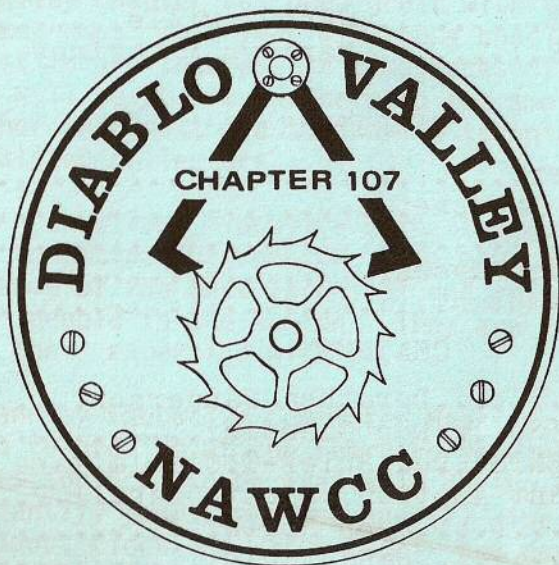

DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER #107 BULLETIN # 20



TWENTIETH ISSUE

FEBRUARY 1982

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND
CLOCK COLLECTORS

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Diablo Valley Chapter #107
PO Box 23315
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Phil Russell.....229-2462
 V. PRESIDENT.....Fred Cuthill.....686-3144
 V. PRESIDENT.....Bob Prochnow.....449-5956
 SECRETARY.....Jane Saville.....837-5589
 TREASURER.....Marilyn McCartney..939-8409

DIRECTORS

Bob Wahrer.....462-4912
 Wayne De Laroche.....939-6563
 Jay Hinkle.....837-6592
 Andre Aldenhuysen.....828-1306
 Warren Hampton.....944-9380

CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN.....Dorothea Sanderson.....937-6272
 MEMBERSHIP.....Don Giannini.....937-0198
 REFRESHMENTS..Bud Ehler-T.Ciarimitaro.228-5387
 MART/Silent Auction..Scott Grabill....825-1984
 DISPLAY.....John North.....676-9188
 LIBRARY.....Sandy Cuthill.....686-3144
 PROGRAM...Fred Cuthill/Bob Prochnow...686-3144
 FACILITIES.....Andre Aldenhuysen.....828-1306
 NOMINATION/ELECTION.....
 DRAWING.....Shelly Bergman.....838-7509
 PHOTOGRAPHER...Gary Busher.....686-5983
 SUGGESTION BOX..Andre Aldenhuysen.....828-1306

(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 publications 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 *

I am very pleased to be writing the President's message. I am a hobbyist and enjoy collecting. The Diablo Valley Chapter has been great with the educational programs. This year will be a challenge to further stimulate interest in timepieces of all kinds. Our goal will be to provide help to the small collector for further enjoyment and to provide technical help to specialized collectors.

We have an excellent Executive Committee and a fine group of Committee Chairpersons. We have among our members some of the best technical and informed clock and watch people in the Nation. They are very willing to share their expertise with us.

At the January Executive Committee Meeting, action was taken to provide at the February Meeting, a two unit "Question Box" to be available during MART time. to (1) identify your timepiece and (2) give technical answers about clock and watch repair and case restoration. Experts will answer your questions on a one-to-one basis.

The MART needs more sellers. We want to improve on this.

There are two problems where the Chapter needs some help. (1) We need some legal help to "Incorporate" our Chapter. (2) We like our present meeting room, but the rent has doubled to \$50. Any suggestions?

The most enjoyment from belonging to a group is being involved and a part of planning, operation and participation at the meeting. We would like to have more help on committees. Very little of your time is needed. Any volunteers?

Let's all pitch in this year and have a good time and make this an exceptional year for the Diablo Valley Chapter.

Phil

Phil Russell

ATTENTION--EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Russell will contact you prior to the next Executive Board Meeting and let you know when and where it will be held.

Since it is budget time, it is imperative that Committee Chairmen be there also. The Executive Board should know the problems you are having so that they can provide help when and where it is needed.... sometimes in helping to reduce the budgets so important in these soft economic times.

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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 are: February 14th, April 4th (this year the exception since Easter falls on the second Sunday) June 13th August 8th, October 10th, and December 12th.

Our December meeting is devoted to our Pot Luck luncheon and social.

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A T T E N T I O N

Deadline for the April issue is March 1st. Our meeting is a week earlier this year due to Easter Sunday conflicting with our normal meeting date.

* * * *

MEETING DATE: February 14, 1982

MART Set-up: 11:30

MART opens: 12:00

MEETING BEGINS: 1:00

Display Theme: Bracket Clocks

PROGRAM: Slide Program on English Bracket Clocks

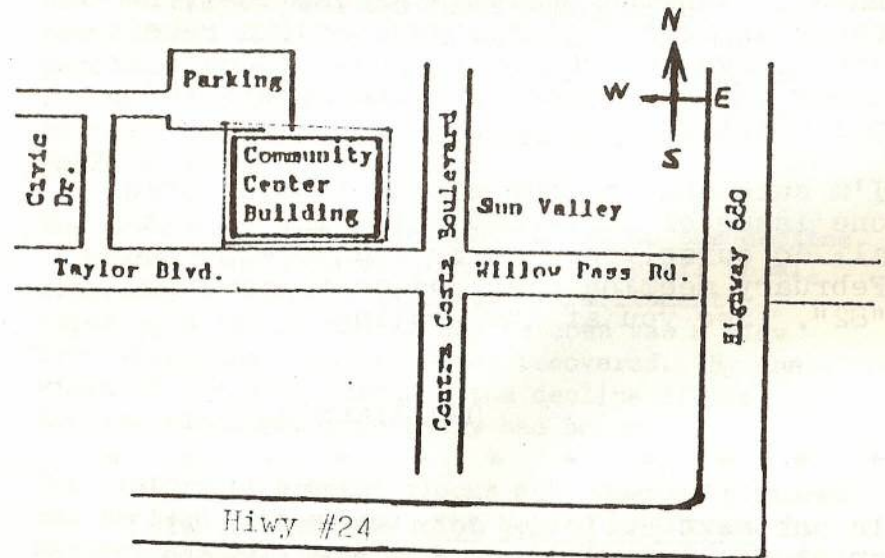
Question and Identification group will be in operation this meeting. It will be headed by Dorothy Glenk and Royal English.

Silent Auction

Dues: Chapter members \$15.00 (includes refreshment donation. (kids free)

Mart: Free!!!!!!!

At: Pleasant Hill Recreation Center
Civic Drive
Pleasant Hill, Cal.



FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN

DISPLAY CHAIRMAN

In keeping with the program theme, members are encouraged to bring English bracket clocks for display. We would like to hear whatever you can tell us about the history and features of your bracket clock.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Well, we had quite a few membership renewals at the December meeting. I'm sorry to report though, that we didn't get everyone. I've got high hopes of getting the rest of you at the February meeting.

We don't wish to exclude anyone from receiving the bulletin, but sometimes folks need just a little push or reminder. We have chosen the Bulletin as one tool, because we feel that everyone enjoys receiving it, and we must have a cut-off date in order to keep things rolling smoothly for our chapter.

I'm sure that no one wishes to miss even one issue of our great Bulletin, so let's all do ourselves a favor and come to the February meeting prepared to "renew for '82". See you at the meeting.

Don Giannini

* * * * *

In our next Bulletin John Sanderson will print the instructions for re-silvering dials. Those who have silvering powder won't want to miss the next issue.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

For our meeting on February 14, we have been fortunate in obtaining from National Headquarters the slide-tape program by Paul Hackamack and Lloyd Porter entitled English Bracket Clocks.

The 18th Century was a period in which English clockmaking reached its highest level and men like Knibb, Tompion, Quare, Ellicott, and East produced longcase clocks of high quality and great beauty. At the same time, the need for smaller, portable clocks caused the development of bracket or table clocks by the same makers and others.

Early bracket clocks were similar in style to the hoods of the earliest longcase examples and used ebony-verneered or ebonized cases. Case styles changed with furniture styles over the years, and cases were usually embellished with brass inlays or solid silver or silver-gilt.

Bracket clocks used the fusee movement in conjunction with the verge escapement and bob pendulum. They were usually placed on tables and fitted with glass doors at the back of the clock so that the beautifully engraved back plates would be seen.

The advance of industrialization led to the decline in quality and reduced attention to detail in all clockmaking, and the 1797 Act of Parliament imposing a tax on clocks and watches was a blow from which the industry never recovered. By the start of the 19th Century, the decline of the English clockmaking industry had begun.

The history of bracket clocks and numerous pictures can be seen in the book, The Beauty of Clocks, by Michael Pearson, available in the Chapter library.

Bob Weck

FROM YOUR CHAIRMEN

MART CHAIRMAN/SILENT AUCTION

REMEMBER, THE MART IS FREE!

We have been asked by the National to announce opening and closing times of our Mart. Our Mart will open at 12:00, close at 1:00 when the meeting begins. It will reopen at the close of the meeting...usually about 2:30 and close for the day at 3:00.

Our Silent Auction is an enjoyable part of our meeting...however, we will endeavor to see that the buzzer goes off BEFORE the meeting begins. Let's make 1982 bigger than 1981! Bring those items in!!

THE
PHANTOM
TURKEY

* * * * *

LIBRARY

My budget for new books is very very small. Any contributions would be gratefully appreciated. Remember, it is a contribution and is tax deductible.

I would like an assistant who would help in storing the books between meetings and see that they come to the meetings when they should. Anyone interested???

Sandy Cuthill

* * * * *

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

John Stohr George Gookin
Roger Grandeen Dick Williams
William Bergman Shelly Bergman

GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD!

Shelly has already volunteered for a Chairmanship!

* * * * *

We have been asked by a Fresno member of the NAWCC to be on the lookout for a Silas Hoadley, wood work, long case clock. His clock is a redish color stain (Possibly pine). It has slight damage to the hood and the door to the hood was hinged at the bottom. The hour hand was broken in half. Mr. Biehl, the owner, is offering a \$1,000. reward for the return of his clock

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Suggestion Box!!!

Our Suggestion Box contained a request that we consider having evening meetings in order to keep weekends free.

The board unanomously decided against evening meetings since most people commute making a late evening while others are involved with after school sports activities with their children.

Andre Aldenhuisen

* * * * *

The Executive Board met at the home of the President, Phil Russell, on January 5, 1982. The Board acted on the following:

- (1) Selected and approved committee chairmen for 1982
- (2) Tom Ciarimitaro was selected as Chapter Liaison Officer, a new position
- (3) Agreed to furnish labor to assist the Sacramento Chapter with the Southwest Regional to be held in Sacramento in September 1982. We will not be a formal participant.
- (4) Discussed but did not approve a member's suggestion to hold evening meetings; many members are commuters.

The Program Chairman advised that the February meeting will be on bracket clocks. Starting with the February meeting, the silent auction will be over prior to the meeting time and members with special collections will be encouraged to display them.

The Executive Board wants to remind the following:

- (1) Members to renew their dues for 1982
- (2) Committee Chairmen to complete their budgets by the March meeting and to write short notices for the bulletin.

The next Executive Board meeting will be on February 22.

Marilyn McCartney, Secretary

SAGA OF THE AMERICAN CLOCK - PART V

Comfortable clocks, a clock for everyman.

"Agriculture and manufactures are the foundation of our independence" became as much an American credo in the 1820's, as the eagle our American emblem and was found emblazoned on everything from clock glasses to woven jacquard coverlets. From somewhat of a shaky start, we quickly became a nation dedicated to industry and industriousness. Manufacturing centers grew along waterways, means of both water power and easy transportation, and they were soon providing Americans, at a cheap price, most of the necessities of life that one could not provide for oneself.

Though textiles, tinware, glass and cast iron were available, we lacked smelters and mills for the manufacture of sheet metals and shops for casting and machining of metals. Brass and steel, both necessities for clockmaking, had to be imported and in the 1820's their expense was prohibitive. Here again Yankee ingenuity came into play and turned to our greatest American resource, wood, which had already been proven a plausible answer to the manufacture of cheap and efficient mass produced clock movements.

After the sale of his original shop to Seth Thomas and Silas Hoadley, Eli Terry, realizing the potential of the clock industry in America, began work on a smaller wood works that could and would be housed in an attractive shelf case of period style and sold as cheaply as the tall case movements he had made for the Porter brothers. The movement he created was initially an eight gear type; the finely cut wood gears usually of split resistant mountain laurel, contained within well seasoned oak plates. 4 lb. cast iron weights dropped from pulleys through channels in each side of the case providing the motive power.

The production models were housed in a mahogany case essentially Sheraton in style, with slender side columns, swan neck scroll splat and delicate urn shaped brass finials. The hands were cast pewter, the dial painted and gesso decorated wood and the

lower door painted with an églomisé scene, often a famous American building. It ran for 30 hours on a winding and sold complete with case, for no more than the earlier wagon-wall. This new design was known as a pillar and scroll and was an immediate success.

It's little wonder that many others in the Bristol area were anxious to produce a similar product. Terry was granted a patent for his pillar and scroll clock in 1816 and, with certain specifications, allowed Seth Thomas to manufacture it. Terry continued to change and develop his movement design; including a brass variant (later developed by an apprentice, Heman Clark), a strap wood model with rack and snail striking and off center escapement (developed and marketed by Seth Thomas) and about 1818, a model with escape wheel, verge and pendulum mounted in front of the dial.

By the time of Terry's final production wood works model in 1822, his many competitors had already developed different movement designs in order to circumvent Terry's patents. Norris North and his brother Ethel at nearby Torrington devised a horizontally arranged movement, Chauncy Boardman with his son-in-law, Joseph Wells, created a movement with overhead striking and gear protruding out from behind the plates (commonly called a "groaner" movement). Silas Hoadley utilized an inverted (upside down) arrangement with winding drums and bell at top, escapement below.

As a result of these endeavors, well before the 3rd decade of the 19th century, wood works shelf clocks had found their way into most American homes and even into some abroad. The intense competition mattered little to the average buyer who merely was interested in the function, dependability and attractiveness of these new products which could, for the first time, be afforded by all.

As comfortable as the clock industry of the 1820's appeared, the next decade would witness a series of events that would challenge even the most ingenious Yankee. There would be new and advanced industrial possibilities, new stylistic concerns and a changing, as well as frustrating, economy. But there would also be a new generation of American genius to speak to these needs.

Next Issue: Invention and frustration, experimental prototypes.

Dorothy Glenk

TICK FEVER....

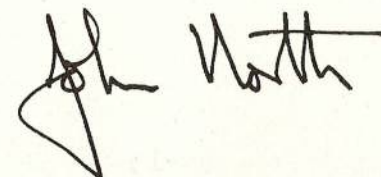
Coincidences. So often they make major changes in our lives. How did you meet your spouse or get that desired job? Thinking back, you may find coincidence played a large part. Chance, the roulette wheel of life; but isn't it strange how often things fall together in an almost pre-ordained way?

Two such coincidences associated with the world of clocks and watches happened to me recently.

The first had to do with repair of a pocket watch. It was an undistinguished old watch, with a chipped dial, but it meant a lot to my friend since it had belonged to a favorite uncle. I took the watch from her, warned that I take a long time, and took it home. Months later, I gave it back cleaned, oiled and with a new mainspring, and here's where the coincidence comes in. She said "You know, it's very lucky you took this to fix it, since it was stored at our place near Napa, which burned to the ground in the big fire. If I hadn't brought it to you when I did, it would be gone today."

The second coincidence was that I happened to find a 1927 Buick that "spoke to me". I approached the owner with a trade for clocks in mind. Lo and Behold! he had an ad in his pocket for an antique clock for sale in San Francisco and was about to go look at it. Needless to say, we made the deal.

So don't resist too hard next time things seem to be falling together. It could be for the best!



QUESTION LADY (AND MAN)

Thank you for your interest! Just got a call from Phil, our new president to find that our chapter has decided to put into action two suggested committees, or better, "answer agencies". One will be for the works, restoration and cleaning problems. It will be adequately chaired by Royal English, our ex-pres. and resident clock repair expert. The other will be concerned with the historical aspect of horology, history, derivation and authenticity of case and movement styles. This will be chaired by Dorothy Glenk and (I assure you), a whole lot of commandered experts from the chapter and about.

These committees are a part of the dedication of our chapter to "accent on education", to give help and support to all members, new and old. As the NAWCC legacy of concern and assistance has been passed on many fold to us old members, let it be passed on happily to all who come to our chapter.

Bring your clocks, watches, questions or pictures to our meetings or call us, Dorothy Glenk (825-9039) or Royal English (937-7433). Count on us to give you as much expertise as we can offer.

(Dorothy)

Wanted for sale, trade, swap or whatever:

Unique American clocks: early banjos, unusual brass or wood works. Will pay good prices or make good swaps. Am particularly looking for Jeromes & Darrow thin movt., Asa Munger and S. B. Terry types.

Dorothy Glenk (825-9039)

EDITORS MESSAGE

I haven't heard from the Phantom Pigeon this issue. I hope he hasn't flown the coop! I thought I knew who it was...but when I asked party, he emphatically denied it. Sooooo.. I don't know who it is either.

You will notice that we have tightened up the Bulletin. We have done this to make every bit of space count Printing and postal rates are high so we are trying to find other ways to reduce costs although not at the expense of quality. Obviously any suggestions or contributions (especially from you watch people) are very much appreciated

If anyone has the equipment to do the printing for us...and will do it (I refuse to fiddle with stencil) it would be a tremendous way to save \$\$\$\$'s. I would be glad to collate, and I might be able to find a volunteer to type the stencil, but someone else will have to do the gunky part! John and I belong to a Scottie group, and they put out a stencilled Bulletin. Their biggest expense is stamps!

If anybody has any suggestions see me at the next meeting. Even if you can't see my nice sign (made by Fred Cuthill) I am always next to Sandy and her Library.