

Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter178.NAWCC.org

December 2020

President's Message

I Hope all are well. During this pandemic for the last 10 months many of us still have the desire to “hunt” for those prized alarm clocks. Not able to go to conventions, flea markets and other venues to shop for alarm clocks makes it difficult to enhance our collections or even get rid of clocks that we do not need.

In the last President's message, I mentioned that I was in the process of inventorying my collection of clocks including all my alarm clocks. I also mentioned that doing this enabled me to see alarm clocks that I have not seen for years. As I said it was like seeing “old friends” again. In this process I also discovered items that I did not need in the collection and put them aside. With no outlet to buy or sell other than eBay I thought that it would be a good idea to put a few items in the HBACC Newsletter. I have included three alarm clocks or items associated with alarm clocks for sale in this issue.

Would anyone like to sell some alarm clocks in the HBACC Newsletter? If you have something to sell, please send a picture to either Bob or myself to see if space permits in a future Newsletter. If space permits, we will take your alarm clock picture with your contact information and put it on a “For Sale” page.

Check out the “For Sale” page. You might find something you like.

Vince

Editor's Note: We will find space for any FOR SALE ITEMS submitted.

This month's newsletter includes information sent by Dennis Sagvold, Vince Angell and the Editor
Thanks to all of them.

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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

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

or mail at:

Chapter 178

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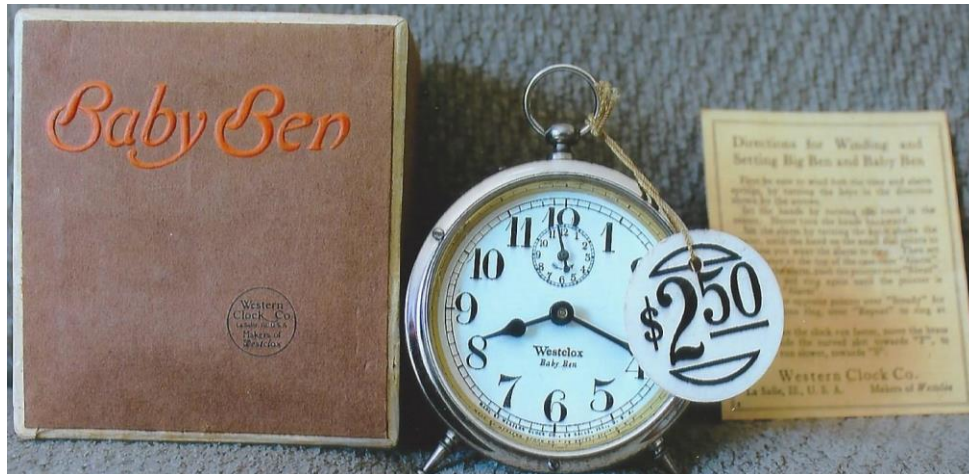
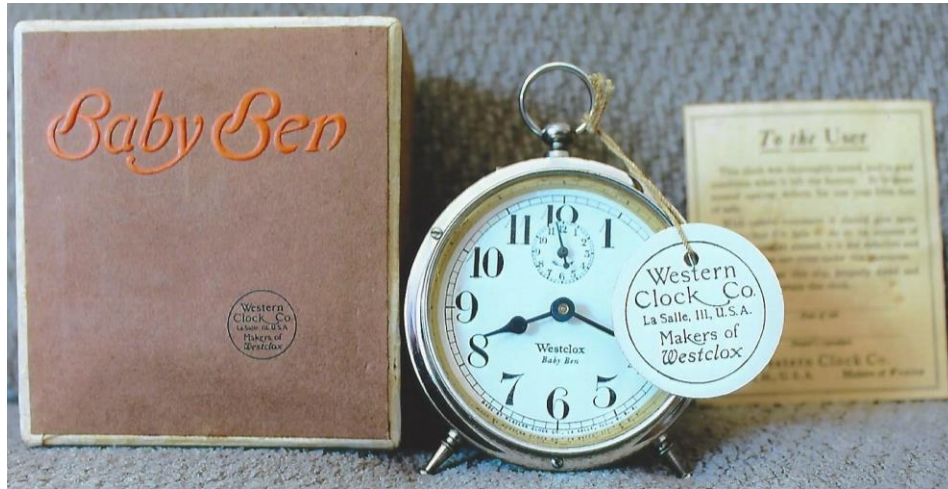
THE SELDOM SEEN baby Ben Alarm clock

You are all familiar with the Baby Ben legged alarm clock, but how many have see or have a baby Ben. Below are pix of both clock faces. Note that on the Baby Ben the Westclox is italic and the Baby Ben is in block letters. It seems that Westclox changed this sequence through the years with sometimes reversing the block and italic lettering. Also note that on the baby Ben face there is no mention of Westclox!!!



Our President Vince also collects the boxes that the Clocks were sold in.
These pix come from him.

These pix come from Dennis Sagvold who also collects the boxes as well as the clocks. He writes "This is a Baby Ben Alarm Clock with the original Box, original price tag and the original Instruction sheets. The clock has a manufacture date of 4-14-1924."



To the User

This clock was thoroughly tested, and in good condition when it left the factory. It is guaranteed against defects for one year from date of sale.

With careful treatment it should give satisfaction—but if it fails to do so on account of being dropped or abused, it is not defective and therefore does not come under this guarantee.

Please enclose this slip, properly dated and signed, if you return this clock.

Date of sale

Dealer's signature

Western Clock Co.
La Salle, Ill., U. S. A. Makers of *Westclox*

Directions for Winding and Setting Big Ben and Baby Ben

First be sure to wind *both* the time and alarm springs, by turning the keys in the direction shown by the arrows.

Set the hands by turning the knob in the center. Never turn the hands backward.

Set the alarm by turning the knob above the center, until the hand on the small dial points to the time you want the alarm to ring. Then set the pointer at the top of the case over "Alarm". To stop the alarm, push the pointer over "Silent".

It will not ring again until the pointer is moved to "Alarm".

Place the opposite pointer over "Steady" for a continuous ring, over "Repeat" to ring at intervals.

To make the clock run faster, move the brass piece inside the curved slot towards "F", to make it run slower, towards "S".

Western Clock Co.
La Salle, Ill., U. S. A. Makers of *Westclox*

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**Now we come to what is believed to be the PROTOTYPE for the Baby (baby) Ben.
What has been referred to as the Little Ben.**



As you can see there is no name on the dial or the back of the case. As a matter of fact there is no name anywhere in this clock even though it can be easily identified as being made by Westclox.



Westclox came out with a series of Little Ben alarms probably in the 1960's.

Dennis Sagvold is a frequent contributor to this Newsletter. Below is an article and pictures of him that appeared in the September 2020 edition of a Glenwood MN. local newspaper; the SR. PERSPECTIVE. These are reprinted here with the kind permission of the Editor Jim Palmer.

Man's collection keeps on ticking

By Lisa Ridder

Dennis Sagvold could easily be described as a horologist turned aficionado. Horology is the study and measurement of time, and Dennis has more than 40 years of experience repairing clocks and more than 20 years in the clock repair business

At the urging of a jeweler friend, Dennis studied watchmaking in Chicago, Illinois, graduating as a Master Watchmaker years ago.

'It's not heavy work, and there's a big need for it,' he said. 'That's what he told me. I researched it, it sounded interesting, and so that's what I did.'

While Dennis never officially studied clock making or repair, he learned by trial and error.

'About the same time I started my business I got into collecting,' he said 'I discovered alarm clocks with legs and I realized I didn't see many of them around. I thought they were kind of interesting.'

The more he researched the alarm clocks with legs, the more he liked them.

"I found out they quit making them in 1929 and were phased out by 1935," said Dennis. "I was drawn to them because they were different; they were small and didn't take up much room"

Today, Dennis has more than 500 alarm clocks with legs. "and there is not a duplicate in the bunch" he said.

Dennis overhauls each clock before he displays it, which takes a lot of time. But Dennis has never kept track of the hours he's put into overhauling his collection.

"I love it. I really enjoy taking them apart, fixing them and putting them back together," he said. Dennis has space dedicated for clock repair, complete with a clock cleaning machine.

Dennis spends time researching each clock. He knows the story behind every clock. In fact, he carried his documentation around with him, eventually deciding it would make a good book. So in 2004, his book *Legged Alarm Clocks* was published.

After all of this, one would think Dennis would not be adding to his collection of legged alarm clocks, but nothing could be further from the truth.

"I know there are more out there that I don't have and when I see one, I will know," said Dennis. "I find most of the clocks in flea markets and in antique stores."

Dennis belongs to various organizations and clubs related to clock collecting. He has been a member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors since 1974.

Did he grow up with any of these clocks in the house? "I am sure we had them in the house, but I do not have any vivid memories of them. My aunt told me once that my grandfather was also a clock maker and repairman, but I never knew him, as he died before I was born," he said, pausing for a moment and then smiling. "However, I did have a toy tin watch that was just like dad's watch, but it lasted for about a week and then it broke, I collect them too. I have over 639 toy tin watches."

Toy tin watches don't run, he noted.

"They have no movement in them at all as they were never meant to work. They are just a toy," said Dennis. "I researched the history of each one. The cowboy watches are my favorites."

Dennis continues to add to his collection. He noted that he's never met anyone else that collects the toy tin watches. He gets a lot of his new collection pieces from eBay and other online sources.

"I only collect toy tin watches. I don't collect the plastic ones," said Dennis.

Very few of the watches were made in the United States. "Well, during the war, things couldn't be made of tin, as it was needed for the war effort. Many of the watches were made in Japan, some in Germany and I have a set that was made in Spain," he said. "I believe most of my watches were made in the 1940s and 1950s. There's no way to date them that I know of," said Dennis.

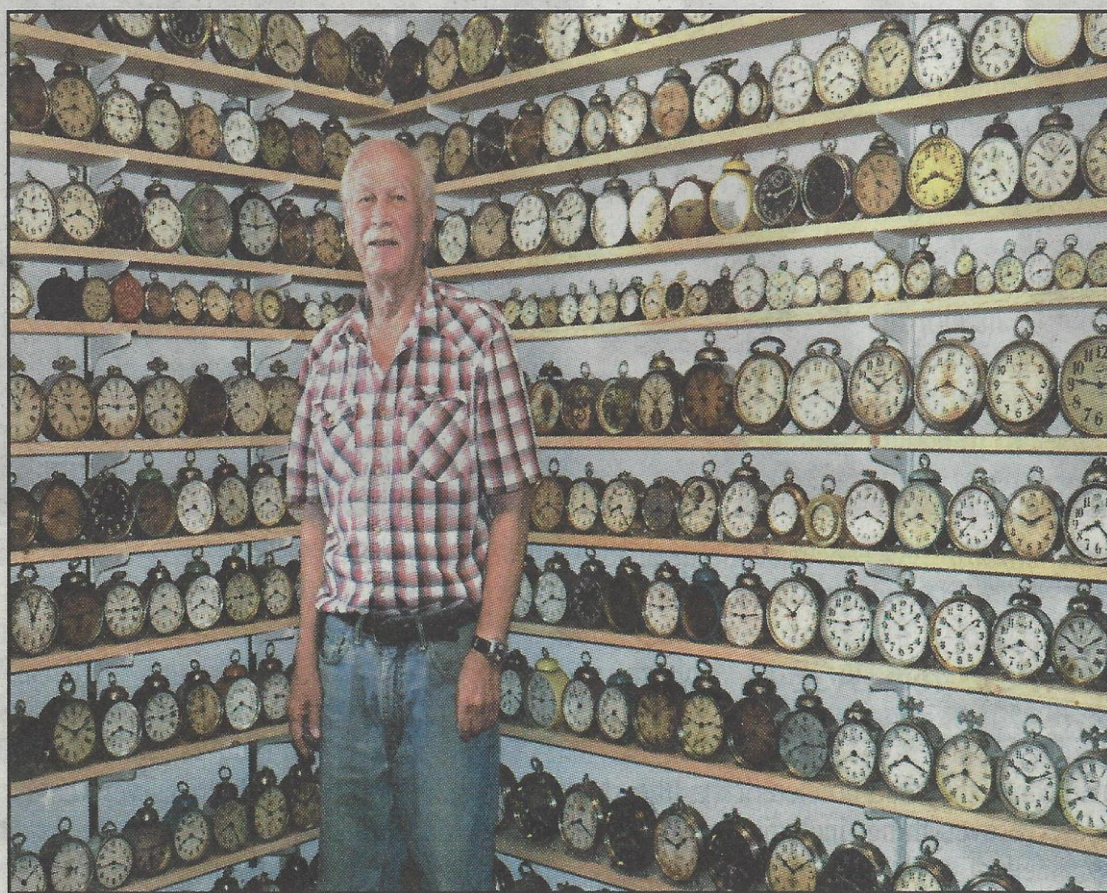
Some of this collection includes store displays; others are in sets or are just a single watch. Just like his legged alarm clock collection, Dennis has a wide assortment of watches and yes, no duplicates.

When Dennis is not restoring clocks or collecting, he keeps busy with his other hobbies.

"I like photography and scroll sawing, and I also enjoy attending car shows, showing my collector car" he said.

Dennis also loves the trivia he learns through his research. "Zip codes were first used in June of 1973 and UPC codes were first used in 1974," said Dennis.

One thing is certain, no matter what he is doing or learning, Dennis enjoys it all.



Dennis Sagvold stands with most of his three-legged alarm clock collection. Photo by Lisa Ridder



Dennis with some of his Sheriff toy watch sets. Photo by Lisa Ridder

erspective

No U.S. president has ever been an only child.

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Above: One of at least 20 tin toy watch store displays that Dennis has as part of his collection. Left: Dennis with most of his tin toy collection. Photos by Lisa Ridder

Boxes, Boxes, and More Boxes

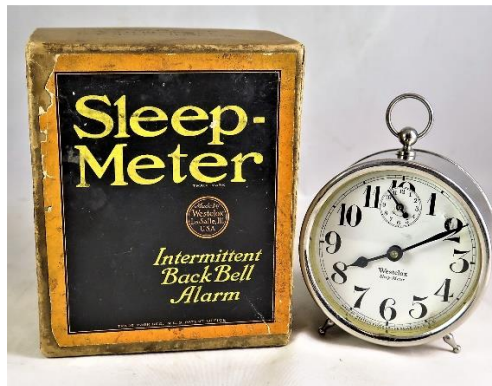
I have been collecting alarm clocks for over 30 years and as I get older not only do I have many but it is hard to find ones that I don't have. Through these years of collecting, I started collecting what seems to be an area that is more difficult to collect than just shopping for the alarm clocks.

Now I search for the boxes that they came in.

Here are a few of, what I call the more interesting boxes.
Please enjoy and if you have questions please email me at phylathome@hotmail.com Vince Angell



Rare Seth Thomas
"Nutmeg" Alarm
Ca. 1890



Westclox "Sleep-Meter"
Note Stamps on side of Box
Denoting Date of 1918



Westclox "Ironclad"
Ca. 1915



Westclox "Lookout"
Ca. 1919



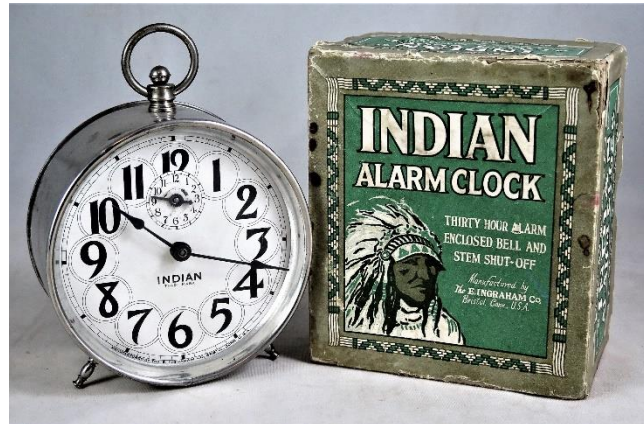
Ingraham Clock Co.
 "Giant"
 Ca. 1919



Note that the Label Shows a depiction of Artist Maxfield Parrish's "Giant"



Parker Clock Company
 "No. 61"
 Ca. 1910



E. Ingraham Clock Co.
 "Indian"
 Ca. 1912

And then My Favorite! The Ansonia Bee



BELOW ARE PICTURES OF A BOX THAT Vince Angell has. He is looking for a clock to go into the box. If you have a Gilbert Wake Up alarm that you would consider selling please contact him at: phylathome@hotmail.com



For Sale



**2 Vintage Lux Clocks
1 Alarm and 1 Timepiece
\$15.00 + \$15. Shipping
Contact Vince Angell
@1916-952-4961**



**Alarm Clock Bank
\$12.00 + \$10 shipping
Contact Vince Angell
@1916-952-4961**



**Jansen "NITELITE"
Project Clock - It Runs
\$20 + \$20 shipping
Contact Vince Angell**



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c/o Mike Wilson Secretary/Treasurer

15508 East Chaparral Way

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Phone: 480-816-6483

Fax: 480-836-8766

Email: mike@oldephotog.com