

Heart of America Chapter N.A.W.C.C.

September Report, 1961

Dear Chapter Members:

The big headline NEWS this time is the following: "Complements come pouring in from all directions regarding the fabulous August Meeting at the Camden's." Any number of folks have called your Secretary, or written in to say that they enjoyed this Meeting. Seems they all come up with the same reason--it's just nicer to meet in the homes, and everyone enjoys seeing the other fellow's collection. No one minds bringing one or two of their own to show off. At Mr. and Mrs. Camden's home you could sit anyplace, go out doors if you wanted to, or get into a "bull session" in the basement. Incidentally, that last meeting saw several demonstrations going on in the basement all at the same time.

A guest at the past Meeting, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Pelham, called one of our members to say that he was very happy to have had the opportunity to meet so many people who were all interested in the same thing--collecting--and not gossips as so many clubs turn out to be. He also complemented our chapter members on the fact that so many of our individuals were authorities in the line they collected and really seemed interested in helping others to learn from what they had learned. That is what really makes a meeting interesting; sharing ideas and learning from others. No one knows it all, and yet we all have become authorities on some particular item we have worked on, or studied, or some particular operation we have performed. A chapter such as ours serves a very useful purpose: to acquaint "Clock and Watch Collectors" with one another and let you know where you can acquire information about a piece or a part or someone who can help you to build your collection and enjoy it more. Somehow, our Chapter fills this definition perfectly.

At this point, your Secretary would like to apologize to the Chapter. After all the effort everyone went to in helping us get the news FAST to the National Bulletin, and even though they were mailed as soon as possible, somehow they did not arrive in time. Consequently, a card arrived the other day notifying us that the October Issue had already "gone to press" but that the pictures and copy would be used in the next Issue. All we can say is "we're sorry!" But the facts of what happened at that August Meeting go somewhat as follows:

At 2:25p.m. August 13th, Mr. Carroll Thomas, Vice President, called our Meeting to order in the absence of our President who was vacationing in Colorado. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and the guests were then introduced. In addition to the other guests, Mrs. Camden introduced her guest, Mrs. E. Skinner, who was also helping to serve that day and acting as co-hostess. Mr. Thomas, in behalf of the Chapter, congratulated Mr. Caspar Wagner who was appointed to the Standing Committee on Membership for the National Association at the recent Convention. Mr. Vandervort then filled us in on the recently held National Convention which he and Mrs. Vandervort attended. He commented that the amount of time and effort spent in finding and providing a place for the Convention and the activities was considerable and very well done. No previous group spent any more time, effort or money to do the job as well as the Southern California Collectors had. There were many displays of watches, some nice and very rare clocks including Pillar & Scroll, Off-set Seth Thomas, Lyre Clock, and many others.

As for what really happened out there, Mrs. Vandervort filled us in, at least what was happening during the time they were there. The Mart had lots of merchandise--enough for two whole rooms. Many of their friends were there such as Mr. and Mrs. Hushman (Secretary for Iowa-Illinois Chapter), and Dr. and Mrs. Avery (past President of the Association), and there were some very interesting talks given on such topics as American Clock Glasses, Japanese Clocks, and Dr. Avery's talk on Pillar & Scrolls.

Her only real comment was that it was scattered over too much area to achieve the friendly fellowship our local Chapter does such as at the present Meeting. She also passed around the souvenir booklet that the Southern California Chapter had prepared regarding "Time and Its Measurement". This publication was outstanding and would be a valuable asset to any collector's library.

Unfortunately, Mr. Blair, who up to this time never missed a Chapter Meeting, was seriously ill in the hospital and was unable to be with us, but his Daughter, Janice, was present and we feel certain took home complete detailed reports. But not to be set aside by illness, Mr. Brown who for the past year has been unable to attend due to a serious heart attack, drove all the way from Wichita, Kan., to be able to once more join in the active fun of getting together. It was Jack's first meeting now since the July Meeting a year ago when we met in Wichita at their home. It always is said that a little good luck offsets a little bad luck, but maybe by the next meeting in October, both of these old friends will be able to get together once more to continue in this collecting business. While a "Get-Well" Card was being signed for Mr. Blair, the drawing for the door prizes was held and the lucky winners were Mrs. Ervin Smith, Mrs. Jack Brown, Mr. Fox and Mr. Vandervort.

The exhibits were varied that day. Mr. Camden has many interesting clocks including calendars and china clocks, as well as all types of Early American shelf clocks. The members brought several unusual calendar clocks and many of the more unusual weight clocks. Even watches were diligently displayed that day. The conversations seem to be centering around calendar clocks (this seems to be the new interest now) and Mr. Fox from Sedalia was showing pictures of some of the eighteen calendar clocks he now has. Mr. Thomas had pictures of calendars he saw as well as some he purchased on a recent buying trip he made, and we'll have to confess that with the many rare and unusual calendar clocks these men are managing to find, there's not liable to be many left by the time we get our next vacation and go looking.

Mr. Bryant provided the humor that day in his interesting program on shortcuts to make quick simple repairs in working on clocks. As an interesting sample of what we mean...we learned that those holes in the plates of the front and backs of your clock movements are really to let air through.....but in a more serious vein, he described a quick easy way to repair shafts and gears, and how to replace pinions easily without having to make them. He also enumerated several interesting historic ideas of time telling he discovered while visiting Old Mexico. Mr. Camden who is a chemist, demonstrated in one of the "bull-sessions" in the basement a new chemical cleaner he is using--similar to the formula Mr. Weeks gave us which appeared in the August, 1960, Report. He also provided the members with sample cans of a new polish that is out which cleans brass and metal almost instantly, and several of us obtained ideas for obtaining badly needed clock weights using metal from scrap yards.

About this time a telegram arrived from the Bruers in Colorado Springs, Colorado, expressing their desires to be with us in mind at least, since not in person. It was a very thoughtful gesture on the part of our President as this is the one and only meeting he has ever missed. He is indeed a true "servant of the Chapter" and assumes the honor bestowed upon him by you, the Chapter Members, with the dignity and diligence that only a man of Bill Bruer's character could. Mr. Landers, and his wife who were also guests that day, told of a man back East who could make any part of any clock. Unbelievable as it may seem, he said that if you had the broken part, or a drawing, or even a good description, this man could "make any part of any clock" with the tools he had, and that his prices seemed very reasonable. Here's an idea for you fellows who are having trouble getting those hard-to-get parts. His address is: Mr. Clarence Hale, Jonesboro, Tenn. That's all there is to it.

Just before the Meeting ended Mr. Vandervort told about a wood found up around Grant's Pass, Oregon, that is really good for making wheels and repair parts for wooden works movements--a wood called "Laurel Wood". He suggested that if you know anyone up around there and have any wooden works clocks or anticipate getting any, have your friends send you a stick of this fire-wood as there is no nicer wood to work with, nor any stronger wood to resist splitting or breaking. The Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. and Mrs. Camden and Mrs. Skinner outdid themselves in providing many and various kinds of refreshments. Mr. Thomas Bryant offered their farm home as our next meeting place, and Mr. Camden has agreed to provide us with an entertaining informative program.

The next meeting will be October 8th approximately sixty miles east by north east of Kansas City, just outside Regal, Mo., which is fifteen miles north of Hardin (Hardin is on Highway 10 twenty-four miles east of Excelsior Springs). Specific details plus map will be in the October Report but make your plans now for the Second Sunday in October; bring exhibits and plan on coming early. Mrs. Bryant will have a buffet lunch prepared for everyone at 12:00 Noon which will include sandwiches, salad, desert, and coffee. NOTE: Following the lunch, the meeting will begin promptly at one o'clock so we can return to Kansas City early. Allow about two hours to drive, and make an all-day picnic arriving anytime before noon to visit, with lunch being served at noon and the meeting beginning at one o'clock.

The August Report carried in it an urgent appeal for help on the part of Mr. Camden to obtain an eight inch bezel for a striking Ingram Banjo Clock. We do not know if Mr. Camden's request has been filled, but Mr. Tholen from Hays, Kansas, got busy and came up with the following which he would like to provide with good homes if anyone needs them: five metal dials with only one hole in center; total measurement is $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to outer minute circle. On front are the words "Selfwinding Clock Co., N.Y." but these could be fitted to any clock by putting in keyholes and repainting name. All are original and in good condition and the price will be only .50 each plus postage. He also has one dial for wall-type calendar clock with date-numbers outside of hour-numbers. The diameter to outside of metal rim is 12" and there is no bezel with this dial. The paper not in good condition (readable but very dirty) but new paper dials can be easily purchased. Anyone interested please contact Mr. Herman J. Tholen 106 W. 17th Street, Hays, Kansas. Also, he has promised to bring two very odd and unusual clocks to the next meeting, and those of you who have seen what he brings know that when he says "unusual", he isn't kidding. Remember, October 8th; Meeting starts at one o'clock with lunch for all at 12:00 Noon. Come early and see the Bryant's farm home and clocks and bring your exhibits also for our guests as well as members to see.

Hot news just in off the still smoldering wires is that Mr. Blair made a rapid recovery after being operated on the 15th of August, and was home the following Tuesday and by now is getting anxious to "hit the road" to see the new clock discoveries that appeared while he was recuperating. Wonderful news, indeed. But not so wonderful is the following news which the new member of the National Association Membership Committee asked me to run. The following six former Chapter Members failed to pay their dues and renew their Chapter Membership last April. Lets all see if we can't get them to pay up and rejoin in the active Chapter get-to-gethers: Ben Crowley, Industrial City (St. Joseph), Mo.; John L. Hardie, P. O. Box 54, Schell City, Mo.; H. H. Herst, Argonia, Kan.; Paul W. Holland, 225 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. Olive St., Springfield Mo.; Donald R. Mills, 237 Allcut St., Bonner Springs, Kansas; Lee Seymour, P. O. Box 114, Blackwell, Okla. If you know any of these, please talk to them.

The idea has been suggested by Mr. Sol Williams that we have a centrally located registration of our valuable pieces such as clocks (characteristics or distinctive markings) and watches (movement numbers and case numbers), at least of our rarer items. Lets bring it up at our next meeting October 8th and hear your ideas on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.