

## The Oregonian Clock

The building on the northwest corner of SW Sixth and Alder streets in downtown Portland, Oregon was home to the Oregonian Publishing Co. from 1892 to 1948. In the 138 foot tower of the building a four dial clock was installed. The clock was manufactured by The E. Howard Clock Co. of Boston, Mass. It is a Number 4 Heavy Duty Hour Striker, serial # 1629. It was shipped from the factory on September 30, 1892, along with four sectional dials 12 feet, six inches in diameter, glazed with salmon tinted plate glass. The list price at that time was \$1,7450.00. The pendulum is ten feet long with a 175 pound bob. The time weight now being used is 350 pounds. The dial now being used is 42 inches in diameter

By June 6, 1948, The Oregonian had completed their move out of the building to a new modern building at 1320 SW Broadway, and the old building was boarded up. In September, 1950, it was decided that the vacant building should be demolished. The plans of The Cleveland Wrecking Company were to sell the clock for scrap metal. Fortunately this news was picked up by Dr. Sam Graf, head of the engineering department at Oregon State College. Dr. Graf bought the clock for \$300 and had it moved to the college engineering laboratory. Due to a lack of space, Graf eventually stored the clock in his garage and later donated it to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, located in Portland, Oregon.

The clock was set up next to the Foucault pendulum in the lower level of the OMSI building then located in Washington Park. This is where it remained, sometimes running, mostly not running. In 1995, OMSI had moved out of the Washington Park building to their present site at 1945 SE Water Avenue. The clock was once again resting in a vacant building without a great looking future.

In January, 1996, Chapter #31 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, made an agreement with OMSI to restore the clock to running condition, providing that upon completion they would place the clock in an appropriate location for public display in the new building. The clock was completely dismantled and all parts were cleaned of years of grime, polished, and painted parts were repainted using original colors. Those parts that had gone missing over the years were faithfully reproduced. After over 2,000 hours of restoration, the clock was moved to the balcony of the Turbine Hall, where it is now running and striking in a glass enclosure.

Bob Schug