

HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER NO. 76, N.A.W.C.C.

October Report, 1962

Good Friends:

Fall and winter are upon us and summer is just a memory. If I may say so, it was a most pleasant and educational summer for all H.O.A. Members who shared our visits to the various members' homes. Many thanks to the Hardies, Glenn Blairs, and Vandervorts who were our hosts.

My sincere congratulations to all members; attendance at meetings was exceptionally good. Half our membership was present at all the meetings. We know that because of distance, hot weather, and working schedules and various other reasons, many of our members would have been more than eager to attend had they been able. Hope our get-together here in Kansas City at the home of the Mashburns will find us with a good turn-out. It will seem like old home week seeing those faces which have been absent during all the visiting this summer.

The following matter will be old stuff by the time this message reaches you. We are presently going like mad trying to make a good show out of an invitation to exhibit with the Heart of America Hobby Association at their annual Hobby Show. We will be the guest exhibitors. Am depending on all of you to be in attendance at the Mashburns.

Bill Bruer, President of H.O.A.

"OLD STUFF"-----

Yes, you might call the various hobbies and collections exhibited at the Heart of America's Hobby Show "old stuff" because it definitely illustrated that there are people who are interested in preserving, learning about, and sharing some of America's early antiquity. These people were as enthusiastic about their various and numerous hobbies as we are about ours. Among collectors, there is no such thing as a stranger, and this was ably illustrated on Sunday, Sept. 23rd, when we met the many others who are learning and sharing their collections and who took us right in and made us feel at home. Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon and the three thousand visitors who attended seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves as they moved from exhibit to exhibit. There were over 60 different exhibits there that afternoon.

"OLD STUFF"---ANOTHER MEANING OR USE OF THE SAME TWO WORDS---

The one problem foreigners find in the English Language is that the same word has so many different meanings. As Mr. Bruer has used it in his report above he meant that the news of the Hobby Show and our exhibit would be past and forgotten about. But not so! The members of our Chapter who were fortunate enough to be able to exhibit found their efforts amply rewarded in enjoyment others received. And don't kid yourself--- it was definitely effort! Mr. Henry brought the Chapter's Display Rack for hanging clocks and assembled it. It didn't take the members long to put it to good use as two calendar clocks were ready for it as soon as it arrived. And then those endless trips up and down the stairs carrying one or two clocks each trip. The Henrys---both Mr. and Mrs.---did the Chapter proud by bringing some excellent examples of timekeepers. The paintings he had in the doors, and the cases, were all excellently done.

"TALK ABOUT CARRYING THE BALL"-----

Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn arrived next and again endless trips were conducted from the car to the exhibit hall, and back. The Chapter's table began to sparkle. Who can tell whether it was the Birge and Peck that was polished to a fine mirror finish, or the gleam from the marble figure clock he had that caught everyone's eye. Mr. and Mrs. McEowen arrived with their car loaded down and while Mr. McEowen came in to look over the situation, Mrs. McEowen guarded a car loaded down with possessions that any clock collector would gladly have driven away with. It might be added that the small mantel clock that Mr. McEowen had which sat back in the corner was the one clock most often inquired about. It was an ordinary clock polished up beautifully and the visitors almost always recalled seeing just such a clock on "their mother's" mantel. What was the approximate age??? Most visitors simply started at one end of the table and made the complete trip right down the table stopping to ask questions of the various members as they saw a clock or watch that caught their eye.

"TIME OUT"-----

Somehow, the referee's whistle always seem to blow just about the time the visitors reached Mr. William's watches and they all had to stop and take a look. Mr. Williams probably did more talking and explaining that afternoon than anyone else in the Building. Some of his watches (he had them all in two very nice display cases sitting on the table for close inspection) were quite small and almost everyone bent down for a closer look. He had a nice selection including some rare ones that held everyone's interest. Mr. and Mrs. Tholen can always come up with the unusual--a clock spring, the pieces fastened to a simple white-painted board. Only, this spring was in 34 individual pieces that he had taken out of a customer's clock--piece by piece after it had disintegrated literally. Also, he had the wooden works on display of a Silas Hoadley "upside down" movement which attracted considerable interest.

"HIT THEM AGAIN--HARDER--HARDER!"-----

The Sunday before this Hobby Show, Sept. 16th, saw the Chapter traveling to Moberly Mo., to the Vandervort's Home. Here is a man who not only has one wagon spring clock, but he has two wagon spring clocks. At the Meeting that Sunday there was a "talking" clock both on exhibit and for sale. It played a record similar to our modern dictaphone: today and announced the various hours and half hours instead of ringing a bell--but, it talked in German! Somehow, a lot of us lost interest then, as who could speak German? We were busy inspecting Mr. Vandervort's collection and getting some new "how to do it" ideas from both Mr. and Mrs. Vandervort. Several of us definitely brought home some new ideas in painting dials.

"THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER DAY--ANOTHER GAME"-----

If for various reasons you have missed one meeting or another this past summer, we have a real treat coming up. Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn in Overland Park, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City, has invited the Chapter to their home this coming October 14th. Mr. and Mrs. Mashburn are just the right kind of folks who know how to entertain and have both adequate space, and examples of early American timekeepers. But that isn't all--their entire house is a rambling modern country estate with a living room as long as the house and an enormous fireplace along one side (remember the squirrel problem they had last New Years?)

Mr. Mashburn mentioned at the Hobby Show that he has between 150 and 175 clocks with most of them exhibited in his clock room....there are some scattered throughout the house, tho, just as the rest of us collectors have. At this Meeting there will be no prepared Program due to the collection of the Mashburns, but Mr. Mashburn asks that the members bring along exhibits of their own and he will have special tables set up to accommodate these, as well as the Silent Auction.

"EVERY TEAM HAS IT'S 'LADIES' DAY"-----

Our Auxiliary Members have become so popular that it's only fitting that they also get into the act. Therefore, the Auxiliary Members are asked to also bring examples of their hobbies. What the heck! Let's really make this a grand big affair. We'll have something for the clock enthusiasts, and the ladies, so bring exhibits, hobbies, things for the Silent Auction, and what have you.

"STRATEGIC PLANNING IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN"-----

Road maps are hard to draw especially when you are dealing with an entire City as big as Kansas City. But we have made the trip out to the Mashburns and after considerable discussion, have arrived at a route (or routes) which we feel will enable everyone to arrive at the same destination. The address is 9015 W. 80th, Overland Park Kansas. Lets assume you are coming in from the West on Highway 50 and Interstate 35. Get off at the 75th Street Interchange and go east to the first stop sign which is Antioch Road. Go right (south) to 80th St. and right again (west) about a block and a half to 9015 and turn in the long drive and park most anyplace. Incidentally, Mr. Mashburn has a big iron kettle painted black hanging on his signpost. You can't miss it.

If you are coming in on Highway 10 or Johnson Drive, Antioch Road is the first main street past the 50 Highway Cloverleaf and you can go south there to 80th street and west. If you are coming in from the south on Highway 71, follow it right on into

Kansas City, Mo., to Troost Ave and on to 75th Street, and there go left (west) following 75th Street all the way across the western side of Kansas City (approximately 4 miles) crossing State Line and on. You will cross Highways 58 and 59, and Antioch Road is approximately a mile west of these Highways (it is the first stop sign after crossing these Highways. If you are coming from the North, follow Highway 71 right through Kansas City all the way out to 75th Street, and then go right (west) on 75th Street following the same procedure as outlined above.

If you are coming in on Highways 40 or 50 from the East, continue on these Highways until you come to Paseo Avenue (1500 east of Main) and turn south on Highway 71 and follow it right on to 75th Street. Turn west and go to Antioch Road. Go south (left) until you come to 80th Street and turn right (west) for a block and a half until you come to the black kettle and 9015 and turn in. You are there. Pick your own route and have a ball. If by chance you get to sightseeing along the way and find you are lost, stop at the nearest phone and dial Ni. 8-7631 and help will fast arrive. That is the Mashburn's telephone number and who knows better how to direct you than they themselves.

"THREE CHIEFS FOR OUR TEAM"-----

The fact that H.O.A. Chapter had no posters or advertisement signs has now been remedied. Mr. McEwen painted two very nice posters telling who we are and what we are associated with, which were used at the exhibit at the Hobby Show. These have now been preserved in frames by our President and will be used wherever the Chapter meeting is held (except at local members' open-houses). Mr. Bruer quickly fashioned a hugh cardboard sign in the shape of a watch with similar information on it that was hung over the exhibit at the Hobby Show directing all visitors to our booth. Mrs. Bruer had material featuring clocks and numbers which was used to cover the exhibit tables as well as some large paper clock dials that the ladies pinned on. Actually it looked real cute. Everyone cooperated to make it one fine exhibit.

"RAH, RAH, SIS BOOM BAH"-----

We've had reports of at least six people who are planning on attending the Mid-American Conference at Purdue University Union Bldg. in West Lafayette, Indiana, on October 6th. We'll expect full reports from these members as soon as they return. The Iowa-Illinois Chapter will meet at the Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport, Iowa, on Sunday, November 11, 1962. There will be watches, clocks, a Mart, Auction, movies and Smorgas-board. Davenport, Iowa, is not too far for the Traveling Chapter so lets get up a party and go pay our neighbors a visit.

"AND NOW, THE PEP TALK"-----

That's right--every team needs one now and then, and your Secretary feels you have failed him for the very first time. You've been a grand group of people and everytime we needed help, you've come thru. Your President is one inclined to worry, but his worries have always been unfounded because anything that was needed came through when the time arrived, except this time. Some time ago we called for a count of clocks and watches. Many of you proved up and the count came right in...21 to be exact. But there are 46 of us and statistics are of no value (or fun) if you've missed getting someone in on the count. Now, if we have enclosed a self addressed card, we would appreciate getting your count immediately--BY RETURN MAIL of the total number of clocks you have, or cased watches, or uncased watches (movements) if that is what you collect. Count now; estimate (we know you are always adding new ones) but do something right away, Please. Thanks to all who have cooperated already.

Mr. Vandervort asked that we advertise for him a Waterbury 8-day weight striking movement wanted by him immediately. NOTE: it has to be 8-day WEIGHT clock movement.

FLASH-----

We have just received a card from the Motleys who have been clock-seeing all up through the North and Eastern part of our Country. We'll be anxious to hear all about it at the next Meeting, October 14th at the Mashburns in Overland Park, Kansas--ladies and collectors--all bring exhibits and come early to get in on the fun. Meeting starts at one p.m. that Sunday afternoon.

Sincerely yours, Clement C. Wagner, Secy.