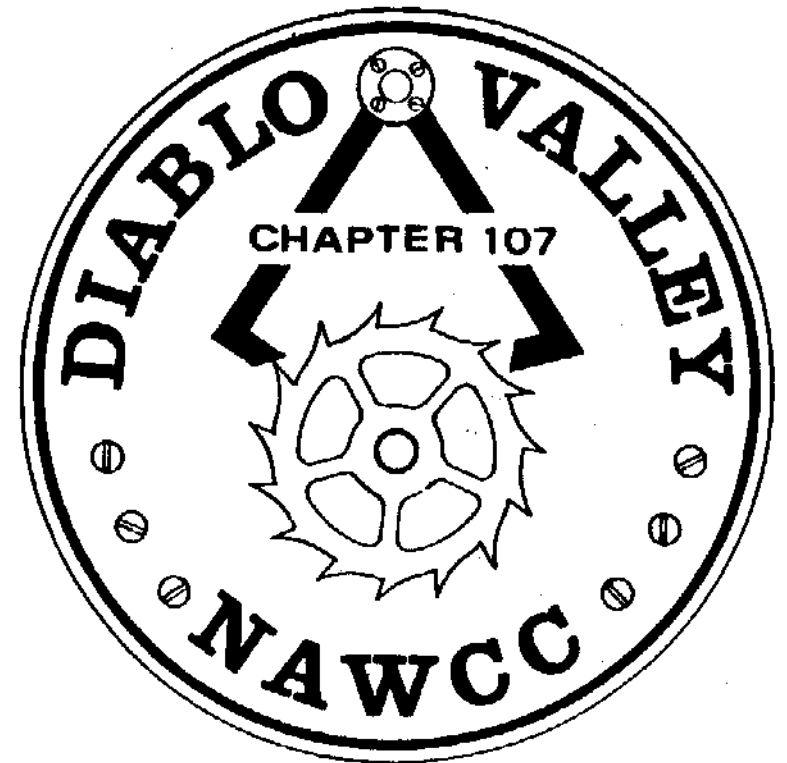


# BULLETIN



April 2010  
Volume 188



## *President's Message*

### Aligning Time with the World and Within

Didn't we all just have a blast changing our clocks ahead an hour this past month for Day Light Saving Time? Since we're all striving to be clock 'experts', we should all know that there is only one "S" in "Saving", & it's at the beginning.

Personally, I have a couple challenges in changing clocks during our bi-annual time changes. First, is that I keep more than 50 clocks running in my home, and then I wind and set nearly that many weekly again at my Step Mother's house due to her arthritis. She still loves to wind the Vienna Regulators or other clocks with weights. At her house I've recently decided to try get as many calibrated (without a count meter) as possible, trying to get as many to chime at the same time as possible. Of course I need a "master" time piece, I use my 21<sup>st</sup> century cell phone. I find this task is especially time consuming, as I need to make notes *each week for every clock* – leaving myself a trail for the following week - to figure out how to make the next adjustments.. Winding +/- 50 clocks per house takes enough time, but reviewing & writing notes is quite time consuming.

Two issues on our Chapter Level – There appears to be enough interest among sellers to increase the length of the Mart by an hour. Therefore, during this month's meeting we'll be asking the members to vote to "officially" start the Mart at 10:30. If so desired by simple majority, then the Chapter's Board will vote and likely accept this change. Such is the life with Boards. Also to make purchasing fair for all Members, **we would appreciate All Non-Selling members to arrive accordingly for entry to the Hall for the Mart at 10:30.** Your voluntary cooperation with this request allows the volunteer staff to safely setup tables & chairs for Mart and the meeting, allows the Sellers an easier and timely set up, and **avoids** a stringent No Early Bird Policy enforcement. If you're a non-seller & would like to enter before 10:30, *please* call me up to Volunteer for mart set-up. Thanks to John Heywood (1497-1580) we know "many hands makes light work"

*Thanks in advance for the enthusiastic cooperation!*

*Chip*

## *Editor's Page*

Since the first of the year we have lost two chapter members whose acquaintance I highly valued. Royal English was the person who got me started in horology, the NAWCC, and this chapter. Our newer members missed something special by not knowing him. The article on page 7 from an early Bulletin captures something of Royal's spirit.

Joe Kanter was less visible in the organization, but he feed me ideas for the *Bulletin* and was always active in the December auctions. I purchased several of the pieces he offered in the auctions. They will keep this gentle man in my memory. Joe's last contribution to the *Bulletin* was a list of important dates in horology. The first part of the list appears on page 13. It will be continued in future issues.

Thanks go to those who contributed material to this issue. Roy Holman suggested reprinting Royal's article on Horo-itis Steve Fabes provided the review of Chauncey Jerome's autobiography. Earl Watrous found the motorcycle made of watch parts.

For those who do not know Steve Fabes, he is a former chapter member and former editor of this publication. It was particularly generous of him to contribute to the *Bulletin* while not an active chapter member. I hope he will see his way to rejoining us.

I concede that the question on page 10 concerning the du Pont family does not relate directly to horology, but I thought it was an interesting follow-up to the question about the Breguet family in the December 2009 issue. I wonder if there were other French horologists from the time of the Revolution who produced multiple generations of notable offspring?

*Price*

## IN MEMORIAM

With sadness, we report the deaths of two long-term members of Chapter 107.

Royal English was a Charter Member of Chapter 107. Royal introduced many of our members to clock repair as a result of their bringing work to his shop in Walnut Creek. While he could have taken the work into the shop, he would often suggest the customer take his course at the Acalanes Adult School and do the repairs themselves. In turn he introduced his students to the NAWCC and this chapter.



Joe Kanter, a retired dentist, was a long-time member of Chapter 107. Right up through the Dec. 2009 luncheon, Joe actively participated in our auctions as both a buyer and seller of clocks and watches. He also contributed ideas for our *Bulletin*. Joe is pictured here with one of his purchases at the Dec. 2002 meeting.



Both Royal and Joe were always willing to help where needed and a pleasure to know. They will be missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to their families.



## HORO-ITIS CURED

From Bulletin #9, April 1980

A CURE HAS BEEN FOUND FOR HORO-ITIS !!!

At last. Finally, and none too soon there is a cure for horo-itis. In today's world of high stress and taxes, blood pressures soar, nerves stand right on the razors edge and the end of every day leads only to a sleepless night. Take heart, This need not be your days or nights.

Many of us have found great solice in collecting clocks, only to find more frustration in the time and costs of getting, and keeping, the treasures running -- well.

Now, every day, for the rest of your life, you can fly high. Each dawn will be a jewel in your crown. Each night will be restful and serene. Your clocks ? They will greet you as a special friend, each swing of the pendulum a wave of greeting and each stroke of the chime a note of music that soothes the soul.

How can this be? Is this another bottle of snake oil? Not in the least, just a curefor horo-itis.

Actually, it is a series of treatments that start on April 9th at Del Valle High School Room D-1 and continues for ten Wednesday nights. It is the Acalanes Adult Education System course in  
Clock Repair.

Fringe benefit -- your spouse will enjoy having you out of the house for one night a week. Please be on time. We start at 7:00 pm.

You will learn how to clean, oil, adjust and make some repair of clock movements. Also, a section on cleaning and refinishing cases. there are sections on the mathematics of horology, dials-hands-pendulums, where to find technical help, how to buy clocks -- and more. You will be guided through the repair of one of your own clocks, and that more than pays for the course.

Royal English

# February 2010 Meeting

Photos by Sophia Gardner



Prospective Member



Price Russ (speaker)



Ross Smith



Tosh Yumae & Dale Gardner



Mart Floor



Mike Kookan

## BOOK REVIEW

*History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Years, and Life of Chauncey Jerome* by Chauncey Jerome.

While we all know well and recognize the many clock movement and case models that Chauncey Jerome produced, few of us know the man from his own words. This booklet, a mere 69 pages is reproduced (with the original spelling errors) from an edition published in 1860. As Jerome states it was written when he was 67, purely from memory of which he is very proud and its manner and purpose reads such to correct facts and impressions that Jerome felt damaging to himself and his reputation. Apart from some interesting notes at the very end of the book on clock maintenance, [*the rear plate pivot holes do not need to be oiled as they do not attract the same amount of dust and dirt as those in the front plate under the dial*], there is little information about how he designed clock cases or movements.

Jerome describes his life in the early 1800's. The harshness of life, walking through snow, strapping three clocks to his saddle and riding out on horseback to sell them.

The description of his business acumen, he was the first to see and enter the markets in England and Europe, his pride and producing the better clocks at the lower price is ever present. Jerome was financially ruined in a venture with P.T. Barnum, the details are not presented but his distress, his surprise and anguish are very raw and real. Lastly, he writes about his pain when building a Congregational church that involved initial contributors who eventually walked away and the building being occupied by the Baptists.

I concluded that Chauncey Jerome was a very honest and hard working clock entrepreneur who was very successful. He was cheated out of his wealth by some New York city slickers and lived the rest of his life embittered and puzzled. The book was Jerome's attempt to put that right, it does in some part. A good read.

*Steve Fabes*

## Wait. Don't Tell Me!

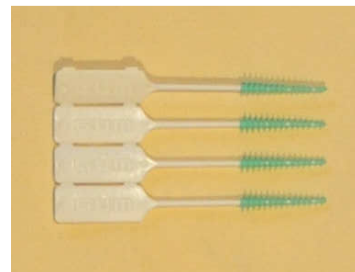
The article on Cartel clocks in the February issue mentioned the clockmaker Samuel du Pont having famous progeny. Who were they and why are they famous?

Elgin watches are characterized by Model, Grade, and Class as well as size, and other descriptors such as number of jewels and style. What is the relationship of model, grade, and class?

The picture on the right is from the Willard House & Clock Museum's web page. Where else might you find similar gallery clocks by Simon Willard? By the way, Simon Willard became a friend of Thomas Jefferson. One can imagine that they would have engaged in some interesting discussions.



The plastic picks shown below are intended for dental use. The overall length is about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The maximum width of the brush part (green) is about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. How might they be useful in watch or clock repair?



## OK, Now Tell Me.

Samuel du Pont wanted his son Pierre to follow him as a watchmaker, but he did not follow his father's wishes. The able and ambitious Pierre went on to develop connections within the French court and married into a minor noble family. He became associated with a liberal group in the court dedicated to economic and agricultural reforms. His writings advocating free trade and low tariffs are said to have influenced Adam Smith among others. He also participated in a variety of negotiations including the treaty ending the American Revolution. Initially he supported the French Revolution but narrowly escaped execution during the Reign of Terror. In 1799 his family relocated to the United States where he originated the idea of the Louisiana Purchase. His son, Eleuthere Irenee, founded E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

For a given size, model numbers were assigned sequentially to different plate and movement layouts. Grade referred to the specific configuration. All watches of a grade were identical. Class was used to group grades with the same quality of parts. Some parts catalogs were arranged by class. Others were organized by grade.

The clock on the right from about 1810 is in the lobby of the West Wing of the White House. A similar one is located in the Old South Church in Boston. Do you know of others?



“GUM Soft-Picks” are sold for cleaning between teeth. Their design suggests that where pipe cleaners would be too large, Soft-Picks could be useful for cleaning inside tubes such as those of cannon pinions and hour wheels. Caveat emptor: This idea has not been tested. If you try it, please, report the results.

## IMPORTANT DATES IN HOROLOGY

- 742 BC: First recorded mention of the sun dial though they may have been in use as early as 2,000 BC.
- 300 BC: Toothed wheels for transmission of power attributed to Archimedes.
- 330 AD: Sand glasses known to be in use.
- 885: Alfred the Great used candle clocks.
- 1360: First mechanical clock constructed in France.
- 1368: Clockmaking in England started.  
England's earliest known public clock installed at Salisbury Cathedral. It had no hands but indicated time by striking the hours.
- 1490: Mainspring invented by Peter Hele, or Henlein a locksmith of Nuremburg. About this time small domestic or table clocks appeared.
- 1510: First watch was made about this time
- 1525: Jacob the Czech invented the fusee.
- 1530: Screws appeared

*Joe Kanter*

## CHAPTER LIBRARIES

**BOOK:** The Chapter book library is located at **Classical Clocks and Antiques**, 1086 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Contact **Nile Godfrey** (925-449-2127) for more information.

**VIDEO:** Chapters 107 and 5 share a DVD video library. Contact **Price Russ** (925-937-9231) for information.

**TOOL:** 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.

There is no cost to borrow items from these collections.

## 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

### Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

Mart: 11:30AM  
 Chapter: 12:30PM  
 Board: after the Chapter Meeting

### Future Meeting Dates

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| June 13, 2010     | August 8, 2010    |
| October 10, 2010  | December 12, 2010 |
| February 13, 2011 | April 10, 2011    |

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.

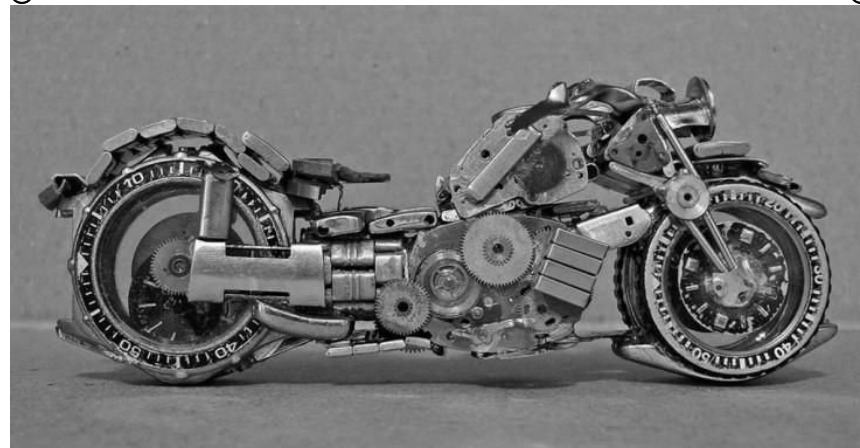
**Only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our Mart. Be prepared to show your current membership card.**

## DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

*(except August and December)*

### 743 Diablo Road, Danville

Take Interstate 680 to the Diablo Road exit in Danville. Go east on Diablo Road for 0.6 mile. The Grange Hall will be on your right. Parking is available in the front and rear. Enter from the front; *i.e.*, street side. Facing the building from the street, there is a ramp on the right side for handicap and cart access.



An ingenious use of watch parts from the web pages of *Classic American Iron*.

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

### Closing Thought

**Time is too swift for those who fear,  
 Too long for those who grieve,  
 Too short for those who rejoice,  
 But for those who love time is eternity.**

*Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)*