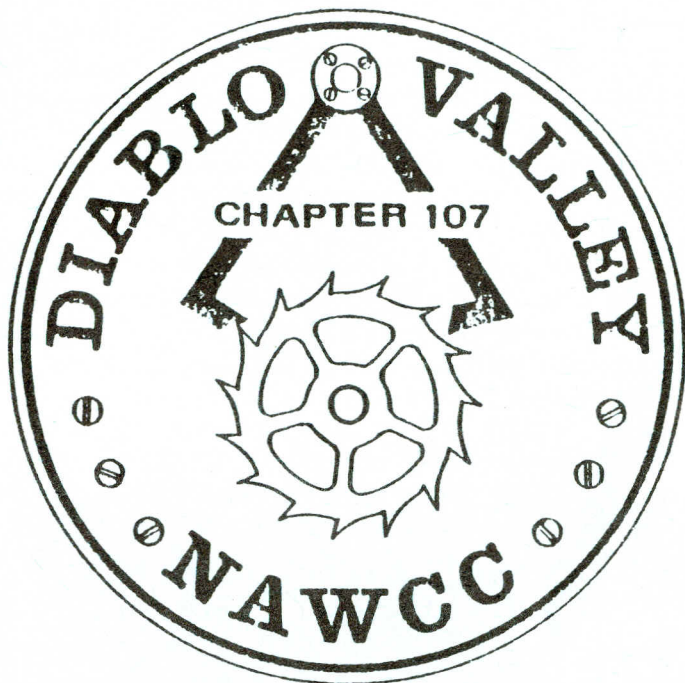


\*\*\*\*\*  
DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER #107 BULLETIN # 26  
\*\*\*\*\*



TWENTY-SIXTH ISSUE

1983

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH  
AND CLOCK COLLECTORS

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## OFFICERS

\*\*\*\*\*

PRESIDENT..... Wayne A. DeLaroche.. 944-9242  
V. PRESIDENT..... Bob Boone . . . . . 934-1194  
V. PRESIDENT..... Thomas Mitch . . . . . 865-6711  
SECRETARY..... Jane Saville..... 837-5589  
TREASURER..... Marilyn McCartney.. 939-8409

## DIRECTORS

Bud Ehler . . . . . 228-5387  
John Stohr . . . . . 376-6476  
Jay Hinkle..... 837-6592  
Andre Aldenhuisen..... 828-1306  
Warren Hampton..... 944-9380

## CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN..... Any Volunteers???. . . . . --- ---  
MEMBERSHIP..... Bob Wahrer . . . . . 462-4912  
REFRESHMENTS.. Bud Ehler-T. Ciaramitaro. 228-5387  
MART/Silent Auction.. Scott Grabill.... 825-1984  
DISPLAY..... John North..... 676-9188  
LIBRARY..... Sandy Cuthill..... 686-3144  
PROGRAM... Bob Boone/Thomas Mitch . . . . . 934-1194  
FACILITIES..... Andre Aldenhuisen..... 328-1306  
NOMINATION/ELECTION... John Stohr . . . . . 376-6476  
DRAWING..... John Coulter . . . . . 254-0746  
PHOTOGRAPHER... Gary Busher..... 686-5983  
SUGGESTION BOX.. Andre Aldenhuisen..... 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\*

\*\*\*\*\*

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I have the opportunity to serve as your President for 1983. Our Executive Committee and our Committee of Chairpersons are competent and quite knowledgeable in their respective fields of clocks and watches, but most of all, they are giving of their time. Without new volunteers an organization can become stagnant, fall into a "pattern." We look to our membership to come forth and give a helping hand because, as the old saying goes, "It's your club." So, please don't be bashful and let the other person always do the work - get involved - you just might surprise yourself and enjoy it!

Now that I've primed the pump, so speak, with the resignation of Dorothea Sanderson as our Edition of the Bulletin, we need someone to step in and continue the fine tradition. Not much time is needed and you don't have to be a printer or a publisher to qualify - just a willingness to get involved. I'm sure we must have at least one person among us who fits the job qualifications! Please see myself or any member of the board at our next meeting if you are interested.

Enough politicking. I would like to thank all the people who participated in our Christmas Auction. I saw a lot of smiling buyers/sellers so I guess they were happy the way it went. Unfortunately, the absence of any "watches" from this auction was disappointing - I guess no one wanted to part with any of their "finds" - maybe next time. The board would like to get your feedback on whether we should make this an annual event for our December meetings, so please let us know your feelings. I would like to especially thank Royal English for his many clocks he donated to this auction, especially his grandfather pendulum car top carrier, as the total monies received for the club was almost ninety dollars! THANKS ROYAL.

Look forward to seeing all of you at our February 13th meeting!

*Wayne A. DeLaroche*



MEETING DATE: February 13, 1983

MART Set-up: 11:30  
MART opens: 12:00

MEETING BEGINS: 1:00

Display Theme: Lux and Keebler Clocks

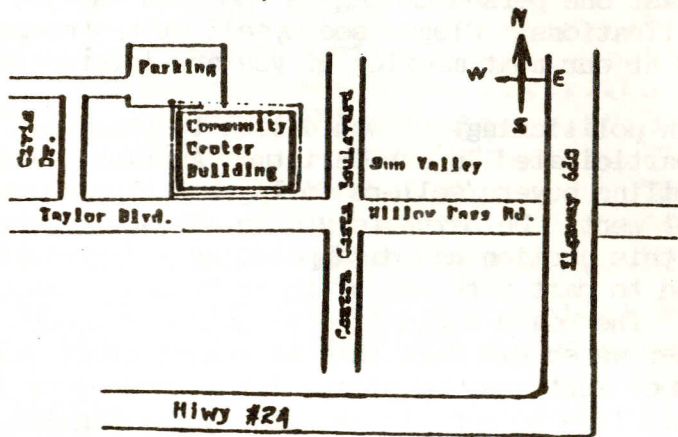
PROGRAM: Slide Program on Lux and  
Keebler Pendulettes by  
Joe Ford

Silent Auction

Dues: Chapter members \$15.00 (includes re-  
freshment donation. (kids free)

Mart: Free!!!!!!!

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



SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Board met at the home of Wayne De Laroche on January 10, 1983.

- (1) Committee chairpersons serving this year are listed inside the front cover of this Bulletin.
- (2) Bulletin editor is needed due to the resignation of Dorothea Sanderson. Names were suggested. To encourage more articles, it was suggested that pre-addressed envelopes be available at meetings.
- (3) Library: members can suggest titles to purchase. Extra NAWCC Bulletin copies will be bundled to sell.
- (4) After reviewing the tentative 1983 budget of \$1,235, it was approved.
- (5) 1984 Regional in San Jose: Dorothea Sanderson has resigned as chairperson. Action on appointing a new chairperson was deferred until the March Executive Board Meeting. Also discussed the following: the need to know how much \$ is needed in advance before making a decision as to how to raise \$; volunteers will also be needed to work during the Regional.
- (6) Certificates of Appreciation have been printed. Certificates will be presented at the February meeting.
- (7) Discussion on whether Chapter should purchase a used slide projector for up to \$50. It was decided to gather more information before taking any action.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held in March.

Marilyn McCartney, Secretary

Dorothea Sanderson has relinquished her post as Bulletin Editor. Dorothea, who was also our first Chapter President, developed the Bulletin from scratch. She has devoted countless hours and fine creativity to the Bulletin, making it one of the most outstanding in the entire NAWCC. Her encouragement of Chapter members to contribute has resulted in an interesting, informative publication, and proved to many that they can indeed turn out worthwhile articles. The Chapter thanks you, Dorothea, for your dedication and contributions.



## SAGA OF THE AMERICAN CLOCK - PART XI

### Calendars and Classics; old styles & new innovations.

American clock companies continued to produce clocks affordable for all till well into the 29th century. So popular were these clocks that Germany ceased making all but its station house cuckoo to make styles popular with the American public; steeples, cottage clocks mantle clocks with chimes, etc. and called them by American names such as Tutonia Clock Co, Hamburg-American Clock Co., etc.

Victorian nostalgia of the 1870's and 80's assured a continuance of popular 19th century styles such as elaborated forms of the gothic steeple and beehive, Empire column clocks and even a machine made version of the venerated pillar and scroll. Most were now smaller and less delicate in construction, with the now common pressed out pendulum and balance wheel movements. To the connoisseur these would appear as pseudo-styles, to the Victorian they spoke sufficiently of romantic eras past. Its especially interesting to note that the Victorians revived two long out of favor clocks which had begun the proud and unique heritage of American clockmaking; the tall case clock and the banjo. Suddenly the banjo burst onto the scene in Waterbury, New Haven and other catalogs; usually in presentation form and now displaying styles with sentimental Victorian as well as traditional glasses and available in either weight models or spring models with half hour strike.

The tall clock (now called Hall Clock) was reproduced by Waterbury, Ithica, etc. in Chippendale like scroll top styles with moon dials, glass doors to see the pendulum and weights and tubular chimes, which often included the now popular, Westminster, Whittington and St. Michel chime patterns to be played at will. Banjos of this era sold for about \$40 and Hall clocks in either mahogany or quartered oak sold from \$125-\$200.

Without doubt, however, the most innovative American clock of the 3rd quarter 19th cent. was the calendar. How or why it came upon us is only up to speculation. Perhaps a simple answer is that the Yankees had done all that was possible in inexpensive production, so the

challenge was to produce more complex and precision clocks. Calendars were nothing new. Renaissance clock-makers included them before they included a minute hand. Complex clockwork as always been with us but not really included with precision timekeeping until late 18th cent. French and English makers began to create profound examples of finest precision, innovation and workmanship. But again, these were not for the common man to enjoy. Calendar clocks for the common man would again be an American innovation.

Throughout the 18th century almost all tall clocks contained calendars; a simple 31 day dial showing through an aperture in the lower part of the dial that was tripped daily by a simple pin and gear mechanism on the movement, and of course had to be pushed ahead or behind according to the length or the month. With the era of wood works and experimental movements in the early 19th century, few clocks were equipped with this feature. By mid century, however, with the sound establishment of the company produced clock and its simple but effective movement, American innovators and inventors turned to "greener and more complex pastures". The perpetual calendar was one of these.

The first independent calendar mechanism was patented by John H. Hawes of Ithica, N.Y. on May 17, 1853. which compensated for the length of the month but not leap year. James and Eugene Mix produced the first really useable mechanism in 1860, a roller type with day of week and month appearing through apertures on a lower dial and a hand indicating date. This was used in weight driven cornice type cases by Seth Thomas, Plymouth Hollow.

The listing of subsequent calendar inventions and patents is long and tedious and is well documented in Miller's book. A few alliances and high spots are important. H. B. Horton of Ithica patented a perpetual mechanism in 1865. He helped to form the Ithica Calendar Clock Co., producer of many and diverse double dial wall and shelf clocks up till 1917, amongst which is the much sought after parlor models with black dials and Sandwich glass pendulums. Benjamin (B.B.) Lewis patented a lever activated calendar in 1862 which utilized an extra hand on the top dial to indicate the day of the week; the bottom dial showing date and month on two hands. His calendar mechanism was used on Welch, Spring, Co. and Ingraham clocks.



Perhaps the most rare and complicated calendar mechanisms were the product of Daniel J. Gale whose patent dated to 1877. His complex single dial perpetual calendar housed 5 separate dials including an astronomical dial. They were manufactured in limited numbers by Welch, Spring & Co. and are much sought after by collectors.

I cannot close without mention of several other smaller but equally important producers of calendar clocks: Southern Calendar Clock Co. of St. Louis, Mo. makers of the famous Fashion Calendars and Prentiss Clock Co. of New York whose fine aperture appearing calendars ran for a year without winding. Not can I exclude such innovative "simple" calendars as those early weight driven Ansonias with the W. A. Terry patent and the unusual single dial Gilbert-Naranville clock where month and day of week appeared through punched apertures in a paper dial.

There are many other, albeit brief but interesting innovations in the American calendar repertory; a period lasting little over 30 years. The story is indeed fascinating and again proves that American ingenuity in clockmaking was still there, alive and to be reckoned with.

Next issue: The Fine Regulator; precision in production

*Dorothy Glenn*

The damned Yankee

TICK FEVER....

Analog or Digital? Today, we are being inundated by digital watches, clocks, thermometers and even speedometers. The cause is, of course, cheap electronic devices, mainly light emitting diodes (LEDs) and liquid crystal units, along with the solid state circuits to drive them.

Certainly, digital display has its place. It's great for the odometer on your car. It can even be useful for time indication as in a watch or clock because it is easily visible, particularly the LED variety which actually lights up. And as we collectors know, digital clocks and watches aren't new; they have been around since the 1700s.

But digital isn't good for indications where both absolute value and rate of change are important, a prime example being the speedometer. You don't want only to know how fast you are going, but also whether you are accelerating or decelerating, and at what rate. The same can be true for pressure or temperature readings, for example in process control the operator needs to know whether temperature or pressure are moving up or down, and how fast, in order to take correct action. The atomic power plant operator needs to know reactor core temperature, but also needs to know if it's increasing or decreasing too quickly.

Getting back to clocks and watches, the familiar dial and hands (analog) display also tells us more than just the time. A quick glance shows time to and from the hour, or any important point such as when your bus arrives. Digital display requires you to process the information in your brain in more detail, adding or subtracting numbers.



As for me, I prefer analog for time telling. But I suspect it will slowly disappear because digital will be cheaper to produce and more reliable since it has no moving parts. And digital is easier for children to learn. Hang on to your analog clocks; they will be curiosities some day!

*John Nettle*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 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 '83" See you at the meeting.

Bob Wahrer

\* \* \* \* \*

We all read through our blue bulletin, the one that we've come to expect bi-monthly from our Chapter 107. It gives us information about our next meeting: there, speaker plus announcements of chapter importance and an occasional article of interest and information. I guess we all take it for granted for if we pay our dues on time it just comes regularly like our bills. Let's not take it for granted nor any other of the functions of our chapter because they come from the dedication and interest and effort of some of our members.

The effort should come from all and each of us members. It does not and should not come from a hierarchy of elected officers, many of whom are really not that thrilled about taking office, nor from charter members who "have done it for years". Our chapter is no more and no less than a group called "all of us", the indians as well as the chiefs, who are responsible members of a very viable group.

We began as fledglings, just learning to fly. We knew little, but what the National told us we had to be. We stood in awe perhaps of older chapters who had had more experience. But what we did were many things that they had never thought of.

We stated our dedication; that to education, which is our motto, and we have inaugurated many new concepts that other chapters have not: a bulletin of our own!, with our own writing and reporting; the question man, folks willing to give time to help new and old members in problems of identification and repair; our own member's talks, lectures and demonstrations rather than the easy canned lectures provided by the National. We have had unique displays and other features unique to a unique and personable group.

We all once were bright eyed, bushy tailed beginners, knowing little and hoping for help. We developed our own interests and expertise throughout the years. With each step we, as a chapter, have become, like the beginning collector, more confident with ourselves. With each step we have become more able to help others. With each step we have become more able to give to and share ourselves with the other chapters.

Let us always continue to stress our ideal of learning and education, but let us also stress the responsibility of each member to make our unique chapter work and grow.