

August, Report, 1968

Fellow Collectors:

You have all received the report of the last H.O.A. Meeting along with the notice of the recently held Mid-Missouri Regional Meeting. We are going to present some of the excerpts from several speeches given at the Mid-Missouri Regional Meeting, as well as comments by your Editor, and some important happenings for this coming Sunday, August 25th.

Oh, what he said---

Sam Jennings presented a review of the development of wooden works shelf clocks but almost from the start it was really an interesting breakdown of Eli Terry and the five stages of wooden works clocks he developed, and before he was finished it had taken on the aspects of how to identify a true Terry movement. The earliest clocks were 30 hr. grandfather wooden works. Then Eli Terry developed his wooden works shelf clocks. Forgive me for not preserving dates but either I failed to write fast enough or Mr. Jennings failed to give them, I'm not sure which.

The first style was the open strap movement with the off-center escapement and had a rack and snail arrangement for the strike. The second style was the now famous Pillar and Scroll with the off-center escapement and involved a wooden count wheel instead of the rack and snail arrangement for the strike.

The third style was a very wide case and somewhat thinner than the previous cases. By case, we mean the front and back plates of the movement. It had an outside escapement and the count wheel for the strike was on the outside of the movement recessed into the back of the face. There was one of this style made with an outside escapement and a rack and snail instead of the count wheel arrangement for the strike, but Mr. Jennings believes that this was only an experimental model made by Eli Terry and that when this style was finally produced, he used the count wheel. The experimental model mentioned is in the collection of Amos Avery.

The fourth style was an outside escapement model similar to the first two styles but the escapement is not exposed even though it is still outside of the movement, and this style used the wooden count wheel for the strike. The fifth and last style movement by Eli Terry was the standard wooden works movement with wooden count wheel but with the escapement now inside the movement.

Mark Leavenworth used exactly the same principle as Ely's fifth model except a bit of a change in the different train arrangements, and they wind from the outside toward the inside of the clock instead of from the center out. Other makers of importance were Chauncy Jerome who used wooden works movements similar to the old 30 hr. Grandfather wooden works, and Silas Hoadley who used the same principle for his upside down movement. Most wooden works makers made both short pendulum and long pendulum clocks varying only the number of teeth to compensate for the pendulum length.

The only other important information gleaned from our speaker this day was that there are very few 8 day wooden works movements as these came into being just at the end of the wooden works era, and credit for these belong to Henry Terry and Silas B. Terry. It might be interesting to note that the New Haven Clock Company is the successor to the Chauncy Jerome Clock Company.

We did have a delightful dinner eventually, AND THEN----

Please do not be misled...I have nothing against Willar Andrews who is the First Vice-President of N.A.W.C.C. I felt that the talk he gave to us following dinner would have been more appropriate as an after dinner speech to the local garden club rather than

to a collection of people who had spent their waking hours to the study of clocks. The topic, "How To Spot a Fake", was eagerly anticipated and after some thought to the way he was saying things and the smoothness of his delivery, Mr. Andrews turned out to make a very entertaining guest speaker. It wasn't that he told us anything new; it was the little gems of thought that I was able to capture that made his talk entertaining and original.

"The nicest thing about a fake is that the longer you keep it, the more genuine it will become." There were no makers in America in the 1600's and very very few in the 1700's until the very end of the Century--Willard, Brockhurst, and a few others. Early men of the err made only the cases and imported their clocks, and called themselves "clockmakers". He perported of some investigation of early freight vouchers that were going to reveal some astounding truths about the clock makers we hold esteemed and honor as Fathers of Timemakers, and this interested me because later on he went on to tell of men who are actually copying and reporducing rare clocks today and trying to fake out the clock experts in order to collect hugh bounties, and he even went so far as to give the city and street of the largest of these bootleggers without revealing his name, and now I'm wondering why he feels it his duty to the world to call our esteemed Fathers of Time-makers phonies and not feel it his duty to mention the name of the largest phony of all.

But enough of this. He went on to mention that brass foundries didn't exist prior to 1860 so don't let that little old lady tell you her great great grandmother brought this old mantle clock over on a raft across the wide Missouri. He went into great detail about the 1812 American Embargo on British Imports making money tight so clocks were made as cheaply as possible and that the case around the movement was probably made in some local shop of someone's own design as the movements were manufactured and sold by themselves and you put the case around them if you didn't like a skelton clockworks...you could not expect the poor old horse to carry all those heavy wooden and iron cases???

While on the subject, I'd like to give you the equation he offered for determining the age of most rare clocks offered by our local establishments: Take grandmother's age, then add mother's age, and next the age of the person offering the article for sale (if she will tell you) and you have the assumed age of the article which usually is some-time from 50 to 100 years before the actual maker was born. A good equation and also one that is a rule of thumb for everyone I've met who was offering a so-called "rare" item for my consideration. Of course, if you are one of those who ride under the flag of being a diplomat, you will tell them that it indeed is old and undoubtedly has more sentimental value to them and you would not think of parting it from them. Nice???

Along a more serious vein, he discussed "restoration versus alteration". There is a fine line there--some say if you restore 50%, 40% or 66% etc., you are then its new maker and entitle to have your name on the label in the back. Points to check had a fasination for me but then maybe that is because I am to young and inexperienced in this collecting business. He suggested when you are bought a "basket case" or a "shoe box case" you should check in the order mentioned for the following things: is it 8 day or 30 hr; the number of parts in the strike and time trains; compare the parts with the number of holes in the plates; check the escapement; and lastly, check to see if a pinion has let go.

Where do we go from here---

I don't know about you, but I am going on vacation. By the time you receive this, we will be someplace on the east side of the great state of Missouri and enjoying ourselves and we have visions of coming home with just two clocks---the alarms we put in our suitcases so we can sleep at night to sweet ticking noises. But anyway, we'll have fun.

This Sunday, August 25th, our Heart of America Chapter has been extended an invitation by Mr. and Mrs. Epp Blair of Rogers, Arkansas, to come to their home in the afternoon for an open house. Many of our members traveled the length of the state to their home in July of 1963 and the reports were more than favorable. The Blair's have opened their home to the four chapters in the area so it should be a real big show...sounds like a small Regional Meeting...so why not make plans for a nice leisure drive Sunday through the Ozarks and just about 15 miles below the Missouri-Arkansas line to 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, Ark. 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) and you will probably find a big sign 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, Ark., and about two miles before you reach Rogers, slow down and watch for some sign on the west side of the Highway, attached to their mailbox. If you are planning on coming in from Eureka Springs, Arkansas, which is a wonderful vacation spot, follow Highway 62 on out of Eureka Springs 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. Come early as they have lots of things to see.

The Blair's clocks and Mrs. Blair's hobbies have been written up several times in local papers. These folks have over a hundred unusual varieties of time keepers and have assembled them over the last few years into one large specially built clock room. Their home is beautifully furnished and the unusual varieties of clocks blend in beautifully with the decoration of their home. Come see! You'll be sorry if you didn't.

Let's get back---

Let's get back to the Mid-Missouri Regional Meeting a couple Sundays ago. We regret that we were unable to attend Mr. Paul Holland's talk regarding "Restoring a Clock" but reports have it that he unleashed several new ideas in repairing veneer, some which we have published in the past in our Reports. We were involved in preparations for the Auction that afternoon--and what an auction. Jim Frizzell did an outstanding job as an auctioneer and I don't think there was a person who went away unhappy...as a matter of fact, no one wanted to leave until the last call was done. For that matter, I don't think anyone left who had not bought something during their visit to the Mid-Missouri Regional on either Saturday or Sunday. Even your Editor came home with catalogues and a box of novelty cuckoo clock parts.

We had visitors present from 13 different N.A.W.C.C. Chapters with Mid-Missouri claiming top attendance with 44 members present, St. Louis Chapter with 40 members, Heart of America Chapter with 28 members and Iowa-Illinois Chapter with 14 members. Cherokee Chapter boosted 13 members and Ozark Chapter produced 12 members and the Great Plains Chapter (one of the newest) had 10 members present. It was indeed an excellent show and the efforts expended by the many members who made all this possible was sincerely appreciated. Let your Chapter President know how you felt, and show a strong support of the new projects planned by showing up this Sunday in Rogers, Ark. at the Epp Blair home.

So long, until next time.....see you Sunday in Arkansas.

Sincerely yours,

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