

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2008 Volume 3



BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL 2009

In this Issue

What you say, a new president has been elected?

Yes its true.

In this issue, the HBACC is pleased to announce a new president.

We're very pleased to welcome back Roger Royal with another of his poems with an alarm persuasion.

Alarm Clock Peter from Germany is checking in showing some of his most resent treasures.

We also have a complete article by Ken Reindel on restoration of a Darche Flash-light Clock.

And we're pleased to continue the article by Robert Hensley - The Quest - in search of alarms of the alphabet.

Dues Due

It's that time again. To ensure uninterrupted newsletters mail your dues (\$15.00) in the envelope enclosed to our Treasurer Mike Wilson.

Mike Wilson
15508 East Chaparral Way
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year.

But they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.

Officers and Contacts

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

PRESIDENT: Vince Angell
 PUBLICITY: phylathome@hotmail.com

:

TREASURER: Mike Wilson
 SECRETARY: mike@oldephotog.com

ASSOCIATE
 EDITOR: Phyllis Angell
 phylathome@hotmail.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.

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 you probably already know, this will be my last President's Corner for the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter. At this time I would like to congratulate and welcome our new President, Bob Linkenhoker. Bob is one of the most dedicated and passionate alarm clock collectors that I have known these past years. His leadership will bring a new era to this Chapter that will definitely be a tribute to Howard Banta's legacy.

Please welcome Bob as your new President and please give him the same support that you have given me during my tenure.

On another note, Bob is running for Director of the NAWCC. Election ballots will be mailed to all NAWCC members in this February's Bulletin.

Bob has been a member of the NAWCC since 1977. He has co-chaired a National Convention. He is currently President of Chapter 4 and Chapter 178, Treasurer of Chapter 69 and editor of the Chapter 136 Newsletter. Bob will also be the security coordinator for this years' Greater LA Regional.

Since 2001, Bob has attended every National Convention arriving three days early to attend the two day governing bodies meeting.

I support Bob because of these qualifications and his never ending quest for a better National organization and his unselfishness in his help whenever needed to assist the organization in any way.

Please join me in voting for Bob Linkenhoker as one of our next Directors of the NAWCC.

Remember to vote and especially remember to place BOTH your membership number and your State of membership on the front of your ballot when mailing it to the National.

Thank you,

Vince Angell

GREETINGS FROM GERMANY

By Alarm Clock Peter⁽¹⁾

I was recently in the Black Forest in the town of Furtwangen. There were 24 antique clock markets in the watch and clock maker school near the German Clock Museum (Deutsches Uhrenmuseum).

I made the alarm clock collectors 2008 meeting where there were more than 20 collectors from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands. It was a very nice evening as you can see by the pictures. The collectors brought alarm clocks, pictures from their collections, alarm clock parts, old catalogs, etc. The event ran very long into the night and was very interesting for alarm clock collectors in attendance.

Next year, I am excited to announce that my alarm clock collection will be on exhibition at the German Clock Museum. With around 300 clocks in my collection, the exhibition will run for 14 days (two weeks) at the end of August 2009. The exhibition will run around the same time as the antique clock market. This will attract many clock collectors to the Black Forest and to my exhibition. I will let you know the exact date of my clock exhibit.

I plan on making 12 glass show cases to display my 300 alarm clocks in one room of the museum. One show case will display clocks from the USA. I have a few, very nice, old American alarm clocks. For

(continued on page 4)



Automated Alarm

I want to share with you a new alarm clock in my collection. It is very nice, beautiful, and interesting. Note the automation. When the alarm rings, the hand rings the bell. I have searched for this type of alarm clock for more than 10 years. Not many collectors have this rare piece in their collection.



My New Mauthe Alarm Clock

I recently purchased a Mauthe Alarm Clock, Model PAUKE, on eBay. Only once before have I seen this model. It was on eBay a few years ago when I submitted a very high bid. But a collector friend from Switzerland offered more money in the last few minutes. We both stayed up very early in the morning (4 a.m.) to bid on this clock. Our wives say alarm clock collectors are crazy.

However, this year I am the winner. The second highest offer was from a collector in the town of Prague/Tschechische Republik. He is also a friend.



Alarm Clock Peter (black shirt) and fellow collectors.

(1) This article kindly edited by Phyllis Angell

Alarm Clock Peter - Continued

example, the Nutmeg by Seth Thomas, a little Bee by Ansonia, and a very nice Seth Thomas animated blacksmith that I recently purchased. I need a model called the "Echo" for the exhibition. I am interested in buying one before the exhibit. If I can't find one, I will have to borrow one from a Swiss collector. Please let me know if you have an "Echo" for sale, know anyone who does, or see one on eBay.

In the near future, I will send pictures of my recent purchases. Many greetings to all alarm clock collectors in the USA.

Uwe H. Peter (a.k.a. Alarm Clock Peter)



Here is a new addition to my alarm clock collection. It is from Japy Freres, Paris. I think it is dated from 1890 – 1900. I particularly like the nice top with fishes. I bought this alarm clock a few months ago at a collectors meeting in the Netherlands from a Belgium trader. He purchased the clock from an antique market in France. As you can see, my alarm clocks come from all parts of Europe.

2009 GLAR

The Greater Los Angeles Regional will be held February 6 & 7, 2009 at the Pasadena Convention Center. If you are able to attend, there are two great display's that are a 'Must See'. The first is the Westclox display put on by David Lindquist. The second is the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter Display sponsored by Vince and Phyllis Angell. Both displays are located toward the center in the Mart Room by the Silent Auction Table. Please stop by and say hello and pick up a free copy of the newsletter for your friends.

Rodney Lewis

We received the sad news in December of the passing of Rodney Lewis. Though living in Australia, Rodney managed to attend the NAWCC National Conventions in the United Stated quite a few times. He was an avid alarm enthusiast and shared his knowledge with fellow members. He will be dearly missed.



David Lindquist Video

For those of you with access to the Internet there is a short video of fellow member David Lindquist and a sampling of his Westclox collection. Please log in to

<http://www.acc178.org/video/index.php>

and click on 2008 GLAR Alarms. This is actually on UTube and we are pleased to have alarm clock enthusiasts make such good news of technology to spread the word about the NAWCC and alarm collecting.



Ads From Yester-Year

McCATAL'S MAGAZINE DECEMBER 1928

Westclox

**Put them on
your Christmas list**

EVERYONE needs a dependable clock. And the whole world knows that Westclox are dependable . . . Everyone admires colorful beauty. Westclox in color possess exquisite beauty . . . Usefulness, attractiveness, known and lasting value—all combined in a Christmas remembrance that will be sincerely appreciated and treasured by friend or relative.

A colorful, accurate Westclox—for individual or family—for the bedroom or any other room in any home. There's Big Ben De Luxe and Baby Ben De Luxe—reliable alarms—and Tiny Tim, a convenient little time-piece, without alarm—all in radiant flower hues of old rose, green or blue—and at the same price as nickel finish. Practical. Beautiful. Ideal gifts! Put them on your Christmas list.

Ben Hur, the popular \$2.50 Westclox alarm, is also made in colors. There's a variety of other Westclox finished in lustrous nickel—plain or luminous dial. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$5.00.

Sold everywhere by
jewelers, druggists, hardware and department stores
Prices slightly higher in Canada

WESTERN CLOCK COMPANY
La Salle, Illinois, U. S. A.

Factory: Peoria, Illinois.
In Canada: Western Clock Company, Limited,
Peterborough, Ont.




Tiny Tim \$2.50

Baby Ben De Luxe \$3.75

Big Ben De Luxe \$5.75

The Market Place - Sell It In The Newsletter!

Every member can advertise in the newsletter for free. And unlike eBay, no hidden fees and charges. Advertise to other collectors like yourself.
Just email photos and text and your ad will appear in the next newsletter.

For Sale

Rare
New Haven
"OVAL"

\$95.00

Or best offer
plus shipping
Ticks then stops

Contact Vince Angell at
916-952-4961



For Sale

1. National Call 8 Day
2. Broadcast 8 Day
3. The Gable 8 Day
4. Wards Old Reliable 8 Day

If interested please contact

George Bohmann

1320 W Mefford

Robinson Illinois 62454

or by email

geob@frsb.net



For Sale

**Advertising Alarm Clock
Ansonia Square Pirate**

Ca. 1925

1 day time and alarm

Runs well but missing alarm set knob.

\$45.00

plus shipping

Contact Vince Angell
at 916-952-4961

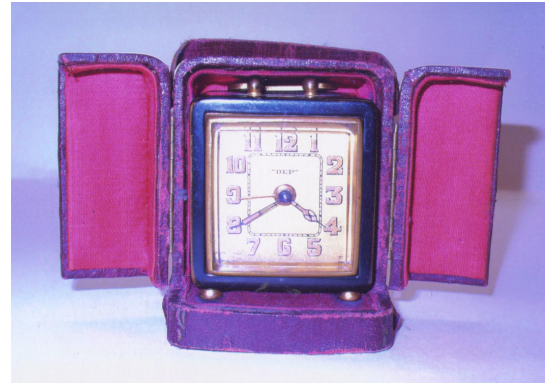
Do You Know This Alarm?

We had a terrific response about the 'Tape Measure Clock' earlier this year. This one is sent by George Bohmann.



I have an interesting travel alarm clock shown in the image below. It is a 'DEP' clock that was made in France. The carrying case is satin-lined.

If anyone has any additional information about this clock or manufacturer please submit to 'the Editor' and we'll put it in the next newsletter.



The Quest Continues

In Volume 1, 2006 of the HBACC Newsletter there was an article by member Robert Hensley about his "quest" to find alarm clocks with names that start with each letter of the alphabet. At that time he had found at least one alarm clock of every letter with the exceptions of "Q" and "Z". That was almost 3 years ago and his "quest" continues.

We have just received notice that Robert has finally found an alarm clock with a name that starts with the letter "Q". He is not sure what the name on the dial means but it is not important to his search for this type of collecting.

He still needs one that starts with a "Z". All help would be appreciated and I am sure that when he has completed his collection he will definitely continue another path that will keep his passion for collecting in the forefront.

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

Thank you Robert for your continued perseverance in the collection of alarm clocks. You are a credit to the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter.

Corner

Poet's

HAPPY NEW YEAR
By
Roger Royal

Hello old friends
it's a brand new year
and the outdoor collectible
shows are near.

But you can see alarm clocks
with pristine patina
at the February show
in Pasadena.

Stop by and see
the great display
and a lot of old friends
along the way.

Our alarm clock newsletter
is number one
with a lot of great facts
and a lot of good fun.

So have a nice read
and take some good walks
and I hope you find some
great alarm clocks.

Best wishes from Roger Royal and my good
friends
Vince and Phyllis Angell.

Restoration of Darche 1908 Flashlight Alarm

Ken Reindel
Ken's Clock Clinic

The Darche Manufacturing Company was a Chicago, Ill. Company that seems to have started its existence out of the Chicago Fire of the 1870's. It survived until the Great Depression in 1929. While short-lived, the company produced multiple patents and became a real innovator in battery-powered alarm clocks. Several interesting models, some with walnut cases but most in heavy nickel-plated steel cases, have been identified by others.



The subject clock for this restoration is shown above. In great disrepair with rust and corrosion throughout, the challenge was to bring it back to life.



The basic idea behind the Darche Flashlight clock is fairly simple. The alarm key is replaced by a winding lever which, when the clock alarm activates, turns and causes contact with an electrically "hot" C shaped bar, closing the alarm circuit which activates the electric bell. See figure to the left. (We have Vince Angell to thank for this figure since our clock had no alarm winding lever present). The light on this particular clock was on a separate circuit and did not activate with the bell. A separate remote switch, tethered at the end of a cord, could be kept near the bed, under the pillow, etc. In the dark of night, the button could be pressed to illuminate the dial. The No. 6 battery was stored in the right-side "silo" can out of sight. Some of the Darches used two batteries, and these batteries mounted outboard behind the two cans. But this particular clock stored the battery internally.

Several enormous challenges with this clock are noted. First, the clock movement can is split all the way around its perimeter. It will have no part to play in a quality restoration and there is no way to repair it. A new can would have to be fabricated. Second, not quite visible from the pictures, is the corrosion resulting from

battery leakage over the years. There was not a single wire that could be reused due to corrosion, dry rot, or other problems.

The case itself is built like a tank. It is constructed of very heavy gauge, .068" thick cold rolled steel which has been stamped, bent, formed and dovetail joined (quite the contrast to the .015" thin drawn brass can housing the movement). Tabs coming through the base are bent over to secure the silos. The clock movement can is cleverly held in place by draw bars (visible in the picture above) that are tightened by nuts on the bottom to sandwich the clock between the two semicircular cross members acting as clamps.



As received, the front door combination lock was jammed shut. The internal mechanism would not turn with the knob so there was no way to get the door opened! This would not prove to be a big problem for me since the door rivets would have to be drilled out and removed anyhow, but could be a daunting challenge for a new owner if this was not the case. The silo had internal panels that were likewise riveted in place. These would have to be removed for restoration so that all corrosion and repair could be carried out. The buzzer coils, contacts, armature, etc. were also riveted in place and would need to be ground away for removal, drilled and tapped for replacement.

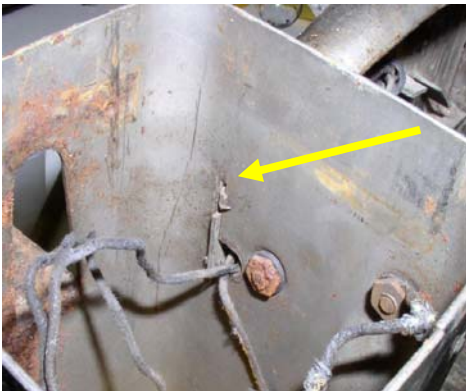
At the time of receipt, our plating tanks did not have the size capacity for this job. We have a small scale horological plating setup. The initial plan was to send out to have the larger parts plated. Unfortunately through the course of things, it proved difficult to find a plater familiar with the required restoration process and its relatively conservative nature in comparison to restoration of automotive parts that they are more familiar with. It therefore became evident that we would have to up-size the tanks.

It was clear that this was going to be a big job. It was my first Darche restoration. Restorers' remorse was beginning to set in. The balancing act was going to be to resist over-restoration. However not having been in 1908 at the time these clocks were built, it would be hard to judge. We'd have to play it by ear.



Disassembly. The task of disassembly began with difficulty. The .068" thick tabs securing the silos proved to be an enormous challenge. Sharpening a screwdriver to a wedge afforded a tool to pry them up. This was followed by straightening with pliers. These tabs did not bend easily (lower left). Would they survive bending back down to re-secure the silos, or would metal fatigue get the better of them? Hopefully they would survive, but we wouldn't know that until we were almost finished with reassembly.

A possible option for the tabs is to scribe a line where the tab meets the underside of the base, and then once disassembled drill holes in the tabs for taper pins just at the scribe lines. The advantage of this is it would allow as many disassemblies of the unit as desired. The tabs would never need to be bent over again. Speaking now with hindsight, this is what I would do if I were to start over.



Another problem was the bent tabs inside both cans, utilizing the top cross member to pull the silos together. There is no way this would survive removal. I thought about drilling holes for a draw bar between the left and right silos. Ultimately I elected to forego the idea, since the clock was rigid enough and the silos properly aligned with no assistance. It could be an option if the silos had an outward tilt, as there is clearance behind the upper cross member to accommodate this.

After either drilling out or removing the rivets holding the base of the "bank" unit internal to the left silo, the door and all buzzer rivets and

coil yokes, the unit was disassembled into its parts and the restoration could finally begin.

Plating. We use 180 grit brown aluminum oxide to media blast all of our steel parts in preparation for plating because it never blurs fine details. This was one time I wished we used something more coarse. It took quite some time to wear away the corrosion, rust and plating. Each part was a project in itself, taking 2 hours or more at the sandblaster. All told, it was a couple days' work just to strip the parts. After stripping, each part was pre-polished with a Britex wheel. This left a "butler nickel" finish on the parts, many of which still had some nickel remaining after media blasting. This is how they would enter the copper tank.

It was interesting to note that there was very little copper found under the nickel. The nickel was extremely heavy and did not come off easily. This wasn't really a problem since the EPI E-Brite Ultra Cu formulation we use can plate over nickel quite well. The corrosion and rust was very slow to remove, but ultimately every part cleaned up very well. I felt a sense of encouragement as the parts were removed from the copper bath, fully plated and ready to restore/polish.

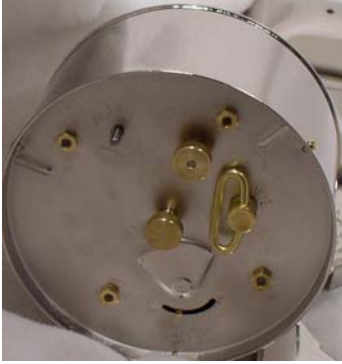
Very few parts required solder filling. The base was in the worst shape of any part. Examination of sections of plating that were not damaged indicated many original blemishes in the factory finish. In an attempt to avoid over-restoration, some of the blemishes were left. There was a general texture to the metal that I did not want to lose. Applying one coat of copper did the job very nicely and provided a buffing layer that worked adequately for everything except the base.

Some of the internal parts were badly corroded. In general, this is inconsequential as long as the corrosion is removed and none of it passes through the part. We were fortunate. All of the parts were reusable, despite clear evidence of battery leakage eating away at internal components. One hour in the nickel tank and the parts were ready to go. Every part, down to the last screw, nut, lug and gadget, was cleaned, pre-polished, and nickel plated. The nickel plating took two 14 hour sessions to complete, not including the clock can.

Shown below are the results of the first plating session. Another plating session completed the movement can, door and knob (which needed to be reconditioned on the lathe to restore the shape and knurl). The bank draw bar, nuts, screws, alarm winding lever, and some other small parts are likewise not shown but were likewise plated.



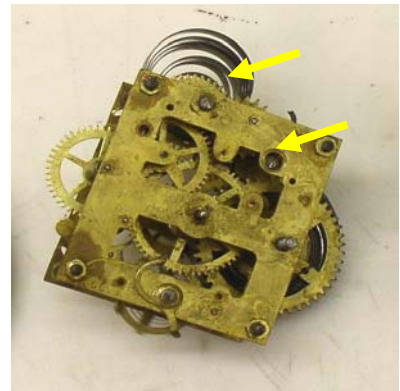
Clock Case. The topic of how we refabricated the clock can is worthy of a separate article. It was very time consuming, taking nearly a full day to complete. The basic idea is to start with a strip of brass about .018" thick, and bend it into a can shape around a form. The joint is closed with another strip and some simple rivets. Once completed, it does have a seam that the original did not have, but it is invisible underneath the clock, hidden from view. Exact measurements are key to assuring that the friction tight back fits just snugly. A front bezel is "spun" on the lathe and is then soldered to the front, forcing the shape of the can exactly round. Test fitting, trimming, and drilling for mounting screws are followed by polishing and plating. The brass can does not require the buffing layer of copper.



Clock Movement. Likewise the movement restoration was quite involved on this unit. The "Before" picture is shown to the right. It required a new alarm main wheel arbor, and alarm setter arbor as well. Both were sheared off and the parts missing. Again I will not go



into a detailed explanation of what it took to engineer the missing parts. The thread required a 5-40 LH tap and die. The alarm setter arbor and knob required a 3-48 RH tap and die. Both the setter knob and arbor were fabricated at the same time. Getting the length and protrusion from the dial required substantial trial and error. The result is shown to the left. Clearance to the hour hand was critical. Another point about the movement: a



stop pin needed to be added near the center wheel pinion. This pin was not in the original design. Without it, the mainspring would impinge on the center wheel, stopping the clock long before it was unwound.



The Final Product!

The final finish is so mirror-like it makes photographing with flash very difficult. The full front view with no button is at left while front view with button is lower right. The lower left shows a battery tower with the lid removed.

