

Secretary's Copy

Heart of America Chapter December Report

Our Chapter President's Season's Greetings

By the time this report reaches you, we will have entered the Yuletide Season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of my good friends a very Merry Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year.

Eventually after the hustle and bustle and excitement of the festivities have subsided most of us will find ourselves recapitulating. As the old year passes and the new year presents itself we wonder and try to anticipate what good fortune or disaster might cross our path as we proceed. I believe most of us agree our blessings far exceed the disagreeable events which of course are inevitable. We are what we are because of our ability to digest or accept the bitter with the sweet.

One time there was a hungry cow who refused to give milk. The veterinarian appraisal of the predicament to the farmer was this: "If you expect to get anything out of this critter you had better put something into it." And so it is with our little organization--dividends are measured by your investment. Most of us find as we struggle and fumble through this existence we call life, that we derive the most enjoyment from accomplishments or pleasures we share with others. So, if you are not satisfied with the results you derive from our little group--put something into it.

The Heart of America Chapter No. 36 is a proud, thriving, and envied little organization whose success in the future depends on the interest and cooperation of each of its individual members. Do not depend entirely on your officers alone for survival; your officers are only the tools of the organization. Tools are useless without willing hands to guide them. So if in the future you are called upon to head or serve on a committee, or if your turn comes to talk before the group, come prepared and prepare in advance. You may be surprised how easy and how little effort is required to expedite some of these assignments. Then to, there is a certain satisfaction in knowing you have contributed something to the perpetuation of the organization no matter how small the effort.

As you sum up your accomplishments for the past year be sure to claim your just credit for being one of those who helped to activate H.O.A. Chapter. We know there will be occasions and good reasons when some can not attend meetings, but as long as Mr. Tholen of Hays, Kansas, travels 500 miles to be present, his effort should leave some of those located in the general area with some pretty red faces when you consider your reason for missing the meeting. So lets all in the coming year make up our minds to attend every meeting and each of us work and cooperate as if the survival of the H.O.A. Chapter depends on us individually.

There is a wealth of knowledge and ability combined in our membership and I am positive its all available just for the asking. Do not hesitate to ask questions or request information because you feel the information you seek too elementary. Everybody starts at the bottom--I am still fumbling around--and when we stop learning something new each day, then we will be dead.

In conclusion let me repeat; have a happy Holiday and may I suggest your number one New Year's Resolution: "I will be the hardest working member of H. O. A. No. 36." Happy Watch and Clock Hunting.

Your Humble President,  
William C. Bruer

The Holiday Season brings together good friends from all over, and reminising the past as well as the present becomes the favorite sport of all people at this time. As for the "past", it grieves us to think of all fun and things we have been missing by not having a Clock and Watch Collector's Chapter sooner, but our regrets soon turn to smiles of pleasure as we remember the events since April of this year, and look to the "future" and the events in store for us, the new and wonderful things we will see, the whole world of new and invigorating knowledge that is being opened up to us, and the speculation of what the new year will bring. First on the docket is a brand new Chapter Meeting coming up Sunday, January 8th, just after the Old Year has ended and almost before the Holiday Spirit has retired for another year. Naturally, the big topics that day will be centered around new acquisitions acquired since that last October Meeting, and the joyous Season just ending.

Actually, things will be quite about that time--the guests having all returned home, the peaceful restfulness of a mussed up house and unwrapped gifts setting everyplace except on their proper shelves, the men back to work trying to make up for the time they took off over the Holidays, the travelers all resting (or rather, fairly well rested) and hoping that next year you will come to see them and they can stay at home, and the ladies busy looking for a shelf to put that new clock on or a place to display that prise watch or watches as the case may be. About this time, a few of our good friends from the St. Louis Chapter, and the other Chapters around us are going to be dropping in. There are many plans to be made and events to be scheduled. The "planning" and "preparing for" are almost as much fun as the dinners, or shows--or what have you--are themselves.

A hurried call was made to our President and it seems the Committees are all making progress. Mr. Henry has been busy trying to locate the gentleman incharge of the twin-tower Clocks on the Federal Office Building here in Kansas City. Mr. Peck was astonded at the numerous restaurants and cafeterias located here, and finds that what little time he has available keeps him tied to the telephone calling first this one and then that one. Mr. Hardie is about to, or maybe already has, retired and is anxious to get the go-ahead to interrogate those twin-tower Clocks and the other members of his Committee seem to be sharing his enthusiasm. Gentlemen, please be patient a bit longer. January 8th is just around the corner.

Of course, it is needless to say the Auxiliary is active as the telephone has become increasingly more busy as the great day approaches. The ladies are busy planning and preparing for the meeting to come, and time is growing shorter everyday. Mrs. Hardie has contributed the following which we think you will enjoy.

"Long Ago"

Long ago, toys came mostly at Christmas and birthday times. Those gifts were wonderful, regardless, except maybe a suit of long underwear or a pair of high buckled overshoes, that threw a week feeling into the receiver's stomach that was indeed hard to take. If a boy liked to trap rabbits or skunks, well, that was different.

For the farm youngsters of long ago there were hardships to no end, but we can remember a lot of fun mixed in. Box suppers in the fall, Christmas trees at the old rural schoolhouse; these were the highlights of the seasons. These wonderful times are gone forever. There are

presents all thru the year, and social activities three or more times a week. When Christmas time arrives, it seems that now it is a burden.

We used to go to the community tree at the little rural school-house. When we arrived at the School, we girls could see the most beautiful tree in the world standing in our School. Dad had to put blankets over his horses; that was a must. The mothers and fathers sat up in front of the building and held the smaller children. The young ladies sat about halfway, and the old folks and grandparents filled in the rest of the seats. The young men stood along the back wall so that they could be noticed by the young ladies. The lights on the tree were little candles in the holders that clamped onto the limbs, and usually a pail or two of water set near by, in case of fire, and the Christmas gifts exchanged at this time were treasured for years to come.

Much could be written about an old fashion Christmas, but as usual, time is fleeting. Time is getting shorter as December draws to an end and we are reminded of just this, when we hear the whistle of a train carrying its long drawn-out lonesome echo as it enters into our city. The Sun has turned toward the pole of the horizon and another Christmas passes, and we welcome the New Year.

Blanche Hardie

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Due to the chance of inclement weather at this time, all invitations for open houses that day have been postponed. The meeting will begin at two o'clock Sunday, January 8th, in the American Automobile Association Building at 2525 Gillham Road here in Kansas City, Mo. All members are encouraged to arrive anytime immediately after one o'clock in order that the exhibits may be properly inspected before the meeting. Incidentally, everyone is requested to bring clocks and watches for exhibit and even though you say, "Well, everyone has seen mine", bring it anyway, and something extra because at every meeting there is always someone new who hasn't seen your things, and we owe our guests that courtesy of providing them with the opportunity to see and learn, just as we have.

For the new members, the A.A.A. Bldg. is approximately six blocks east of the Liberty Memorial Mall which is located at 25th Main above the Union Station. The A.A.A. Bldg. is on the east side of Gillham Road between 25th and 26th Streets, a low two story Building, with a parking lot to the north. You can enter the Building through the center door located on that side. Remember, come early as the Meeting will start at two o'clock and that does not leave much time to see everything.

The November Report carried a letter to us from the Cook Paint and Varnish Co. By now, all their stores throughout Missouri and Kansas have been notified of the 15% discount, and this covers all products from paint on down to refinishing materials. We hope all members will take advantage of this discount.

Holiday Greetings are extended to all.

Your Officers of H. O. A.