

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

Report for August, 1966

Hi there, friends and collectors!

What's new in the collecting world down your way? Everyone around here has been adding a few new items to their favorite hobby whenever the weather would permit them to venture forth. So far, everyone has had a busy but good summer in adding to their collections--except our H.O.A. President who spent his summer building a new home. Even your Editor added a few! But more on this later.

We know how anxious you are for information concerning the next meeting so that you can see and visit--perhaps brag a little--with old friends. Our meeting will be this Sunday, August 14th, at the Charl-Mont Cafeteria in the Valentine Shopping Center (3600 Broadway) here in Kansas City, Missouri, with dinner to start at one o'clock and meeting scheduled for around 1:45 p.m. There is plenty of parking space available in the Shopping Center's parking lot in front of the Cafeteria. Chapter Members, Auxiliary Members, everyone...please bring something for the exhibit table and if you want to sell something, bring it along with a card with your "asking" price for the item.

The Auxiliary has asked that you pick up your dinner going thru the line when you arrive and go directly back to the dining room. There will be plenty of time to bring in your exhibits after we have all had dinner and the tables have been cleared. Incidentally, the Program should be especially interesting--the topic is Seth Thomas Clocks with three different members each taking a period of the Seth Thomas Clock Company. How about you also doing a bit of homework and adding to the discussion. Exchanging ideas will really liven the show. The participants in this Program will be Paul Holland, Florent Wagner, Clement Wagner, and YOU.

June 12th was really a heart-breaking day. Most of the members from the Heart of America Chapter, the Mid-Missouri Chapter and the St. Louis Chapter attended the joint meeting in Columbia, Missouri, and the judge handed down very severe sentences. There were literally dozens of rare clocks and watches there, and several hundred items for sale. The bailiffs at the auction and mart readily accepted the fines--but it was heartbreaking to walk along the exhibit tables and see the really fine display--and not be able to bring any of these exquisite items home. No body wanted to part with these treasures--and I don't blame them either. But man, did we have fun dreaming and examining them. Everyone was so nice and very willing to explain this item, or take that one apart for you, or tell you the story behind this particular "find". To tell you the truth, NO-ONE left without admitting they had never had this much fun. It was really a day to remember and we'll be willing to bet the members will still be talking about it this Sunday, August 14th, at the Charl-Mont Cafeteria.

As mentioned before, our H.O.A. President has been up to his stethoscope what with building his new home and recently attending a summer session in Los Angeles, Calif. He did say, tho, that he was able to get free long enough one Saturday afternoon to stop to see Don Kerns in Los Angeles and view his collection. Other than that, he "just hasn't been anyplace" to quote him. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Dr. Harry Knauff, 6511 W. 49th Street, Mission, Kansas. Better change your records NOW as the new H.O.A. Roster is still a long way from completion.

By now, everyone has probably heard of Caspar Wagner's sudden illness and subsequent hospital vacation. He is home, happy to say, and slowly recovering, but the doctors say they will take him apart again in the near future and see if they can put him back together right this time. Anyway, Dad would like to thank everyone who was so thoughtful to him, and to let you all know that it takes more than an operation to keep a collector down for long.

FLASH--(this seems to be a good place to slip in an item left by an anonymous writer in Bill Bruer's mail box)

Recently the U.S. delivered a projectile on the Moon which began scanning the horizon and returning pictures to Cape Kennedy. This achievement was indeed remarkable but something else is involved. The whereabouts of three fiendish characters was revealed. As the camera was scanning, three figures loomed on the screen; two adults and a boy. Also some kind of a contraption which resembled a grandfather clock with fins attached.

After some complicated manipulation, the pictures were brought into focus and the following description was revealed. After considerable discussion and debate, it was agreed these mortals were human beings, altho some scientists were reluctant to agree that this country could produce creatures resembling the three. The oldest was described as having hair down to his shoulders, a scared face, mangled fingers and a fiendish expression. The other adult appeared to be a bald headed indian without finger nails, also scared up with a wild expression on his face.

The kid was judged as about 12 years of age attired in buck skin rompers, scared and bald headed with facial expression comparable to the adults. Unfortunately, none of the members of H.O.A. #36 were consulted with this description. These characters are known to all of us as horror-clogists. An immediate search was begun of all records all over the world of scientists connected with rocketry and propulsion. The search produced absolutely nothing. One investigator finally checked prison records and sure enough the pictures of the three were found and identified.

The long haired guy with the mangled fingers (careless handling of main springs) was Prof. End Shake, credited with setting horology back thirty years because of his method of closing holes using an ice pick. The other adult was identified as Big Chief--the only bald headed indian in the world. Incidentally, he has been rejected by all tribes and has been kicked off every reservation in the country. We all know he lost his hair and fingernails because he insisted in using End Shake's Clock Cleaner which explodes without warning or provocation. Also, it plays havoc with finger nails.

The kid, Big Chief's son by his ninth wife, is the only known 12 year old indian who insists in wearing rompers. He was well known around the prison because of a fiendish desire to destroy or mash up any time piece that came within his reach. Scientists are presently concerned as how to retrieve these knowledgeable people. Obviously, they used End Shake's Clock Cleaner for propulsion. The warden, when confronted by news men said, "Leave them there!!!!"

In the picture, it was noted Big Chief was stirring some kind of concoction in a bucket, probably clock cleaner to be used as fuel for the return trip. I will be the first to come forward and admit that maybe I have been too critical of this trio. Summing up this achievement--three people traveling to the Moon in a grandfather clock using some cheap clock cleaner as fuel is quite an accomplishment.

Personally, I believe the U.S. Government will frown on the whole operation--it is just too economical. For those of you who may be new members and not acquainted with the afore mentioned characters, please do not lose any sleep tonight! All are fictitious. Some say the whole account is the product of another fiendish mind.

URGENT--Please do this now so that H.O.A. Roster can be finished. Don't wait until you see me, but answer the following questions and mail it NOW! Please don't fail us ...we only had four returned on last request. 1) Your Name and NAWCC Number; 2) Your Address and Zip Code; 3) Your Bus. Occupation; 4) Type of clocks or watches interested in; 5) Wife's name; 6) Wife's Hobbies. Thank you, for your promptness!

Well, that's about it. We'll see YOU, your interesting Seth Thomas Clocks and other exhibits this Sunday at the Charl-Mont Cafeteria here in Kansas City, Mo. We are sorry this report was delayed but we were waiting the return of our President from California. See you soon!

Sincerely,
Clement C. Wagner, Editor
5506 Euclid, Kansas City, Missouri 64130