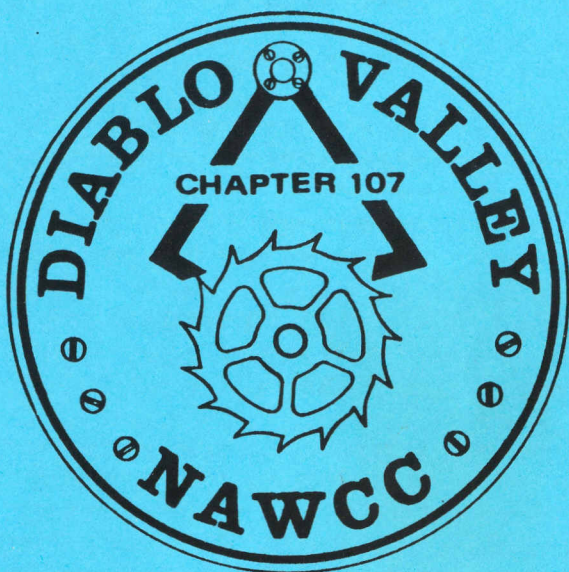


DIABLO VALLEY BULLETIN



DECEMBER

1984

NO. 37

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WATCH
AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, Inc**

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

DIRECTORS

Bud Ehler-----228-5387
John Stohr-----376-6476
Sandy Cuthill-----686-3144
Tom Kochmann-----676-7505
Patty Shadden-----881-5295

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

CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN-----Bob Prochnow-----449-5956
MEMBERSHIP-----Bob Wahrer-----462-4912
REFRESHMENTS-----Bud Ehler-----228-5387
MART/SILENT AUCTION--Wayne DeLaroche-----944-9242
DISPLAY-----Tom Mitch-----865-6711
LIBRARY-----Sandy Cuthill-----686-3144
PROGRAM---Neal Hopkins/Tom Ciarimitaro----532-1972
FACILITIES-----Andre Andenhuyssen-----828-1306
NOMINATION/ELECTION--John Stohr-----376-6476
DRAWING-----John Coulter-----254-0746
PHOTOGRAPHER-----Fred Cuthill-----686-3144
SUGGESTION BOX---Andre Aldenhuyssen-----828-1306
HOSPITALITY-----Wayne DeLaroche-----944-9242

(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:

As my tenure as President draws to a close, I would like to thank the members who helped make this year run so well. There are truly some "Fantastic People" who seem to always put in 110% of their time for the benefit of the Chapter. I hope in the future years, some of the newer members can find some time to help make our organization 'Special' to us all.

The Western Regional was a tremendous success and several people helped represent the chapter in true style. I hope when we host our next regional, that more members can get involved. It is a 'Once in A lifetime' Experience. For all of you who have been hearing all your clocks, watches, etc, now is the time to "Dig" them out of the closet. Our Annual auction, once again promises to attract the "Big Dollars". For the new members, the December Pot-Luck is the Diablo Valley's Social Event of the Year. A fun time is in store for all who attend.

Once again, Thanks to all for a "Great Year." and I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.



MEETING DATE: December 9, 1984

MART Set-up: 11:30 A.M.
MART opens: 12:00 Noon

MEETING BEGINS: 1:00 P.M.

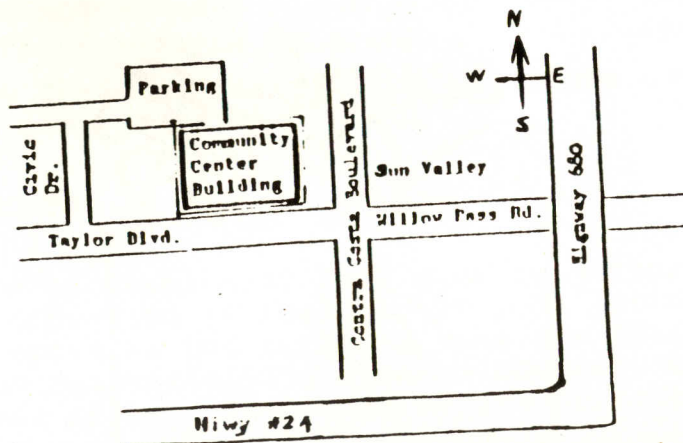
DISPLAY THEME: AUCTION ITEMS

PROGRAM: Annual POT-LUCK & Auction

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

MART: Free!
SILENT AUCTION: Free!

PLACE: Pleasant Hill Recreation Center



START LICKING YOUR CHOPS! IT'S POT LUCK TIME!

Our December meeting features everyone's best recipes, so put this one on your calendar!!!!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9TH

Bring an item to feed between eight and ten people, based upon the list below:

Use the initial of your last name as the key.

A-D Main course, hot or cold

E-I Chips, dips, rolls, cheese, crackers

J-O Desserts & treats

P-R Vegetable dishes

S-Z Take your pick!

The club always supplies paper plates, napkins, forks, spoons, etc.

Bring serving spoons with your dish if needed.

Lunchtime is 12 noon SHARP, so be sure and be on time. Doors open at 11:30 for setting up.

REMEMBER: BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!
IT'S THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Nomination-Election Committee

In the center section of your bulletin, you will find your pull-out ballot for the election of your chapter officers for 1985.

Bring your marked ballot to the meeting with you, or if you cannot make the meeting (and miss all that good food), mail it to the chapters Post Office Box shown on the ballot.

The Nominating Committee wants to say 'Thanks' to the members on the ballot for making their job easier. For those members who haven't had their turn as an officer or committee member, please give it some thought. The pay is poor, but you don't have to work very hard. Our newly elected officers will need help to get 1985 off to a good start.

John Stohr
Phil Russel

The Western Regional

Although the results are not yet finalized, it looks as though the Western Regional hosted by our chapter, Dr. Stephens, and De Anza was a resounding success. Thanks to all the members who took the time to represent our chapter in our first Regional.

I should have information regarding how we did financially at our December meeting.

Bob Prochnow

AUCTION

The time is fast approaching for our **Third Annual Antique Clock & Watch Auction** to be held at our December **9th** meeting. Please don't mistake this for another "White Elephant Auction", because it isn't. This Auction gives each of you the opportunity to buy/sell some quality items that your fellow members have brought.

The rules are simple, when you bring your watches/clocks to the meeting, you will be asked to take a minute to fill out a small form giving (1) your name or card number, (2) brief description of items(s) to be sold i.e., type and condition of GRO or not running, etc., (3) minimum bid item(s) to be sold for. The order of Auction will be based on order of item(s) received at the door. I will then start out each item by giving the item number, brief description, and the minimum opening bid. If there is no opening bid, I will ask the seller if he/she would like to lower the minimum bid in order to get some bidding started. The seller may not bid on their own item(s).

Besides being a good opportunity to purchase fine items, it also will be a way the club can generate some money for the treasury. Therefore, a very modest fee will be charged for each item put up for Auction, whether it is sold or not. These fees are \$-0- to \$4.99 (No Charge), \$5.00 to \$99.00 (\$1.00 Charge), \$100.00 and Above (\$2.00 Charge).

In order to have a successful Auction
WE NEED TO HAVE CLOCKS AND WATCHES TO OFFER !!!!!

So please help make this meeting a successful and fun time for all who attend.

"The Auctioneer"

Programs?

Does anyone know of people with information which the chapter could use via a program? If so, please let the 'New' Officers know at the close of the meeting. From the people I talked to, they say that our last meeting was both unique and informative. That program came about because a member thought the other members would be interested in hearing on the topic.

It doesn't matter if we have been in clocks or watches for 50 years or 50 minutes, there is always some new information we can all learn.....

Bob Prochnow



See you all in
December!!!

Tear Out Ballot



Diablo Valley Chapter #107
NAWCC

OFFICIAL BALLOT
for
Election of Officers
1985

President:

Fred Cuthill

Vice-President:
(Watches)

Yen Kwan

Vice-President:
(Clocks)

Bob Boone

Secretary:

John Stohr

Treasurer:

John Sanderson

Directors: (Vote for Two)

Scott Grabill

Dick Trautwein

Bring your ballot to the December meeting
or mail prior to the meeting to:

P.O. Box 23315
Pleasant Hill, Calif. 94523

John Stohr
Phil Russel

Book Review:

The Best Of J.E. Coleman: Clockmaker
(compiled and edited by O. Hagans)

Here is a book that has a wealth of information for the novice or the expert. The book covers history, repair and general information done in a "Question and Answer" format. It covers just about any topic you can imagine and is an excellent book for any Horological 'Reference' library.

De Anza Chapter Meeting:

For those of you who would like to see what goes on at other chapter meetings, the De Anza Chapter (San Jose) is having their next meeting on December 2nd at the McKinnon School at 2390 Moorpark Ave. in the San Jose area. The Mart opens at 1:00 P.M. with the meeting following at 2:15.

Requests???

Is there anything you would like to see in the bulletin. Remember that the bulletin belongs to the members of Chapter #107. It is as good as you want to make it. Suggestions are always welcome.

From:

To:

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

Wants:

I am still looking for a Welch case; Either the Parepa or the Lucca. In fact, I am interested in picking up any American cases which you may have collecting dust. I am also interested in any old horological books.

Bob Prochnow

Questions:

Do you have any specific (or general) questions concerning clocks watches or the like which you would like answered. We have many members who are very knowledgeable and would 'love' to share their experience with you. Bring your question, clock, watch or whatever to the meeting and let's let others help us all to learn more in the Horological field.

Bob Prochnow

The Library:

The Library (Chapter 107's) is always willing to accept donations of books you may have doubles of for our chapter. Even if we have one copy, some books are continually being checked out and we can use doubles.

November Executive Board Meeting:

The Executive Committee met on November 19, at Tom Ciarimitaro's residence. Present were; Bob Prochnow, Jane Saville, Tom Ciarimitaro, Bob Wahrer and John Stohr.

The December 10 Annual Christmas meeting was discussed:

Pot Luck, Auction, Bulletin, New Members, Financial (current assets of \$1303), San Jose Regional and the upcoming election.

Additional discussion included the need for articles from members of the chapter for our bulletin and the February Program. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

John Stohr
(Acting Secretary)

Past Editor Doing well:

As most of you know, our editor this year, Scott Grabill had heart surgery in late September. I am happy to inform everyone that Scott is doing very well and has even been seen doing clock trading. Scott will be the one at the December auction doing all the bidding. Glad to see you doing well, Scott!!

The Trusty Alarm

The word coined in English was *alarum* and the first noble time tellers were indeed *alarum* clocks, because they struck the hour on a bell as is the function of a clock and did not have hands or a dial as does a time-piece. Consequently they were *alarum* clocks. The *alarm* mechanism has changed radically since about 1350 when the first mechanical versions were made but the idea has not. It was simply to create enough noise to wake one up when it was necessary to do so.

The first were probably in monasteries where the monks were awakened periodically throughout the night to observe the canonical hours. However, *alarum* clocks have been continuously used throughout the centuries that followed to awaken maids and servants who did not have the privilege of sleeping-in as did the Lord and Lady of the manor.

Pendulum clocks of the mid 1600's had *alarums*, usually of a simple numbered disk about the cannon pinion, set to a time that the now handed clock would strike and just tripping a bell or gong.

These continued well into the 19th century with Black Forest clocks and with factory production of American clocks, each giving itself away with central disk to be set according to the hands to the correct hour.

The alarm, however, we all know and hate began about 1890 when the time for catching trolleys and trains became more critical. Then we needed something that gave us minute by minute accuracy. That something was the drum alarm; the one we could set to the exact minute we wanted to arise, shower, shave and run for our train. It had its own alarm dial with a hand to set and a lever to engage or stop the alarm action. What are most familiar to us are the so-called nickel alarms, with 2 front legs and one hind, bell on top or back of case or even just striking on the side of the case. These appeared in most every American clock company catalog about 1885. The movements were of the simple cheap stamped out lever type. The price was as little

as 39 cents, but they were the Spartan workhorse of a new and mobile society and the first perhaps disposable clock, although most have outlasted their owners.

They were called by such fetching names as Peep-O-Day, Bee, Flyer, Sunbeam, Sleep Meter, Flashlight Electric. Many of the most collectable today had animated figures on the dial and some were even housed in fancy gilded brass cases with beveled glass to resemble the expensive French travel clocks of the day.

One of the most interesting and collectable alarms is the Seth Thomas Long Alarm, housed in a Victorian rococo case with egg and dart molding, shell and volute decoration and in your choice of silvered, brass or bronzed cases. It is quoted to ring for 20 minutes on one winding (heaven forbid).

The alarms, however, we will all remember are the Big and Baby Bens, brain child of Western Clock Company, organized around the turn of the century to revive the declining watch and clock industry in America. One of the few American companies still in existence, it produces today millions of clocks each year: Big and Baby Bens one of their leading production items still.

Alarms now are digital and awaken us to sweet and gentle music, but none of us will ever forget the raucous clanging of the drum alarm that reminded us vividly that it was time to get up and that most of us, from time to time, wanted to throw out the window.

Next issue: The Demise of the Wind Up Clock.

Dorothy Glenk

The Damned Yankee

AT THAT POINT IN TIME...

When one considers the American clockmakers of the early 1900's, the first area of activity that might come to mind would be Connecticut, where many of our collectible clocks of today were manufactured. But New York State also had its share of clockmakers, one of whom was Asa Munger.

While many clockmakers were making movements by hand (one at a time), the more forward thinking entrepreneurs were working diligently at the mass production of movements. Once again, when we consider the early mass-producers, we first think of Eli Terry, the best known of the lot. However, Asa Munger was into the very same thing, knowing that mass-production was the secret to selling his clocks cheaper than his competitors.

Early on, he built a few clocks of wood, and quite a few with pewter plates, but the target of his activity, of course, was the brass movement. This alone was not a novel excursion, but the means by which the manufacturing took place was quite unique. He had been established for several years in Auburn, New York, the home of the State Prison. He actually contracted for the employment of prison labor to keep his manufacturing costs down. Certainly, prisoners would work for less than folks who had to pay for their own room and board!

Now isn't that interesting?

**Merry
Christmas**

Membership Chairman:

December is the time to renew your chapter membership. We Do Not send out a membership bill. Dues may be paid at the next meeting. Membership in the Diablo Valley Chapter (#107) will still be \$15.00 per year or \$20.00 for member and spouse. Remember, Chapter Membership includes:

- *Receiving the bulletin 6 times a year.
- *Refreshments at meetings
- *Free Mart Tables at meetings.
- *Free Ads (For sale or wants) in the bulletin.

If you cannot attend the December Meeting, dues may be mailed to the Chapter P.O. BOX.

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

From The Editor:

Please send all future articles for the bulletin to:

Bob Prochnow
417 Encino Dr.
Livermore, Calif. 94550

