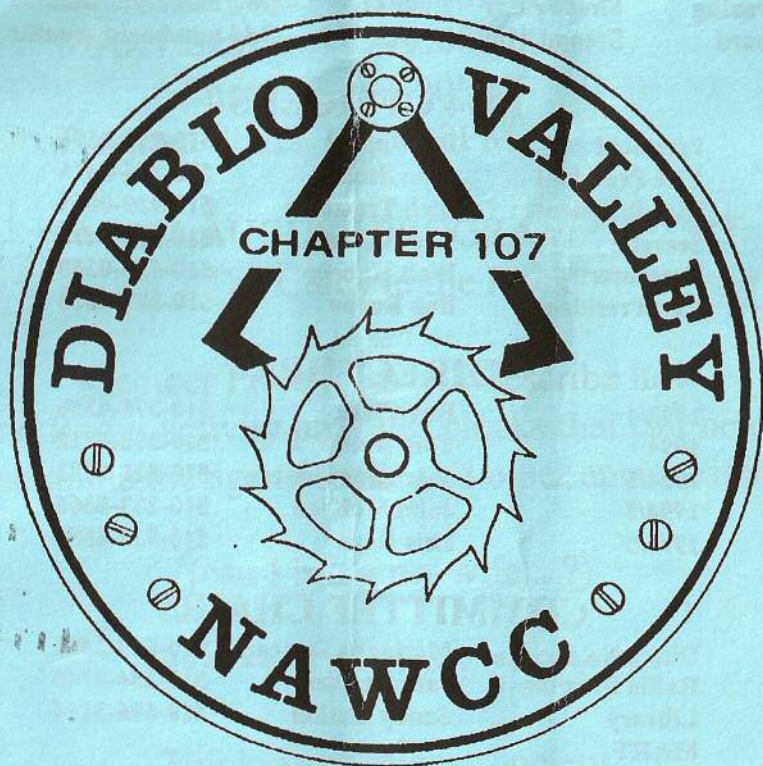


BULLETIN



August 1994
Volume 94

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DIABLO VALLEY CHAPTER 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Motto "Accent on Education"

Meetings

Chapter	Second Sunday 11:30AM	- Even numbered months
Evening	First Friday 7:00PM	- Odd numbered months
Board	Second Monday 7:30PM	- Odd numbered months

1994 OFFICERS

President	Bill Koppel	510-934-9391
Vice President	John Stohr	510-376-6476
Vice President	Dick Tremaine	510-939-0663
Secretary	Roy Holman	510-530-5428
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	510-685-0260
Past President	Bob Boone	510-827-3858

DIRECTORS

1993/4	Roy Clark	510-376-6356
1994	Tom Beales	510-376-6212
1994/5	Marianne Duncan	510-820-2483
1994/5	John McKeen	510-283-8366
1994/5	Lois Naye	510-934-4557

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	Marianne Duncan	510-820-2483
Raffle Drawing	Jack Coulter	510-254-0746
Library	Sandy Cuthill	510-686-3144
MART	****open****	
Membership	Roy Holman	510-530-5428
Nominating	John Stohr	510-376-6476
Photo	Richard Simpson	510-339-9529
Program	Dick Tremaine	510-939-0663
" "	John Stohr	510-376-6476
Refreshments	Lois Naye	510-934-4557
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	510-685-0260
Bulletin/Editor	Steve Fabes	510-932-5091

Meeting Information

Sunday August 14th 1994

at

ACALANES ADULT CENTER
(the old Del Valle High School)

Room D-1

*****see directions at inside of the back cover*****

MART Set-up	11:30AM
MART Starts	12:00Noon
Ends	1.00PM
Program Starts	1:00PM

***** AUGUST PROGRAM *****

"The Clock in the Rock"

Member Price Russ will describe how
Natural Radio-activity provides clocks that can be used to
determine the age of rocks and other ancient items.

(can I bring my wife....?)

***** DISPLAY *****

Thinking of things "ancient"

Lets display our oldest clocks and watches
Repros of the really ancient clocks are OK
unless you have the key to
the Smithsonian or the British Museum

President's Message

I would like to thank all of the people involved in arranging last month's meeting. The Auction brought to the Chapter more than \$100 and was a lot of fun. Thank you Roy and Steve and congratulations to Ginny and Joe Ford who won this year's Ugly Clock contest with the Steer Skull quartz clock. John Stohr walked off with the Cookie Contest but we think he had some help....

Thank you to Rene Rondeau for another excellent program, this one on the lesser known Hamilton Cordless Electric Clocks.

Over half of this year has gone and its time to start looking for next year's Chapter officers and committee members. If you would like to become more involved with the Chapter then please talk with our nominating chairman, John Stohr. We need your help and being an officer is an enjoyable way of helping the Chapter and meeting more of the membership.

Speaking of volunteers, we need a few more people to give a brief presentation on their favorite or most interesting clock or watch. If you have a piece that you like to talk about for around 5 minutes at the beginning of our meetings please let me know.

I hope that you are all having terrific Summer vacations - see you at the August meeting.

Sincerely, Bill Koppel

Clock Club Day at the Museum

by John Stohr

The Museum of American Heritage, located in the Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto, (275 Alma Street) is presenting an exhibition of American Clocks and Watches. The exhibit will run from July 1 through October 30th. The museum is open - free of charge - Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Many NAWCC members have loaned the museum items from their collections for display. We understand the display runs from wooden mvt clocks to modern wrist watches. Phil and Sarah Russell have some of their collection on display.

In thanks for this local NAWCC assistance, the museum has scheduled a "special Clock Club Day" on Sunday, September 18th for members from Chapters #5, #70, #94 and our own #107. Plan to stop by, the reports of the exhibit are just excellent

Pages in the NAWCC Bulletin will Increase

by Phil and Sarah Russell

The Editorial Committee of the NAWCC at their Orlando meeting decided to increase the number of pages in the NAWCC Bulletin to 144 pages. The December 1993 issue contained 143 pages. There is now a two year back-log of member's articles including ours on the Ansonia Rubber Clock.

Future articles submitted by members will be given a publication number like C-168 and the date received i.e. Feb '93. The article will be published based on this numbering system. It is noted that the NAWCC Committee is NOT concerned about the importance of the article as this is too difficult to establish. So, articles will be published on a first-come-first-served basis.

We hope that this does not deter our members from sending in their articles to the National but do be prepared to be patient and remember that its a lot quicker to get published in our own Chapter #107 Bulletin.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF HOROLOGY

Part 13

by Dorothy Schafer

18th Century American Transition

The 18th century in America was not only a period of economic growth but also a period of political differences. The north and the south were always to be at odds, the culmination of which would be the Civil War, but that was a long many generations away. The first true clock makers in America copied their European antecedents from wherever they migrated. The Dutch and French Huguenots had joined the English to establish the finest clock making guild in the world. Rhenish Germans came to America and settled in Pennsylvania (Deutch) and brought with them clock making techniques learned from the early Black Forest makers. Much arrived here from Europe and met with a well established English background of 18th century style and design.

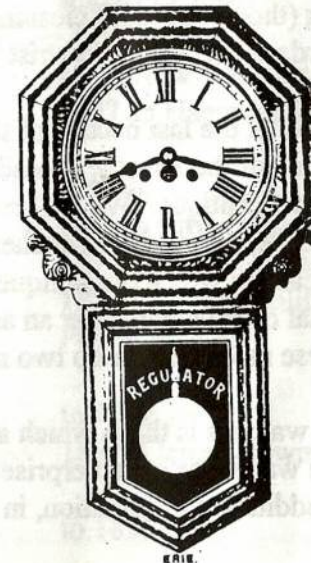
By 1730 tall case clocks were being produced the larger centers of Boston and Philadelphia, usually with break arch brass dial and often with delicately sculpted OG feet. They varied from flat top with cornice to the high bell top Queen Anne style with attached or free standing columns. By mid century the more curvaceous Chippendale style had come into vogue, especially in the Philadelphia area. Ornate scroll top hoods were popular, with elaborate carving and applied decoration of shells and other rococo motifs on the hood, top of trunk door and base (plinth). Quarter or free standing fluted columns, frequently with brass Corinthian capitals were commonly found on the hood are sometimes repeated on trunk and base. Though OG molding is ancient, it will be seen later in clocks of the Greek revival period where it is a paramount motif. In this period, more common are combinations of separated convex and concave moldings popularly used in Renaissance and Roman revival architecture.

By the beginning of the Revolution America's mood had changed from the idea of aristocratic English lord to the gentleman farmer of the south and the entrepreneur ship owner and business man of the north. This enlightened

intelligence and graciousness was reflected in the architecture, especially that of horology. Willard's "Roxbury" tall case became the epitome of this ideal; highly sophisticated and delicate in style, a mixture of English Adam and French Louis XVI furniture.

Simplicity and geometry created the shape and balance of the three sections of the tall clock. All were based upon the dimensions of the Greek golden rectangle, an ancient concept which deems the whole visibly attractive to man. Decoration was limited and subtle. Trunk columns stood on high plinths and were frequently stop fluted (brass wires set into the flutes). Delicate carved cresting of Sheraton design replaced the heavy Chippendale scroll top. Cross banded inlay in contrasts of kingwood, holly and satinwood on mahogany veneer is from Hepplewhite influence and the fan, quartered or full, used commonly in Federal architecture makes reference to the Roman rosette (patera).

The Roman revival influence in our new nation as well as in horology will be seen even more strongly in the post war period of Willard's banjo and Terry's pillar and scroll.



MORE TRULY ANTIQUE POCKET WATCHES

By Larry Bernard

Nearly five years have passed since this magazine published my article, titled "Some Truly Antique American Pocket Watches" (February, 1991, Issue 73), and it is time for an update. It will be recalled that, some fifty years ago, people concerned about such things decided that an object would be antique if it were 100 or more years old. Remembering that successful mass production of watches in the United States was achieved by the American Watch Company (later called the American Waltham Watch Company) just before the Civil War, and that at least fifteen other companies were established and produced watches before 1895, we realize that a great many watch movements now fall into the "antique" category, as defined.

Furthermore, many of these true antiques are available at local NAWCC Marts for quite reasonable prices. As an example, I recently purchased an 18 size keywind American Waltham pocket watch, seven jewels, serial #4,257,596, which I suspected to be a true antique, since I remembered from my last article that the cutoff numbers was four million, in 1890, for both Waltham and Elgin. Keywind watches, of course, are generally older, though they were made as late as 1920. However, after 1890, most were exported. The cost of this particular watch, in its original nickel case, with enamel dial and spade hands, running (though needing cleaning and overhauling), was less than the cost of a modern Swiss plastic wrist watch!

As we approach the middle of the last decade of the Twentieth Century, let us look back to the last decade of the Nineteenth and see which American watch movements can be classed as antique. We will establish 1895 as the cutoff date, and we will concentrate on "quality" watches of seven jewels or better. Let us be aware that the case in which our antique movement presently resides may not be original or anywhere near an antique. As in the previous article, we will divide these movements into two main groups.

The first class of antique watches is those which are over a century old as a result of the failure of the watchmaking enterprise before 1895. These are summarized, with some additional information, in the following table.

TABLE I
Companies Which Ceased Watchmaking in 1895 or Before

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Aurora Watch Company	Ceased 1892--machinery sold to Hamilton Watch Company
United States W. Co.	Marion, New Jersey--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.	1978-83 (name changed from Empire City)
Fredonia W. Co.	1883-5 (reorganized from Independent--sold to Peoria W. Co.)
Adams & Perry W. Co.	to 1877
Lancaster W. Co.	1877-86 (reorganized 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 New York Standard</u> -- reorganized 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. Stephens W. Co.	1882-5 (from Bowman--sold in 1885)
Peoria W. Co.	to 1895

As can be seen from the foregoing table, there were a lot of companies that started, reorganized, sold, failed and sometimes completely disappeared before 1895. 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 1 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.

A great many more antique American pocket watches can be found that were produced by companies able to survive past the middle of the last decade of the Nineteenth Century and, in some cases, well into the Twentieth. Certainly the best way of identifying these is by noting not only the name of the manufacturer, but also the serial number stamped on the back plate of the movement. Fortunately for us collectors, many of the factories kept reasonably accurate records that were preserved by persons with an interest in horological history. Furthermore, others have researched data on serial numbers, production runs, etc., in an effort to piece together a complete story from incomplete data. This sometimes means asking collectors to send in serial numbers and descriptions of watches owned so the compiler can get a good picture of factory production, even when records have been lost. Enough of us are fanatical and interested, willing to send in information, as I have whenever possible, so that all of our knowledge is furthered. References, shown at the end of this article, have lists of serial numbers, along with other interesting information, which will be summarized in the Table that follows. Once again, let us consider only "quality" movements of seven jewels or better, remembering that the case, made to standard sizes like the movements, may not be either original or antique.

In fact, quite often American pocket watches can be found recased, since one of the owners, during the long history of the watch, may have needed cash and decided that the case on his or her watch could be sold for precious metal content and replaced with a standard-sized case of considerably lesser value. The watch, of course, will still function, though its originality, and thus its collector value, has been utterly ruined, much to the chagrin on us who appreciate these horological treasures. Too, cases wore out and were replaced with more modern equivalents, a circumstance somewhat more acceptable to collectors of certain kinds of watches. So, with all this in mind,

let us look at some antique American watch movements, setting our cutoff date at 1895.

TABLE II

Watch Movements 100 or More Years Old Identifiable by Serial Number

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>No. Reached by 1895</u>	<u>Comments</u>
American Waltham W. Co.	7,100,000	in production since before Civil War
Columbus W. Co.	251,000	assembling Swiss parts to #20,000
Elgin National W. Co.	5,900,000	began just after Civil War
Hamilton W. Co.	11,500	just started in 1893
Hampden W. Co.	888,500	Springfield, Mass and Canton, Ohio
E. Howard and Company	Depends on Series No., however, vast majority of E.H. & Co. watches were made before 1895--in 1903, name was sold and became E. Howard <u>Watch</u> Co.	
Illinois W. Co.	1,220,000	factory records show very few earlier numbers finished later
Rockford W. Co.	260,000	best estimate
Seth Thomas W. Co.	690,000	yes, the Clock Company!
United States W. Co. Waltham	256,000	<u>NOT U.S. Marion</u>

As can be seen in Table II, we have a much greater quantity of movements available from the companies able to survive to the middle of the last decade of the Nineteenth Century. Some sixteen million or so movements are available to the antique watch collector, generally at very reasonable prices. American Waltham and Elgin, accounting for the vast majority of these, are found in just about every Mart, no matter how small. Incidentally, it can now be seen that my bargain Waltham keywind #4,257,596, mentioned earlier, is a genuine antique, and, by checking the references listed below, I determined that it was an antique in 1990.

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 precision machinery a hundred years or more old for around the price of a plastic quartz wrist watch 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 guiled or cleverly damascened, 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, by Roy Ehrhardt and Bill Meggers

American Pocket Watches Encyclopedia and Price Guide, Volumes One and Two, by Roy Ehrhardt and Bill Meggers

American Watchmaking A Technical History of the American Watch Industry 1850-1930, by Michael C. Harrold

Complete Price Guide to Watches, by Cooksey Shugart and Richard E. Gilbert, No. 14, 1994

TOOL Library

The following tools are available for two week periodsat NO COST!
call Walt Hubrig @ (510) 685-0260

- **** TIMETRAX #160AC Timing m/c with beat amplifier
- **** Webster Depthing Tool
- **** Webster Escape Wheel Tooth Straightener
- **** Power Punch (for end holes in mainsprings etc.)



TIP OFF

by the Members, for the Members...



- #013 Ivory for bushing wooden mvts is no longer available. TAGUA nuts are and work just as well and look and just like the original ivory, (RE)

Editor's Note

by Steve Fabes

To Larry Bernard and Dorothy Schafer my thanks for two great articles. I've a couple more in the file from Phil Russell but would still like to get new writers to contribute. It's very easy once you start - trust me.

Roy Holman and Jack Coulter are smart enough to know that 'putti' are the sexless little winged cherubs that adorn Baroque period art and decorations. Dorothy wrote to me with a wonderful explanation of "eglonise" and we both decry my word-processor that lacks the aigue and grave accent - angled lines generally above "e"s and "a"s that are common in French spelling. "Oxotica" was, as several of you surmised, a typo for exotica.

I would love some more "tips" - remember "for the members, by the members" I have an answering machine and it waits all day for messages while I am out working. Give it a call - it listens very well. Call it at 510-932-5091 and leave me a tip about clock/watch repair or collecting.

Send me any article, news or information you want to share. I am accessible by phone, fax, US mail.

Home 510-932-5091
Work 510-675-4945
FAX 510-675-4905

or mail to

PO Box 23315
Pleasant Hill
CA 94523

For Sale

Royal English knows of an antique solid oak jewelers bench for sale at about \$300. Contact Royal or Wayne at 937-7433

A Chapter #5 member is loosing his eye sight and wants to dispose of his home shop.

Lathe - complete, UltraSonic, Spring-winder, Bushing machine, Jewelers Bench, and lots of misc clock parts and tools.

Contact George Barr - 209-478-1738



NAWCC

The National has informed the Chapter that it is illegal to allow the sale at Chapter meetings or MARTs or Regionals of any material that infringes on the Registered TradeMarks. This includes any FAKE watches.

Please DO NOT bring any of these items to the Chapter Meetings or the Chapter MART.

OTHER CHAPTERS

Dr. Stephens Chapter #5
2nd Sunday - Odd months
Next Meeting - September 11th
San Leandro Boys Club
Marina & San Leandro Blvd.
3 blocks from BART

DeAnza Chapter #94
1st Sunday - Even months
Next meeting - August 7th
Odd Fellows Hall
20598 Homestead Rd
Cupertino

From Oakland - Highway 24 going East

Take Pleasant Hill Road South exit

At light, turn right onto Pleasant Hill Rd

At end, turn left on Olympic

At light, turn right onto Tice Valley

Go up until first light

Go another 150 yards and just before Pedestrian X-ing - turn right into

Acalanes Adult Center, Del Valle Theater - room D-1

(address 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard)

From San Ramon - Highway 680 going North

Take South Main exit

Left on Newell

Left on Olympic

Left on Tice Valley

Go up until first light

Go another 150 yards and just before Pedestrian X-ing - turn right into

Acalanes Adult Center, Del Valle Theater - room D-1

(address 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard)

From Benicia - Highway 680 going South

At 680/24 take Highway 24 to Oakland/Lafayette

Take first exit - Pleasant Hill Road South

Go under freeway onto Pleasant Hill Rd

At end, turn left on Olympic

At light, turn right onto Tice Valley

Go up until first light

Go another 150 yards and just before Pedestrian X-ing - turn right into

Acalanes Adult Center, Del Valle Theater - room D-1

(address 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard)

Note: Due to our tax exempt status only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our MART - be prepared to show your current NAWCC membership card