

Heart of America Chapter

May Report, 1961

VERY VERY IMPORTANT---

Please Note--at the last meeting, many things happened but the one which we are sure most of us are interested in is the following. The motion to change the By-Laws to read that "we will meet hereafter on the Second Sunday of the Months of February, April, June, August, October and December" was passed by a unanimous vote. This means that we will now meet six times a year and have eliminate the problem of having January 1st, or July 4th, or similar dates fall on our Meeting Date. The members who come great distances now will have more opportunities to meet with the group and if they miss one or two as circumstances will arise, then they will not have to wait six months to the next meeting. More about the April Anniversary Meeting later, but note also--due to our inability to obtain the A.A.A. Building for June 11th, which should be our next scheduled meeting, our next meeting will be on May 14th.

LET'S REVIEW-->

Our first year is past and we have more than doubled our membership. We began with twenty members and today we have forty-two at the present time. Open Houses this past year have been held at the homes of G. A. Wagner, Organizational Meeting, Jack Brown and Paul Blanchat in July, Dale Henry in October, and of course the Wagner's and the Bruer's homes for our Anniversary Meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Bruer opened their home following the Anniversary Dinner to all the members and guests who attended. This does not include the many times that you, the members, have visited in one another's homes this past year to learn and enjoy.

Our Organizational Meeting was April 10, 1960, and then we met July 10th, October 2nd, and January 8th. Our Anniversary Dinner was held April 9, 1961, at the Carousel Cafeteria and the program was "repairing and making verges" by Glenn Blair. Other programs this past year included a talk by Ervin Smith at our January Meeting on properly refinishing wood, and new products available to aid us in this refinishing process. A discussion of different solutions used by the various members to clean clock movements led by our President, Mr. Bruer, at the July Meeting was the program, and the numerous replies at the October Meeting to the question "How did the 'bug' bite you" constituted that interesting program.

We are a duly recognized Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, have a recognized Constitution and By-Laws, and an affiliated Auxiliary to our Chapter which handles all the problems that normally would take Meeting Time to discuss. At the present, the monthly Report is the Chapter Newsletter, and from time to time has contained such outstanding articles written by the members as the "History of the First Dollar Watch Factory" by Mr. Tholen, the Christmas Story by Mrs. Hardie of the old days "Long Ago", "Time On My Hands" by Mr. Perotti, which incidently was published in the April 1961 Bulletin of the National Association, and the story told by Mr. Carroll Thomas "Miracles Still Happen" regarding what happens when one tries to acquire a Silas B. Terry eight-day weight clock, a part at a time. Not to mention the outstanding article in this edition of the Report by Mr. Sayles, "A Short History of Time Recorders".

A FIRESIDE CHAT FROM OUR PRESIDENT---

Sunday, April 9th, the birds were singing and the snow was flying. How could we choose such a day for our Anniversary Dinner. About forty members and their families and friends gathered at the Carousel, a brave and enthusiastic group determined to make a success of our dinner and meeting regardless of what the odds might be. Everyone agreed the dinner was fine and the meeting a success. We heard two interesting talks by Mr. Blair of Stover, Mo. and Mr. Tholen of Hays, Kansas. The facilities of the Cafeteria provided an excellent meeting place and Mr. Blair com-

mented that it would be agreeable with him if we preceeded all of our meetings with a dinner.

We are having some difficulty finding a meeting place in June at this time. May 14th is the only available date for us at the A.A.A. Building. We are hoping no one will object to this date, this being Mother's Day. The matter of a banner for our group was brought before the body. It was suggested that if we had something with our Chapter's name on it to put up when we had our meetings, it would make it easier for our guests and new members to find our meeting place, and might also serve as advertisement that a local Chapter of Watch and Clock Collectors did exist. Hope you will give this suggestion some thought. Draw up a rough sketch and bring it with you to the next meeting--we need ideas. Do not forget about our N.A.W.C.C. and H.O.A. No. 36 promotional brochure mentioned in the April Report. We need your ideas as to what to include in this brochure which can be given to prospective members to introduce them to our Chapter and what we do. Submit your ideas to our Secretary.

Understand my turn to speak has come about, so you will hear from me come the next meeting. Most everyone would like to know how to bush a wooden movement without disassembling it, so I will undertake to prove this can be done easily with wood or plastic bushings and a simple cutter anyone can make. Hope to see all of you at the next meeting--bring your friends and some new members, as well as exhibits.

Bill Bruer, President of H.O.A. No. 36

LATE NEWS AT A GLANCE----

We had a terrific meeting for our Anniversary Dinner Meeting. The Tholens from Hays, Kansas, were in town, and so was Mr. and Mrs. Hudson from Galena just outside Joplin. Sunday morning Mr. Fox called from Sedalia and asked how the roads were as Glenn Blair from Stover, Missouri, was already there and they and the B. G. Smiths were going to come on through. The Motleys from St. Joseph came and brought a guest, as well as Mr. Sayles from Joplin who drove up that morning. Snow is definitely not a stopper of the forty members and guests who attended, and of anyone for that matter who collects clocks or watches. As it turned out, the sun made its appearance that afternoon the day ended by being a nice day after all.

By two o'clock everyone had gathered in force at the Cafeteria and after selecting their dinner, moved to the special dining room. Our meeting began about three and the Minutes of our January 8th Meeting were read and approved. Mr. Bruer introduced our many guests attending the meeting that afternoon. A motion was made to give Mrs. Hovey a lifetime honorary membership in our Chapter in recognition of the outstanding job she did in organizing our Chapter. This motion was no sooner made than it was seconded, and a unanimous decision of all the Chapter Members made it official. Mrs. Hovey was unable to be with us that day, but her good wishes were adequately expressed by the big beautiful bouquet of flowers that she sent that morning offering her congratulations to our Chapter on its First Anniversary.

Following a discussion as to whether or not we should have more meetings, a motion was made to amend the By-Laws to read that we will meet six times a year, every other month, and following a quick seconding, the Motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Perotti submitted his report of the available books in the various libraries around the area. Not only did he investigate the books available, but he made a complete bibliography of them and turned these over to your Secretary. Mrs. Bruer was appointed Chapter Historian as no one, and we mean no one, studies up on the history of clocks and watches and their maker as does Mrs. Bruer. She knows all these makers personally and can tell you more about their work and their clocks than the makers themselves.

The Program April 9th, was presented by Mr. Blair. His discussion of making verges was a jumping off point for an interesting discussion participated in by most of the members present as sometime or the other we have all had to face this problem. Following this, Mr. Tholen who can always be depended on to have the unusual, talked briefly on several of the interesting articles he had brought along, including some interesting watches he had. The meeting concluded shortly after four o'clock that day following the drawing for the doorprizes presented by the members in the Central Missouri Area and were won by Mr. B. G. Smith, Mr. Tholen, Mrs. McConnell, and Mrs. Bruer. The members who attended our Anniversary Dinner were in accord in their expression of the relaxed, open, friendly atmosphere that prevailed that day. We all sat in a semi-circle arrangement around the speakers and everyone seemed to want to participate in the discussions and apparently enjoyed the opportunity to visit with people who shared common interest of collecting. Who knows. Maybe we will have to try it again.

AND NOW, HOT NEWS JUST OFF THE PRESS ABOUT OUR COMING MEETING---

Due to the change in the meeting time, our next meeting should be the Second Sunday in June. When our President went to the A.A.A. to make arrangements for the room which seems to be our favorite meeting place, it was being used during this month for sales-planning by the A.A.A. The only available Sunday was May 14th, and since this is Mother's Day, it seemed a fitting time to really celebrate by getting together. As our President put it to me over the telephone the other evening, encourage everyone to bring their mothers and if their mothers have passed on to a better life, bring your guest's mother, bring your children and their families, bring everyone. But be sure you bring along those clocks, watches, and exhibits.

It may seem strange, but many of our guests in the past have mentioned that one thing they really enjoyed was seeing the many clocks, watches, and various types of both that were made. Lets not let them down. The Auxillary Members are also asked to bring an example of their hobbies. Remember, Sunday, May 14th, anytime after one o'clock--meeting begins promptly at two and will be done by four--at the American Automobile Association Bldg. here in Kansas City, Mo., 2525 Gillham Road.

A Short History of Time Recorders

Alan C. Sayles

Around 1885, Willard L. Bundy, a jeweler of Auburn, N. Y., had observed the cumbersome methods of time keeping in the factories of that era. Each man was given a brass identification check, bearing his number. He would present this check to the time keeper and a manual entry was made to check him in or out. This system was very slow as it required a force of clerks to record the time and there were many disputes as to the records accuracy.

In the year 1888, Mr. Bundy devised a mechanism that saved many of the clerks and removed the cause of the time record disputes. Instead of the brass check each man was given a key bearing his number. To check in or out, he inserted this key and gave it a quarter turn. This printed his number and the time on a roll of paper. The printing mechanism was of course controlled by a clock. The roll of paper then became the plant time-record.

At this same time Dr. Alexander Dey, a scotish physician and mathematician, patented in 1888 a time recorder radically different from that of Mr. Bundy. Its principal was so sound and so simple that it is essentially unchanged in the dial recorders of today. In the Dey Recorder, the workman's number appeared around the circumference of a large ring or dial on the front of the machine. From this clock comes the present term "clock number" which is used in almost all accounting systems. In order to record starting or stopping time the workman had only to swing a pointer to his own number, push the rod into the hole, causing the time to be printed opposite his number on a prepared time sheet inside the clock.

Another reason this style had such popularity was that even though each employee recorded his own time he had no access to the printed record locked inside the clock.

On Sept. 30, 1889, the Bundy Mfg. Co. was incorporated at Binghamton, N. Y. This was the first time recorder company in the world.

In 1893, the Dey Patents Co. was incorporated at Syracuse, N. Y. The name was later changed to the Day Time Register Co.

In 1894, Daniel M. Cooper, of Rochester, N. Y., an inventor of laundry machinery, patented the world's first card time recorder; and J. L. Willard, a Rochester laundry operator, formed with F. A. Frick, an undertaker, the Willard and Frick Mfg. Co. to market Mr. Cooper's invention under the name "Rochester". This was a great step forward in time clocks. The Rochester used a printed card, divided by heavy horizontal lines into seven spaces or days. Each day-space was subdivided by a light horizontal line into an upper space for morning and a lower space for afternoon registrations; a vertical line divided all the horizontal spaces into an "in" space on the left and an "out" space on the right.

In early 1900 the International Time Recording Co. of New Jersey was formed to buy out the Bundy Mfg. Co., and in the middle 1900's, the newly formed ITR Co. bought out the Standard Time Stamp Co. Then, in the late 1900's, the ITR Co. bought out the Willard and Frick Mfg. Co.

In 1906, the ITR Co. moved from Binghamton, N. Y., to Endicott, N. Y.

In 1907, the ITR Co. bought out the Dey Register Co. and moved all these purchased firms into the one plant at Endicott.

In 1911, the ITR Co. merged with two other firms to form the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. which then made scales, accounting machines, and clocks. At this time the dials were marked "CTR" but the name on the manufacturer's label still read "International Time Recorder Co." The CTR was dropped after a short time and the clocks were labelled just "International" until 1924.

In 1919, the first Master Time control systems were marketed by ITR Co., including wall and tower clocks.

In 1920, the first automatic door recorders were marketed, due mainly to the rise of the chain store. Also, School systems and fire alarm systems.

In 1924, the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. was reorganized and renamed "International Business Machines Corp." At this time, all clock equipment was labeled "International". It was not until 1933 that the present IBM was registered as the trade mark.

In 1948, the first electronic clocks (not wired to each other) was marketed.

In 1950, the first radio controlled master clocks became commercially available. These clocks set themselves twice each day from the radio signals provided by the Naval Observatory.

In 1953, the coded signal receivers for timed switching were marketed. These are used for controlling valves, thermostats, lights, signs, and many industrial processes.

In 1958, the IBM Time Equipment Division was sold to Simplex Time Recorder Co. Simplex still manufactures all the equipment the IBM did and any additions to existing systems are therefore compatible. Until its sale in 1958, IBM was the largest and oldest company in the time clock field. There are many others, some of which still produce very fine time equipment. A few of these are Standard, Cincinnati,

Stromberg, Duncan, Simplex, Carlson, Western Union, American Time and Temperature, Du Kane, and Edwards.

Hoping to see all of you, along with the wonderful exhibits you bring, on Sunday Afternoon, May 14th, at the A.A.A. Bldg., 2525 Gillham Road here in Kansas City, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.