



**RICHARD WEIL** displays a clock which he says was used by the late Harry Orchard in an abortive attempt to assassinate the late Gov. Frank Steunenberg at the turn of the century. Orchard, who died in the state prison here some years ago, later carried out the assassination plot with a bomb planted under the gate of the governor's home at Caldwell.

# Murder Plot Time-Bomb Clock To Be Presented to Museum

By **ERNIE HOOD**

A macabre gift is about to be made to the state of Idaho.

It's an alarm clock with which the late Henry Orchard once intended to trigger a bomb beneath the bed of the late Gov. Frank Steunenberg in the Idanha hotel.

The owner, Richard Weil, 3205 Edgemore road, Boise clock fancier, said the 1898-made clock came into his possession as a personal gift from Orchard while the slayer was serving out his final years in the state prison here.

Weil became friendly with Orchard in about 1951 when the old slayer noticed Weil's 1915 model car while Weil drove in the area of the state prison, and remarked that cars of that vintage were about the last he remembered from his days of freedom.

### Clock Ticks Too Loudly

In making public his possession, Weil recalled that Orchard told him that he changed his mind in the hotel assassination attempt because of the loud ticking of the very same clock.

"Orchard said he had placed a dynamite bomb beneath the governor's bed, and had rigged a trigger contrivance to the clock which was hidden in a closet.

"As he started to leave the premises, Orchard said he could still hear the clock. He became fearful lest a janitor hear it, too, and he went back and removed the bomb, and clock," Weil said.

"It was a matter of a few months later that Orchard carried off his assassination with the bomb planted beneath the gate of the governor's home at Caldwell."

Weil said the clock is "still ticking away" and that "it keeps very good time."

### Used By Grandmother

He said the clock is being used by his grandmother, Mrs. J. T. Evans, 1019 Thatcher street.

Weil said that he is thinking

of presenting the clock to the state as a museum piece for the Idaho State Historical society, though no date has been set in that regard.

"It would be somewhat of a macabre gift," the Boisean admitted, "but it does represent an important moment in Idaho history.

"If that clock hadn't ticked too loudly, the Idanha hotel probably wouldn't be standing today . . . at least in its present form."

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