

ELEVENTH ISSUE

-

AUGUST 1980

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND
CLOCK COLLECTORS

Diablo Valley Chapter #107
P. O Box 23315
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....John Sanderson.....937-6272
 V. PRESIDENT.....Fred Cuthill.....686-3144
 V. PRESIDENT.....Yen Kwan.....540-2201
 SECRETARY.....Doris Kroger.....284-5489
 TREASURER.....Jane Saville.....837-5589

DIRECTORS

Phil Russell.....229-2462
 Bob Gustafson.....687-3389
 Gareth Busher.....686-5983
 John Coulter.....254-0746
 Warren Hampton.....944-9380
 John North-Past President.....676-9188

CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN.....Dorothea Sanderson.....937-6272
 MEMBERSHIP...Don Giannini & Sandy Cuthill.937-0198
 REFRESHMENTS..Jim McElroy & Bill Corey...935-0462
 MART.....Harold Reed.....829-0651
 DISPLAY.....Joe Ford.....223-3415
 LIBRARY.....Sandy Cuthill.....686-3144
 PROGRAM.....Fred Cuthill & Yen Kwan.....686-3144
 FACILITIES.....Royal English.....937-9605
 NOMINATING/ELECTION.....John Coulter.....254-0746
 DRAWINGS.....John North.....676-9188
 PHOTOGRAPHERGareth Busher.....686-5983
 SUGGESTION BOX.....Andre Aldenhuysen

(Where the chair is shared, the telephone number of the first name listed, is shown.)

CHAPTER MOTTO: Accent on Education

Statements of opinion or fact made by authors of articles appearing in the Chapter publication are to be accepted as the author's own; the Chapter assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or correctness of any statements of its contributors.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of you who were at the last meeting saw our new large display case. It was donated to our Chapter for use at meetings, and will make a fine display for the 1982 Regional (it's not too early to think about that). I, personally, am sorry that we can't acknowledge and publicly thank the maker, but he wanted to remain anonymous. It's a valued and usefull gift and we appreciate it.....Thanks!

After the mixup over the location of our last meeting, it's a pleasure to report that we will be back in our old "home" on August 10th. The Recreation Center sends its apologies.

There were three suggestions in the Suggestion Box last meeting. The first suggested that we have a program talk about home alarm systems. Since our by laws call for the programs to be planned a year in advance, we have placed this idea on our list of alternate programs, which list, if not used in the meantime, will be turned over to the next president. I think this is an excellent topic, and ask that any of you who have knowledge of alarm systems or know an expert who would give us a talk, to contact the program committee chairmen. The second suggestion asked for information on how to mark one's clocks for identification purposes. Please come to the August meeting prepared to tell us your system. The third suggested a Chapter Patch. The Executive Committee discussed this at our last meeting, and decided that Chapter Funds would not support such an expenditure at this time.

President's Message Cont'd

It's a pleasure to announce that Phil Russell has agreed to replace Harold Reed as Director. Harold resigned due to his transfer to the East Coast.

The Executive Committee also voted that the best display items brought to each meeting would receive a free drawing ticket. See John North for details.

The Committee also discussed at length the establishment of Chapter policy on pro-ration of dues. We resolved that new membership dues would be halved beginning with the August meeting. In other words, a new member joining any time before August would have to pay the full annual dues. If he joined during August or later, he would pay one half the annual amount.

In this issue, is Jack Coulter's message regarding next year's officers. I urge you to take his "pitch" to heart for only in this way can we keep the viable chapter of which we are so proud.

I look forward to seeing you in August.



ATTENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at Bob Gustafson's house at 7:30 pm, Wednesday August 27th. ANY MEMBER, and especially Committee Chairmen, is welcome, and indeed urged to come to our next meeting. You'll enjoy seeing Bob's clocks anyway. Your input is needed and appreciated. Call Bob at 687-3389 for directions. We hope to see some of you there!

Diable Valley Chapter #107 meeting schedule is the second Sunday in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. (The specific dates remaining in 1980 are: August 10th, October 12th, and December 14th.)

Our December meeting is devoted to election and installation of officers, mart, display and "Pot Luck" Luncheon and Social.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!!



JULIA WARDA

WAYNE DELAROCHE

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US!

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 10, 1980

Mart set-up: 11:30 to 12:00

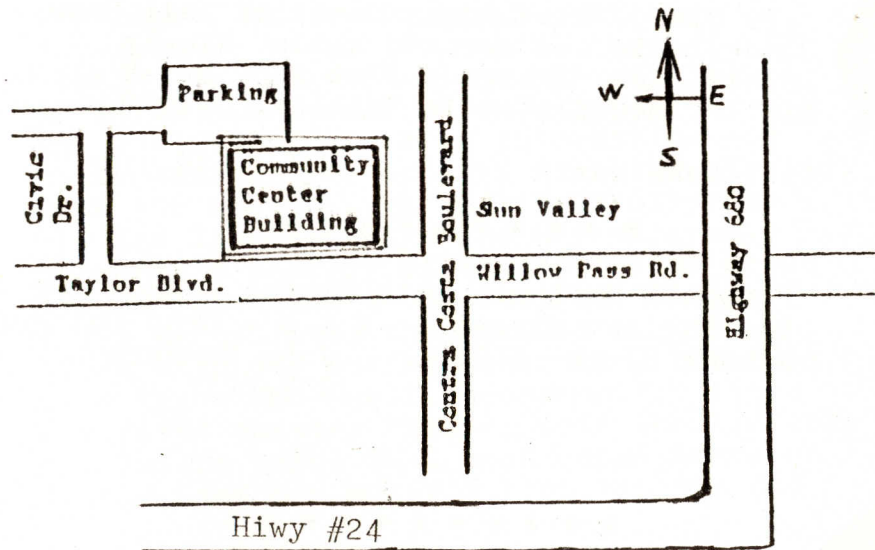
Mart Opens: 12:00 Noon

Meeting Begins: 1:00pm

DISPLAY THEME: WATCH AND CLOCK ADVERTISING AND MEMORABILIA - bring wood, tin, enamel and paper items.

PROGRAM: AT THE BENCH!
with
Scott Hampton and Lissa Hallberg

PLACE: Pleasant Hill Community Center
350 Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, California



FOR SALE

ADVERTISING IN THE BULLETIN IS FREE TO OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS. WE WILL ACCEPT ADVERTISING FROM NAWCC MEMBERS OUTSIDE OUR LOCAL CHAPTER AT A FEE OF \$ 5.00 1/2 page, and \$10.00 FOR A FULL PAGE. SEND YOUR ADS TO DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER #107, BOX 23315, PLEASANT HILL, CALIFORNIA 94523

MEMBERSHIP IN OUR CHAPTER IS \$10.00 per YEAR.

Anniversary clock dome 11x5 1/2 - Glass \$6.00

*

Brass Hour glass - New - 30 minute or one hour \$26.00

Call Scott Hampton 283-4720

J.P. Glass, Alexandria Scottish Tall Case Clock, date and seconds hands. Nicely inlaid case, Mahogany Flat Top, Break Arch Dial C.1840 Listed in Baillie. \$1950.

Call John North 676-9188

Plymouth Hollow - Seth Thomas - Made for the English Market - T & S - Drop Optogon School Clock \$ 285. John Sanderson 937-6272

TICK FEVER

Today's collector is deluged with new books. And a good thing it is, too; extensive and continuing research and publication keeps any discipline vital. But how to know which book is worthwhile? Quality and author's approach vary widely. What is of value to one collector may be of no interest to another.

Recently I read a nice little volume, Collector's Guide to Antique American Clocks, by Marvin D. Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz, basically an art historian, is a consultant and lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. His book reflects a scholarly and eclectic background. His approach leans to description of case styles. He takes us through development of the American clock from earliest times to the 1950's. Words such as Queen Anne, Chippendale, Sheraton, Classical, Empire, Gothic, Romanesque, Egyptian, Eastlake, Art Nouveau, Craftsman's and Art Deco flow through the book's 175 pages. Schwartz gives good tips on recognizing a clock's period through its design and I particularly appreciate his positive acceptance of each type, style and quality of clock as interesting and collectable. The book is well illustrated, with 106 mostly high quality photographs. The few line drawings are not as good. Schwartz's mastery of the technical areas leaves something to be desired. At one point he confuses the escapement of a clock with its strike mechanism, referring to a "rack and snail escapement". Also, his first chapter "Basic Facts About Clocks" has little value in a book about American clocks, and his maker's list, at the end

of the book, is wasted ink in my opinion. It is 15 pages of names and dates which give single dates for makers in some cases and dates of birth and death in others, without explanation. Certainly Palmer's lists, Baillie's, and the specialized area clock books are of much more value in this respect.

But Mr. Schwartz has not given us just a picture book or a grind-em-out-for-money book for the unsophisticated. I see his work as a valuable addition to any serious collector's library. Its style-oriented approach is a welcome variation from the equally valuable technical and photographic example books that should also be in your library.

Collector's Guide to Antique American Clocks - History, Style and Identification. 175 pp., Doubleday. Marvin D. Schwartz, copyright 1975. \$7.95.

John North

COMMITTEE REPORTS

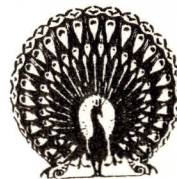
DISPLAY

Our display theme this month should prove interesting. Perhaps you have some original boxes that either watches or clocks were sold in, or jewelry made out of watch parts. Watch fobs, chains, pins fall into this category as well as the lovely old keys.

Reproduction catalogues on clocks, watches or jewelry, connected with watches, are welcome. Make sure your name is on your display item.

You will all recall that in April our Display Theme was Dollar Watches. We had a contest to determine the best time keeper. Naturally Yen Kwan expected to win! Many of you left before the alarm went off and did not know who the winner of the prize (a book on dollar watches) was. Much to Yen's amazement he didn't win it. John Sanderson (basically a clock man) won it. He read his new book from cover to cover and graciously donated it to our Library.

I understand from John, his prize-winning watch is now for sale!



The Phantom Turkey

Volunteer - it doesn't require all that much: six chapter meetings and perhaps four or five Executive Committee meetings a year. Seek me out at the August meeting, call me up - or contact any of the other officers. It's our chapter and we have to do the work

Jack Coulter

* * * * *

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We guess that we took it for granted that everyone knew Scott and Lissa; but at our last executive board meeting someone asked who they were. So-----

Here's Scott and Lissa

They operate the Old Timer clock shop in Lafayette. They are two of the founding members of our chapter. They have graciously given their time and talents to any task requested by their chapter.

At this time the program committee would like to thank them for their work and support for the past years.

P.S. Anyone interested in giving a program for the following year, please contact Fred or Yen and we will pass this information on to the upcoming program Committee.

Thank you.



of CTION
T'

The Constitution and By-laws of our chapter set forth the following rules and procedure:

"The elected officers are: President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and 5 directors. Their terms are one year each except the Directors, who serve for two years. No officers shall serve two consecutive terms in the same office."

This year, we will elect two Directors in addition to the President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.

At the August meeting the Nominations and Elections Committee calls for nominations. There are two procedures for nomination.

1. the Nominations Committee prepares a list of candidates for all offices
2. Nomination by petition.

The petition(s) must be signed by at least 10% of the paid-up membership as of the August meeting (72 members as of July), and must be in the hands of the Nominating Committee on or before November 1.

The Nominating Committee publishes their list of candidates in the October bulletin. The ballot, with all candidates listed, is mailed out with the December meeting notice.

SO MUCH FOR RULES! The point is - it takes people to make the chapter go. The Constitution deliberately limits the term of office so that more people will have the opportunity - and the obligation - to serve. The people who organized this chapter didn't want cliques, and they knew the short life expectancy of an organization that depends on a few willing people to carry the load, year after year. So

LIBRARY

ATTENTION

Your library is really moving!

At the last meeting several books and bulletins were taken out. Also, we took in some more books, and have been promised others for the October meeting. Thanks to all donors, past, current, and future. A complete list of all books available will be provided in the December bulletin. See you at the table!!!!

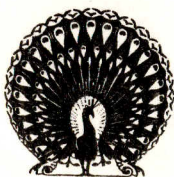
Sandy

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP

If you did not fill out one of our new membership forms at the last meeting, please do so next time.

As we indicated last month, some of the questions may seem irrelevant, but they are designed to help us in programming, workshops, bringing out talents, and those people who are interested in participating in chapter organization. It is particularly important at this time since Jack Coulter is looking for people who WANT to get involved. So don't forget to answer the question, "Are you willing to accept an office."



The Phantom Turkey

16th Century Horological Trivia

As every school child knows, Queen Isabella of Spain, sold her jewels to finance Christopher Columbus' famous voyage in 1492.

Fredinand and Isabella's son, born in 1500, became the Emperor Charles V, and acquired a far flung empire. He was also a religious zealot, determined to stamp out protestantism.

He retired in middle age to a monastery and left the throne to his son Phillip II. In his retirement, he spent hours watching Torriani at his clock and mechanical toys, and became a proficient craftsman. It is said that he learned tolerance from his clocks. In spite of his proficiency, his clocks would never strike in unison, and he fell into asking himself whether it were possible to force men's minds into accord, when he failed to accomplish this perfect precision with wheels and pinions over which he had apparent control.

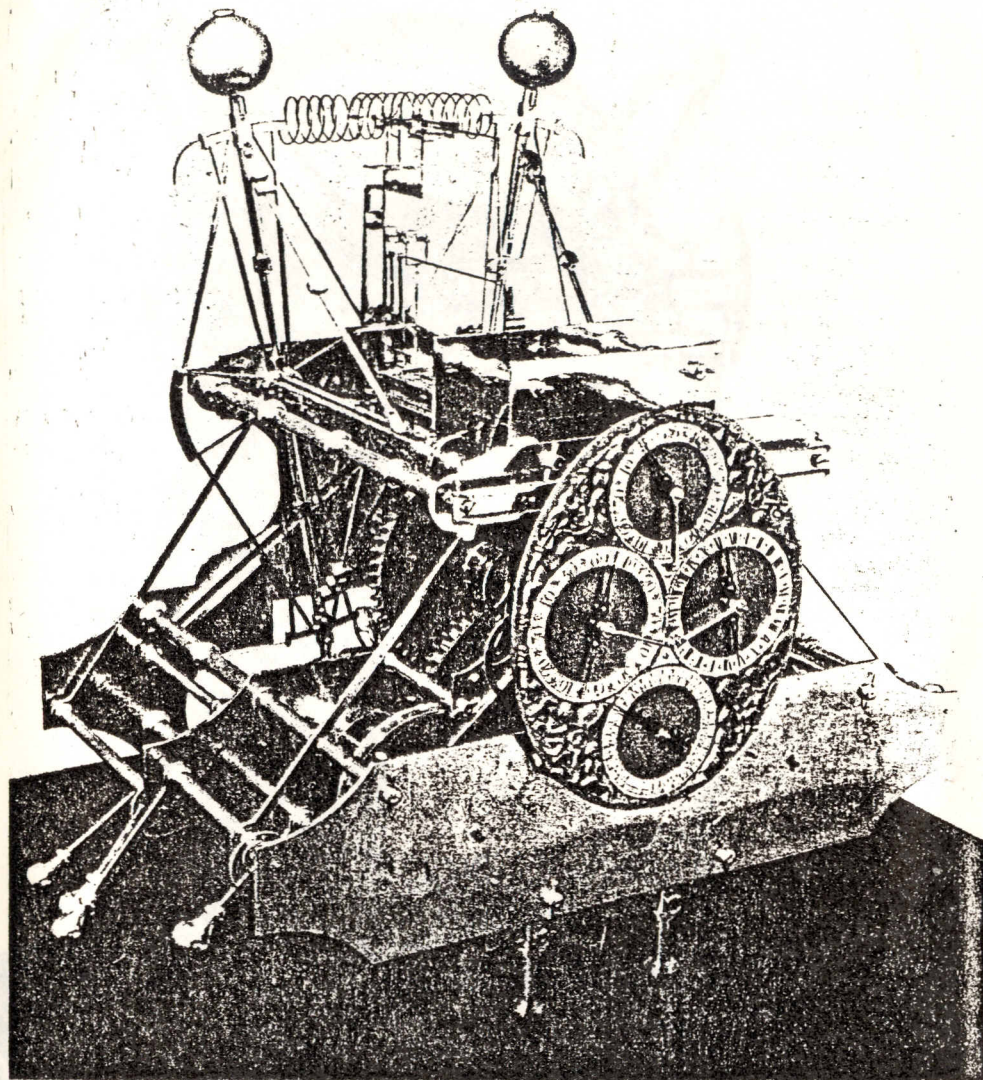
John Sanderson
John Sanderson

THE MARINE CHRONOMETER MAN - John Harrison

The Act of Queen Anne was passed about the time Harrison built his first clock. This act established a reward for who "shall discover a more certain and practicable Method of Ascertaining the Longitudeand the said Reward be proportioned to the Degree of Exactness...". The reward was in three levels, £ 10,000 if the error in navigation was under 60 miles, £ 15,000 if it was under 40, and £ 20,000 if under 30. The details of the testing were set forth, and a Board was established to administer the prize.

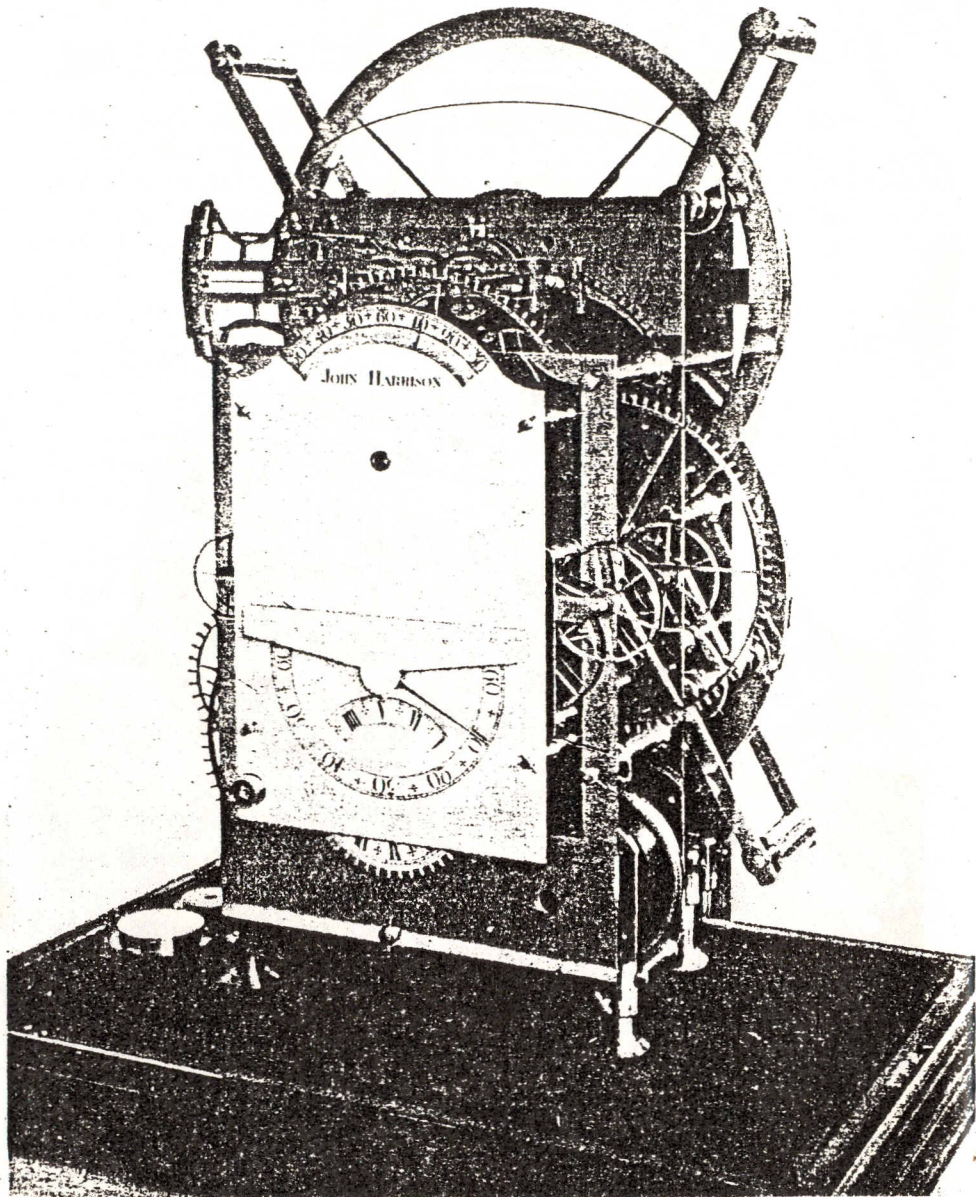
Just when Harrison decided to compete for the longitude prize, we don't know, but in approximately 1730, he made a trip to London (a formidable journey in those days) to secure an interview with the Board of Longitude. He gained the interest of Dr. Halley (of comet fame) who introduced him to George Graham, then a respected clock-maker at the peak of his fame. The discussion apparently didn't go very well for Harrison reports "Mr. Graham began as I thought very roughly with me, and the which had like to have occasioned me to become rough too, but however, we got the ice broke...". It must have been quite an interview...the rough country carpenter with revolutionary ideas about a "sea clock" and the polished educated Londoner and successor to Thompion.

He didn't get an interview with the Board. Graham loaned Harrison money and gave him encouragement, as did Dr. Halley, but both apparently urged him to return to Barrow and build his sea clock. Then he could come back with something tangible to show the Board.



John Harrison's 'Sea-clock' (H.1). Completed in 1735 it was the first successful portable time-keeper ever to be made. In size it is approximately 3 feet high, wide and deep. The top dial indicates seconds; those in the middle show minutes on the left and hours on the right. The lowest dial indicates the day of the month. H.1 is now exhibited at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.

the correct time). He therefore was content to ask that his new time piece, H.2, when completed, be given the test on a voyage to the West Indies. Ironically, H.1, today, performs at a rate that would have qualified for the full £ 20,000 prize!



John Harrison's third longitude timekeeper (H.3) which took him nineteen years to complete. It has inter-connected circular balances, and is fitted with the earliest known example of a bi-metallic strip or curb, which was invented by John Harrison to compensate for variations of temperature. H.3 is now exhibited at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.

THE MARINE CHRONOMETER MAN - Cont'd

Harrison, now 44, needed money to continue. The Board, driving a hard bargain, agreed to advance £ 500, but only £250 now and the remainder when H.2 was completed and put on board ship. They also demanded that H.1 be turned over to them to become the property of the nation even though they had not financed any of its construction.

Two years later H.2 was completed, but was never tested at sea. Harrison discovered "The ballances of my second Machine, are from their Figure or Construction unfit for their intended purpose..." and this defect was discovered "before my second was ever put in motion, it happened by an accidental experiment". In addition, he had almost finished H.3 which would be provided with a new form of balance, circular in shape. (See Illustration) Note that two circular balances replace the dumbell used in H.1 and H.2. In addition, he employed a bi-metallic curb (his invention) for temperature compensation. This device makes use of the principle that brass expands to a greater extent than steel for a given rise in temperature. He took a thin strip of each metal and rivetted them together along their whole length to make one solid piece. Then he attached one end of the strip to the clock and placed two "jaws" or pins to the other between which one turn of the balance spring fitted. When the brass strip expanded more under a rise in temperature than the steel strip, the whole bi-metallic strip became curved and altered the position of the "jaws" on the balance spring. The action is exactly the same as when the regulator of a modern watch is moved by hand to Fast or Slow. Harrison's, however, was automatic.

THE MARINE CHRONOMETER MAN - Contd

The whole process of experimentation and adjustment of H.3 was complicated by the inaccessibility of the mechanism. Commander Gould, who overhauled H.3 in the 20th century, took seven years to do the job. He reported that a simple adjustment which entailed taking the "chronometer" apart and reassembling it again, took eight hours. Consider, if you will, Harrison's frustrations when he performed the task hundreds of times..adding testing time as well!!! Errors in timekeeping due to lack of isochronism were to keep Harrison working on H.3 for nineteen years!!

(End of part II - to be continued)

John Sanderson



Folks, remember that the Suggestion Box is for your benefit. It appears at every meeting for your use so that you can be heard at our Executive Committee meetings. The suggestions from the box are always discussed, and a report made in the Bulletin or announced at the next meeting.

HINTS

Will Crites, who spoke to us about bugs in your clocks, sent up an article from his "Pest Control Journal" Q/A column on beetles in a clock. The question was in regard to using DDVP bombs to kill the infestation. The answer was that it will kill the adults, but will not penetrate the wood. An alternative would be to treat with Lindane or pentachlorophenol formulation but that such preparations will usually damage the finished surfaces. He went on to say that a competent fumigator is the best bet!

Dorothea



EDITORS CORNER

The second year of the existence of our Bulletin is fast drawing to a close. We have two regular contributors besides your president and your editor - John North and Joe Ford. (I have a delightful article from Joe and Ginny which will appear in the next issue). Committee Chairmen should report to the membership REGULARLY. We rule by committee and the membership should be kept informed by the Secretary and the chairmen.

If we are to have a viable bulletin (and a good deal of your dues money goes to the expense of the Bulletin) we must have submissions from the membership and not leave it to a few hard working people. No questions, no hints, no articles, no wants, no for sales, no bulletin. It's as simple as that.

