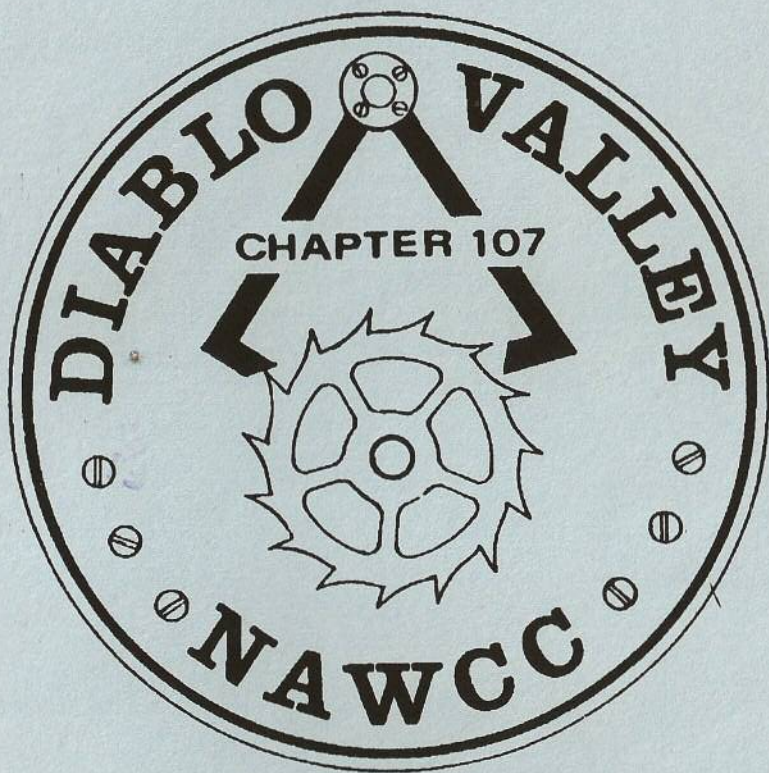


BULLETIN



DECEMBER 1990

ISSUE 72

Diablo Valley Chapter 107
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

MEETINGS

Chapter: Second Sundays, Even Months, Noon
Evening: First Fridays, Odd Months, 7:30 PM
Board: Second Mondays, Odd Months, 7:30 PM

1990 OFFICERS

President.....Steve Fabes.....932-5091
Vice President.....Wayne DeLaroche...944-9242
Vice President.....John Stohr.....376-6476
Secretary.....Tom Armour.....654-3363
Treasurer.....John Sanderson.....937-6272
Past Pres. Fred Cuthill.....626-3144

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Harold Montano.....1989-90....223-7931
Dorothea Sanderson....1989-90...937-6272
Glen Armstrong.....1990-91....837-6298
Rick Calicura.....1990-91....228-4992
Shirley Gibson.....1990-91....735-3377

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display.....Bob Wahrer.....462-4912
Drawing.....Harold Montano.....223-7931
Library.....Sandy Cuthill.....686-3144
Mart/S. Auction.....Ed Okvist.....357-6257
Membership.....Dorothea Sanderson...937-6272
Nominating.....Fred Cuthill.....686-3144
Photo/Mem.Book...Rick Calicura.....228-4992
Program.....Wayne DeLaroche.....944-9242
 John Stohr.....376-6476
Refreshments.....Bud Ehler.....228-5387
 Shirley Gibson.....735-3377

Editor....John North....676-9188

Please send material for BULLETIN to
4427 Striped Maple Ct. Concord, Ca, 94521

Statements of opinion or fact made by authors of articles appearing in 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.

MEETING INFORMATION

Sunday, December 9, 1990

at

HOME FEDERAL

Tice Valley Road and Rossmoor Parkway
Walnut Creek

Mart Setup 11:30 AM
Mart Begins 12:00 Noon

PROGRAM

ANNUAL POT LUCK LUNCH
and
GOOD STUFF AUCTION



I'll see all of you
in December!



President's Message

Happy Holidays....Yes, to every one of our members and their families a wish for peace and happiness.

I've enjoyed this year and have great hopes for 1991.

Our chapter continues to grow and fulfill our needs. We have great programs and a lively Mart. Most of all we have the best members. We should build on that, we can only enjoy ourselves some more.

So all is good within the chapter. Let us all realize that our good lives are not shared by all. The gifts I give to my family make me feel good, the gifts I give to the less fortunate make me feel ten times better. It's easy to be comfortable, it's easier to feel ten times better.

P.S. As I mentioned at the last meeting, the City of Vallejo has requested that we maintain their prized Alibi Jewelers street clock. Please call me if you would like to be part of our party to go to Vallejo in January or February to survey the clock. Then we will decide if we can do the job for Vallejo.

POT LUCK & AUCTION

Time again for that great event of the year, our annual POT LUCK LUNCH!

So we can have good variety, please bring food as follows:

Last Name	Starts With	Bring
A through D		Salads, Vegetable Dishes
E " I		Chips, Dips, Rolls, Cheese
J " O		Desserts and Treats
P " Z		Main Dishes, hot or cold

(If your specialty is other than stated, bring it instead, it will be enjoyed!)

AND Time for the ANNUAL AUCTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our ninth annual auction is for GOOD STUFF, not White Elephant items. Come prepared to buy and sell, it's the year's best chance.

Bring only horological type material. Items will be auctioned in the order they are signed in with auctioneer. You will need to fill out a form giving your name, brief description of item to be sold (type and condition, running or not) and minimum acceptable bid.

Auctioneer will start item at minimum bid. If no bids, Auctioneer will ask owner if a lower starting bid should be used. Seller may not bid on own item.

Chapter will charge fees:

To \$4.99	no charge
\$5.00 to \$99.99	\$1.00
\$ 100.00 and over	\$2.00

Looking Around At The Mart For Pocket Watches
-- Things You Won't Find In Books

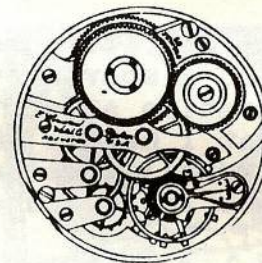
by Larry Bernard

There are many books out now on pocket watches containing much useful information. The most popular, and perhaps most convenient as a quick reference, seems to be The Official Price Guide by Shugart et al. This, and other references, have a section on how to buy a pocket watch containing much information not necessary to repeat here. In my twenty five or so years of watch buying, I have come across a few easily overlooked faults that can make the watch a lot less useful in terms of timekeeping, as well as a lot less original as an historic timepiece. We will look at watches that appear to be running perfectly, surely the most desirable of circumstances.

At the Mart, I spot a 23 j. Illinois Bunn Special, 16s stemwind lever set railroad grade watch (not the 60 hour model) running well. After the usual perusal of the dial for cracks, setting check, case wear, back removal and observation of balance wheel motion in various positions, I am quite excited since the price is affordable and this could be the centerpiece of my railroad watch collection. However, I calm myself and remember to check for what may seem obvious but is sometimes overlooked -- missing parts!

Not always are these obvious without a careful look, which may also reveal replaced parts, making the watch less original and perhaps even less accurate. At this point, let me credit Mr. Don Levison, a dealer and collector of truly fine timepieces, for an extremely valuable piece of advice. He carries a small, battery-powered illuminated magnifier that allows one to see details easily missed in even bright room light. I bought mine at my local hardware store for about \$5.

With this, one can make sure the spring and screw for the regulator index (often called "whiplash") or whatever other method was used to give railroad watches close regulation, is still attached. Obvious as this may seem, it is easy to miss if not looking specifically for it. Of course, this is big enough to see without magnification, but there are other things to check, too.



Back at the Mart, I scrutinize the balance cock and, yes indeed, the patent regulator is in place on the index with its tiny screws in place through the holes in the balance cock that would appear if it were missing. While at it, I give the hairspring a very close look. Three questions arise.

Is it properly spiralled (without overcoil in railroad grade), not kinked, with last coil in place between the two regulator pins? Hairspring adjustments are tricky at best, and replacements are hard, if not impossible, as well as expensive, to find.

Is the hairspring **rusty**? If so, timekeeping will be erratic and the possibility of future breakage greatly increased at this weakened point.

Finally, what color is the hairspring? If it is white, look closely at the balance wheel to determine its composition. If the rim is composed of two metals, brass and steel, it must have a blue hairspring, since this sort of balance, called bimetallic, is designed to compensate for the temperature errors of the blue steel hairspring. Such hairsprings are

no longer manufactured, so replacements are next to impossible, and a watch with bimetallic, cut rim balance wheel will never keep proper time with a white, temperature compensated alloy hairspring in the varying heat of the pocket and outside on the stand overnight.

Back at the Mart, my 23j Illinois looks good and I buy it, only to discover over a year (and a lot of frustration attempting regulation) later that I have a white hairspring and a bimetallic balance -- missed in the pre-buy inspection because I did not know to look for it!

Indeed, it was this grand error that taught me the lesson I am now relating to you. Recently, I saw another one of these white hairspring-with-bimetallic-balance combinations at another Mart -- this time on an 18s Hamilton 940 in otherwise excellent shape. We can expect this to begin happening more frequently now, since blue hairsprings are nearly unobtainable (if anyone knows of a source, the watch repair profession would love to be informed!) and the watch will not keep any reasonable time without a hairspring or with a badly distorted, rusted, or broken one. Beware!

Official Tear-Out Ballot



DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER #107
NAWCC

Election of Officers

December, 1990

PRESIDENT

John Stohr _____

VICE PRESIDENT
(vote for two)

Harold Montano _____

Bob Wahrer _____

SECRETARY

Tom Armour _____

TREASURER

John Sanderson _____

DIRECTORS 1991-1992
(VOTE FOR TWO)

Jack Coulter _____

Roy Holman _____

Before writing in any person, please check with that person to make sure they are willing to serve.

Bring your marked ballot to the December meeting or send it to the address on the reverse side in time to be counted at the December meeting.

From: _____

affix
stamp

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

The Tip Off -- by Phil Russell

The American Clock and Watch Museum, Bristol,
Ct.

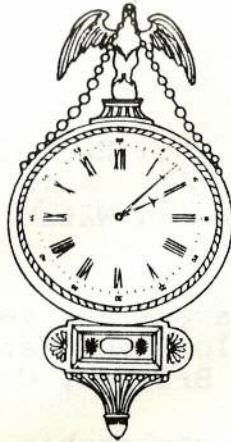
Several members have asked me about membership
in the American Clock and Watch Museum, Inc.,
100 Maple Street, Bristol, Ct. 06010.

Individual annual membership is \$15; \$25
annual family membership; \$50 Active (5
years); \$150 Sustaining (15 years); \$100 Life.

The Museum publishes annually 4 newsletters
and 2 Timepiece Journals (historical info).
Past Timepiece Journals are available at a
small cost, also a few books at discounted
prices. Past curator and president of the
Museum were Chris Bailey and Dana Blackwell.
Current managing director is Joyce Stoffers.

The Museum is EXCELLENT and a MUST if in the
area. E. Ingraham started the Museum and most
of his collections with many other major clock
makers are on exhibit. E. Ingraham left "Time
Capsules" of clocks made by E. Ingraham Clock
Co. in original boxes to be opened
periodically. This year the Capsule contained
7 clocks and 3 watches made in 1939.

If interested in becoming a member, send
membership dues to Director Joyce Stoffers at
above address. I've been a member for about
10 years and membership information and
Timepiece Journals have been well worth the
dues.



GALLERY CLOCK
Simon Willard, Roxbury, Mass. c.1810

HOLE END CLOCK SPRINGS

by John Stohr

Lubrication --

A good quality clock spring with polished surfaces will perform better dry than with heavy grease or oil lubricants. Use a light oil or grease to prevent corrosion rather than lubrication.

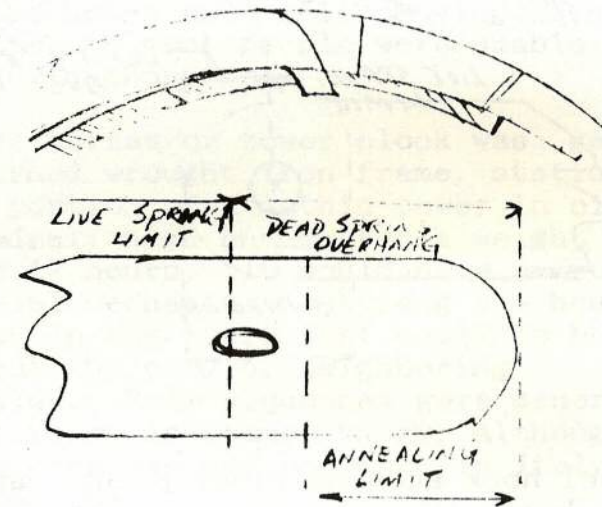
Heavy oil or grease bridges the coil leaves causing a viscous drag or plate adhesion and adds to the pressures normally present between leaves of the spring coil. This causes a "jerky" output to the clock time train as the spring unwinds.

Surface roughness on any clock spring can reduce output torque. This includes rust pits which can also cause spring breakage. The smoother the surface, the better the action.

Barrel Spring Outer Attachment Design --

GOOD:

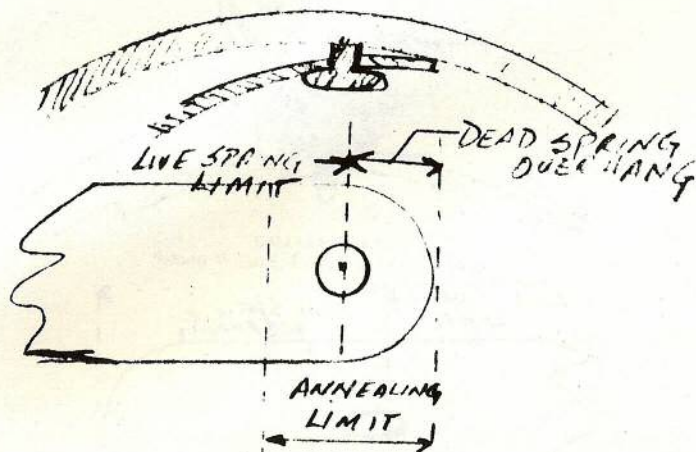
FIGURE 1



- Dead spring overhang at least 1 1/2 times width
- Smallest hole that will accept barrel hook
- Tensile strength of spring up to live spring limit. Annealing of spring end to stop short of barrel hook.
- Ramp like barrel hook forces spring against barrel wall providing better rigidity

POOR:

FIGURE 2



- Barrel hook acts as pivot point can cause side loads
- Annealing limit into live spring limit causes spring to pull sharply away from barrel when fully wound, causing spring to fatigue

Conclusion --
 Clock spring will wind and unwind concentrically if the outer attachment point is rigidly fixed and not allowed to pivot.

 *
 * It is with sadness we must report the *
 * passing of Joe Spangler and of Yen Kwan. *
 * Both will be missed, as both were en- *
 * joyed while they were with us. *
 *

THE ARCHITECTURE OF HOROLOGY -- Part 3
 Hesitant Beginnings

by Dorothy Waldrip, the Hoary Horologist

The word Horology comes from the French word Horologe, meaning a time keeper. The word Clock comes from the French Cloche and German Glocke meaning bell, and it is evident that the earliest "horologes" were clocks that only struck the hours on a bell, having no need of a dial because most people were unable to read letters or numbers.

The large turret or tower clock was generally an unadorned wrought iron frame, stationed in a lower portion of a gothic tower in city hall or cathedral, high enough for a weight drop of at least 12 hours. It would have a crude count wheel mechanism that rang the hours on a bell high in the tower that could be heard throughout the city or neighboring countryside. Bell sequences were generally 12 equal hours as is common today, although a 24 hour sequence was not uncommon in Italy and eastern Europe.

The oldest existing and running clock of this type now stands in the nave of Salisbury Cathedral in the south of England. It was built in 1386, just a few years after Dondi's brass astronomical clock, was altered to long pendulum some 300 years after its manufacture, but has recently been restored to its original foliot balance and, aside for some 70 years lapse from disrepair, it has been operable for some 600 years. There is little of architectural interest about its immense iron frame, wood winding drums and crudely cut gears. It has no dial nor hands but rings on a bell in one of the most magnificent Gothic cathedral towers in the world.

A small upright version appeared about the same time. A single iron strap held its 2 or 3 arbors in place, the foliot was suspended from an iron hook by a cord above. It generally consisted of a vertical crown

toothed escape wheel and a great wheel, the latter releasing a single strike each hour. The earliest bells were jingle bell type with a rattling stone inside, as cast bells were not yet known. There was often a dial, but no hand, where pegs could be inserted to cause the clock to strike at certain intervals according to the monks' nightly vigil of prayers and canonical hours. One such clock still in existence has a capstan form of winding, originally using a suspended stone as a weight.

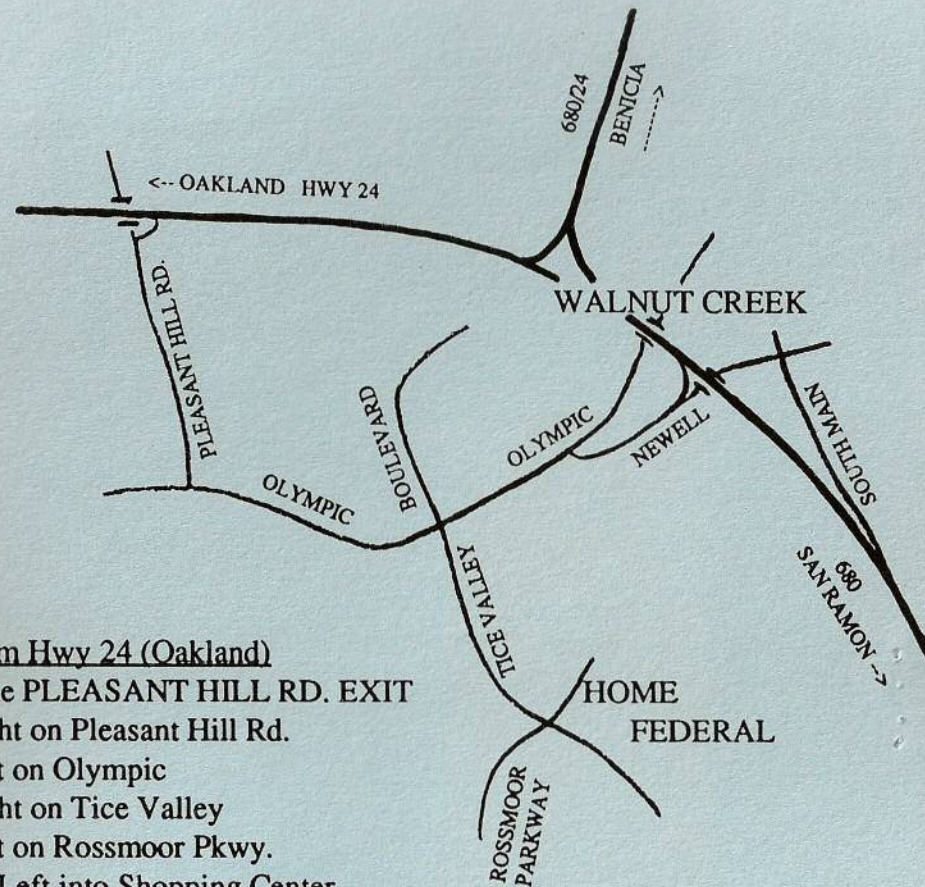
This early era in horology is often called the age of the Foliot, the oscillating horizontal bar which has been considered the first true mechanical escapement device. The bar (foliot) was generally suspended by a cord, carried adjustable balance weights at either end and was fixed at right angles to a verge stem whose pallets engaged and disengaged a spiked or toothed vertical escape wheel. The accuracy of a sundial, from which it was often regulated, put it to shame. But it was a beginning. The foliot standard of accuracy was to exist for several centuries.

TIME TO PAY 1991 DUES!

\$15.00 Includes Spouse and Children under 18.
One vote per \$15.00 Membership



DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS



From Hwy 24 (Oakland)

- Take PLEASANT HILL RD. EXIT
- Right on Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Left on Olympic
- Right on Tice Valley
- Left on Rossmoor Pkwy.
- 1st Left into Shopping Center

From Hwy. 680 (San Ramon)

- Take SOUTH MAIN EXIT
- Left On Newell
- Left on Olympic
- Left on Tice Valley
- Left on Rossmoor Pkwy.
- 1st Left into Shopping Center

From Hwy 680/24 (Benicia)

- Go South on 680 in Walnut Ck.
- Take NEWELL EXIT
- Right on Newell
- Left on Olympic
- Left on Tice Valley
- Left on Rossmoor Pkwy.
- 1st Left into Shopping Center

Home Federal is between American Bank & Trust and First Interstate Bank. Meeting Room is at rear.

Annual Chapter Membership \$15.00

Guests are most welcome, but due to our tax exempt status, only NAWCC members can participate in the MART.