

April Report, 1961

Our President's Report---

On a fine sunny afternoon April 10, 1960, twenty determined watch and clock collectors from the four state area assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Caspar Wagner for the sole purpose of meeting others interested in clocks and watches and organizing a local N.A.W.C.C. Chapter. Under the very able supervision of Mrs. Peg Hovey these purposes were resolved and I mean in short order. After the smoke had cleared we found ourselves with elected officers and the Heart of America Chapter No. 36.

Shortly, this group will commemorate its first anniversary by attendance at our first banquet to be held here in Kansas City at the Carousel Cafeteria. Because of the excellent cooperation, interest and fine attendance of our members at meetings, H.O.A. No. 36 has grown in stature and now boasts a membership of forty-one members with prospects of several new members who we hope will be included in our next report. To me this progress is quite an accomplishment because our members are spread out over such a large area. Enthusiasm and interest is obviously shared by all, and proof of this is in the time and miles most of our members drive in order to attend meetings.

We also boast that H.O.A. No. 36 activated the first auxiliary in the Country. Over the twelve month span we have learned considerable; we have made mistakes, but these I believe have been exceeded by our accomplishments. Always remember your Officers are as enthusiastic and determined as ever to make our activities and meetings as attractive and interesting to each individual as can be sanely done.

Your Officers are considering the idea of printing up a brochure which would list the advantages of membership in the N.A.W.C.C. and H.O.A. No. 36. This brochure would be available to our local members just in case in your travels you might contact some collectors who are not aware of the N.A.W.C.C. or H.O.A. No. 36. If you have any thoughts or ideas you think should be included or considered in this brochure send them to our Secretary. Then at some future meeting we can approve or disapprove this idea.

Most of the members appointed to the Tower Clock Committee have responded with their appraisal of whether or not we should attempt to restore the clocks in the Fidelity Bldg. The general concensus of opinion is that this undertaking would not be worthy of the time and effort extended. There are several substantial reasons. Presently the Bldg. is owned by the Government, and accessibility to the Towers by our group would probably require credentials and approval of J. Edgar Hoover.

We all know the Government is planning a vast structure in this locality which they say will house all their agencies in this region including those in the Fidelity Bldg., so eventually this Bldg. will be sold or given away. The new owners may not be too interested in the old clocks and whether they function or not. There are two separate clocks, one in each Tower, without any visible or conceivable means of coordinating the time. Only one strikes the bell and this happens to be the one denuded of so many parts and not worthy of repair.

If there were any expenses or charges involved to the Government they would request bids from the clock shops around town. You can imagine their reaction if our bid was seven or eight thousand less than the others. Their understandable deduction would probably be that in addition to being "collectors" we must also be advanced psychopathic cases. I can think of several other reasons--all discouraging if any one is interested.

About our Anniversary Dinner--I hope every one will be present if at all possible. Do not forget friends and guests are welcome. Business will be of short duration. In the meantime, lets all resolve to bring in at least two new members apiece this coming year.

Bill Bruer, President

Traveling Chapter Secretary Reports---

Since the March Report was sent out almost a month ago, the 1961 Membership Dues and Anniversary Dinner Reservations have been pouring in, and almost without fail, each member has included a short note. Your Secretary looks forward to these communications for they provide the link between our far distant membership. The members never fail to visit another member but what they see or learn something new, and that holds true for telephone visits. Mr. Henry has been on the quest of weights, and stumbled on an easy method of bushing wooden work clocks at Mr. Bruer's, our President. Mr. Bruer even makes his own cutting tools for this work and says it cuts several hours off bushing, a rather ticklish job usually. He can bush an entire works and never dismantle the movement.

The Smiths and Foxes in Sedalia have been very busy and Mr. Fox reports that since the middle of August, he has acquired fifty more clocks. To acquire more clocks nowadays is a difficult job, but to have them all different is even a more arduous job. The Thomases, from Sweet Springs, report they have been extremely busy, and Mrs. Thomas, like Mrs. Bruer and Mrs. Henry, is anxiously working on new ideas to provide the members with worthwhile and interesting door-prizes. Mr. Thomas reports that from ideas he has picked up from seeing and visiting with other members, including a trip to Oklahoma, he has been able to restore and repair several of the many clocks he has to their original condition, and is anxious to pass on to the other members any new tricks he has acquired.

Mr. Catlin wrote he hopes the meetings continue to be as enlightening as they have been in the past. Mr. Hudson joins him in this sentiment, and we believe that this is the desire of all the members. Speaking of meetings, if we continue to have the fine exhibits that we had at the last meeting January 8th, and interesting speakers such as the talk by Mr. Ervin Smith on case refinishing at the last meeting and the talk Mr. Blair has prepared for our coming meeting regarding the repairing of verges, we can not help but learn and benefit from attending the meetings. This goes along with our President's idea--a Chapter and its meeting are only as interesting and beneficial as the members want them to be. They are your meetings and what you contribute to them, and the hard work you do to supplying interesting exhibits and participate in discussions and talks enlightening the other members to short cuts, new ideas you have discovered, and helpful hints, will be the beneficial results.

Our "western" members, Mr. Tholen and his wife are planning on attending as well as the Motleys from St. Joseph. Both these gentlemen have long been in the watch and clock repair business and I am certain the members will not soon forget the wooden works movement Mr. Tholen designed and made himself and brought to our very first meeting April 10th, one year ago. Mr. & Mrs. Brown from Wichita are likewise ardent fans of this clock collecting bug, and Mr. Brown can proudly take his place among designers and makers of unique and interesting clocks, as was evident at the July Meeting held in their home, climaxed by the visit that day to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Blanchat and seeing their Howard Collection. Jack Brown reports that he has sufficiently recovered from his heart attack that he once again will become an active participant in the Chapter (from the reports your Secretary has received, Mr. Brown's illness did not seem to lessen his participation any as he has not only kept busy but the Chapter traveled to him in many different ways).

So What's New---

Silly question! Everyone seems to be planning on attending our Anniversary Dinner, Sunday, April 9th. The members should be at the Cafeteria at two o'clock that afternoon so that we may all enjoy our Dinner together. Where is this Cafeteria? It is the Carousel Cafeteria at 5830 Troost, here in Kansas City, Missouri. If you enter the City from the south it is on Highway 71 following Troost right to 58th Street, and if you come in by Highway 50, follow it to Troost Avenue, approximately eleven blocks east of Main Street, and then turn south to 58th Street and you are there. The same applies if you follow Highway 40 in, but watch out for the "No Left Turn" sign at Troost turning either a block beyond or a block sooner.

Remember, by having our Dinner Meeting in a cafeteria, it allows each of us to select just what we would like from the variety of things offered which usually pleases those who are on a budget, those who are on a diet, and those who only like certain things. There is free parking space available, so we hope you will all make plans to be with us and enjoy the afternoon among Clock and Watch Collectors and Auxiliary Members, as well as guests. For those few of you who have not sent in your reservations, the telephone number of your Secretary is JACKSON 3-1259 and his address is 5802 Garfield, Kansas City 30, Mo. But regardless, if you find at the last minute your plans are suddenly changed and you can come, do so as we are making several extra reservations to accommodate late comers and extra guests.

But What If You Have not Paid Your 1961 Dues---

Well, come anyway and bring those two dollar bills with you. But be sure you have paid your National Association Dues first as you can not be a member of a local Chapter without being a member in good standing in the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors. This will be the last public notice of "dues paying time" for this year and April 31st your Secretary must remove your name from the Chapter's Roster. Fortunately, most of the members are now paid up, BUT there are still some who are not.

Short Quick News---

Mr. and Mrs. Motley from St. Joseph wrote they have a Polaroid Land Camera they can borrow from relatives, and anyone else who can get one will sure be helping us to get instant pictures so that we

can meet the next deadline for the National Bulletin. The April Bulletin Report has already been sent in but we need the material for the next Bulletin.

The next meeting of Indiana Chapter is May 14th at Turkey Run State Park near Crawfordsville, Indiana. There will be a question and answer session at which all and any questions are invited to which the experts will try to find the answers. But for those of you who enjoy our meeting April 9th so much that you can not wait until May to attend another meeting, the Iowa-Illinois Chapter has a meeting scheduled for April 30th in the American Legion Hall at South 4th St. and Penn, in Hoopeston, Illinois. The fun starts at ten o'clock that morning and lasts until four that afternoon and as for their Program-- let me quote their March Report: "We will have a talk by Dr. Hugh Wales of the University of Illinois. He will tell us about his recent trip to Switzerland's 'time' factories showing slides, and he will also show an interesting exhibit of modern movements. For the 'frosting on the cake', we will also show a sound film on 'History of Time'." Also, Indiana Chapter's Annual Mid-American Conference will be at Purdue University on October 21st for those of you who wish to attend.

IMPORTANT--TAKE NOTE--NEW MEMBERS TO BE ADDED TO YOUR ROSTER

The following names do not appear in the Roster and MUST BE ADDED if you want to keep an up-to-date "whos who" of Chapter Members:

Nichols, Brontie C.
901 State St., Springfield, Mo.
Telephone Repairman; Clocks and
Watches.
Mrs. Nichols--Flo Blue China.

Vaughan, Hugh
1317 North 25th St., Kansas City,
Kansas. Student; Old Clocks and
Watches.
Mr. & Mrs. Vaughan

Slyker, J. E.
602 S. Evergreen St., Chanute, Kan.
Retired Telephone Co. Manager;
Shelf Weight Clocks.
Mrs. Slyker--Coins.

Walkling, W. P.
13811 Eighth St., Grandview, Mo.
Production Analyst for U.S. Air
Force; Watch Repair.
Mrs. Walkling

That's it! Hoping to see all of you April 9th, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner
Clement C. Wagner, Secy.

You are invited to an Open House at 5802 Garfield from 11:30 A.M. till time to go to the Carousel Cafeteria for the Dinner and Meeting or you are most welcome to come after the Meeting and see the collections of the...

Wagners

Carpa Margaret
Clement & Florent