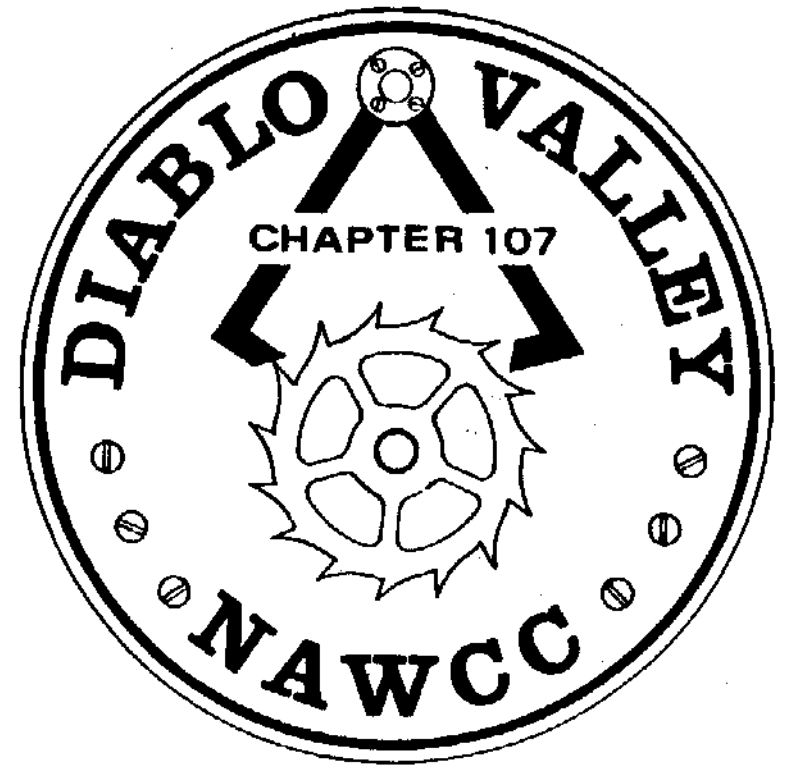


BULLETIN



December 2004
Volume 156

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

December 12
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Annual Holiday Program

Election of Officers
Luncheon
Auction

Hungry Hunter Restaurant
3201 Mount Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette
(Corner Pleasant Hill Rd & Highway 24)

Bring Holiday Cheer and
Items to Sell.
Take Home New Treasures.

(If you have not made your reservation,
contact Walt Hubrig immediately. The
luncheon is also a good time to renew your
membership.)

President's Message

This message draws toward the end of 2004. It has been a pleasure working with all of you, and I will look forward to supporting the new officers. Walt has mailed the new ballots to you. You may bring them to the Holiday Brunch or return them to Walt Hubrig with your lunch selection or send the ballot to Roy Holman. Bert Bradley has volunteered to be the 2005 Mart Chair. I'm sure he will make it interesting for sellers, buyers, and lookers. Walt has done an excellent job setting up a great area at the Hungry Hunter that lends itself to conversation between members and guests as well as a wonderful auction arena for hawking those priceless collector watches, clocks, projects, and parts that all of us have fun buying, selling and collecting. All of us need another door stop, so buy - buy - buy. Bring your dust collectors and tools. They could be someone's treasure.

At our October meeting, Dorian Clair brought in his numerous proverbs that he has noted during his years with his clock shop. It was like opening fortune cookies. Each one was funny, enlightening, and educational, and all were entertaining. He offered gems such as "Slick Joe - Main Spring Grease", "Always Use Polishing Broaches" and regarding securing clocks, "Grand Kids Don't Come Over That Often Anyway". Dorian graciously loaned us his words of wisdom and Sophie volunteered to copy them for us. Len Boone brought his Ithaca Calendar clock for us to look at.

Recently I decided to rebuild the electric car clock in my 66 Chevy. I had the dashboard, cluster, steering column, heater ducts and glove box all out, so I thought I might as well get the clock working. The quartz replacement mechanism that was in it broke long ago when the board overheated and cracked - maybe from sitting in the Texas sun where the car was from. I found a new "original" mechanism. It has a watch balance type mechanical drive, wound by an electric solenoid every 8 minutes. When the solenoid trips, sparks flash from the contact

continued on page 12

Editor's Section

Since the last *Bulletin*, I have traveled in Italy, Austria, and the Czech Republic. These areas are rife with ancient tower clocks and museums with horological displays. In the coming months, you will almost certainly be subjected to a series of articles based on my travels. Bob Wahrer has been generous in sharing information he has gathered during his trips. It would be wonderful if others would do the same.

In addition to the numerous tower clocks, two unexpected highlights of my travels were the Museum of the Story of Science and the National Museum of the Bargello. Both museums are in Florence. If anyone in the chapter reads Italian, I have a short book from which I would like the figure captions translated. I also acquired a fascinating book entitled *The Pulse of Time* by Bedini that discusses Galileo's work on a pendulum clock, the tower clock in the Palazzo Vecchio, and a wealth of related subjects. Speaking of Galileo, we also visited the church where in 1633 he recanted his teachings on the movement of the earth. At least he got off easier than Giordano Bruno who was burned at the stake only 33 years earlier for similar teachings. Both events occurred in Rome. Bruno is commemorated by a statue in the Campo de' Fiori, the scene of his and other executions.

This issue's "Closing Thought" was in a collection of quotations that came with the job of editor. I like the quotation but have no idea who Alfred Henderson was. A search of books of quotations and the internet turned up nothing. If you know who he was, please, let me know.

This issue completes my third year as your editor. It has been fun and informative. Unless someone else wants to take a crack at the position, I will continue for the time being. Suggestions on ways to improve the *Bulletin* would be welcomed.

Price Russ

TIME IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY (6)

FOUR POCKET WATCHES

#1 is a gilded copper pocket watch with a blue enamel design inlaid with diamonds. This watch was made in Britain during the 19th century. This watch is quite large for the pocket being 66 mm in diameter, (2 5/8 inches). Also note the decorated key.



#2 was made in Britain during the 18th century. It has a gilded copper case with 50 pearls inlaid around the dial, and another 54 pearls in the back surrounding an enamel picture. This watch has a center sweep second hand. It is 55 mm (2 5/32 inches) in diameter



#3 is a quarter strike with an enameled picture on the back. This watch was made in Britain, during the 19th century. This is an other large watch. The diameter is 60 mm (2 3/8 inches), and it is 10 mm (3/8 inch) thick.

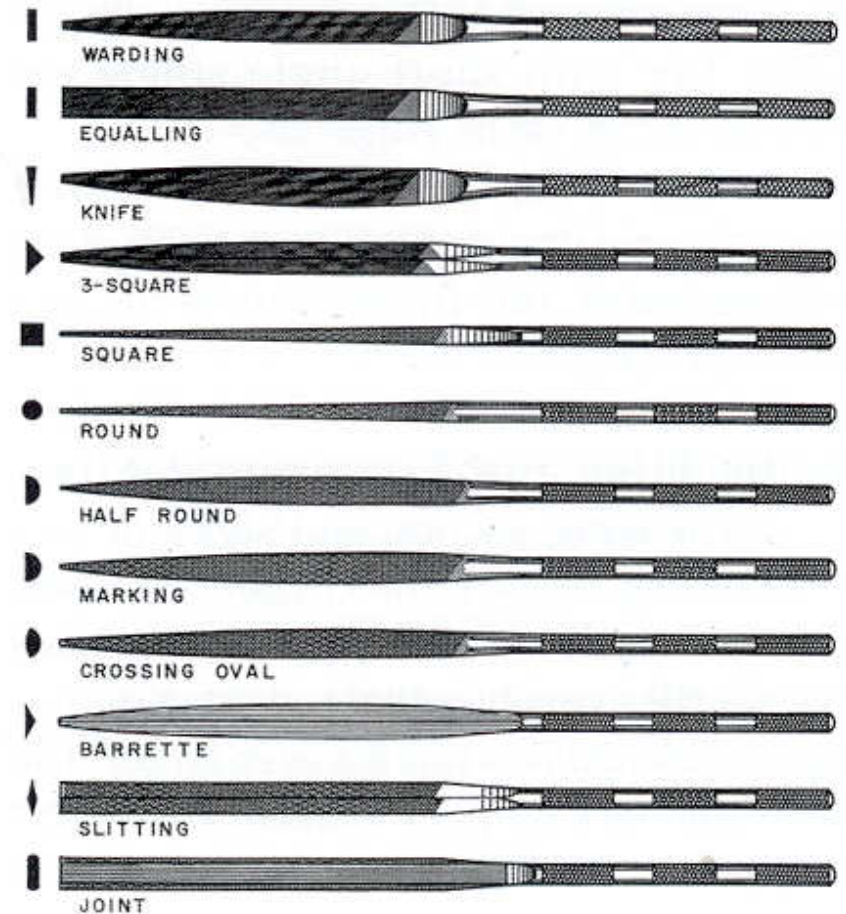


#4 belonged to the Empress Dowager Ci Xi (1868 to 1904). It was made in Switzerland by Edouard Bovet. The front and back are inlaid by a ring of pearls. This watch is 55 mm in diameter (2 1/8 inches).

Bob Wahner

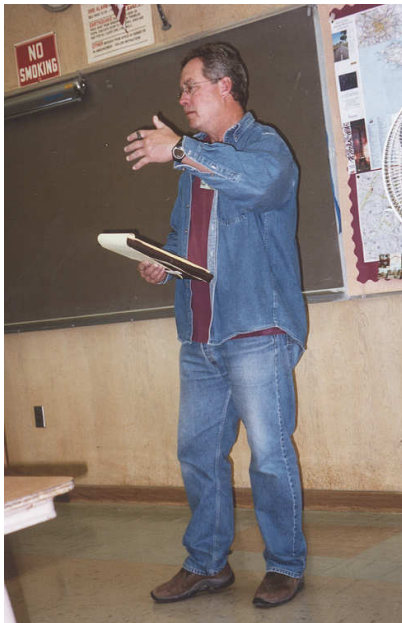
STYLES OF SOME FILES

Files come in many sizes, shapes, and styles. File company catalogs typically list about 250 different shapes and styles many of which come in multiple lengths. Good shop practice requires knowing the types of files, how to use them, and how to care for them. Unfortunately files are often misused and mistreated. *The Modern Watchmakers Lathe and How to Use It* by Archie Perkins contains a whole chapter on files and filing. The illustration below, from his book, shows the shapes of the most common needle files. Unfortunately space prevents giving a description of each.





Jan Wahrer

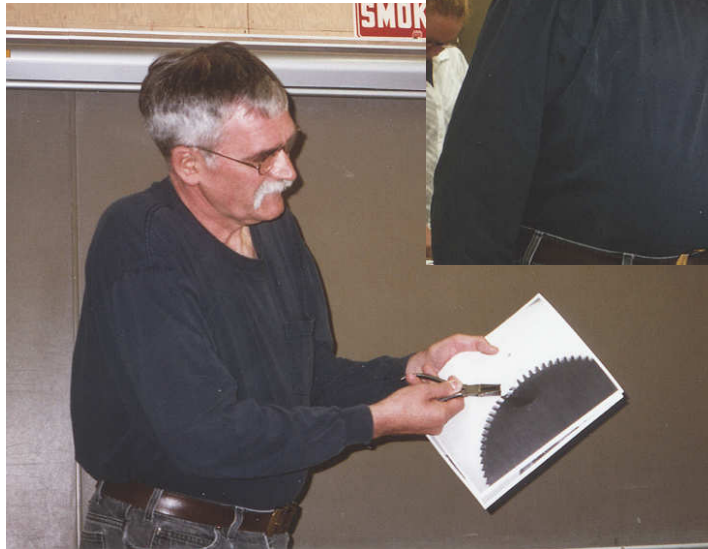


Jason Evans

October 2004 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner

Dorian Clair and Jan Wahrer

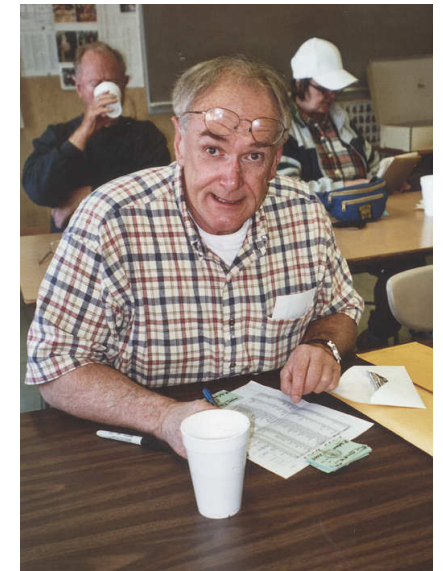


Our Speaker
Dorian Clair making a
point about bent teeth

John Fulkerson
and John Stohr



Leonard Boone and Bert Bradley



Earl Watrous

Wait. Don't Tell Me!

Answers to last issue's questions

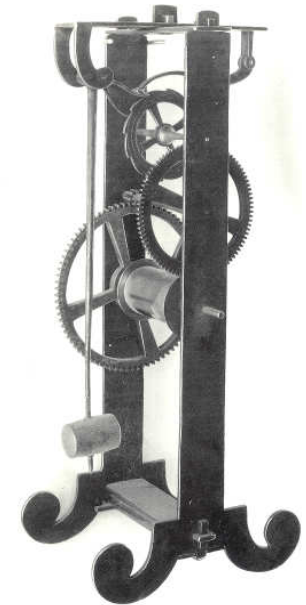
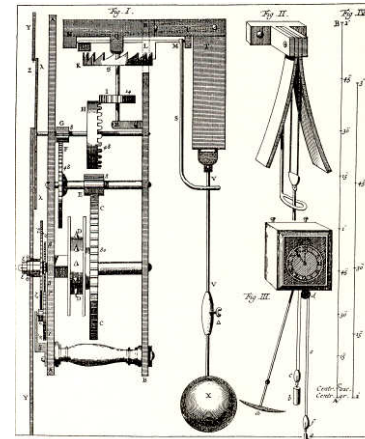
In the early 1900's, Edison became interested in using concrete as a construction material. This may have been because he had invested heavily in a cement plant. In spite of considerable publicity and predictions that this would be the way to produce inexpensive housing, not many concrete houses were actually built. Several were built by Charles Ingersoll in Union, New Jersey where they are still in use. Charles Ingersoll and his brother Robert were the founders of the Ingersoll Watch Company which was famous for the production of inexpensive but reliable watches.

The "Frederick Atherton" was one of two grades of a full-plate 1866 watch design of the United States Watch Co. of Marion, New Jersey. The butterfly shaped cutout in the back plate was to allow observation of the pallet action without removing the dial. The watch featured a double-sunk dial, button setting, and stem winding. It was the first mass produced watch in the U. S. with these features. This company also introduced nickel plates and damaskeening to this country. The history of the U. S. Watch Co. is described in *Marion* by Muir and Kraus.

The clock movement was an eight-day *Patti* manufactured by Welsh, Spring and Company prior to 1884. It was the first of three movement types by the same name. It featured a club tooth escapement patented by B. B. Lewis in 1870 who also designed the movement. Its unusual characteristics included a double spring barrel on both trains (twice the spring length without increasing the barrel diameter), click springs attached directly to the plate, a clevis pendulum suspension similar to a cuckoo clock, an X cross band on both plates, and an unsigned movement. It was also smaller than the typical American clock. See *Supplement 12 to the Bulletin of the NAWCC* for more details on the history of the Welch, Spring Company.

New Questions

Who designed the clock on the right? What is its importance in the history of horology? (The movement illustrated is a model made from much older original drawings.)



What is the importance of the clock design shown to the left? Who designed it and how does it relate to the one above?

To the right is a tower clock in Venice. What is the time in modern terms? What is the logic of how the hours are arranged? Extra point question: What building is it on?



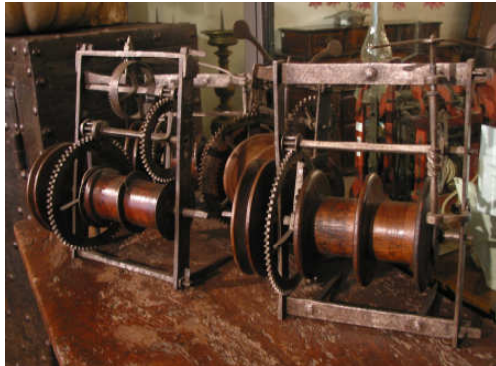
points that light up the back of the dash! The clock worked for 1 month, then would work only when I pounded the dash with my fist, which is how I remembered them working back in the 60's. Well, I gave up and took the right side of the dash apart to get the clock out and put in a quartz replacement drive – It now works fine. I can not believe the even as late as 1966, manufacturers were putting in such a complex mechanical/electrical clock exposed to dirt, condensation and vibration when electric motor driven clocks have been fairly reliable since the 30's. Oh well, enough of my ranting. It is often a surprise when we open a case.

May you all have happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Jason Evans

INTERESTING OLD GADGETS

The two objects pictured were seen in the window of an antique shop in Florence. They are two variations of the same type of device. Neither is complete. Actually there is a third one to the rear that makes the picture a bit harder to understand.



They are weight driven. In fact they appear to have had two weights turning one shaft. The one on the left has a verge escapement. The one on the right has what looks like a foliot, but it is probably a fan. The large pulley on the left end of the main shaft is your clue as to what these are. Fortunately for my wallet, the shopkeeper refused to sell them until they have been restored.

They are drives to turn roasting spits.

WELCH, SPRING AND COMPANY

Note the punctuation in the title. “Spring” in this case is not the device that provides power. It refers to Solomon C. Spring (1826-1906), the firm’s manager and design engineer. He was notable for the design and production of clock cases including the *Patti* case, the movement for which is discussed on page 10. Spring is particularly known for his uses of rosewood in cases - a practice he started while employed at the Atkins Clock Company. His pursuit of quality in the face of cheap mass-production was one factor in the eventual failure of Welch, Spring and Company..

DAMASKEENING OR SNAILING?

The term damaskeen (or damascene) is commonly used to describe the “embellishment of the surface of metals with rings or bars”. The word derives from Damascus and originally referred to the process of drawing and folding steel in forging, or more generally, to inlays in steel. Snailing is a metal finish consisting of a series of fine, curved lines radiating from a center point. It can be argued that the term snailing rather than damaskeening should have been used to describe the patterns marked on the surface of watch plates. The fact is that damaskeening was the term used by every American watch factory. The term snailing was used to describe the marking on keyless wheels and sometimes barrels of watches.

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.)

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

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

SUNDAY & BOARD

February 13, 2005
 April 10, 2005
 June 12, 2005
 August 14, 2005
 October 9, 2005
 December 11, 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
De Anza #94	Odd Fellows Lodge 20589 Homestead Rd Cupertino, CA	2 nd Sunday even months (except April)
Monterey Bay #70	Live Oak Grange Hall 1900 17th Ave Santa Cruz, CA	3 rd Sunday odd months
Sacramento #71	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 th Sunday odd months
San Francisco #5	Boys and Girls Club 401 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA	2 nd Sunday odd months (1 st 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

Location varies. No meeting in January.

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.

