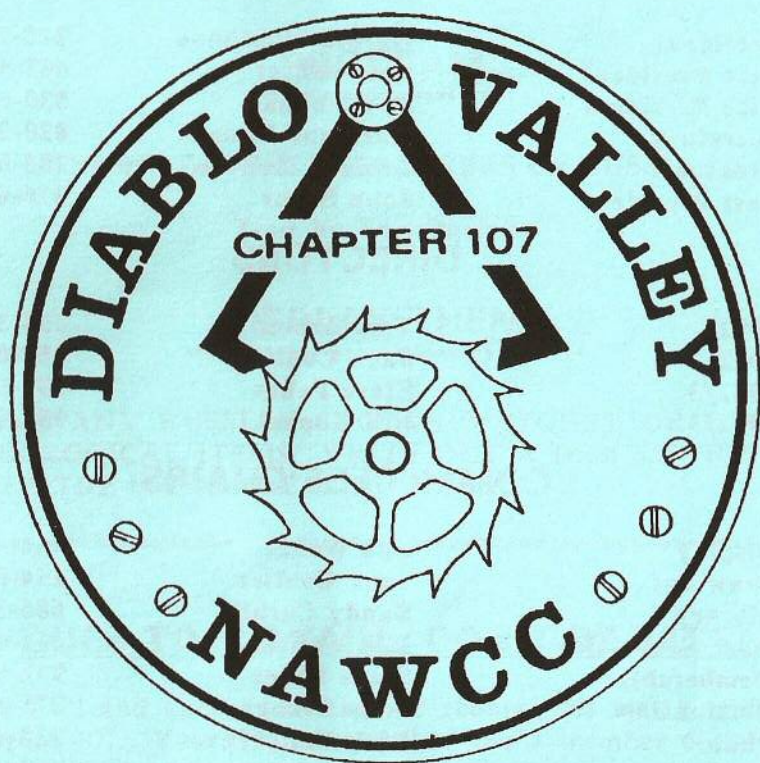


BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 1992

VOLUME 79

DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

MEETINGS

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

1992 OFFICERS

President	Harold Monthano	223-7931
Vice President	Bob Wahrer	462-4912
Vice President	Roy Holman	530-5428
Secretary	Marianne Duncan	820-2483
Treasurer	John L. McKeen	283-8366
Past President	John Stohr	376-6476

DIRECTORS

1992	Tom Armor	654-3363
1992	Jack Coulter	254-0746
1992/3	Steve Fabes	932-5091
1992/3	Bill Koppel	934-9391

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	Bob Wahrer	462-4912
Drawings	Jack Coulter	254-0746
Library	Sandy Cuthill	686-3144
Mart/S. Auction	Bob Wahrer	462-4912
Membership	Steve Fabes	932-5091
Nominating	John Stohr	376-6476
Photo	Rich Calicura	228-4992
Program	Bob Wahrer	462-4912
"	Roy Holman	530-5428
Refreshments	Tom Armour	654-3363
"	Bud Ehler	228-5387
Editor	Tom Beales	376-6212

Please send material for the Bulletin to:

Tom Beales
104 Coral Drive
Orinda, CA 94563

MEETING INFORMATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1992

at

HOME FEDERAL SAVING AND LOAN
Tice Valley Road and Rossmore Parkway
Walnut Creek
(See map on back cover)

PROGRAM

HOROLOGICAL TREASURERS OF RUSSIA

Tour by Tom Bartells

DISPLAY THEME

BRING ANY RUSSIAN CLOCKS, WATCHES, OR OTHER HOROLOGICAL ITEMS. WRITE OUT A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE ITEMS ARE IF YOU CAN.

DUES TIME AGAIN. DON'T BE LATE!

It is 1992 and once again time to renew your membership in Chapter 107. Your \$15 dues makes you a member of one of the NAWCC's best chapter.

The Chapter does not send out renewal notices or invoices, so please renew at the February meeting. If you can not make the meeting or your forget your checkbook, mail your check to :

Diablo Valley Chapter #107
Attn: Steve Fabes, Membership Chair
P. O. Box 23315
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all Chapter #107 members. At this time I would like to thank John Stohr and all the other outgoing Officers and Directors for making 1991 a very successful year.

Also, a warm welcome to the new Officers, and the new and old Directors of our Chapter for 1992.

The program for February will be a video program because of the Los Angeles Regional. A lecture and slide show on Tower Clocks will be given at our April meeting.

A reminder to our Chapter members. Dues for 1992 are due and payable if you have not already done so. This is what keeps our Chapter going.

For those of you not present at our December meeting, you should know that Ellis Weisker was very ill and has since passed away. Several of our Chapter members attended memorial services for him on December 14, 1992.

I look forward to an exciting year for our Chapter. Please let me hear of any ideas you may have to make your membership even more enjoyable.

Hal Montano



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee met at John Stohr's house. Our new President Harold Montano called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Eleven members were present.

Future board meetings will be at Harold Montano's house in Pinole.

Established the programs for the year:

- February 9: Horological Tour of Russian Museums
- April 12: Tower Clocks
- June 14: Phil Russell will update us on celluloid clocks
- August 9: White Elephant Auction, Cookie Bake-off, Ugly Clock Contest
- October 11: To be announced
- December 13: Pot Luck and Auction

Agreed to provide a membership to National as a door prize to Chapter 151 in Florida for their regional.

Established the 1992 budget to be the same as for 1991

Bulletin	\$600
Refreshments	\$200
Photography	\$50
Program	\$25
Insurance	\$175
Library	\$235
Post Office Box	\$50
Misc.	\$250
Room	\$125

The Diablo Valley Chapter will not be needed to help at the Golden Gate Regional on September 24 - 27.

Roy Holman suggested we have a program on insurance for collections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Marianne Duncan
Secretary

REQUEST FOR HELP!

During our NE "Fall Color" trip in October, my wife and I were able to visit the Mid-Hudson Chapter #84 for their Mart and Chapter meeting. The Mart was great; mostly clocks and bargains--bargins. A real shame that Poughkeepsie N. Y. is so far from California.

The high point of the visit was Mr. Snowden Taylor's (Chair of NAWCC's Research Committee) talk on the subject of the 8 day brass works identification.

We were invited to lunch with Mr. & Mrs. Taylor and Chapter members Mr. & Mrs. Warren, and William Hutchinson, This gave the opportunity to ask many questions regarding clocks in my collection. The "Group of Three" had most of the answers.

When asked how I could ever thank them enough, they replied - conduct a West Coast search for information and/or location of clocks from makers on whom they are now doing research. So here is my plea for help.

They are looking for information on 8 day brass clocks from : Smith & Goodrich; Chauncey Goodrich; George Brown; John Whitear or Joseph Bulkley of Fairfield CT; Richard Minear & John Benjamin of Stratford CT.

Steve Hibbs, a long time member of Chapter #107, has already supplied information and pictures of a beautiful Smith & Goodrich OG clock. Thanks Steve for your help.

Can other of you help? Information can either be sent to me or directly to Bill Hutchinson, c/o Mr. Snowden Taylor; Research Committee Chair; 318 Western Highway; Tappan, N. Y. 10983.

The "Group of Three" are all current authors on clocks and related items. Mr. Warren's article is in the October 1991 NAWCC Bulletin. (Birmingham, CT? re: "Bells" donated by Anson Phelps, founder of the Ansonia Clock Co). William Hutchinson has an article to soon be published in the Newsletter of the American Clock and Watch Museum; Bristol CT. It was nice to be in the company of the "Smart and Famous".

Thanks in advance for your help.

John L. McKeen
283-8366



CLARENDON. Black Enameled Wood.

The metal finials, feet, column holders et al including the Black Mantel feet, contained about 87% lead and 13% antimony. Antimonial lead is resistant to acids and tends to expand when it solidifies. This expansion provides a clear, distinct imprint of the mold and thus is ideal for lion heads, scrolls, and feet. Antimony melts at 630 degrees F and makes the lead alloy about 10% harder than just lead alone. Pewter (some) are alloys of antimony with tin and lead. Antimony alone is very brittle.

** PR **

ELIAS INGRAHAM AND GOTHIC CLOCKS "THE MYTHS"

The sale of the small "Sharp Gothic and Rounded Gothic" clocks at the Chapter's December auction well shows the keen interest in Elias Ingraham's Gothic style cases ... BUT ... alas the Myth. The English invented the Gothic style cases in 1820 over 20 years before Elias came out with his models. There is no indication that he was aware of the 1820 case style but he did do a lot of overseas traveling.

Why the name "Gothic"?? It was a revival. Gothic is a style of architecture developed in Western Europe during the 12th to 16th Century pushing aside the Grecian architectural style of that time. The Gothic style was characterized by flying buttresses, ribbed vaulting, pointed arches and steep roofs.

Elias Ingraham was a "Top Notch" cabinet maker in Bristol, CT and resurrected and "revived" the Rounded Gothic (the Beehive) case in about 1840. It was called a Beehive because it looked like an old straw beehive. At this time Elias was flat broke and in bankruptcy. However, in 1840 the clock industry was revolutionized by the new spring for a clock power source and the public was ready to buy. Around 1842 or so, Elias came out with the "Steeple" cased clock. He gained fame and made a fortune, but he might have made more.



Small Gothic



Sharp Gothic



Derby

The U. S. Design Patent became available in 1843. The Design Patent was issued only for "new" and "unique" use of an existing invention. The case was considered a "use" of the clock movement invention. The numerous other clock makers eagerly copied this "Gothic" style cases and also made a lot of money.

Who benefitted? There was Birge Fuller of Bristol and their "Sharp Gothic-on-Frame style we call the double steeple. The Joseph Ives used the "Steeple" for his wagon spring power device called an accelerating lever spring: (it accelerated at the time right out of the case.) J. C. Brown of Forestville made the "Ripple" front steeple case. The Gothic styles "plucked" Elias from poverty and made him rich and famous. (That's no MYTH.) If Elias had been able to obtain a "Design Patent" he would have made \$\$\$Millions upon \$\$\$Millions.

Phil V. Russell

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

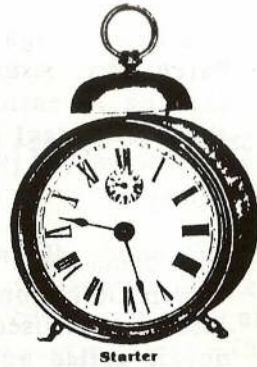
Enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin is a one page survey form prepared by Steve Fabes, Membership Chair and Tom Beales, Editor.

It has been a long time since we last took a survey of this sort. The Chapter wants to learn about members interests so that it can tailor its programs to them.

Steve is interested in compiling an inventory of the skills and talents of the membership that could be shared to mutual benefit. Tom wants to know about members interests, be they clocks or watches, types, countries of origin, etc. He also would like to know what kinds of articles are of interest such as "how to do it", history, identification, or biographical sketches of some of our key members.

Please mail your filled-out form to Steve or bring it to the February meeting. If you choose to mail the form, simply staple it closed and put a stamp on it.

Thanks for your interest.



HATE ALARM CLOCKS? IT COULD BE MUCH WORSE

Some persons hate to wake up to the jarring jangle of an alarm clock. But it was even worse before the alarm clock was invented.

Plato, the renowned Greek philosopher, awoke to a sound simulating a hurricane roaring through his bedroom. He rigged up a water clock to release the water when it reached a certain height. It was carefully calculated to do so at a set time of day. It worked, but probably did little to brighten Plato's day.

There were some beds in the 19th Century that served as alarm clocks. An Italian fellow fixed his bed so that every morning at 8 o'clock sharp it sent him crashing to the floor., And there was a bed with a huge spring inside that slowly uncoiled during the night. At the awakening hour the bed fell with a bang, tossing the sleeper to the floor.

Another guaranteed awakener was the bed with a giant music box attached to it. The loud music, sounding something like modern hard rock, would blare at a given time, rousing a sleeper to cut off the terrible noise. Various animals also were used before the alarm clock era.

Of course, farmers relied on the familiar rooster's cook-a-doodle-doo. But they also used dogs, cats, birds, and even talking parrots that said: "Time to get up! Time to get up!"

City dwellers, not having access to such animals, relied on other awakeners. Some clocks had such long hands they knocked objects of tables when it was time to get up. Other sleepers rigged devices to set off fireworks, spill jugs of water on them, or eject sneezing powder into their faces.

Then there was one clever fellow who designed a clock with a peculiar pulley device that snatched the cover of his bed at a designated hour. Its main drawback, however, was that it took half the night to set up the device, giving the inventor only half a night of sleep.

Reprint submitted by: Bob Wahrer

E. N. Welch

Sessions

INGRAHAM

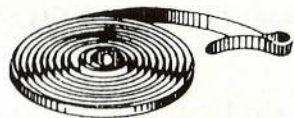


As you might guess, competition in the clock making industry was keen in the 1800's. In 1827 Bristol clock manufacturers were making 50,000 to 100,000 clocks annually. Joseph Ives ended up in Debtor Prison in the 1830's. Good old John Birge bailed him out. Elias Ingraham twice went bankrupt, the last time in 1857 at age 52. It is noted that in 1857 Bristol CT had more than 60 clock manufacturing concerns. In 1860 Elisha Welch was Bristol's first millionaire making 100,000 clocks annually. By the mid 1960's, out of 400 original clock companies in and around Bristol, only two remained: Ingraham and Sessions. And of course now it's zero. Time marches on!

** PR **

The Seth Thomas "Adamantine" label on Seth Thomas clocks states: "Patented September 7, 1880. This finish is very durable, will not chip and cannot be scratched or dented by any ordinary usage. Can be washed or otherwise cleaned without detriment or injury to polish." Adamantine is a Celluloid veneer, invented by John Wesley Hyatt, and was issued U. S. Patent 232,037, dated September 7, 1880. There is no record in the U. S. Patent Office of this Patent ever being assigned to Seth Thomas. The Patent remains in the name of Hyatt. Adamantine also said to be impervious to dust, damp, and age. The Trademark for Adamantine was registered on November 1896.

**** PR ****



In 1740, Benjamin Huntsman, a clock maker in Yorkshire, England, was dissatisfied with the poor grade of steel available for clock springs. By his efforts to make a better steel, he actually re-discovered the lost ancient process used in India in 500 B. C. called "wootz". His find made Sheffield steel famous and clock makers elated.

**** PR ****

FROM THE EDITOR

As your new editor I want to make the Bulletin responsive to the member's needs and interests. I encourage everyone to submit material for publication. It can be in almost any form because I will retype it. Pictures do not reproduce well but line drawings do. If you have any appropriate "clip art" please give it to me.

Isn't there something you can write about, or a question for an Answer Box page that you would like to throw out to the membership at large for an answer, or something to buy or sell for the MART ads? Each month there are sixteen pages to fill. With your help they will contain interesting reading.

Also, please contact me if you find any errors in the mailing labels on the Bulletin or if you change your address in the future. We would not want you to miss any of the Bulletins.

Tom Beales

1992 MEETING CALENDAR

Listed below are the 1992 dates for Sunday noon, Friday evening and Executive Board meetings. Mark your calendars now!

<u>Sunday Meetings</u>	<u>Friday Meetings</u>	<u>Executive Board Meetings</u>
Feb. 9	Mar. 6	Mar. 9
Apr. 12	May 1	May 11
Jun. 14	Jul. 10	Jul. 13
Aug. 9	Sep. 4	Sep. 14
Oct. 11	Nov. 6	Nov. 9
Dec. 13	Jan. 8, 1993	Jan. 11, 1993

**** MART ****

WANTED: Items for this page. Buy; sell; trade; give away.
Contact Editor Tom Beales with your items.

SPECIAL

collectable!

GIVE AWAY

TRADE

WOW!

SAVE

BUY

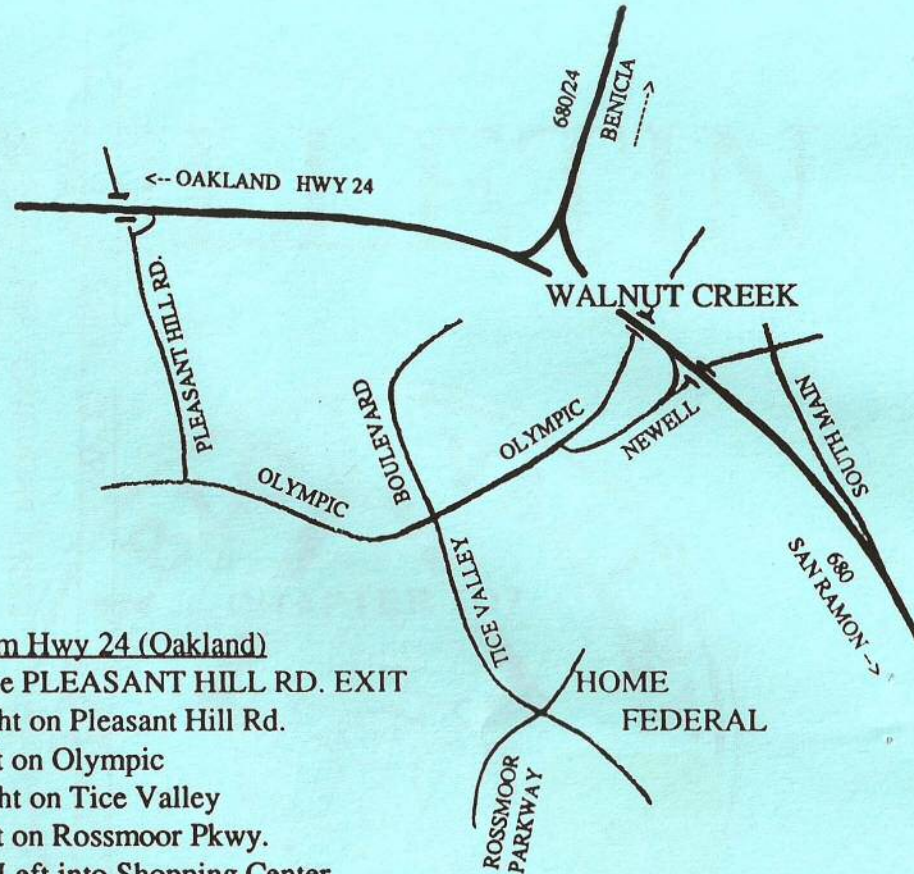
SELL

FREE!!!

VALUE

BARGAIN

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.