

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2005 Volume 2

In This Issue...



Hopefully, you have enjoyed the first half of

History of Big Ben and Baby Ben Wind-Up Alarm Clocks

by Bill Stoddard and Richard Tjarks. We are pleased to provide the second and final part of the article in this Issue.

Richard Tjarks

As many of you may know Richard Tjarks passed away early this year. We in the Chapter extend our sympathies to the Tjarks friends and family and of course to one of his best friends, Bill Stoddard.

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HBACC Display at the 2005 Fort Lauderdale Florida National

HBACC President Vince Angell and Phyllis Angell traveled to the Florida National this year to set up an alarm clock display. Many members in the NAWCC don't get much exposure to *special interest clubs* such as ours. Charlie Banks, President of the Florida Gold Coast Chapter 60 that sponsored the National, contacted Vince and offered his help for a display. He secured a great table location, built the shelving unit and poles for the banner and supplied the clocks. We thank Charlie for all his help! Vince and Phyllis brought the banners, handouts and 'table time'. The display generated quite a bit of interest and 5 new members signed up. We thank Vince and Phyllis for all their hard work in getting the word out about the club.



New member Gunter Diehl.
Welcome.



Charlie Banks - thanks so much for all your help Charlie.



A great book written by member Ursula Metsker.



Marshall Knowlton browsing the display.

Officers, Contacts, etc.

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

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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

or send article on computer disk (MS Word) via snail mail

Mary Maier
 530 Staples Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94112

Chapter News and Updates

When you receive the NAWCC Bulletin, please check the *Special Interest Chapter Highlights* for possible updates and news on the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter.

Phyllis and I will try to have a write up, small or large, in every issue.

Vince Angell

Did You Know ?



Some of you may remember a small book titled *American Mechanical Alarm Clocks* written by Gary Richardson, 1997. Its about 120 pages with images of alarms along with their make and manufacturer.

Its been out of print for quite some time but Richardson has now republished the text again in electronic format (PDF file).

However, new in his line of publications is *American Alarm & Novelty Clock Data Base* (also in PDF format). This reference has many more entries than his first publication. The file includes over 2200 alarm and novelty clocks. The information for each clock is provided in a standardized format - image, type, maker, model name, measurements, approximate date of production, case material, dial type and a small section for comments. Though price estimates are not included, the data base has a large number of alarms spanning the big names as well as many of the lesser known manufacturers.

Richardson is selling the two volume PDF set on eBay under the listing Alarm and Novelty Clock Data Base CD for \$14.99.

Those Annoying Gummy Labels



Have you ever had difficulty getting rid of the gummy residue left behind by a pricing sticker?

The company *Molsenbocker's* makes a series of cleaners. The #2 *Liftoff: Adhesives, Grease, Oily Stains* seems to work well on painted surfaces, plastics and metals. Always, Always.... test on a small inconspicuous area first.

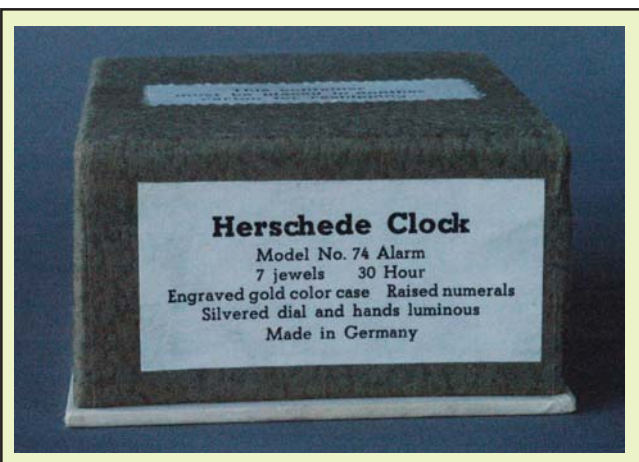
Member Feature

Herschede Alarm Clock

by Marshall Knowlton

Herschede Hall Clock Company made alarm clocks? That was my reaction after coming across this Ebay item. Being both a member of the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter # 178 as well as owning a Herschede grandfather clock, I found this intriguing.

On a slow day late fall of 2004 I was surfing on eBay for any interesting alarm clocks when I spotted this item. The seller claimed he had purchased the alarm in 1954 and that it was complete with box and papers. Hmm.. even more intriguing. The seller also said he had watched eBay for several weeks before placing his alarm up for auction and hadn't seen any other Herschede alarms for sale. Hmm..even better yet. With a few days to go before the auction ended I placed a bid of



only several dollars above the owner's \$9.99 minimum. Shortly before the auction closed another collector entered a bid, but was unsuccessful. I purchased the clock for a total of \$20.00 which included shipping and handling.

A few days later the clock arrived.

Now it was time for some researching to see what could be learned.

The box label stated:

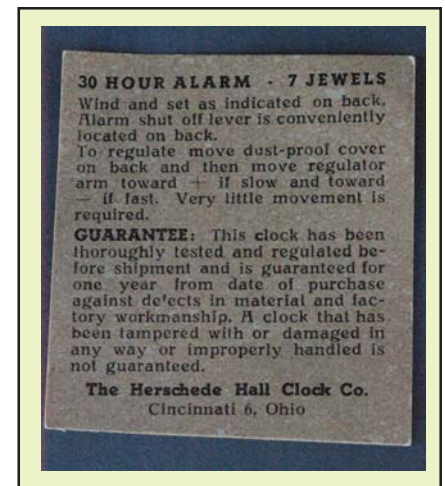
- Model No. 74, Alarm, 7 Jewels
- 30 Hour, Engraved gold case, Raised Numerals
- Silvered dial and hands luminous
- Made in Germany

Just as promised by the seller, the warranty was included in the box. At the bottom was printed

*The Herschede Hall
Clock Co.,*

Cincinnati, 6, Ohio.

'Zone 6' indicates this item was made prior to 1963 when the 5 digit ZIP code was introduced. This tends to support the seller's claim of "It was purchased in 1954".



Next, the clock itself was inspected. The dial is clearly labeled Herschede, Seven Jewels, made in Germany.



The clock measures 2 ¾" wide, 2 ¼" high, and 1" deep and has felt pads on its feet.

Now it was time to remove the back cover and inspect the movement. The movement was clearly signed *Herschede, Cincinnati*, and made in Germany. I asked Sharon Gordon of the NAWCC Research Library for any information she could shed on the history of this



alarm. Unfortunately, none of their Library's Herschede catalogs contained alarms and none of the alarm clock references mentioned Herschede.

Well, sometimes being an eclectic collector can be helpful. I remembered purchasing a copy of the *Electric Horology* book at the 2004 Oklahoma City National⁽¹⁾. Pages 35 - 36 contain a synopsis of the Herschede Hall Clock Company. It states Herschede, which had been importing complete clocks under the

Herschede label from Junghans, was making only hall or floor case models. With this attribution, it would appear Junghans of Germany made the alarm clock under the Herschede label.

This is the first Herschede alarm clock I've come across in my several years collecting alarms. So, how many are there? I recently brought the alarm to a Show & Tell at the San Fernando Valley Chapter #75. My good friend Kim St. Dennis was in attendance. He is an avid collector and has over 200 alarms in his collection. In the group discussion he reported that he has none, nor has he seen any of the alarms made by Herschede. At the HBACC meeting held at the Greater Los Angeles Regional, in February 2005, none of the other attendees had ever seen any, or were aware that Herschede had made alarm clocks. Well, if this one was found, there must be others. Perhaps not that many, but some. Hopefully in my travels I will run across a few others.

-- Marshall Knowlton --

Photos by: Kim St Dennis

HBACC Mart

WANTED: War Alarms: HBACC member looking to complete my collection of War Alarms - World War II era alarm clocks marked *War Alarm* on the dial. I need United / Westinghouse, Gilbert in a metal case, and perhaps others out there that I'm not aware of.

Please mail or email description and price, with photo(s) if possible, for prompt reply. Will pay top dollar for top original condition. I don't need Telechron, Baby Ben, or War Alarms in black papier-mache cases by Gilbert or Westclox.

Doug Hruby

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⁽¹⁾150 Years of Electric Horology: Covers the exhibit of electrical clocks at the 1992 NAWCC Chicago National Convention. Edited by Elmer G. Crum and William F.I. Keller of the NAWCC #125 Midwest Electric Horology Chapter.

HBACC Mart

from Page 4

For Sale : I have many alarm clocks and parts for sale (takes about 5 pages to list them all). Please send SASE for the list to:

William J. Meehan
179B Mimoza Plaza
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

For Sale : A Seth Thomas *Drum Lever* Alarm (Ca. 1880.)



These alarms are very rare - less than ten known in existence. For further description and pricing please contact

William Lloyd

Home 818-957-8825
Cell 818-624-8623

Member Collections

The image below is from Dennis Sagvold, fellow member and author of the book *Legged Alarm Clocks*. These shelves apparently span one of the walls in his bedroom. That just might mean that every other room of the house is completely filled up as well!

