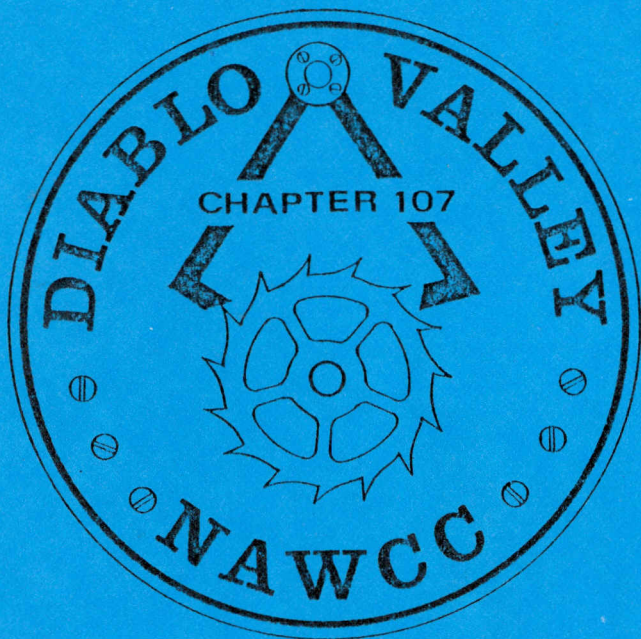

DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER #107 BULLETIN 12



TWELVTH ISSUE

OCTOBER 1980

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK
COLLECTORS

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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.....Dorothea Sanderson.....937-6272
 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.....Scott Grabill.....825-1984
 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 Aldenhuisen

(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

The executive Committee had a busy time at the last meeting! We voted on several changes in procedure which should help speed entry to our meetings in addition to lessening the record keeping. This will allow everyone to participate in the Mart as soon as it opens. Here they are

Next year, 1981, the Mart will be free. We will continue the free arrangement as long as practical. In addition to that, there will be no "sign up" at the door. Your membership card will serve as a name tag and we will provide clear plastic holders with pins. This saves your membership committee the trouble of writing names of each member prior to each meeting.

There will be a change in the refreshment donation also. Dues will go to \$15.00 per member, will INCLUDE refreshments. Guests will still have to pay \$1.00 which can be paid a year in advance if they wish at \$5.00. No charge for children under 18 years old. Hopefully this will encourage a better Mart lessen a burden on committee volunteers and eliminate most of the red tape. We also voted to have a silent auction as a regular feature of our meetings. More about that later.

You may know of the Bulletin that was put out by the Chapter in San Fernando Valley. It had a wide circulation and has been around for many years. Sadly, the last issue was it's last. The Chapter could not stand the expense. Obviously, your Officers and Directors are determined not to let that happen to our fine publication. Although the Editor will tell you I'm her severest critic, I am proud of our publication and urge you to keep it healthy by contributing to it.

Our suggestion box had only one suggestion at the end of our last meeting. The conversational noise level during the program made it difficult for some people to hear the discussion. I therefore


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd

ask you to refrain from talking to your friends during the program or if the subject matter is "old hat" to you, please step outside during the program. By the way, if it is "old hat" we would welcome your suggestion- for more stimulating programs. It is, after all, your Chapter.

Doris Kroger has asked that we accept her resignation from the Secretary's job for personal reasons. I'm truly sorry this was necessary for I enjoyed working with Doris and trust she will feel able to serve us again soon. Dorothea Sanderson has agreed to save me the trouble of finding another "volunteer" by filling out the remainder of Doris' 1980 term.

I'm still dizzy from the Regional last week. What a marvelous chance for a clock nut to steep himself in the clock world!!!

See you in October!



John Sanderson

ATTENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at John Coulter's house at 7:30 pm, Tuesday October 28th. ANY MEMBER, and especially COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, is welcome, and indeed urged to come to our next meeting. He has some respectable clocks that you would enjoy seeing too! We need all the input we can get! If you can make it, call John for directions at 254-0746

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Diablo 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 the year are October 12th, and December 14th.

Our December meeting is devoted to election and installation of officers, mart, display, possibly a demonstration, lots of talk about clocks and watches. The main feature is our "Pot Luck" luncheon. It gives us a chance to show off our best dishes, and sample some new ones!

* * * * *

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS !!!!!!!

Charles R. Nelson
Davis Podhunter

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US!!!!!!

* * * * *

MEETING DATE: October 12 1980

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

Meeting Begins: 1:00pm

DISPLAY THEME: NOVELTY CLOCKS NOT OVER 1
FOOT SQUARE

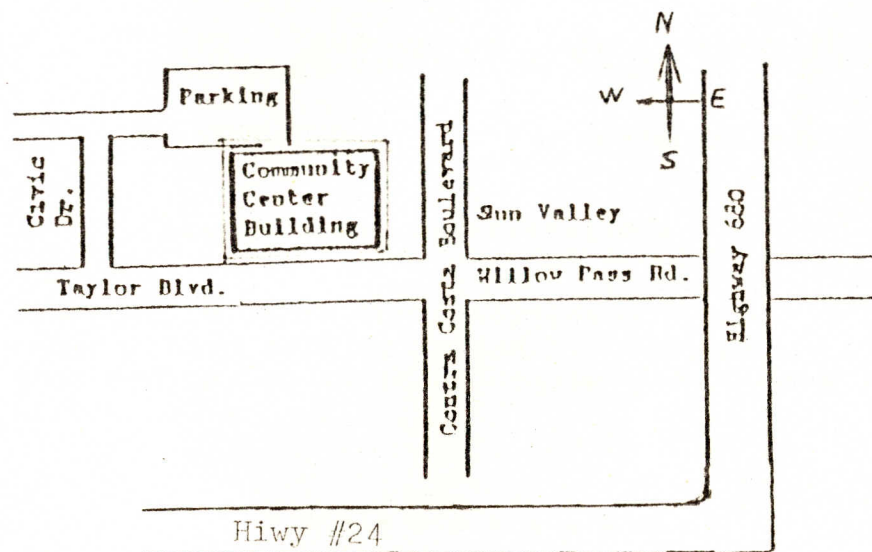
PROGRAM: CLOCK AND MUSIC BOX RESTORATION
IN LONDON.

By: Karl Kochmann

DEMONSTRATION: GLASS CUTTING

By: Royal English

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.

Blick Time Clock - there weren't many at the regional! \$350.

Passing Strike skeleton clock C1900 English \$1025.

Sonora Chimes - Seth Thomas - Has been restored \$375.

Silvering Powder one packet \$5.

John Sanderson 937-6272

* * * * *

FOR SALE

Several nice clocks for sale - from shelf clocks to tall case.

John North 676-9188

MUSIC Box C. 1850 Key Wind - jewelled - plays 6 tunes. Original song sheet - nicely inlaid. \$2,100.

John Sanderson 937-6272

SURELY SOMEONE HAS SOMETHING TO SELL!

Use your Bulletin for advertising. Our members have sold or traded by means of this medium, so it is effective and it does work!

WANTS

Clockwork mechanical dolls and toys!

Karl Walker 532-0984

* * * * *

"Shop Regulator" case or parts thereof
especially top and/or bottom.

Scott Grabill 825-1984

* * * * *

Someone to veneer a miniature O.G.

Ginny & Joe Ford 223 3415

* * * * *

HELP WITH YOUR WANTS!

I will be on the East Coast until Mid 1982...
So - if I can help you locate that special
American clock (s), let me know.

David L. Morgan
Box 6078
Bridgewater, Twp. New Jersey
#08807

* * * * *

I need a Seth Thomas #2 Regular or similar
one wt. American .

Leon Jaussaud 825-5836

FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN.....

ELECTION COMMITTEE

This is to remind you that "nominations by petition"
for the election of chapter officers for 1981 must be
in the hands of the Nominating Committee by November
1, 1980. We will elect a President, two Vice-Presidents,
Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors. Nominations
by petition must be signed by 10% of the membership
(72 members)

Jack Coulter

Jack Coulter

* * * * *

DISPLAY CHAIRMAN

SHOW AND TELL

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW OFF SOME OF YOUR GOODIES.
The display for our October meeting will be Novelty
clocks, Iron fronts, Carriage clocks, andy unusual
clocks...The catch is, they can't be over one square
foot! Please be prepared to give a short explanation
of your display!

Joe Ford

* * * * *

A MAN WITH ONE WATCH KNOWS WHAT TIME IT IS. A
MAN WITH TWO WATCHES IS NEVER SURE.....

FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN Cont'd

DRAWING CHAIRMAN

So far the drawing is just on the plus side of break-even, as planned. If it is to go on with good prizes, we need two things

BUY PLENTY OF TICKETS
GET GOOD GIFTS DONATED

Ruby Wagner, manager of Marshall-Swartchild 657 Mission St., San Francisco, has donated several nice books and tools. Those of you with contacts at other material houses can help by asking them to donate. Thanks for your support!!!!

John North



LIBRARY CHAIRMAN

The Library is really getting some action!!! Doners for the last two meetings are:

- Karl Cochmann
- Jack Coulter
- John Sanderson
- Jim McElroy
- Fred Cuthill
- Phil Russell
- Joe and Ginny Ford
- Iolha Schnell

Full list of books in the library to be in the December Bulletin.

See you in October!!!!

Sandy Cuthill

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Our program this month will be given by Karl Kochmann. Karl is one of our Charter Members who has given many programs before for chapters all over the area. As a matter of fact, our Chapter's FIRST program was given by Karl.

Karl is an expert on Black Forest Clocks and has written several books. His book on trademarks has become a standard reference book for collectors, and he has donated copies of all his books to our Chapter library.

Karl, your work for our Chapter is very much appreciated! Thank you!

Fred Cuthill

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MART CHAIRMAN

October Mart theme "Bring a Bargain"!!!!

Everyone comes looking for a bargain so if everyone brings one more folks will go home with one.

MART TABLES \$1.00 (or sections thereof pro-rated)

Scott Grabill

* * * * *

MY LITTLE BASTARD

Webster's College Dictionary defines "bastard" as "illegitimate:irregular or of questionable origin; not genuine; of a similar kind, but inferior". I would rather not call my little shelf clock "bastard" because I don't believe it to be any of those things----yet, it most certainly does not qualify as a COLLECTORS ITEM. Maybe someday it will-----maybe not. Only TIME will tell.

Webster says "illegitimate" means unlawfull; not so, my little orphan clock; irregular or of questionable origin?? The well known names my small friend has inherited speak for themselves. Not genuine, you say--- but how can three famous clock makers be anything less! Inferior? Never! To survive a hundred years of turmoil, disaster and near total destruction seems far superior to me.

This is the story of an old clock, or rather the story of three old clocks that somehow got torn apart from their original beginnings.

What happened to my little clock? How did it all begin? what story lies engrained in the smooth wood of the Seth Thomas case? What tales of adventure could the New Haven works tell us? What ghosts are hidden in the gong of E. Ingraham & Co.?

A hundred years ago, the heart of my clock, the New Haven movement, was new. It left the factory in New Haven with it's own shiny case and gong, and took it's place on a shelf in a home filled with warmth and love and happy children.

Not far away in Thomaston, a clock case, not unlike many others, left the Seth

MY LITTLE BASTARD.....Cont'd

Thomas factory fitted with it's own movement and gong; a beautiful case of rosewood veneer, admired and bought by a farmer who placed it proudly on his mantel for all to see and hear and enjoy.

About the same period of time, another clock was being made in Bristol by E. Ingraham & Co. with a very similar case and movement and a wonderful sounding gong; almost like the sound of wedding bells. That sound won the hearts of a young couple traveling to a new life in a new state.

Now, the New Haven works survived a hundred years of wear and tear, but alas, the shiny new case was destined for disaster. Can you picture a small boy, his curiosity getting the best of him, standing on a chair to reach the clock on the shelf---- not quite tall enough yet---reaching---reaching--then--CRASH! Well, Father said it could be repaired; in fact, he found the movement still in running condition, but the case would need much gluing and re-finishing. "Put it away for now," he said. "I will fix it later." And so it was placed in a drawer, later shoved in a closet and then relegated to the attic. With the passing of time, the case was finally thrown away, with the gong still attached to the backboard. But some how that works was saved through the generations until it came into the hands of someone who cared---womeone who liked to fix old clocks.

The little Seth Thomas clock sat on the farmer's mantel for many years and found a dual purpose in it's lifetime. It became--of all things---a hiding place; first for small coins hidden by the farmer's wife for birthdays and Christmas; then some paper money, which began to hinder its works, stopping the pendulum and bending the

Carefully and with great precision, the clock man cleaned and repaired the New Haven movement so it was shiny and accurate. The E. Ingraham gong was placed in the Seth Thomas case and the wood veneer cleaned and polished 'till it looked like new. Everything fit so perfectly---even to the wind holes in the happy new face. He was very proud. When someone rebuilds one hundred years of useful life into a product, they have a right to be proud. Yes, the clockmaker was very proud---and very poor. Much as he wanted to keep his labor of love, he finally sold it to a small antique shop, tucked away on an unsightly street in a small Ohio town.

There I found it, sitting in a gloomy corner, covered with dust, a lonely spider spinning his web from one corner against the wall. It wasn't running but the shop keeper assured me it would. He wound it, started the pendulum to swinging and turned the hands to strike the hour. That lovely sound---old, but clear and melodious, a little sad and a little mysterious. I wandered around the shop but kept returning to the little clock. The brown, flaking paper inside said Seth Thomas alright, but something different was on the gong. I turned it to the light---there it was: E. Ingraham & Co. A marriage! I should have known. Too Bad. I mulled over a few more items in the shop and started to leave, when that sad, old sound struck the half hour. There was no hesitation; only a small amount of bargaining and the clock was mine.

When we got home, my clock and I, it was clear to see a very fine finish lay under the coat of dust. Only when my husband examined the movement did we find it to be what I fondly call MY LITTLE BASTARD.

coil. It was handed down from father to son--son to daughter-- farmhuse to farmhouse. But other clocks came into this family, more elaborate clocks that showed the prosperity of each generation, and the little mantel clock did not (and was not expected to) run anymore. Instead, it became a very safe place not only for money but receipts, documents, and even love letters. It was only natural that sooner or later the works were removed and thrown away, giving more room for the papers stored behind its door. The face became bent and dirty and finally discarded; a picture was pasted on the glass to hide the secrets within. After many years passed, there were no more papers or money or farmhouses; only an empty clock case, that eventually found its' way to the same loving hands that cared for the New Haven movement.

That little E. Ingraham & Co. clock suffered tragedy too, as it moved across the plains and mountains with the happy young couple. It made its' home with them in a new land and was loved mostly for its' lovely sound ---until the fire that demolished the happy home and the beautiful clock. In the ashes they found a piece of the backboard with the gong still attached---a little scorched, but still in one piece. And because it had been part of such a happy sound, the young wife kept it, often telling her children of that first clock; and they told their children as the gong was passed on to them, each adding a little more warmth and love to the story of the clock with the beautiful sound. Time, however, can silence many memories and many stories. So it was to be forgotten; the rusty gong at last tossed into a box of tools, bolts and nuts and sold at a flea market---and bought by that same someone who cared.

MY LITTLE BASTARD.....Cont'd

Needless to say my spouse laughed long and heartily at me for buying such an outcast.

But he doesn't laugh anymore when he hears the constant, even tick and the regular, always on time, strike. He doesn't laugh when he tells friends how well it runs and points out the beauty of its' case. We both love it and it looks warm and happy sitting on its' own little shelf again for all to see and admire.

MY LITTLE BASTARD has finally earned a position of respect, hopefully for the next hundred years. Somewhere, there will always be a mantel, a table or a shelf for this little offspring of a very unique tripple marriage.

Virginia Ford

PS: My clock is for real, but its' history is strictly a figment of my imagination. When it comes to clocks, I am a true sentimentalist. Perhaps other members feel the same way.

V.F.

* * * * *

TICK FEVER

Ethics and esthetics of clock restoring. That's a tricky subject and I don't mean maybe. How many times have you looked at a clock and thought "It doesn't seem right"?

And in today's world you were probably correct; it wasn't right. Everywhere one looks there are marriages, patchwork "restorations", fakes and reproductions not labeled as such.

The ethics of restoration say to me that a restoration should be just that - restoring to as near original as possible. A restoration should be labeled as such, and by that I mean written in ink or carved into the case. What is restoration anyway and what is faking? As one author says, "Building a new drawer front for an antique chest is legitimate restoration. But building a new antique chest for an old drawer front is not." How about building a new clock and case for a fine old pair of hands?

No, there are limits beyond which we should not go. Some authorities are purists. They say we should use the old hot hide glue to be authentic. And in a sense they are right; a museum piece should be so treated. But I have a hard time accepting that degree of purism for the average clock. So does it boil down to keeping the very valuable and rare clock all original and not worrying too much about lesser specimens? I sure don't have all the answers.

Since I used esthetics in the title, I had better say something on it. I hate to see over-restoration to the point that a clock looks new. Particularly, I dislike replacement of honest old dials worn with age, brass polished like the day it was made and wood with no patina. I would much rather see a cracked original glass than a replacement and a new reproduction paper glued in seems dishonest as well as unsightly. Too much perfection in an antique makes me uncomfortable.

What are your ideas on restoration? Let me know briefly in writing and one of these days I'll put together another TICK FEVER with your input.

Good Collecting,

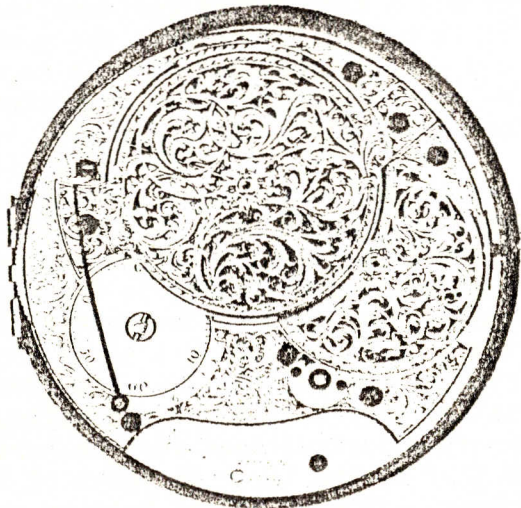
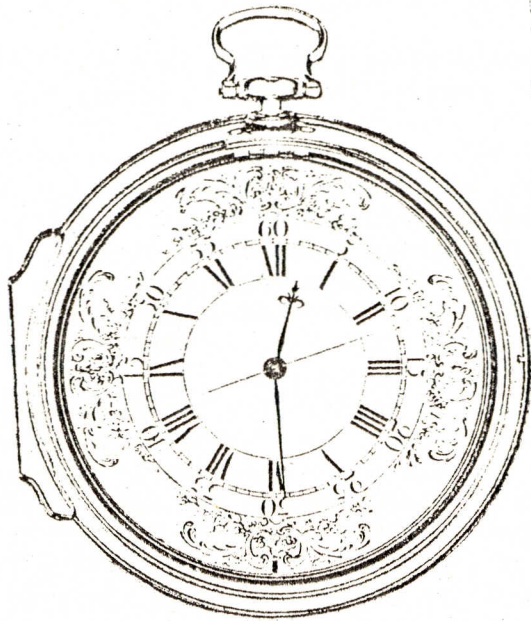
A handwritten signature in ink, appearing to be 'John Harrison', written over the typed name 'John Harrison'.

THE MARINE CHRONOMETER MAN...PART III

While still experimenting with H-3, Harrison commenced constructing, or causing to be constructed, two watches, and so informed the Board of Longitude. The first is known as the Jeffry's watch and was a small pocket watch. Jeffreys, who did the actual construction had an apprentice named Larcum Kendall (later to figure prominently in the Marine Chronometer story). The second was a very large watch eventually known as H-4 (see illustration). Harrison appealed to the board in 1757, stating that H-3 was finished, but his work on it had prevented him from completing the watches due to lack of funds. The board allowed H-3 to remain in Harrison's care "for further adjustment", and awarded him L 1,500 for further work. Harrison was always short of money and did try fund raising methods other than "begging" from the Board. At one point, hearing of a L50 prize to be given at a local fair for the invention of the best hand operated corn milling machine, he invented one and entered the contest. He reports,...."He worked it too hard and it broke and was rejected".

Three years later, out of funds, Harrison again appealed to the Board of Longitude, stating that H-3 was ready for the West Indies test. He added, however, that the voyage should be postponed until after winter so he could perfect H-4's temperature compensation (low confidence level in H-3 ?). He needed the greater range of heat and cold in the winter to do so. Then, he suggested, H-3 and H-4 could both be tested; he lastly asked for and received another L 500.

The Commissioners agreed to the test, and stipulated that William Harrison, John's son, should take H-3 to Portsmouth and there await instructions regarding another ship on which he should sail to the West Indies. Meanwhile John would remain in London putting the finishing touches on H-4 and join his son in Portsmouth. William would conduct the test as John was then 67 years old. William sailed for Portsmouth and waited...and waited. The promised instructions for the test did not come. It seems that in the first 25 years of its existence, the Board had no clerical help to organize its paperwork and being a volunteer group, each member with



his own business to conduct, things were in a sorry state. That is why the following item appears in their minutes in 1762:

"...that all the Minutes and Papers since the first appointment of Commissioners of the Longitude to the present day, are in great disorder and confusion, there never having been any person appointed to take charge of the same. And it being of great consequence that the said Minutes and Papers should be forthwith digested and put into the best method their present disordered state will admit of. And for the future some fit person should be appointed to them at their meetings to take minutes, write letters and transact such other business as may occur."

You can imagine the Harrisons' state after William's fruitless stay in Portsmouth (at his hown expense).

Finally, the Royal Society furnished a plan which was adopted by the Board of Longitude:

1. The timekeepers would be set prior to sailing.
2. Witnesses would be present whenever the time-pieces were wound during the voyage.
3. An astronomer would go along to determine local time in Jamaica when they arrived.

Difficulty arose from the start. Upon arrival, the astronomer could not take a reading due to weather conditions, and they were told that they could not sail back to England for 6 months. (in all probability the war with Spain had something to do with the captain's instructions). Never-the-less, the astronomer set up his equipment and took as satisfactory a reading of the sun as was possible. It was a good thing he did. That evening the plans changed and they were told that they could sail for England in two days if they were ready. Faced with the choice of two days or six months in Jamaica, they decided to rely on the data obtainable in the next two days. Alas, weather prevented any reading of the sun the next day, and on the following day, they sailed.

THE MARINE CHRONOMETER MAN.....Cont'd

The return voyage was miserable. William reports, "We had the most Turbolent voyage hame that was possible...it was the greatest marvel in the world that it (H-4) kept going at all...it received such shocks from the breaking of the waves under the counter, that it was just as if I had taken the box in my hand and thrown it from one side of the Cabbin to the other". Water was a problem too, he says, "...He had no other method but to keep a blanket about it and when it had imbibed so much water that he could with his hand squeeze it out...he replaced the Box in another and had at times no other method to get these blankets dry again but by covering himself in them..."

And all this on top of sea sickness!!!!!!! To be continued.

End of Part III

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

Clock Dials----Shellack, then Deft. After it drys---fine steel wool it to give a non gloss finish.

Scott Hampton

We Can't have hints unless you submit them!! Write it down now and give it to me at the meeting.

Don't stop at hints. Write your wants, for sales, and your questions. That is what makes your Bulletin of value to you and to others!.

* * * * *

From the Secretary.....

Most of the items discussed in the last Executive Board meeting were covered in your President's Message. The only two points I found in reviewing my "hen scratching" was to let you all know that our chapter did contribute to the door prizes at the recent regional in San Mateo (Those who didn't go should have!).

The second point is the revision of the by-laws. Gareth Busher is the chairman of that temporary committee and he reported that he is ready for presentation to the Executive Board at the next meeting of that august body. When approved, copies will be available to the membership at large.

Dorothea Sanderson 

EDITORS CORNER

EDITOR'S CORNER

It is with regret that I heard that the VALLEY Regulator has ceased to exist. The reason given was expense. I spoke to the Vice President of that Chapter at the Regional in San Jose and found that they were sending out more than 2,000 copies of the publication much of it free. Although there were other factors, this was the major one. Needless to say, we in Chapter 107 do not send out "free" Bulletins frequently. OCCASIONALLY we send one to a prospective NEW member, and we have sent one to heads of Western Chapters (although I have recently decided why the head, why not a member at random). We do all the cutting, pasting, and collating ourselves, and we should stay healthy. I believe we are now the only West Coast Publication!

We MAY have a new column, but I will wisely wait for the first article from the east before I tell you who it is!

For the information of "would be" contributors, I rarely change ANYTHING in an article which has been submitted to me, maybe a glaring spelling mistake or put in a comma here and there, but change, NO! I have had my own articles changed so that they don't make sense anymore, so don't fear that it will be printed differently than it was submitted!

With hopes for a long and healthy publication!

DOROTHEA

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes and a circular flourish at the bottom.