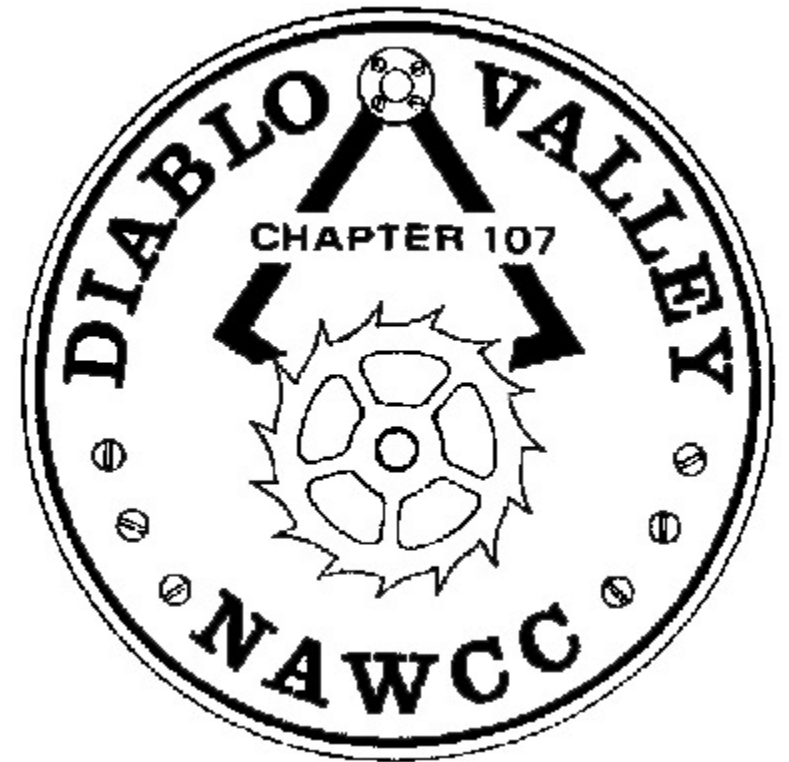


BULLETIN



April 2005
Volume 158

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

April 10, 2005

Mart 11:30, Meeting 12:30

Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center



Clock Tower — 1935

The Schmidt Litho- graph Company Tower Clock by Dorian Clair

This is the clock one sees just to the south of the Bay Bridge on the San Francisco side. Dorian will tell us about his recent overhaul of the clock and perhaps something of the history of the company, which was primarily known for printing fruit box labels such as the one shown to the right.



President's Message

What does it take to present a good program at a chapter meeting? There are many things required, and Clarence Kopel seemed to have put them all together at our February Chapter meeting. Clarence told about his experiences while attending the NAWCC Clock Making School in Columbia, PA. I had no idea just how difficult and thorough these courses are, covering both traditional hand skills and the historical aspects of horology. Thank you Clarence for a program well done! Let's give an additional thanks to Clarence for bringing along his "cheering section".

I am pleased to report that our Chapter library has found a new home at Classic Clocks and Antiques. Nile Godfrey has offered to provide a storage space and care for the Chapter's books at his business. I visited Nile at his shop a few days after the library material was delivered, and it looks like one of our Chapter's major concerns is finally being resolved. Thank you Nile!! Also thanks to Roy for housing and transporting the books for many years. If you are not familiar with Classic Clocks and Antiques, I recommend a visit at 1086 E. Stanley Blvd. in Livermore.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on Sunday, April 10.

Bob Wahner

IN MEMORIAM

With sadness we report the death on February 4th of Dorothy Hubrig. Dottie, the wife of Walt Hubrig, was known to most Chapter members. She is shown here at our December luncheon. It is hard to believe she passed so soon thereafter.



Our deepest sympathy goes to Walt and his family.

Editor's Section

I would like to open by expressing my thanks to the many guests who attended the February meeting. I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Bulletin* and will join Chapter 107. In addition to the meetings and *Bulletin*, our members have access to a substantial library, videos, and tools (watch and clock).

My column this issue will be a collection of unrelated but hopefully interesting tidbits.

When I printed the picture of the Beirut tower clock in the last issue, I had no idea the city would be back in the headlines. Did anyone see the clock in any news footage?

George Graham is well known as a master clock maker and supporter of John Harrison. Graham was also the discoverer of diurnal variations in earth's magnetic field (1722). This grew out of his work as a builder of scientific instruments including large high-precision compasses. It was variations in the readings of his compasses that revealed the diurnal variations.

It is well known that Harrison's timekeeper was approved by the Board of Longitude in 1765. Mayer's lunar tables were approved at the same time. It was not until the 1790's that the format for English ship logs was changed to include chronometer results. (Mayer's tables provided the data for Maskelyn's lunar distance method of finding longitude.)

Chelsea Clock Co. is advertising their repair services on the radio. Speaking of repair, according to a half-page article in the Chronicle (Feb. 22), Rolex and Swatch are paying students to study watch repair. It is estimated that the current supply of 7,000 watchmakers in the U. S. is about 4,000 short of the need. Currently only about 140 students are learning watchmaking in this country.

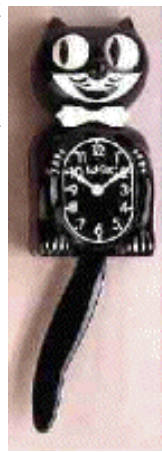
If you are interested in a CD of previous *Bulletins* contact me.

Price Russ

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 ☆ **FINAL RENEWAL REMINDER** ☆
 ☆
 ☆ Dues remain unchanged at \$15.00. This includes your
 ☆ spouse. You may pay at the next meeting or mail a check
 ☆ to Roy Holman at 4300 Everett Ave., Oakland, CA
 ☆ 94602. Please make checks payable to Diablo Valley
 ☆ Chapter 107. Badges can be picked up at any meeting
 ☆ after your payment is received. **Anyone not renewing**
 ☆ **by the end of April will be dropped from the roster**
 ☆ **and mailing list.** ☆
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KIT-CAT CLOCK

The Kit-Cat Clock has been manufactured by the California Clock Co. (currently located in Fountain Valley, CA) since the Great Depression of the 1930's. In the late 1980's, the company was forced to make a drastic change to the inner workings of the clock. At that time, the scarcity and rising costs of American-made electric motors would have forced pro-try or the company out of business. No battery technology powerful enough to move the "one-second" animation was found that by precision balancing of all the inner workings of the clock, utilizing gravity to keep the "moving controlled speed it be- battery power. If the rupted, it will com- of the tail. The introduc- simplified construction and repair. According to the company, these changes kept production in America and created a better quality, longer-lasting product. For more information, see the company's web page (www.kit-cat.com). Incidentally, the Kit-Cat Fan Club has over 10,000 dues paying members.



time, the scarcity and -made electric motors duction out of the coun- of business. No battery enough to move the existed. Ultimately it sion balancing of all the clock, utilizing gravity parts" in motion at a came possible to use clock's motion is dis- mence again with a push tion of snap-on parts

BOOK LIBRARY RELOCATED

As noted in the President's message, our book library has found a new home under the care of Nile Godfrey at Classic Clocks and Antiques, 1086 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The shop is open 10 - 5 on Tuesday and 10 - 6 on Wednesday through Saturday. The telephone number is 925-449-2127.

A spreadsheet catalog of the collection is being created. When it is completed, including the books from the Russell collection, it will be made available to the membership in printed and electronic form.

Sandy Cuthill plans to continue her long-term role of overseeing the library. Price Russ still has charge of the video tapes. Price and Walt Hubrig each have part of the tool library and parts collection.

GETTING THE RUST OUT

At the last meeting, I expressed interest in acquiring an early staking frame for restoration. Dean Thomas kindly responded with just what I wanted. The stake was firmly rusted into the arm. The stub was rusted to the table, which was in turn stuck to the frame. Several days of soaking in *Kroil*, an excellent penetrating oil, and gentle tapping loosened the parts. The disassembled parts were soaked in *Evapo-Rust* to remove the rust. Because the chrome plating was badly peeling, it was scrapped off. Finally the parts were buffed with a soft steel-wire wheel and the old stake after softening was turned into a locator pin for aligning the base plate. There are still some pits in the surface, but overall I rate it a successful repair. With patience many old tools can be restored to useable condition. Give it a try.



Price Russ



A Guest and Roy Holman

February 2005 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Mary and Clarence Kopel (the speaker)



Jason Evans and a Guest



Jennifer Kreiss and Cinde Godfrey



Ross Smith, Harold Montano, John Stohr, and Jack Coulter



A Guest

I apologize for not knowing the names of all our guests. - *ed.*

TELECHRON

One of the most common fixtures in American homes used to be Telechron clocks. I would bet that there is not one person who reads this who did not have at least one of these in the kitchen at some time.

Henry Ellis Warren received his first patent in 1909 for an electrical apparatus to drive a clock. He soon recognized the potential of powering clocks by electric motors whose rate was tied to the frequency of alternating current; *ie*, synchronous motors. By 1916 he developed such a motor suitable for clocks. The problem was that the line frequency was poorly controlled at that

time. He therefore designed a master clock for power stations and set about to convince power companies to use it. The Warren Clock Co. introduced the *Telechron* trademark in 1919.

Within a decade the popularity of electric clocks soared along with the number of competitors. By 1928 General Electric had acquired half the company, and started adding their name to dials and marketing the clocks. Telechron had a competitive advantage through the affiliation with GE and in being well made and quiet.

All early electric clocks suffered from two problems related to power outages. One was that they were not self-starting when power was restored. This was solved by the introduction of self-starting motors. The other problem was that one did not know how long the power was off. Power is more reliable now, but we still live with that one.

The company's last major innovation was the "snooze alarm" introduced in 1956. After several decades of restructuring and decline, the company disappeared in 1992.

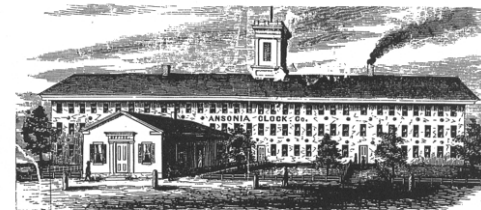


See www.telechron.net and clockhistory.com for more information including pictures of models.



Wait. Don't Tell Me!

How do you determine the age of a Kit-Cat Clock?



Ansonia Clock Company's first Ansonia factory was built in 1850 and destroyed by fire in 1854.

What are the connections between these locations? (Phil Russell would have known.)

Ansonia Clock factory

Asilomar
Conference Grounds



What is the significance of this building to American horology?

Answers are on page 12

OK, Now Tell Me.

Date the age of a Kit-Cat Clock as follows: If the back of the clock states "Portland, OR" it is late '30's. If the back of the clock states "Seattle, WA" and has a metal back, it was made in the 40's. If the back of the clock states "Seattle, WA" with a plastic back and no front paws, it was made in the early '50's. If the back of the clock states "Seattle, WA" with a plastic back and has front paws, it was made mid to late '50's. The bow tie was added about 1954. If the back of the clock states "El Monte, CA", it was made in the early '60's. If the back of the clock states "San Juan Capistrano, CA", it was made mid '60's to early '90's. If the front of the clock has "Kit-Cat" on its face, it was made after 1982. If a stamped number is on the back, it was produced from '82-'89. If no stamped number, then produced from '64-'81. If the clock is electric, it was made before 1990. If the clock is battery, it was made after 1990. Color can also be used to determine the date of manufacture.

Anson Phelps evolved from a saddle maker to a major mercantile and metal dealer. He and his son-in-law William Dodge founded the firm of Phelps Dodge, which is still a major industrial firm. As a major importer and later producer of metals including brass, it is not surprising he became involved in the clock business. Along with Theodore Terry and Franklin Andrews he founded The Ansonia Clock Co. William Dodge was married to Sarah Hoadley. (Was she a daughter of Silas Hoadley?) Their daughter Grace Hoadley Dodge was devoted to improving the lives of women. Among other achievements, she was the first president of the YWCA. In this role she authorized the construction of Asilomar as a conference center.

The "Ireland" factory is the birthplace of the American clock manufacturing industry. This is where Eli Terry developed mass production techniques and produced 4,000 wood tall-clock movements between 1806 and 1809. It was later used by Silas Hoadley until he retired in 1849.

HOROLOGICAL FASHION

Here are a couple of interesting ideas for ladies who don't care to wear a watch but want to keep track of time - purses with clocks on the side. The upper illustration shows two vinyl bags with a 9 x 9 inch quartz clock in the side (\$20). (While in a Sonoma restaurant, your editor recently saw one of these being carried by a young woman. They are quite a conversation piece.) Those wanting something smaller and a bit more frilly can try the model shown in the lower photo. It is 3.5 x 3.5 inches (\$15). If you can not find these in a local store, they are available on the internet.



REGIONAL ANYONE?

Chapter 94 is organizing a regional meeting for November 11 and 12 at the Parkside Hall in San Jose. The theme, in honor of Veterans Day, is Military Timepieces. The role of Chapter 107, if any, has not been decided. Chapter participation will be discussed at the April meeting. Whether or not we participate as a sponsor, volunteers are needed. More details will follow.

NOTICES FROM MEMBERS

Now that the library has been relocated, Nile says there is space for more material. Consider donating your extras books. We also need the *NAWCC Bulletin* volumes from 319 to the present.

Earl Watrous, 510-569-4175, is looking for a Sessions motor assembly of the type shown to the right.



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

May 6, 2005
 July 2005 - None
 September 2005 - None
 November 4, 2005
 January 6, 2006
 March 3, 2006

SUNDAY & BOARD

June 12, 2005
 August 14, 2005
 October 9, 2005
 December 11, 2005
 February 12, 2006
 April 9, 2006

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.).

Only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our Mart - be prepared to show a current membership card.

Closing Thought

**Then round about the starry throne
 Of Him who ever rules alone,
 Your heav'nly-guided soul shall climb;
 Of all this earthly grossness quit,
 With glory crown'd, for ever sit,
 And triumph over death, and thee, O Time.**

Chorus in Handel's Oratorio Samson