

# The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2011 Volume 3

## President's Message

As a Special Interest Chapter of the NAWCC, we don't have a geographic area to draw membership from, instead we are open to membership anywhere in the world.

Consequently we don't get to meet our members face to face very often. With this in mind I requested that a meeting be scheduled at the 2011 Convention in Overland Park, Kansas. The meeting was on June 11<sup>th</sup> and in attendance was:

Don Stafford member from Amber, Pennsylvania  
Norma Ciskowski a guest from the local area  
Robert Hensley member from Olatha, Kansas  
Bob Jewett member from Kansas City, Kansas  
Gayle and Cindy Loos members from Fort Thomas, Kentucky  
Bob Linkenhoker from Corona. California

When I requested that the meeting be scheduled I failed to specify that a projector would be needed. Consequently the program I had prepared couldn't be shown. Instead we held an impromptu meeting where everyone in attendance talked about their reasons for collecting Alarm Clocks and alarm clock ephemera.

Some brought items for the group to view. Robert Hensley brought a large collection of postcards with alarm clocks in them. An interesting display and one I personally had not considered in the past. Gayle Loos brought 27 alarms from his collection for all to admire. All in all we had a great time and learned a little bit.

I wish to thank Cindy Loos for recording the goings on at the event, without her notes I would not be able to write this letter.

On another subject I am sure Kevin, our newsletter Editor, could use articles and pictures. It is always a struggle to come up with enough material for a newsletter, so please send anything you have for publication.

Since I am helping plan the National for 2012 in Pasadena I know there will be a Chapter 178 meeting scheduled and hope to see many of you there.

Till next time,

Bob Linkenhoker



One of our most prolific collectors, "Alarm Clock Peter", left, with Steve Berger, owner of Timesavers on right.



### *From the collection of Joel Zautner*

*I am sending you a picture of an interesting alarm that I acquired last week. I have no idea what it was used for but have some ideas that are possible. Like for a bank or maybe a house of ill repute. Not sure. I thought I saw one of these in an alarm chapter newsletter but maybe I am wrong about that. If you have any ideas give me an email Thanks, Joel Zautner*

From the editor:

Someone took an Ansonia Alarm clock and modified it to mount into the case. Peg feet of clock are still attached.

They removed the bell and perhaps included it on top. Inside the cabinet is clearly a space and strap to mount a battery.

The crank handle on the side is actually contact switch. If you follow the wires, when the crank handle was in the down position, it would complete the circuit when the alarm tripped in the Ansonia, allowing the battery to run a hammer on the bell.

If you have any ideas what this could have been used for, please send comments, questions or the answer to [kevin@insuremekevin.com](mailto:kevin@insuremekevin.com)





# The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

From the archives of Dennis Sagvold of Glendale, AZ.

October 5, 1927

THE JEWELERS' CIRCULAR

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## Announcing *Ingersoll* ALARM CLOCKS

"Why don't you make alarm clocks?"

We suppose that question has been asked of Ingersoll salesmen by merchants hundreds of thousands of times.

Their judgment said that there should be Ingersoll Alarm Clocks and that their customers were ready to buy them.

For a long time now we have been working to develop a line of clocks worthy of the name Ingersoll so that our salesmen could answer that question by saying "Here they are!"

And now they are ready. A complete line of 5 Alarm Clocks—in both plain and luminous dials—10 styles in all—every clock with a metal dial—handsome clocks—reliable clocks—priced from \$1.50 to \$4.50—clocks with a ready-made market.

See the two following pages for further details



INGERSOLL WATCH CO., Inc.

30 Irving Place  
New York

215 W. Randolph St.  
Chicago

290 First St.  
San Francisco

NOVEMBER, 1927



And now . . .

Five Models, "Plain" or "Luminous"  
40 Chimes from

INGERSOLL ALARM CLOCKS—made by the makers of Ingersoll Watches—with all that the name Ingersoll means in quality, reliability, style and value.

You'll respect the way these Ingersoll clocks keep time, you'll admire their looks. Beauty of careful design and proportions they have many features that will appeal to you: metal dials—heavy rolled edge cases—anti-tilt hands and numerals—handles and feet that are part of the clock tubes thus merely attachments—knob alarm switches.

Five models, each in plain dial or luminous—priced from \$1.50 to \$4.50. You'll find them on sale at Ingersoll dealers everywhere. If your dealer has not yet stocked them, write us mentioning his name.



INGERSOLL WATCH CO., Inc.

30 Irving Place, New York

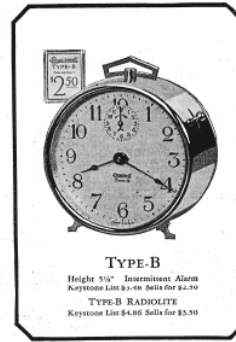
215 W. Randolph St., Chicago

290 First St., San Francisco

October 5, 1927

THE JEWELERS' CIRCULAR

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**TYPE-B**  
Height 5 1/2" Intermitent Alarm  
Keystone List \$4.50 Sells for \$3.50  
**TYPE-B RADILITE**  
Keystone List \$4.65 Sells for \$3.50



**TYPE-R**  
Height 6" Intermitent Alarm  
Keystone List \$4.52 Sells for \$3.25  
**TYPE-R RADILITE**  
Keystone List \$4.52 Sells for \$3.25



**TYPE-R JR.**  
Height 5 1/2" Intermitent Alarm  
Keystone List \$4.57 Sells for \$3.25  
**TYPE-R JR. RADILITE**  
Keystone List \$4.57 Sells for \$3.25

they are up to date and handsome in appearance.

Each clock is packed in a distinctive container that is a window display in itself—as is the price tag attached to each clock.

Ingersoll Alarm Clocks will be advertised as Ingersoll Watches are—in leading magazines including *The Saturday Evening Post*, in leading farm papers, etc., etc.

Write to your Ingersoll jobber or direct for the details of Special Introductory Assortment.

INGERSOLL WATCH CO., Inc.

30 Irving Place  
New York

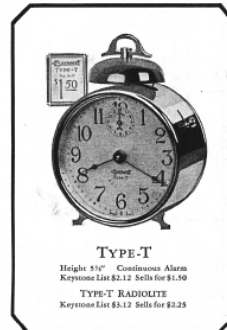
215 W. Randolph St.  
Chicago

290 First St.  
San Francisco

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THE JEWELERS' CIRCULAR

October 5, 1927



**TYPE-T**  
Height 5 1/2" Continuous Alarm  
Keystone List \$2.12 Sells for \$1.50  
**TYPE-T RADILITE**  
Keystone List \$3.12 Sells for \$2.25



**TYPE-S**  
Height 5 1/2" Continuous Alarm  
Keystone List \$2.75 Sells for \$2.00  
**TYPE-S RADILITE**  
Keystone List \$3.84 Sells for \$2.75

THESE alarm clocks are the result of Ingersoll methods applied in the alarm clock field—with all that the word "Ingersoll" means in value, dependability, and sales possibilities.

Made in the same factories as Ingersoll watches, inspected and tested in the same thorough way, they are the kind of clocks a merchant of standing likes to sell.

From a looks standpoint, too, they are the kind of clocks you will like to sell. From the basic design right on through to the metal dial, which is a feature of every Ingersoll alarm clock,

INGERSOLL WATCH CO., Inc.

30 Irving Place  
New York










215 W. Randolph St.  
Chicago

290 First St.  
San Francisco

The first four advertisements were introducing the new line of Ingersoll alarm clocks. The Janney, Semple, Hill & Co. was a wholesaler and the last ad for Westclox.

**JANNEY, SEMPLE, HILL & CO.**  
ALARM CLOCKS  
INGERSOLL 2078A

These alarm clocks are the result of Ingersoll methods applied in the alarm clock field—with all that the word "Ingersoll" means in value, dependability, and sales possibilities. Made in the same factories as Ingersoll watches, inspected and tested in the same thorough way, they are the kind of clocks a merchant of standing likes to sell. From a looks standpoint, too, they are the kind of clocks you will like to sell. From the basic design right on through to the silver metal dial, which is a feature of every Ingersoll alarm clock, they are up-to-date and handsome in appearance. Each clock is packed in a distinctive container that is a window display in itself—as is price tag attached to each clock.

 Type T—Plain—Height, 5 5/8 inches. Continuous alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$1.50	 Type R—Plain—Height, 5 15/16 inches. Intermittent alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.25	 Type S—Radiolite—Height, 5 1/16 inches. Continuous alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.75
 Type B—Plain—Height, 5 1/16 inches. Continuous alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.00	 Type R Jr.—Plain—Height, 5 1/4 inches. Intermittent alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.25	 Type B Jr.—Radiolite—Height, 5 1/4 inches. Intermittent alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.45
 Type B—Plain—Height, 5 1/8 inches. Intermittent alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.50	 Type T—Radiolite—Height, 5 5/8 inches. Continuous alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.50	 Type R—Radiolite—Height, 5 1/2 inches. Intermittent alarm. Weight, each, — lbs. Each.....\$2.75

# A Diamond In The Rough

By Vince Angell

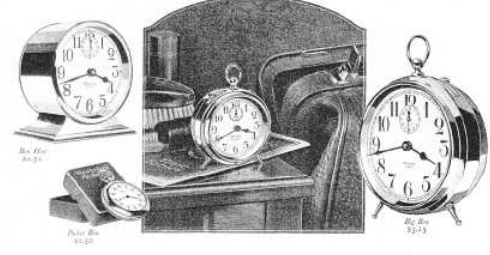
I have been collecting Darche Manufacturing clocks for about 15 years. I find them very interesting and believe the history of the Darche Manufacturing Company to be close to the American dream.

I would say I have almost all of the various styles of Darche clocks (over 30 of them) that I have come across over these past years. There is one though that I thought I could have bought about 5 years ago by being the highest bidder on eBay. I thought I was the only person that would know what this "basket case" was. Needless to say, I was outbid by a person who put in a ridiculous bid (four times higher than my bid) and won the item. I contacted him and asked why he bid so high and he said he thought it was "neat". Well, this is the only other one that I have seen which I did not have.

About a year ago, in a small Northern California town, I was in an antique store that took me back to the good old days. There was a lot of interesting stuff piled high. I introduced myself to the owner and showed him a picture from my iPhone of a Darche clock that I recently restored. The following is the picture what I showed him.

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

## Westclox



**You can depend on Baby Ben**

**Y**OU should have this friendly little Westclox, especially if you make frequent trips away from home. He takes far less room in your grip than your comb and brush.

Like all his Westclox brothers, Baby Ben tells correct time, Day and night he quietly ticks away the hours—measures the minutes faithfully. You can depend on his gentle alarm to sound promptly—one long insistent ring or several coaxing short ones.

You'll find Baby Ben and other Westclox at the stores in your locality. Prices from \$1.50 for Pocket Ben, the watch, to Big Ben and Baby Ben at \$1.25. Luminous night-dial range from \$2.25 to \$4.50. Prices slightly higher in Canada.

WESTERN CLOCK COMPANY, LA SALLE, ILLINOIS, U. S. A.  
Patent Pending. Made in Canada. Western Clock Company, Limited, Pittsburgh, Pa.





I told him I was very interested in these types of clocks. He said that he almost bought one like it a few days earlier but the other person wanted too much money for the whole lot of items. I told him I would pay as much as \$300 for one like I showed him if it was in this condition. First of all, it is very hard to find one restored like the one I had showed him and nearly impossible to find the actual style that I was looking for.



At that point, I left him my card and said to keep me in mind.

About four days later the antique store owner called me and said he bought the clock. Needless to say I was very excited and asked him if he would be open the next day so that I could come and see it. It's about a 100 mile round trip from my home and was the only time I was able to get there.



I arrived the next day about an hour after he opened. Asked him where the clock was and he said right next to me on the shelf. I looked at the clock and it was more or less "trashed". The base appeared to be rusty and the rest needed plenty of attention. Not quite what I was expecting. I looked at it and thought I could only use it for parts. The following are pictures of what I drove over 50 miles to see.



I told him that I hoped he did not pay much for the clock because of its condition. I offered him \$200 at that time and he said it was not for sale right now as he wanted to do more research on it. He also said that the \$300 price that I had mentioned was far less than what he was going to ask for it. He told me to come back in a couple of weeks and he would know the price.

I was not a "happy camper" at that statement. I had driven 50 miles to see the clock and it was not for sale.

I continued to look at the clock and noticed possibly something unusual. It looked to have a

“copper flash” finish but I could not see much of the case through all the rough metal and dirt. Not wanting to drive here again I made him the \$300 offer. Again he said that right now he did not know what to ask.

I left the store in a huff and came back to Sacramento. Why this man would turn down a cash offer of \$300 for this “parts” clock was beyond me. I would be paying top dollar for the clock and could probably only use it for parts and keep the original Darce batteries for myself....

I asked a friend of mine who lived in the neighborhood to stop by about a month later and see if he had sold the clock. She called back and said the clock was still there and he was asking \$375 firm....

That was way out of my price range at that time and I really was not sorry that he did not accept my last offer when I was there. If it was in the condition of the picture that I showed him, things would be different.

Another month passed by and I was in that small town and stopped by the store. He STILL had the clock. Said there was a lot of interest in it. Sure.....

I asked what he was asking and he said \$350 firm....I said that was way out of my price range and that I had already offered \$300 two months earlier and was glad I did not buy it.

I left the store again and was pretty confident that I was the only interested party he had and probably the only buyer who would pay for this “junk” clock.

About 2 more months passed and I was called by my friend to say that he still had the clock. My wife and I drove to the area the following week and stopped by. As I entered he said “Still have that clock”. “What are you asking now” I asked.

“I’m asking \$250 cash and will not take any less”.....

I again looked at the clock and was still interested in either parting it out or trying to restore it. This time I thought I would “walk” letting him think that that I was done with it. I said “good-bye” and told him I still was not interested for that “firm price” of \$250.

As I was walking out he yelled from the other side of the shop, “You can always make an offer”.

At that time I turned around walked back to the clock and said. “\$200 is my final offer”

He said OK and I put it in the car and took it home...

If you turn to the back page of this Newsletter, I have pictures of the clock after a lot of polishing and scrubbing....Turned out that it had that copper-flash finish that I had never seen before and now it is a prize among my Darce collection.

Do you have a story about haggling with a vendor or antique dealer? Submit your stories and pictures to:

Kevin Knauss  
8712 Pendleton Drive  
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Or email to: [Kevin@insuremekevin.com](mailto:Kevin@insuremekevin.com)



It was hard to believe that patience was a virtue that enabled me to purchase this prize for my collection at a fair price and be able to bring it back to a reasonable condition. Not perfect but an extremely good example of a rare Darche.

Just another Diamond in the Rough...

