

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

January 2013 Volume I

Presidents' Message

Well the holidays are about over as I write this letter on December 28th. I hope all of you had a nice Christmas with family and friends and Santa was good to you all. We don't know what the New Year will bring but can only hope that the mess in Washington gets sorted. I personally look forward to 2013 with hope and expect to have a great year with many clocks and watch adventures. I call them adventures because to me they are. When I discover a new manufacturer, model of alarm clock or a feature that I have not seen before it becomes an adventure to find as much information about it as is possible. This of course is much easier with the aid of the internet. What a vast amount of information can be found on this wonderful invention even though at times I get very frustrated with it as I'm sure you all do.

Last year there was no regional in Los Angeles since we held the National Convention at that venue in June. We are back on schedule for 2013 and there will be Greater Los Angeles Regional held January 31 to February 2. I encourage you all to try and attend. Of course I also recommend that you consider attending the National Convention to be held in Dayton Ohio in 2013. The other event that will be special this year is the Ward Francillion Symposium to be held at the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) in Pasadena, California. Look for details on both of these events in the NAWCC Mart magazine.

I haven't decided to attend the National this year for various reasons. I don't want to ask them to schedule a Chapter 178 meeting unless I can get one of you that know you will be there to back me up just in case I can't make it.

On another subject. This is a busy time of year for all of us and I'm no exception to the rule which may explain why this letter is a little late. Our Newsletter editor Kevin Knauss has informed me that due to his work schedule he can no longer continue his duties for the Chapter. That is why I have again taken on the task temporarily till I can get a volunteer to takeover. If you could relieve me it would be appreciated.

As always any information or pictures that you can contribute make putting this letter together much easier, so send anything you have to me at mlink3@juno.com or by mail to:

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Corona, Ca. 92881

Till next time I wish you good hunting and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Bob Linkenhoker

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Vince Angell received a request for information on the following clock.

This alarm clock was purchased by member Don Bugh at an antique show in Texas last September.

He is guessing that the name "C O Querna – Jeweler" has nothing to do with the Century Clock Company but is probably a private label that was produced for the jeweler.

If anyone knows any information about The Century Clock Company, please contact Vince Angell (phylathome@hotmail.com) and we will forward the it to Don and we will include the information in a following issue of the HBACC Newsletter.

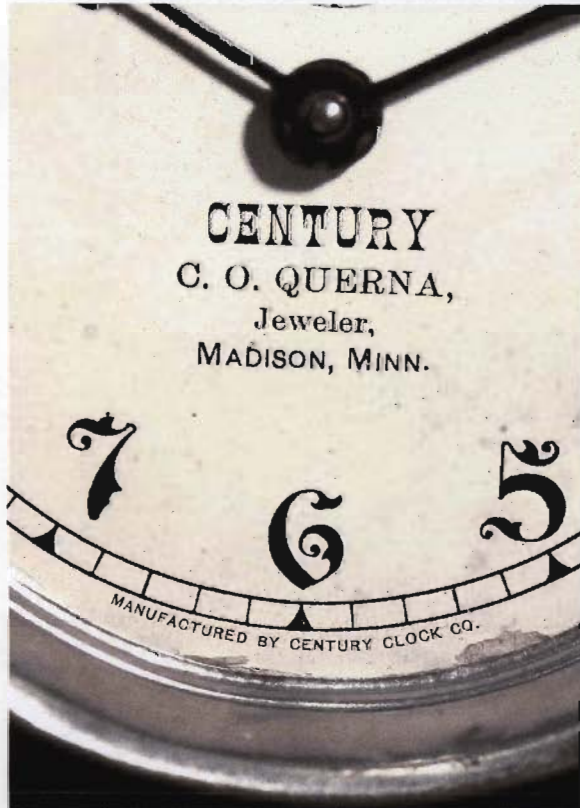
(see the next page for pictures of the clock)



Front view of the Century Alarm Clock



Back of Century Alarm Clock



Close up of the Dial label



Patent Information from back of Century Alarm

DARCHE“Flash Light, Electric Alarm, Bank” ALARM CLOCK

The following article BY Jay Mark come to me from Vince Angell. As most of you know Vince has a special interest in Darche clocks.

Antique Register

Title: #43 “Flash Light, Electric Alarm, Bank”

Writer: Jay Mark

Word Count: 713

November – December 2010

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 become president of Darche Mfg in 1909, a position she held until 1928.

Were the Darche’s and Jansen’s family? 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 20th 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.

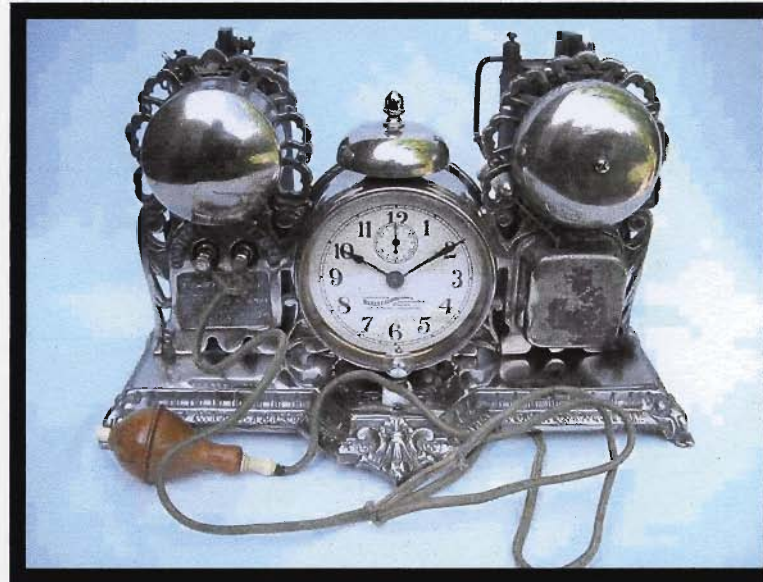
The ornate cast-iron case was finished in a choice of nickel-plate or oxidized copper, both priced at \$8.50 — equivalent to about nearly a week's wages in 1908. The device enjoyed some measure of popularity — still being sold in a 1911 catalogue.

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.

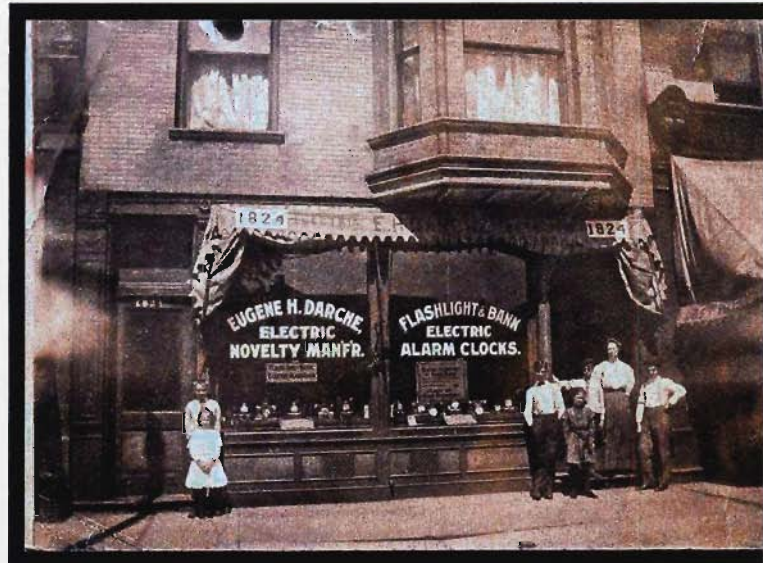
HINT: Nickel is a remarkably durable finish that means with a good cleaning and polishing the original bright luster of nickel plate can often be restored.

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. ©2010



Caption: The 'Flash Light Electric Alarm, Call and Bank Clock' earned a patent in 1908 for August Y. Jansen, woman inventor. 7"hx12¾"lx5¾"w. Weight = 7½ pounds Photo: Vince Angell



Caption: 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

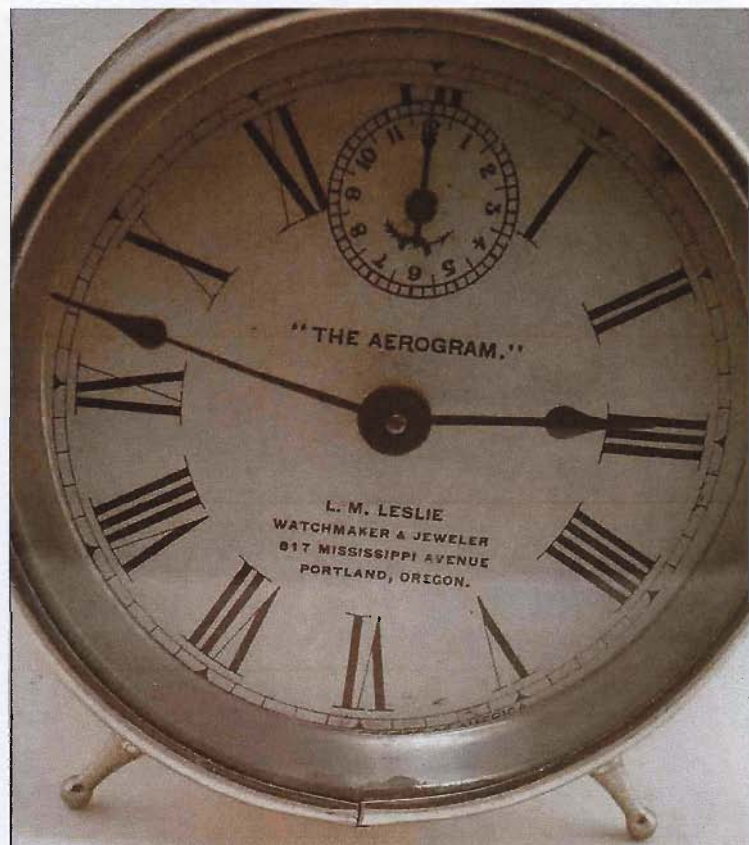
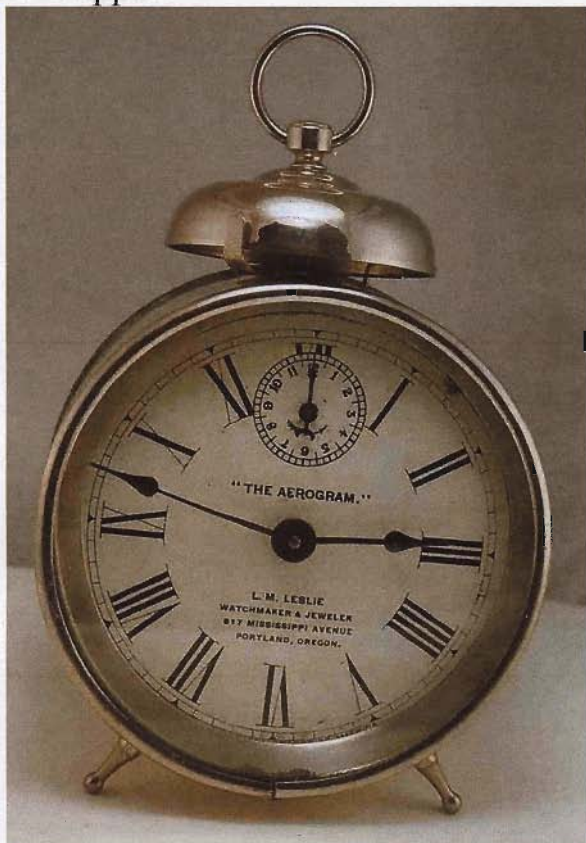
This clock is in the collection of Dennis Sagvold and I thank him for the images of this very collectable alarm clock.



The above pictured alarm clock was produced in 1889 by the Ansonia Company. It is called the 'Racket' and is key wound and key set (see next page) with striking on the hour and ½ hour. There is also a traditional alarm feature. The dial is 3 ¾ inches in diameter and the clock stands 7 inches tall to the top of the ring.

Views of the back of the Ansonia Racket showing the key in it's storage clip. Also a view of the name and data on the upper back of case

Dennis Sagvold is an avid collector and very helpful contributor to this newsletter. Here is another of his pieces "The Aeroqram" made by the Waterbury Clock Company. Does anyone have any idea why the name, it seems a bit unusual? As has been discussed in this newsletter before it appears that any of the American companies producing Alarm clocks would put the Jewelers name on the dial. I'm sure there was a minimum buy for this to happen.



2013 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

THE HOWARD BANTA ALARM CLOCK CHAPTER #178 OF THE NAWCC

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