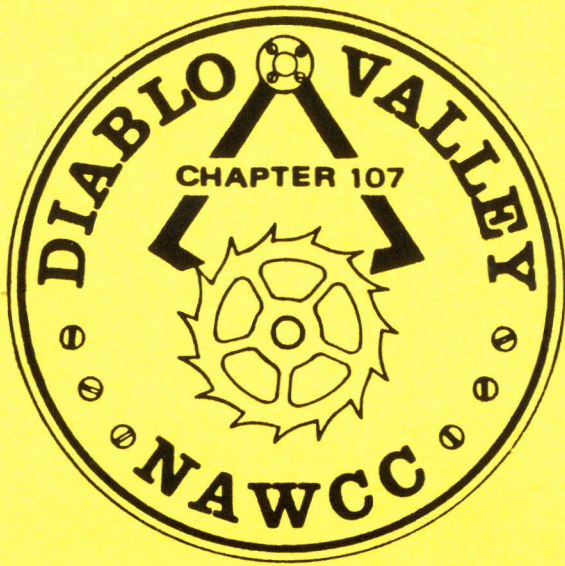

DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER #107 BULLETIN #33



THIRTY-THIRD ISSUE

APRIL 1984

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH
AND CLOCK COLLECTORS

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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-----Bob Prochnow-----449-5956
 V. PRESIDENT----Neal Hopkins (watches)----532-1972
 V. PRESIDENT----Tom Ciarimitaro (clocks)--687-0644
 SECRETARY-----John North-----676-9188
 TREASURER-----Jane Saville-----837-5589

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 Tom Kochmann-----??-????
 Patty Shadden-----881-5295

Wayne A. DeLaroche, Past President-----944-9242

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BULLETIN-----Scott Grabill-----825-1984
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 DRAWING-----John Coulter-----254-0746
 PHOTOGRAPHER----Fred Cuthill-----686-3144
 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 would like to take this opportunity to thank the Program Chairmen for an excellent February program. This was one of the best slide presentations I had ever seen, and I feel this information was of interest to us all.

I would also like to thank the members who brought items for the display. The program would not have been as successful without the fine examples of Welch clocks which we were able to identify from the slide program.

If any of the members are familiar with other programs of the same caliber from the NAWCC Library, please let Tom or Neal know, so we can arrange to have them for future meetings.

Thanks again to all those who were able to volunteer their time to the Regional this September. If there are any others out there who would like to donate their time, just give me a call. It will be well appreciated.

DONT FORGET THE MART!!!

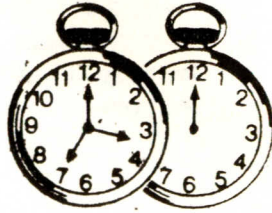
This is a way to pass on those fine horological treasures (or even those not-so-fine) to another party. Best of all, its FREE. Don't forget --- the Executive Committee will meet again at 11 A.M. just before our regular meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Let's also keep those Bulletin articles coming in. Any tidbits of information you come across are of interest to the whole group, so let's see some articles, paragraphs, sentences, or even jokes (Horological, of course) for the Bulletin.

Bob



MEETING DATE: April 8, 1984
EXECUTIVE MEETING: 11 A.M.
MART SET-UP: 12 Noon
MEETING BEGINS: 1 P.M.



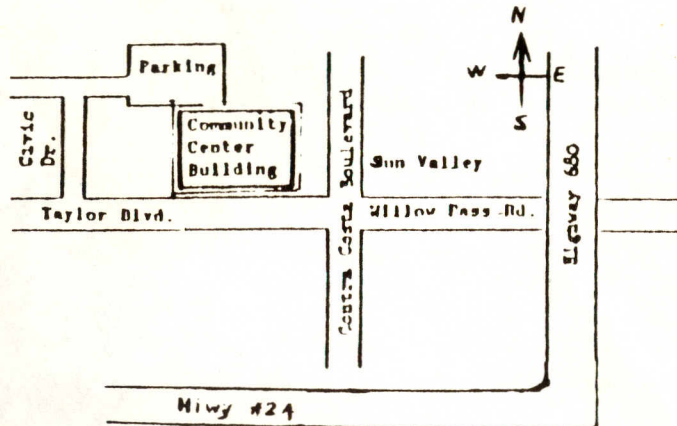
PROGRAM: Bring in your most unusual watch or watches. Even you clock collectors have at least one watch that you've hung on to for one reason or another. Please tell us about it during this "show-and-tell" program.

DUES: Chapter members \$15.00
Refreshment donation \$1 for non-members.

MART: Free!

SILENT AUCTION: Free!

PLACE: Pleasant Hill Recreation Center



Is Your Clock Case Made From Slate, Marble or Onyx

There is an easy way to determine if your clock case is made from **slate**, **marble** or **onyx**. Your tools will be a lemon, and a knife, and your nose. (The lemon contains acetic acid—any acid will do).

SLATE is a laminated sediment (mud) and is mostly clay. Slate is usually fine grained and will split to smooth surface layers.

The Test: Smell the insides of the case. If it has the smell of mud, it is slate. The second test—apply a drop of lemon juice to an unfinished surface (raw) on the bottom of the clock. If **NO** bubbles appears in the lemon juice drop no doubt you have a slate case.

MARBLE results from the recrystallization of limestone (calcium carbonate). Commercially, the term 'marble' has a wider use with the chief ability to take a polish. Some serpentine rocks are classed as marble.

The Test: Marble has a hardness of 3 on a scale of 1 to 10 and can easily be scratched with a knife. Most marble clocks will have inlays of various other colored marble, etc, because of the ease of carving out the marble. (This is reason statues are made of marble)

The second test is to apply a drop of lemon juice to an unfinished surface (raw) on the bottom of the case. If the drop contains small bubbles, it is marble. A cheap black marble used for many French marble clocks was Belgium marble.

ONYX is a variety of quartz made of different layers, chiefly white, yellow, black or red. Calcite from cave deposits is often called Mexican onyx. Onyx will produce bubbles in the lemon juice test. Onyx has a hardness of 7.

The Test: If you cannot scratch the case with a knife, the case could be onyx.

The tombstone makers and other people working with stone can also help you identify your case. Good Luck!

Phil Russell

The Trusty Alarm

Much to the surprise of many new collectors, the alarm clock did not begin in the early 1900's with West-clock's Big Ben and others. Actually it is our earliest-known mechanical clock, probably dating from before 1350. Clocks (from cloche in French and glocke in German) meaning bell, at first had no hands or dial but only struck on a bell, telling the hour for those who thought we needed to know it. Of course at first they were not privately owned, but a "town" clock to be heard by all or a monastery clock to awaken the monks in their observation of hourly prayer. The alarm was used all through medieval and renaissance times, now with a dial and hands added; usually with just a simple trip and hammer and count wheel to make it strike the correct number of blows.

By the 17th and 18th centuries, time of the more sophisticated English and French clockmakers, alarms were more or less ignored for more sophisticated clock work: chimes, moon phases, astronomical calculations, etc. By the middle of the 19th century, however, when people began to work in manufactories and needed to arrive at a designated hour, the alarm grew in importance once more. As industry and work began to dominate our urban lives, suddenly the alarm became the most important regulator of our day.

Most post Civil War clocks came with an optional alarm. They appeared as a metal disk with numbers surrounding the canon or central pinion and operated with a simple notch behind that was coordinated with the hour hand by setting the number of the desired hour for the alarm to go off under the hour hand. The actual alarm mechanism was generally separate from the movement, wound separately and activated by a lever. Unfortunately, many of these old mechanisms have been removed from clocks with the advent of newer devices.

The trusty drum alarm clock, of which we're all familiar, actually had its beginning in the renaissance as an adjunct to the upward facing table clock. Its heyday, however, really began in the late 1870's, with the

little nickel cases clock made by most American companies (even to the present day of digitals). With bell on top, later on back (some even merely striking on the inside of the case), these little one-day workhorses have jarred more Americans awake than anything in history. Selling for as little as 39¢, they were made in enormous numbers, numerous styles and sold under a great variety of names, such as Seth Thomas' long alarm, Ansonia's Bee, Sessions Columbia, Waterbury's Sunbeam, and, of course, Western Clock Co's famous Big and Baby Ben. Most now had a separate small dial on the face for setting the alarm time, were wound from the back and had a stop-start lever conveniently on the top, so you could turn off its raucous noise while still half asleep.

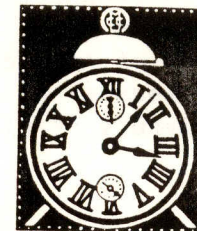
Some more unusual alarms were surrounded by molded metal cases of various Victorian designs, some capped with replicas of the liberty bell that rocked back and forth when it sounded. Some were cased in little leather pouches for travel or illuminated by batteries so you could prove that it wasn't lying when it awakened you. But probably the most unique and currently collectable alarms are those which combined the alarm function with a decorated and animated dial: the Early Bird pecking for a worm, the River Boat with its moving stern wheel, the Bartender, mixing a drink and the inevitable series of famous movie cowboys galloping into the west.

We now awaken to soft music and a digital readout, but most of us will never forget the nostalgic era of the "noisy nickels"/.

Next issue: Grandma's Wedding Gift; the blacks and tambours.

Dorothy Blank

The damned Yankee



LIBRARY CHAIRMAN

The following is a complete list of our Library:

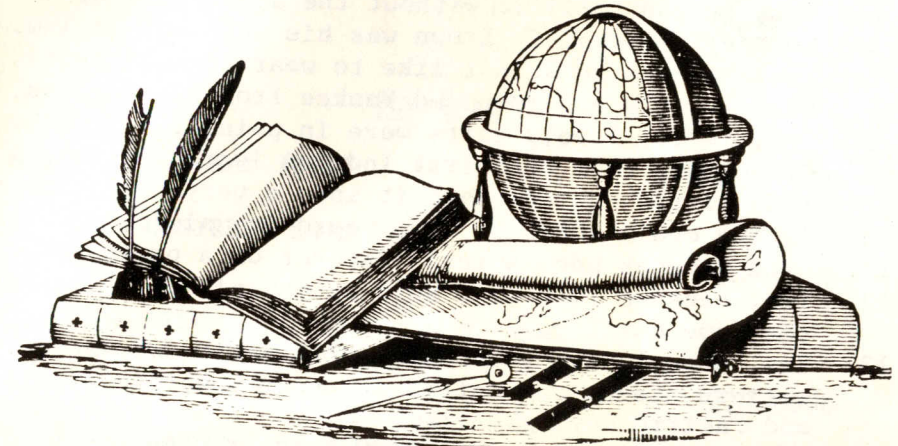
Allix	Carriage Clocks
Bailie	Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World - Volume I
Bedini	John Philipp Treffler Clockmaker of Ausberg
Bovin	Jewelry Making
Burton	Dictionary of Clocks and Watches
Chamberlain	It's About Time
Coleman	The Best of J.E. Coleman Clockmaker
Constantine	Veneering Made Easy
Cumhaill	Investing in Clocks and Watches
DeCarle	Complicated Watches & Their Repair
DeCarle	Watch and Clock Encyclopedia
Diston and	
Bishop	The American Clock
Edlin	What Wood is That?
Elgin	The National Illustrated Almanac
Encyclopedia	#1-Discovering Antiques
Ehrhardt	Clock Ident. & Price Guide I
Gazeley	Watch & Clock Making & Repairing
Gibbia	Wood Finishing & Refinishing
Gibbs	Buckeye Horology
Goodrich	The Modern Clock
Harris	Handbook of Watch & Clock Repairs
Jagger	The World's Great Clocks & Watches
Jones	Clock Cleaning & Repairing
Kochmann	Black Forrest Cuckoo Clock
Kochmann	Clock Trademark Index
Kochmann	Clock and Watch Trademark Index
Kochmann	Gustav Becker Story
Kochmann	Hamburg American Clock Company
Kochmann	Junghans Story
Kochmann	25 yrs. United Freiberg Clk Fact.
Loomis	Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World Volume II
Miller	Survey of American Clocks: Calendar
Muhr	Die Geschichte der Uhr
Neher	Ein Jahrhundert Junghans
Nicholls	Clocks in Color
Palmer	A Book of American Clocks
Palmer	The Treasury of American Clocks
Pearson	The Beauty of Clocks

Library List: (continued)

Royer-Collard	Skeleton Clocks
Smith	Repairing Antique Clocks
Townsend	Encyclopedia of Dollar Watches
Tyler	Clocks and Watches
Tyler	The Craft of the Clockmaker
Tyler	European Clocks
Vernon, John	The Grandfather Clock Manual
	Questions and Answers of and for the Clockmaking Profession.

BULLETINS:

Bulletins (NAWCC)	1970 - 1980 (some earlier)
Bulletin Supplements	#6-12
Bulletins (DV #107)	1 - Now plus memos of earlier meetings.
Slides	#107 Benecia Clock Restoration



DEAR EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN OF THE DIABLO CHAPTER #107
OF NAWCC

As a member of Chapter 107, I am responding to the Timely Questions offered in the February Bulletin. They are entered by the Pigeon. In response to these astute questions, I have "thought about it" at great and astute length and have entered the following astute answers. I demand, as a dues-paying member, that they must be revealed to the membership anonymously by the Phantom Pidgeon or acceptable second, along with any other answers to said riddles. I will be glad to challenge the Phantom Pigeon to further riddles of my own making, if he or she is willing to combat.

The Timely Questions are seen in the back page of the Bulletin and are answered by myself as follows:

1. Of course, but only if it's not named Hoadley.
2. No, not if it's time and strike (sophisticated answer).
3. Only if the cords on their weights are tight enough.
4. Yes, if you spell it without the apostrophe S.
5. Not really if J. C. Brown was his only son-in-law.
6. Yes, because he didn't like to wear them himself.
7. Only if it's a hard-nosed Yankee from New England.
8. Only if its lovely parts were in pain of ?
9. Of course, when the first Indians learned to shell that little nut and make it into a very thin veneer.
10. If the cow's herd, or cows heard its alarm.
11. That depends upon a real restorer or a parts person.
12. Yes, because they also sold as cheaply and at about the same quality.
13. Yes, when 1984's government will begin regulation of eastern standard, central and rocky mountain nightlight and Pacific daylight time.
14. Of course, to keep them from being ripped off by local collectors.
15. Only when the fusee is the shape to be blown like an English cornet.

I throw in the gauntlet, Phantom pigeon. Let's spar.

The Phantom Falcon



Help Is Available

Our Chapter initiated a program some time ago to help Chapter members with identifying the maker and history of their clocks and watches. Also to answer questions about repair of cases and works. Royal English and Dorothy Glink and others are ready and available to answer your questions, if you ask. We have some of the most knowledgeable watch and clock repair people in the Nation!



FOR SALE

ANSONIA GENERAL (OAK)	\$2,200.00
ANSONIA HUNTRESS SWINGING- ARM CLOCK	1,800.00
ENGLISH TALL CASE, BRASS DIAL, 8-DAY "O. Brandreth, Middlewiche" ca 1750 (Oak)	2,000.00
INGRAHAM BEEHIVE - 8-DAY	225.00

Kark VonMecklenburg
415-228-6006