

HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH & CLOCK COLLECTORS

November Report, 1963

Howdy Partner--

How's collecting? We've been getting together real regular of late and from the grapevine, sounds like H.O.A. is fixing for a real big showdown this coming week. The ranch foreman, Bill Bruer, has gone and got all the clock and watch punchers together and arranged for a big round-up this Sunday in one of the local corals and as all good punchers know, the showing they make in the big round-up is often referred to as the "big payoff" and usually is more fun than a hootenanny. The foreman has the assistance of several trail bosses from the various areas who will help organize this round-up and assist the punchers to get their "little doggies" together and all properly branded. November 3rd, Sunday afternoon at one o'clock, the big drive will terminate at the west door of the Kansas City Public Library which is located at 12th McGee (on the McGee side) where Mr. Gordon Stevenson will have the door unlocked. He will take us through the Board of Education entrance and up by elevator to the third floor of the Library to the exhibit cases where we are to place on display the "prime" choice exhibits of our many and varied herds (collections of watches and clocks). You can park right there on McGee or in the Board of Education Garage which is attached in the event of inclement weather. Well, partners, since we have a good many topics and letters to cover as well as your Secretary's report of the last get-together, this will be all we've got to say at this time--we'll be seeing you there.

OUR RANCH FOREMAN WILL NOW SPEAK----

(P.S. THE CAPITOLS ARE MINE!!)

Good Friends:

Soon those wintry blasts will be upon us and will probably curtail some of our traveling about in search of watches and clocks. (SNOW AND RAIN MAKE A HOT TRAIL MIGHTY HARD TO FOLLOW--EVEN FOR A GOOD CLOCK HOUND). Attendance and participation of our Members at the Hobby Show certainly left much to be desired. Frankly, your Officers were disappointed. Had it not been for Thomas, Mashburn, Wagners, B. G. Smith, Dods, and Williams, this display would have been a total loss. I certainly hope this lack of attendance and interest is not indicative of a gradual decline and maybe eventual disbandment of this Chapter. Lets fact it--it could happen. (PLEASE REMOVE YOUR HATS --A VERY SOLEMN THOUGHT HAS JUST BEEN MENTIONED--IT HAS HAPPENED TO OTHERS AND COULD HAPPEN TO US).

Lets each of us at this time ask this question of ourselves--How much of an investment do I have in H.O.A. No. 36??? Evaluate all the friendships and interesting contacts you have made. Recall all the enjoyable visits to Member's homes viewing their collections and sharing the pleasure derived from finding something exceptional. (PLEASE, BOSS, I'M SENTIMENTAL--PASS ME ANOTHER KLEENEX). How much pleasure have you enjoyed by being involved in discussions with friends who share your interests and can understand watch and clock lingo? We have had some very enjoyable meetings. Maybe all of them haven't been too informative, but as a whole I believe you will agree; our Association has been informative, educational, and fun.

Reluctantly and finally, your Officers admit you can't please everybody, but we intend to keep trying. Your President during meetings, under the topic of Good and Welfare, has always asked for ideas and suggestions that might improve our group--even asked for criticism; extending ones neck among watch and clock collectors is a very dangerous maneuver. (TRUE--THEY STILL ARE HANGING CATTLE RUSTLERS). We hope and believe after you have made a thorough analysis of the benefits derived by being a Member of this Chapter you will agree the best \$2.00 bargain in the World is a Membership in H.O.A. No. 36 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. (PARTNERS, HE JUST AIN'T WOLFING EITHER--YOU CAN'T EVEN GET A GOOD FOUR JEWEL WATCH FOR THAT PRICE).

Allow me to suggest that we all make up our minds to in the future cooperate in every way possible and help share the responsibility of keeping H.O.A. No. 36 the pride of N.A.W.C.C. (IT'S A LITTLE EARLY FOR NEW-YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS? BUT BOSS, WE'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU).

Through the intercession of Mr. Perotti, that long awaited opportunity to show our watch and clocks in an area of dignity has finally arrived. The place--the Kansas City Public Library--one of the finest and most modern in the Country, and as new as this season's "J-Bird". (I'VE HEARD OF COWBIRDS, BLUE BIRDS, AND "T-BIRDS"---BUT WHAT IS A "J-BIRD"???) Unknown to many is the popularity of this Building. The halls of its many floors is traversed by thousands of people each day who will see the many wall and floor exhibiting cases. One entire floor has been allocated to our group for thirty days. (YOU CAN ALSO BE GIVEN THIS FOR WHOOPING IT UP SATURDAY NIGHT AFTER A BIG DRIVE).

Lets accept this "once in a lifetime opportunity" as a challenge. This endeavor will require the cooperation and participation of every available Member. I am afraid to many of us are taking our collections for granted, assuming because they are familiar to us that they are just commonplace items known to everyone. Many adults and especially children and teenagers will find most of what we have interesting and unknown to them. (YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED AT THE MANY EXPRESSIONS WE HEARD FROM THE TOURISTS AND TENDERFOOTS AT THE LAST HOBBY SHOW). Don't hesitate to bring any watches or clocks if decent in appearance. Our Secretary will furnish all the details, space, time of setting up exhibits, etc. elsewhere in this Report. (PARTNERS, YOU ARE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK FOR THE DETAILS--YOUR SECRETARY IS JUST TOO BUSY ROUNDING UP HIS HERD TO STOP NOW AND TELL YOU WHERE THEY ARE AT IN THIS REPORT---JUST KEEP LOOKING).

Many thanks to the Wagners for the invitation to their Home, the location of our October Meeting. Attendance was exceptionally good, and incidentally, several Members couldn't attend for very good reasons judging from their telephone calls and we thank them for their thoughtfulness in calling. Also, thanks to Mrs. Bruer for constructing that elegant salad that vanished like a handfull of feathers in a tornado. (THAT SALAD WAS SO DOGGONE GOOD THAT BY THE TIME THIS COWPOKE GOT AROUND TO THE BRUB LINE, EVERYTHING HAD VANISHED EXCEPT THE AUXILIARY COOKS WHO WERE BUSY WASHING DOWN THE DISHES).

During the Meeting it occurred to me that on a similar sunny Sunday Afternoon at this same location some three and one half years ago, H.O.A. No. 36 was born. Those of you who were present will recall Mrs. Peg Hovey lighting the fuse. We responded like fire crackers! (WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU THROW A MATCH INTO A KEG OF ENTHUSIASMP???) H.O.A. was on the road like a rocket. We indicated we had enthusiasm, and have been proving it every since, although occasionally it may be hibernating. (THE ONLY THINGS THAT DON'T HIBERNATE WHEN SNOW IS FLYING ARE THE MAIL CARRIERS AND WATCH AND CLOCK HERDERS).

Mr. Carroll Thomas gave a brief outline of his wood carvings. During the December Meeting, he will have all of his handmade carving tools as well as some of his carvings in the process of being completed, so that we can observe the various steps necessary to the perfection in wood carving. Now we out here, where the deer and the antelope play, would like to notify anyone within telegraphing distance that we will put this Thomas fellow up against any animal, termite, or human who can artictically chew, gnaw, chisel, or whittle wood. His work is better than the best--we think it's supurber.

As you know, we will have election of Officers next April. (THIS IS A DEMOCRATIC TYPE OF RANCH--IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FOREMAN, YOU CAN CHANGE HIM). Now girls, this may be the last time "old" Bill will have to put the bite on you for--you know what--Door Prizes. Please do not bring anything poison, perishable or likely to explode. Unlike the Post Office, we will accept any package that "ticks"!!! One final plea--let's do this Library Exhibit up first class. Make Clem and "old" Bill happy. In the next Report, due to the many requests, we will have a report on Prof. End Shake and his favorite pupil, Big Chief Toek Tick, the illiterate clock mechanic. (I THOUGHT GENERAL CUSTER TOOK CARE OF ALL THOSE INDIANS IN THIS AREA!)

Sincerely,

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

GRAPEVINE AT WORK-----

Just received the hot news that the Glenn Blairs attended the Mid-America Conference and that fifteen of the Area's Chapters were represented. The Vandervorts were also in attendance and from all reports, they had as big a time as at the Chicago Convention. The Motleys have a new location in St. Joseph, and the Thomases have been taking in lots of local auctions in their vicinity. Also a hot flash was just received --Glenn Blair is the proud owner of a new car which really sounded like great news to his daughter, Janice, who works up here in Kansas City, until she discovered that the "new" car was a 1920 Chev. Sounds like the Roaring 20's are back in style. Janice probably doesn't remember when her Dad courted her Mom in a coonskin coat and drove one of those "real gone" cars. What's next? Think the old ranch horse will become popular again?

LAST GET-TOGETHER A REAL CLAM BAKE¹-----

The October Meeting was held at the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Caspar A. Wagner in Kansas City, Mo., and due to the large gathering, the Meeting was held in the back yard and it took until 2:15 to get all the 50 plus Members and guests together in order to open the Meeting. The Ranch Foreman opened the Meeting and the Secretary read the Minutes of the previous August Meeting and gave the Treasurer's Report. Our Secretary reported that during the past two months, two new Members had joined the Chapter, one as a result of contact through the Hobby Show Exhibit on September 22nd. Also, we had been in contact with the Library and the following space would be available : five flat built-in cases 45" wide, 45" long, and 8" high at front and 10" high at back; two built-in wall cases 45" wide, 38" high, and 15" deep; three flat table cases with glass on all sides 26" long, 48" wide, and 5¹/₂" high; three wall cases 40" wide, 55" high, and 14" deep, with four adjustable shelves; six cases in Lobby of Public Library built around two main posts with three display cases on each post--two measure 39" wide, 51" high and 14" deep, and the third side is 51" wide, 51" high, and 14" deep--all the above cases and cabinets with sliding doors which can be securely locked.

A motion was made that we ask the Library to open its doors at one o'clock the afternoon of November 3rd for us to set up our exhibit, and this motion was seconded and approved by the Chapter.

New Members who were present, as well as visiting guests were introduced. Two of these guests included Mr. and Mrs. Evers Hushman, and Mr. Hushman was called on to make any comments. He thanked our Chapter for its hospitality, especially Mr. and Mrs. Caspar Wagner for their nice Open House, and mentioned that although travel is rough, it is well worth it and he was very happy to be here. He also invited the Members to attend the Iowa-Illinois Chapter Meeting November 10th in Davenport, Iowa, at the Blackhawk Hotel. The get-together would be at 10 o'clock Sunday Morning and last through 3:30 that afternoon with a smorgasboard dinner at 11:30 and a mart, exhibits, and auction, as well as events planned for the ladies. Also invited Members to attend the Mid-American Conference on October 19th.

One of the projects their Chapter is presently working on is restoring a three story tower clock in Bishop Hill, Indiana, which has been taken over by the Indiana State Historical Society. This Tower Clock has a movement copied from a grandfather's clock movement, and the original grandfather's clock is presently also preserved in the same building where the Tower Clock is located.

Glenn Blair and those from down south told of the Cherokee Chapter Meeting recently held in Tulsa, Okla., which they had the pleasure of attending. They had a very nice meeting with guests from four states present. There was a big meeting, dinner, and auction, as well as a tour of Mr. Carter's Home there in Tulsa with the many French Clocks his Home is so well noted for.

AS ALL GOOD RANCH COLLECTORS KNOW, EVERY GOOD GET-TOGETHER MUST ALSO BE INFORMATIVE-----

Sol Williams had a complete chart of the dates and numbers assigned to various watches made by the many companies from 1854 through 1951 and he offered copies to

any of the Members present who wanted one. Bill Bruer described a spring oil that Ervin Smith had found that could be put into a spray can for purposes of spraying the oil evenly over all the mainspring of a clock in one shot when they are cleaned and recoiled, and asked anyone who was interested to leave their name and the number of cans they might want as we had to have 25 orders before it was profitable to put it up this way. At the same time, a discussion arose regarding the oil Bill used to oil the movements he repaired, and Bill suggested that he would purchase this in gallon lots hereafter, and any Member who wanted some could then get it in lesser quantities from him. Regarding clock cleaning solutions, Dale Henry mentioned that there was a new solution available that really did a "bang-up" job (ALMOST BETTER THAN PARSON'S AMONIA --SO HE SAYS) that can be bought from a drug store on the northwest corner of 55th Troost here in Kansas City for \$2.00 a gallon. He guarantees it to really do the job.

THE CALL WAS MADE TO ALL MEMBERS----

The Caspar A. Wagner Family was thanked for the nice Open House and Meeting arrangements, and Mrs. Bruer was thanked for serving a delicious fruit salad, as well as two clever wicker dog baskets of assorted crackers. The way that everything disappeared goes to prove that clock collectors (LIKE RANCH HANDS) know good food as well as clocks and watches. The Auxiliary Chairman, Mrs. Caspar Wagner, announced that the December Meeting on December 8th would be at the Carousel Cafeteria at 5824 Troost here in Kansas City, and we would appreciate receiving door prizes at this time to be awarded the coming year at the meetings. The Meeting was then adjourned at 3:05 and door prizes were awarded to Mrs. Allen, Florent Wm. Wagner, Mrs. Mashburn, Mr. Holland, Mrs. B. G. Smith, Carroll Thomas, Mrs. Epp Blair, and Mr. Caspar A. Wagner.

WELL PARTNERS----

That's about it. Oh yes, when you receive this Report, please sit down and send by return mail the following information about the clocks you will be bringing in next Sunday so that we can have the 3 X 5 cards all prepared: 1st., the name of the item; 2nd., the maker if known; 3rd., the approximate dates, and 4th., any other pertinent information about your horological book, clock, movement, watch, watch case, or clock. ALSO for the Library's private files for insurance purposes, we need an insurance value. We will be seeing you all at the big round-up Sunday, November 3rd, one o'clock, west entrance on McGee at 12th McGee, Main Library, Kansas City, Missouri. So long!

Sincerely yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secretary
5506 Euclid
Kansas City 30, Missouri

NEW MEMBER TO BE ADDED TO YOUR ROSTER----

Mr. John W. Dean
8919 Mission Rd., Leawood, Kans. 66206
Manager Sub-Branch John Deere Co; Clocks.
Mrs. Dean---Lamps and Antiques.

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Note--Next Meeting Date changed to the first Sunday in December, December 1st, so that the Members can pick up their items from the Kansas City Library and then attend the December Christmas Meeting on the same day. The Library Officials have offered to let us pick up our exhibit starting at twelve o'clock Noon that Sunday Morning, and our Christmas Dinner preceeding our December Meeting will then be held at the Carousel Cafeteria sometime around two o'clock.

Thanks--to all the Members who turned out in force last Sunday to put on one of the largest and finest exhibits the Library has ever had, and for that matter, probably one of the finest exhibits put on by any Chapter in the Association. Our President and all your Officers are very proud of the efforts expended as well as of the Exhibit. The Members should be complimented on the fine job done.

Variety--is the spice of life, and at the Library, there are eighty clocks, seventy-two watches, books, magazine articles, lathes, movements, dials, wooden works including a sample of wooden wheels, watch keys, and everything you can think of regarding horology and the preserving of time recorders. The examples of early American clocks and watches gives the viewer an opportunity to see various stages and progress in our Nation's history, as well as the various ideas and discoveries of American ingenuity that made up our Country's growth and progress in accurate time keeping. The foreign clocks enables one to compare our progress with the rest of the World.

Invitation is out--to all Members, guests, etc. to stop in at the Library to see collecting at it's best, to enjoy, to learn, and to appreciate with the rest of us. The Library is open thru the week from nine to nine, and on Saturdays nine to six. Bring your friends and invite any other groups you might belong to to see the interesting display. Also, bring them to our next Meeting December 1st at the Carousel Cafeteria. Carroll Thomas will be putting on an demonstration of wood carving and this in itself will be of interest not to mention the big pre-Christmas party that is planned.

Dear Members:

December is our Christmas Dinner and Meeting. It is also the time we ask each H.O.A. Member and Auxiliary Member to donate one door prize. Mark the package if it is something especially for a lady or a man; otherwise, leave it unmarked. Remember that since these door prizes are used throughout the year they need not be Christmas wrapped. If it is something especially for the Christmas Season or if it is perishable, please mark it plainly so it can be the first to be given out.

There will be a box marked "Door Prizes" on a table near the door so just place your gifts there as you come in. Last year we received so many lovely and useful gifts at the December Meeting that we did not have to ask for door prizes again until this Meeting, and we appreciated it very much and hope that it happens again.

The programs for next year will be set up soon. The February and April Meetings will be dinner meetings at the Carousel Cafeteria, 5824 Troost, Kansas City, Mo. Any Member that would like an open house or meeting next year should let me know so the date you want gets on the schedule. The meetings and open houses this year were well attended and very enjoyable and we appreciated it very much and we hope that this coming year will be just as successful.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Caspar A. Wagner, Auxiliary Chairman

Come early--December 1st beginning at Noon if you want to catch a quick last look at the Library Exhibit as the Members will be taking their exhibits out immediately after so as to be able to be ready for the Dinner and Meeting by two o'clock that Sunday. Thanks again to all who made such a wonderful Exhibit possible, and we'll be looking for you that Sunday.

Very truly yours,

Clement C. Wagner, Secretary of H.O.A. Chapt. 36