

# The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2011 Volume 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First I want to introduce our new newsletter editor, Kevin Knauss. He has generously volunteered to take on the task and we should all help by submitting articles and pictures, as they are always needed. Without them it is impossible to put out an interesting and informative newsletter.

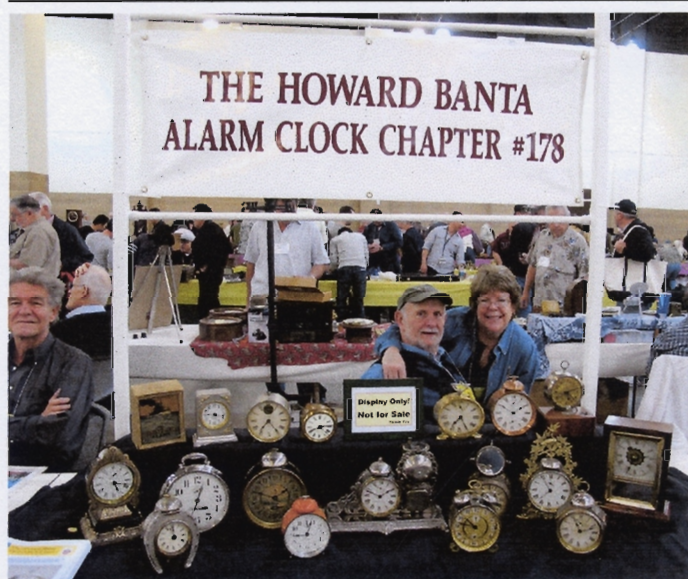
On another subject I have just completed chairing on-site registration for the Greater Los Angeles Regional in Pasadena, California. I'm not sure how many of our membership were there but I can tell you it was a great event with 1200 attending including 330 on Saturday which was open to the public. Vince and Phyllis Angell had an alarm clock display setup even though they had other obligations and had to tear it down and leave on Friday. I also had a short talk with David and Kathy Lindquist and did get to see briefly Dennis Sagvold who had a number of pictures for me which I will pass along to Kevin for publication later.. If there were other members present I am sorry that we didn't get to meet. I am usually quite busy at these events so if you see me please stop and say hello.

The long running Greater Los Angeles Regional will not be held in 2012, instead in June 2012 there will be a NAWCC National Convention in Pasadena. You will be able to sign up for this event at the 2011 National Convention in Overland Park Kansas. There will also be a Chapter 178 meeting on Friday afternoon June 10 at the Kansas convention. So if you happen to be at the show please look us up and bring a friend to the talk titled "The Joy of Alarm Clock Collecting" given by yours truly.

One last word, our membership year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> so if you haven't already sent your dues to the treasurer Mike Wilson fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it today before you forget.

Till next time good collecting and I hope to see you in Kansas this June.

Respectfully, Robert Linkenhoker



**Vince and Phyllis Angell at the Greater Los Angeles Regional.**



**From The Editor:  
Kevin Knauss**

It is my pleasure to attempt to be the editor of the HBACC newsletter. I am probably more of an assembler than an editor but I will do my best.

I am drawn to alarm clocks because of their functionality, utility, history and ingenuity. I welcome suggestions, pictures, research, items for sales and discussions regarding your own collection. Feel free to contact me at [Kevin@insuremekevin.com](mailto:Kevin@insuremekevin.com) or 916-521-7216.

## Flash Light, Electric Alarm, Bank

Reprinted from the Antique Register with permission from author Jay Mark, December 2010



**The 'Flash Light Electric Alarm, Call and Bank Clock earned a patent in 1908 for Augusta Y. Jansen, woman inventor. 7"hx12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"lx5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"w. Weight = 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds Photo: Jay Mark**

With all of our modern technology, it is easy to wonder how people existed a century or more ago. No digital cameras, no computers, no cell phones and no iPads!

Researching antiques and their history surprisingly reveals not how little people had but how full their lives actually were. Many of today's contemporary conveniences had their precedent in history — frequently with more panache and style.

For example, all the capabilities of the subject of this article have now been condensed into a pocket-sized smart phone. Convenient, yes, But lacking the incredible beauty of this wonderful relic — the captivating, eclectic combination

*"Flash Light" Electric Alarm, Call and Bank Clock."*

In an era when most technical patents were the domain of men, the Flash Light clock was invented by a woman — Augusta Y. Jansen of Chicago, Illinois who was granted a patent in 1908 for this multi-faceted device.

Jansen earned her first design patent in 1904 — the precursor to what would follow four years later. It was for an ornate Art Nouveau frame intended to hold a conventional round metal-cased nightstand clock.

This unusual woman was also closely connected with the Darche Manufacturing Company of Chicago — the company that produced the clock.

But confusion arises because her first invention was patented by August Y. Darche. The second under the Jansen name. And then Augusta Y. Darche became president of Darche Mfg in 1909, a position she held until 1928.

Were the Darche's and Jansen's family the same? If so, by birth or marriage? Or were they unrelated? Without more research we will not know how Augusta was connected to the two names. Even lacking some of the puzzle pieces, we do have enough information to recognize that in Augusta we have met a most remarkable woman of her time.

However Augusta was linked to the company, there is no doubt her invention was one of the Darche Mfg Company's most important products. The description of this and a similar, but simpler, clock reflects Darche's commitment to multi-purpose concept while providing a fascinating insight into the role technology was playing at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*"Ready for use. The early riser's best friend. An electric battery keeps the alarm ringing*

*continuously or until you 'get up' and stop it. (A) Call Bell (is) very easily operated ... by touching the metal part of (the) pear push to any part of clock or frame, or pressing (the) end of (the) pear push, will make a fine call bell...*

*(The) incandescent lamp ... shows the time at any hour of the night and can be used in bed to see the time at night, by pressing pear push at end of cord. (The) Lamp is guaranteed to give best of satisfaction.*

*(The) apparatus is provided with a (key-locked) savings bank (concealed in an imitation bell). (also available was "... a savings bank, fully protected by a combination lock.") The only clock of its kind made. No wires to clock. Can be stopped at pleasure."*

There, contained within one apparatus is what Jansen of Chicago considered to be four essential 1908 bedside needs to stay safe, sound and alert.

The light and bell are powered by two 1½ volt "ignition dry-cell" batteries concealed behind the bell supports. The clock is a 30-hour spring-wound timekeeper.

The ornate cast-iron case was finished in a choice of nickel-plate or oxidized copper, both priced at \$8.50 — equivalent to about nearly a week's wages in 1908. The device enjoyed some measure of popularity — still being sold in a 1911 catalogue.

This completely original nickel-plated scarce piece of Americana prototypically reflects the Victorian era with its elaborate filigree and polished wood push-button attached to a cloth cord. Its value today of \$150-200 is considerably more than its original \$8.50.

**HINT:** Nickel is a remarkably durable finish that means with a good cleaning and polishing the original bright luster of nickel plate can often be restored.

**MORE INFO:** The history of the Darche Manufacturing Company is a fascinating complement to the legacy of their clocks. Vince Angell has done laudable research on the company. It highlights the contribution of small business in early 20th century America. His findings were presented to the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors in its June, 1993 Bulletin. You can read the entire article at <http://www.acc178.org/a/darche/index.html>

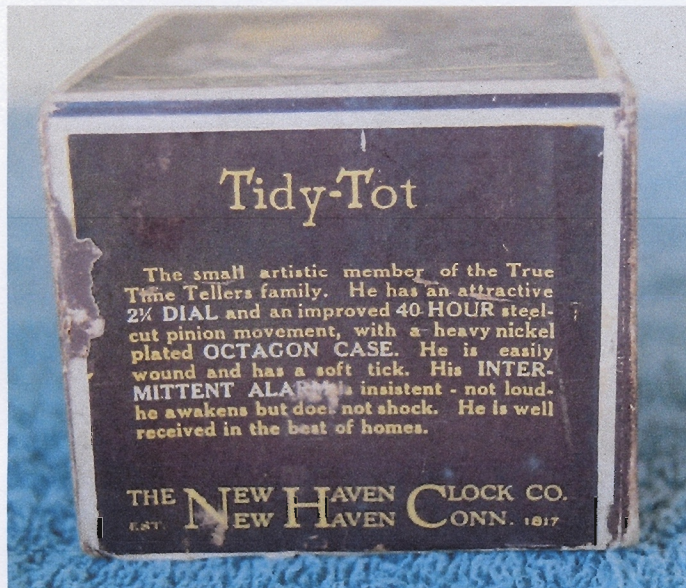
*Jay Mark, a 37-year veteran owns Those Were The Days! an Internet books and antiques seller. He also teaches, lectures and regularly writes about antiques and history. Reach him at [jaymark@twtdbooks.com](mailto:jaymark@twtdbooks.com). ©2010*



Circa 1908 Darche store at 1824 West Grand Avenue in Chicago. Flashlight & Bank Electric Alarm Clocks is prominently painted on one of the windows. Photo from the NAWCC Bulletin



### From the Collection of: Dennis Sagvold



True Time Tellers: Tidy Tot, New Haven Clock



National Call, 8 Day, made for Sears, Roebuck and Company

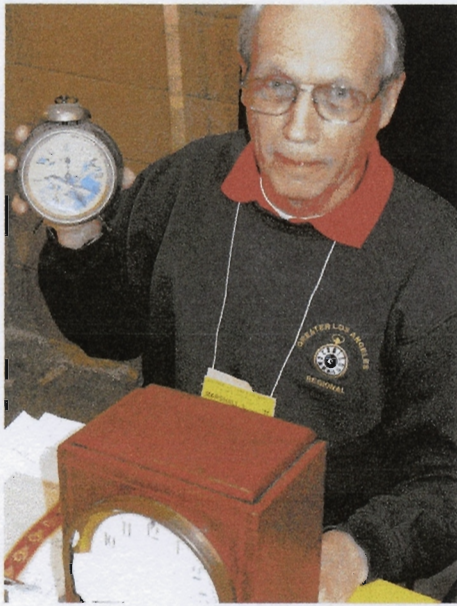
Greater Los Angeles Regional, February 2011, approximately 400 tables and 1200 attendees. In June of 2012 this will be the site of the NAWCC Convention with close to 800 tables of clocks and watches. HBACC will have a large display in the Mart room with past newsletters on display.



Bob Schug, HBACC Member, showing what he had for sale.



Charles Bennett, HBACC Member, looking over his Mart inventory.



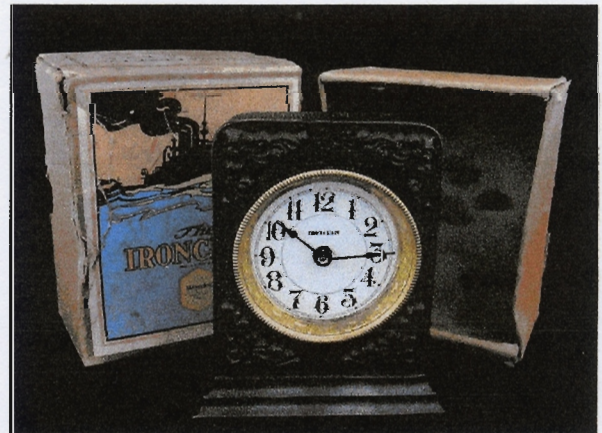
**Marshall Knowlton, HBACC Member, showing an animated clock.**



**Ansonia "Bee" Alarm, Complete and Original, But not working, Ca. 1885, \$85.00 or Best Offer + \$8.00 shipping**



**Active Mart center at the Greater LA Regional.**



**Westclox Ironclad in Original Box, Time spring broken, Ca. 1910 \$85 or Best Offer + \$12.00 shipping.**



**HBACC President Bob Linkenhoker and Cora Lee Linkenhoker at the registration desk.**

**For either item...  
Contact Vince Angell  
916-952-4961  
Or email @  
[phylathome@hotmail.com](mailto:phylathome@hotmail.com)**

**Alarm Clocks from the Waterbury Clock Company Catalog of 1893**

**LAUNDRY**  
NICKEL



1 Day, Time..... \$2 10  
1 Day, Time, Alarm. (Bell on Top)..... 2 60  
Dial, 4 1/4 inches.  
Illustration One-half Size.

**MIKADO**  
NICKEL



1 Day, Time..... \$2 10  
1 Day, Time, Alarm. (Bell on Top)..... 2 60  
Dial, 4 1/4 inches.  
Illustration One-half Size.

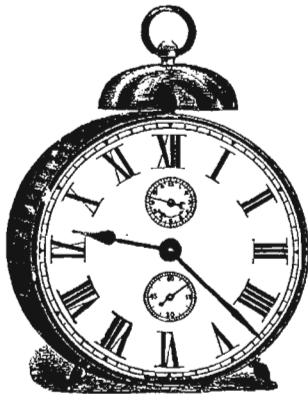
**STEAMER**  
NICKEL



1 Day Time..... \$2 60  
Dial, 5 inches.  
Illustration One-half Size.

THESE CLOCKS SHOW MOTION WHILE RUNNING

**FEZ**  
NICKEL



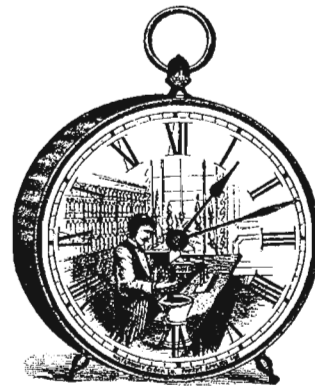
1 Day, Time, Alarm. (Movement has two Springs). \$3 20  
Dial, 4 1/4 inches.  
Illustration One-half Size.

**BANJO**  
NICKEL



1 Day, Time..... \$2 10  
1 Day, Time, Alarm. (Bell on Top)..... 2 60  
Dial, 4 1/4 inches.  
Illustration One-half Size.

**DRUGGIST**  
NICKEL



1 Day, Time..... \$3 10  
1 Day, Time, Alarm. (Bell on Top)..... 2 69  
Dial, 4 1/4 inches.  
Illustration One-half Size.

THESE CLOCKS SHOW MOTION WHILE RUNNING

**You can also submit  
information and pictures to:  
Kevin Knauss,  
8712 Pendleton Drive,  
Granite Bay, CA 95746**