

# The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

June 2018

## President's Message "Discount for Email Newsletter"

Coming this September, we will initiate an opportunity to save HBACC members some money for an electronic version of the HBACC Newsletter.

We will now be offering either a renewal or new membership to be mailed as usual or to receive the Newsletter electronically. The normal "snail mail" membership will still be \$15.00 per year but you will now be able to save \$5.00 by receiving it electronically as an e-mail at a cost of only \$10 a year. There are four advantages to receiving it by e-mail. One is that you will receive it earlier with the possibility of seeing "for sale" items before those that get it in the mail.

Secondly, you can save it in a file in your computer for future reference. Thirdly you will now be able to forward the Newsletter to friends and family for them to share in your hobby and possibly entice new members. Lastly, you will be saving \$5.00 a year. That will help buy that "prize" that you might find in your search for another alarm clock.

Additionally, by making it available electronically we will be able to cut down on printing and mailing costs which have increased significantly over the past few years. This will enable the Alarm Clock Chapter to keep that original cost of \$15.00 and not raise it in the future.

The electronic copy will be available in both a PDF or Word Doc format so at that time please read the new Membership Renewal Form for the new instructions.

Thank you,

Vince Angell

The information in this newsletter comes from three members. I wish to thank Vince Angell, Dennis Sagvold and Charles Lindquest for their submissions.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 President's Message
- Page 2-3 Ole Peg Leg
- Page 4-5 One of My Favorite Collections
- Page 6 A Long Way to Drive
- Page 7 The First One
- Page 8-10 Same Name Different Makers
- Page 11 For Sale Items

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

**Remember that there will be no newsletters unless the members of Chapter 178 send me information and pictures. I am sure that you all enjoy reading and looking at the various pictures in this and the other newsletters produced for this Chapter. Just remember unless you help there:**

### ***WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER***

So please give some consideration to sending material with or without pictures to:

rlink3@juno.com, by phone at 951-898-5825  
or mail at:

Chapter 178  
7186 Calico Circle  
Corona, Ca. 92881

## Ole' Peg Leg

A long-time, but since resigned member of NAWCC who collects alarm clocks was not a member of HB178, but he knew a member. He was interested in selling his collection of alarm clocks as a lot as he was moving to a smaller home. "The Collector" and I exchanged a flurry of e-mails and pictures. He had a nice collection of more than 50 clocks. None rare or particularly unusual, but some were quite nice. A price was set for the collection. But when it finally came down to it, I realized that I was still in the period of collector life when I was trying to cut down my collection for the sake of my heirs. I am now fortunately past that period.

I eventually chose to not purchase the collection. The Collector wanted to move the collection on and felt he was out of options. He didn't want to offer them at a garage sale at his home as he felt it would yield poor results. The neighbors weren't interested in paying anything for old alarm clocks, no matter how nice. Or historic.

The Collector arranged with his son, who lived in a somewhat more affluent neighborhood to sell the collection for \$15.00 per clock. "But don't sell any of the half dozen Bell On The Top Tin Can clocks. They are my favorites!"

As things in life go, of course, something went wrong. The Collector's son sold ALL the clocks, including the Tin Cans! The Collector was out of town when the sale occurred. He had left verbal instructions. The verbs failed.

The Collector knew from conversations he and I had, that I had purchased two Bell On The Top Tin Can clocks from Vince which I was quite fond of. But he more or less begged me to sell him one of them since he missed having one, having gone from 50+ clocks to 0. He was quite unhappy.

I agreed to sell him one of them for what I had paid for it. He picked the "America", I packed it up and sent it off. The Collector was grateful to have the clock.

Later in a conversation with Vince I related the story. He must have gotten a chuckle out of it, as he said that "He might have something for me". At the next Sacramento chapter meeting at his and Phyllis's home he asked me if I had any alarm clock parts. I said I did have some. He then presented me with a very clean Westclox "America" Bell On The Top Tin Can clock! Its only issue was a missing leg. A previous owner had screwed in a wood screw as a temporary leg.

Thanking Vince profusely, I wasn't sure I had any legs in my parts box. I didn't. But I put in a better looking machine screw and straightened the case. Dusted off the movement and dabbed a bit of oil and it took off ticking happily.

I will come up with a better leg in the future, even if I need to turn one out of brass (or wood). But for now I am happy with "Ole' Peg Leg", and Thank you, again Vince!

Charles Lindquist



# “One of My Favorite Collections”

By Vincent Angell

As you know I have been collecting alarm clocks for many, many years. Maybe 30 in all. There are many aspects of collecting alarm clocks.... American, Foreign, Animated, Historical, working and not working and EVERYTHING in between.....

I try to collect only American alarm clocks but occasionally I can't pass up a foreign one because of it being unusual.

With 99% of my alarm clocks being American I have found most of what I like but occasionally find something that I cannot live without.

As most of us do, we try to include some other aspect in our alarm clock collecting. I find that the graphics and the rarity of alarm clock boxes to be an exciting addition to my collection.

Here are only a few of my nearly 100 alarm clock boxes. Now that I have tempted most of you I would assume they will be harder to find than before. ENJOY THE BOXES!!!!



Westclox “Ironclad” Ca 1910



Westclox “America” – Ca 1927



Waterbury “Sunrise” – Ca 1918



New Haven “True Time Teller”  
Ca. 1926



Ansonia Bee Alarm – Wooden Box – Ca 1878



Seth Thomas "Echo" – Ca 1910



Ingraham "Indian" – Ca 1913



Ingraham "Giant" – Maxfield Parrish Picture Ca 1910



Ingraham 8-Day "National Call"  
Sold by Sears, Roebuck & Co. – Ca 1928



Waterbury "Lookout" – Ca 1901

Let's just call it  
"A Long Way to Drive"  
By Alarm Clock Peter  
Letter to Vince from Uwe Peter

"Vince

This is the alarm clock with the plane on top. When the alarm starts, the propeller turns around and around to make a noise for waking up.

This is a very difficult alarm clock to find especially with 2 pilots...

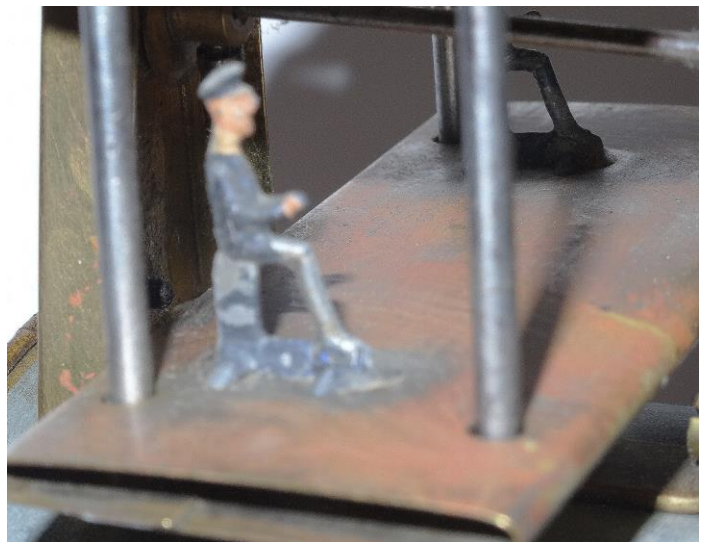
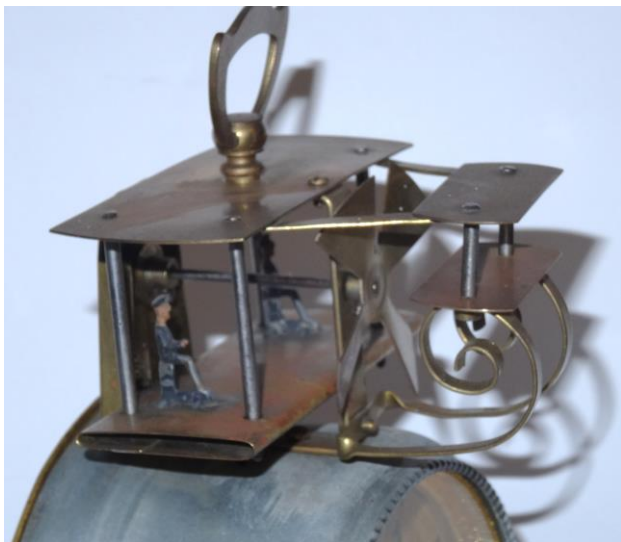
I bought this alarm clock years ago in the Black Forest (Town of Freiburg)

I drove on one day more than 1,000 km to buy it !!!!

Greetings,

UWE"

Note from Vince – "I might also have driven that in one day to buy such a rare alarm clock!"



## The First One

In a ritual that would be unheard of today, older brother David, younger sister and myself would go out “Trashing” early every Friday morning “Trash Day in our suburban neighborhood” . Seems that people threw out better quality stuff in the 1950’s, in the days before garage sales. We found all sorts of things of infinite fascination. In a wooden trash barrel just two doors down from ours under a wine bottle or two we found a Westclox 48-D Big Ben! We knew the lady of the house, our mom would have coffee with her once a week but it never occurred to Mrs. Green that any of us would be interested in an old, barely running alarm clock. But we were. I don’t remember how the clock became mine but it did.

The Big Ben’s movement was dirty and it suffered the plight of many of the Westclox of the day, rounded over balance wheel points (although it took us a long time to figure that one out). We spent hours admiring it, cleaning it, adjusting it and David and I became hooked on clocks.

We progress to more complicated clocks picked up along the way. A Gilbert Tambour mantle clock from a junk store called “The Big Red Barn” for 50 cents. A dreadfully complex “Rack and Snail” strike mantle clock we had been warned might be above our capabilities (we figured it out). And best of all, from Chicago our Grandfather sent for Christmas for several years a box of clocks that he had gathered over the prior year (we didn’t appreciate at the time the effort he put into getting the clocks for us).

The Big Ben got pushed to the back of the shelf.

Having graduated from High School, David started a clock repair business which evolved into specializing in mechanical automobile clocks in the 1960’s and early 1970’s, and ended up specializing in 1960’s and 1970’s mechanical clock repair for the vintage car collector restorer. In the early days of the business to get things going David began to sell alarm clocks for 96 Cents (with the 4% sales tax of the day came out to be one dollar). He sold lots of clocks and the original Big Ben 48-D must have been one of them.

Years later, in the 1980’s I began to bicycle ride on the weekends as recreation. By this time garage sales were popular and on one of the rides I saw a sign “Giant Clock Sale”. Wow, had to stop by, and it was the Holy Grail of clock sales. The owner of the Whittier Clock Shop, the shop that was our Mecca of Greatness, was closing up and selling what he had left over. The alarm clocks were running and in wonderful original condition. \$5.00 Ea.

I didn’t have any money with me so biked over to a friend’s house nearby and borrowed \$20 and bought some of the clocks. One of the clocks was a 48-D. Not the same clock, but it brings back the same memories. Later at a LA regional I picked up the same model of our first Gilbert clock, \$10 this time. They remain two of my favorites in my small collection.

Charles Lindquist



**This information comes from Dennis Sagvold. All height measurements include rings or top ornaments.**

**SAME NAME DIFFERENT COMPANY**

This is something I never thought about but it finally occurred to me. I guess the Model names were not registered by any company, so anyone could use them. Was the Model name so popular that they were worth copying or was it just an overlook by the other company?

The National Call was more even copied to the style of the lettering.

I am sure there are more out there, but these five names I have seen.



**REVILLE**

LEFT Gilbert " high 4" Time Track      RIGHT Waterbury 6" high 3 3/8" time track  
Patented Jan 29, 1918      June 15, 1920



**COLONIAL**

LEFT Sessions 6 1/2 " high 4" time track      RIGHT Ingraham 5" high 3 5/8" time Track  
Patented Dec 3, 1912      Jan 14, 1913





LUMINOUS

LEFT Ansonia 6" High 3 1/4" Time Track    RIGHT Ingraham 6 1/2" High 3 1/4" Time Track  
 Patented March 19,-1889 Jan 29, 1901

THE ENTIRE DIAL IS LUMINOUS ON BOTH CLOCKS



INTERMITTENT

LEFT Gilbert 6" High 3 3/4" Time Track    RIGHT New Haven 6 1/4" High 3 7/8" Time Track  
 Patented Jan 25-98 Jan 19-09  
 Private Label 'W.H.Broer, Toledo, Ohio



NATIONAL CALL

LEFT Ansonia 6 1/2" high 4" Time Track  
Patented Feb 24, 1914 Dec 31, 1912

RIGHT Session 7" High 4" Time Track

CENTER Ingraham 6 3/4" High 4" Time Track  
Patented Nov 10, 1914



This X-Ray is a like new condition clock I found in Minnesota, It was manufactured by Ingraham and is 6" High with a 3 3/4" Time Track. Patent date is Dec 31, 1912 – Jan 14, 1918.

Thanks to Vince I now have the ORIGINAL BOX.

## For Sale

Junghans "Giant" Alarm Clock  
Ca. 1910

Time, *Strike* & Alarm  
Missing alarm set hand.  
Winds with separate key  
(Not included)

Strike & alarm needs to be set.  
\$125 + \$30 shipping and ins.

Contact Vince Angell  
916-952-4961 or  
[phylathome@hotmail.com](mailto:phylathome@hotmail.com)



## For Sale

Kienzle Double Bell Alarm Clock  
Ca. 1920

Appears to be all original even  
With original winding keys.  
Runs well but probably needs oil  
or cleaning.

I believe that it is German.  
\$65 + \$20 shipping in USA

Contact Vince Angell  
916-952-4961 or  
[phylathome@hotmail.com](mailto:phylathome@hotmail.com)

