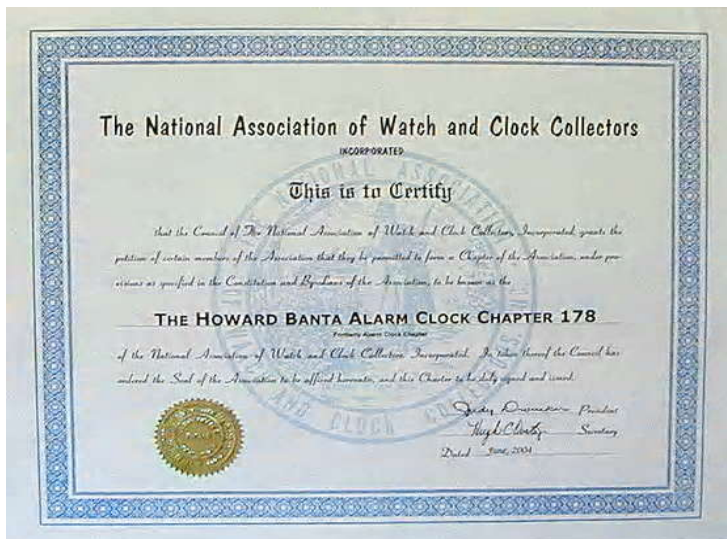


The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



www.acc178.org

2004 Volume 3



Howard Banta Official Name Change

Members,

I just want to share what I received in the mail from the National. I am sure with this name change and Howard's inspiration for the collecting and the knowledge of Alarm Clocks, this will be one of the best Special Interest Chapters in the NAWCC.

Thank you again,
Vince Angell

President of the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter

**Upcoming: Feb 3-5 2005
Greater Los Angeles Regional
Chapter 178 Program**

There will be a HBACC program entitled "Alarm Clocks are Collectable" as well as an extensive display of Alarms at the 2005 Regional in Pasadena California. The Regional is held at the Pasadena Center and the closest hotel is the Sheraton Pasadena, Pasadena California.

The only reason for time is so that everything
doesn't happen at once.

-- Albert Einstein

Vince Angell

In this issue we are pleased to present an article written by Vince Angell entitled "Illuminated Alarm Clock". The Illuminated Alarm was made by B. Bradley and Company in the late 1800s. This article originally appeared on our Chapter Web Site⁽¹⁾.

**Review: July 2004 Oklahoma City National
Chapter 178 Program
by Chrisoula St. Dennis**

The Fourth Annual Alarm Clock Chapter
Meeting at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Kim St. Dennis opened the Alarm Clock Chapter Meeting and welcomed all who attended. His talk was on the Alarm Clock Collection of John Darrow along with a slide presentation of John's unusual clocks.

Loretta Darrow had called Kim before the NAWCC Convention and spoke about the passing away of her husband and his fabulous collection. She hopes John's collection will be shared with all who love alarm clocks and the knowledge of them will continue on. As Doug Cowan said, John Darrow was the answer box expert on alarm clocks

John had built a guesthouse, which he filled with alarm clocks, separated by makers such as,

(Continued on page 3)

⁽¹⁾ Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter #178 has URL
<http://www.acc178.org>

Officers, Contacts, etc.

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

PRESIDENT: Vince Angell
 PUBLICITY: phylathome@hotmail.com

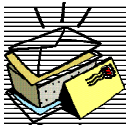
TREASURER: Mike Wilson
 SECRETARY: mike@oldephotog.com

EDITOR: Mary Maier
 saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

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.

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

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 -

Member Visits United States



Our Australian member, Rodney Lewis is pleased to be traveling in the United States and is currently visiting the NAWCC in Pennsylvania. Rodney was one of the "Member Features" in the last newsletter. In visiting our main Library he

enthusiastically recommends the following books to other members.

- (1) *The Collector's Guide to 20th Century Modern Clocks: Desk, Shelf and Decorative* by Mark V. Stein
- (2) *Westclox: An Identification and Price Guide* by Gary Biolchini
- (2) *Westclox: Electric* by Jim Linz
- (3) *Westclox: Spring Wound* by Jim Linz

Also, Rodney will be in Los Angeles on October 4th - 6th and would be pleased to hear from any members in that area. He can be reached at the Anaheim Travelodge (714-774-7817).

((Continued from page 1)
Oklahoma Review

Ansonia, Darche, Gilbert, Parker, etc. John had a theory that Le Porte Hubble designed and manufactured all small alarm movements as of 1876 based on his marine escapement, which he patented. Bradley and Hubbard made the cases for these movements. Except for Seth Thomas, who designed their own movement, gears, strike, etc. and cases. John did not believe in restoring clock finishes, but he would work to get the movements running again.

The Golden Age of alarm clocks was the 1870-1890's. Before then, you could not plate nickel on brass. They usually came with a brass hook to hang on the wall. Most clocks were not marked before 1900. They sold for about \$5-\$7.00 each, unless very unusual.

Kim showed slides of the following alarm clocks: Western Clock Co., key wind from 1880; Stevens Dial by Phelps & Bartholomew; Gilbert pot metal; Seth Thomas 8-day from 1880-1920; rare Seth Thomas Nutmeg from 1876; E.N. Welch from 1878; Kroeger boudoir clocks with bezel glass; the Flirt by Ansonia – 2" across and valued at approximately \$3,000; Bradley & Hubbard 1870-1875; Grady's rare alarm clock with old hands and circle hole in glass to set alarm dated 5/14/1889; E.N. Welch calendar clock 4" with griffins made after 1880; Florence Koeber owl on moon; Terry clocks; Ansonia paper dial Peep O Day made at Hudson River with unusual bell, stamped steel carriage alarm, with cherub and cardinal banding from 1880; Seth Thomas 45 second hand; New Haven tree bark cottage clock composite; Western Clock Co. Regency from Chicago, Il; Ansonia calendar with day of month, day of week; Waterbury trapezoid with painted glass plate, nickel plated on glass and a gold plated nouveau clock with a little bird; and a New Haven porcelain 2 1/2 " side alarm double wind made in 1885.

Kim thanked all who attended and after the meeting, we discussed the clocks shown and everyone commented on the great photos and presentation. They also thought the newsletter was wonderful.

Chrisoula St. Dennis.



Left to right: Chris St.Dennis, Kim St. Dennis, Katherine Demny, Marshall Knowlton and Bob Linkenhoker. Bob was made a NAWCC Follow at the OKC Awards Banquet.

Alarms left to right: Ingraham "Indian", Darche, Krober, Seth Thomas "Elk" and Seth Thomas "Drum". All but the Seth Thomas "Drum" were purchased by Kim St. Dennis at the OKC National and used in a display for the meeting.

Members Corner: Wanted to Sell

Alarm Collection for Sale.

Over 800 clocks, representing all major companies & some minor ones. Also plenty of parts, tools and books. For photos, see last issues *Member Feature*. Asking \$30,000 for the entire collection.

Call Phil Haltigan at 518-891-4521.

A sampling of alarms (too many to list all) is as follows:

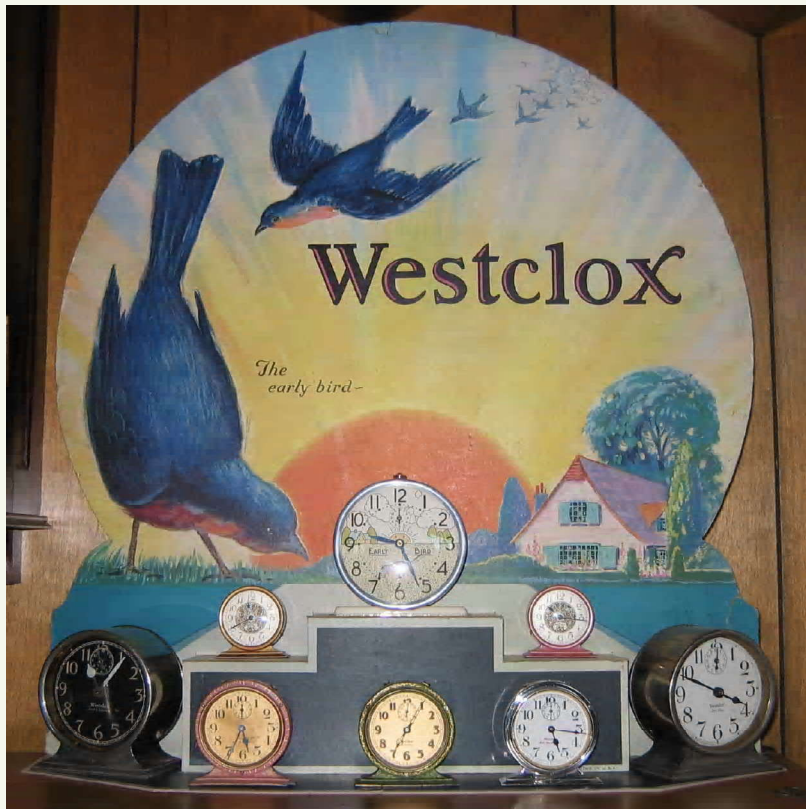
Ansoia: Bee (many), Peep-O-Day (many), Spark Alarm, Pirate in box.
Darche: Searchlight. **Gilbert:** Reveille, Yankee Wizard in Box, Turnout Carriage, Rolling Bell Alarm Carriage, Double Bell Carriage (2 of them).
Ingraham: Ace, Indian. **Lux:** Peanut Roaster, Organ Grinder with Bear, Butcher, Church Bell, Happy Day (2 different ones), Black Cat. **New Haven:** Alert, Brummel, Tat-too (many different types), Calendar Bell Top (3 different kinds). **Parker:** Mammoth (3 different ones), No. 106, No. 61 (3 of them), No. 604, No. 63, No. 601, No. 300, No. 104, No. 109, No. 150 (3 of them), and many others. **Sessions:** Columbia. **Seth Thomas:** Nutmeg, Anvil Lever, Long Alarm, Lodge Lever, Owl, Student Lever (2 of them), Carriage (2 of them), Black Face Bell Top Peg Leg. **Terry:** 1883 Bell Top Peg Leg. **Waterbury:** Cyclone, Senator, Start, Start Gold, Giant Spasmodic, Spider, Magnet, Clarence, Wasp, Winner, Carriage Tourist, Carriage Spy, Carriage Meteor. **Welch:** Good Luck, 3" Dial Bell Top. **Westclox:** Dura Series, Early Bird, Early (1910) Big Ben, Gold plated commemorative, many, many others.

Member Feature:
Bob Schug

I guess I would have to say that my problem with clocks started at an early age. Not because I was surrounded by many, but rather the bare minimum. The only time pieces in our house was a 1926 black dial Big Ben and my Dads' Burlington pocket watch. (I still have both of them) During the day the Big Ben would sit on the shelf of the kitchen range. In the evening my Dad would wind the Ben and his watch and move them to the bedroom dresser.

My first hands on experience at clock repair came in 1937 at the age of 10. Dad had found an oak Ingraham kitchen clock in the attic of a house he was remodeling. After my parents decided that it just wasn't going to run it got set aside. Thinking what any kid would do I decided to take it apart. WOW!!! We never did find all the pieces.

This is a Westclox cardboard store display. There is a picture on the back side showing how the clocks should be displayed.



So much for the past. By 1960 I had begun to get burned out on a previous hobby in photography, and thought I

Westclox Alarm Ca. 1935
Early Bird



needed a new challenge. One Sunday morning I spied an ad in the classifieds for a "Railroad Station Clock". I checked it out and found hanging on a post in a cellar coal bin a Seth Thomas #2 regulator. I decided to pass on it as it seemed to me that \$35 was too much, and I hadn't yet mastered the

Lux Alarm Ca. 1934
Organ Grinder with Monkey



negotiating skills that I would learn were a requirement in this pursuit. After returning home the thought of that clock kept grinding away at me all day. I took the bait - the hook was set. I returned that evening and parted with \$35 for my first clock. It still runs faithfully in our bedroom.

In 1965 I joined The NAWCC, and am a member of Chapters 31, 157 and 178. My collection is made up of 99% American clocks and watches. Occasionally a foreigner sneaks in, but I try to avoid them. In the process of collecting I have also searched for related advertising, boxes, cans, signs, display cases, you name it. I have never specialized or limited my collection to any particular style or maker. If it is obscure or weird, so much the better. I have always done my own mechanical and case restoration work on both clocks and watches. For me that is just another pleasure of this hobby. If you don't develop the skills needed to bring these beauties back to life, you are missing out on a lot of self satisfaction. It just requires determination and patience.

A German Animated Alarm
(Unknown Maker)



Lux Circa 1956
Show Boat



Lux
Dancing Bear



Lux



All my clocks and watches have come from flea markets, garage sales, estate sales, local auctions, regionals and chapter marts, but never from eBay. I have to see it and hold it before I buy.

If you are at the Pacific Northwest Regional May 2005, look me up. I'll be at my table.

Bob Schug

The Illuminated Alarm

by Vince Angell

I remember the day and the comment made by my wife Phyllis when I purchased this alarm clock from Ebay. It was January 7, 2001 at about 3:30 in the afternoon. Phyllis was on her way out the door for an appointment, my hands were shaking waiting for the end of the auction to bid and the last thing she said as she went out the door was "Don't be cheap"!

Well, I reevaluated the clock and decided to bid another \$85.00. The end was coming close and at the 20 second to the end mark I hit the enter key and the computer coughed and sputtered then finally accepted the bid showing that I was the high bidder. After the auction, I looked at the bid history and realized that had I bid 25 cents less it would not have been enough to outbid the second highest bidder and I would not be telling this story today for the Alarm Clock Chapter's "Featured Alarm Clock" section.

When I saw the clock on Ebay for the first time a week earlier, I could not believe my eyes. I had only seen these clocks in pictures. In fact only one picture that is in Palmer's "The Book of American Clocks" No 279 shows this Illuminating Alarm Clock by H. J. Davies which is in the Mitchell collection. Upon further examination, the clock in the book was missing the right match holder and the one on Ebay appeared to be complete.



The "Illuminated Alarm Clock" was made by B. Bradley and Co., 259 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. The Davies Patent, No. 186,317, is dated January 16, 1877, filed August 25, 1876 and named "LIGHTING ATTACHMENTS FOR ALARM CLOCK".



The left image displays the mechanics when just ready to strike the match.

The right image shows the lighting of the lamp with (what would be) the lighted match.



At that time, I had been collecting alarm clocks for the past 25 years and had never seen, definitely not for sale, what I would consider the "Ultimate alarm clock". This clock has it all (e.g., American, original walnut case, great original label, marked movement, alarm to wake you up, and the most unusual mechanism for lighting

The Lamp Guild was able to research the lamp based upon my discovery of words on the ratchet to raise the wick "The P & A Manufacturing Co". This turns out to be the Plume and Atwood Company. This may or may not be the original burner for the lamp but it is definitely the same period as the clock. According to the Lamp Guild, in those days if the burner broke or malfunctioned it could be replaced for pennies at any time.



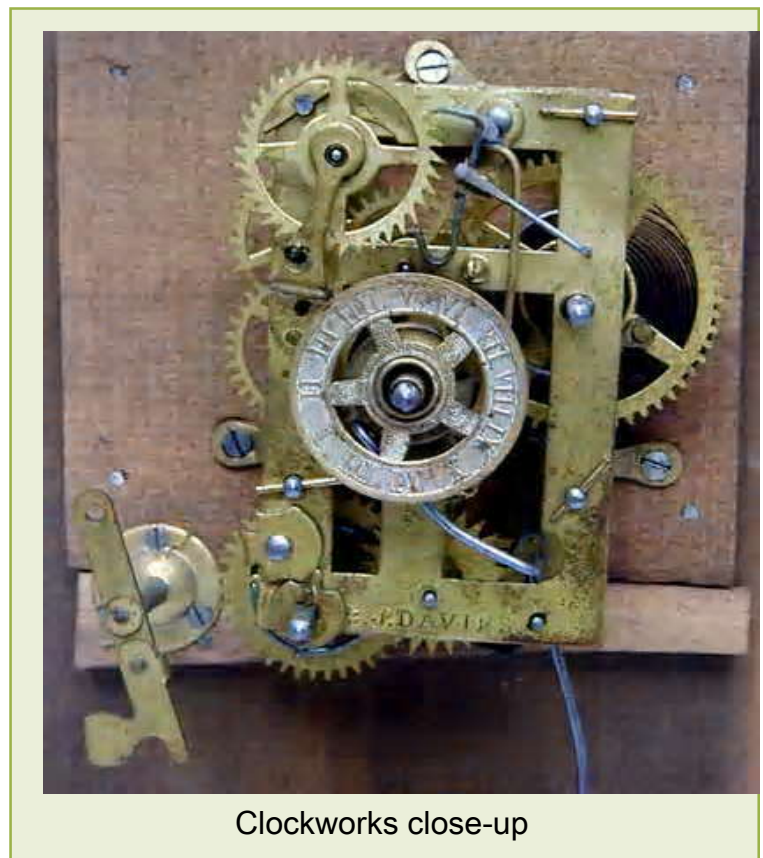
Clockworks



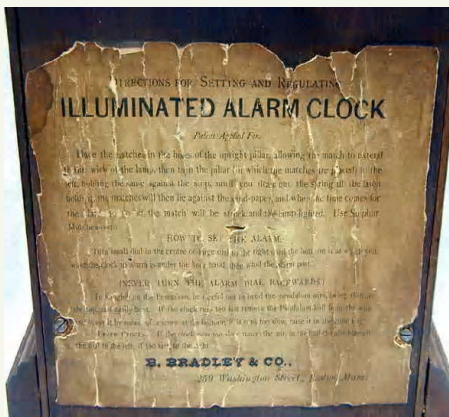
Back side.

the alcohol fueled burner to light the room). I consider this to be my best alarm clock and also my favorite.

Upon conducting some research on the alcohol burner, I discovered on the Internet an organization called "[The International Guild of Lamp Researchers](#)". We began sending information back and forth for about a week. The Lamp Guild found this clock to be so interesting that they put it on their website for their members to comment about.



Clockworks close-up



Instructions

There were several models of this clock. Two of the clocks and cases were manufactured either by Seth Thomas or The Ansonia Brass and Copper Company. Both were originally cottage clocks that had the H. J. Davies patented lighting attachment added to the top of each clock.

The only design that I know of that incorporates both the clock and the lighting mechanism in the manufacture of the clock is the one in this article. As can be seen in these pictures, the lighting mechanism is built into the case of the clock.

The Davies Patent, No. 186,317, is dated January 16, 1877; application filed August 25, 1876. At this time, I have no idea who manufactured the case, but will research this in the future and report any findings to the Alarm Clock Chapter.

Here is a brief description of how the lamp lighter works:

1. The alarm is set as is any early clock with this alarm mechanism. The small brass dial in the center of the dial is turned clockwise so that the hour you wish to awake is under the hour hand.
2. As for the lighter, the metal band with the sandpaper strip on it is pulled until it locks on the catch that is on the wire that goes into the clock.
3. Once that is done, the match is inserted through the holder and into the hole in the post, turned to the left in the direction of the sandpaper and lightly lays on the paper.
4. When the alarm goes off and rings, the device in the clock next to the movement moves down releasing the metal strip of sandpaper, striking the match.
5. The match then turns to the right with the help of the spring on the post and lights the lantern to light up the room. Hopefully, not burning down the house!

Directions Printed On Case

Directions for Setting and Regulating
ILLUMINATED ALARM CLOCK

Patent Applied For.

Place the matches on the holes of the upright pillar, allowing the match to extend to the wick of the lamp, then turn the pillar (in which the matches are placed) to the left, holding the same against the stop, until you draw out the spring till the latch holds it, the matches will then lie against the sand-paper and when the time comes for the Alarm to go off, the match will be struck and the lamp lighted. Use Sulphur Matches only.

HOW TO SET THE ALARM

Turn small dial in the centre of large dial to the right until the hour on it at which you want the clock to alarm is under the hour hand, then wind the alarm part.

(NEVER TURN THE ALARM DIAL BACKWARDS)

In hanging on the Pendulum, be careful not to bend the pendulum wire, being thin at the top and easily bent. If the clock runs too fast remove the Pendulum Ball from the wire and lower it by means of a screw at the bottom; if it runs too slow, raise it in the same way.

Lever Clocks. If the clock runs too slow, remove the pins in the half-circular hole on the dial to the left, if too fast, to the right.

B. BRADLEY & CO.

259 Washington Street.. Boston, Mass

H. J. & W. D. DAVIES.

LIGHTING ATTACHMENTS FOR ALARM CLOCKS.

No. 186,317.

Patented Jan. 16, 1877.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

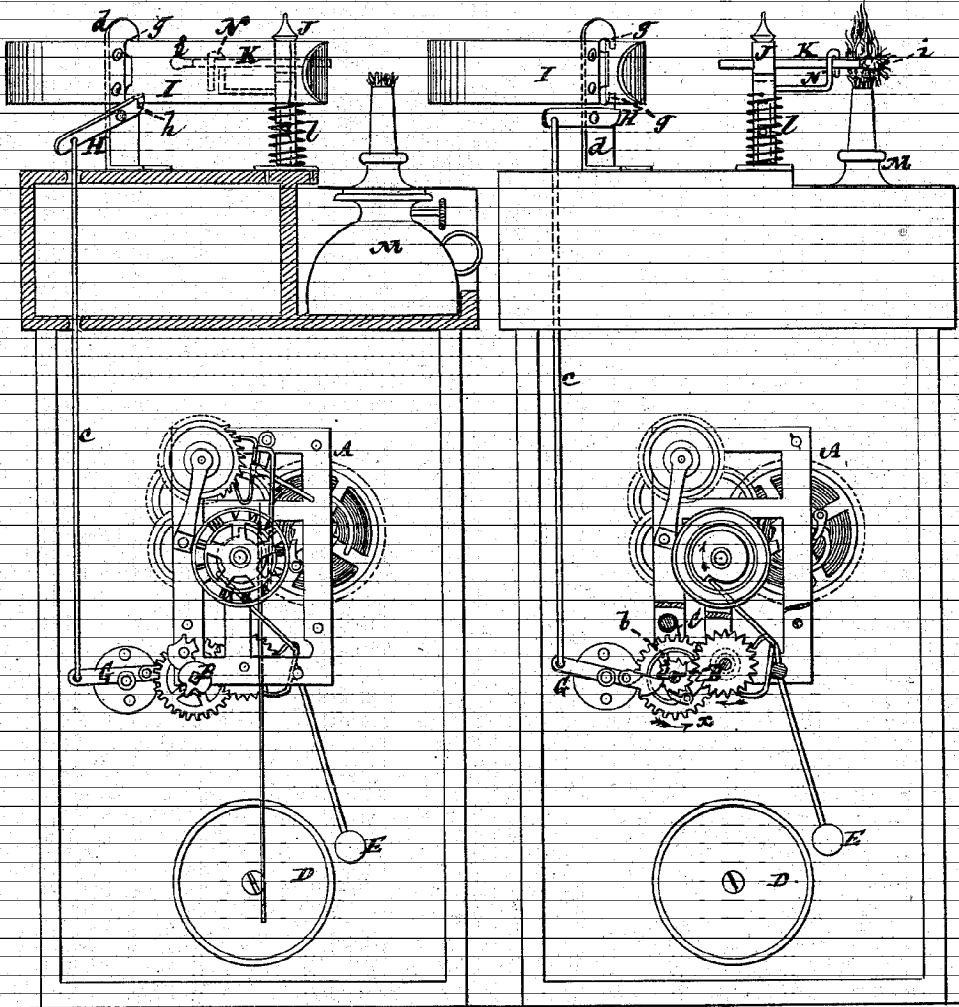
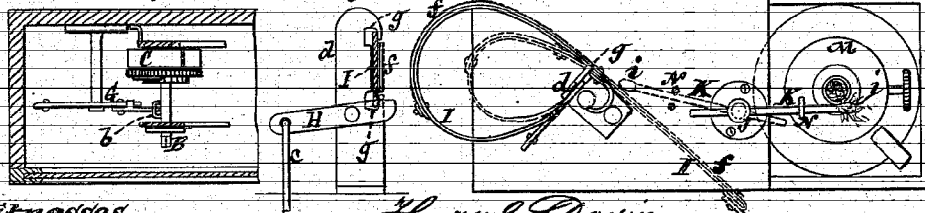


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



Witnesses
 John Becker
 Geo. Hayes

Henry J. Davies.
 Walter D. Davies
 by their Attorneys Brown & Allen

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY J. DAVIES AND WALTER D. DAVIES, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIGHTING ATTACHMENTS FOR ALARM-CLOCKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 186,317, dated January 16, 1877; application filed August 25, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HENRY J. DAVIES and WALTER D. DAVIES, both of the city of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have jointly invented certain Improvements in Lighting Attachments for Alarm-Clocks; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification.

The invention consists in a spring friction-lighter composed of a looped spring, suitably faced with sand-paper or other friction material, the one end of which is permanently secured, while the other end of said spring is free to be drawn out to give it the necessary tension and to effect its engagement with a retaining-catch till liberated by the alarm.

The invention also consists in a combination, with the spring-friction lighter, of a rotating match-holder which is controlled by a spring to hold the match in contact with the spring friction-lighter till the latter completes its action, and afterward to adjust the lighted match into a lighting position with the wick of the lamp to be lit.

The invention likewise consists in a combination, with the rotating match-holder, of a guard applied to said holder, and serving to support the match near its lighting end, and thereby to prevent the match from being broken by the rubbing action of the lighter. These several improvements not only have their own separate or special advantages, but, when combined, make a lighting attachment for alarm-clocks, which is cheap, durable, and efficient.

Figures 1 and 2 represent partially sectional front elevations of an alarm-clock with our invention applied, and showing the lighting devices in reverse positions—that is, before the spring friction-lighter is liberated, and after it has been liberated, and the lit match brought in lighting position with the wick of the lamp. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section, in detail, showing the winding-arbor of the alarm and its spring, together with the means by which said arbor, as controlled by its spring, operates directly to liberate the

lighter. Fig. 4 is a side elevation, in detail, of the catch which holds the lighter-spring under tension, and showing said spring as held by the catch. Fig. 5 is a plan, showing, by full and dotted lines, the spring-lighter before and after it has been released, and the match-holder and match in corresponding positions.

A is an ordinary clock-movement with alarm combined, B being the winding-arbor of the alarm, and C its spring, applied to said arbor. D is the bell of the alarm, and E its hammer.

Fast to the spring-arbor B of the alarm is a pin or projection, *b*, which, when the spring C is released to rotate the arbor B in direction of the arrow *x* in Fig. 2, acts upon a trip-lever, G, to liberate the lighter. When the arbor B is rotated in the opposite direction, as in winding up the alarm-spring C, then the pin *b* passes the lever G without operating it, by reason of the end of the lever on which the pin acts being jointed to work free or loose in such direction of the travel of the pin, but not in the opposite direction of its travel.

The lever G is connected by a rod, *e*, with a lever-catch, H, which holds the spring-lighter under tension. The pin *b*, when traveling, as indicated by the arrow *x*, (which is when the spring C is released to work the alarm,) strikes on the back of the jointed end of the lever G to depress the latter on its jointed end side of the fulcrum, and, through the rod *e*, to liberate the catch H from its hold on the spring-lighter.

The lighter consists of a looped spring, I, fastened at its one end to a post, *d*, and faced, for a portion of its length, with sand-paper or other suitable friction material *f*, including a tape or web of cloth having emery or sand on its outer surface. The other end of said spring, or free portion thereof, which has the friction material on its face, is passed through a slotted or notched guide, *g g*, in the post *d*, to form the loop in the spring, and such free portion of the loop made capable of being extended outwardly through the guide *g g*, to give the required tension to the spring, as represented by dotted lines in Fig. 5 of the drawing, and so that when the spring is released said extended and friction-faced por-

tion of the spring is at liberty to fly back through the guide *g g*, and in so doing to ignite the match.

The spring friction-lighter, when thus released, assumes the position represented for it by full lines in Fig. 5. A hook or projection on the free end of the spring serves as a handle by which to draw out the spring-lighter, and as a stop to it when released. Said spring-lighter is retained in its drawn-out position at the tension thereby given it, by the engagement of the lever-catch *H* with a notch, *h*, in it, and the disengagement of said catch therewith by the action of the alarm-spring, as hereinbefore described, releases the lighter.

J is the rotating match-holder, erected on top of the clock-case on the friction side of the spring-lighter, and at a proper distance therefrom, and in such relation therewith as to cause the lighting end *i* of the match *K*, when the holder *J* has been suitably rotated or turned about its vertical axis for the purpose, to come in contact with the friction-surface *f* of the extended spring-lighter in proximity to the guide *g g*, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5. The match *K* is thus held in contact with the friction-surface of the spring-lighter by a spring, *l*, applied to the rotating match-holder, which spring serves to rotate the holder after the match has been lit and is liberated from contact with the spring-lighter, to bring the lit end of the match in contact with the wick of a lamp, *M*, as shown in Fig. 2, and by full lines in Fig. 5.

To prevent the match slipping from its contact with the extended spring friction-lighter by the action of the spring *l* before said lighter has been released, and to effect an extended and firm yet elastic rubbing action of said lighter on the match against the resistance of the spring *l*, the guide *g g*, through which the free end of the spring-lighter slides *g* is arranged so that the portion of the spring lighter passing outwardly therethrough forms an acute angle with a line drawn from said guide to intersect the axis of the match-holder *J*, thus causing the match to rest at its lighting end with a spring-pressure on the extended lighter, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5. So soon, however, as the spring friction-lighter has been relaxed, as shown by full lines in

Fig. 5, then the match *K*, which has been lit, is free to clear the lighter, and is adjusted by the rotation of the match-holder *J* through the action of the spring *l*, into a position to light the lamp *M*, as shown by full lines in Figs. 2 and 5, the holder *J* being arrested by a suitable stop when the match has been thus adjusted.

To set the lighting devices, it is only necessary to turn back the match-holder, so as to bring the match into a position approximating that shown by dotted lines in Fig. 5, and to draw out the free end of the spring-lighter till the notch *h* in it engages with the lever-catch *H*.

The match *K* is projected radially through a perforation in the holder *J*, or two or more matches may be similarly projected through the holder to provide against failing to obtain a light by reason of a defective match.

To prevent breaking of the match by the action of the lighter, as liable to occur owing to the distance which the forward portion of the match projects beyond the rotating holder *J*, we support the match near its forward or lighting end by a guard, *N*, arranged to project from the rotating holder, and constructed to receive the match freely through or across it, and to support the match on its back as it is pressed by the spring *l* against the spring friction-lighter when the latter is extended and under tension.

We claim—

1. The looped spring friction-lighter *I f*, constructed for operation in connection with the guide *g g*, and with a catch for holding said lighter when extended, essentially as specified.
2. The combination, with the spring friction-lighter *I f*, of the rotating match-holder *J* and its spring *l*, substantially as described.
3. The combination, with the rotating spring match-holder *J*, of the guard *N*, arranged to support the match on its back near its forward end when said match is in contact with the friction-lighter, essentially as specified.

HENRY J. DAVIES.
W. D. DAVIES.

Witnesses:

BENJAMIN W. HOFFMAN,
HENRY T. BROWN.