

## A Folk Art Clock from Appalachia

by Paula Gammell

You can find all sorts of ordinary, functional items that someone turned into 'folk art' – including this clock.

It came to me in an estate I bought about 30 years ago. For a long time I wasn't particularly impressed with it. After all, it's just an ordinary 1950s-era alarm clock that someone placed in a slab of wood and then slapped some paint on.

Ah, but since then I have had a change of heart, and now it is one of my favorites!

Can you see the detail? At the peak is a face of... well... I really don't know who it is. At first I thought it might be Andrew Jackson. Now I'm thinking maybe Daniel Boone. I'm not really sure...

And the Indians. Can you see the Indians along the left side? One is shooting towards a cabin and the other is in full headdress. I doubt either are very historically accurate.

And that huge bear resembles a grizzly much more than it resembles our black bear. Oh, well; no matter.

I know some pieces of East Tennessee folk art can command high prices at auction. And I know this isn't one of them! But that's okay; I treasure it anyway!

By the way, there's a name and address on it. I suppose it's either the former owner or artist: W. S. Goble, Rt. 1, Holston, VA.

