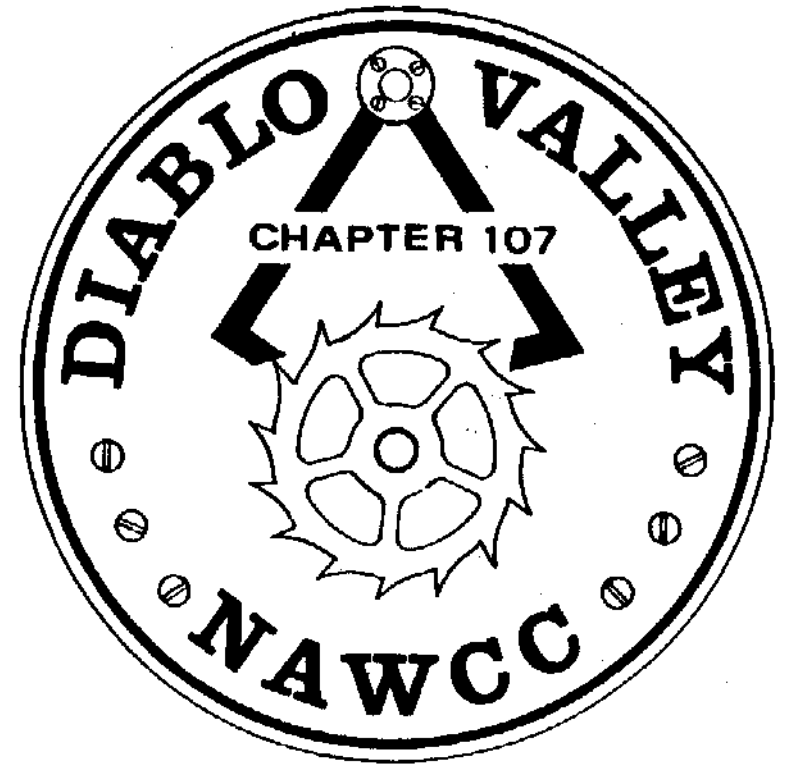


# BULLETIN



October 2004  
Volume 155

# DIABLO VALLEY

## Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

#### OFFICERS

President	Jason Evans	925-376-0654	vette66@aol.com
Vice Pres.	Dale Gardner	510-531-7565	
Vice Pres.	Tom Armour	510-654-3363	armourtom@aol.com
Secretary	John Stohr	925-376-6476	jstohr@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@ca.astound.net
Past Pres.	Bob Wahrer	925-462-4912	jbwahrer@pacbell.net

#### DIRECTORS

2004	Lois Naye	925-934-4557	lnaye@aol.com
2004	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031	
2004-2005	Sandy Cuthill	925-686-3144	
2004-2005	Roy Clark	925-376-6356	
2004-2005	Earl Watrous	510-569-4175	

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Display	****open****		
Editor	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Library	Sandy Cuthill	925-686-3144	
Mart	****open****		
Membership	Roy Holman	510-530-5428	rholmanjr@juno.com
Nominating	John Stohr	925-376-6476	jstohr@sbcglobal.net
Photo	Sophia Gardner	510-531-7565	
Program	Dale Gardner	510-531-7565	
Program	Tom Armour	510-654-3363	armourtom@aol.com
Raffle	Jack Coulter	925-284-1031	
Refreshment	Lois Naye	925-934-4557	lnaye@aol.com
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@ca.astound.net

## Meeting Notice

October 10<sup>th</sup>

Mart 11:30, Meeting 12:30

Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center

**ADVICE**

by

**DORIAN CLAIR**

Based on his several (many?) years as a collector and professional clock and watchmaker, Dorian will offer suggestions on collection, repair, and perhaps other topics.

#### 2005 DUES

Anyone wanting to pay dues early may do so at the October meeting.

#### NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Chapter elections will be held in December. Now is the time to nominate candidates for officers and board members. You may nominate any Chapter member including yourself. Please volunteer your services or suggest names to John Stohr by the end of this month.

## *President's Message*

The month of October contains my favorite holiday, Halloween. On this occasion, we should remember that our clocks are carrying forward the haunting images of earlier owners who loved and cared for them. Raymond Lamont Brown writes of several true stories in *Clocks* magazine.

Some people who have acquired clocks second hand claim they've had a terrifying time with the ghosts of past owners. In 1961, Pat Garfield of Cranbury, New Jersey was thrilled when she was able to buy a wooden clock made by Elias Ingram in his Bristol, Connecticut factory (1828). She took it back home and found just the right place for it in her living room. That evening she was watching television when out of the corner of her eye, she caught a slight movement beside the new clock (set on an inlaid table). Turning round, she saw something that made her hair prickle on her scalp. Hovering beside the clock was the hazy form of an old man. Next morning Ms Garfield phoned the man who sold her the Ingram clock and told him of what she had seen. To his amazement, her description of the old man exactly fitted the dealer's grandfather who had first owned the clock. He had been dead for 70-odd years!

In 1957, Harold Mortlake, the well-known London antiquarian bookseller, bought a portrait of black magician Alister Crowley (1875-1947), who had been called the 'Wickedest Man in the World'. He hung the portrait opposite the mantelpiece in the lounge. From that time, a clock which had stood for years on the mantelpiece and had been an extremely reliable timepiece, began to go haywire, chiming loudly at all the wrong times. As the neighbors complained about the noise of the clock, Mr. Mortlake took the clock from the mantelpiece and placed it on a bookcase. At the same time, he moved the portrait to the mantelpiece, and the clock returned to its old accurate timekeeping and chiming. He thought it was a ridiculous affair, so he put things back as they were. Once more the clock began its crazy chiming. 'I don't pretend to be able to explain

it', he says. 'But I had to put the clock back on the bookcase, and it has stayed there keeping perfect time ever since'.

Nile Godfrey, Classical Clocks & Antiques, Livermore, tells of a woman that brought in a black mantle clock for repair. After repairs were completed and checked for accuracy, the woman took the clock home. The clock would not run when she set it up in the family room. When she called Nile, who told her again, step by step, how to set it up, the clock still would not run. She brought it back to Nile who found the clock ran accurately in his shop. The woman returned home with the clock, set it up, and it would not run. She used her husband's large carpenter's level to confirm the family room table was level. The clock was then brought out to the kitchen counter where it began to run. The clock was placed in several other rooms where it ran perfectly. Each time the clock was placed in the family room, it stopped. Only one other room where it would not run was the toilet room accessed only from the family room. Then the woman figured it out, her father, who owned and cared for the clock, had passed away years before in the family room.

Thank you Nile for the ghostly article and story.

See you all at the October meeting. Bring along your own true ghostly stories.

*Jason Evans*

## *Editor's Section*

I will defer to Jason's ghost stories and keep my remarks short. I do want to thank those who helped with the picnic - particularly Walt and Jay. Bernice and I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. In researching Lip (p. 10), I came across an interesting web site for watch information - [www.timezone.com](http://www.timezone.com).

*Price Russ*

## TIME IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY (5)

### MORE CLOCKS FROM BRITAIN

The clock featured this month is another example from Britain. However, this clock was made about one hundred years after the one shown in the August *Bulletin*. This is called the “Grapevine Clock” and was made by Timothy Williamson between 1780 to 1795. As with most Chinese designs, it features birds, animals and other things of nature. The clock is 21 inches high by 9½ inches wide (54 x 24 cm). The base of the clock contains a music box and has three painted landscape panels with figures that move when the music box is playing. Three silver goats are sitting on the clock base. The goats, a symbol of good fortune, surround a girl sitting on a rock, holding a clock. The clock dial is relatively small (less than 1 inch diameter). The small dial appears to be common with many Chinese clocks, since the clocks were intended more for ornamentation and as a display of the automated figures. Behind the girl is a fountain in which glass “water” begins to flow when set in operation. At this time, the bird at the top of the clock and the butterflies on the grapevine all flap their wings.



During the period from 1770 to 1795, Timothy Williamson made about eight to twelve very elaborate clocks and pocket watches for the China market. Timothy Williamson learned much of his clock making skills from his grand father who was Joseph Williamson, a clockmaker for Queen Anne (1702 - 1714).

*Bob Wahrer*

## SALON DE L’HORLOGE



Within the French Foreign Office, known as the Quai d’Orsay because of its location along the Seine, is the Salon de l’Horloge or Clock Room. It is named after the clock in the mantel at the far end of the above view and to the right. The clock is credited to Victor Paillard a sculptor who worked primarily in bronze. He is also credited with several other clocks within the building. It appears he was the casemaker rather than the clockmaker. The latter is unknown to your editor.



This room has been the site of many important events. Perhaps the most significant was on January 18, 1919 when delegates from the Entente nations met for the opening of the Peace Conference that would write treaties ending World War I, create the League of Nations, and redefine the map of the world. Many of today’s problems can be traced to the decisions made here in 1919. Among those present were Woodrow Wilson, David Lloyd George, and Georges Clemenceau. Many lesser powers were also represented but the major powers ran the show. Actually the full Conference only met eight times. The defeated powers sent delegates to Paris but were not represented at the Conference meetings.



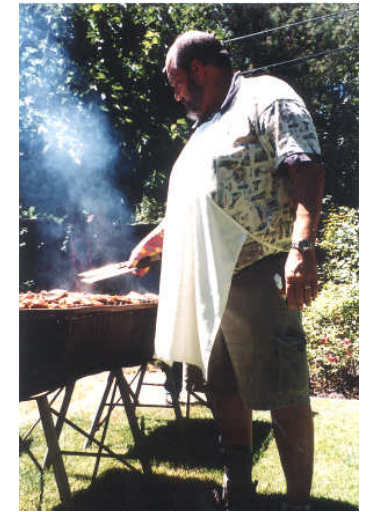
Walt Hubrig

# August 2004 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Roy Holman and Earl Watrous (sort of)



Jay Taylor



Four Taylors



Lois Naye and Lee Ann Koppel



Bernice and Price Russ



Jay Taylor, Walt Hubrig,  
and Bill Koppel



Inge and Miles Maynard

## Wait. Don't Tell Me!

### Answers to last issue's questions

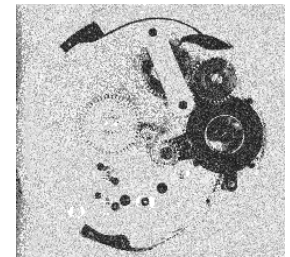
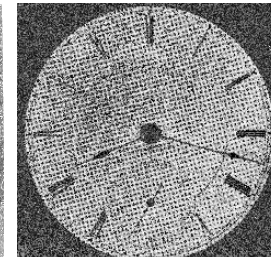
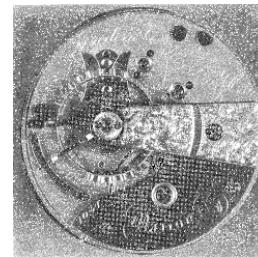
The Lip watch was the first electric watch to be patented. In spite of this it did not reach the market until late 1958. Hamilton's electric watch came on the market in early 1957. Both had technical difficulties. The Lip required more power and was therefore fitted with two batteries. The Hamilton electric had a reputation for poor reliability. Both were superseded by the Bulova Accutron introduced in 1960. The first quartz watch was introduced by Seiko in 1969. Lip, founded in 1867 by Emmanuel Lipmann, was the largest watch manufacturer in France and the only one to play an international role. For more information consult <http://people.timezone.com/msandler/Articles/DownesLip/Lip.html>.

The Austrian alarm clock features a sure-fire approach to waking the user. The alarm mechanism rings a bell, pops open a lid, uprights a candle, and lights the candle by a spark from burning gunpowder ignited by a flintlock. Spare gunpowder is stored in a chamber under the lid. The bell almost seems superfluous. It is in the collection of the Beyer Museum in Zurich.

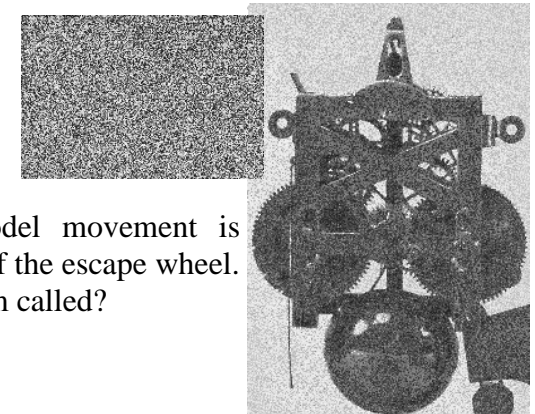
The Seth Thomas 30-hour wood movement clock is described in *NAWCC Bulletin Supplement 18: The Greek Revival Influence on American Clock Case Design and Empire Clock Case Development* by Lee H. Davis. It exhibits two characteristics of early Empire furniture. Paraphrasing from the book, (1) the stenciled decorations on the half columns and splat emulate designs found on fine mahogany furniture and imitated lacquered and japanned pieces and (2) the paw feet. Stenciled designs in bronzing powder on such cases were found on almost all Connecticut short pendulum, half column cases for 30 hour wood movements. With the advent of larger 8-day brass movement clocks, stenciling went out of fashion.

### New Questions

This is a picture of Thomas Edison with a model of a cement house that he designed. What is the connection between Edison's cement houses and horology?



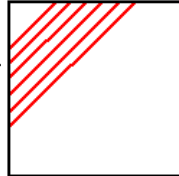
Three views of an early "Frederic Atherton" watch. What is the function of the "butterfly" in the left picture? What dial features were introduced in this watch. What other features did it introduce to mass production watches?



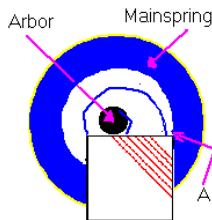
What make and model movement is this? Note the shape of the escape wheel. What is this tooth form called?

## SPRING LENGTH GAUGE

At the February meeting, we had a discussion of ways to determine whether a spring was the correct length for a barrel. Many gauges have been constructed to do this. All are based on the same mathematics (See *NAWCC Bulletin* April 1993, p. 209). Perhaps the simplest gauge is one described by Michael Helfrich ([www.bhi.co.uk/hints/mainspge.htm](http://www.bhi.co.uk/hints/mainspge.htm)). Take a square of stiff material (cardboard, brass, plastic, or whatever) and create a family of similar triangles by scribing parallel lines as shown. (The ends of the scribed lines must be equal distance from the corner of the square.)



To use, place the gauge flat against the open end of a barrel that contains a spring and arbor. Slide the gauge until one of the lines or spaces intersects the barrel I.D. and the arbor O.D. Look down into the barrel at the tip of the gauge (90° angle). If the tip (A) of the gauge touches the inner coil of the spring, it is the correct length. For practical work, the outer coil that attaches to the arbor can be ignored. If you work on both clocks and watches you may want more than one gauge.



## INTERESTING NEW GADGETS

If you wear glasses and would like to use a loupe with them on instead of holding the loupe in your eye, these clip-on, flip-up loupes might be worth considering. One is 5X. The other is a combination 5X/10X (screw off front lens). They are part a broad line of optical products offered by Vision USA (800-257-5782 or [www.visionusa.biz](http://www.visionusa.biz)) This firm also sells grinding and polishing supplies, metal alloys, and soldering supplies. (I have no personal experience or involvement with them - *ed.*)



## MICARTA AND ITS RELATIVES

From time-to-time one encounters laminated plastic gears. They are particularly common in older electric clocks. For example see the want ad from Earl Watrous. These laminates are made by impregnating paper, linen, cotton, or canvas with phenolic resins. They are sold under a variety of names including Bakelite, Spauldite, Micarta, and Formica depending on the details of manufacture and trademarks. Bakelite, the first of the family, was developed in 1909 by Baekeland, who was looking for a substitute for shellac. Bakelite became a trade name of Union Carbide. Micarta was registered as a trademark by Westinghouse in the 1930's. The name is now owned by International Paper. (Formica was registered in the 1920's for an electrical insulator.) These laminates are used in a wide variety of applications ranging from gears, to guitars, to countertops and wall panels. Trademarks as well as patents can be researched on the Patent and Trademark Office's web site ([www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)).

## TOOL LIBRARY

Contact **Walt Hubrig** (925-685-0260) or **Price Russ** (925-937-9231) for information on the tools and parts available for use by Chapter members. These are available at no cost.

## NOTICES FROM MEMBERS

(The Bulletin accepts notices from Chapter members for all items/subjects horological — wanted, for sale, giveaway, services, and so forth. There is no charge. All you have to do is supply copy to the editor.)

**Wanted:** Earl Watrous is looking for alarm clock knobs and the arbor and Micarta gear associated with the electric motor for a Sessions dual drive Westminster Chime clock. Any suggestions on possible substitutions would also be appreciated.

**Wanted:** Price Russ is looking for type "S" K&D stakes. This is an old style. They are 3½" long rather than the typical 3⅛".

## CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

### Days and Times

Mart	Second Sunday	11:30AM	Even numbered months
Chapter	Second Sunday	12:30PM	Even numbered months
Board	Second Sunday	after the Chapter Meeting	
Evening	First Friday	7:30PM	Odd numbered months

### Future Meeting Dates

#### FRIDAY

November 5, 2004  
 January 7, 2005  
 March 4, 2005  
 May 6, 2005  
 July - None  
 September - None

#### SUNDAY & BOARD

December 12, 2004  
 February 13, 2005  
 April 10, 2005  
 June 12, 2005  
 August 14, 2005  
 October 9, 2005

We want to keep our members coming to the chapter meetings on a regular basis. If you have problems with transportation to and from meetings, let a director or officer know so we can help you find a carpool.

Other NAWCC Chapter Meetings in Northern California		
Chapter	Meeting Address	Meetings
<b>De Anza #94</b>	Odd Fellows Lodge 20589 Homestead Rd Cupertino, CA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday even months (except April)
<b>Monterey Bay #70</b>	Live Oak Grange Hall 1900 17th Ave Santa Cruz, CA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday odd months
<b>Sacramento #71</b>	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday odd months
<b>San Francisco #5</b>	Boys and Girls Club 401 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday odd months (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in May)

## DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

### *Sunday Meetings*

*(except August and December)*

#### 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 Blvd. Go 0.9 miles.  
 At light, turn right onto Tice Valley Blvd. Go 0.6 miles.  
 Turn right into Acalanes Adult Center (1963 Tice Valley Blvd.).

#### From San Ramon - Highway 680 going North

Take Olympic Blvd. exit.  
 Left on Olympic Blvd. Go 0.9 mile.  
 At light, turn left onto Tice Valley Blvd. Go 0.6 miles.  
 Turn right into Acalanes Adult Center (1963 Tice Valley Blvd.).

#### From Benicia - Highway 680 going South

Take Olympic Blvd. exit.  
 Right on Olympic Blvd. Go 0.8 mile.  
 At light, turn left onto Tice Valley Blvd. Go 0.6 miles.  
 Turn right into Acalanes Adult Center (1963 Tice Valley Blvd.).

### *Friday Technical Meetings*

Details on the November meeting will be announced later.

**Due to our tax exempt status, only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our Mart - be prepared to show a current NAWCC membership card.**

### Closing Thought

**Time wasted is existence, us'd is life.**

**Edward Young**  
**English poet and dramatist, 1683–1765**