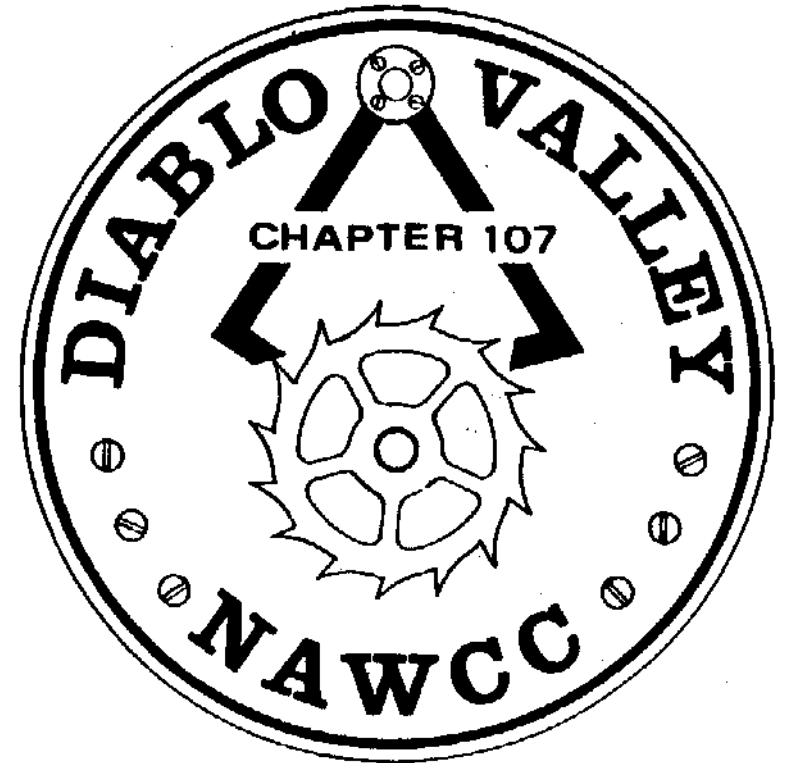


# BULLETIN



**February 2002**  
**Volume 139**

## DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

**"Accent on Education"**

### OFFICERS

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Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	

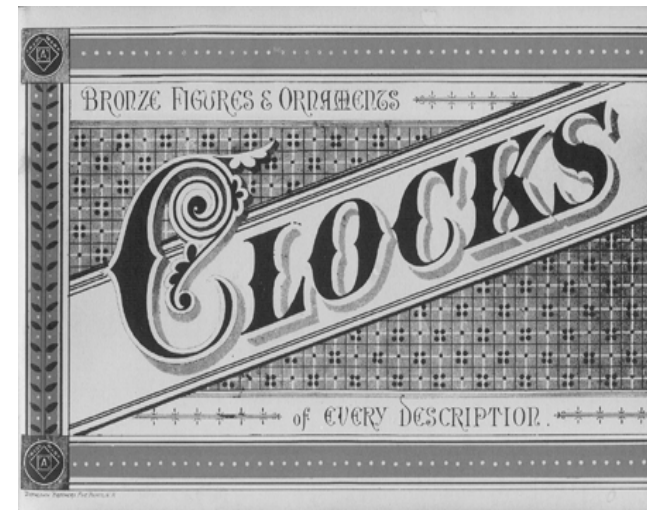
## FEBRUARY 10, 2002 Meeting

Room S5  
Acalanes Adult Center



**Don DeMarcus will tell us  
about his  
Ansonia Collection**

**Please bring an Ansonia related item to share  
and discuss.**



Ansonia Catalog 1880

## President's Message



It is with sadness that I must report the passing of Charter Member Sarah Russell on January 9, 2002.

Hopefully the rest of 2002 goes better. 2001 ended on a high note with the Chapter's December 9th meeting, luncheon and auction. The turn-out was great, it appeared everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to Walt who made the arrangements and paid the bill, and to Roy who sent out the announcements and reservation slips. Unless I hear otherwise, we'll plan another luncheon again in December.

The Golden Gate Regional is history. We've got our \$1500.00 seed/start-up money back. We understand the Regional made a profit and we should get a similar amount back as profits. When we get a check we'll know for sure. Thanks again go to the 6 Chapter members who showed on Friday to work. (*A check for \$3000 was received on 1/13/02 - Ed.*)

The Adult Center has confirmed our use of class room S-5 thru the June meeting. With the Chapter picnic in August and the luncheon in December, leaves only the October Meeting to be scheduled. Class room S-5 is accessed thru the rear parking lot and is the room we used for our October 2001 meeting.

Friday night meeting status needs some thought. In the past we've shown videos and slides, both from the National, and had demos. Last year Price had us visit member's homes to see their Collections. We've about run out of collections to view, but if you have something you would like to show, let me know and we'll schedule a night for you. To be on the safe side I've scheduled the Bank Of Commerce's meeting room for the first Fridays of

March, May, September, and November.

John and Ann North have sold their Concord home and moved to Reno. John was a charter member of the Chapter.

Don DeMarcus will tell use about his Ansonia Collection at our February Meeting.

See you then.

*John Stohr*

## Editorial Section

Trust me, it is a tough job to follow the likes of Bill Koppel, Steve Fabes, Tom Beales, and.... I will try to live up to the standards they set, but you may get what you pay for. In going back through old issues, I was overwhelmed by the number of contributions from the Russells and Pres. Stohr. It is time for others to step up and contribute some articles. We know you know interesting information about horology that we would like to learn. You can do it. Write a short article for us.

Just to stir the pot, I will be making some changes to the Bulletin. One will be a new feature, "Wait Don't Tell Me". Answers to the questions should be addressed to the editor. Correct answers will be acknowledged in the next Bulletin.

This is the first issue to include color. By using home printing, I think I can do this and also reduce publication costs. If it proves popular and practical, I will continue it.

*Price Russ*

## In the Headlines

Dorian Clair, working on the Ferry Building clock, was pictured on the front page of the January 21<sup>st</sup> Contra Costa Times.

**Sarah Atwood Russell**  
**1927—2002**  
**NAWCC # 123168**



June 2001  
 This was the last Chapter meeting Sarah attended.



Sarah and Phil at the December 2000 meeting.

Sarah, a native of Phoenix, lived in Pleasant Hill for the past 30 years. In addition to her active participation in NAWCC activities, she was Life Member of the American Legion Auxiliary, member of the VFW Auxiliary, docent at the Lindsey Wildlife Museum, and volunteer at Grace Episcopal Church. Her obituary in the Contra Costa Times stated, "Sarah will leave fond memories of her artistic love of life and her engaging personality." How very true!

**The Chapter extends its deepest sympathy to Phil and the rest of Sarah's family. We will miss her.**

**2001 Golden Gate Regional**

I was unable to attend the regional so I can not provide first-hand comments. As John Stohr noted in his message, it was definitely a financial success. This was the third successive regional where attention to cost control has led to increasing fiscal soundness. In the face of new market forces such as on-line auctions, this is quite an achievement. Ron Bechler and Chapter 94, as well as our members who volunteered to help, deserve our thanks.

At this time there is no plan for a GGR in 2002. Both our chapter and Chapter 5 have indicated that they are not in a position to serve as the principal host, but I suspect the usual contributors would help if there is one.

If you have ideas of how the funds raised should be put to use for the advancement of chapter interests, tell a board member.

*Editor*

***Notices***

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.

**Giveaway:** Roy Clark (925-376-6356) has wood for which he wants to find good homes. It is suitable for case work or other projects. This includes trim and molding.

**Wanted:** Copy for future Bulletins - Editor

**For Sale:** Work bench, Boley lathe, staking set, and misc. tools. Contact Price Russ (925-937-9231) for details.

## From April 1994 Bulletin #92

### "The Ansonia Clock and Rubber Company"

#### The Beginning

by Phil and Sarah Russell

There is little question that the Ansonia Clock Company was the most productive and innovative clock maker in the USA - bar none. It started from a small beginning in May 1850 when Anson G. Phelps of Phelps-Dodge & Company and Theodore Terry and Franklin C. Andrews (Terry & Andrews) formed a joint stock corporation at Ansonia, CT near the town of Derby. They called their business "The Ansonia Clock Company" - (why did a brass company get involved with clocks?). In 1850 Terry & Andrews used fifty tons of brass for clocks.

In 1849 Chauncey Jerome was making clock cases on Main Street and E. D. Bryant was making clock movements - the clock business thrived.

It was back in 1844 that Anson Phelps built a dam near Derby CT. and built the factories of Ansonia Brass and Copper Company. The officials of Derby refused to let the factories - nor any factory expansions to be built within Derby's city limits. Anson Phelps bought land outside the Derby city limits and as Anson said "I'll name the new town after myself" - and he did. Ansonia CT. was born.

In November 1854, the original Ansonia Clock Company buildings burnt to the ground. The ruins were sold to you guessed it - Phelps Dodge Corporation. (Dodge was Mr. Phelps' son-in-law) Over the next 15 years only a few clocks were made. As per my reference material. The name used was 'Ansonia Brass Company' and later 'The Ansonia Brass and Battery Company'. Why the "battery" name? The name battery came from the process of pounding the brass so that it could be shaped into various brass objects. It was a very noisy process.

In this 15 year period from 1853 to 1869 there was no official clock company name as we could find. Phelps, Dodge & Co. did make movements and sold some cased clocks but there number was minimum.

Clocks were labeled 'Ansonia Brass & Battery Co.' The label showed a picture of the factory that had burned in 1854.

For a year from 1869 to 1870 clocks were labeled 'Ansonia Brass & Copper Co.' It was on December 21, 1877 that the original name of 'The Ansonia Clock Co.' was restored. It was very evident that a re-organization was needed. This was done when the Ansonia Clock Co. consolidated and merged their business with that of Mr. Henry J. Davies, who was manufacturing clocks and specialties in New York City. Mr. Davies' address was at 11 Courtland and 11 Cliff.

A new joint stock corporation was formed under the name of the 'Ansonia Clock Co.' with Mr. Davies as the General Manager. Mr. Davies' brothers, Walter D. Davies and Edward Davies were named as Superintendents of Works.

In 1880, a new huge factory was built in Brooklyn NY. On October 27, 1880 the new building was completely destroyed by fire. It was immediately rebuilt after some redesign to increase work space.

#### The Ansonia Rubber Company

By 1881 the American market for rubber goods had increased. On April 21st 1881 the Ansonia Clock Co. purchased the 'College Point Rubber Co.' of New York and was renamed the 'Ansonia Rubber Co.' with Henry J. Davies named as President. (He retained his position as General manager of the Ansonia Clock Co. Other Rubber Company officials were J. Van Vleck as Vice President and Herman Gelpcke as Secretary. The company was organized for the general manufacture of Hard Rubber or Vulcanite Goods .... various articles of rubber were produced.

Specific rubber products manufactured by the new company was a new line of 'Black Rubber Clock Cases' and distinctive 'Rubber Dials' for the cases. Of course the Ansonia Clock Co. furnished the movements. We have seen two of the Ansonia 'Marbleite' case models made with rubber. The rubber dials are not all that rare - we have seen many of them. The Rubber Co. failed in the depression of 1884 and the land and most of the machinery was sold off in bankruptcy proceedings. In 1929 the Ansonia Clock Co. was sold to Russia. The Ansonia Co. in Washington only has the name - no records etc. of the original company.

To preserve the appearance of the original, the above article was scanned directly from Bulletin 92 (*Editor*)

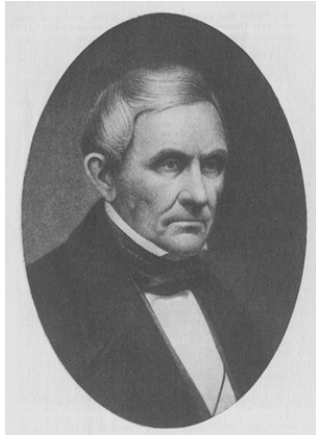
# DECEMBER MEETING



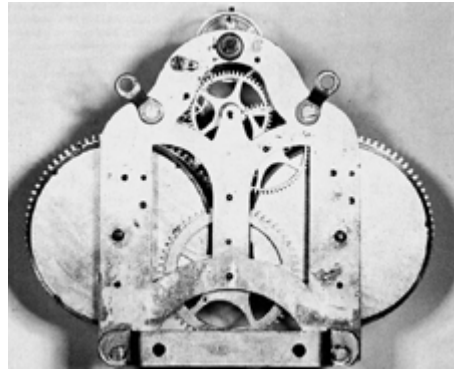
Photos by Sophia Gardner. No words needed.



## Wait Don't Tell Me!



**Who is this?**



**What is this?**



**Where is this?**

**(It is not a current member's home.)**

## NEXT FRIDAY-MEETING PROGRAM

As John Stohr explained, the format and topic for the next Friday meeting has not been decided. Bring your ideas to the February

### It's Membership Renewal Time

Membership, including your spouse, is still only \$15.00 a year. You may pay at the next meeting or mail a check to our membership chairman:

Roy Holman  
4300 Everett Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94602

Please make checks payable to "Diablo Valley Ch. 107". You can pick up your badge at the next meeting you attend.

## TOOL LIBRARY

The following tools are available for loan.....at NO COST!

Contact **Walt Hubrig** (925-685-0260) for:

- L&R Ultrasonic Cleaner w/basket 11 3/4" x 9 3/4" x 6"
- TIMETRAX #160AC Timing m/c with beat amplifier
- Webster Depthing Tool
- Webster Escape Wheel Tooth Straightener
- Power Punch ( for end holes in mainsprings etc.)

Contact **Price Russ** (925-937-9231) for:

- Unimat Lathe
- Electronic watch testers
- WW Lathe drawbar tap and die
- Seitz Tool
- Demagnetizer
- Watch Cleaning Machine
- Miscellaneous watch tools and parts

## CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS\*

### *Days and Times\*\**

Mart	Second Sunday	12:00AM	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

### *This Year's Meeting Dates*

#### FRIDAY

January - None  
 March 1<sup>st</sup>  
 May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 July - None  
 September 6<sup>th</sup>  
 November 1<sup>st</sup>

#### SUNDAY & Board

February 10<sup>th</sup>  
 April 14<sup>th</sup>  
 June 9<sup>th</sup>  
 August 11<sup>th</sup>  
 October 13<sup>th</sup>  
 December 8<sup>th</sup>

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

\*\*Dates may vary due to conflicts.

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

## DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

### *Sunday Meetings*

#### 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*

Unless otherwise announced in the reminder postcard, meetings are held at the Civic Bank of Commerce across Tice Valley road from the Acalanes Adult Center (directions above).

***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 will explain it all.  
 He is a talker,  
 and needs no questioning before he speaks.

~ Euripides ~