

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

March 2019

President's Message

In order for other members of the NAWCC to know about our Alarm Clock Chapter it can often be difficult but with a little effort on our part it can be fun and informative.

A few years ago, in a previous Newsletter, I mentioned that one of the best ways to show people what this Chapter is all about was to participate in what I call the "Show and Tell" or what our Secretary of the Sacramento Chapter #71 and member of HBACC Bob Peischl calls, "Bring and Brag". Whatever we call it at our Chapter meetings is not the important part of this Message. The important part of this message is that each member of the HBACC should try and take advantage of the opportunity to display some of his/her alarm clocks and brag about them at other Chapter meetings they attend. I have found that there is much interest in talking about interesting alarm clocks and showing them to the audience. This is a field that most collectors know very little about.

We can also hand out past Newsletters to the attendees and have Membership forms for them to take home.

If you desire to set up a small display and need some of the newsletters and membership forms, please contact me at 916-952-4961 and I would be pleased to ship them off to you in time for your meeting.

At the last Sacramento Valley Chapter #71 we had a "Show and Tell" that many members brought alarm clocks to brag about.

I have included several pictures that show what I brought to brag about and stacks of Newsletters and Membership forms.

Many attendees took the Newsletters and a few took Membership forms. This is just one way to get the message out there.

With your help we can increase membership and continue to have one of the best Newsletter Chapters in the NAWCC.

Vince Angell

EDITORS NOTE

This issue includes articles from Larry Cooper, Chris Johnson and Marshall Knowlton, I wish to thank them all and encourage others to send information on their unique finds.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1** **President's Message**
Page 3-7 **A Unique Alarm Clock**
Page 8-11 **I Never Knew I Needed This**
Page 12-16 **Coca-Cola Alarm Clock**

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

Vince's Displays at a Chapter 71 Meeting



Ron Hoops' Display at Chapter 71 Meeting



A TRULY UNIQUE FIND

When is an alarm clock, more than an alarm clock?

My wife and I were continuing our never ending search for the perfect clock and diligently combing the isles of a local antique store, when I heard a cry of discovery emanate from my partner.

Look what I found! I turned to see that she was holding a 14” tall bronze-like statue of a tall case clock with a little person standing beside it. The tall case clock was equipped with a working clock face. I gave it a little twist to see if the movement was all there, but it was not showing signs of life. When I went to wind it up, I saw to my dismay, that it took a special slotted key to wind it and that the key was missing.

Looking at the movement further I saw that it was made by Duverdrey & Bloquel of France and that the case had a “Made in Paris, France” medallion in the casting. Well at this point there was no doubt that the clock was going home with us.

Once home, I cleaned the case and gave it a coating of Howard’s natural finish restorer to bring back the shine. I discovered by accident that this product works great on all figural clocks and saves a lot of work as you don’t have to get every last speck of dust out of the nooks and crannies. The Howard’s covers anything that you miss like a charm.

Pulling the movement, I found one like I had never seen. This was engineering magic. It had to be to get a working alarm clock into a 2” round movement. It was triple plate and had watch size wheels and two tiny mainsprings. The movement was totally worn out, so I bushed both trains and cleaned and oiled it. After winding it with a screwdriver it took right off.

I decided that a screwdriver was not a proper solution so I found a brass rod and sheet metal and went to work on my lathe, creating the key you see in the pictures. Talk about a unique alarm clock, even the key is an oddball.

Merging the case and movement together resulted in what you see in the pictures, a truly unique alarm clock.

This ain’t your momma’s Big Ben.

Vive La France!

Larry Cooper









FRONT OF KEY

I never knew I needed this ! ?

By Chris Johnson

I never knew I needed an alarm clock with two alarm set hands, a small drawer and a built-in address book but when I found this one on eBay a few years ago I knew I had to have it. It is just quirky enough for my taste. The case with drawer and address book stands 7 1/2" tall, 5" wide and 3 1/2" deep. The case is finished in a red and black crackle finish and houses what I believe to be a Waterbury peg leg alarm clock with a rather unusual alarm setting feature that includes a minute hand for greater setting accuracy in addition to the usual hour hand. The address book can be advanced with the gold knob on the back and is accessed by removing the back cover. Along the top of the paper dial it says: **Made in USA-Pat 1918-1926-Other patents pending.**

Inside the drawer I found the folded instructions. I have been unable to find out anything about the history of these clocks or whatever became of the **Dun-Rite Clock Company of New York City.**

If anyone knows anything about the history or what happened to this company, please contact Vincent Angell.







"The clock with two hands on alarm dial"

DUN-RITE *Minit-Klox* Compared with Other Clocks

Which is best?

Alarm Dial of Dun-Rite Minit-Klox



Showing hour and minute alarm hands.

60 minutes on Dun-Rite Minit-Klox alarm dials.

5 minutes between any two numbers, just like a watch.

1 minute divisions.

This alarm is set for 15 minutes to 7.



DUN-RITE MINIT-KLOX

Alarm Dial of Other Clocks.



This is the hour hand. Where is the minute hand?

OR 720 minutes (no less) on Other Clock dials (12 hours times 60 minutes for each hour - 720).

OR 60 minutes (no less) between any 2 numbers.

OR 15 minute divisions.

Is this alarm set for 15 minutes before or after 7?



OTHER CLOCKS

Note the direction of the arrow on the alarm dial of Other Clocks and study the dial. The only indicator is the hour hand, which **must** be set backward. That causes confusion, unconsciously, and the hour hand may be left on the wrong side of any number—there is no minute hand to check up the wrong position on Other Clocks; but there is on MINIT-KLOX.

On Other Clocks 15 or 30 minutes **before** the hour on the **alarm** dial means a similar number of minutes **after** the hour on the **time** dial, or the reverse. On MINIT-KLOX the minute hand prevents such a situation.

MINIT-KLOX have 2 hands to point out 60 minutes; while Other Clocks have one hand to point out 720 minutes.

DUN-RITE MINIT-KLOX are the only clocks with hour and minute hands on alarm dials. Are fool-proof, and can be set for any hour and minute—even by children. When setting your alarm you want it done right—use a **DUN-RITE**. Don't guess—be **POSITIVE**.

Ingraham Coca-Cola Alarm Clock

Marshall Knowlton

Close to 25 years ago this Coca-Cola alarm clock was acquired. This was in the pre-internet days that are so popular today. At that time there was a Weekly National "Antique Trader" newspaper that was subscribed to, perhaps some of our senior collectors might remember the paper. Any way there was a black and white photo and price on this alarm clock, along with some other items this dealer was selling. Intrigued, the seller was contacted and answered a few questions. I then asked if the item was returnable (really). The seller replied yes, but there would be a restocking fee (really). You might smile, but this question and answer did transpire.

The transaction was swiftly concluded and several days later the packaged alarm clock arrived. Opening the package revealed the alarm clock as seen in the original ad. Closer inspection revealed an Ingraham made piece, identifiable on the dial signed by Ingraham (below the 6 on the dial alarm setting) and backside, by 6 (June) 40 (1940) impressed on the time adjusting knob. The Coca-Cola button on the dial revealed more information. Right underneath the words "Coca-Cola" is a line that reads (it helps to use a magnifying glass) that reads "COPYRIGHT 1941 THE COCA-COLA COMPANY". Thanks to Vince Angell for pointing this line out, as I hadn't. The piece appeared to have spent it's time unused squirreled away in someone's draw, as very little wear can be observed. As a test the piece was wound a few times and runs just fine. Likely, however, the original lubricating oil is now gummy due to the natural passing of time. It was unnecessary to return the alarm clock.

In the first few months of possession inquiries were made to determine how many might be available. There was a report of another in the San Diego area, and other somewhere back east. That was pretty much all that was heard.

Howard Banta, a founding member of the "Alarm Clock Chapter" and whom the Chapter is now named, was still active in putting his alarm clock collection together. At a local chapter meet Howard was asked if he could provide any further information. Howard did not have one in his collection, nor had he seen one. Howard, early in his career had worked for Coca-Cola for a few years, and retained an interest in the company. The year National was held in Atlanta, GA, Howard took a tour of the Coca-Cola museum, as Atlanta was and remains its headquarters. He did not see the piece out on display, but perhaps there was one in storage due to rotating displays.

Recall discussing with Howard why this piece was made and how many were originally made. We conjectured that a maximum of 100, or less, were produced and possibly presented to employees at a company dinner in 1941 or early 1942, for whatever reason. Having attended some Nationals and many Regionals another example has not been seen. Have only checked a few time on EBay without success.

Now in 2019 and not getting any younger (gee, how did that happen?) I thought it would be time to produce an article for the Alarm Clock Chapter and brought the piece with me to the Southwest Regional, held yearly in Fountain Hills Arizona. There the piece was shown to Mike Wilson to photograph (he made his living taking photo's) and asked his opinion. Mike had not

seen the alarm previously and rated it a 9 on a scale of 1-10, with some light oxidation on the case. At the show were two (2) other alarm clock collectors and their opinions were also asked. Dennis Sagvold hadn't seen the piece anywhere. Vince Angell, President of the "Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter" was also in attendance and shown the piece. Vince pointed out the dial copyright line detail, as noted above, but hadn't seen the piece either.

Marshall Knowlton is one of the founding members of Chapter 178

All of the pictures were taken by Mike Wilson. Mike is Chapter 178 Treasurer and Secretary

Particulars:

Ingraham 1940

Coca-Cola Copyright 1941

Signed: Ingraham (below the 6 on the dial alarm setting)

Backside, by 6 (June) 40 (1940) impressed on the time adjusting knob

Case Color: Black

Dial: 4" diameter, Paper, Polychrome

Dimensions:

W: 4 ¼ by H: 4 ½

If any other member has any additional information please inform us.

Thank you.

Marshall Knowlton, March 31, 2019

Six (6) Photographs by Mike Wilson





