

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

Report for October, 1966

Hello, Heart of America Collectors:

The following items of interest are contained within these pages so watch for them; a recap on Seth Thomas, the ladies on parade, new suggestions by H.O.A. President, a visit by none other than the President of the National Association to our Chapter (be sure you mark the date and place), people to see in the coming weeks, a special October H.O.A. Meeting (be sure you check to see WHO is acting as our Hosts), outstanding H.O.A. Programs--two special ones coming up, and H.O.A. is on the move again.

WHEN YOU WERE A BOY, DID YOU EVER WORK WITH A MAN NAMED ELI TERRY???

During the Program at the August Meeting, it was brought out that Seth Thomas was a partner at the age of 22 with Eli Terry and Silas Hoadley. At the age of 27, Seth Thomas was manufacturing his own clocks from Plymouth Hollow after purchasing the Herman Clark Factory for this purpose. Not having the inventive genius Terry had, Seth Thomas had to make his name by being a very successful business man and during his 74 years of life he is credited with building and operating a cotton mill, a brass rolling mill, a wire-making mill and expanding his clock factory to include a "Watch Shop" as watch factories were then so designated.

Seth Thomas used wooden wheel movements between 1800 and 1837, but in 1837 he switched over to 30-hr. brass movements. Throughout this period all clocks were weight driven, but 1850 saw the introduction of spring movements, and their subsequent complete adoption in all clocks. Seth Thomas and E. Howard were almost the exclusive manufacturers of tower clocks. For those who would like to date some of those prize possessions in their collections, here are a few dates associated with various Seth Thomas clocks; 1840--first regulator made; 1860--first perpetual calendar clocks made; 1865--first lever movement; 1866--branch of S. T. Company manufactured bronze and marble cased clocks; 1872--first tower clocks produced; 1876--first one-day back-wind alarm clocks in the round metal case; 1884--introduction of Seth Thomas watches; 1884--first chime clocks produced; 1910--secondary and master clock and electric clock systems introduced.

Probably one of the most important dates to us who collect S. T. Clocks is the date of 1866 as that is the date that Plymouth Hollow, Connecticut, honored Seth Thomas by naming the locality where his clock factory was located "Thomaston", Connecticut. Does that sound familiar? Take a look at the label on your clock--is it before or after 1866??? We did not even mention 1875, the date Seth Thomas almost went broke only to be saved by some clever brother in St. Louis, Missouri, who introduced the Southern Calendar Clock Co. Selling these brothers movements for the 15 years this new Co. was in business aided Seth Thomas Clock Co. through a very hard time. If you failed to make the August H.O.A. Meeting, you missed the best three-ring circus since Ringling Bros. Paul Holland and those Wagner Brothers put on a three-way running panel discussion with interesting stories and anti-dotes that really put Seth Thomas right in the room with us. There were over 20 different varieties of his many clocks on hand in the exhibit, as well as an entire collection of watches. Sound interesting? See you this Sunday, October 9th, at our Host's home. Whose home and where later in this Report.

MEETINGS RUN SMOOTH DUE TO SPECIAL OIL UTILIZED KNOWN AS "THE AUXILIARY"

Dear Members and Auxiliary Members:

Since April 10, 1960, when our Chapter was formed, we have grown from 20 members to 56. The Auxiliary has a few simple rules which we have followed and many of our new members may not be familiar with them. We have a Ladies

Auxiliary, one of the first in the National Association, with no dues collected but which has Auxiliary Cards issued for two-year periods--the only requirement is that our husbands, sons, or brothers must have a paid up National Association and local Chapter membership and the local H.O.A. Chapter membership cards are issued for one-year periods from April to April. Marking Auxiliary Cards for two years saves on cost of cards.

We are in charge of a meeting place, refreshments and door prizes. When we have dinner meetings, we don't have to serve refreshments as most of our meetings are at a cafeteria. When we have a meeting or Open House at a member's home, two or three of the ladies offer to bring cookies or cakes to assist our host and hostess. We try to limit our refreshments to a desert--cookies or cake--and a drink--coffee and tea or fruit punch (many of our members prefer tea to coffee).

We ask a door prize from each H.O.A. Member and each Auxiliary member, which means a door prize for husband, wife, and any other member or members of the family usually attending the meetings. The door prizes can be brought to any meeting you attend, but customarily we have been bringing them to the December Christmas Meeting since most of us are gift shopping and wrapping at this season and have things a bit more handy (that is the reason you may get a door prize in June wrapped in Christmas paper).

Your door prize should be wrapped and marked "Man", "Lady", or "Home". It should be something usable in a price range of about \$1.00 or a little more. If it is perishable, it should be so marked so it can be given out at that meeting. We try to divide the gifts so that at least six (two "Man" two "Lady" and two "Home") can be given out at each meeting. You are given a name tag at each meeting with a little slip with your name on it which is dropped in the box. The names for door prizes are drawn from the slips of members in attendance at each meeting.

Won't you please leave your name tag when the meeting is over!!! Should you forget, please send it to us by return mail. We do need them as making new ones take extra time and costs, so we would appreciate your dropping them in the box before leaving or sending them back to us if you should forget.

Thanks to all for the fine co-operation.
Margaret Wagner, Auxiliary President

To the ladies and members of the Heart of America Auxiliary, the Heart of America Chapter would like to say "Thanks". You have really done a fine job. Our meetings are able to move right along where we do not have to worry about handling these details and as you say, our collections are our first interest anyway, with food and other details only secondary. We'll admit that we enjoy the Open Houses best as it is really something to see another collector's collection in its natural habitat and lots more fun. But then, sometimes its just nice to be able to sit down and enjoy talking about clocks and watches while enjoying a good meal. Please keep up the fine work you have undertaken. And bring these exhibits of your hobbies--you would be amazed at the talent and collections that are possessed by our members! The enjoyment and learning that is available at our Chapter's meetings really is outstanding.

GROWER, EDUCATION, NEW GOALS--NEW H.O.A. PRESIDENT SPEAKS HIS MIND

Dr. Knauff, H.O.A. President, stepped right into the lead with proposals for expansion of our Chapter--all new N.A.W.C.C. Members will receive copies of our Reports hereafter for three consecutive H.O.A. Meetings, and all nearby H.O.A. Members in a new members' area are requested to contact him and welcome him. We will try to list all new N.A.W.C.C. members as soon as the notice is received from the National Director. The Tri-Chapter Meeting held this past June in Columbia, Missouri, was discussed and Dr. Knauff proposed that we follow this up making this an annual occurrence or even a semi-annual

ent as everyone really seemed to enjoy it. He also proposed that we bring our general meetings to one general locality every other month such as we have been doing, but that we have open houses on the inbetween months.

Discussion on the last proposal indicated that our members are really scattered through out five different states and that with a general locality meeting, they could all plan on its regular location. But uppermost was the viewpoint expressed over the Open Houses--everyone was in favor. This topic has been brought up at other past meetings with exactly the same result. THEN, why not more open houses??? You, yourselves, are limiting them. The Auxiliary can only schedule as many as they have offers for, and the offers have been limited this year. Open Houses enable the members to come and view at their own convenience between 2 and 6 p.m. and thus everyone doesn't hit at the same time. Most of our homes can stand this kind of travel whereas a 100 people might be a bit hard to handle if everyone hit at the same time. So lets make our plans for next year's Open Houses on the off-meeting months NOW; don't wait as the month you want may be spoken for.

Since the Heart of America Chapter has zoomed to the forefront, it has been brought to our President's attention that H.O.A. needs a banner or several banners. Also, since adopting the Tri-Chapter Regional Meetings, we need something to help all three chapters show a united front to the public by letting them know whose meeting--a Tri-Chapter Banner??? Anyone have any ideas? Bring your suggestions and samples to the October Meeting and lets see what can be developed.

FLASH--NATIONAL N.A.W.C.C. PRESIDENT TO VISIT HEART OF AMERICA AREA

Our National President of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors has had so many fine reports of the wonderful collections out here that they are planning a tour of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and the Mid-west ending at Annual Mid-America Conference in West Lafayette, Indiana. On Tuesday, October 11th, just two days after our H.O.A. Meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Wadleigh will be in Kansas City and he has asked us to invite as many of our members together as can make it for an evening of sharing and enjoying and exchanging of ideas. He and Mrs. Wadleigh want to meet us and hear of our interesting collections and exchange ideas regarding the Association.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are having Open House at 5802 Garfield on Tuesday, October 11th, at 7 p.m. to meet and visit with our National President and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Wadleigh. They have a very fine collection and some very good pictures of different clocks which they will show for us. Please come.
The Wagners--Caspar, Margaret, and Florent Wm

DO NOT GET DISCOURAGED...WE STILL HAVEN'T TOLD YOU WHERE H.O.A. WILL MEET SUN.

That is true. But before we do, we would like to invite all the following new N.A.W.C.C. Members to come to either this Sunday's H.O.A. Meeting or the October 11th Meeting, and to ask all you who are in one another's area to go visiting:

Mr. C. D. Acrea
1514 Main Street
Parsons, Ks. 67357

Mr. F. L. Andersen
5530 Oak
Kansas City, Mo. 64113

Mr. W. C. Boren
7139 Sycamore
Kansas City, Mo. 64133

Mr. Alfred Brod
2540 Kent Street
St. Joseph, Mo. 64505

Mr. H. F. Burgess
815 S. 78 th St.
Muncie, Ks. 66057

Mr. A. H. Hansen
611 West 63rd
Kansas City, Mo. 64113

Mr. Guy E. Holt, Jr.
Box 709
Hutchinson, Ks. 67501

Mr. Jesse James
3144 Range Road
Wichita, Ks. 67216

Mr. Donald Luke
1310 Bryson
Independence, Mo. 64052

Mr. Dennis L. Myers
9937 Truman Rd.
Independence, Mo. 64052

Mr. Huell E. Warren, Jr.
3306 N. W. 62nd Terr.
Kansas City, Mo. 64151

Mr. Clarence E. Parsons
1006 E. 21st Ave.
North Kansas City, Mo. 64114

Mrs. M. J. Wells
14435 Laguna
Wichita, Ks 67230

Mr. H. P. Rumford
208 E. Williams
Pittsburg, Ks. 66762

FALL IS A BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF THE YEAR AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH WILL BE SPECIAL. This Sunday, October 9th, will be our H.O.A. October Meeting, and the meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. McClure, 8201 West 75th Street, Overland Park, Kansas. The members are asked not to arrive much before 1:30 with meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. that afternoon. It will be a short meeting as open houses carry their own special entertainment. But we have a bonus this time. The Program is on Ansonia Clocks and the authority on this subject is none other than that famous personage and well known collector of clock knowledge, Mrs. Wm. C. Bruer (better known as Marcia Bruer). All members are asked to bring at least one Ansonia--no one has one just like yours so bring it along) and do your studying in advance. The more research you do, the more interesting the meeting will be.

The McClure's home is easy to reach as you go west on 75th Street anyplace in Kansas City crossing over State Line and 69 Highway and continuing on to 8201 West 75th St. It is only a few block east of 50 Highway (now called I-35) if you are coming in from the west and there is an exit at 75th Street from I-35.

Our December Christmas Meeting is scheduled for December 11th with meeting place to be announced at our October Meeting. The Program for this Meeting will be equally interesting being centered around exquisit watches and presented by Mr. Lee Seymour, our member from Blackwell, Oklahoma; so make your plans now. Don't forget your door prizes to be brought for December Meeting.

THE ANNUAL MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE IS HERE AGAIN! ARE YOU GOING???

Registration in Terrace Room 7 p.m. October 14th at the Campus Inn, West Lafayette, Indiana. Saturday, October 15th will have a Mart, Exhibit (including ladies exhibits), and Auction (3:30 p.m. Saturday). The Banquet will begin at 7 p.m. with the highlight of the evening being a program by Mr. Wadleigh, N.A.W.C.C. President, who will show slides and give a talk on the history of Massachusetts and Connecticut clocks. Prizes being awarded will conclude the day's program. We have always been well represented so make your plans for a big clock week beginning this Sunday here at Overland Park, Kansas, at H.O.A. Chapter's Meeting, then Tuesday at the home of Mr. Caspar A. Wagner at 7 p.m. where we'll meet Mr. and Mrs. Wadleigh, and then that Friday and Saturday at the Mid-American Conference.

P. S. Those who are advised by ones who have gone in the past to bring a pocketful of money as the buys are real good and there are a lot of bargains.

We'll be seeing you all!

Clement C. Wagner
H.O.A. Report Editor