RICHARD WELL displays a clock which he said 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, planned 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 Idaho State Hotel.

The owner, Richard Well, Edgemoor Road, Boise, clock fancier, said the 1888-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.

Well became friendly with Orchard when he was a young lad and said he once saw an old clockmaker notice Well's 1915 model car while Well drove in the area of the state prison, and remarked that he could have been in the court of history if he had been a few years younger.

Clock Ticks Too Loudly

In making public his possession, Well 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 the clock to trigger convergence to the alarm which was hidden in a closet.

"As he started to leave the premises, Orchard said he could still hear the ticking, and became fearful lest a janitor hear it, too, and he went back re-moved the bomb, and clock," Well 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."

Well said the clock is "still ticking away" and that "it keeps very well and I am sure it will be of considerable interest to the public.

Used By Grandmother

The clock, which is being used by his grandmother, Mrs. I. T. Evans, 1939 "Thatcher Street, Boise, was said to be in rather poor condition but will be overhauled before being displayed."

Well 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," B intacted, "but it does represent an important moment in Idaho history.

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

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