

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

December 2014

Presidents' Message

As I write this the holidays and end of year are rapidly approaching. I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah and a Joyous and prosperous New Year.

As stated in the last newsletter, with the end of the year it is time we held a Chapter 178 election for new officers. I have been asking for volunteers in every newsletter and have had little response. There is a slate of proposed officers for 2015. They are the same ones who have been doing this for many years and they are getting mighty tired. Since no one has come forward I would propose that we elect these persons by accord. If there are any objections to this please notify me or Vince immediately.

President Vince Angell
Secretary / Treasurer Mike Wilson
Newsletter Editor Bob Linkenhoker
We also should have someone to monitor the NAWCC Message Board and answer any questions about Alarm Clocks but as of yet no volunteers.

You can contact me at rlink3@juno.com or by phone at 951-898-5825 and let me know. Keep in mind that the Chapter can not survive without vounteers

Till next time
Bob Linkenhoker

I SAW DENNIS SAGVOLD AT THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL IN DEL MAR AND HE GAVE ME A NOTE THAT HE WOULD LIKE POSTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Come on you guys and gals; I am tired of looking at all my stuff. I know there has to be other goodies to look at. Without your information the newsletter cannot keep going. Bob cannot print what he does not have.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1** President's Message
Page 2, 3 Alarm Clocks are
4 & 5 Collectable Talk
Page 6 & 7 Ansonia 'Shaving Mirror'
Alarm clock
Page 8 New Haven True Time Teller

EDITOR'S NOTE

As always I need material for the newsletter. If you have an unusual or interesting alarm clock please send me pictures and a short write up so it can be included in a future newsletter. Send information to rlink3@juno.com or mail it to:

Chapter 178
7186 Calico Circle
Corona, Ca. 92881

Vince Angell gave a program at the Chapter 107 meeting in June.

“Alarm Clocks are Collectable”

Program for Diablo Valley Chapter 107

Written by Secretary Ross Smith

Vince Angell of The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Charter 178 somehow lugged about 30 fine examples of alarm clocks to this meeting—and reputedly has about 400 of them at home, having collected for over 35 years. So he classifies as a true expert in acquisition. He is also the past president of Chapter 65, the past chair of several regional meets, and a strong promoter of another regional in 2015. Like the Energizer Bunny, stuff just keeps happening.

Vince’s display pieces were nicely preserved examples of the horological arts and trends in American alarm clocks. Though predominantly Westclox Big Ben on display, it was most interesting to see the various cases and sizes of these various versions, particularly as they were so nicely turned out. Also included was a nice example of an Illuminated alarm (strikes a match to light a candle or a lantern—or the whole house in some cases) as well as several exotic versions of alarms by other manufacturers.

Vince reported that the earliest versions of civilization’s mad rush to keep appointments came as early as 1840, when a standard wall clock was fitted with an alarm mechanism. Fortunately they were not portable. However, by about 1908, with the arrival of the first of the Big Ben, peace and quiet was abandoned by the world. From 1908 to about 1940 over 4 million a year were manufactured. They have since evolved into mad alarm machines which jump off the table and run around the room clanging loudly—so you have to get up and chase them to turn them off. Others, more subtly, slowly fill the room with pulsing lights at an increasing tempo before the clanging begins. However these nefarious devices are now configured, none are quite as interesting as the early models shown by Vince. In other words, our grandparents caused all this noise.

Thanks to Vince for the beautifully illustrated and hugely engaging presentation; for the many demonstration pieces that he somehow lugged to our meeting; to past-president Price Russ for the videography; and to the attentive audience of some 30 people.

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As a note, The original “Alarm Clocks are Collectable” program that was put together in 1978 as a slide/cassette program is now available on a DVD from the National.....Feel free to rent this 35 year old program that was put together by Vince Angell, John Fossette, Ron Hoops and Phyllis Angell.....

This is one way our members can get more people in our Chapter!!!!

**Vince and his display of alarm clocks
At Chapter 107's meeting**



A closer view of the display



The Seth Thomas Illuminated Alarm Clock ca 1860 (look on the left of the display)
The mechanism on the top would strike a match and light a candle when the alarm went off.



Alarm Clock Peter's New Alarm Clock

By Vince Angell

As we all must know by now, Alarm Clock Peter is probably the largest collector of German made alarm clocks in Germany and possibly the world. Through the years I have turned him a little by showing and sometimes selling him an American made alarm clock.

Yes, I am primarily an American alarm clock collector and have been for about 30 years but the other producing country's products can sometime be quite interesting also.

As stated earlier, occasionally Peter breaks down and purchases a fabulous American piece to add to his never ending collection. This time it was, what I would call, an Ansonia 'Shaving Mirror' Alarm Clock, It appears to be about ca. 1880. The mirror swings up and down. The Patent Date on the dial is 1877. I have only seen one other of these in my years of collecting and cannot seem to find it in any of the catalogs.

Peter; keep up the good work in your "hunt" for some of the best alarm clocks I have ever seen.

PETER: Thank you again for sharing.



Dial of the Ansonia 'Shaving Mirror Clock'



Two full Views of the Ansonia 'Shaving Mirror' alarm clock

At the Southwest Regional in Del Mar, California Dennis ask me the question:
“ Have you noticed that the TV program “Wake Up With Al” on the weather channel has been
decorating with Alarm Clocks? **Have any more of our members noticed this!!!!!!**

Dennis also gave me a picture of another of his fabulous finds. A New Haven advertising clock.
On the glass is printed ‘True Time Teller Alarms OVB (Our Very Best).



Happy Holidays To All Our Chapter 178 Members

