

## November Report

Chapter 36 of the National Association of Watch and Clock collectors is constantly on the go--traveling from West to East, North to South, and to all points inbetween. The past month since our October 2nd Meeting has been a very busy one the Traveling Chapter reports due to the number of visitors and letters of visits that have come to your Secretary's attention. Even Jack Brown of Wichita who at the present is unable to travel writes that he has had numerous visitors and hopes before long to join once more with the Traveling Chapter Members, seeing, doing and enjoying one another's collections. The fun of collecting and traveling comes in the pleasure of seeing someone else's collection, from learning from his experiences and discoveries, and seeing new and rare items; as well as seeing how the rest of the world lives.

That "new Baby" as the National Association refers to this wonderful new Chapter in Mid-America, has been roving forward by leaps and bounds, and when it comes to doing things, it is unstoppable. The October 2nd Meeting was of historic significance in that the Heart of America Chapter accepted by a unanimous vote the motion to have a ladies Auxiliary composed of all the wives of the members of the Chapter. The ladies Auxiliary has thirty-two members and the Chapter has thirty-six National Association Members. The wives are the ones who really act as hostesses at the meetings and open houses, prepare the door prizes, decide among themselves who will have the next open house, and in general, see to it that things go smoothly. The ladies will participate in the discussions of all topics at the meetings and will join in to make our meetings and this business of collecting a family affair. We are happy to welcome such an enthusiastic group to our Heart of America Chapter, and ladies, when your Secretary mentions "the Chapter" hereafter in the Reports, this also includes the Auxiliary.

New Business for that day saw many topics being discussed and committees appointed to carry out the wishes of the Chapter regarding these topics. One question was whether or not to have dinner meetings. Should we have one a year, eat at cafeterias or restaurants in their private meeting rooms and then have our meeting afterwards, have Pot-Luck Dinners, or what? Everyone agreed that these must be entirely informal. Mr. Henry and Mr. Peck were appointed to investigate all these suggestions and to report back at the January 8th Meeting their findings and recommendations of what appropriate action should be taken. At that time the Chapter will decide what we want.

Another topic that received considerable attention was a suggestion to have a clock auction. Should it be a public auction, could we use the World War II Memorial Building to have a combined Clock Show (Exhibit) as well as an auction or sale? Mr. Wagner was appointed to check on what arrangements were necessary pertaining to obtaining a place for such an extravaganza, and whether or not we have to collect sales tax on these sales or auctions. Is Uncle Sam to have his cut? Everyone is encouraged to look around and see what you have that you would like to dispose of in order to purchase another rare item. Let us hear if you would be interested, or if you would rather just have a show, or what.

Invitations have been extended to all the different Chapters around us to come to the January 8th Meeting. Some of them have tried

various ideas and should be able to provide us with some valuable tips as to what would be successful and what to avoid. In addition to making them welcome that day (it will be mid-winter and the Holidays will be over so it should be a good time to get together to talk collecting) lets all bring clocks and watches to exhibit at the meeting.

The October Meeting began promptly at two o'clock and lasted almost two hours with the various discussions and the program that day. Among the projects that committees were appointed to investigate was one to restore the twin clocks in the two towers of the Federal Office Building here in Kansas City. Mr. Henry gave a short talk about these clocks. The people of Kansas City bought the clock and its Howard Works in 1885, and for sixty-nine years this clock has been Kansas City's time piece. But the last few years have seen it deteriorate to where it no longer runs, and it was suggested by Mr. Henry that a committee be appointed to see about restoring it. Mr. Bruer promptly appointed Mr. Henry as a committee of one to obtain permission for this project, and then Mr. Hardie, Mr. Henry, Mr. Camden, Mr. Peck and Mr. McConnell were appointed to see what was needed and if the necessary repairs could be made.

Incidentally, Mr. Henry was presently working on a clock made by a famous sculpture, but he needed help to restore it to its original condition. It was a figure atop a clock designed by the French Government to be given to the former President, Mr. Truman, but somehow through various fates, it was now owned by a gentleman here in Kansas City and he wanted it repaired. Mr. Henry offered to contribute all he received from its repair to the Chapter, and our President then made the offer to help him in any way he could. We are anxiously awaiting news gentlemen. Is it repaired? We do not want any unpaired clocks laying around loose. It might ruin our Chapter's reputation.

The program that day was "What started you to collecting (how did the 'bug' bit you)" and the responses to that question by the different members was both enlightening and humorous. From the ability shown that day, it was evident that all of us have something we can do especially well, or something we are authorities on. A new setup evolved for our programs hereafter. Each of the Members will take their turn at giving a short talk on something he is best prepared--refinishing, restoring, repairing, history (in general) or regarding a particular clock or watch, or even something about a particular watch or clock or perhaps about their maker. When your turn comes, the Program part of our meeting is yours. Of course, be prepared to answer questions afterwards, as such talks as these will definitely lead to discussions. Mr. Glenn Blair will present the first program come January 8th, and all of the members will be asked to write down their talk prior to their meeting and send it to our President so that in the event the weather is unfavorable or you find at the last minute that you can not be there, your program topic for that meeting can be read and discussion carried on, and everyone will have the opportunity to learn from your knowledge and experience.

Following the meeting, the members then attended an open house at Mr. and Mrs. Dale Henry's home in Kansas City, Kansas, that will long be remembered. Not only does he have a fine collection, but their home is beautifully furnished. True to the coming Christmas Spirit,

Mr. Henry had gathered together various items useful to all collectors varying from dials and hands down to the tiniest screws and washer, and he freely offered anyone anything he needed. It is unnecessary to add that the members accepted his generous offer and can now show you watches and clocks that they have been able to restore as they should be, due to the parts Mr. Henry supplied them with. The door prizes provided by the Henrys at the open house were won by Mrs. Hardie and Mr. Zohner. Needless to say, there is always as much discussion at the open houses as there is at the meetings. Somehow collectors seem to have fun regardless where they are at. Of course, discussion comes easily when everyone is enjoying themselves, and everyone definitely was that day. All in all, it was a day long to be remembered.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

The following is an offer made by the Cook Paint & Varnish Co. through the efforts of one of our members, Mr. Ervin Smith, associated with the Research Department of that Company:

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Dear Mr. Smith:

The Cook Paint and Varnish Company is glad to comply with your request to grant the members of the Heart of America Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors a discount of 15% in the retail price on all paint and related products sold by the Cook Paint and Varnish Company branch stores.

Instructions are going out to our branch stores in Missouri and Kansas advising them to honor this discount to any of your members when properly identified by presenting their current N.A.W.C.C. membership card.

Very truly yours,

Jay O. Boelun  
Asst. Vice-President

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This is a wonderful opportunity for all our members to get their supplies at a nice saving and refinish our clocks the way we like to have them. It also provides us with an opportunity to say "thank you" for a very generous offer. All that is needed is your membership card presented at any Cook Paint and Varnish Store (not good at stores who merely carry Cook Paint and Varnish products, but at Cook Paint and Varnish Stores and their branches throughout this part of the Country). Especial thanks should be given to Mr. Smith for his part in obtaining this discount for us. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner and no collector has everything he needs, so check on those supplies.

Another offer was extended by the Hall Supply Company, P. O. Box 8084, Charlotte 8, N. C., regarding the sale of pendulum bobs for American Clocks at a price of only \$7.20 a dozen plus 50 cents packing and postage. This roughly is approximately 60 cents apiece, and I am sure that most of the members received this offer through the mail. The Hall Supply Co. contacted Mr. Bruer and then he asked me to send them our roster so that each member would have an opportunity to purchase them. The Hall Supply Company also has many other supplies for clock and watch repairing and Mr. Bruer says their prices are very reasonable and so far the things he has ordered have not been misrepresented. Here, perhaps, is a new source for obtaining those hard to

get parts so often needed to repair clocks and watches the way they need to be.

#### "Wants" Column

- .....Welsh Clocks, condition not specified; Dale E. Henry, 5444 Neosho, Kansas City 3, Kans.
- .....Jewelers Lathe, used but still in fairly good condition; Ervin J. Smith, 5313 N. Cleveland, Kansas City 19, Mo.
- .....Birge Mallory three decker eight day weight clock, preferred in the rough or in most any condition; Roy Power, Paris, Mo.
- .....~~Exxxxx~~ Calendar Clock, condition not specified; Donald R. Mills, 237 Allcut Street, Bonner Springs, Kans.
- .....Enameled case watch in "mint condition", preferrably a "hunting case"; Lee Seymour, R. F. D. 1, Box 114, Blackwell, Okla.
- .....Pendulum Clocks in any condition; E. J. Zohner, Penokee, Kans.
- .....Books on the history of clocks; Archie E. Starcher, 406 Walnut Street, Colonial Apt's #8, Carthage, Mo.
- .....Early American Pendulum Clocks in fair condition; B. E. McEowen 215 W. 82nd Terrace, Kansas City 14, Mo.
- .....Watch made by Wichita Watch Co. and one made by Waterbury Watch Co. with 9 foot mainspring; E. J. Tholen, Hays, Kansas

#### "Forsales" Column

- .....Figure eight Seth Thomas Clocks and Ithica Clocks, in good condition, completely restored; W. Paul Holland, 225 $\frac{1}{2}$  E. Olive St., Springfield, Mo.

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#### Brief History of the First Dollar Watch Factory

The Waterbury Watch Company (not the Clock Company as we know it) was organized in 1880 and continued till 1898 when it was changed to the "New England Watch Company". In 1912 the Company failed and the Ingersoll Company bought the property. The Waterbury Watch Company made the first "Dollar Watch", the one with the nine foot mainspring.

According to "Time Telling Through the Ages", published in 1919, the Trenton Watch Company was organized in 1886 as the New Haven Watch Co. and the same year changed its name to the "Trenton Watch Company", and was the second Company to make "Dollar Watches". The Company failed in 1907 and the business property was bought by the Robert H. Ingersoll and Brothers Company and was operated by them. That was where the I-T (Ingersoll-Trenton) jeweled Watches were then made.

The Wichita Watch Company was organized in 1887. It did not buy out any other company and it was not sold out but continued by another company (unknown to author) under another name, as was the case with many other watch companies which went through various re-organizations, sales, etc.

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The above was submitted by Mr. H. J. Tholen and the members are encouraged to write and contribute anything they feel would be useful to the December Report. Enclosed with this Report is a postcard for each of the ladies of Auxiliary to fill out and return no later than Nov. 15th. The Roster of Members has been completed, but since the Ladies are now also members, if each of you will fill out the cards, I will include what you also collect besides the Clock or Watch Collection of your husbands. Reminding you of our next meeting Jan. 8, 1961, at the A.A.A. Bldg. here in Kansas City, and an open house which will follow, I remain,

Very truly yours,

*Clement C. Wagner, Secy.*