

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.ac178.org

2006 Volume 1

Next Page 3105
Freight, First Class

September 1, 1924

ALARM CLOCKS
"BABY ARISTOCRAT"

40-hour Movement; Intermittent Alarm, which is insistent, but not loud, and does not shock; Heavy Nickel Plated Octagon Case, 3 1/4 in. high, 2 1/2 in. wide; Improved Steel-Cut Plain Movement; Easily Wound, and has a soft tick; An attractive little model, with tiny 2 1/4 inch dial; The last word in neat, high grade Alarm Clocks.

The Plain Dial Clocks are the Better Sellers

No. G-50—Nickel Finish	..... \$3.50	No. G-150—Nickel Finish	..... \$4.75
No. G-51—Copper Finish	..... 3.50	No. G-151—Copper Finish	..... 4.75
No. G-52—Old Brass Finish	..... 3.50	No. G-152—Old Brass Finish	..... 4.75

One in Box; Weight 1 Lb. Each

THE "ARISTOCRAT"

40-hour Movement; Intermittent Alarm, which is long and loud, and a sure rouser; Heavy Nickel Plated Seamless Brass Case, in Octagon Cubist design; 5 1/4 in. high, 4 1/4 in. wide; A big, handsome Clock with 4 1/4 in. Dial; Dependable, good-looking, and quick to make friends.

No. G-40—Nickel Finish	..... \$7.50	No. G-140—Nickel Finish	..... \$4.75
No. G-41—Copper Finish	..... 7.50	No. G-141—Copper Finish	..... 4.75
No. G-42—Old Brass Finish	..... 7.50	No. G-142—Old Brass Finish	..... 4.75

One in Box; Weight 2 Lbs. Each

Image of original ad run for the Aristocrat supplied by fellow member Dennis Sagvold, author of *Legged Alarm Clocks*, Schiffer Books, 2004

Robert Hensley

In this issue we are pleased to present an article by Robert Hensley titled "The Quest" - a decidedly different approach to the journey of collecting.

Ken Reindel

We are delighted to begin a new section of the newsletter titled *Ken's Korner* featuring articles by Ken Reindel.

Ken has been involved in antique clock restoration for almost 40 years. While he enjoys professional servicing and restoration on many styles of antique clocks, he has a special passion for vintage alarm clock restoration from movements to cases. For example, he's researched and developed a unique small-scale horological metal restoration process for cases that replicates the results obtained by the early makers. We'll be featuring "Ken's Korner" to spotlight some special techniques useful in the restoration, repair, and maintenance of numerous alarm clocks.

We are very excited about this series of articles and hope you find them informative and enjoyable.

Upcoming: August 27 & 28 2006 Silver Dollar Regional

The 2006 Silver Dollar Regional will be held at the Nugget Casino and Hotel this August 27th and 28th in Sparks, Nevada. Sparks is just 2 miles outside of Reno, Nevada. Over 200 tables of antique clocks and watches will be available. L@@k for Registration Form in the April issue of The Mart.

Both Frank Del Greco, Chairman of the NAWCC, and Jim Bland, Director of Marketing, will be the honored representatives from the National.

For more information and a Registration Form, please go to

www.silverdollarregional.org

Annual Dues for 2006

We hope you've enjoyed reading the HBACC newsletters this year. To continue your subscription for 2006, please send your annual dues of \$15.00 as soon as possible to our Treasurer:

Mike Wilson
15508 E. Chaparral Way
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268

Officers and Contacts

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.

Author Instructions



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:

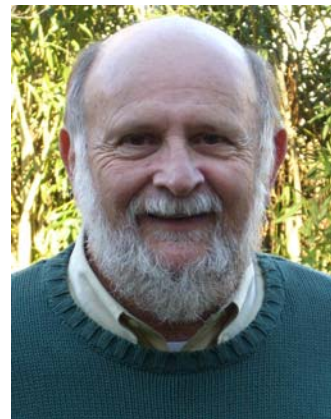
saraandmary@sbcglobal.net

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

Mary Maier
 530 Staples Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94112

President's Corner

As most of you are aware, there was a test at the Daytona Beach Regional allowing escorted non-members into the Mart Room for a brief tour.



I believe that this is just the first step in allowing the public into the Mart Room for buying on the last day of the Mart.

This is very exciting and a necessary step for the advancement of the NAWCC and its membership. As members, we are allowed to buy and sell throughout the entire duration of the Mart but, we all know most of the great collectables and better priced items are purchased within the first few hours of the Mart.

Even saying that, there are still great clocks available on the second or last day that the public would find interesting and desirable. By allowing the public into the Mart, I feel it would bring interest in the NAWCC and perhaps increase the membership. At the same time, it would allow those that are selling to have a new group of people purchasing who never purchased before. I can foresee that this step would attract additional members to the NAWCC and allow them a better opportunity to purchase the more desirable clocks from the beginning of the Mart along with the rest of the membership.

Please join with me in writing our Directors and expressing a desire to have public access to the Mart on the last day. It is something I feel must be done if the NAWCC is going to continue as we know it.

Thank you,
 Vince Angell

Many thanks to Phyllis and Vince Angell as well as Sara Coleman for their help in formatting, organizing and typing up articles as well as suggestions on layout.

the Editor -

Review of the 2006 GLAR Regional

by Vince Angell

In lieu of a Chapter meeting at the recent Greater Los Angeles Regional (GLAR) in Pasadena, the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter (HBACC) set-up an extensive alarm clock display in the mart room. The Chapter President, Vince Angell, and his wife Phyllis were available to meet and greet members, pass out a copy of the latest chapter newsletter and membership applications, and show non-chapter members a vast array of alarm clocks available to collect.

The display received high praise and lots of interest from the convention attendees. Vince personally gave Mr. Richard Robinson, NAWCC Director of Development, a brief history of the HBACC and a tour of alarm clocks on display. Richard admitted, that before the regional, he had no real knowledge of alarm clocks. But, now after seeing the display, he says he has a real appreciation for alarm clock collecting.

No new members were signed up at this regional, however, a number of membership applications were disseminated in hopes of attracting new members. Chapter members in attendance at the Regional were: Bob and Cora Lee Linkenhofer, Steve Berger, Jim Gilmore, Marshall Knowlton, John Hubby, Katherine Demny, Terry Cunningham, William Lloyd, Verlyn Kuhlmann, and Tom and Diane Tognetti.

A special thanks goes to Steve Berger for bringing two very beautiful and interesting clocks for the display. Of particular note was a German alarm clock that has an attached oil lamp to allow reading the dial at night. New member, Verlyn Kuhlmann, brought a modern "Little Ben" and a beautiful green-cased carriage clock for show. Thank you Verlyn.

Since the HBACC basically conducts business through quarterly newsletters, an extensive alarm clock display set-up in the convention

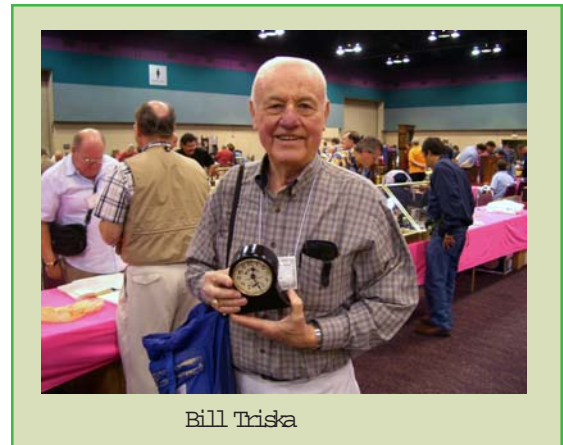
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Vince and Phyllis Angell



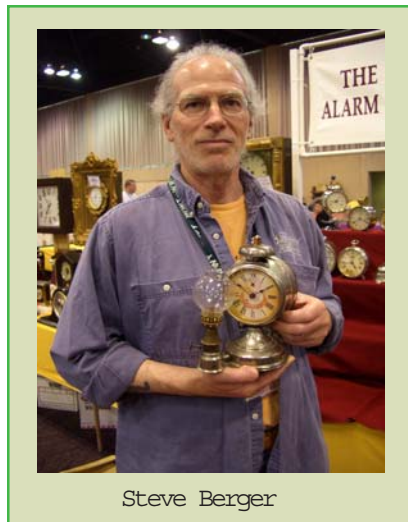
Tom and Diane Tognetti



Bill Triska



Richard Robinson



Steve Berger



Katherine Demny

Review of the 2006 GLAR Regional -
Continued from page 3.

mart room seems to be an excellent way to attract new members. During the two days at GLAR many membership applications were handed out along with the recent newsletter. We are hopeful that the folks who picked up an application at the GLAR will join the HBACC.

Plans are in the works for the HBACC to have a major alarm clock display at the 2006 Silver Dollar Regional being held in Sparks, Nevada, August 27th and 28th, 2006. Hope you can make it. For additional information regarding the Silver Dollar Regional, please refer to the website:

www.silverdollarregional.org.

We are very pleased with the positive comments about our newsletters. The newsletters have been referred by many people, including NAWCC representatives, as one of the best newsletters of any chapter in the NAWCC.



Vince Angell



Katherine Demmy and Bill Lloyd

Welcome New Member...

New member Verlyn Kuhlmann shows us his great find at the 2006 Greater LA Regional.



Marshall Knowlton



Korner

Ken's

Restoration Projects
**Miniature Ansonias
 and
 Waterburys**

by Ken Reindel*

For some reason in the last few years we've seen an increased interest in restoring miniature American-made turn-of-the-century clocks. We have repaired or restored about 14 or so miniatures, many of which have been full restorations (movement, case, less frequently dial). The most interesting of these have been the early eight-day Waterburys (Spiders, Hornets, and Wasps) as well as the Ansonia Bees (peculiar that they're all named after insects!). All of them prove to be very interesting and technically challenging restorations for a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons the miniatures listed above are a challenge is that they are all 100 years old or more. They were designed to enter the marketplace at the time against many competitive products. Those that have made it this far are often extensively worn, have survived generations of owners' (and repairers') hands, perhaps having been wound and set thousands of times over.



Figure 1: Ansonia Bee Interior
 At the left is the rear cover of the clock (acting as a mainspring barrel and ratchet wheel). In the center is the main wheel (driven by the mainspring in the barrel shown at the left). At the right, the Ansonia Bee movement with cover and main wheel removed.

The Ansonia Bee. One technical aspect all of these clocks have in common is a less-than-robust method for delivering power from the mainspring to the center wheel. Part of the challenge is the compact "double decker" design of these clocks, with the mainspring stacked on top of the rest of the movement. For example, the Ansonia Bee uses the rear cover of the clock as a combination winding key, mainspring barrel and "ratchet wheel," as shown in the Figure 1.

The "click" is a pair of flimsy brass tabs protruding from the pillars of the movement as shown in Figure 2. We have only seen one original undamaged click out of the many clocks we've examined. Usually they have been soldered onto the pillars (as is shown here) because the original staking had come loose or the click had broken off at the base. Most of the time, one or both of the clicks are missing and replacements must be fabricated. It's best to fabricate replacements from strips of spring steel (brass does not hold up), then fasten them back to the posts with taper pins inserted into a 0.020" hole drilled into the pillar tab. Solder must be avoided. Blobs of solder are unsightly and flux from the solder can cause irreparable corrosion and damage to the rest of the clock.



Figure 2: Ansonia Click.

There are two other common problems with the Ansonia Bee power train. First, the mainspring is often shortened because more than likely it suffered a fracture some time in the past. The last Bee we had in the shop was particularly challenging: the mainspring was broken in the middle. Unfortunately, there is no standard replacement available for this family of clocks, which use a ¼" x 0.015" x 84" spring. There isn't anything even close to this available from the suppliers. So now what?

Sometimes you have to take drastic measures and Gibbs Wire and Steel was happy to accommodate. Gibbs manufactures the raw stock for this mainspring, ¼" x 0.015" radiused spring steel strip. Yep, we purchased 300ft of this material (their minimum order)--but fortunately, at a fairly reasonable price. So now, we have a lifetime supply of spring material for Ansonia Bees—enough to replace springs on over 40 clocks! That's when you know you're a true alarm clock lover!

The second common class of problem with the Ansonia Bees is damaged or worn main wheels, second wheel pinions, and second wheels. Somehow the center wheel survives and can be reused. But often, the main wheel and second wheel assembly must be fabricated. This is a topic for a future article. For now, suffice it to say that it is a rather time-consuming process but always yields very satisfying results.

There is one important note on bushing work with miniature alarms.

^(*)Ken Reindel is the owner of Ken's Clock Clinic found at <http://www.kensclockclinic.com>

The standard Bergeon or KWM approach is too much of a compromise between available bushing sizes, ratio of plate thickness to bushing diameter, etc for miniature alarms. An approach which is just as fast, much neater, and longer lasting is the time-tested method of making bushings on the lathe and staking them into the movement. Although nearly non-existent today it seems, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the bushing disappear into the plate, hardly detectable except under a 10x magnifier. The staking operation also work hardens the brass and makes for a longer-lasting repair.

A friend of mine was telling me about an alarm clock that he had shipped to him from an Ebay purchase, in which one of the friction-fit bushings had fallen out of its place and was rattling around inside the clock! Horrifying stories like his solidify our belief in staking and riveting bushings into place, especially given the somewhat thinner plates found in alarm clock movements.

A frequently neglected repair is the balance pivot/balance cup. When balance pivots are worn, they usually wear the cups as well. It is very difficult to examine the cups even under highest magnification because of the inward conical shape. Light reflects off the surface and obscures the wear, which is near the apex of the cup. With 100 years of use, it's almost certain these cups will need to be refitted. And, most certainly the balance staffs will need to be turned on a lathe and resharpened. Neglecting this repair will result in erratic timekeeping or even a clock that will not run for more than a few hours.

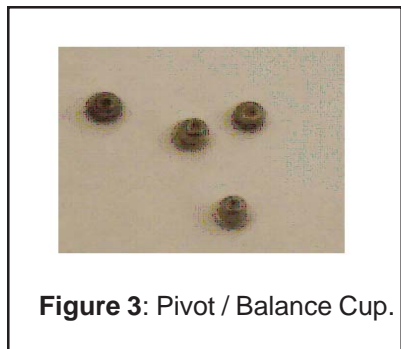


Figure 3: Pivot / Balance Cup.

Once the movement work is done, attention is turned to the case work. Just as the movement requires special care, so it goes for the case as well. Handling these clocks over 100 years has the effect of wearing the nickel plating away. Skin oils and acids then attack the brass and sometimes leave deep pits. To repair these cases, all of the darkened nickel

must be removed and the brass resurfaced. We use an environmentally safe product from MetalX to remove the nickel. To repair the pits, multiple layers of copper are plated over the brass, sanding between layers and ultimately buffing the copper to bring back the luster. Thereafter, nickel is plated over and a coat of metal wax applied. The finished product is shown in the following pictures, fully functional and ready to brave another 100 years of service!

Waterbury "Insects". There are a variety of Waterbury miniature styles. In general, the two broad turn-of-the-century models we've encountered have been the 30 hour Waterbury Hornets and Wasps along with the 8-day Spiders and Fangs. Tran Duy Ly lists these as metal case novelty clocks and shows more ornate models such as the 8-day Bogie and Era which utilize the same movement as the Spider and Fang. This 8-day movement was used in a number of Waterbury novelty clocks of the era.

This article will be continued in Issue 2, 2006.

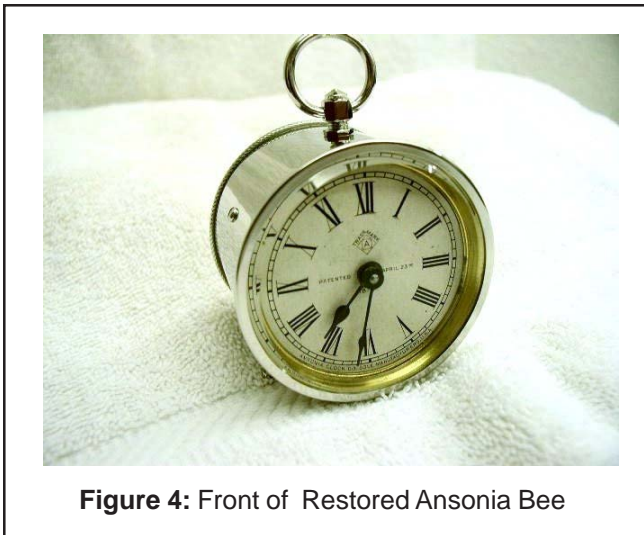


Figure 4: Front of Restored Ansonia Bee



Figure 5: Rear of Restored Ansonia Bee



**From the
'Land Down Under'**

Our fellow member, Rod Lewis from Australia will be traveling again this year in the United States. Rod will be attending the National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio and would enjoy meeting any fellow HBACC members. Please use the message board or make an announcement to contact Rod. He will also be in Los Angeles June 2 to June 6th at the Travel Lodge (714-774-7817).

We gladly pass along these messages for Rod and add that his collection is now over 800 alarms, mostly American.

The Market Place - Sell It In The Newsletter!

- Feedback From a Satisfied Buyer -

"Hi Vince,

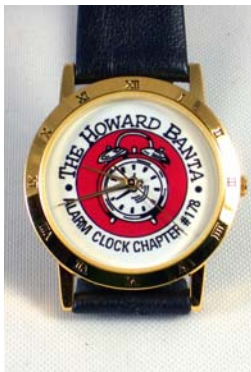
The clock arrived today in good shape. You did a great packing job - thank you! A couple of manual adjustments and a strategic squirt or two of oil got it running happily. It will need to be cleaned and lubricated as you said, but I wanted to see it operating before I do that, as is my custom. I was pleased to find an alarm indicator hand between the dial and glass- I had figured on finding a replacement

I'm very pleased with my purchase.

Thanks again!"

Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter Watches

Available in both men's and ladies' sizes. Priced at \$25.00 each plus \$2.50 shipping.



Contact Vince Angell at phylathome@hotmail.com or call at 916-952-4961.

Westclox Parts for Sale

Let me know what you need. Most parts are new and some used but serviceable.

Banksaj1@aol.com
C. Banks
Fort Lauderdale, Fl.
954-523-8426

For Sale

A Darce Manufacturing Company novelty alarm clock called The "Get-up" Electric Alarm Clock. This clock is circa 1907.

\$190.00.

Contact Vince Angell at phylathome@hotmail.com or call at 916-952-4961.



Corner

ODE TO AN AVID ALARM CLOCK COLLECTOR

BY ROGER ROYAL

*I love alarm clocks of all shape and size
But collecting alarm clocks could be my demise.
Collecting alarm clocks has high jacked my life
And if you don't believe me then just ask my wife.*

*The thrill of the hunt, the joy of the find,
Whether battery driven or strictly hand wind
I'm always out hunting and hoping to get
That one awesome clock that I haven't found yet.*

*But of all the alarm clocks there are to be sought
The one I like best is the one I just bought!*

For Sale

A Seth Thomas Drum Alarm Clock (Ca 1880). These clocks are extremely rare and only about 10 are know to exist. For further description and pricing, please contact:



William Lloyd

Home 818-957-8825

Cell 818-624-8633

Poet's

THE QUEST

by Robert Hensley, NAWCC #25172
Heart of America Chapter #36 Member

I became interested in collecting clocks during 1966-67. We lived in Los Angeles, California, and went to occasional flea markets on weekends. In May 1970, I had a heart attack and that fall there was an ad in the paper about a clock repair class in the nearby high school. I wish that I could have continued instruction there, but transferred to Portland, Oregon in October 1971. There I joined the local clock club and continued my search for clocks in the neighboring states and southwestern Canada.

In April 1974, we were transferred to Chicago and enjoyed hunting for clocks, especially alarms. Although, any clock is a plus for my collection. After having several alarm clocks, an idea of purchasing one name for each letter of the alphabet became a challenge. We went to many places in several states adding to my finds. While in Portland and Chicago I attended more clock repair classes although I only do minor repairs now. I was transferred to Fort Wayne, Indiana in June 1977 and had more new places to see and explore. One year we vacationed in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and then traveled to North Carolina for a light oak grandfather clock kit, which my son and I put together—one of the two new clocks we assembled. The area around Fort Wayne, at that time, was a great place for many clock additions. In June 1980 the company made our final transfer to Kansas and we settled in Olathe. We have traveled the area and neighboring states quite a bit, especially since retiring in 1985, finding a number of pieces and new friends.

When people come to our home, we are asked the same questions regarding my collection.

1) *Do they all run?* No.

2) *How many clocks do you have?* Approximately 800.

3) *Do you wind them each day?* No.

4) *Where did you find all of them?* In 23 states and Canada while on different vacations and trips to regional and national clock shows, club meetings, antique malls/shows, gifts, estate sales, flea markets, and garage sales.

5) *How many alarm clocks do you have?* 138 with different names.

6) *Who makes alarm clocks?* American clocks are manufactured by: Ingraham, Westclox, Seth Thomas, New Haven, Waterbury, Ansonia, Elgin, Lux, Gilbert, Deluxe, Chron Master, Correct Time Co, Western Clock, and U.S. Time. Many foreign countries also have alarm clocks, of which I have nine, but I prefer collecting American made.

Alarms come in various shapes and are contained in numerous materials: tin, brass, celluloid, wood, leather, glass, marble, tile, plastic, paper and iron. The manufacturers give different names to their clocks, and I have at least one for each letter starting in the alphabet except for the letters Q and Z. I know they exist as shown in the book "Westclox, Wind-up" by Jim Linz (pages 179 and 180). So far those two have eluded my quest. It is a very special day when I find an alarm clock with a new name. After retiring, a friend and I went to antique malls once a week within a 60-mile radius of Kansas City, and on those days I purchased new additions to my collections. This Spring I found an X-Ray alarm by Ingraham in Wichita when on a postcard and antique trip. At an Antique/Collectible show this past Saturday I found a Fashion, which has no maker name. Some interesting names are: Break-O-day, Cheerio, Dawn, ERLIUP, E-Z Wake, Mom, R-U-Up, Sleep Meter, Slumber Stopper, SureTime, Time Lord, WarAlarm, and X-Ray. I do not collect any clocks that are electric or battery powered. I just like the old fashioned wind-up and American made, no matter which type of clock.

Searching for postcards with clocks or watches on them has been fun too. The humorous ones seem to have the most alarm clocks

– Hey, did you ever think that alarm clocks were funny?

Christmas and New Years sections are also good places to look, but ones depicting watch or clock manufacturing companies are more difficult to locate. I've asked dealers so often the past few years if they have a clock section that many of them now have added a clock/watch category to their stock. With over 2100 cards in my albums by categories (grandfather, mantle, wall, alarm, watch, manufacturer, and miscellaneous), I have 184 alarm clock cards. It is just another way to enjoy clock collecting. Members of my clock club have enjoyed looking through the albums, and a few have even started their own collection.

To say that clocks are the only items I collect would be an understatement, but it's probably the one that gives me the most enjoyment.

The following is a list of the different alarms in my collection.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>A Ace
Advance
Alert
AIM
America
AMI
Ambassador Elite
Ansonia Sleep Meter
Apex
Apollo
Artalarm
Beacon
Baby Ben
Baby Ben Deluxe
Ben Hur
Berkely Square
Big Ben
Big Ben Deluxe
Break-O-Day
Broadcast
Budget
Challenge
Chatham
Cheerio
Chief
Chilton LUX
Claridge
Classic
Clock of Tomorrow
Conqueror
Corning
Cosmo Time
Dawn
Deauville
Dep
Diplomat
Ebosa
Elexa</p> | <p>Endura
ERLIUP
ERLIUP Model E1938
Equity
Everbrite-Paul Revere
E-Z Wake
Fashion
Feagans & Co
Fireball
Fortune
Gem
Genie
Giant
Golden Arrow
Golden Eagle
Guild-Hal
Harmony House
H Harvester
Hawthorne
Hollywood
Homecrest
Homestead
Hustler
Ingraham
Ironclad
Insa
John Bertling
Junior Tattoo
The Junior Tattoo
The Junior Tattoo Movement
Juliet
Keno
King Hardware Co.
Lookout
LUX
Mammoth
Marathon
Marvel</p> | <p>Medalist
Mode
Mom
Montclair
National Call
Nighthawk
Nite-Glo
Overland
PBN
Pacer
Penglow
Penguin
Pilot
Ray Light
Renown
Revelation
Rex
Rexalarm
Ring
Rouser
R-U-UP
St. Regis
Salute
Sentinel
Sentinel PAL
Sentinel Dapper
Sentry
Simplex
Skyline
Sleep Meter
Slumber Stopper
Smith
Sochard
Spasmodic
Speedway
Square Pirate
Stanley
Sturm</p> | <p>Straight Eight
SureTime
Super Giant
Symphony
Thrift
Tillery's Little Jr.
Time Lord
Timemaster
Time Square
Tower
Town Hall
Utility
Vantitie
Venus
Vim
Vulcan
W Waldorf
WarAlarm
Wards Old Reliable
Waterbury
Wren
X-Ray
Yankee
Yan Dang</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

If you are interested in selling an alarm clock with a name beginning with a "Q" or "Z", contact either Vince Angell at phylathome@hotmail.com or Mike Wilson at mike@oldephotog.com for a phone number to reach Robert Hensley.

Acknowledgment:

WESTCLOX "Wind-up"Clocks, Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches
By Jim Linz, Schiffer Publishing Ltd, Copyright 2004 – Price: \$34.95