

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

January Report, 1962

(From our President's Desk)

Good Friends:

Despite the threat of inclement weather, our December Dinner Meeting was certainly a success. Some forty people were in attendance. Many thanks to every one for the fine co-operation in making arrangements, table decorations, etc. And Girls—you did overwhelm me with your donations of doorprizes. Many thanks and keep them coming. Mrs. Ervin Smith was appointed the doorprize chore lock, stock and barrel, and like a good girl, accepted.

Out of town representation was exceptionally good. Our standby, Mr. Tholen of Hays, Kansas, was present and evidently fully restored after his recent operation. Believe me this gentleman's presence at meetings makes some excuses for non-attendance sound pretty anemic. This gentleman is in his seventies and is away from his home and on the go for twenty-four hours whenever he makes these trips.

The Motleys of St. Joseph and Mr. Allen Sayles of Joplin were also present. Those on the known sick list this month were Mr. Bryant who reports he is rapidly recovering from a tough bout with the flu; also Mr. Hugh Vaughn our youngest member, 15 years of age I believe, reports improvement in his condition. One of my healthy but smelly acquaintances informed me today that if I expected to stay healthy all winter I had better drink whiskey and eat lots of onions and garlic.

We welcome Mr. R. H. Lough into our group and Mrs. Lough into the Auxiliary. Mr. Lough is a clock collector; we know these nice people will find their membership in the N.A.W.C.C. and their association with us in the H.O.A. Chapter to be a worth while venture. Mr. Henry sponsored these folks.

Complements are certainly in order for our members who are spreading far and wide H.O.A. fame by their informative factual and interesting writings. First, let me congratulate our hard working Secretary on the December Bulletin Report. This account included the doings of our August and October Meetings. Secondly, I would like to congratulate Mr. Perotti and Mr. Williams on their article which was also in the December Bulletin. It concerned the famous Sol Williams Watch Collection. These are both local boys you know, paid up and in good standing.

Hope every one noticed the article over my name in the "Vox Pox" Column—the name should have been—by Marcia B. She stopped her clock winding chores long enough to take "pen in hand"; she is a good kid, too. Speaking for myself, I am indeed proud of each of you—but we can't stop here; we will be in need of more articles in the future not only from these above mentioned members but from some of our other talented people. Make up your mind now to help contribute some written material. Team up, collaborate if you like, but just do it!

The Thomases of Sweet Springs are going in for clock-face restoration making painted faces. Their preliminary efforts indicate these folks have the ability and with their enthusiasm and determination, the polished product is not too far in the distant future. Incidentally, many thanks to the Thomases for their gift to each member of a Heart-shaped Plaque with a painted clock face in the center; each member received one. Mr. Thomas tells me there is one for each member—who attends meetings—that is!

Our members in the Central Missouri Area are doing a fine thing. Thomases, Blairs, Foxes and the B. G. Smiths are meeting and having shop talks and discussions about their clocks. Believe me, these folks have some clocks worthy of discussion. These people buy in bunches and at the rate they are buying, collectable antique clocks will be scarce articles in these parts.

Mr. Chester Venard, a horologist, entertained the Chapter with an interesting talk about some of his watches which he brought with him at the December Dinner

Meeting. These were accompanied by film slides in color. Mr. McEwen was appointed Scribe and will write the article for our National Bulletins. I know we can depend on this gentleman to do a good job. If you should happen to have some information pertinent to Horology, N.A.W.C.C., or H.O.A. Chapter, please pass it on to him.

Mr. Ervin Smith, our Sergeant at Arms, will distribute the Identification Name Tags at each meeting as well as place names in the doorprize box for the drawing. Ervin says he will handle this in such a manner so as to eliminate some confusion. Mr. Carroll Thomas was appointed Chapter Photographer, a good man for the job. By proper coordination, Mr. Thomas will pass the pictures to me and I will in turn make the plates and pass them to Mr. McEwen to accompany his material for the Bulletin.

As you can see, appointments were made right and left before we concluded our Meeting. Those who were not chosen are being held in reserve for future assignments. There is--we hope--something to be accomplished by this method; we hope to spread the duties of this Chapter over as many heads as possible. Since we only have six meetings a year, there is more than ample time between meetings for corresponding either by telephone, by mail, or by visiting, which might be encouraged by this arrangement. Now, all of you have heard about the Proverbial Chain and its links--we can't use a weak link!

By the time this Report reaches you, you will probably have had your fill of Jingle Bells and the Partridge in the Pear Tree. Hope St. Nick remembered all of you with many watches and clocks, and so to the nicest people I know I would like to wish each of you a very successful watch and clock collecting year.

Bill Bruer, President

Our President does an excellent job of covering the Meeting. New Business that day also included a discussion regarding the possibility of moving up the meeting time. After pro and con on the subject, it was decided that at least for the next couple of meetings, we would meet at 1:00 p.m. on the Second Sundays of the months of February and April of the new year to try it out.

Incidentally, the next two meetings mentioned above will be held at the American Automobile Association Building (A.A.A.) here in Kansas City, Missouri, 2525 Gillham Road, just east of our Union Station about six blocks. The meetings these two months will begin at one o'clock so that those who are coming a distance can get at least partially home while it is still daylight. We will meet in their cafeteria and dining room so we'll have plenty of room for exhibits as well as the meeting. The first meeting of the new year will be February 11th, so mark your calendars now.

With regards to exhibits, since so many of us want to display clocks which can only be hung up (wall clocks), Mr. Henry has offered to make a medium height peg board with folded sections so it will be self supporting in a Z shape and clocks or what have you can be hung from either side. He also has agreed to take charge of this stand and see to it that it reaches all the meetings. We believe all the members are anxiously looking forward to this and offer him our sincerest thanks.

It would be a shame if we failed to mention the big highlight of the last Meeting. A Silent Auction was held and several astounding things happened. First, the members seemed to enjoy it immensely and voted that it should be a permanent part of all meetings. Also, in response to a suggestion from Mr. Henry, 10% of all sales will be contributed to the Chapter's Treasury as a source of income. This motion was made and seconded, and unanimously approved. Mr. Henry has assumed the responsibility of overseeing the operations of this Auction and will submit a set of operating rules at the next meeting. But, he requests all members to cooperate with him and bring items you wish to dispose of to the next meeting.

As mentioned before, everyone cooperated wonderfully with regards to supplying us with Doorprizes. The Christmas items were given out that day and the lucky win-

ners included the following: Mr. Bruer, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Glen Blair, Mr. B. G. Smith, Mr. Tholen, Mr. Lough, Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Venard (the wife of our guest speaker that day--she even brought two prizes), Mrs. Mashburn, Mrs. Thomas, Susan McConnell, Mrs. Henry, and Mrs. Epp Blair of Rogers, Arkansas.

At the last Meeting, Mr. Tholen gave us the name of a gentleman who has all the available books written regarding clocks, watches, or horology and acts as reference for the National Association. If you need information about anything, the man to contact is--Mr. Henry B. Fried, JG-K Horological Consultant, 100 E. 42nd Street, New York 17, New York.

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A special "thankyou" to all who brought such lovely packages for doorprizes. All those that weren't used at the Christmas Meeting will be given out at the future meetings. We do appreciate all those packages and are sure they will contain many pleasant surprises to help make our meetings more enjoyable. Thanks again to all of you.

Margaret Wagner, Chairman of the Auxiliary  
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Chasing the Old Year Out (or How Not to Watch the New Year In)

The Mashburns related the following experience they had New Year's Eve.

They have a lovely home with a gracious living room containing a large old fashioned open fireplace. The living room is located just off the main rooms. Off the hall on one side are the bedrooms, and their clock room. Well, it seems they went to bed around 10:10 (a ridiculous hour indeed) and actually did manage to get to sleep. Ten minutes of twelve (now remember, that's just before the Old 1961 has gotten completely away), they awoke to hear someone in the kitchen knocking pans off the cabinet and in general, making a commotion. Mrs. Mashburn went tearing through the rooms flipping on lights and waking Mr. Mashburn telling him that someone was in the kitchen.

Sure enough, there was. Mr. 1961 squirrel was having a picnic trying to find his way out. For the next half hour they chased old bushy tail all around the house and in and out of every room in the house. The coals were still smoldering in the fireplace and that squirrel made two different attempts to jump into the back of the fireplace, over the coals, where he could escape up the chimney; but each time he jumped back out losing his nerve--it was still hot in there for him, not to say what it must have been like in the house with two human beings in hot pursuit.

Well, the third time around the house he tried it again--up the chimney, that is--and this time he made it. By that time, 1962 was already here and well settled down, but not Mr. & Mrs. Mashburn!

All good things must come to an end, but remember that we definitely want YOU to join us at the A.A.A. Building here in Kansas City this February 11th at one p.m.

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.