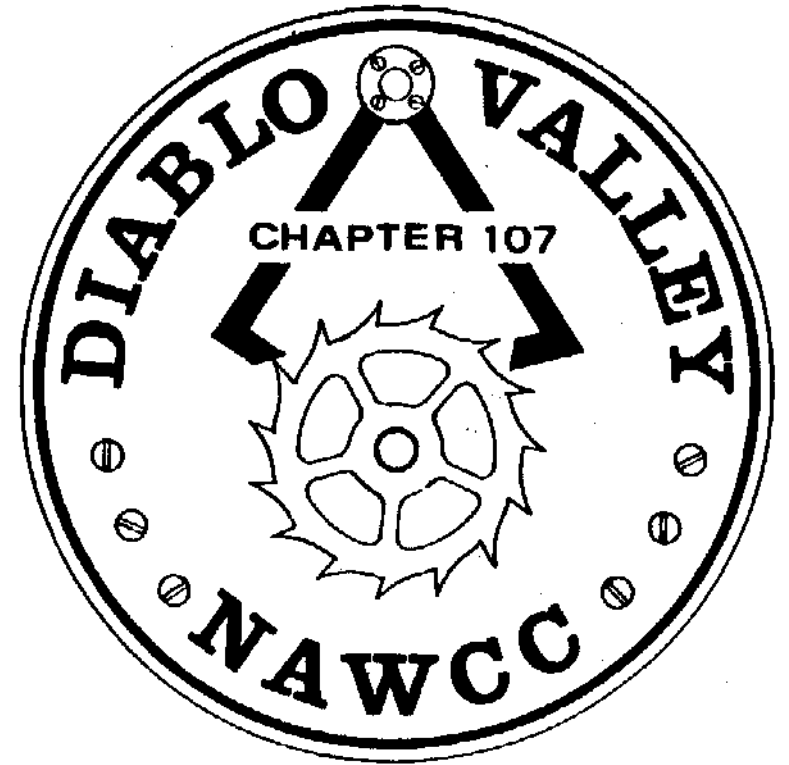


# BULLETIN



**June 2002**  
**Volume 141**

## DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

**"Accent on Education"**

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## Meeting Notice

June 9, 2002

Mart 11:30, Meeting 12:30

(Support the Mart - Bring Items to Sell)

Room S5

Acalanes Adult Center

**Bert Hayenga**

**will speak on the subject of**

**Torsion Pendulum Clocks**



(See page 13 for information on this clock)

## *President's Message*



Our April 14th meeting went quite well. An average turn-out enjoyed a sunny day and a presentation by Karl Manthei (I spelled his name wrong in the Chapter's April Bulletin) of Fairfield on his collection of 'Grandfather Clock Radios'.

For those who missed the program, Karl's collection of 90 full length Grandfather and 7 table model clock-radios were obtained from radio club meetings and from various newsprint ads. Karl has traveled the US to obtain his collection, with about 80% coming from east of the Mississippi River. The Vintage of Karl's clock radios date from the early 1930's with production being stopped by the depression in the mid-thirties. Due to the size of the Grandfathers, Karl brought in only a table model along with slides of the large units.

Dale Gardner did a show and tell of a new clock-book containing one of his American clocks and Jack Coulter brought in a two potato powered digital wristwatch. Hopefully photos of both these items will be shown in the August National Bulletin "Chapter Highlights".

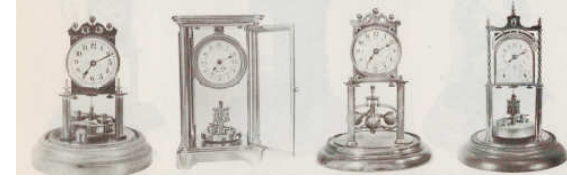
Our June 9th speaker will be Bert Hayenga (Jay Taylor's father in law). Many of us have heard Bert speak before and maybe even seen his 400 day clock collection at home in Alameda, but Bert always has new things to tell about torsion clocks.

I learned when I went to get the key for our Friday night meeting at the Civic Bank of Commerce in the Rossmoor shopping center that the Branch would be closing at the end of May. Until I can find another meeting room, it would appear that our Friday night

meetings have ended. Anyone knowing of another meeting room, please let me know.

See you June 9th.

*John Stohr*



## *Editorial Section*

Last issue I reported that I thought I could get the printing costs down but would not know until I was done. I am pleased to report that I was correct.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the June meeting. I had planned to bring the clock discussed on pages 6 and 7. If I can avoid a senior moment, I will bring it to the next meeting I am able to attend. In the articles I have contributed to this issue, I ask for your ideas on the topics. This is not rhetorical. I really want your ideas on these topics. When you read them, it will be apparent that I am not an expert. I am just reporting on some things I have tried or want to try. I know you have opinions, please, share them.

I always appreciate contributions for the Bulletin. They can be as simple as calling my attention to a new product or interesting advertisements. This issue I received a suggestion to include a Far Side cartoon. It was both funny, in Larson's unique way, and horological. I decided not to include it because of possible copyright issues.

*Price Russ*

## RESTORATION OF “BLACK MARBLE”

I have a French “black marble” clock that has been in the family for about a hundred years. When I was a small child it sat on my grandparents’ mantle directly above a gas heater. It will come as no surprise when I say that parts of the case had turned a sickly shade of gray. Based on a discussion on the Clocks Mailing List, I decided to try to restore or more accurately replace the finish. The pictures below show the case before and after my efforts. As you may know, it is difficult to photograph reflective surfaces, but photo quality aside, I think you will agree it looks better in the “after shot.”

Before getting into the refinishing aspect, allow me to comment on “black marble”. First, many black mantle clock cases are wood or iron or perhaps other materials. I am only going to talk about “marble”. Readers may wonder why I keep putting marble in parentheses. The reason is that these cases are actually slate. (I can not swear there are no marble cases, but most are slate.) Slate is a fine-grained material with a high silica content. Marble is a carbonate, but I digress. Slate is very fine-grained and typically gray. I have no idea how it was made black in the first place, but if you rub the surface with an abrasive it turns gray. (If you know what the original process was, I would love to hear about it.) The stone is also quite brittle as I discovered, but that is another story.



Before

After

There are two major steps to the technique. First, one must remove the discolored surface layer. Second, one puts on a coating to make the surface black again. Let me start with the second. I used “Rub ‘n Buff”, which is described as a “wax metallic finish”. It is readily available at hobby stores and comes in a variety of colors. (Would it work to restore gold stenciling?) Basically you rub in on the surface then polish the surface. I used a felt wheel on a Dremel tool for the polishing.

Rub ‘n Buff will not make the old discolorations go away. They have to be removed. To do this I rubbed the surface with a damp piece of 3M Metal Finishing Pad (available at hardware stores). Any fine grit abrasive should work. One needs to remove enough material to obtain a uniform color. It might be a good idea to use a solvent first to remove build up “gunk”, but I did not do this. Being both lazy and a bit of a chicken, I only removed the worst looking spots. My official excuse of course is that I did not want the case to look too new.

After removing enough material to obtain a uniform color, I applied the Rub ‘n Buff with a cloth and starting polishing. Polishing is a little tricky. Too much polishing and the finish starts to degrade. Too little and buffing marks will remain. I think a larger buffing wheel would be advantageous, but the case was too heavy to take to a mounted wheel and I could not get enough “action” from a wheel attached to a drill. Maybe a automotive style buffer would work. A little Rub ‘n Buff goes a long way. I would guess one tube would be sufficient for at least 20 cases.

Is this a good way to repair black marble? Will the finish hold up? Would it mildew in a dark, damp environment? Frankly I don’t know, but time will answer at least some of these questions. If you have alternative suggestions, let’s hear them.

Price Russ



# April 2002 Meeting



Photos by Sophia Gardner.

## Wait. Don't

### Answers from last issue

Last issue's questions were all related to precision timekeeping. This issue's questions also have a common, but different, theme.

The **gentleman** was Thomas Mudge (1715-1794). He was a student of Graham, member of the team assigned to study Harrison's #4 chronometer, builder of several famous chronometers, and inventor of the lever escapement. The lever escapement, now found in the vast majority of mechanical watches did not catch on until long after his death. Mudge experienced great frustration in trying to obtain an award from the Board of Longitude for his chronometers.

The **drawing** was the spring-detent escapement designed by Earnshaw in 1784. While Arnold is usually credited with inventing the spring-detent escapement, Arnold's turned out to be less practical than Earnshaw's. It was Earnshaw's escapement that became the standard for all later chronometer construction.

For more information on the development of chronometer's see [The Marine Chronometer](#) by Rupert Gould.

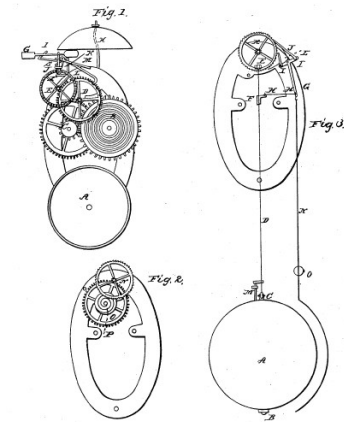
The **clock** is a modern unit being manufactured by Erwin Sattler of Munich. It is in the astronomical regulator style. Among other things, it has barometric compensation (note the bellows on the pendulum). As of 1997 it was available for about 240,000 Austrian Shillings (roughly \$16,000). One can also move up to a Riefler escapement for about 475,000 ATS. Just think what a great clock you could have for less than the cost of many cars. (No, I don't know whether those figures include shipping.)

## Tell Me!

### New Questions



Who is this and what did he invent?



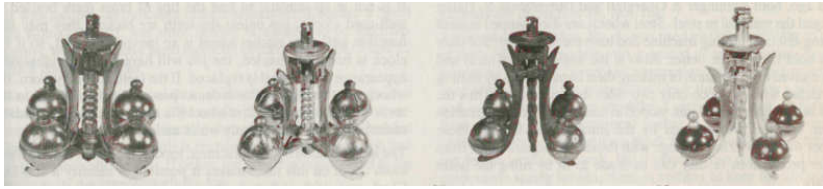
What are these drawings?  
Whose designs are they?



What is this?  
Whose design is it?



What is the significance of this house?

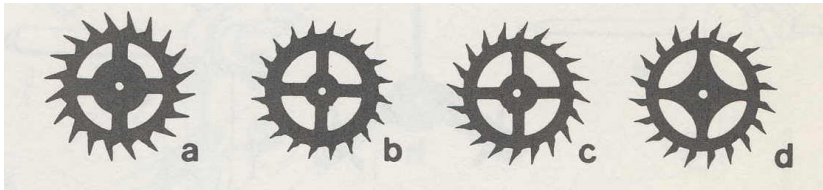


## RUST REMOVAL

I recently read about a new product for rust removal that had won an “R&D 100 Award”. This award is given annually by *Research and Development Magazine* to what it considers the best 100 new inventions for that year.

The product is called Evapo-Rust. Part of its claim to fame is that it is not corrosive and not toxic. One can read about it at [www.evapo-rust.com](http://www.evapo-rust.com). I bought a gallon expecting to try it for a variety of uses including on clock and watch parts.

So far I have not gotten around to trying it. If anyone would like a small quantity to try, I will be happy to give you some with the caveat that you share your results in a future Bulletin.



## 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.

**Wanted:** Copy for future Bulletins  
Mart Items - Bring something. Buy something.

**Free:** Rust Remover - contact Price Russ.

## NEXT FRIDAY-MEETING PROGRAM

No meeting is scheduled for July. We are looking for a new location for future Friday meetings.



## Clock by W. Peterson Uhrenfabrik (page 3)

This two train 400-Day clock is the most complicated 400-Day ever made. Few were made because it lacked enough power in the time train to trip the calendar every day. According to Terwilliger it “has become collector’s item as one that never ran.”



## 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 machine 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 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

*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.).

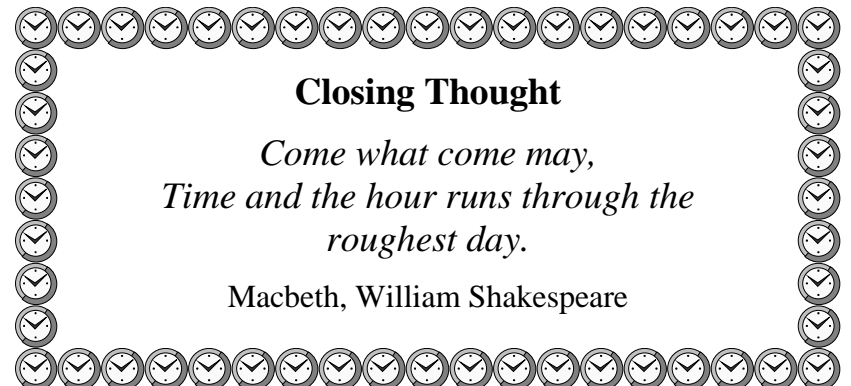
From Benicia - Highway 680 going South

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*

As explained in the President's Message, the Friday meetings have been suspended until we find a new meeting location.

**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**

*Come what come may,  
 Time and the hour runs through the  
 roughest day.*

Macbeth, William Shakespeare