

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

April Report, 1962

Dear Members:

Happy Birthday, fellow Chapter Members. Our Chapter will be two years old with the big celebration Sunday, April 8th. Time marches on and in two years, many big problems have been surmounted, lots of new friends have been made, and the enjoyment and education that can be gained from a chapter such as ours has been sampled and tried time and time again.

We have many things of which we are all proud and one is the fine President we have who spares nothing in putting forth all he has to do whatever he is doing the very best he can. A sample is the monthly contributions he has written such as:

GOOD FRIENDS:

Many thanks to our hard working Secretary for his Chapter Reports. I always enjoy them and I know you concur. We are very fortunate in having such a capable young man who is willing to devote so much time to the assembly and final finished product.

These Reports keep all our members in touch with all business and proceedings at the various meetings. This is especially important when you consider our membership is dispersed over three states and some of our members can only attend an occasional meeting because bad weather keeps them off the highways as well as working schedules and various other legitimate reasons.

Soon our April Anniversary Meeting will be upon us. Your Officers hope everyone of you plan to attend. We could make this a real successful and impressive occasion--it all depends on you. If you would care to compliment your Officers--be present!

This will be our last meeting at the A.A.A. Bldg. until fall or winter--if all of the summer plans and invitations to the various member's homes mature. We have an extra invitation we are trying to work into our summer schedule. The Vandervorts have invited us to Moberly. Probably this will be a Shop-and-get-together Meeting, but more about this later.

Be sure and bring something for display. Am trying to have someone present from the Newspaper. Remember we have Mr. Henry's Display Board for hanging clocks.

Bring something for the Silent Auction. Incidentally, these Auctions have proven interesting and a fine innovation for our group and the ten percent tag our Mr. Henry (Number-One-Man-In-Charge-Of Silent Auctions) collects on these transactions is making a tidy little sum in the Treasury.

And girls, if you will, bring something to put in the little red box with the gold letters on the front "Door Prizes".

No news this month from down Central-Missouri-way, so hope one of you 'clock-snatchers' will come prepared with a report on your Central Missouri Shop Meetings. Have not heard of any outstanding "finds" in watches or clocks lately, anywhere! Reports from the grapevine indicates our Secretary has acquired two more Calendar Clocks.

We were all happy and glad to see Mr. & Mrs. Brown of Wichita present at the last meeting. Another member who appeared at the meeting after a bout with the flu was Mr. Bryant.

Be sure to attend the next meeting in your best nominating and lecting form--election of officers, you know!

Bill Bruer, President

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TRAVELING.....ALWAYS TRAVELING.....ALWAYS SEEING SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

Your Secretary took a short trip to St. Louis, accidentally stumbled upon a St. Louis Chapter Meeting, and who should he bump into but about half of the Heart of America Chapter sitting around visiting and watching what's going on. The Blairs, Mr.



and Mrs. B. G. Smith, the Vandervorts, Mr. Powers, and of course Mrs. Hovey were all present. Mr. Stevens, President of the Chicago Chapter, was guest speaker and presented an excellent talk regarding precision timepieces--and we mean really precision--within one or two seconds a month variation. He had slides of clocks of which he has the only ones in existence and the famous Howards. What a speaker!!

Both Glenn and Epp Blair don't let any grass grow under their car wheels. Both gentlemen have made invasions into the great state of Kansas, and both have come home victorious. Even Custer would have been envious!

On the other side of the ledger, Mr. Fox of Sedalia has been home-tied the past few weeks due to his daughter's illness, but the entire Country has beaten a path to his door by way of the mailman. Everyday he has correspondence from eight or nine people regarding calendar clocks from every state in the Union, and believe it or not, by last count he reported he now possessed 36 calendar clocks.....a real rarity!

Of course, the outstanding collection in this part of the Country is still Mrs. Hovey's in St. Louis. Her's is equaled by no one in our Area and the National Association is paying her just due. She is indeed a go-together and a wonderful person to know and to have as a chapter member. She was the organizer of our Chapter and will probably be the only person our Chapter will ever feel merits the only distinction we can give--that of an honorary lifetime member. She, and she alone, will probably be the only recipient of that honor. We can think of no one more deserving. Not only that, but she has seven calendar clocks I've never seen before, and, well.....

### THREE BIG NEWS ITEMS

Heart of America Chapter Anniversary Meeting (us) on April 8th, in the American Automobile Association Bldg., 2525 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Missouri. Meeting to begin at one o'clock Sunday Afternoon so come early, bring displays, bring Auxiliary hobbies, come enjoy the other exhibits, buy and sell through the Silent Auction, and visit with others who share your interest. Mr. Brown was just notified that he is to go to technical school to study the Electronic Tape Milling Machine that his company has recently put into operation so instead of a program, your Officers decided that being the last meeting before we begin our summer meetings in the members homes, we will dispense with the Program in order to enable the members to spend more time becoming acquainted with one another.

Spring Meeting of the Iowa-Illinois Chapter on April 29th, in Rock Island, Ill. at the Hotel Fort Armstrong with the activities starting at 10:00 A.M. and dinner at noon and the fun continuing afterwards. Their Secretary, Mr. Evers Hushman, is a live wire and those who know him have informed us that to attend one of their meetings is a pure riot from the moment you walk through the door into the same room where he is, until you arrive back home--still laughing and enjoying the events that took place. They have both Auctions and For-Sale Tables and keep both of them going constantly.

First, we have a quiet waltz with "little ole us" and our hilarious meeting. Then we advance more into the spirit of things by "twisting" with Iowa-Illinois. Finally, for a grand march, we would like to present the "Grand-Fathers' Kick" to be held back in Richmond, Virginia, May 24, 25 and 26th (more often referred to as the 18th Annual N.A.W.C.C. National Convention) which has exhibits, lectures, a fabulous Mart, tours, and good fellowship (whatever that is). The time is "all day long" and "most of the night" and the address is the John Marshall Hotel. How about it? How many are planning on going this year? If we have as good a representation as we did last year out in California, they are liable to want to bring it to good ole Kansas City come 1965. How about half way between K. C. and St. Louis and everyone can spend one day in each place ( only 250 miles apart and growing less every time we annex some more.)

### JUST FOR FUN - - - -

Our organizational and first Chapter Meeting was held April 10, 1960, Kansas City, Mo. You all know the results of that Meeting.

Oldest member to attend April 10th was Mr. Tholan; Mr. Hardie had held a N.A.W.C.C.



Membership Card the longest; Mrs. Hovey was a National Director; and Mr. Tholen, Mr. Motley, and Mr. C. A. Wagner all celebrate their birthdays on the same day, Oct. 2nd.:

July Meeting saw us invited to the homes of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blanchat and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown in Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. Blanchat suggested a Chapter Roster be published with vocations, occupations and collection interests of each member listed. Program included tour of Mr. Blanchat's fabulous shop and collection of precision timekeepers--both clocks and watches.

In Sept. we were invited to Mr. & Mrs. Vandervort's as guests of St. Louis Chapter.

In October, some members attended Mid-American Conference at West Lafayette, Ind.

A "Wants" column was began in the Report put out about the Chapter Activities.

The "new Baby", as the Natl. Assoc. referred to us, made history by organizing an Auxiliary at the October Meeting. This Meeting was held at the A.A.A. Bldg.

Dinner Meetings were discussed and approved for the coming April Meeting. Mr. Henry told about the twin tower clocks of the Federal Office Bldg. here in Kansas City. Following this Meeting, the Henrys held an Open House.

The Program that day was "What started you to collecting (how did the 'bug' bite you)"

November Report carried an important letter from the Vice-president of Cooks Paint and Varnish Company--all members of H.O.A. #36 may hereafter have a 15% discount on all paint and related products sold by their Company. TAKE NOTICE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE!

Mr. Tholen, one of our Vice-pres., ran an article on the History of the First Dollar Watch Factory in the Nov. Report, and Mrs. Hardie contributed a Holiday composition to the December Report entitled "Long Ago".

January, 1961, saw us greeting the New Year at the A.A.A. Bldg. Mr. Perotti was appointed to prepare a summary of all information available regarding horology in the various libraries in our vicinity. This wonderful supply of information was turned over to the Secretary at the April Meeting.

Mrs. C. A. Wagner was elected as Chairman by the Auxiliary and in charge of the social activities after the meetings and the open house arrangements and invitations.

The exhibits and displays of both the Members' and the Auxiliary Members' various hobbies had grown far greater than the available room, but everyone loved them anyway.

Mr. Ervin Smith presented an interesting program explaining how to properly refinish wood, and new products that were available to assist us in this operation.

"Time on My Hands", contributed by Mr. Perotti for January Report, told of the J. P. Morgan Collection of watches displayed in New York.

Identification Tags were inaugurated and reservations were made for our First Anniversary Dinner Meeting to be held at the Carousel Cafeteria here in Kansas City.

Mr. Thomas contributed an article regarding the hap-hazard arrangement by which he acquired first a Silas B. Terry eight-day weight clock case, and then the movement.

The April Anniversary Meeting saw many unusual happenings: Mrs. Hovey was given an honorary lifetime membership, the Chapter decided to meet six times a year instead of only four, Mr. Glenn Blair's Program was "repairing and making verges", and the Bruers and the Wagners both had Open Houses that day since both homes are too small to put everyone in at the same time. All of this happened in one and the same day!

May saw us having a Mother's Day Meeting again in the A.A.A. Bldg. and our President presented a Program on bushing wooden works movements.

This month also saw an article in the Report by Mr. Syles "History of Time Recorders".

August Meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Camden in Independence, Mo. with the Program by Mr. Bryant regarding short cuts in this clock repairing business. The members enjoyed the home meetings so much that invitations began to pour in from everyone. Mr. Thomas served as Chairman while our President was on vacation.

This period saw two very interesting articles appear in the Report. Mr. Perotti's "Notes on Some Famous Watch and Clock Collections" outlined the various important watch collections from the East Coast to our Mid-America Area, and westward. Mr. Henry presented one of the finest reviews of the subject of "T-I-M-E" as we have seen, and the text was followed very closely by the Bell Telephone Series recently in a TV program regarding the same subject and its interesting history.



October saw the Mid-American Conference again held at Purdue University in Ind. and H.O.A. being well represented. The same being true of the National Convention held in California the past July.

Of course, we had an outstanding meeting at Mr. & Mrs. Bryant's farm-providing Alamo with plenty of entertainment. Our Hosts provided us with one of the finest buffet dinners imaginable. Mr. Camden's Program that afternoon out under the pleasant Autumn skies was with regards to cleaning solutions.

Our December Christmas Dinner Party was again held at the Carousel Cafeteria and the new idea of a "Door Prize Box" was instigated with much success.

Mr. Venard, a horologist from St. Joseph, Mo., entertained the Chapter with color slides and a talk on some of the unusual watches he had brought along.

The Thomases presented all the members with Heart of America Plaques they had made.

Of course, we all remember the story in the January Report for 1962 of the Mashburns properly greeting the New Year chasing old Mister 1961 squirrel around their house.

The February Meeting here in the A.A.A. Bldg. saw Ronald Dickinson giving a demonstration on how to repair and clean clock hair springs and balance staffs.

Mr. Perotti suggested a subscription of the National Bulletin be given to our Kansas City Public Library and it was no sooner passed, than it was done.

And last, but not least, at the February Meeting our Silent Auction came into its own and is now an official part of our meetings with its own set of rules which have been incorporated into our By-Laws. ALL OF THIS, AND ALL WITHIN JUST TWO SHORT YEARS!

#### JUST A NOTE---

As a preface to the following interesting article, Mr. Zohner wrote me recently that he had set up several clocks recently that had been around for some time and that had some work done on them from time to time. One was a rather small spring driven striking clock in a round top case of rosewood veneer. "It is pleasing to our eyes and is interesting since it was the household clock of a neighboring family, and probably it marked time in the family's first dwelling here in a sod house." This comes from "way out in Kansas".....Penokee, Kansas.....Sounds like a real interesting "find"!

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#### Wood Movement Clocks

By E. J. Zohner

I hope that these "how I did it" accounts of work, on some clocks that came to my collection, may be of interest and possibly of value to someone who may have clocks that need similar repairs to restore them or to get them going.

The very fine article by E. R. Haan that appeared in the Bulletin recently really covered the ground thoroughly and there is little that I can add as far as wood movement clocks are concerned. Sometime ago, Mr. Samuel Jennings wrote in the Bulletin on restoring wood clocks and as I recall, his article treated the making of wheels and pinions for these clocks, in particular.

Since I have had to do more work on wood clocks than any other type, I will make a few remarks on some of the work that is frequently needed to get these clocks going again. Nearly all of this type of clocks that I acquired, were in a bad way and several were little more than wrecks. I realize that my experience and acquaintance with these clocks had been rather limited. It seems that this type of clock was not brought to this vicinity by the first settlers or only very rarely and of course when a household bought a new clock, it was a brass movement of a much later type, say about 1870 or later.

The wood clocks in my collection that probably were owned by families in Kansas, number just three, all 30-hour, and in the usual mahogany veneered case with half columns and splat on top of case, stencilled, with a painted glass tablet in the lower part of the door. One clock that was nearly intact except that the glass in the door with the eglomise painting was missing, came to me from a family in this vicinity.



The other two came from north central Kansas and were probably the household clocks of people of that region. Possibly they were brought to that region with the family possessions. One had the dial missing, the other had no movement, and both had the top splat and side ornaments on top of the case missing.

I made a dial of poplar with the dovetailed cleats as is usually found on wood dials. These dials are, as far as my observations indicate, always made of poplar. It seems this wood should be used when a replacement needs to be made as it resists warping and shrinking. A fellow member of N.A.W.C.C. supplied me with a movement for the clock that had none. The missing case parts are not difficult to replace and if a little care is used, the replaced parts and the veneer patches can be finished so that the job will bear close inspection, without obviously revealing the repairs. Dial painting, retouching and painting of eglomise glasses, should be left to a professional or only attempted by the owner, should he have this type of skill, if the clock is to look "right" when it is set up.

All of the wood movements that I have, had damaged wheels and pinions. Frequently teeth of the wheels on the side that have the grain crossing the teeth, will be broken. If there are only a few teeth broken and the wheel is good otherwise, a segment can be cut out with a jig saw, hand or power, and an insert glued in. The teeth can then be marked out and cut on a jig or band saw and finished with a file. Some movements have had attempted repair that mutilated wheels so badly that new wheels were necessary.

I use a set of centers with a simple index plate that slides in a track with cross feed, that is clamped to the dripp press table. By using shaped cutters held in the drill press spindle, this does very well for pinions. However, this type of cutter and arrangement has never produced good wheels for me, even when the blank is held between extra woods blanks to support the teeth. I have in mind trying a cutter with teeth like a circular saw; in fact, a small saw--very sharp with good set, then making two cuts for each tooth, hoping this will produce less chipping on the teeth with cross grain. It is also possible to repair wheels, especially first wheels, that have many teeth damaged, by turning them down and gluing on rings made from gluing up a block of 6 or 8 segments with the grain radial, then cutting rings from this blank. The grain of the teeth will then be nearly radial and the teeth probably stronger than the original. Too, the center of the original wheel will be preserved. The repair will be obvious but if well done, workmenlike.

Since the hands on this type of clock are of fair size, missing hands can be filed from sheet metal and when finished, heat blued. One of the 30-hour wood clocks has a very nice Arabic Dial with the minute circle inside of the hour numerals. The hands on this clock were missing and when checking illustrations of this type of dial, it was found that the hands for these dials are of different size than the usual arrangement having the minute circle outside of the hour numerals.

Strike levers or wires when bent, damaged or entirely missing can be straightened, adjusted or made when necessary. This is not particularly difficult but somewhat tedious.

These old clocks seem to have the pendulum spring formed from the pendulum rod and this is often damaged or missing. These can be made from 1/16" hi-tense oxy-actylene welding rod, by hammering to form the spring and working down with fine files to form the spring about .004" thick.

The three 30-hour wood clocks have similar cases and the movements are similar, varying only in some details such as: brass or ivory bushings or no bushings. Size of plates, depth and wheel arrangement seem to be nearly standardized. The variations that will be found, add interest to the study of even these "production" model examples.

The number of wood clocks that I have and have seen and examined, are very few and it hardly permits me to make general statements or come to many conclusions. As other specimens are encountered, they can be examined, studied, evaluated, and as we



learn, so will we have appreciation of them.

I try to leave these clocks looking as they did when they were in use and of course working. Much has been written in regard to restoring or not restoring, cleaning or refinishing old things. The appearance of these clocks when in use was far different from what it is when we acquire them. Possibly this is the way many of the old clocks have "disappeared". The clock stopped and was set aside. There is really no place for it in the house with its modern decor. Since the old clock would not go, the glass broken and the case black, the next step could be a plaything as the wheels and parts are fascinating for a time to Junior. As so the wreck goes out, is burned or goes into the trash can.

I try to leave few "tracks" on the work and when necessary only straightforward tracks.

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Soooooooooooo, "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

After reading the fine articles written for us by the various members of our Chapter, such as the one Mr. Zohner has here, is there any reason why we shouldn't see "red" when a stranger says to you "so, why do you collect clocks (or watches as the case may be)?" Mr. Zohner has embodied in one short review, the interest that attracts us as collectors, has illustrated the study that must be made with regards to our collection and its restoration and background, has expressed in as fine a way as can be the enjoyment from "having", "possessing", "accomplishment" of seeing it again running and telling time as it's original designer and maker intended for it to .....these are the reasons and the bond between us that makes us collectors.

Anything worth doing, is worth doing well. The benefits to be gained from our Chapter are many and worthwhile as illustrated by the fact that Mr. Zohner, Mr. Epp Blair, Mr. Tholen and Mrs. Hovey all come well over 250 miles one way just to join in the fun as often as possible.....not everytime, but several times a year. It is worthwhile to them and has meaning. This coming Meeting April 8th is the election of new officers of our Chapter. The members make up the Chapter, but the Officers they select guide and direct the functions, goals, and desires the members have expressed. Show your interest and come. Meeting to begin at one o'clock so come early and see the displays. Remember the Silent Auction!

LAST NOTICE

Take out your National Membership Card--now! Does it read for some month of the year 1963? If not, send in your National Dues to the National Secretary NOW.....not tomorrow. Now hunt around a bit and find the Heart of America Chapter Membership Card I sent you. Does it read, "March 31, 1962"? If it does, you have not paid you Chapter Dues. Send me the two dollars dues right away NOW, immediately or sooner if possible! This is your LAST NOTICE. Please do me a favor! I love to correspond with all of you as this is most educational to me and my source of information for these monthly Reports, but I hate (I hate it so violently that I absolutely refuse to) to have to write to a member who is delinquent in dues and advise him he will be dropped if unpaid by the end of the month. Please be kind to poor Secretaries! Thankyou.

See you at the meeting, and ladies bring exhibits of your hobbies as well as an extra strong table if you have the room. Happy Collecting!

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.