

HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER #36 OF N.A.W.C.C.

November Report, 1962

Dear H.O.A. Collectors:

There is lots of news this time and we sincerely hope that each of you, all the new members, all the prospective guests and members who will read this Report, and all the various other N.A.W.C.C. Chapter Secretaries and National Officials will take the time to read it thoroughly and appreciate what tremendous things are happening and being done by the collectors of watches and clocks here in the Mid-America States who are associated with the Traveling Chapter--the Heart of America Chapter #36 of the N.A.W.C.C. We are presently represented by members from the five States of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, and Oklahoma--~~fifty~~ one members in all--and together in our various collections we have over 6009 clocks and 1097 cased watches and 536 uncased watch movements...as the count presently stands. But, before we really begin to let go, let's hear from our President who has been willing to give us a monthly report for each of our 26 Reports that have been put out regarding our Chapter's activities and Member's collecting since it's first organizational meeting in April, 1960.

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Good Friends:

Obviously the good Lord approves of watch and clock collectors. He provided an excellent day for our October Meeting at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn. Some important announcements were overlooked. Please keep in mind old Bill has passed that half Century mark--the age of rapid disintegration. I find myself enjoying Lawrence Welk's music and have developed an almost uncontrollable taste for bubble gum (love that grape and lemon flavors).

Head-shrinkers say these are symptoms of approaching old age and antiquity. Maybe I am not as sharp as I was a year or twenty years ago, but if occassionally I forget or omit some important courtesy, please feel free to remind me at that part of our procedure when I ask for comments, criticism and suggestions.

At this late date (better late than never) I will request to be forgiven by the Mashburns. I failed to thank them before the assembled Chapter for geing our hosts, and especially for all the effort and expense involved.

In attendance were a total of 48 adults including the Auxiliary and guests, some assorted kids and one dog. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had a wonderful time including the dog which ran about barking and growling. We hope this was just his expression of approval of the proceedings.

It certainly is a shame there is not some conceivable manner of bottling up some of Carroll Thomas's devotion and enthusiasm to his hobby--N.A.W.C.C., and dear old H.O.A. At the mere mention of clocks or watches, enthusiasm just seems to coze out of him all over. Mr. Thomas gave an interesting account of doings at the Purdue Conference; he also provided pictures of same.

As of the last Meeting, our Membership increased to fifty members. Your Secretary and myself have been living in patient and silent anticipation for that day when we would reach the image number of fifty. (Note--we have now already passed the golden number.) We hope at this point no one thinks we have reached the high pinnacle of success--perish the thought! The first fifty were the hard ones to get, and as far as goals and frontiers are concerned--we have only scratched the surface. We do not need more vim, vigor, and vitality; just apply the adequate reserve we all possess.

The Chapter approved a suggestion last Meeting that all the members bring a door prize to the December Meeting. We hope this arrangement will provide a reserve of prizes to be used for the remainder of the coming Year. We hate to be mooching during the year. Our December Christmas Meeting is next on the schedule. Lets make this event a record breaker, especially in attendance.

Many thanks to Mr. Perotti and to Mr. Zohner for their excellent articles in the October N.A.W.C.C. Bulletin. I only wish some of our other talented people could find

their pencils--I'll sharpen them for you if necessary. Prof. End-Shake has a new adulterated product on the market--"End-Shake's Atomic Main Spring Lotion and Liniment". A solicited testimonial from Big Chief Tock-Tick (an out-of-beat Indian if there ever was one) states that this concoction is a multi-purpose potion. In addition to rejuvenating old set and rusty springs, banishing some entirely, it also serves as an excellent foot bath and toe nail remover. Taken internally, in generous gulps with the jug over the elbow (Ozark Style), one's day becomes brighter--somewhat hazy--but definitely brighter!

And so I'll say to the nicest people I know--Members, wives, mothers of the Auxiliary, all members of H.O.A. #36, the pride of N.A.W.C.C.; remember, we are what we are today because we not only talk big out here--we act big!

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Bill Bruer, President of H.O.A. #36  
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#### ONCE UPON A TIME-----

The Brothers Grimm always began their stories with "Once upon a time..." and the same could be true of the story of our Traveling Chapter. This past April we gave a general rundown of what's been what in our Chapter since its first organizational meeting April 10, 1960. But what with the new members who have joined up, etc., many of us probably do not realize or know the projects, programs, interesting articles that have made our Chapter the outstanding Chapter in the National Association.

Among our Membership are two officers of the National Association; Mrs. Peg Hovey who is one of the Directors of the National as well as Chairman of the Association's Ways and Means Committee, and Mr. Caspar A. Wagner who is a Committeeman on the Membership Committee of the National Association. Our Chapter is the ONLY Chapter to have an active Auxiliary composed of the spouses of all our Chapter Members. They handle all the arrangements for meetings, hostesses, door prizes, and any of the incidental problems that are so necessary to a social organization such as ours to make our get-togethers a real success--they handle all the problems that are not directly related to the collecting of clocks or watches. In addition, many of the ladies are just as interested in this collecting game as the men are, and since they are now active members of our Chapter through the Auxiliary, they partake and participate in all the discussions and have a voice in the affairs of the Chapter just as much as any member, even to the question of voting. We are interested in knowing the feelings of all associated with our Chapter and this gives everyone the right to express his or her viewpoint and to contribute to whatever discussions they wish.

In addition, the Auxiliary has seen to it that our Chapter is adequately equipped to handle all hostess problems with regards to the serving of refreshments. Our Chapter owns enough reusable plastic cups, spoons, paper plates, and napkins to handle all the members. Usually, at the meeting there are awarded five or six door prizes which Mrs. Henry takes complete charge of. Mr. Dickinson has name tags for all the Members and guests and this assures you of not being a stranger. Anyway, there is no such thing as a "stranger" among collectors regardless who you are or what part of the Country you are in. Regardless where you are, the door is always open to another collector. With regards to the drawing for the doorprizes, Ronald Dickinson has devised a clever method of making sure no one is missed. Each name tag has the same name on a slip of paper and when he gives you your tag to wear, he takes the slip of paper and puts it in the drawing box. This is a mighty smooth operation.

For the convenience of the Chapter Secretary, there is a three-drawer filing cabinet in which are kept the Chapter's records, the individual files for all of our various Members, all the Auxiliary Supplies with the exception of the door prizes which Mrs. Henry keeps and the name tags which Mr. Dickinson keeps up to date. We also have two display signs in frames with our name on them in bright red letters and the National Association's initials which can be used whenever we are meeting in public places or displaying at local shows. This serves to let the public know who we are and promote the welfare of the National Association. These signs or posters were prepared for us by Mr. McEwen.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Down through the two and a half years our Chapter has been in existence, several real nice benefits have evolved that assist us in our collecting. Through the efforts of Mr. Ervin Smith, the Cook Paint and Varnish Company has extended to any member of H.O.A. the privilege of obtaining 15% off on any of their products purchased at any Cook's Paint Store in the States of Missouri and Kansas. Just show the salesclerk your Membership Card and tell them you want the varnishes or sprays, or paint remover, or paint, or what have you, for refinishing your clocks and you want the 15% discount. Also, Mr. Perotti has made a complete survey of all the books on horology (watches, clocks, repairing, makers, etc.) contained in the Kansas City Library and the Linda Hall Research Library. He has prepared a complete bibliography on each book and has turned all this information over to your Secretary so if you need to know what is available, please feel free to contact me at any time and I'll try to steer you in the right direction to obtain the information.

Incidentally, while on the subject of information, our Chapter is fortunate in that Mrs. Bruer is an authority on the history of all types of clocks, their makers, and any other pertinent information. She has most of the National Bulletins put out by the Association, and keeps unlimited numbers of scrapbooks and reference books regarding everything she can find on clocks. For information regarding watches, we have two outstanding collectors; Mr. Williams who is always on the lookout for all types of unusual watches of any make and which do unusual things (he knows his makers, too) and Mr. Perotti who is an authority on early American watch movements.

If we were to continue listing the various capabilities of all our Members, we undoubtedly have enough for twelve reports, but, we have the Chapter Roster of all our Members, their particular interests and occupations and suggest that if you need assistance on various problems, you refer there and seek out experts--excuse me--"specialists who really can help you regardless of what your particular problem is. Our Chapter is so diversified that someone among our 51 Members has sometime or another come across your dilemma and solved it. That is the fun and wonderful advantage of belonging to a local chapter such as ours. You get to know the others who are interested in the same things as you are who live right in your own Area, and you learn from them.

THE TRAVELING CHAPTER IS TWO YEARS AHEAD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

In the Mid-Summer Report published the latter part of July, we outlined the 1962 National Convention and in particular, the various details that were brought up in the Council Meeting this year--both goals to be attained and present and past accomplishments as well as suggestions as to how the N.A.W.C.C. hoped to provide us with better means to make this "collecting" even more enjoyable and beneficial. We listed in detail suggestions that were made by each of the various committees, and were very much surprised to discover that some of the suggestions THAT WERE JUST NOW being offered had already been put into operation by our Chapter, and had either been discarded or improved upon and we had progressed on to new accomplishments. We left the 1962 Council Meeting with a feeling that we were at least better equipped to send in reports to the various committees.

Just to keep the record straight, lets look at the History Book our Chapter is keeping on the various activities undertaken by our Chapter this year as evidenced by the many newsclippings sent to your Secretary by the many Members and the reports of various Chapter Meetings. For your convenience, we have categorized these by the various Committee Reports given at the National Convention:

Exhibits--There were two exhibits of the Member's clocks put on at the American Automobile Association Building here in Kansas City during our February and April Meetings; we exhibited at the Annual Hobby Show of the Heart of America Hobby Association this year in September; two members reported having exhibits in their local banks in Kansas; one member has his clocks exhibited in a barber shop; one member has clocks on exhibit in a local jewelry store; and there are presently two clock exhibits in City National Bank here in Kansas City.

**Newspaper Advertisements and Clippings**--A quick count of the various newspaper clippings of H.O.A. members attending meetings which were sent in from their local papers came to 20; there were six notices of meetings published in our local paper; and three members sent in complete articles that were written up this past year about their own individual collections.

As far as we can determine, there were five radio announcements solicited by the H.O.A. Chapter that told of our clock and watch exhibit that was to be on display at the Annual Hobby Show here in Kansas City.

**Library Work**--there are two local libraries who have subscriptions to the National Bulletin and two more to be requested in the near future; one member had already had an exhibit in his local library, and the Kansas City Library has requested two for early this coming year; a complete bibliography has been made of all the books regarding horology in our local libraries and these are on permanent reference with your Secretary. Announcements have been made regarding the use of the official N.A.W.C.C. Library (The Franklin Institute) and the members have been informed as to how to go about obtaining desired information. Mr. Perotti has a complete reference library of catalogues of all the major Eastern Libraries listing the various horological books they have and he has spent the past few years visiting these libraries and compiling complete bibliographies of what these various libraries have available and the information contained in these books.

**Displays**--There have been six open houses for the members this past year; four different members have reported an average of six tours apiece of school children, clubs, and various women's societies who have toured their collections (these members are on the Community Fine-Arts Program in their local communities); the Chapter was asked to put on a six-day display at the Annual Sports Show in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium but this was turned down due to the length of the Show; we also turned down a display at a local Shopping Center due to being out in the open patio for a three day period and we were afraid the weather would not cooperate; Efforts are presently being made to seek our display service at another local Shopping Center which does have a covered promenade but this has not as yet been put to a vote by the Chapter.

**Projects**--An investigation of the ancient twin tower clocks in one of Kansas City's skyscrapers was conducted a little over a year ago to determine the feasibility of putting them back into operation; two members are presently servicing clocks in local institutions and one member has restored a rare figure clock originally given to former President Truman by the French Government; Two years ago Mr. Perotti brought before the Chapter a motion to publish Chamberlain's "Its About Time" but due to lack of finances, this was turned down (we are indeed happy to see the National Association putting its reserves to good use by republishing some of these old books). The Silent Auction has become a permanent feature of all our Chapter Meetings and Mr. Henry has organized a complete set of operating rules and assumed Chairmanship of this Project; and we are presently preparing to contact various businesses and display centers that have outside display windows where clock or watch exhibits could be put on prominent display advertising both the Chapter and the Association.

**Individual Contributions**--One of our most enthusiastic Chapter Members, Mr. Carroll Thomas, has made and given to every member in the Chapter leather Heart of America Clock Badges to identify the Members as a H.O.A. Chapter #36 Member, and he has made heart-shaped plaques with H.O.A. and N.A.W.C.C. on them which can be used to hold various sizes and shapes of clock and watch keys; Mr. McEwen has devised a simple tool to be used in alining the pinions with the proper bushings and which help to push or pull the pinion into place; Mr. McEwen has also made display signs advertising our Chapter and the National Association which have been framed and are used at all public meeting places and exhibits; Mr. Thomas recently made a clock from a moving window display

with H.O.A. in large letters atop the clock which is revolving around, and extra large letters below the turning clock dial bringing the initials of N.A.W.C.C. into view as the dial turns.

**Membership**--We have increased our membership as of last year when dues were due from 36 to the present 51 (two more new members of the National Association who we have recently contacted have indicated they will attend our next meeting). Every notice that Mr. Strickler, our National Secretary, has forwarded on to our Secretary has been followed up. Our President's Wife sends them a welcoming letter as soon as the notice is received, and the Secretary then mails them a complete resumae of our Chapter's activities along with all the extra past Reports and the current Report as soon as the new monthly Report is out the beginning of each month. Whenever a prospective member is mentioned to the Secretary by any of our Chapter Members, the same approach is put into operation, only it is expanded to invite him to join first the National Association and then the Chapter. In all cases, the members or prospective members who the other Chapter Members have already been working on, are never urged to do more than just attend our next chapter meeting as our personal guest. We enclose Chapter Application and describe who we are and what we are doing, but he is invited to come see--and then join if he or she wishes. Approximately half the notices forwarded to your Secretary by Mr. Strickler have resulted in immediate joining up by a new member. Most of our new members have been brought to our meetings by other Members and were so infatuate by our Chapter that they joined both the Chapter and the National at that time.

**Education**--A recent discovery was made by our President. There are a great deal of people in this Area who have just one or two good old clocks (as we are not kidding--there are at least ten local citizens Mr. Bruer can name who have just one clock; either a Willard Weight Banjo Clock or perhaps a Terry Pillar and Scroll Clock, and very good ones at that). For some reason, these clocks don't run, and through the various publicity the Chapter has been receiving of late, they have contacted him to have these old clocks restored. Discovering that they can be fixed, these same people have then turned around and began searching for more of these valuable and unusual clocks since they now have found that they can be repaired. Prior to this time, the assumption was that they were just to be conversation pieces as most of the local jewelers told them it was impossible to repair them. You can imagine what that has done to the collecting business in this Area, but, then, we are awaking the public that these are not just conversation pieces and that in itself is rewarding.

#### LET'S TAKE A REST AND HAVE SOME FUN----

Fun, education, experience sharing, entertainment, all were a vital part of our last Chapter Meeting October 14th at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn in Overland Park Kansas. Members and guests arrived early and the Meeting itself was called to order by our President at 1:20 p.m. that afternoon. Following the reading of the Minutes of the August 5th Meeting, our Treasurer reported that our Chapter now had \$77.47 in the Treasury and a motion was made to approve the Minutes and Treasury Report as read. This was quickly accomplished, and the new Members and guests were introduced.

Our President requested those Members who have not as yet sent in the count of their watches and clocks to do so immediately. Comments were made regarding the exhibit at the recent Hobby Show. The consensus of opinion was that it went very well, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Mr. Henry added that we had plenty of clocks on exhibit but that we did need more exhibitors as the visitors kept the Members who were present busy with the many questions they asked. With regards to a request for somekind of brochure that could be given to prospective members, the Members were advised to give out the National Association's application which explains the purposes and goals as well as the benefits that could be derived from such an Association.

The annual call for next year's door prizes was made. The members were asked to bring them to the Christmas Meeting. They need not be wrapped in Christmas paper, tho, as they will be used throughout the year. Mrs. Caspar Wagner, Auxiliary Chairman, asked those Members who were considering having Open Houses next year to please contact her. It was also suggested that hereafter, members only be accepted to the Chapter who were sponsored by another Member presently with the Chapter. One very important issue which was brought out was that it matters not how few or how many clocks or watches one has. Our finest members have just a very few clocks. WHAT IS IMPORTANT is the interest one has in this collecting field. As is true in all things, QUANTITY means nothing--it is QUALITY that counts and this is determined only by the individual himself. We don't mind admitting it; we really do have quality in our Chapter!

Two very interesting reports were given at this Meeting. Our Vice-president, Mr. Carroll Thomas, attended the Purdue University Mid-American Conference and came back to say that at this Annual Conference there exists a strong feeling of helping each other and one another. This in itself leads to a successful meeting of anykind. He told of the tremendous exhibits that were there; but the Mart and Auction ran into trouble. Recently, the University has ceased permitting the buying and selling on the Campus, and as this is a crucial part of the Meeting, things rapidly came to a standstill. Then, someone suggested picking everything up and heading for the City Park where the Auction could be conducted. One might say that they had "bootleg auctioning" but from the stories that are coming back, they must have had one grand ball.

Mr. Perotti, who had been visiting Rochester, N. Y., and ran across a very unusual clock in the Midtown Plaza in Rochester's new Town Square Office Building. It was unique in that all around the clock at the hourpoints were little boxes which at the appropriate hour opened up. They symbolically depict twelve nations representing the major cultures of the World. On each hour, the stages open and revolve, the animated scene of the country of the hour is lighted and comes to life, while folk tunes of the land fill the air. The various countries depicted include: one o'clock is Ireland; two o'clock is Puerto Rico; three o'clock is Scotland; four o'clock is Japan; five o'clock is Thailand; six o'clock is Poland; seven o'clock is Italy; eight o'clock is Canada; nine o'clock is Germany; ten o'clock is Israel; eleven o'clock is Nigeria; and twelve o'clock is the United States.

Door prizes for this Meeting were awarded to Mrs. Byler, Mr. Dickinson, Mrs. Dods, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Pelham, and Mrs. Fox. Following the conclusion of our Meeting, Mrs. Mashburn had prepared refreshments that amounted to almost an entire meal. It might be added that these were all homemade and very delicious. The Members all took another quick tour of Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn's fabulous Home and Collection, and then gathered in various places for informal discussions and what have you.

AUXILIARY, TAKE NOTE----

Dear Members:

We are planning Open Houses at Members homes during May, June, July, August, September and October. June, August and October are regular meeting months but the other three months will be work shops or just friendly "get-togethers" for our Clock and Watch Collectors from one to five p.m. on the Second Sundays of these months. For those who invite us to their homes we try to make it as easy and simple as we can. Our recommended refreshments are just a drink--coffee, tea, or a fruit drink, and a dessert--cookies or cake. The Chapter has cups, spoons, paper plates and napkins for the use of any who wish to use them to serve the refreshments.

Now, to plan our next year's program, we would like to have all those who would like to have or even plan on having an Open House to please let us know before or at the next Meeting December 9th and what month you might like to entertain the Chapter. Please give two choices of months. Our most enjoyable meetings have been at Open House judging from the attendance we have had in the past. The guests and host and hostess seem to enjoy them and Members really enjoy sharing their collections and showing them

in place right in their homes. So, for all who would like an Open House, please let me know as soon as possible by phone or letter.

Margaret Wagner, Auxiliary Chairman

Send letters to: Mrs. Caspar A. Wagner  
5802 Garfield  
Kansas City 30, Missouri

Telephone: JACKSON 3-1259

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A SHORT NOTE WILL DO FINE-----

As most of you know, two of our most enthusiastic supporters have been our Vice-presidents, Mr. Carroll Thomas and Mr. Herman Tholen. Mr. Thomas was able to attend our October Meeting and mention has been made regarding the interest he has demonstrate with regards to our Chapter. Mr. Tholen was unable to attend the Meeting due to a very serious eye operation he was having at that time. Mr. Tholen is one gentleman who can always be expected to bring the unusual and rare exhibits to our meetings. He takes an active interest in the promotion of our Chapter and has made regular contributions to assist us in promoting the learning and experiences that can be gained from such an organization as ours. We sincerely hope this second operation on his eyes was a success and suggest that all the Members take the time to drop him a short line and tell him what they have been up to of late. He definitely would appreciate it.

NEW MEMBERS TO BE ADDED TO YOUR ROSTER--NOW--IF YOU WANT TO KEEP IT UP TO DATE-----

We suggest you add these on the plast page of your Roster immediately before you forget as it will be impossible to come out with a new Roster for several years.

Byler, Gordon W.  
Route 2, Box 56, Liberty, Mo.  
Real Estate; Clock and Antiques  
Mrs. Byler--Glass & China Dishes

Beckstead, Robert F.  
6009 West 101st. Terr., Overland Park,  
Kansas. Telephone Co.; Early American  
Clocks. Mrs. Beckstead--All Antiques

Munro, Donald D.  
R.D.2, Versailles, Mo.  
Retired; Clocks  
Mrs. Munro

Peck, Calvin G.  
2046 S. 49th, Kansas City 6, Kan.  
Truck Driver; Clocks.

Allen, J. C.  
1114 Olive St., Carthage, Mo.  
Rural Mail Carrier; American Clocks  
Mrs. Allen--Cut Glass

Dods, Thomas J.  
3207 E. 30 Terr., Kansas City, Mo.  
Retired; Clocks and Antiques  
Mrs. Dods--Antiques

Nepote, Charles  
5002 Park; Kansas City 30, Mo.  
Truck Driver; Clocks  
Mrs. Nepote

Peterson, Leonard  
302 West Court, Smith Center, Kan.  
Furniture Store; Clocks  
Mrs. Peterson--Dressing Antique Dolls, Cake  
Decorating, Iris, Antique Dishes and 4-H  
Club Work.

IMPORTANT NOTE-----

Next Meeting of H.O.A. Chapter will be a Christmas Dinner Meeting held at the Carousel Cafeteria on December 9th, with arrival time between 1:15 and 1:30 that afternoon. We may set up our exhibits around this time, and will go through the Cafeteria line at 1:30 that afternoon. Mr. Caspar Wagner will give a discussion on Gilbert Calendar Clocks so be sure and mark that date NOW. More on this in the short December Report.

Sincerely yours,  
Clement C. Wagner, Secy. of H.O.A.