

Heart of America Chapter No. 36, N.A.W.C.C.

November Report, 1961

President's Report:

Good Friends:

It is my unpleasant duty to inform you of the death of Mrs. Calvin Peck, an auxiliary member and wife of Calvin Peck, a Charter Member of our Chapter. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. Peck in his great loss. Her pleasant manner and happy smile will always be cherished and remembered.

Our last Meeting was certainly one that will not be forgotten soon. I believe it was one of our most successful and it certainly was unique in some respects. Everything including the weather was perfect. The Bryants are superb hosts. The buffet dinner was elegant. These folks served enough food for at least 100 people and such an attractive variety.

I say the Meeting was "unique" because so many people were present that we decided to conduct our Meeting outdoors. Besides our members, guests, and two new members, we had in attendance (at a short distance and behind a fence) several hogs and a very intelligent appearing donkey who seemed to show an intense interest in the proceedings.

Now, I don't pretend to know anything about Mule Flesh--or any other kind for that matter--but every time I glanced up from our improvised table (an underground-cable spool) the mule was staring me right in the eye. More than one conclusion can be conceived from the curiosity of this animal--do you suppose she felt there was some mutual association with us--or me? Maybe we let a prospective member escape. She could be an excellent mascot you know.

Incidentally, when we departed I noticed Mr. Camden had struck up quite an attraction for the mule and was calling her by her first name.

Mr. Bryant volunteered to give Mr. Fox's cherished calendar-clock as a door prize.

This all preceeded a discussion that followed by Mr. Camden giving us a new formula for a clock lubricant he has discovered using silicon. Some involved discussion concerning Mr. Camden's solution followed. One member suggested "caution" when using this formula because the solution had dissolved one of his movements due to having left it submerged to long. As a nice gesture, he even offered to give the remaining plates to anyone who could use them.

We were all flattered and pleased to have in attendance Mrs. Peg Hovey of St. Louis, a National Officer and a Charter Member of H.O.A. No. 36. This lady activated our group and we sincerely hope she finds some reward for all the efforts she put forth in making our group a reality. She probably noted we are not great advocates of formality, but we do get the job done, anyway, after a fashion, and we are growing. We are learning, and our enthusiasm is unbounded. Perhaps someday we will rate with the best.

Our members are certainly to be congratulated on the fine clocks and watches they are acquiring. Amazing, too, how much they are reading and learning about their "finds" and most important how willingly they share their knowledge.

Again, many thanks to the Bryants. Hope Mr. Camden will again at a later date give another of his hilarious discourses on just any subject he might choose. We will have a silent auction at the next meeting, so bring something to auction. We went through the formality of this type of auction under the direction of Mr. Vandervort and everybody involved enjoyed it. This is a good opportunity to dispose of or acquire something you want.

Final arrangements have been made by Mrs. Wagner for our Dinner Meeting at the Carousel Cafeteria. (More about this coming up.) Don't forget to stop by and see the Bruers when you are in the neighborhood.

Bill Bruer, President

So what's "coming up"? The December Meeting is planned for December 10th, Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the Carousel Cafeteria, 5830 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Mo., the same place our Anniversary Dinner was held last April. Try to meet there as near 1:30 as possible so we can all have our dinner together in the dining room, immediately followed by a short business meeting (anybody for planning a Christmas party instead???) and an entertaining program on the Review of Timekeepers. By having our dinner in a cafeteria it allows each of us to select just what we want from the variety of things offered.

The entire family is welcome. There is free parking space available, and the Cafeteria is easily reached from all directions by car, bus, or by foot--if need be!! 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 the guests. Incidentally, it might be a good time for everyone to tell everyone else what they would like for Christmas and maybe, just maybe, some of us might be LUCKY??? if it gets around to the right people.

The Iowa-Illinois Chapter is holding it's Fall meeting on Sunday, November 5th in the basement of the Ox Yoke Inn in Amana, Iowa--just a stone's throw from here. Anytime from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Standard Time with dinner in the dining room on the first floor of the Ox Yoke Inn at 11:30 a.m. The Mid-American Clock Conference was held at Purdue University and we are anxiously awaiting a full report from our members who were in attendance.

Notes on Some Famous Watch and Clock Collections

by R. F. Perotti

A correction--After my article NOTES ON SOME FAMOUS WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTIONS was written and passed on to our Secretary for the Midsummer Report (June-July Report) and upon checking some back issues of the Watchmaker's Journal, particularly the issue of August, 1958, I became aware that I had made a glaring error. In this issue is Dr. Frank Elliott's letter reporting the Michigan State University Museum's P. M. Chamberlain Watch Collection which was stolen. Dr. Elliott was Curator of History at Michigan State University at that time. I had placed the Chamberlain Watch Collection at the Chicago Art Institute in my Article. Curious to know as to how the Collection was acquired by the Michigan State University Museum, and wondering too if the Collection was ever recovered, I wrote Dr. Elliott a letter.

Between August, 1958, the date of his letter in the Watchmaker's Journal, and July 20, 1961, the date I addressed my letter to him, Dr. Elliott had relinquished his post at the Michigan State University and moved on to Columbia University where he is now the Associate Dean. Dr. Marvin R. Cain was the present Curator of History at Michigan State University. This is the information Dr. Elliott has given me in his letter of August 7, 1961, about Michigan State University Museum's Chamberlain Collection:

"About 1952 the Michigan State University acquired the Chamberlain-Warren Three Oaks Museum. This was a private Museum operating in Three Oaks, Michigan. Originally it was largely financed by Mr. Warren with Mr. Chamberlain doing much of the collecting and display work for the Museum. A part of the Chamberlain Warren Three Oaks Collection was the bulk of the P. M. Chamberlain Collection which had been displayed at the Art Institute in Chicago in 1921 and which is described in the catalogue of that exhibit. A few of the watches described in the catalogue did not come to Michigan State University. Several had been stolen

while on display at Three Oaks and several others had been traded for other watches. However, in 1952, the bulk of the Watch Collection described in the 1921 Exhibit Catalogue became part of the permanent collection of the Michigan State University. (In reference to the Collection stolen in 1958, he continues)...Most of the Museum's Watch Collection was recovered in excellent condition in the fall of 1958 (with the exception of)...a few still missing...Since 1958 the Watches have been engraved and recatalogued...The watches are currently safely stored in the vault at the Museum but arrangements can be made by responsible watch and clock collectors to see them."

According to Dr. Elliott's letter to the Watchmaker's Journal, the Michigan State University Museum's P. M. Chamberlain Collection comprised the following American Watch Companies: American (Waltham), Ann Arbor, Ansonia, Appleton, Auburndale, Aurora, E. F. Bowman, Brooklyn, California, Cheshire, Columbus, Cornell, J. D. Custer, National (Elgin), C. Fasoldt, Fredonia, Hampden, E. Howard, Illinois, Ingersol, Jeunet, Kelley, Keystone, McIntyre, Melrose, Mozart, Newark, New England, New York Chronograph, New York City Watch Co., New York Standard, Otay, Palmer, W. Palmer, Peoria, George P. Reed Watch, Rockford, Seth Thomas, J. P. Stevens, Tremont, Trenton, United States (made in Marion, N. J.), United States (made in Waltham, Mass.), and Waterbury.

The prize item is the three wheeled chronometer made by Don J. Mozart, which is inscribed, "Made expressly for Clark Cornwell--stock holder of the Mozart Watch Co-- at a cost of \$2,500 under Don J. Mozart; Patent Dec. 24, 1868, Mozart Watch Co of Ann Arbor, Michigan; No. 7" Foreign watches were represented by many fine examples such as those made by Thomas Grignion, a rack lever by Peter Litherland, a verge made by Thomas Arnold in 1700, watches made by Thomas Mudge and Thomas Tompion, a pocket chronometer made by Jno P. Arnold and a tourbillon made by Girard-Perragaux. In a letter dated August 21, 1961, Dr. Cain has advised me that although the Collection has been recatalogued by the Michigan State University Museum, no new printed catalogue is available. The information describing the Collection is being kept only on the University's accession list. He also advises me that a list of the still missing watches will follow--up to this time it has not arrived.

Note: All members are alerted to the fact that there is an article with pictures in the November Issue of "True" Magazine regarding some very unusual clocks.

New Members to be added to your Roster if you wish to keep it up to date include:

Mr. & Mrs. John I. Mashburn
9015 W. 80th, Overland Park, Kansas
Furniture Service; Clocks
Mrs. Mashburn--Antique China

Ronald G. Dickinson
414 W. 46 Terrace, Apt. 207
Kansas City 12, Missouri
Production Worker in Fiberglass; Clocks.

Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Blair
Roger, Arkansas
Construction Superintendent; Clocks
Mrs. Blair--All types of Antiques.

Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Pelham
2131 E. 82nd Terrace, Kansas City 32, Mo.
Painting Contractor; Watches
Mrs. Pelham

Hoping to see all of you and your guests at our next meeting Sunday, December 10th, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner