

HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER NO. 36 of the N.A.W.C.C.

June Report

Dear Chapter Members:

NEWS IS NEWS, AND NEWS WE HAVE-----

Yes, we have news of many things; the latest reports on happenings at the 1963 National Convention, the big Birthday Meeting of H.O.A. No. 36, changes in our Chapter that will effect all of us (very important topic later on), the coming Chapter Meeting and the big event that is to be associated with it for this particular Meeting, the latest about the Traveling Chapter, and finally, comments from those who attended the 1963 Convention.

"SPRING HAS SPRUNG, AND CAN SUMMER BE NOT FAR BEHIND"-----

At the Birthday Anniversary we had last April, the talk centered around three things--the coming National Convention in Chicago, the next Meeting to be held at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Epp Blair in Rogers, Arkansas, and our coming summer vacations. Although clocks were discussed as you will see later on, summer for the Traveling Chapter means the opening of whole new horizons, and a jaunt to the Blair's Home seems to be the first adventure scheduled. Things happened very rapidly that April 7th Afternoon, but the one big thing was a personal invitation extended to all the Chapter Members and their guests to come to Rogers, Arkansas, Sunday, June 9th.

As Epp Blair phrased it when he was extending the invitation, plan on coming so as to arrive anytime from ten o'clock on with a buffet dinner scheduled anytime after eleven and the Meeting to start at one o'clock prompt (maybe a bit earlier if we can all get together earlier) and then getting an early start for home. Yes, it is a long way--slightly under 240 miles straight down Highway 71 from Kansas City--this we will not try to deny--and it will take you roughly five hours if you are planning on leaving from this point. But who says you can not make a trip of it and do a bit of clock looking enroute and maybe see some of Missouri. Arkansas will be beautiful this season of the year, although you will not see much of it as Rogers is not very far south of the Missouri State Line. We are planning on leaving the day before and going deeper into Arkansas to visit some friends and get down where the real backwoods clocks are. Throughout the years we have seen quite a few of the collections in the area down there, so we are striking out for some virgin antique shops. Directions as to how to reach the Blair's Home will be forthcoming later on in this Report.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"-----

At this time we would like to offer our sincere condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Walkling in the passing of Mr. Walkling's father. At the same time, we have received word recently that Roy Powers is on the road to recovery, but that his recovery is much slower than anticipated. Mr. and Mrs. Vandervort were in Kansas City several weeks ago, and reported that although Mr. Powers has apparently suffered no ill effects, that he probably will be unable to attend meetings for sometime to come. The many cards and letters of encouragement that the Members sent to Mr. Powers were deeply appreciated. But since it will be sometime before he will be active again and working with his clocks, it has been suggested that we continue to keep him posted on our various activities and collectings. The Powers live in Paris, Missouri, and in our travels we hope that you will stop in and visit with them.

"SHALL I COMPARE THEE"-----

To say that any meeting compares with any other meeting would be a gross injustice. Our Birthday Anniversary Meeting was held April 7th in the Carousel Cafeteria. Forty Members and guests were present to help us celebrate our Third Anniversary. Following our dinner, our President called the Meeting to order at 2:35p.m. The Minutes of our February Meeting and our Treasury Report were read and approved, and new Members and guests were introduced. Our President extended the Chapter's thanks to Mrs. Caspar Wagner, Mrs. Bill Bruer, and Mrs. Dale Henry for the clever table arrangements and door prizes for our Birthday Meeting.

Our President suggested again, that in regard to our shop meetings, you let him or the Secretary know what you would like to have done or repairs you would like to see

made, and he will try to arrange suitable appropriate times. Carroll Thomas reported that Roy Powers is making steady improvement, and that he has recovered his speech. The meeting schedule for the coming months were announced as follows: July 14th Workshop Meeting in the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Vandervort in Moberly, Mo.; August 11th Meeting at the Carousel Cafeteria in Kansas City, Mo.; September 8th open house at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Peterson in Smith Center, Kansas; and October 13th Meeting in the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Caspar A. Wagner in Kansas City, Mo. The above proposed meeting schedule was placed to a vote by the Chapter Members and approved as read.

"ALL THE WORLD IS A STAGE"-----

When the topic of conversation arrived at the question of the coming Convention, our Members ably displayed their interest and enthusiasm in wanting to become a part of this great production. Over twenty Members expressed that they were planning on attending the '63 Convention in Chicago. Approximately one-half indicated they would bring displays and as the discussion continued a suggestion was made by the ladies of the Auxiliary that instead of bringing many of our rarer and more valuable clocks, that we photograph them in their natural settings and arrange these pictures on display boards. By having these display boards on our exhibit table at the Convention, the Convention visitors and delegates would have an opportunity not only to see the unusual clocks and watches displayed from H.O.A. Chapter, but also our more prized possessions which we left behind and have in our collections at home. The Bruers and the Wagners had set up a sample board of how these pictures would look, and following a short discussion, this suggestion was adopted and approved by the Chapter Members.

Digressing from the occurrences at our Chapter Meeting that eventful Sunday, April 7th, let us take a quick look at the results of our 1963 National Convention in Chicago. Our Chapter Members really were on the stage and enjoyed every minute of it. To be exact, twenty-three H.O.A. Members were present at the 1963 Convention, and from the glowing reports that have filtered back to your Secretary, everyone must have had a ball! To coin a phrase, "it was a smash!" and all during the Convention, our Members participated as a group, and when the roll call of Chapters was held during the Grand Banquet on Saturday evening, H.O.A. Chapter had over two full tables plus several at an adjoining table of delegates present and represented one of the largest--if not the largest--group of delegates from any of the chapters of the National Association.

The other chapters attending the Convention were very impressed with the exhibit our Chapter presented. In line with the topic of our display boards showing various clocks in our collections, H.O.A. Chapter had eleven display cards containing at least a dozen clocks on each card from some Member's collection. The comments from the people at the Convention indicated our exhibit was a success. It was noted that many of the clocks illustrated in the Convention Catalog were clocks that were also on display by means of our display boards being in our H.O.A. Members' collections. We would like to point out that we consider this Convention Catalog a very good representation of rare and good clocks and we are happy that our Chapters' Members can proudly boast of having these same clocks. So much for the Convention talk at this time. More to follow.

"TO THINE OWNSELF BE TRUE"-----

During the last Meeting, there were very many exhibits--enough to fill up one entire wall of our meeting room. Due to the many interests that were displayed by the varied exhibits, it was suggested that any member who fails to bring an exhibit from his collection (of something horological either animate or inanimate), that the Chapter should gain from this member's neglect to provide us with something interesting. Therefore, a motion was presented and approved that hereafter a fine of \$.25 be voluntarily assessed on Chapter Members who fail to bring something to exhibit whenever we meet anyplace except at open houses and Members' homes. What that means is that at the dinner meetings or our meetings in the A.A.A. Building, the Members will be assessed the fine if they fail to bring an exhibit. This does not apply to meetings such as our coming meeting or at any open houses, and as many of our Members expressed it, there are so many things to see at another Member's home that it would be fruitless to try to bring more exhibits.

Along with this same idea, the Members expressed a desire to dispense with programs at the Meetings in Members' homes, and to just devote the time to short meetings and interesting looking. Therefore, programs will only be scheduled at such meetings as the coming August 11th Dinner Meeting at the Carousel Cafeteria, and the same will apply to exhibits.

"LOOK IN THY GLASS"-----

When the "Great Bard" wrote this immortal poem he could be very possibly referring to the reflexion one gets of clock collectors when attending our Chapters' meetings. The enthusiasm of the forth coming Convention brought forth several donations of door prizes of our Chapter to the National Convention. Among these was Gordon Byler's offer of a painted clock glass made to the specifications of the recipient's desire. Also, Mrs. Thomas donated a hand-made luncheon cloth which would have made any collector happy. When the door prizes were offered to the National Directors, we were informed that this year the National Association had decided to dispense with the door prizes from the separate Chapters, and instead were offering rare horological items--three unusual watches, several clocks and clock and watch books--as door prizes. As a result we will give out our Chapter's door prizes to the Members of our Chapter attending the next Meeting. To be truthful, we are happy they made this decision and are hoping our name is among the lucky winners. Many other topics were discussed at this last Meeting of H.O.A. Chapter of which the most notable included a discussion by Ervin Smith of a gentleman in our area who is now undertaking clock refinishing at a very nominal charge.

Mrs. Motley donated to all the Members notepads at the April 7th Meeting, and the Meeting itself was adjourned at approximately 3:35p.m., followed by the awarding of the door prizes, especially several cute Easter prizes prepared by the ladies of our Auxiliary. Fourteen Members received door prizes at this Meeting.

"TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW"-----

Many of us have the unlucky habit of leaving until tomorrow what we should do today. Of course, clock and watch collectors find that anytime they put off "until tomorrow" to fix up or repair, by "tomorrow" they have acquired new items. Recently, an article appeared in the Kansas City Star of a lady who had a Grandfather clock made by a Virginian metal worker in 1805 by a man named Benjamin Cooley. Through various moves, down through the ages, this clock reached a point where it stubbornly refused to run. Each member of the family was always going to fix it up and each always put it off until tomorrow. Finally Mrs. Jepson, the great-great-granddaughter of the clock maker, decided that something should be done and she took immediate action to have it restored, and today after nearly one hundred years of sitting around in one attic and then another, the clock is again greeting each hour as Benjamin Cooley and many clock collectors would be happy to have it to do.

At the last Meeting, Sol Williams brought to our Meeting an article that was published in the recent issue of his Company's magazine regarding his work in restoring and preserving unusual watches. Late last year Mrs. Epp Blair also brought a fullpage article from their local newspaper describing their many clocks. These folks who we will visit this coming Meeting have over a hundred unusual varieties of recordedtime and have assembled them over the last few years into one large specially built clock room where we all are looking forward to seeing them. In this regard, we suggest you plan on arriving early so as to see their find Home and collection. The Cherokee Chapter will be attending this Meeting as H.O.A. Chapter's guests and are planning on arriving around ten that Sunday morning. Your Secretary has been communicating with the Cherokee Chapter Secretary and can tell you that they really have something going down there collectionwise. Three years ago when our Chapter was first starting, we exhibited the same enthusiasm and ambition as they are displaying and took advantage of every opportunity to learn how we could put to use our Chapter's potential and gain from knowing others who were interested in the same things we were. They likewise are just as interested and are going to be there in full force to see, learn, and enjoy, right along with the rest of us. Please don't let us down now! Show them that the interest and enthusiasm that we have displayed through the Chapter Reporter, through

various travels of our Members, and the National Association's Bulletin are not just mere expressions, but true and meaningful happenings that take place when our Chapter convenes.

"IT WAS A LOVER AND HIS LASS"-----

Who planned in advance to attend the next Meeting in Rogers, Arkansas. So that no one will find themselves at a loss as to how to reach Mr. and Mrs. Epp Blair's Home, we are providing you with the following detailed description as to how to reach there as outlined by our host. Arriving from the North, you follow Highway 71 all the way through Bentonville and on to Rogers, Arkansas. At the four-way stop in the center of Town, you turn right (or south) on Highway 62 and go approximately one and a half miles from that point on Highway 62 (through the suburbs of Rogers) to the big H.O.A. sign which will be attached to their mailbox on the right hand side of the Highway.

If you are planning on coming in from the South, follow Highway 62 up and through Springdale, Arkansas, and about two miles before you reach Rogers, slow down and watch for the H.O.A. sign on the west side of the Highway, attached to their mailbox. If you are planning on coming in from Eureka Springs, Arkansas, from the East, follow Highway 62 on out of Eureka Spring right into Rogers, and turn left at the four-way stop sign and continue following Highway 62 on out of town for one and a half miles to the Blair's Home. As we suggested before, come early as they have lots of things to see and have a wonderful buffet meal planned.

"HARK, HARK, THE LARK"-----

That's right! When the Traveling Chapter goes on a lark, it really moves. No telling where you will find H.O.A. Members popping up. Recently, one of our Members, Florent Wagner, spent two weeks with Uncle Sam back on the East Coast around the area of New York City and Providence, R.I., and he has very definitely left his mark. The Bruers are planning on attacking Colorado later on this summer, and we know that several of our Members are planning on visiting the Mid-America Conference of clock and watch collectors at Purdue, Indiana, early this coming autumn.

The Indiana Chapter has notified us that their next meeting will be June 23rd at Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County, Indiana. Their events usually start around ten o'clock Sunday morning and they have delicious dinners at the Lodge, plus various programs and speakers, and then in the afternoon, a great big auction. If you are planning on a vacation and will be in this vicinity that day, drop me a line and I will obtain all the particulars. Unfortunately, they didn't supply us with all the details on this one, as the speakers were not all arranged for when we went to press. But they did furnish us with real details on the next event. August 11th, the same day as we meet, they are planning a picnic at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, 6840 Dover Rd., Indianapolis, Indiana. This event will be a real hum dinger as the Smiths have a wonderful collection and are enthusiastic collectors of way back.

Of course, the big collecting event that most of the members in these parts try to take in is the Mid-America Conference in West Lafayette, Indiana. This year, due to the bad luck they had last year at the University, they are meeting at the Congress Inn, 1920 Northwestern Avenue in West Lafayette, Indiana, and this meeting usually starts early Saturday evening and runs over into late Sunday afternoon. From the many reports we have heard, this is a ball, and a swell place to pick up that certain item you have been looking for. They have guest speakers, programs (both on collecting and for the ladies), a huge Exhibit and a fabulous Auction that they say is as much fun as the Auction at the National Convention. Incidentally, we understand that this year, our old auctioneer, Charles Terwilliger, was unable to conduct the Auction that Saturday night following the Grand Banquet at the National Convention, but four other equally fine men substituted. This was always one of the high spots of the Convention and we imagine it was again this year.

A QUICK SHORTIE---

Just a quick note that we have been noticing that one of our Members has recently gone into business on his own. Mr. W.P. Walkling in Grandview, Missouri, advertised in the recent issue of the Mart that he is now doing all kinds of watch repairing and engraving. We might add that the Tie-Clip idea he has originated is unique and very clever and we hope that he has great success in this venture. We will look forward to seeing more of the Walklings at future Chapter get-to-gethers.

Dear Folks:

We were glad to get home from the Convention. H.O.A. #36 was certainly very well represented at this Convention. We personally enjoyed it much more this year because there were so many of our friends and H.O.A. Members there. We would have been glad to see all our Members there but we know it was impossible for everyone to attend. Not too much was acquired by our Members attending as most of the goodies were priced out of our range.

The St. Louis Chapter won special recognition for their wonderful display of clocks. Peggy Hovey (our Member also) had her fine Howards on display and Mr. and Mrs. Vandervort (also our Members) had their rare violin clock among the St. Louis Display. There were many other very rare clocks shown.

We were very proud of our picture display and we thank all the Members that sent in pictures. We received many complimentary comments on our display from N.A.W.C.C. visitors looking over the exhibits. It was something different for the Convention, and we were able to give a better idea of what we have in the Mid-West than we ever could have by trying to transport what clocks we could to the Convention. Mr. and Mrs. Tholen had several rare clocks; Mr. and Mrs. Olson had a beautifully refinished clock and Mr. and Mrs. Brontie Nichols had a nice display of fine watches all shown on our exhibit table. At our next meetings, we will try to have the Members who attended give their impressions of the Convention. Be sure and attend. See you June 9th at Rogers, Arkansas.

Caspar A. Wagner

While we think of it, let us add that those of you who sent in your pictures for the Displays Boards will not receive them back until after our August Meeting as we will have them on display at the exhibit during that Meeting at the Carousel Cafeteria. Thank you for helping us to put on a wonderful exhibit at the Convention.

Well, that's about it for now. We'll see all of you in Rogers, Arkansas, anytime after 10 o'clock Sunday, June 9th. Have fun collecting, and if you want to continue to have interesting Chapter Reports, let your Secretary hear from you occasionally. Remember, our Organization is only as good and as beneficial as you, the Members, want it to be.

Sincerely,

Clement C. Wagner, Secy.
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