

Heart of America Chapter No. 36 of N.A.W.C.C.

January Report, 1963 ~~to June, 1963~~

Dear Members:

The time has come. The money is all gone, the presents all unwrapped, the friends and relatives have all left, and the New Year is now begun. Even those new clocks and watches are under close scrutiny to see why they don't run or at least why they lost two whole seconds the last twelve hours. NOW, let's set back and relax and think of events and plans for THIS YEAR. First off, put the coming H.O.A. Dinner Meeting February 10th at the top of your list. Our Auxiliary Chairman received a very important notice the other day, and although I can mention nothing at this time, the February Valentine Meeting will be so unusual that it will be a first for H.O.A. and we are sure there will be no one who will not enjoy it. Just mark that brand new calendar for 1:30 Sunday afternoon, February 10th, at the Carousel Cafeteria, 5830 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Mo., and be sure to come and bring something to exhibit with you.

If you have been reading the National Bulletins, you probably detected that we have been putting on a strenuous program of showing the other collectors the various wonderful collections we "out here" have. The National to be held May 23 thru the 25th in Chicago will be our golden opportunity. We have been trying desperately to "sell" the Traveling Chapter as we really are a new Chapter in comparison to those oldtimers who have been existing for a long long time. Surprising enough, I have been receiving letters of late in great profusion from many of the Directors as well as other actively interested collectors urging us to really help them put this particular show in orbit. To put it mildly, they are donating to our Chapter a space of approximately twelve by eighteen feet consisting of tables, cabinets and wall backboards for hanging horological items. Ever since receiving that first letter, and everytime a new copy of the Bulletin comes out, I get another letter and they are bending over backwards to help and suggest we use even more space if we need it. They will provide everything (except the unusual items we are supposed to bring) and are anxious to do anything.

To top it off, they are putting out a catalogue of this Show and if we have any pictures of various items that we will be exhibiting, both they and the National Bulletin would appreciate receiving these so that they can run them as "items to be seen" and induce others to come to the Convention. Once one grows out of babyhood, then he is expected to help others to grow and that is what we have been asked to do. They know that our Chapter is one of the top booming Chapters and as expected, they want us to guide and help the less fortunate chapters to attain our growth, interest, and enthusiasm. Now, to put it mildly, the whole thing is a big undertaking--sending in pictures, taking the clocks up there, attending the Convention ourselves, enjoying sharing ourselves with other collectors and learning from them. This undertaking will of necessity have to be everyone's job, or else H.O.A. is going to look awful foolish. Our recent Hobby Show Exhibit was a success even tho just a few worked very hard on it, but this is such a big undertaking that unless you, and you, and they, and I work very hard to see to it that we are adequately represented, and do our share as well as pull together, all our selling effort will have been wasted and H.O.A. Chapter will lose the respect we have striven so hard to gain.

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OUR PRESIDENT-----

Good Friends:

Many thanks to everyone who assisted or helped to make our December Christmas Meeting a success. The table decorations were very attractive. Attendance was good but not what we had anticipated considering the excellent weather. The problem of a meeting place is still present. Meeting rooms are available but at prohibitive prices. We are aware that some of our members attend our H.O.A. meetings at considerable expense and certainly would not appreciate being taxed additionally.

The body agreed by acclamation that the food was good and our present arrangements at the Carousel Cafeteria acceptable. Another first for H.O.A.--Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Byler of Pleasant Valley arrive at the Carousel for our December Meeting exactly one week late!!

Girls, your response to my plea for door prizes was astounding. Many many thanks and I hope it will be many months before I again will have to impose on your generosity and good nature. Mr. Caspar Wagner gave an interesting discourse on Gilbert Calendar Clocks. The one for exhibit had the Moranville type calendar arrangement. Next meeting Mr. Motley will speak. His subject should prove very interesting. We will hear how he conquered swinging weights in a Grandfathers Clock. The weights would swing so violently when parallel with the bob that they would strike the pendulum and stop the clock. Probably a very simple problem for Ernie.

Thanks to "herself", Marcia B., several little clock "gems" attached themselves to the Bruer's Collection over the Christmas Holiday. Hope everyone survived the Holidays in good condition. One more toot regarding Jingle Bells or the Partridge in the Pear Tree and I'll climb up in that tree myself. Many thanks for the Christmas Cards and the thoughtful messages they conveyed. As one of your New Year Resolutions, please include the following: I resolve to attend every H.O.A. meeting I possibly can in 1963.

Bill Bruer, President

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1962 WAS A WONDERFUL YEAR-----

Yes, indeed it was. It seems that every report that we write we are deeply indebted to someone who has helped to make our meetings, or our projects, or our Chapter in general a big success. In a Chapter as big as ours, it is indeed a wonderful thing the way everyone wants to pitch in and help. A Chapter is nothing more than a collection of people with similar interests, but how it functions is pretty much determined by the people who go up to make this "collection". Our Chapter is unique in that we have nothing but the best in this regards, and we are proud of it. We hope you are also.

December 9th saw 48 members and guests dining together in the Carousel Cafeteria. Mr. Thomas Dods who is the oldest member in the Chapter, made the table centerpieces for this Christmas Party. These consisted of small wooden models of a steeple clock with a hook at the top for hanging keys on or to be used as watch holders. He donated these to the Chapter and following the dinner and meeting, they were given to the members as door prizes. Our youngest member, Hugh Vaughan, a rabid fourteen year old watch collector, was fortunate enough to carry home as his christmas present to himself a watch he had gleaned from the Silent Auction Table. There were several guests who were also watch collectors, but for some reason that day, our collectors in this field were unable to attend so we invited them to the next meeting when we feel sure the watch collectors will be there in force and have some of their exhibits with them.

Many people from other chapters have written and inquired as to how our Silent Auction was working and asked for a copy of our Auction Rules. Mr. Dale Henry ably illustrated the effectiveness of this Project in his report at the December Meeting. In the short time it has been in operation, 43 items have been sold and the gross sales have amounted to \$310.30 Mr. Henry has served the Project faithfully and seen to it that items were not misrepresented or that no one was taken advantage of. As is true, no job is any better than the man or men doing it, and in our case, our Silent Auction has one of the best men available filling the position, and as long as this is the case, there will never need be any worry of this Chapter ever falling apart--that is, not as long as our members keep on cooperating with him to see that adequate support is given.

Another high point of our December Christmas Party was the talk given by Mr. Caspar Wagner regarding several of the more unusual Gilbert Calendar Clocks. He started with some of the early history of clockmaking and its origin and developed it to the point where calendar clocks were made popular and why. Then he showed an early model of a Gilbert similar to the Moranville Model, and also explained the model which incorporate the three calendar dials in the door which are activated by the strike mechanism.

VACATIONLAND, U.S.A.

by Ernest Motley

As to our vacation the latter part of September and early October, of course the

highlight was the visit to the American Clock Museum in Bristol, Connecticut. Bristol has long been recognized for its clockmaking industries. However, we were told that there is not much activity along these lines at the present time as most clock movements are made in Germany and are simply cased here. Our visit to the Museum was very interesting as well as educational, and displayed here are more than 600 clocks and watches dating from the early 1700s. Exhibit areas are interspersed with living quarters typical of the 1700s and early 1800s, and the lovely old home which houses the Museum originally belonged to Mr. Miles Lewis who built it for his family in 1801. It is in a wonderful state of preservation as are so many of the old homes in this area. On entering the foyer the first attraction to meet the eye is a beautiful Eli Terry Grandfather clock, in perfect order and keeping time. In an annex to the rear of the main building, among many other rare and interesting items, is a wooden tower clock movement by Eli Terry which is in excellent condition and shows very little wear.

While visiting the Museum, fortunately for us, Mr. Edward Ingraham arrived. I must say that he is one of the finest men I have ever met, and could not have been more gracious and friendly, immediately recalling that he had visited our town many years ago while, to use his words - he "was peddling clocks in this vicinity". I shall always be grateful to him for he personally conducted us on a tour of the Ingraham Factory, that is, all except that part where Government contracts are being filled.

On leaving Bristol we drove through the "clock country" of Connecticut, such as the towns of Plymouth, Terryville, Forestville, Waterbury, and others. At one time the area immediately adjacent to Plymouth was known as "Tick-Tock Town" because of the large number of clock factories, most of them at that time turning out wooden movements. We saw the old original Eli Terry water wheel, and had breakfast in a restored home directly across the road from the home of Chauncy Jerome which he built some 150 years ago, and which is occupied at the present time and in a fine state of repair.

From here we proceeded to Boston for a rubberneck tour of the historically famous landmarks, and in the Boston suburb of Watertown we visited the home and shop of Mr. Hjalmar Olsen, and here again we were cordially welcomed by both Mr. and Mrs. Olsen and shown through his shop which is one of the finest I have ever seen and where they manufacture clock parts such as wheels, springs, special tools, etc. Also saw some beautiful specimens of Mr. Olsen's engraving on brass clock dials, plaques, and other items. He is certainly a genius, and besides the work done by both Mr. and Mrs. Olsen they employ six expert mechanics.

From here we drove Northeast where at Epping, New Hampshire, we visited with Mr. Ed Burt and his Son, and again, one could not hope to meet nicer or friendlier people. We enjoyed seeing their collection of rare and beautiful clocks, among which is a Grandfather clock once belonging to Mr. John Hancock. Also, their old home, which they have completely restored during the past few years, is unusual with its huge center fireplaces and one of the most interesting and pretty homes we visited. And this is truly a pretty part of the State, being the foothills of the White Mountains, The highway winding through perfectly gorgeous scenery here for miles and miles.

Now this is running on like "Tennyson's Babbling Brook", so we shall not try to take you through the rest of New England nor along the St. Lawrence Seaway in Canada where we spent some time in the Thousand Island Area and had a sixty mile boat trip on the Seaway, which was most enjoyable. New England scenery in late September and early October is simply indescribable; the trees, of which there are an abundance, being all red, green, and gold, and without actually seeing it one could not imagine such breath-taking beauty--miles and miles of it. So, we recommend That Part of the Country and that season as being ideal for vacationing, and we hope to return sometime.

That's all, folks, so have an awful nice year and we'll be seeing you.

Sincerely,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.