

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

May Report, 1962

Good Friends:

(Our President speaks)

We can record our Second Anniversary Meeting as a complete success. Many thanks to everyone who contributed or assisted in any manner. Thanks to Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Lough for providing the refreshments and those table decorations which were superb. How about those cool paper napkins with "H.O.A. No. 36" printed in the corner? These were provided by Mrs. Henry and donated by The Friendship House out Mission way.

Our Birthday Cake was a real beauty, and tasty too! There was more than enough for everybody. Unfortunately the pictures of the cake will not do it justice, as you will see later in the Bulletin. Many thanks to Ervin and Hila Smith for the fine job of handling the door prizes and the Name Tags. Mrs. Henry was asked and she accepted the charge of handling the door prizes hereafter. It's a big chore and we know it's in very able hands. And girls--"Surprise"--we will not need any more door prizes for the next meeting. Now, of course, if any of you have--shall we say--formed a habit of bringing something each time, we definitely will be the last ones to discourage such a nice practice. Remember the meeting following our next one.

Some very fine words of praise were spoken by Mr. Motley regarding your Officers and what they have accomplished for the H.O.A. Chapter. In conclusion he suggested the present Officers be reelected. Evidently this suggestion was attractive to all, as a motion was made and seconded to elect the present Officers to another two year term by acclamation. There was only one dissenter--the good kid herself--Marcia Bruer (wife of our President).

Fortunately no one asked for speeches---there-by eliminating the possibility of lousing up the whole day. Whether it is known or not, we do put in some time on these jobs and to put it crudely, we go whole hog for H.O.A. Chapter day and night. Let me sight an example; it is personal and I wouldn't want it to get around, but, ordinarily I only arise early in the morning to witness earth quakes and invasions!!! (Editor's note: Mr. Bruer arrives home from work early in the wee hours of the morning and usually sleeps until 10 or 10:30 a.m.) The day of the Anniversary Meeting, I arose at the early hour of 7 a.m.--practically the middle of the night--and took a bath (you can see we will take all kinds of risks to make a good appearance). You might say we try to be real frontier busters for good ole H.O.A.

In all seriousness, we feel this approval of our reelection by every member present is a real compliment. We are honored to serve another term and consider it a privilege. We promise more Vim, Vigor, and Vitality; also plenty of assignments for articles and write-ups on watches and clocks. And while we are on the subject, these articles can be either for the National Bulletin or our Chapter Report. Unfortunately, we can not show pictures in our Chapter Report.

Incidentally, if you should be asked to speak before some club or organization, do not forget to mention N.A.W.C.C. and H.O.A. No. 36 at every opportunity. We are taking steps to make the presence of N.A.W.C.C. and H.O.A. Chapter in this Area a familiar symbol to the public as an organization of people who are devoted to Horology in some respect especially the collecting of watches and clocks.

Mr. Henry was appointed to approach some of the merchants especially banks, jewelers and those with attractive window space in heavily foot traveled areas where the public can stop, study, and read some pertinent information on the subject displayed. It was suggested these displays be changed every two weeks. Mr. Henry will have to do some probing in order to ascertain what sort of reaction these ideas will arouse among the merchants. In case you are concerned, we have already discussed the impracticability of displaying anything where there would be danger of theft or damage.

Two fine gentlemen were appointed Sgt. At Arms just in case one or the other can not be present--Mr. Fox and Mr. Camden. They will handle the door both at the A.A.A. and at the various meeting places and act as official greeters to all newcomers, visitors and guests. Mr. Ronnie Dickinson will handle the Name Tags as he can be depended on to never miss the Meetings.

A hot tip from the lips of the eminent Prof. End-Shake-----wrecker of watches and clocks of the highest calibre-----holder of the distinction of being ejected bodily from seven World Fairs----- Never under any circumstances attempt to remove the spring ring from eight-day springs while holding same in mouth. Saliva may cause the spring to rust!!!

Would appreciate very much if all of you would make a rough count of your watches and clocks. Imagine my embarrassment when the newspaper reporter asked me for a combined count. Write to me! (Editor's note: He isn't kidding! Please, everyone, count your watches and clocks NOW--before you forget--and send the total number of each to Mr. Bruer for Chapter records. Your Secretary would appreciate it very much and we feel confident that the statistics will be the most interesting you ever read.)

Hope everyone enjoyed the newspaper account of H.O.A.'s Meeting and activities. It appeared in the Kansas City Times the following Monday, April 9th. It contained considerably more info than I had anticipated, but not enough of course. I had hoped to find a copy for each member but that didn't prove possible.

New folks, if we progress as much in the next two years as we have in the past, it will require the cooperation, interest and participation of everybody. If you have just been a joiner, make up your mind now to be a participator. And girls, now that we have this door prize thing up in good order--how about prodding that Big Collector around your place into writing an article about watches or clocks for the Bulletin or maybe just one for our own Report.

If you are wondering why ' don't practice what I preach----something is coming (see Mr. Bruer's contribution at the end of this Report). It's about time for Dick Camden to come up with another clock cleaning solution. Hope everyone has noticed how efficiently Mr. Henry is handling the Silent Auction. This is getting to be a big thing--noticably in our Treasury.

Mr. Glenn Blair sure had a nice cathedral type clock at the last meeting. Hope all of you are planning on the little trip down to the Hardie's in Schell City this June 10th. John Hardie holds the distinction of having the lowest N.A.W.C.C. Membership Number in our Chapter. It will be worth your time to see all of John's collections including clocks, watches, old automobiles, license plates, radiator and hood emblemns, minature steam engines and old musical instruments. We all owe John Hardie a lot. He fought a one man battle around these parts for years trying to interest somebody in watches and clocks. I'll never forget the time I approached John about repairing a clock.....he said, "Bill, why don't you fix it yourself" and whispered something like "N.A.W.C.C." in my ear and look at me now.

Mr. Thomas was showing some fine wood carvings at the meeting. I understand Mr. McConnell has made some kind of aluminum case for one of Mr. William's watches. Because of all the confusion which surrounded the socializing and good fellowship at the last meeting, I somehow missed this last item. If our hard working Secretary finds time, probably you will receive another Report before the next meeting. Hope everyone will make every effort to attend these summer meetings.

Bill Bruer, President H.O.A. No. 36

IN MEMORIAM-----

The following was received recently from one of our members in Oklahoma, Mr. Lee Seymour, and it expressed the thought so well that with his leave we are printing it:

April 16, 1962

Dear Clement:

I spent the afternoon of April 15th, with my dear old friend, Mr. Hardy Herst, of Argonia, Kansas. We both arrived at the conclusion that neither one of us had paid our Chapter dues, so I am forwarding a check for our membership dues.

The visit wasn't any ways near as enjoyable as my many other visits in the past have been in the Herst's Manor. I had to go to one of those things which we all dread a week ago last Wednesday, April 4th. It was to the funeral of the dearest old lady I believe I have ever known, Mrs. Herst. There was a gloom about the old Manor that naturally makes one think of the past. Dear old Hardy seemed really to appreciate our company.

If you should get a chance in one of your tours of visitations, or any other member-NAWCC, and could visit him, I'm sure he would sure enjoy your company.

Yours truly,
Lee Seymour

Thankyou, Mr. Seymour, for your heartfelt letter, and Mr. Herst, we offer you our sincere condolences at this time, and hope you will be able to join us at our next meeting in Schell City, Missouri, June 10th.

NEXT MEETING-----

Meeting to begin at 1:00 p.m. Sunday Afternoon, June 10th at Hardie's Clock Museum, Schell City, Missouri. The early meeting time will enable those of us coming from a distance to return during the daylight hours since the sun will not set until 7:45 that evening. There is one restaurant available in Schell City but this is on a limited serve basis. There is lots of available pasture land for having family picnics and the early arrivers can be assured of plenty to see this being the headland for the Missouri Ozarks Region.

In view of the following statements of facts which we know to be true, we recommend that everyone arrive early--shortly after noon--as there is more to see than one afternoon can include. Hardie's Museum includes clocks, watches, old automobiles, license plates, radiator as well as hood emblems, minature steam engines and old musical instruments--all in one place. In addition, everyone is requested to bring items for the Silent Auction that will be in process from the time Mr. Henry arrives until 30 minutes after the official closing. Experience has indicated that this becomes a fast, entertaining, adventure which requires close inspection of the item you wish to bid on as the other members seem to be just as interested as you are and the final bidder becomes the new owner.

Mr. Thomas has utilized the Display Board idea and now has a set-up whereby one can view his entire pictorial history of our Chapter, collections he has seen, and the life of an average collector, simply by moving from one screen to the next. Of course, Mr. Henry has the Display Board for those hanging exhibits that will be displayed which you are going to bring. Just seeing the exhibits takes a lot of time, not to mention the collection in the home we are visiting. And then, there is that ever-loving social hour that invariably follows all of our meetings. These have become a must for gleaming information as to "how to repair" and "whose got what" as well as "where one can get this item or that" and just for meeting other's who enthusiastically share your interests. All told, you have enough reasons here for spending an entire day--not just a short afternoon.

TO REACH SCHELL CITY-----

Follow Highway 71 south from Kansas City to Nevada (just short of 100 miles in distance), turn left (or East in direction) on Highway 54 to either Highway C (7 miles East of Nevada) or Highway AA (which is 6 miles west of El Dorado Springs). Either

road goes north to Schell City. Just keep following them north between 12 to 18 miles and both roads end at Schell City. Approximate distance is 120 miles from Kansas City or roughly a two-and-one-half hours drive. Of course, if you come in from the East, just follow Highway 54 to El Dorado Springs and go north on Highway AA which will be 6 miles west of El Dorado Springs, or Highway C.

THINGS TO DO--PLACES TO VISIT--OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN--

N.A.W.C.C. National Convention, Richmond, Virginia, May 24, 25, & 26th. First meeting is at 10 a.m. on the 24th with registration earlier. I'll be seeing you there! June 17th Indiana Chapter Summer Meeting, Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County State Park.

Mid-American Watch and Clock Conference at Purdue University to be October 6th.

Please don't forget to stop and see Mr. Herst in Argonia, Kansas, the next time you are in his area.

WE CONGRATULATE YOU, HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER MEMBERS--

We are happy to announce that our Chapter now is composed of members from five States (Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska) and has 45 members presently --does anyone know anyone in Iowa (the western end, please) who is interested in clocks or watches?

We ask your forgiveness for not mailing your membership cards back as fast as you sent the dues in. We were able to keep up until the last meeting, and then they came in so fast that what with additional letter-writing, etc., we just fell behind and as a consequence are enclosing some of them with this Report. Next year pay early and avoid the rush. Regardless, thank you for all the wonderful letters and the things you are saying. We will try to do our best and please remember, it is your Chapter, and it can only be as good as you dictate so let us know what you want and how you feel.

AND TO YOU, WE OWE A DEEP DEBT OF GRATITUDE--

Mr. Carroll Thomas of Sweet Springs, Mo., donated a clock to the last Chapter Silent Auction which sold for \$8.75 and which benefited the Chapter immensely. He has a complete and wonderful pictorial history of our Chapter--one picture is worth a thousand words and I for one really believe it. He devotes hours to this extra hobby and to setting up his display each time at the meetings for the members to enjoy. Mrs. Thomas has acted as hostess many times as well as assisted in handling the bothersome task of the door prizes, and the two of them have collaborated to donate to each Chapter Member clock badges with H.O.A.'s name on them, as well as hand made clock plaques usefull for numerous things. They are always willing and able, and are never too tired to help out. They are constantly studying and learning, and always have in the back of their mind "how they can help their fellow collectors".

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Henry, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, are right in there pitching also. Mr. Henry has contributed money he has received for repair work done, to the Chapter Treasury, has made and is taking care of the Display Board for hanging clocks (this is no small chore to transport this each time), and is handling the Silent Auction in every detail. Mrs. Henry has served as hostess, is now in charge of door prizes, and has contributed of herself many times when the Auxiliary Chairman needed help.

Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Henry--we thank you for being wonderful, for being "real" collectors and having our interests at heart, and for everything!

EVERYONE NOTE--

New Roster coming out so any changes you want made, please send them to me immediately. Thankyou.

WOOD MOVEMENTS REPAIRING

by Wm. Charles Bruer

Many compliments to Mr. Zohner on his suggested methods of replacing teeth in wood movements. If I may, I would like to add my "confederate-quarter's" worth and state that wood movements have their share of bugs, both visible and invisible. I have conquered some of these demons or gremlins and have the bulging eyes, swollen facial blood vessels, gray "H" hair, and high blood pressure to prove it; also, some wood movements that are still running (at this writing)!!

One of the suggestions that follow may help sometime when you have exhausted all patience and are about to trade your clocks for some door knobs, or maybe license plates, or something without moving parts. Lets say you can not decide whether or not to disassemble the movement--is it or is it not necessary? That is the question.

Nine times out of ten you will find the following fault to be present although it is very easy to overlook and can cause more headaches than any other necessary repair. After you have removed the movement from the case, grasp the back plate in one hand and the front plate in the other hand with one side or the other exposed to you--give these plates a twist in opposite directions back and forth. If there is any movement, this will indicate the posts that hold or separate the plates are loose and have to be reglued. The movement will have to be disassembled.

You will find these posts were nailed as well as glued, the nails were driven in from the ends of the plates. Drill in 1/8th inch on each side of the nail with a 1/8 inch drill bit. Reach in with a long nose pliers or side cutter and remove the nails. Mark each post and be very sure to replace the posts in the same position they were originally.

After all posts are in, and before they have become set or rigid, fit the other plate to the posts making sure they fit together easily so you will not have any trouble later on when you assemble the entire movement. Let the two plates attached to the posts set overnight for proper drying. Elmer's glue is fine for gluing the posts (---Good Old Elmer's---if this stuff had any color I believe I would start drinking it!)

Possibly you are thinking this guy Bruer sure does an awful lot of unnecessary work, or maybe he actually is drinking this glue! Let me say it sure is discouraging and disgusting after you have put in several hours over-hauling one of these movements to install it in the case and after you have attached the weights and bob, you find that rigor mortis has the movement in the clutches. Let me explain why this happens.

Remember when you removed the movement from the case it was secured to the side rails by the front plate of the movement only. When you add the weights, they pull the back of the movement up which in turn changes the alinement of the wheels and plates. This causes the pinions to bind at the bushings. Imagine when these clocks were new these side rails fit snug to the movement and in the case of Terry Clocks with the hole in the back of the case, the back plate of the movement would fit tight.

But, the years have dried the wood and it has shrunk so this regluing of the movement posts becomes a very necessary operation. After all, we are working on machines that have out lived their intended span of life. In some obstinate cases we will have to muster all our ingenuity to put these old fellows back in running order. We owe it to them. We may not be as good mechanics as their creators but that is of secondary consideration now. I don't believe there is a complete wood movement that can't be repaired. I put thirty teeth in one recently--most of you know what the incentive was and can understand why I undertook the job.

Always when you disassemble a movement, paint generously all the wheels and the plates with Parafin Oil and then let it soak in for a couple of days before reassembling. This gives the wood new life and strengthens the teeth, and as time goes by and

with various changes in temperatures, the parafin continues to come to the surface of the wood and provides good lubrication without attracting too much dirt.

Plastic bushings are a must if rebushing is necessary, and can be purchased very reasonably from George J. Schlehr, 12 South Reed Street, Bel Air, Maryland. They do not require lubrication, and are easily installed whether the movement is disassembled or not. Soon, I will have a bushing tool available which will be on our forsale table at a very reasonable price plus tax for our treasury. The purpose of the tool is to replace bushings without disassembling the movement.

Just in case you have already decided to take your movement down, (go to it, boys! I am with you all the way--live dangerously--and pass the glue bottle!) Buy a drill bit in a wire size, one size less than the outside measurements of the bushing. If you have bought a bit you will find it a good investment. Use the blunt end of the bit to push or drive the bushing into place, also using a leather hammer. Be sure the bushings are flush with the plate on the inside facing the wheel arbor. Better still after the bushing is installed put the wheel in to be sure you will have sufficient "end-shake". Always remember, a movement whether brass or wood must have this end-shake or else it will always be erratic if it runs at all.

The best way to explain this end-shake would be in this procedure. Lets take the time train and assume you have done the necessary bushing. Put the wheels in their proper places and put on the front plate and insert the pegs that hold the plates to the corner posts. Holding the movement vertically, tilt it from side to side and see if you can see or hear the wheels shifting or sliding back and forth between the plates. Check each wheel for at least 1/16 of an inch play on each side which is not too much play at all. Always make it a rule to check for end-shake before you replace the movement in the case.

Now, about getting a proper fit in the bushings, always remember these old fellows like plenty of room to work in even in the bushings. Lets assume you have gone whole hog and disassembled the movement. Lay the plates flat on the bench and insert the pinion of the proper wheel in the bushing (the wheel being vertical now). The wheel should fall off center at least 10 degrees if the bushing has been drilled or broached out properly. If you use a broach, broach from the outside of the movement to the inside. Incidentally, Elmer's Glue is also good to fasten the bushing in place--good old Elmer's Glue!

Another "must" on the list of repairs is to check all pinions for alignment. I've found holes for pinions drilled off center. I've left plenty of excuse for questions and as soon as some of them come in, we will scratch off a couple more sheets with more helpful repair hints. Now in closing, and in all sincerity, I respectfully submit the forgoing suggestions and procedures as workable and practical. Probably some of you polished mechanics are thinking the time expended on this discourse could have been better utilized catching butterflies or cutting grass. I am just trying to help, fellows, and besides, you can't beat a dead beat.

We'll be seeing all of you in Schell City June 10th, if not sooner!

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.