

HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER MID-SUMMER REPORT, 1962

Dear Fellow Members:

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Take special notice! The next meeting of H.O.A. Chapter will be held THE FIRST SUNDAY OF AUGUST, August 5th (now, look at calendar and go draw a big circle around the date) at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Blair at Stover in Central Missouri (south and east of Sedalia on Highway 52). Come early, bring your family and guests, see the Blair's collection and get in on the Silent Auction, and, due to the early meeting time (Meeting to start at one o'clock Sunday Afternoon), you will have plenty of time to drive home from the beautiful Missouri Ozarks in the cool of the summer evening before dark. Full directions on how to reach the Blair's Home come later in this Report. Remember, one o'clock Sunday, August 5th, Stover, Missouri.

AND, NOW, THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION-----

In the April, 1962, Report we referred to the 18th National Convention of the N.A.W.C.C. as the "Grand-Father's Kick" with reference to the grand march of events that were taking place the months of April and May in various parts of our Country. We were not exaggerating! The 425 members who attended the Convention this year had 425 different viewpoints depending on what each one wanted or expected to get from the Convention. Without exception, no one came home without gaining something from their experience, and it is a safe bet that over 70% of those who attended this year will be back next year, and probably the year after, and will give the 30% new attendees the thrill of their life come next year.

Everyone has undoubtedly attended some type or kind of convention at sometime in their life so we will dismiss with all the little sideline shows and let you read them between the lines. Also, throughout this summary, you will be left with definite impressions---these are YOUR impressions and maybe not necessarily those of the delegates who attended. But, anyway, in all seriousness, we did have a ball and the opinions, impressions, expressions, etc. that follow are our attempt to share this wonderful experience with you.

P.S. We are going to be critical in some cases but this is not to be construed as a criticism against anyone in particular, but rather an illustration in point where we can learn and make improvements and thus avoid similar situations.

We arrived in Richmond, Virginia, around eight o'clock Thursday evening and after a quick stop to unload our car at the Motel, we drove to the John Marshall Hotel to register for the Convention and maybe get a quick peek at the Mart and Exhibits. While registering, the Richmond Ladies who were acting as hostesses were true to the famous congenial tradition of the South and provided us with all the information they could which would make our visit more enjoyable and most educative.

At this point, we came face to face with our first impression---that this Convention was an afterthought and that the Shenandoah Valley Chapter had not properly given time to preparing for such a tremendous enthusiastic gathering of collectors. Their souvenirs consisted of only a small china grandfather-case-shape planter, and it had been ordered from Europe just two months ago and had not arrived as yet. (It did arrive almost a complete month after the Convention). Of course, they had a sample which you could look at and place an order if you wished. Everyone did!

In the Convention Schedule Booklet that was given, various tours were listed and, naturally, everyone was interested in the Williamsburg Tour. A bus was reserved for this group which was to leave at 10:00 A.M. and be back sometime around two o'clock. Unfortunately, the bus did not get back until six that evening and most of them missed the workshops and meetings scheduled that afternoon. But regardless, that tour of Williamsburg was really interesting. The restoration done was unique and the rare clocks scattered throughout the various buildings was well worth the extra time and tremendous amount of walking involved. Beyond being tired, everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Exhibit and Mart was all located in one big wing of the Hotel and was as

unique and varied as one could ever dream of. There were two large glass cases containing enameled watches, etc. valued at over \$130,000.00 There were also skelton clocks, all varieties of rare French and German clocks including regulators, mantle, and figure clocks, and several automatums among the assortment. The American clocks were likewise well represented--Ansonia figure clocks, Gilbert, Seth Thomas, Ithaca, and Carter wood case clocks (we only saw three calendar clocks among the hundreds of clocks displayed), and every kind and type of watch (both cased and uncased). We saw wagon-springs and Eli Terry Clocks and some reproductions:

There was a bit of sadness there, also. In the Mart this year there were two large collections for sale. Mrs. Harold G. Beckham on the East Coast and Oscar T. Lang from Minneapolis had both recently passed on and lo and behold, both collections were now on the market. We knew and had visited both of these collectors, and were very sorry to see such fine collections as these being broken up. It is indeed funny the way some things turn out. Mrs. Beckham and Mr. Lang had devoted their life to collecting and studying and sharing with others their knowledge and experience, and now their hard efforts were being sold to the highest bidder. One comforting thought was that both have contributed much to horology having contributed many times to the National Bulletin, as well as many lecture forums, and other writings. At least their knowledge and experience was not all wasted and can still be of use to the rest of us. Also, now you and I both have a chance to get that rare clock we've been trying for years to obtain.

Several unusual things happened that might bear repeating. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Olsen, H.O.A.'s representative from the great State of Nebraska, and we were visiting and having a right good time in general when an elderly gentleman and his wife introduced themselves--Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Wagner from the State of Rhode Island. They were indeed an interesting couple. In his lapel he wore a stick pin with the Rhode Island Red Hen on the end of the pin put through the center of a porcelain watch dial. This served as his badge identifying him as a watch collector from R.I. We, of course, have our leather Heart-shaped Badges identifying us as the Heart of America Chapter.

Another interesting personality we met was an elderly gentleman by the name of Ingram--that is correct--he is the sole remaining heir of the Ingram who founded the Ingram Clock Company many years ago. He told of the time when his great grandfather operated the business; and then he remarked that he, himself, had started out first as an officeboy, and then worked up to salesman, and had spent his four years apprenticeship selling clocks from the back of his horse in the Mid-American Area. Clock selling was entirely different in those days and he told of several funny incidents that happened to him while he was working the Nebraska Area and in and around Kansas.

We visited with Mr. Henry Fried, the expert in all horological matters and problems when Mr. Stevens, who is President of the Chicago Chapter, arrived. We had met Mr. Stevens at a St. Louis Chapter Meeting when he was guest speaker and had been impressed with the work he was doing on precision timepieces especially gravity escapements. Of course, he lost no time in passing out great big badges proclaiming "Chicago in 1963" as he knew we would support him in his desire to bring the 1963 Convention to Mid-America next year.

THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION----

Friday, beginning at one o'clock, the Council Meeting with representatives from all Chapters and the National Association were present as well as anyone or any organizations who wished to conduct business with the N.A.W.C.C. Inc. It was the longest Council Meeting in the history of N.A.W.C.C. lasting approximately three hours and forty-five minutes, and heard reports from every committee of the National Association. It might be added that this was the most enlightening part of the Convention as it opened up whole new vista to your Secretary regarding things that H.O.A. Chapter can do to help promote us as well as the National Association.

Mr. Strickler, Managing Director of the National Association, provided some interesting statistics of growth of the Association: 1955, membership increased 246; 1956, increased 142; 1957, increased 126; 1958, increased 272; 1959, increased 30 (ouch!); 1960, increased 224; and 1961, membership increased 397; Grand total of active living members to date is 3,360. The Membership Committee was definitely to be congratulated for the outstanding job they have done.

Our Managing Director also reported that the various memberships have been gained from ads that the Association has been running. This past year there were 510 inquiries resulting in 30 new members. The ads which obtained the most results were published in the Collector's Treasurers, Hobbies, Spinning Wheel, and Popular Mechanics Magazines. Dr. Shaffer, Chairman of the Membership Committee, told of future plans they have to personally visit at various meetings held by chapters who are not showing too much life, and to determine where they need help. This past year's campaign to contact all the members whose membership has lapsed has proved somewhat successful, if in no other way than to find out why various members drop out.

The Library Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Ravel, provided the most entertaining and thought-provoking discussion. There are many private libraries among our various members throughout the Nation. Occasionally, upon the death of one of our collectors, his books are donated to the National Association. This built up quite a library which our Managing Director was becoming responsible for. In turn, the Association contributed many books to the Franklin Institute Library which is strictly a reference library (no books may be checked out--all books must be either read there or photostats made of the material you desire). This tended to put all OUR books in one good library under lock and key and made it nice for the Easterners or nearby residents, but almost inaccessible to those of us who lived farther away.

To complicate matters, the Franklin Institute accepted OUR books and gave us recognition and placed us on their benefactors list (strictly an honorary position in name only, and no privileges involved), but we in return never made any move to designate THIS particular Library as our Official Reference Library. We talked of it several times, but never took any action in the matter. There was some feeling here that this definitely should be done NOW, once and for all, and hereafter give it our wholehearted support. Dr. Ravel asked for a consensus of feeling in this matter. He got it, opinion by opinion!?

To make matters more complicated, the Library Committee had suggested as a counter proposal that a Library be initiated somewhere near the headquarters of the National Director (which would probably be in Columbia, Penn.) where our Managing Director would have as his additional responsibility the job of keeping track of various books and seeing to their being loaned out to the members and being returned; in general, providing us with a circulating library available to all members.

Getting back to the second matter--that of giving the Franklin Institute our wholehearted support--Dr. Ravel felt that if we did feel that this Library should be the one designated, then we should become more active in our support and allot a sum of money to be donated to the Library to further their work and show our good faith and actual support. There lies the problem----four paragraphs of problems which led to a mighty good discussion. The problem was not adequately presented to show the tie-up and a great deal of misunderstanding was thrashed out, but the net results which evolved seem to pretty much settle the situation and in time, will work out to the best of all our interests we hope.

The Council Members voted to name the Franklin Institute as N.A.W.C.C.'s official reference Library (the Franklin Institute is located in Philadelphia, Penn.) and at the same time, for this year only, voted to give the Library a donation of \$250 to continue their good work. In return, all the books of the National Association will be turned over to this Library and will be there at ALL times for all and anyone's use. There will be no need to worry that the book you need information from is checked out

when you write them for references as it will always be there, and kept in as good a shape and condition as it was when originally published.

The various other Committees of the National Association followed with their reports. The Museum and Exhibits Committee reported that they had been working very closely with various museums to obtain a listing of the unique and rare clocks and watches contained in these museums, and to prepare a catalogue of same. They were also trying to arrange various exhibits and times when our various members throughout the Country might be able to place different collections on display in these museums. Mr. Battison, who not only is Chairman of this Committee, but is also curator for a museum, spent many long hours and lots of time visiting the many museums throughout the Country to contribute to this Committee's report, but, unfortunately, being a curator himself, he found that everytime he made a request for the Association from one of the museums, he found himself becoming obligated with regards to his museum. This is indeed a problem in business, as well as in museums, and one that needs very delicate handling. As a result, he asked that he be removed from said Committee. Mr. Wm. Andrews accepted the Chairmanship of this Committee so that settled this problem.

But their work continues. They request that all the members of the Association--- that is, YOU, ME, ALL OF US---work with them and work with our local museums, libraries anyplace we can put our collections on display, and assist them in promoting and preserving the interest in horology. Several of our own local Chapter members here in H.O.A. have been putting on displays for years in local Hobby Clubs, Churches, Store Buildings, Museums, Libraries, and all around us. Therefore, please let your Secretary know about these exhibits, or even when you call your local library and are negotiating for an exhibit, so that next year we will be able to write to the Chairman of this Committee a full report on what has been going on in H.O.A. land.

The Publicity Committee made a very similar report. Their big interest was in education---educating the public that such things as these exist horologically speaking ---and rather than put that old clock in the dump, fix it up, study it, and enjoy it. Naturally, one big way this can be done is to let the World know we exist and that there are people interested in this type of preservation. They were interested in all reports in magazines, newspaper clippings, television briefs, etc., about any of our members and their fascinating collections. All this is very vital to the life of any good organization or association such as our Association.

When these various reports were made, various chapters were named who had contributed or had made strides along the various lines indicated. We were not mentioned, although the ideas that were enumerated were already being carried out to a great extent by our own members. All these ideas are already being utilized by H.O.A. We can take our rightful place with the best of them, and next year, when the various Chairmen are preparing their report to the National Association, we intend to see that H.O.A. is right in there and receiving its just due. Do your part and keep your Secretary informed the rest of this year on your local undertakings.

MONEY---ALWAYS THE PROBLEM OF MONEY!!

Mrs. Hovey, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, had a very interesting report. It is their job to see that things are carried out and that financially, everything goes smoothly. Their biggest job is seeing to it that the Conventions are run smoothly. Next year, 1963, in Chicago, Mr. Stevens is already making arrangements and seeking the best accommodations possible. But there are more headaches arising. We are getting too big, Association-wise, and need some kind of a formal office where N.A.W.C.C. Headquarters are located, or at least some rooms that can be used. Presently, the OFFICE is Mr. Strickler's home, and that is just too small, believe me.

Another problem is that due to our Association's size member-wise, there is just too much work involved what with the new members, the normal Secretary's job, simple correspondence, and then that everlasting superb Bulletin the Association publishes by-monthly. Our Managing Director, who is also Secretary, Editor, etc., of the

National Association outlined his time allotted to various jobs that he must do, and the end result amounted to the little known fact that OUR SECRETARY is not just one person whom we all know and love, but is actually many persons. He didn't mention it but he speaks eight languages fluently, holds 17 University Degrees, and is recognized as a holder of more titles and honors than the President of the United States--both here in the United States and in several foreign countries.

It was interesting listening to him speak. Over 70 hours a week is now spent on Association work. 40 hours are spent on Secretary work (it takes an hour and a half just to open a new membership what with making the addressograph plates, entering his name on the records, notifying the local Secretary of a new member in his area, etc.) This I can agree with as it takes me plenty long everytime a new member joins our Chapter. Then he does have to write letters, arrange for local displays, keep in contact with Association members, etc. These all take time. It takes a full half an hour just to withdraw a member's name who has not paid his membership.

Then, to top it all off, every other month he has the Bulletin, and this takes over 30 hours of every week. There are articles to assemble, pictures to have plates made of, then cutting and pasting to get it just to the point where he can proof read it. By that time, the publishers want it so they can get their plates set up, and all in all, that deadline is the hardest thing to meet in the world. I know! I have never been able to meet one on time yet, and I don't publish a Bulletin.

So what did the Council do? Well, they approved a \$30,000 budget which allocated the various Committees with postage and stationary money, paid our Business Director a salary of \$6,500. (not near enough for the caliber of man we have filling this position), and set up estimated expenses to cover the cost of printing and mailing the Bulletin. The money to balance this \$30,000 expenditure comes from membership fees, gifts to the Association, and donations to further our work that we receive occasionally. Of course, this is all estimated for the coming 1962-63 fiscal year. A certain amount was set aside for arrangements for the 1963 Convention.

In addition, \$3,200 was allocated to purchase a new addressograph as the one he is now using was "used" when he bought it and he has used it for over 20 years. \$300 to \$500 was set aside for new office equipment in the proposed office he is to make arrangements to obtain, and \$1,500 was set aside for a part-time assistant that he needed. He felt he knew of a young fellow he could get who would be willing to help out. All in all, it was not a bad afternoon's work.

One of the final reports was made by the Editorial Committee, of which Mr. Strickler is Chairman. Next to the Library Discussion previously reported, this was indeed an equally "live" discussion. The problem lies in the following; we are incorporated as a "non-profit" corporation and have as our incorporated purpose, the education and preservation of everything with regards to horology. Down through the years we have built up in our Treasury a surplus of almost \$9,000. and this does not seem appropriate for a non-profit corporation with its purpose to be educative.

Therefore, what to do with the Surplus? \$250 was already appropriated to give to the Franklin Institute (our official N.A.W.C.C. Library). The Editorial Committee proposed to use this surplus to republish rare books and pamphlets that through time have become collectors items and useful in every clock and watch collector's library. These plates would be bought from the publishers where available and republished with either a cheaper binding or paperback binding and then either given to the members and sold to anyone else, or else sold to the members at just the cost of reprinting.

Several of the chapters have tried to do this, but the undertaking is a bit steep for a local chapter as was the case in St. Louis recently where a private investor finally stepped in and took over the cost of publishing the wholesale jewelers catalogue they were trying to have republished. It has been tried by several chapters but usually was doomed due to lack of capital, whereas the Association already has that problem licked. If our H.O.A. Members recall, two years ago Mr. Perotti suggested

that we undertake the republishing of the book by M. Chamberlain, "Its About Time". Well, that is exactly the book that the Association has in mind republishing first. We were just two years ahead of them. Also, there is an American Encyclopedia of Horology that they are presently working on. Sounds like a worthwhile project.

Under "New Business", there was a discussion as to whether or not to give an American Banjo Clock to the White House. It was brought to light that following the recent Television tour of the White House, there were no good American Clocks setting around. Upon investigation, it was found that there are many good American Clocks in the White House but at the time, they were all stored, and probably will be for the present Administration. This motion was thus tabled until next year.

The Business Manager of the Mart recommended that due to increase cost of publication and postal rates, the advertising rates of the Mart would have to be increased and recommended the new rate for 12 words (one line) be \$1.25 with a minimum of \$2.50 and the rate per page to be increased to \$62.50. The July Issue in 1961 was sent to 734 people, and the recent March Issue was mailed to 3,174---quite an increase. This motion as unanimously passed by the Council.

The Council voted to meet next year in Chicago, either the same time approximately as this year, or else one or two weeks earlier, depending on the best arrangements that could be obtained. Mr. Stevens commented that he is presently negotiating with the Congress Hotel which is located at the corner of Michigan and Lake Streets.

By this time, everyone was tired and ready to get back to the Mart to see if the "bargain" they had seen was still there, so the Council adjourned until the 19th Annual Convention would be called to order in Chicago in 1963.

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS! THERE ISN'T ANY MORE-----

Maybe so, for Bugs Bunny, but not so for the Convention Folks. There's lots more, but in order not to bug you with it we'll just eliminate it and request that if you want more, corner one of H.O.A.'s Delegates and he or she'll really fill you in. But, as in all good things, everything leads up to a grand finality, and this Convention was no exception. All events and "over the counter" transactions were leading up to just one thing--the grand Annual Banquet--to be held Saturday evening at 7:00 P.M. in the huge ballroom of the John Marshall Hotel, followed by the traditional Auction.

Let me tell you of just one incident that really put H.O.A. on the map and made everyone including the Easterners set up and listen. As you probably already know, Mr. and Mrs. Olsen from Lincoln, Nebraska, Mr. and Mrs. Nichols from Springfield, Missouri, the Wagner Family from Kansas City, Missouri, and of course, Mrs. Hovey from St. Louis, Missouri, were the delegates representing our Chapter. We had all arranged to meet in the Lobby before the Banquet and go in together and set in a group. That's when the fun began.

Mrs. Olsen had been visiting earlier this afternoon with ladies from some of the other chapters and the ladies were commenting about the trouble their husbands had registering. It seems many of the husbands were in such a tizzy to get to the Convention that they had left their membership cards home and had trouble providing identity. Well, Mrs. Olsen just turned to the ladies and said, "Well, why didn't you show them your cards." That's when the bombshell hit. "What cards?" came the immediate reply. Mrs. Olsen proudly produced her Auxiliary Membership Card to H.O.A. (they had just joined the Chapter a week or so before leaving for the Convention) and the ladies were immediately interested. How come they couldn't have an auxiliary such as we had? Why not cards for them also as women always have everything in their purses. What was the Auxiliary and what did it do?

Such questions as these kept the ladies talking for hours, and interest grew as time went on. Mrs. Olsen was the best good-will ambassador you ever met and who knows but what we'll not see auxiliaries cropping up throughout the 40 Chapters of N.A.W.C.C. The Banquet was wonderful and after everyone had partaken of a superb meal, the

National Managing Director and Secretary, Mr. Earl Strickler, called the roll chapter by chapter. There were 425 members in attendance at this, the 18th National Convention of which our President of the N.A.W.C.C. had attended all but one due to a bout with measles, of all things. Try that, next time you need an excuse why you haven't gone.

There are 40 Chapters in our Association and everyone had delegates there except #9 Tokyo, #30 Cherokee, #33 Canada, and #38 Maunee Valley. Our newest baby, #40, Rip Van Winkle, was even represented. Southern Louisiana hopes to soon be the 41st Chapter and we took time to visit with the gentleman from New Orleans who is really pushing it. He and his wife were wonderful people and as enthusiastic a couple as you would ever want to meet. This was entered in the Minutes as being one of the greatest number of chapter representation in the history of N.A.W.C.C., and at the Banquet itself, H.O.A. was given notice as being a Family Chapter with all its delegates seated around one big table and several complete families present.

Our President, Mr. Givvs, made the speech of the day and it was one after-dinner speech that really could be enjoyed and showed to a "T" the caliber of men we have selected to lead our Association. I would like to quote as closely as possible some of his topics to the best of my knowledge and pass on to you his outlook.

Are we here just for the heck of it? To tell the truth, no! You are here for a reason, because you want to be here. You want to learn, to gain? You are interested, and that is what matters. People look at you as though you were nuts. Just remember--- you look abnormal to someone else who also looks just as abnormal to you. So stick with it. You have the upper hand, the better course, and he knows it.

One big goal for this coming year is to promote project committees in each and every chapter. The life and interest of any chapter is only there when there is a stimulus and this stimulus comes from doing things, working on ideas and projects together, and promoting---as well as creating---your own interests and stimulating the imagination of others. Many chapters have such committees and they are finding new horizons opening to them in more than the normal ways. This not only serves to increase interest, but also enables you to grow with your chapter and to benefit both in character and in improving your collection. (H.O.A. is right in there, pitching).

In the past, we who expressed interest in such items as old watches and clocks became known as "experts", but in reality, this is a misleading term. The word "ex" comes from the Latin and means "out of" and the term "pert" probably had its derivation from the word "spert" which means "a small drip under pressure"! Does this sound like us? Hereafter, let us be known as "specialists", a far more appropriate term.

In conclusion, let me remind you fellow specialists that money isn't everything--- sometimes not enough.

Since they had such a big Auction this time, they adjourned following the Banquet back to the wind of the Hotel where the Mart originally was and Charles Terwilliger took over and conducted one of the darnest auctions you ever saw and everyone had more fun than at a circus. Watching Mr. Terwilliger in action is a three ring circus itself. The owners of the items being auctioned had to protect themselves and if the item sold for less than \$10.00 they contributed \$.50 to N.A.W.C.C.'s Mart Fund, and if more, they shelled out \$1.00. As a whole, things were going pretty high but everyone was having a heck of a good time and Terwilliger knows just how to bring the best out of people. All in all, the big time was still going strong at 11 p.m. when we took off, Saturday night. Collectors are fun, and get-to-gether's like this are a ball!

"I SHALL RETURN"-----

These are the words of a famous General, and apply very appropriately here. We are returning this coming month to visit with a family who are adept at making their guests feel at home---especially clock and watch collector guests. Besides having a spacious home, they have an enormous yard and a big garden, all which take time to

keep them in the condition these real old-style "Country Folks" maintain them in. Mr. Blair has a collection the equal of no other member in the Chapter. Mrs. Blair likes paintings and both of them are superb wood refinishers so you can imagine what their home looks like. August 5th, the first Sunday in August will find H.O.A. Chapter meeting in their home--meeting to begin at one o'clock that afternoon.

One nice thing about Stover is that it is surrounded by good roads and easily reached from any direction--and it is on the map! Everyone around there knows the Blairs and will be glad to offer any assistance if need be, but to eliminate all possible confusion, we called Janice Blair the other night to obtain explicit directions, so hop in and we'll be off. You may pick your own road to reach Stover as all roads lead there, but for purposes of convenience, we'll start from Sedalia, Mo., on 50.

Just at the western edge of Sedalia, Highway 65 goes south from 50 toward Warsaw. Follow Highway 65 south approximately 18 miles until Highway 52 branches off to go east. The Har-Le-Mar Motel with a filling station across the Highway are at this Junction. Go east on 52 through Cole Camp and on to Stover. You are entering Stover from the west so go to the first block inside the City Limits (St. Paul's Lutheran Church is on the corner) and turn south (to your right); go two blocks and then turn west (right again) at Custer's Hatchery. Go one block west to another Lutheran Church and turn south (left, this time) and continue on crossing the railroad tracks and up a small grade and the Blair's House is the first big white house on your left with a screened in porch. Come early and browse around as the Meeting will begin at one o'clock.

Good Friends:

On the morning of June 10th, a Sunday, the weather prognosticators were predicting showers and widely scattered afternoon tornados and cyclones. Never the less, twenty-two undaunted and determined H.O.A. Members, their families and friends from all parts of the various surrounding states--all veterans of many Indian raids, buffalo stampedes, jet blasts, floods and droughts--began the trek to Schell City, Missouri, and the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hardie, and when the dust settled, over 50 of us had gathered to share their enthusiasm and interests.

Our June Meeting will be an occasion long remembered by those fortunate individuals who attended. Most everyone agreed, it would require more than just one visit to examine the thousands of items in the Hardie Clock Museum. Of course, the clocks predominated with well over 1500. I didn't hear a count of the number of watches he had, but obviously he had a substantial number.

We first assembled at the Home where our Meeting was held. Evidently, their Victorian house had once been the home of Mrs. Hardie's Parents but now was completely restored from top to bottom. The furnishings were of comparable period; in fact, your President conducted the Meeting sitting in a platform rocker. The Hardie Clock Museum was several blocks from the Home and after the Meeting and refreshments had been served we all adjourned to the Museum to spend the remainder of the afternoon feasting our eyes on the many things to be seen and listening to an occasional grip from John concerning some particular piece he did not have running quite to suit him as yet.

I was most impressed when John was discussing the fine old street clock which welcomed all of us in front of the Museum building. John recalled the many times and hours he had spent leaning on this old Clock waiting for street cars up in Kansas City. He was a younger man at the time just starting out in life. I didn't say anything but I was thinking of the many times I had slammed my bicycle against the base of this venerable old custodian of time always making sure to knock off some of its paint. If this old fellow could talk, my face sure would have been red. It was consoling to see John's fine job of restoration had erased the damage I had done.

We covered a variety of subjects during the Meeting--all pertinent to H.O.A. and N.A.W.C.C. Mr. Bryant called to express his regrets at not being able to attend be-

cause of his working schedule. We are all aware of this Member's interest in the Chapter and clocks. Everyone thought this call was a nice gesture. Mr. Caspar Wagner gave an excellent and interesting Convention Report in brief.

The matters of insuring our collections, some of which are approaching considerable value, was brought to our attention by Mr. Roy Powers. Two men were standing in a garage waiting for the mechanic to repair their cars. One said to the other, "What kind of automobile insurance do you have?" The other replied, "I don't know. I have not had an accident yet." If you do not know insurance, know your agent!!! Mr. Caspar A. Wagner is a member of this Chapter and an insurance agent familiar with this type of insurance--Fine Arts Insurance.

Mr. McEowen gave an interesting talk about a tool he had made. I couldn't wait until I had one to try. They are really handy and easy to make. In fact, I will have several at the next meeting for doorprizes. The purpose of the tool is to assist in aligning the penions with the proper bushings when you are assembling a movement. A hook is provided to pull or guide the penion to the bushing; also a small notch to push with. Soon we will have a drawing in the National Bulletin. Many thanks to Mr. McEowen for sharing the idea of this excellent little tool which is easily made of wire.

Guess who--with a background of two years of jungle training and experience, and classified by the Army as an expert map maker and interpreter of same--lost his way enroute to the Hardies. Incidentally, all antelope trails and swamps north of Schell City have now been recharted--ask "old" Bill!!!

DO IT NOW

Send a count of clocks and watches to W. C. Bruer, 3703 Woodland, Kansas City, Mo. Count only clocks that are complete, separate count on watches--one count of all cased watches and one count of uncased watches. Congratulations to Mr. Mashburn who found a Japanese Stick Clock in a basket of junk. We hope to see all of you at the Blairs in Stover, Missouri, come August 5th. So long.

Bill Bruer, President of H.O.A.

OPEN INVITATION TO COME AND REST A SPELL---

Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Smith have extended an invitation to all Chapter Members enroute to the Blairs August 5th, to stop and rest when they reach Sedalia. It's just a short hop from Sedalia to Stover so everyone who wishes is invited to stop either going or coming to rest up and take off with renewed vigor. Follow the main Highway 50 about halfway through Sedalia and turn north on Kentucky Street. They live at 608 S. Kentucky and have a fine selection of good clocks.

BIG EXHIBIT---

The Wagners managed to squeeze a quick exhibit in one of the display windows of City National Bank where Florent works. This rather small impromptu exhibit is in the lower lobby of the Bank across from the "Personal Loans" next to the elevators. It was rushed in just before Florent had to leave for Summer Camp with Uncle Sam so don't look too closely, but all are welcome. This is the first of our displays that goes along with our President's idea of Projects.

Vandervorts invite all H.O.A. Chapter Members to Moberly, September 16th, as guests of St. Louis Chapter to attend a joint meeting between St. Louis and H.O.A. Sounds like fun--Meeting to start at two o'clock that Sunday, September 16th, in Home of Mr. and Mrs. Vandervort, 308 Bertley, Moberly, Missouri. Mark your calendars.

Sincerely,

Clement C. Wagner, Secretary Of H.O.A.