out of the pulley above the bed, a guiding roller should be used. And some applied horological considerations were not ignored either. 'For a 8 1/2 pound *Deckbette*', a feather quilt, 'a 10 pound' weight is sufficient for its being yanked upwards. We can only imagine what a Pötzsch and Hochheimer (he of the crashing weight) inventors' team might have devised.

The seventh DRP 229984 is the last and least subtle. Originally categorized in class 74a, group 20, effective from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1909, Andreas Barmann in Rostock devised a get-out-of-bed device that put direct power before the plea or the imperative, **figure 7**.

The problem he saw was not that there weren't already bedframes with alarm devices by which, when an alarm went off, part of the bed was caused to swing or vibrate. For there were. Their disadvantage was that only part of the bed would swing or vibrate. And when the sleeper was by chance on that part that didn't swing or vibrate, that part could vibrate and he could sleep on.

So Herr Barmann had a better idea. When the alarm mounted to the bed goes off, a ball is set free, and falls down into a cup, which in turn pops the trigger that sets free that spring-loaded ejection-like hinged section of the bed. And *whomp* that person is up, just like that.

But stunned, wondering 'what happened? Where am I? Or did I just fall asleep, unwisely, while reading *CLOCKS?*'

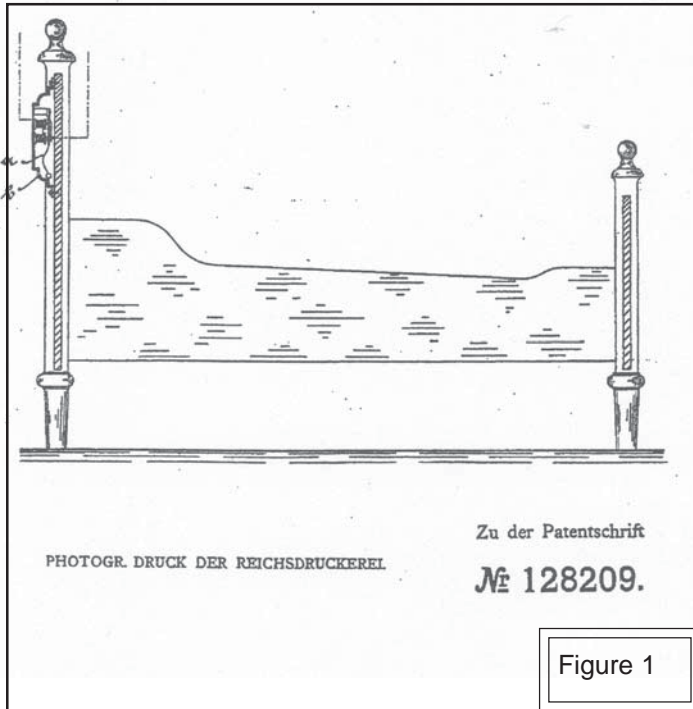


Figure 1

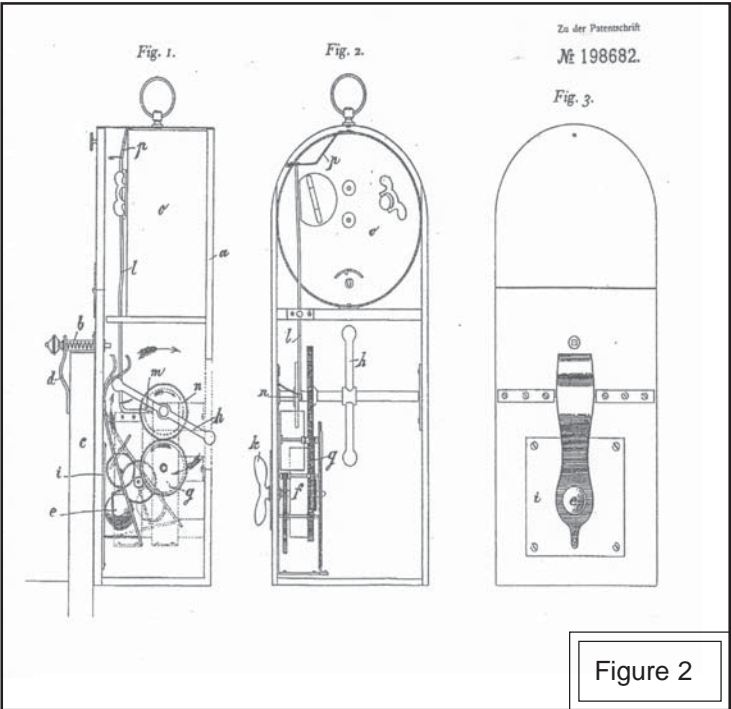


Figure 2

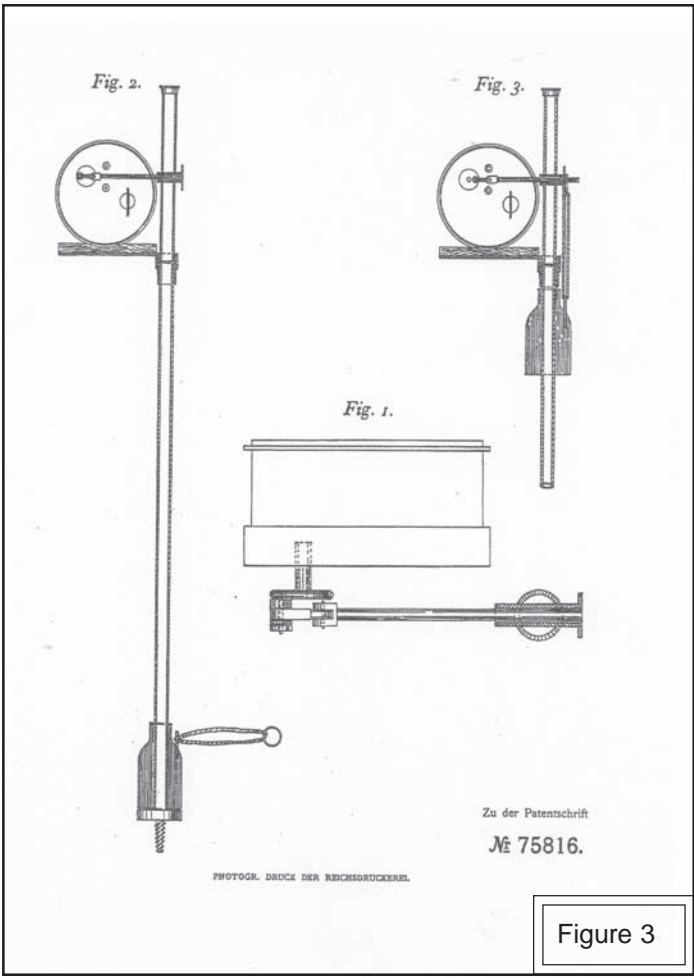
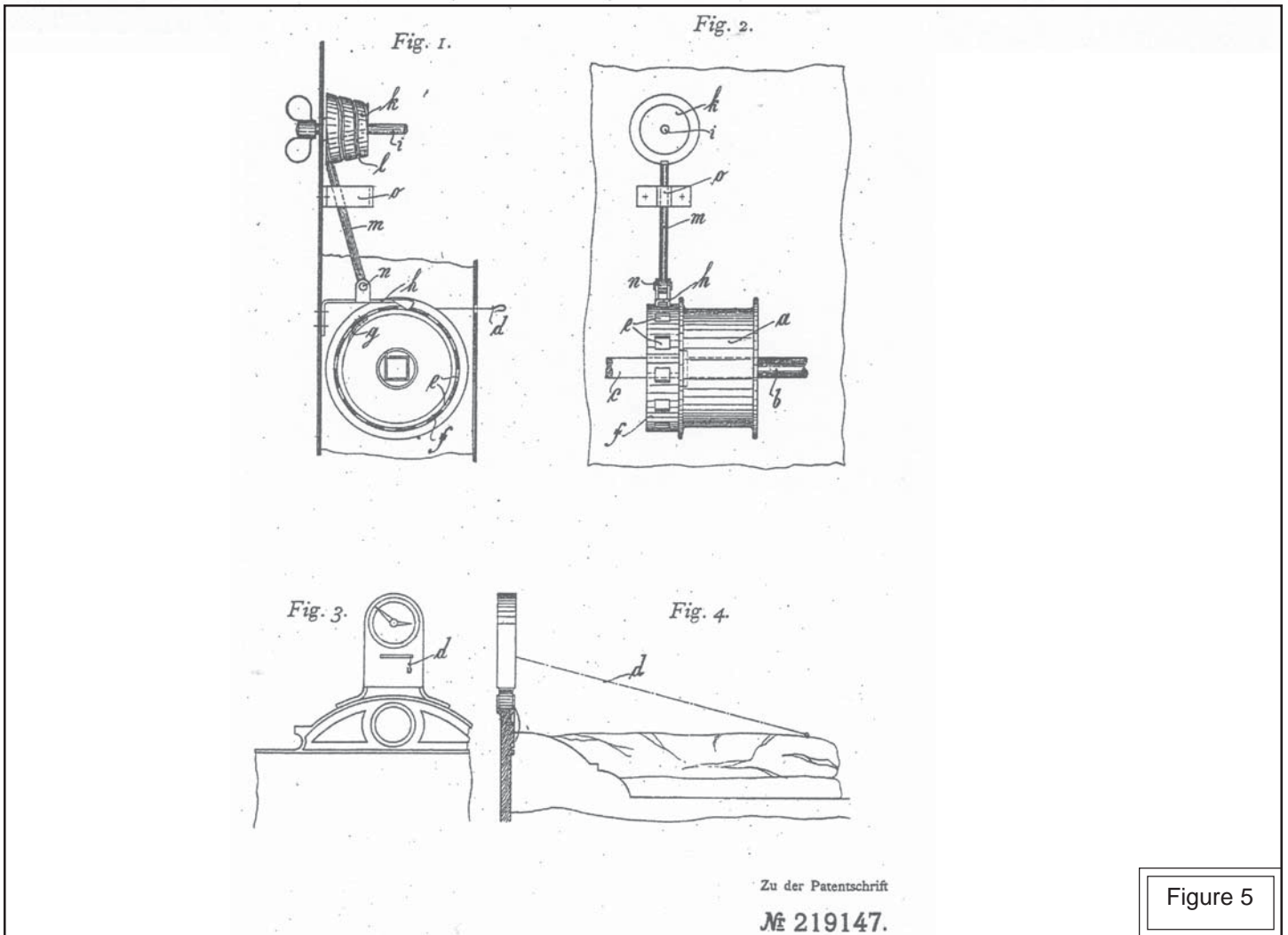
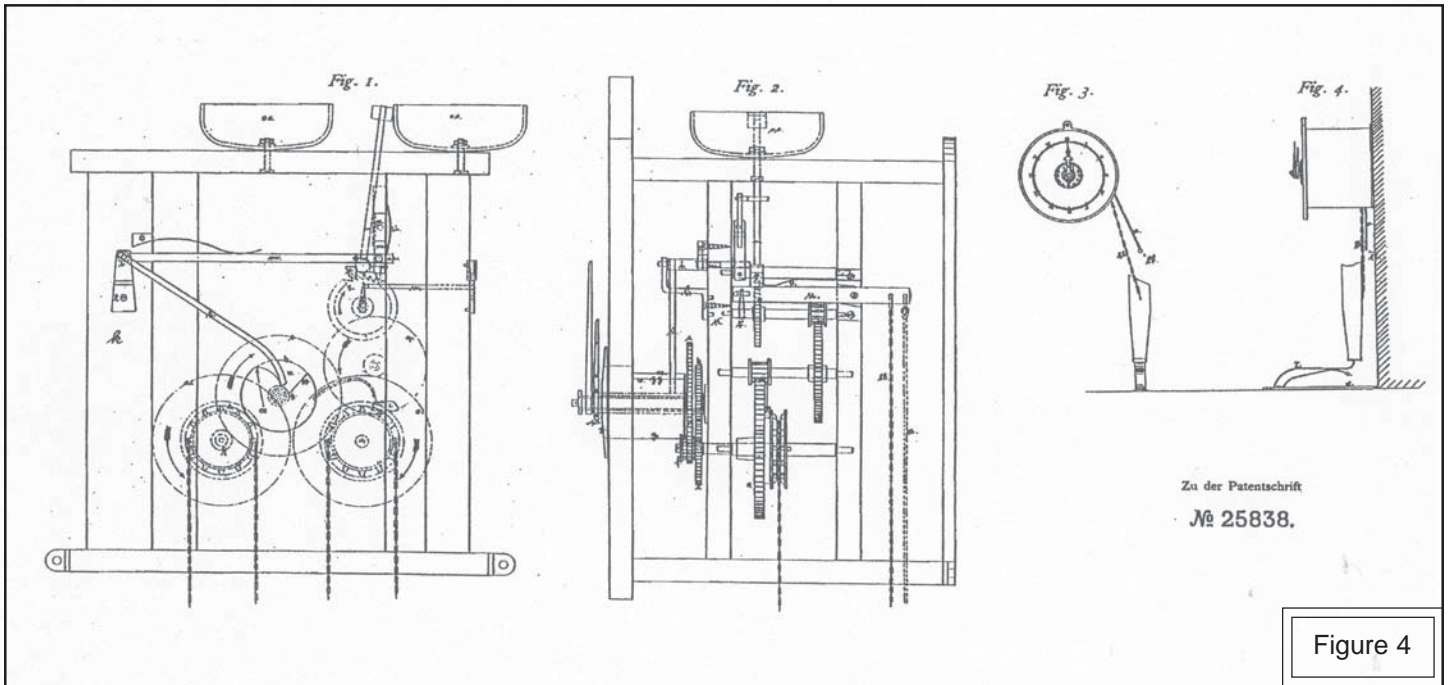


Figure 3



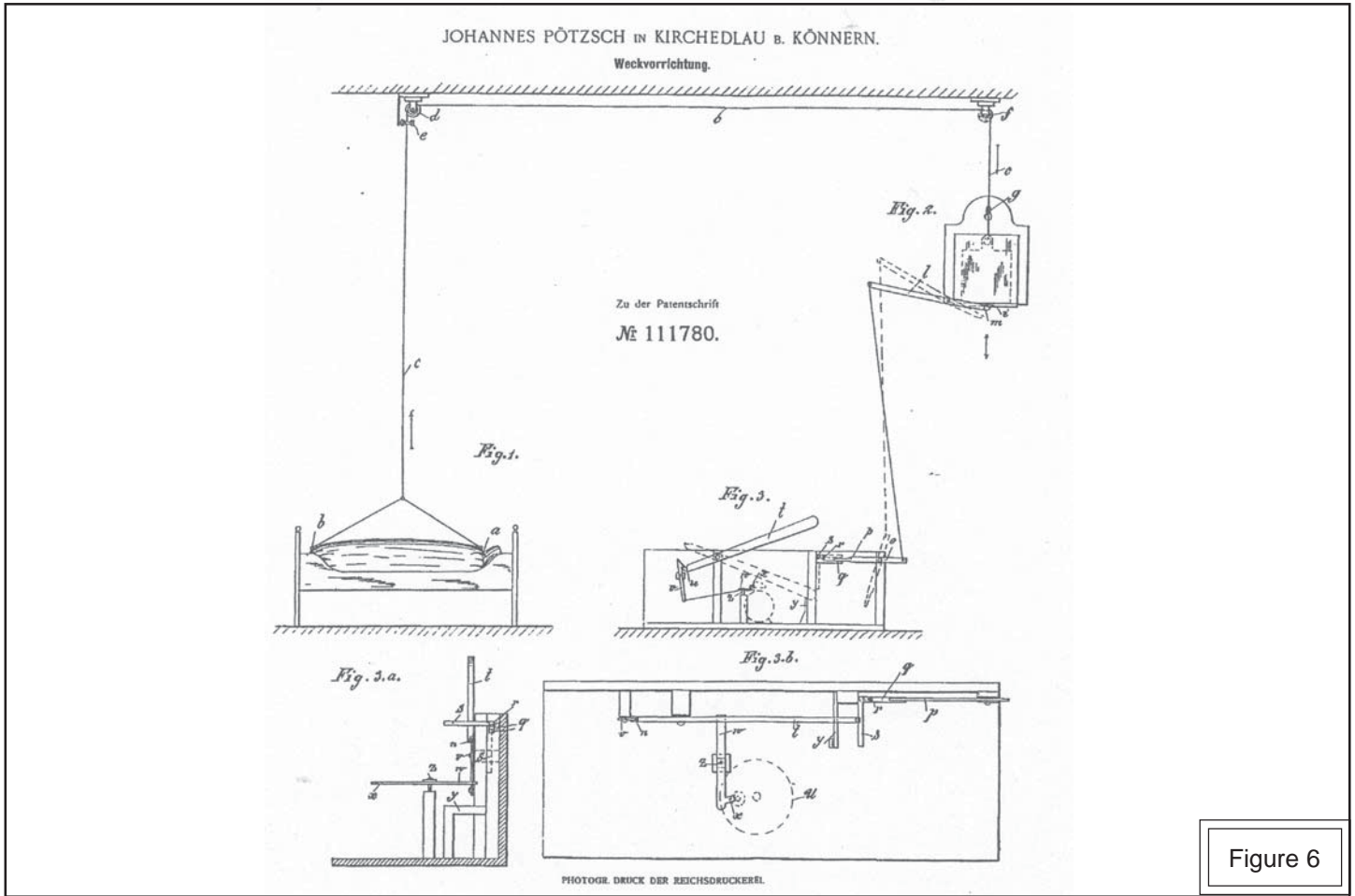


Figure 6

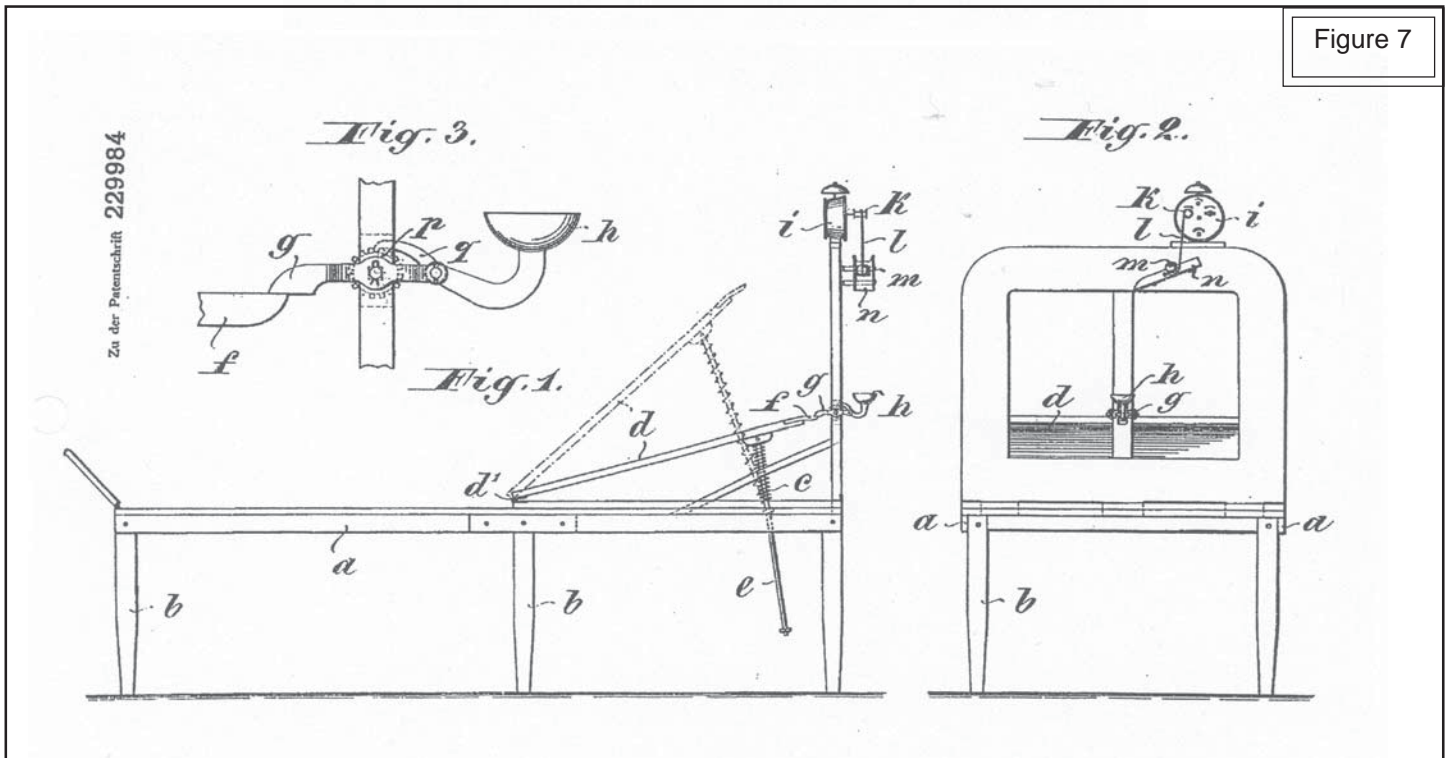


Figure 7