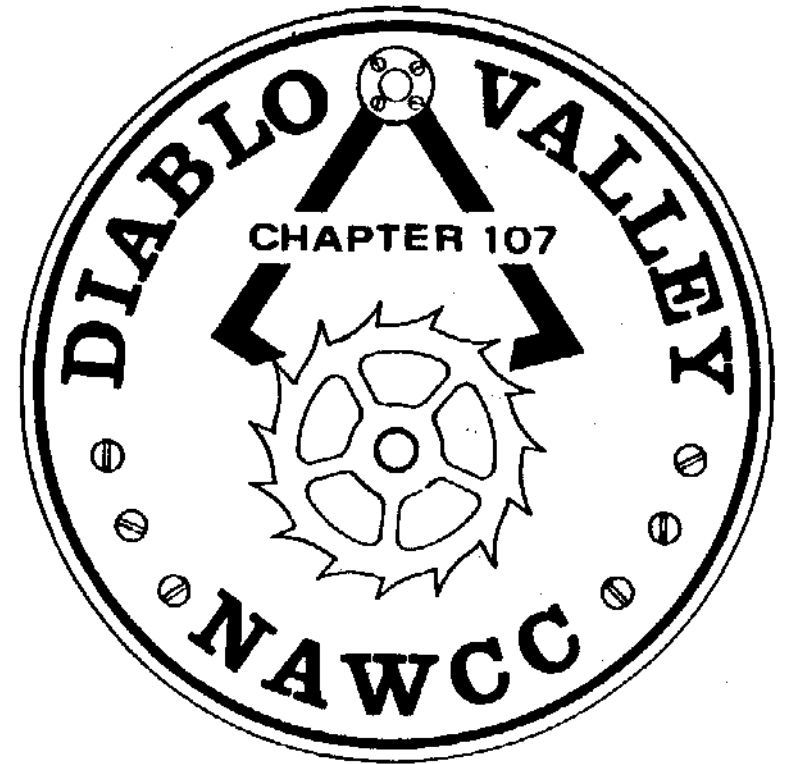


BULLETIN



October 2005
Volume 161

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

October 9, 2005

Mart 11:30, Meeting 12:30

Room B-8

Acalanes Adult Center

Four Generations of
Watchcase Making

Highly Acclaimed Video
about
Martin Matthews



President's Message

As a member of the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, have you ever thought “What are we actually collecting?” I don’t mean the obvious answer “watches & clocks“. I would like to have you go a little deeper and develop a profile of your personal collection. There are some of us in the chapter who insist on “High quality” pieces, while others are looking for “Bargains”. Some of us limit our collecting to a very limited type of clock or watch. For example, one maker, a particular time period, a country of origin, certain types of movements, etc. Others have an unfocused collection of horological “things” and are prepared to hang on to anything that they find interesting. As for age, many collectors may not, keep an item unless it is a true antique, literally hundreds of years old. To provide a balance, we also have the collectors that may be quite content with a newer item with a quartz movement. I imagine that there are as many types of collections as there are collectors. What is the character of your collection? I would like to suggest that this may be an interesting subject for a Chapter meeting. Each of several members could describing their diverse collecting practices. I would also invite anyone to write a short description of your personal collecting style to be printed in this *Bulletin*.

As for my self, my collection is definitely on the “Bargain & Miscellaneous” side. There are a few quality clocks here, but most are relatively common. Some people may scoff at some of the items in my personal collection. They are neither antique nor valuable. Some are not attractive or unique, and frequently they are not in operating condition. Their limited value can not justify the cost and time to repair them. And, if they were in running condition, there is no space left in the house to display the article. But, each item is different and each item tells an interesting story.

Bob

Editor's Section

I hope everyone enjoyed the picnic. Bernice and I did. It was a beautiful day after weeks of hot weather. Thanks for all the yummy food and to all those who helped with set up, the barbeque, and clean up. Those who were not able to attend missed a good time as well as good food. Sophie took so many wonderful photos that I could not pick the best five or six. I finally settled on twice that many. The key to who’s who is on page 13.

Generally we try to have a live program, but the video on Martin Matthews is exceptional and well worth presentation at a regular meeting. I think you will enjoy seeing what such a gifted craftsman can do with simple tools. Speaking of videos, we might want to think about adding some more to our library. Let’s discuss this at the meeting.

Once again I want to thank those who have provided material and ideas for the *Bulletin*. Keep the material coming folks. Nothing is too trivial, and it is a great help to me. If I have not used something you have provided, I will. Just give me time. Don’t forget you can also advertise items for sale or items you are seeking in the “Notices from Members” section. I have gotten good responses to my listings there. I encourage others to take advantage of this feature.

On page 10, there is an article about tools that some members have made to help with their bench work. I find making tools an interesting challenge and quite rewarding. Toolmaking might be an interesting topic for a future meeting. Seeing how others have solved their problems will help us solve ours.

Price

Friday Technical Meeting

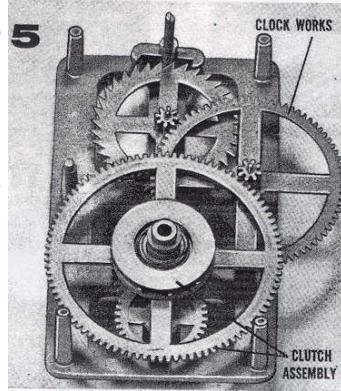
The November meeting will be at John Stohr’s home.

DELFT CLOCK KIT

Last issue included an article on a paper clock kit found and assembled by Earl Watrous. Now he has found and assembled



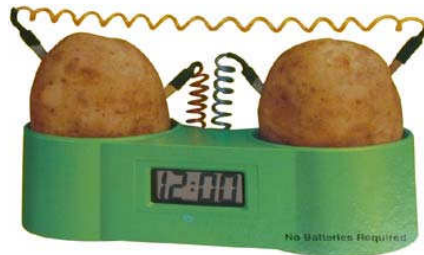
a snap-together plastic Delft Clock kit made by Lindberg Products in the 1970's. It is weight driven and claims to keep accurate time. From the illustrations in the instructions, the parts appear to have been well made, but Earl says the parts are not stiff enough to run reliably.



Another drawback is that it only goes for 12 hours on a winding. The instructions are quite detailed but contain some advice which many of us would almost certainly not follow. (See illustration below.)



Lindberg still makes plastic kits but apparently not this one. They do, however, make a two-potato digital clock that can be powered by a variety of things besides potatoes.



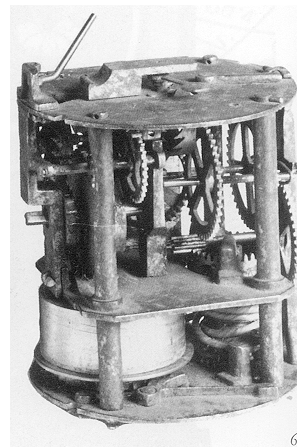
CLOCKS IN THE BARGELLO (3)

This clock is French from the 15th century. The catalog describes it as follows: Bronze 14 cm. high with a diameter of 8.8 cm. The case is cylindrical and is surmounted by a perforated cupola that hides the strike. On the face of the cylinder there is a perforated disc, centered on a hole and with the hours from I to XII marked. The base, slightly larger, can be removed. The mechanism is iron, with a spring, and allows one to manipulate the movement through the works. It is missing the bell and the hands.



Perhaps the most interesting thing about this clock is that it appears to have a fusee. The barrel and cord are visible in the picture below. The origin of the fusee is something of a mystery.

Some have claimed it was invented by Leonardo da Vinci (1452 -1519). More often credit is given to Jacob Zech a Swiss



working in Prague. A Zech clock from 1525 is in the collection of the Society of Antiquarians in London. This clock is generally considered the oldest surviving example of a fusee movement. There are, however, several much earlier references to their use. One claim is that Duke Philip, *The Good*, of Burgundy had a fusee table clock in 1430. There is also a letter from 1482 written by the Assistant Bishop of Mantua describing a fusee movement. If the clock in the Bargello is really from the

15th century and has a fusee, it may be able to claim to be the oldest survivor. (I have written the museum to inquire about this. Hopefully it will be the topic of a follow-up article. - ed.)

August 2005 Meeting

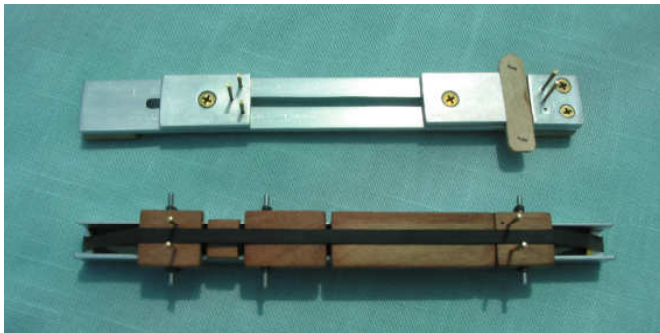
Photos by Sophia Gardner



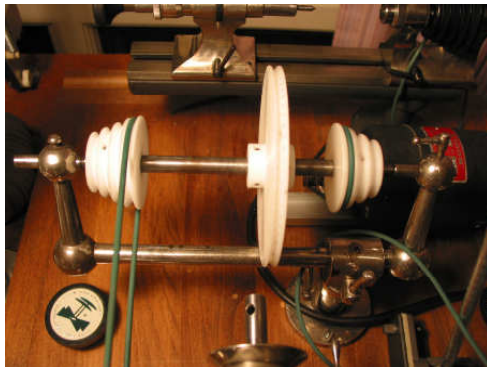
HOMEMADE TOOLS

Commercial 400-day suspension assembly fixtures sell for \$45 to \$80. This tool is used to position and hold the suspension spring, top and bottom blocks, and fork during replacement of the spring or adjustment of the assembly.

Earl Watrous made his own. Actually he made not just one but two versions. One is all metal - mostly aluminum. The other uses an aluminum channel for the frame and Bolivian rose-wood for the adjustable parts.



Price Russ was having vibration problems caused by out of balance pulleys on the counter shaft of his watchmaker's lathe, so he decided to make replacements. Not having a ready source of metal stock, he used plastic. For the smaller multi-step pulleys he was able to buy Delrin rod. For the large wheel (4.5" dia.) used to power the milling attachment, rod was not easily available, so he used material intended for kitchen cutting boards. A square piece was cut roughly circular and mounted on a face plate for turning. All work was done on a 6" lathe. (It is helpful to have a larger tool to make parts for smaller ones.)



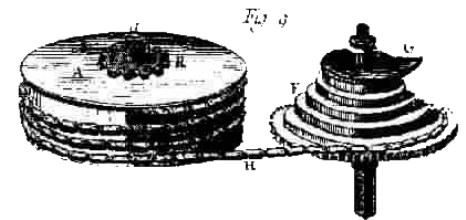
Wait. Don't Tell Me!

The instrument to the right is a nocturnal. How is it used to tell time?



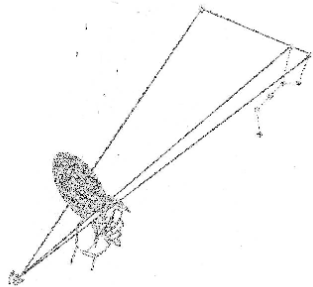
The watch at the left was made by Salomon Chesnon (1572-1639) of Blois in 1620. The Bargello has a similar watch by Marc Girard from Blois from the same period. Why would these watches be equipped with a compass and sundial?

Early fuseses used cut chord, which was prone to break. Ultimately chord was replaced by a chain. Who invented the fusee chain and when?



OK, Now Tell Me.

Not surprisingly a nocturnal is used to tell time at night. The North Star is sighted through a hole in the middle and the bar is turned to line up with the pointer stars of the big dipper. (The pointer stars are the two that point toward the pole star. (After adjusting the dial for the date, the time can be read.



The compass allowed the user to align the sundial on the north-south meridian. The sundial could then be used to set the watch. How else would you set it in 1620? It does not appear that the sundial could be adjusted for latitude which would have been a useful feature if one traveled far from home. It is interesting that the sundials are aligned in such a way that the clock dial would be in the 6 at the top position when reading the sundial. Any thoughts on why this was the orientation chosen?

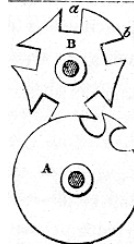
Like the history of the fusee, the history of the fusee chain is less than clear. A. Gruet of Geneva is generally credited with perfecting the steel fusee chain in 1664, long after the invention of the fusee itself. However your editor has seen one claim that a Felix Fabian invented the fusee chain prior to 1539. Note that the fusee, with or without the chain, did not make good timekeepers out of verge watches. Good timekeeping was achieved only after the invention of the hairspring by Robert Hooke in 1660.

KEY TO PICNIC PHOTOS

Top Row: Earl Watrous, Cheryl Thomas, Dale Gardner, Jay Taylor, Carol and Jason Evans

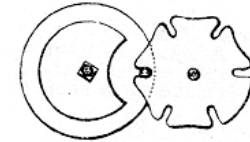
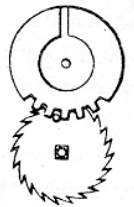
Middle Row: Roy Holman, Nile Godfrey, Lorraine Stohr, Joan Holman, Lois Naye, Price Russ

Bottom Row: Dean Thomas, Roy and Helen Clarke, Mary Watrous, Cinde Godfrey, Jan and Bob Wahrer



FOUR TYPES OF STOP WORKS

Stop works including the "Geneva-stop" on the left are used to limit the number of turns that a spring can be wound.



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: Cutters for lathe milling-attachment - Price Russ

Available: As a result of a non-horological project, Price Russ has acquired a considerable assortment of miscellaneous springs. If you need a spring for a household project, he may be able to fix you up.

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 4, 2005
 January 6, 2006
 March 3, 2006
 May 14, 2006
 July 2006 - None
 September 2006 - None

SUNDAY & BOARD

December 11, 2005
 February 12, 2006
 April 9, 2006
 June 3, 2006
 August 13, 2006
 October 8, 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.).

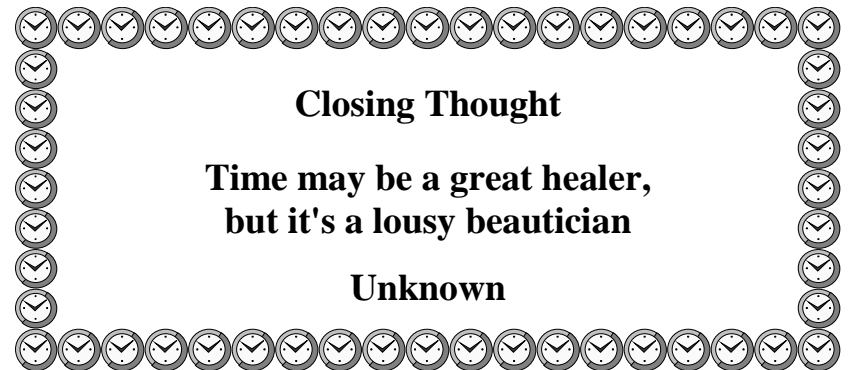
From Benicia - Highway 680 going South

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 your current membership card.

SOURCE FOR SECOND HANDS

Need a replacement second hand? Try a secondhand store.



Closing Thought

**Time may be a great healer,
 but it's a lousy beautician**

Unknown