

The Thirty-Second NAWCC Convention

OR

An Easterner Goes West In '76

by D. H. Shaffer

During a time when much of America is undertaking a pilgrimage to the East Coast to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday, this correspondent packed his family in a house car and went west. The focal point and justification for the trip was, of course, the 32nd NAWCC Convention, held this year at the Disneyland Hotel. But surrounding that highlight was an expedition through 18 states, to partake widely of the nature and history that is America. Although clocks held the spotlight in southern California, more were observed elsewhere—did you know, for example, that there is a good pillar and scroll in the restored officer's quarters at Fort Laramie? But enough of our wanderings. Let me report on the Convention, to stir memories for those who were there and envy for those who were not.

As with any convention, the first contact is with the hotel. In this attendee's opinion, the Disneyland Hotel made an outstanding impression in every way. The facilities were excellent, the service faultless, and everyone I dealt with was friendly and courteous. The wonderful weather (standard for the area I was told) fully complemented the lush, colorful landscaping of the hotel grounds.

The program for the Convention was published earlier in the BULLETIN, and was fully conducted as advertised. What no one knew in advance was that more than 2,000 people would partake of the event, thus making it the largest Convention in our Association's history. But size alone does not make a convention good, it merely makes it big. This Convention was GOOD, in every sense of the word, and I would not hesitate to use the word GREAT except that some readers might suspect that the proximity of Hollywood had driven me to overworked superlatives.

Our Annual Convention serves two purposes: It provides for the dissemination of horological knowledge and it fixes a time for the conduct of regular Association business. The educational aspects of this Convention were superb. The lecture program was filled with articulate authorities who performed admirably; I will not single out any one for special praise, but rather offer general applause for all. The exhibit was little short of breathtaking, and the first class exhibit book that was distributed is sure to become a collector's item. Of particular note was the contest managed by John Mies and Howard Weiss. This event brought forth an impressive group of home grown clocks, many of which should be the envy of the old masters.

The Mart was impressive, not only for its size, but for the number of desirable items in it. (How were the prices, you ask? Don't they always seem high on things that you'd like to own?) The side tours arranged by the Convention committees all went well — my family only participated in one of them but was well pleased with it. And as a last compliment to the hotel, I thoroughly enjoyed the food provided at the Saturday night banquet — a personal highlight for me since it was my privilege to serve as Master of Ceremonies that evening.

I hope that leaders of future conventions observed the operation of this one and learned well from it, for it was done right. But I also hope that they

will not feel a sense of competition with it, for each convention has its own stars, and its own particular fields of excellence. We learn from our accomplishments, but it is our ingenuity and creativity that takes us forward. Let me now offer a final recognition to the leaders and workers of the Convention, with a special expression of thanks to those who chaired the various activities: General Chairmen, Leo and Dorothy Severns; Program Chairman, Lloyd Porter; Display Chairman, Dave Olson; Door Prize Chairman, Arthur Sidler; Registration at Hotel, Bill and Carol Darnell; Decorations, Nancie and Ernest Loscar; Mart Committee, Bill Spry; Auctioneer, Robert Garner; Hospitality, Merle Wait; Transportation, Chuck Stempniak; Photographer, Glenn Marsh; Treasurer, George Laughlin.

Through the efforts of Glenn Marsh we have been provided with an album of pictures of the people and events that made this Convention. We are grateful for his cooperation in rushing them to us so that we can share them with all of you in this issue. This picture collection follows on the next four pages.

In conclusion, the Convention Committee thanks once again all who contributed to this meeting in not very visible ways: the workers in the Mart and Exhibit, the donors of door prizes, those who contributed their clocks and watches for exhibit, those who made table decorations, and all who handled the many nameless and thankless jobs that must be done. In not very original words, "God Bless You, Every One".



National Director Bob Keenan (left) and Old Timer Charlie Rosenberg



NAWCC's sweethearts Rose Brandt (left) and Dorothy Severns



Program Committee Chairman Lloyd Porter and his Jane



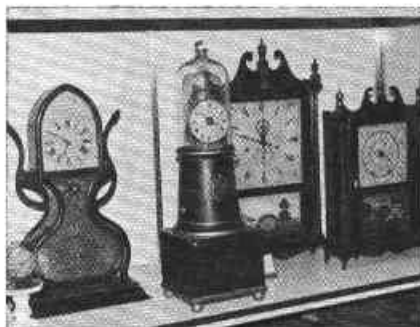
Secretary of the Greater Massachusetts Chapter Elizabeth Ziebell and her Jimmie chat with Ward Francillon, National Research Committee Chairman



Charles "Mr. Harolover" Terwilliger (right) studies the wooden works movements on display along with Roger Holmberg and Bob Higgins



National Acting President Warner Bundens and his Dorothy



Rare American clocks on display at the 1976 National Convention



Bob Jacobs, Dr. Stephens Memorial Chapter, shows interest in the calendar clocks on display



Display Committee Chairman Dave Olson, LA Chapter, with his unique home-built timepiece



St. Louis Chapter's Paul Fleming checks out an item on display



Winners of the Mies-Weiss New Clock Contest (standing, left to right) Dave Olson, Marion White, Sterling Murdock, Don Miller. Seated, same order, Maynard Bell, W. Kilbourn and John Mies



Other Mies-Weiss New Clock Contest winners (standing, left to right) M. Monia, Ed Deveau, Len Rutlin. Seated, same order, Ted Burleigh, R. Hutton, and John Mies



The distinguished Henry B. Fried (left) and National Vice President Bill Simmons



Happy door prize winners at the 1976 Convention banquet



Mrs. Burleigh and her Ted, New England Chapter admire the masterpieces in the Mies-Weiss contest



Editors Rose Brandt (Mart) and Doug Shaffer (BULLETIN) engrossed in a serious discussion



Door Prize Chairman Art Sidler announces a lucky winner



Old Timers (usual order) Charlie Rosenberg, George Townsend and Adin Mathews



Vern Osborn, Orange County Chapter, and Bill Spry, Convention Mart Chairman



Mart Committee helps Jed and Chris Donahoe of the Orange County Chapter look great in their timely attire



Bill and Carol Darnell, Chairmen of Registration Committee



Buford and Tibby Tune of the Orange County Chapter



General Chairman for Convention 1976 Leo Saverns



NY Chapter's radiant Mrs. Brooks Palmer left) chats with Orange County Chapter's Marion Spry



Susan and Frank Drader with Bob Davidson, SoCal Chapter, find the display to be most educational



John Wilding, one of the featured speakers, discusses his hand-built skeleton clock with interested members



Dave Boyce, San Fernando Valley Chapter, with his home-built Vienna clocks and Act of Parliament clock



Len Rutlin (left) and Ed Deveau, NY Chapter, with their new-clock-contest prize winning pillar and scroll



Cog Counters Journal Editor Ward Francillon explains a wooden works movement to Cog Counters



Chicago Chapter's Don Miller puts final touches on his home-built acorn clock



Old Timers Charlie Snow (left) and National Past President Amos Avery



Orval and Mrs. Cooper, SoCal Chapter, recently celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary



Morgan Milner and Martha Smallwood of the Atlanta Chapter admire items in the display

(See next page for Door Prize Donors)