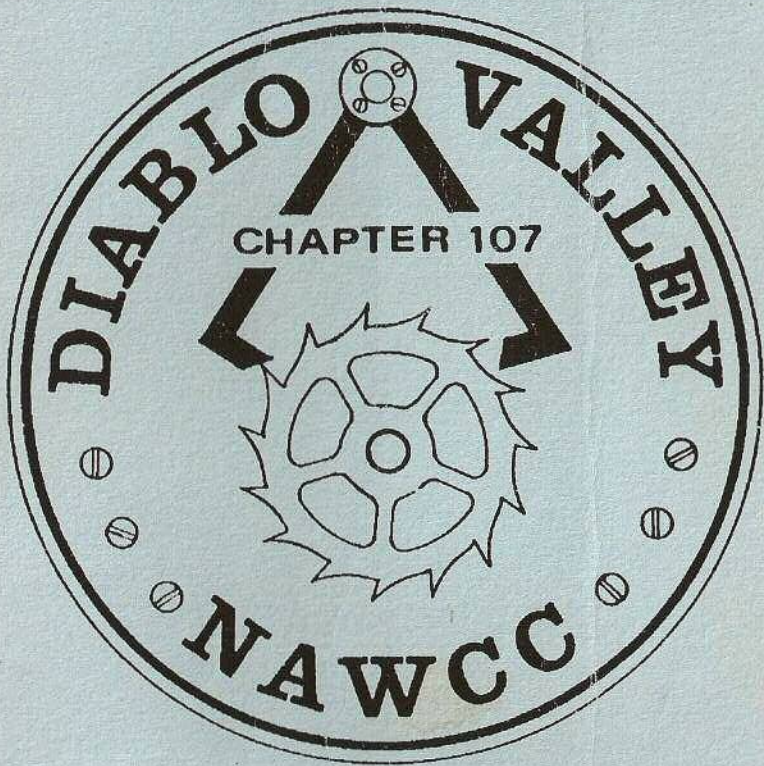


BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 1991

ISSUE 73

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

1991 OFFICERS

President.....John Stohr.....376-6476
Vice President...Harold Montano.....223-7931
Vice President...Bob Wahrer.....462-4912
Secretary.....Tom Armour.....654-3363
Treasurer.....John Sanderson.....937-6272
Past President...Steve Fabes.....932-5091

DIRECTORS

Glen Armstrong...1990-1991.....837-6298
Rick Calicura...1990-1991.....228-4992
Shirley Gibson...1990-1991.....735-3377
Roy Holman.....1991-1992.....530-5428
Jack Coulter....1991-1992.....254-0746

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display.....Bob Wahrer.....462-4912
Drawing.....Harold Montano.....223-7931
Library.....Sandy Cuthill.....686-3144
Mart/S Auction
Membership.....Steve Fabes.....932-5091
Nominating
Photo.....Rick Calicura.....228-4992
Program.....Harold Montano.....223-7931
 Bob Wahrer.....462-4912
Refreshments....Bud Ehler.....228-5387
 Shirley Gibson.....735-3377
Editor.....John North.....676-9188

Please send material for the bulletin to:
John North
4127 Striped Maple Ct.
Concord, CA 94521

MEETING INFORMATION

Sunday, February 10, 1991

at

HOME FEDERAL

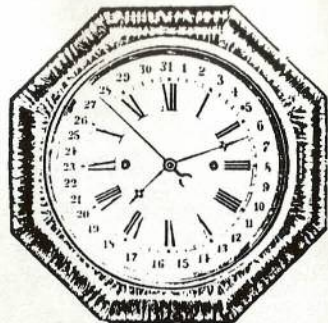
Tice Valley Road and Rossmoor Parkway
Walnut Creek

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

PROGRAM

Steve Fabes
"Time Pieces That Are Not Clocks or Watches"

Display
Bring in your non-clock/watch time pieces.



President's Message

Watch out 1991--Here comes Diablo Chapter.

Thanks to Steve Fabes, his board and committees in making 1990 an outstanding year. I hope with your new officers we can also make 1991 a good year.

I've asked last year's committees to remain with these exceptions: Steve Fabes will chair the Membership Committee and I need help to replace Ed Okvist on the Mart/Silent Auction Committee and also your help in replacing Fred Cuthill on the Nominating Committee. Do your good deed for the year and volunteer.

Your officers plan to continue both the Friday night and Sunday afternoon membership meetings. The meeting room at Home Federal-Rossmoor has been reserved. Meeting dates will be found elsewhere in this Bulletin issue. We are also open to constructive criticism, complaints and suggestions. There is a suggestion box at each Sunday meeting to be used or come bend my ear.

A reminder to those who have not paid their 1991 dues. Please do--that's what keeps us going.

For a good year with your help,

JOHN STOHR

DIABLO VALLEY #107 NAWCC EXECUTIVE MEETING JANUARY 14, 1991

Meeting: The January meeting was called to order by President John Stohr at 7:30 PM.

Present: Stohr, Wahrer, Gibson, Sanderson, Cuthill, Holman, Montano and Armour.

Membership: Membership Chair for 1991 will be Steve Fabes, Past Pres. The Chapter will pay National dues of \$35 for Dr. Hochstrasser of Romania for 1991.

Committee Chairs: Bob Wahrer, Display; Harold Montano, Drawing; Sandy Cuthill, Library, Shirley Gibson, Refreshments; agree to continue their Chairs in 1991.

Programs: Steve Fabes will be our speaker in February. We'll try to get Dorian Clair to speak on Clock Repair at a future meeting.

Equipment: We need a carousel slide projector and a tape player for our Friday Night Meetings. The Board will look into the prospects of a purchase.

Budget: Treasurer Sanderson worked with the Board to project a budget for 1991.

Adjournment: President Stohr adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Tom Armour
Secretary

Tom Armour



1991 Diablo Chapter Dates

Friday Evenings 7:30 PM	Sunday Afternoons Mart 12 Noon
1-4	2-10
3-1	4-14
5-3	6-9
7-5	8-11
9-6	10-13
11-1	12-8

Post your calendar now -- Don't miss a meeting

DUES DUES DUES

At our February Sunday meeting will be an excellent time to bring your 1991 dues up-to-date. Membership in Diablo Chapter is a great bargain at \$15.00 annually and is the vehicle that keeps the chapter alive.



Directors/Board Meetings

Directors meetings are normally held at the Home Federal Branch Conference Room, 2700 Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek, (near Ygnacio Valley Rd) on the second Monday, odd months. Start at 7:30 PM and last 1 1/2 hours. Members are welcome and invited to attend.

John Sanderson, Treasurer
Diablo Valley Chapter, 107
P.O. Box 23315
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Sir,

I received your friendly letter, in which you offer me a membership in your NAWCC, and thank you very much. I am happy to be a member of your society and to obtain so your bimonthly bulletin.

I have changed some letters with authors of German literature, but I don't have any information about American literature or research. I'm very happy, indeed, with your help.

Many sincerely thanks and the best greetings,

Dr. Gerhardt Hochstrasser
R - 1900 Timisoara 4
Str. lean Barac 5
ROMANIA



WORK OPPORTUNITIES/HELP WANTED

Apply now for great job opportunities. Need Chapter member to set up and administer Mart/Silent Auction tables. Learn on the job. Great Potential. Also need experienced arm twister to handle chairmanship of Nominating Committee. Apply at next Chapter meeting.

SOME TRULY ANTIQUE AMERICAN POCKET WATCHES

by Larry Bernard

Some while ago, it was generally agreed among persons interested in such matters that an "antique" would be defined as an object made one hundred or more years ago. As we enter the last decade of the Twentieth Century, this definition now classifies as "antique" a large number of, among other things, American pocket watch movements. How large a number? When we consider that true successful mass production of watch movements began in the United States in the late 1850's with one company (eventually called the American Watch Co., Waltham) and continued with the founding of at least eleven more companies before 1890, we begin to realize that quite a few watch movements were produced before the antique definition cut off date.

Furthermore, a casual inspection trip through any Mart will reveal a good many of these are available for what might be considered downright reasonable prices. It must be kept in mind, of course, that the case in which the movement presently resides may be considerably younger than one hundred years. Most companies made movements to standard sizes and sold these to the jeweler, who then fitted the movement to a case of the customer's choice. Later, as the case wore out or the owner fell on hard times and had to sell the case for the precious metal content, the movement could be recased very easily.

As an example, I recently purchased an Illinois movement finished in March 1890, housed in a nickel case made sometime after 1928, identified by its short pendant (the part between the crown, or winding button, and the curved top of the case; the bow is attached to the pendant below the crown). Case dating is, at best, a rather approximate

business. How, you may ask, did I know that the Illinois movement was finished March 1890? Well, at the Mart, I had little to go on, but when I got home I grabbed one of the books listed at the end of this article and did some quick research. Fortunately for us collectors, some of the watch factories kept reasonably accurate records which have been supplemented by years of avid data collection by devoted fanatics (I consider myself a fanatic, when it comes to American pocket watches), all of which gives us a pretty good idea of when movements were made by observation of the serial number stamped on the back plate.

I intend here to present a couple of tables summarizing these data and research. Limited to "quality" (seven jewels or better) mass produced watch movements made in the United States on or before 1890. In the first table, we will look at those companies who ceased operation before 1890, or changed name or ownership; thus, all of their products are truly "antique."

See Table I

As can be seen from the foregoing Table, there were a lot of companies that started, reorganized, sold, failed, and sometimes completely disappeared before 1890. This list is by no means exhaustive--I have not included "dollar" watch companies, or the truly rare and unusual; e.g. Albert Potter, Pitkin Brothers, Charles Fasoldt, etc. However, all the companies in Table I together probably produced less than two million watches total--the largest single series being one million or so by the Adams & Perry-Lancaster-Keystone Standard group, with Aurora a distant second with less than a quarter million total. Other production runs were fifty thousand or less.

TABLE I

Companies Which Ceased Watchmaking ca. 1890 or Before

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Aurora Watch Company	Actually ceased 1892--machinery sold to Hamilton W. Co.
United States W. Co.	Marion, N.J.--to 1874
Marion W. Co.	1874-6 (name changed from U. S.)
Empire City W. Co.	1876-8 (name changed from Marion)
Independent W. Co.	1878-83 (name changed from Empire Cty.)
Fredonia W. Co.	1883-5 (reorganized from Independent--sold to Peoria W. Co.)
Adams & Perry W. Co.	to 1877
Lancaster W. Co.	1877-86 (reorg. from Adams & Perry)
Keystone Standard W. Co.	1886-91 (bought Lancaster, sold to Hamilton W. Co.)
Tremont W. Co.	to 1866
Melrose W. Co.	1866-70 (name changed from Tremont--sold to English)
The New York W. Co.	<u>NOT</u> New York Standard--reorg. 1877 as Hampden W. Co.
Newark W. Co.	to 1870
Cornell W. Co.	1870-6 (from Newark)
California W. Co.	1876-7 (from Cornell)
Western W. Co.	1877-86 (from California--sold to Peoria W. Co.)
E. F. Bowman W. Co.	to 1882
J. P. Stevens W. Co.	1882-5 (from Bowman--sold in 1885)
Peoria W. Co.	Actually ceased in 1895

TABLE II

Watch Movements One Hundred or More Years Old Identifiable by Serial Number

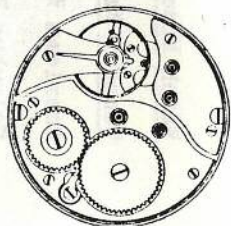
<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Number Reached by 1890</u>	<u>Comments</u>
American Waltham W. Co.	4,000,000	Actually reached in 1889
Columbus W. Co.	190,000	Assembling Swiss parts to #20,000
Elgin National W. Co.	4,000,000	Just like Waltham!
Hampden W. Co.	750,000	Springfield, Mass. & Canton, Oh.
E. Howard & Co.		This is tricky--different styles of movements were numbered differently--difficult to determine age by serial number alone...
Illinois W. Co.	1,000,000	Factory records show some earlier numbers finished later--few after 1890
Rockford W. Co.	184,000	Best estimate
Seth Thomas W. Co.	110,000	Yes, the clock co!
United States W. Co., Waltham	3,000	<u>NOT</u> U. S. <u>MARION</u>

In Table II, we will look at some larger quantities.

See Table II

As can be seen in Table II, we have a much greater quantity of movements available from the companies able to survive into, and in some cases beyond, the last decade of the Nineteenth Century. Some nine million or so movements are available to the "antique" watch collector, generally at very reasonable prices. American Waltham and Elgin, accounting together for the vast majority of "antique" movements, have easy-to-remember cut-off numbers (both four million) and are found in just about every Mart, no matter how small. Of course, one must keep in mind a few points: just because the watch is running does not mean that it will either continue to run or keep reasonable time; also, the case may not be anywhere near a century old. Prices also vary greatly based on condition, jewellery, and rarity, among other things.

Nevertheless, I find it interesting that one can often obtain a medium to high quality, usually running, American made piece of machinery a hundred years or more old for little more than the price of a plastic quartz wristwatch made last month in Switzerland; of course, the Swiss plastic will keep better time (until the battery runs down), but the American antique will either be gilded or cleverly damaskeened, with a glass enamel dial itself a work of art, and it is a piece of history as well as a tribute to American factory craftsmanship of a century or more ago. Happy hunting!



References:

IDENTIFICATION AND PRICE GUIDE TO AMERICAN POCKET WATCHES FROM BEGINNING TO END, Roy Erhardt and Bill Meggers.

AMERICAN POCKET WATCHES ENCYCLOPEDIA AND PRICE GUIDE, VOLUMES ONE and TWO, Roy Erhardt and Bill Meggers.

AMERICAN WATCHMAKING--A TECHNICAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WATCH INDUSTRY 1850-1930, Michael C. Harrold.

Larry Bernard

THE "RIGHT" TOOL FOR THE JOB...

by Jim Stephan

I have heard of people using typewriter repair tools, dental tools, etc., for various applications, but never pinball machine repair tools. I purchased for \$2.75 six double-ended tools used to bend leaf switches on pinball machines. (Check any pinball/amusement supply house. WICO Atlanta, Chicago, etc. has a \$25.00 minimum order but they have tons of other tools. Catalogs free.)

These tools have a slot on an angle in each end that makes them perfect for delicate adjustments to striking mechanisms, lifting rods, cuckoo clock parts, etc. The variety of angles supplied makes almost any place in a movement or case easy to get at.

With a saw, you can make your own. Just cut a slot in the end of any surplus rods and bend them to fit each job. Make an assortment of slots horizontal and vertical, right angles, 45 degrees, etc.

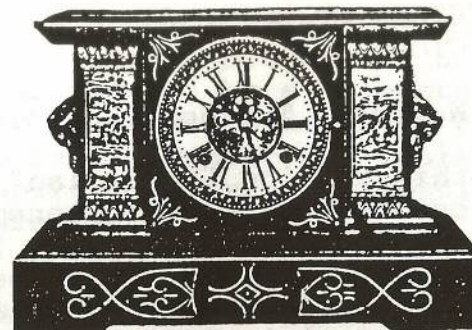
THE AMERICAN BLACK MANTEL CLOCK

by P. V. Russell

(Excerpts from our own Phil Russel's soon to be published NAWCC Bulletin article)

In 1880, the Ansonia Clock Company of Brooklyn, NY issued its first catalog which advertised cast-iron clock cases. The cases were manufactured with a highly polished, black japanned or ebonized finish that resembled marble. The artistic scroll engravings on the cases were gilded. This was the beginning of the less expensive American "imitation" French black marble clock case and the gilded style which would be produced in massive quantities over the next 52 years. The first prototypes--the Euclid, Duchess, and the La France models with statues were available in 1878, priced at \$12, \$12.50, and \$13. American black mantel clocks were made from 1880 to the early part of 1932 when the Waterbury Clock Company stopped production.

By 1881, The E. Ingraham Clock Company claimed to be the first to develop American black mantel (japanned) or ebonized and marbled wood cases, as well as their own high-gloss black cast-iron cases. Characteristics of imitation French black mantel clock cases, in addition to fancy gilded scrolls on the front, are marbled or metal columns with gilded caps and bases, and fancy designed feet and sides. The popularity of this case style soon led clock manufacturers to make the case in other colors, but black predominated. Today, regardless of the color, the clock is referred to as the "black mantel" style. Because black mantels were affordable to almost everyone, they became a common household item.



From the early 1860's, French clockmakers exported large numbers of their popular mantel clocks to the U.S. (But)...French marble clocks were too expensive for the average American worker who made 10 cents to 15 cents per hour. French marble clocks in 1893 were priced from \$20 to \$32 and up. Similar cast-iron cased clocks were priced from \$12 to \$23. The ebonized or japanned wood-case clocks were even less expensive, priced from \$7 to \$14. Some American clockmakers bought the expensive marble cases and placed their own American-made movements into them. But when the Ansonia Clock Co. started producing the more affordable imitation black marbled clock by 1880, the age of the "American black mantel clock" began.

Using cast iron for clocks had been a novel idea earlier in the 19th century. In 1815, Joseph Ives, Luke Roberts, and Lot Newell used iron for clock cases, but did not meet with much success. Before 1865, the American Clock Co., a sales outlet for some American clockmakers located in New York City, offered cast-iron front cases for clocks. In 1867, Silas B. Terry formed the Terry Clock Co. and made small and fancy cast-iron cases for small alarm timepieces and clocks with bronze and black finishes. In 1874, G. S. Lovell, a wholesale clock dealer in Philadelphia, offered black and gilded iron and bronze clocks made by the Terry Clock Co. By 1880, the market for cast-iron cases had definitely increased.

by Dorothy Waldrip, The Hoary Horologist

The word Gothic meaning "barbarian" (after the Goths) was coined in the enlightened Renaissance period that followed. In architecture, however, the gothic period (beginning about 1150 with the building of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris) ushered in the grandest period of masonry structures ever built. From then until well into the 15th century, buildings, furniture and clocks were made in gothic design. The design has been revived over and over in history to remind us of romantic castles, knights in armor and dark and intriguing mysteries. Along with glazed windows, luxurious tapestries and parquet floors, the domestic clock began to appear in the manor houses of Hanseatic Germany, France, Switzerland and the Low Countries.

The clock was still the work of a blacksmith, a cross between the monk's alarum and a scaled down version of the large tower clock, but with more sophistication. Now it had a single hand, movable or stationary, to indicate the hours on a dial and usually with time and strike and often alarum. The movement now consisted of the center straps contained in a pillared cage; pillars often represented the buttresses of a gothic cathedral. Time and strike trains were front to back with a continuous rope and single weight. A simple count wheel was mounted on the back and the clock struck on a large, now cast, bell at the top, above the foliot of the escapement. A decorative steeple-like framework supported the bell, decorated with all manner of decorative iron work; leaf-like cusps and bud-like crockets, spiral tendrils and pomogranate shaped finials. The iron dial was frequently elaborately painted with decorative and armorial devices. A central alarum disk was a new addition, with holes for pegs to be set to activate the alarum at a certain hour, a feature still in existence in some Black

Forest German clocks as late as the 18th century. The alarum often rang on a separate bell and was powered by a separate weight and mechanism. Those small domestic clocks which remain are few in number but exciting to see as they superbly portray the gothic idea in architecture.

The tower or cathedral clock had matured also, not only adding a roman numbered or uniquely created dial to show the hours, but also adding elaborate systems of mechanical figures or "jacks" that performed when the hours struck, especially the hour of 12. Many of these grand clocks still exist today in Europe, to the delight of tourists. In Venice, on the St. Marks Square clock tower, circa early 17th century, the Virgin appears at 12 and 6 and three kings appear to do homage to her, while life-size bronze figures strike the time on huge bells above. In Bern, Switzerland, on a 13th century city gate, a rooster crows and flaps its wings while puppets and bears (bern) do tricks on one of the largest dial clocks in Europe. On Munich's Rathaus a parade of knights on horseback promenade each hour. In Rothenberg, Germany, the Burgermeister and his Roman opponent pop out of windows and try to drink each other "under the table." The Burgermeister won it is told and thus saved the city.

Horology was well under way; timekeeping yet a little shaky; let's say within about an hour a day.

FOR SALE

Mission style tall case clock, dark oak, 80" tall, 18" wide, 10" deep. Time and strike weight driven German movement. Brass pendulum, weight shells and dial with rose pattern. Keeps good time. Asking \$500.00. Pictures at February meeting or call Tom Mitch at (415) 865-6711.

A LISTING OF THE FIRST U.S. PATENT
NUMBER ISSUED IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR
FROM THE YEAR 1974 to 1990

By Phil and Sarah Russell

Year	Patent No.	Year	Patent No.
1974	3,781,914	1984	4,423,523
1975	3,858,241	1985	4,490,885
1976	3,930,271	1986	4,562,596
1977	4,000,520	1987	4,633,526
1978	4,065,812	1988	4,716,594
1979	4,131,952	1989	4,794,652
1980	4,180,867	1990	4,890,335
1981	4,242,757		
1982	4,308,622		
1983	4,366,579		

For a fee of \$1.50 (in 1990) the U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, will send you a complete copy of a U.S. Patent or a Trademark, postage free. You need to send the Patent Number.

In 1838 a 'Reissue' number system was started with a Number 1. In 1990 the Reissue number is now at 33,138. In 1843 a 'Design' number was issued starting at No. 1. and in 1990 is now 305,275. Usually the Patent Number is shown and then a letter 'D' with the design number. I have a complete listing of all...

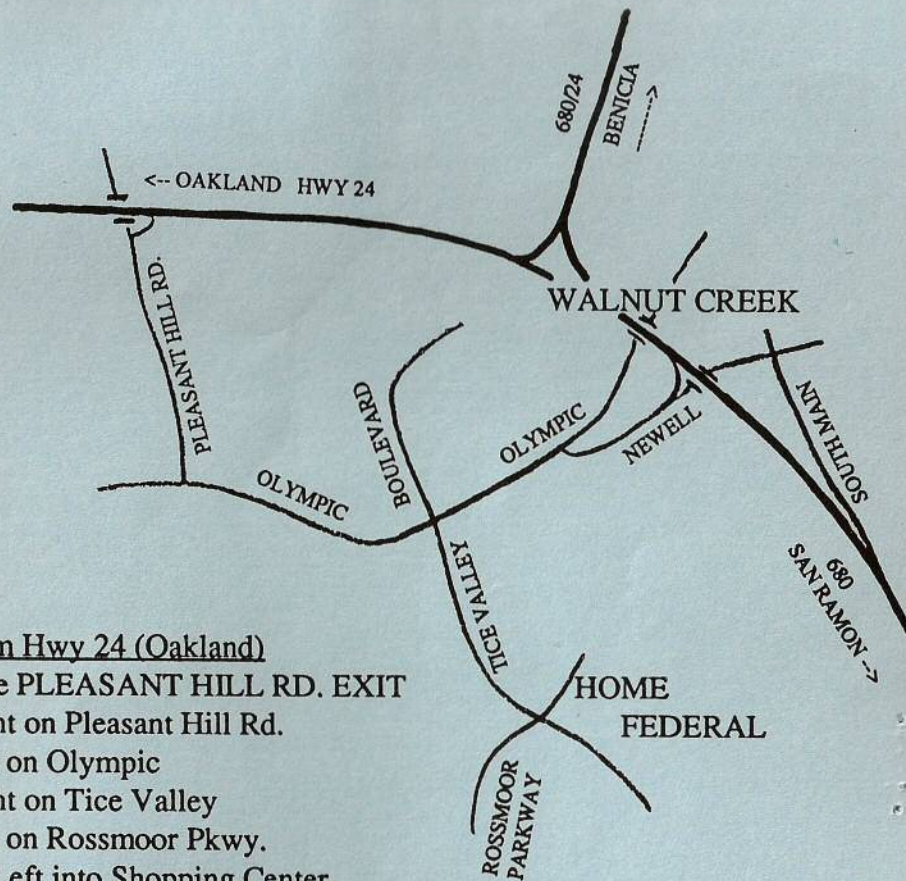
THE TIP OFF

by Phil Russell

It's NAWCC National Election Time; be sure and take the time to vote for Dave Morgan for Director. Dave, while a Walnut Creek resident for several years, worked very hard and played a big part in getting our NAWCC Diablo Valley Chapter Charter in the 70's. Vote for DAVE. Also another excellent candidate for NAWCC Secretary is Paul V. Heffner--who is now the NAWCC Bulletin "The Answer Box" manager. I work with Paul and he is dedicated and "on the ball."

Dave was one of our first Chapter vice presidents.

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

Non Member Meeting Donation \$3.00

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