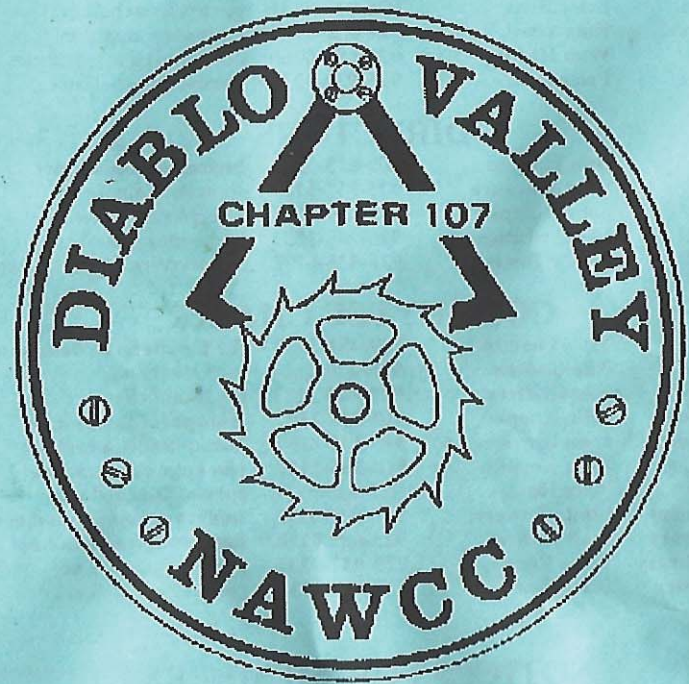


# BULLETIN



August 2020  
Volume 250

## DIABLO VALLEY

### Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors  
 net.nawcc.org/chapter107  
 email account [chapter107nawcc@gmail.com](mailto:chapter107nawcc@gmail.com)

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

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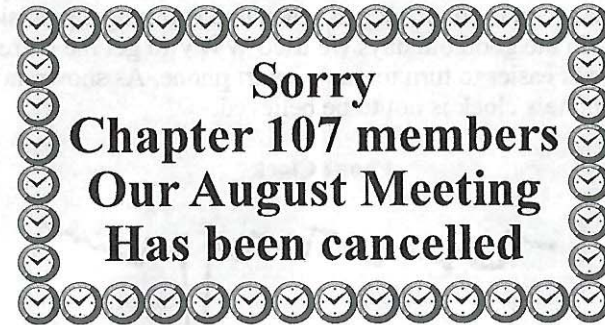
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#### NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

(The Bulletin accepts notices from Chapter members for all items/subjects horological - wanted, for sale, give-away, services, and so forth. There is no charge. All you have to do is supply copy to the editor.)

**Wanted:** Articles for the *Bulletin*. Contact Tina Thomas (209) 481-3930. Or email [ch107bulletin@comcast.net](mailto:ch107bulletin@comcast.net).

## Meeting Notice



#### President's Message

Hello Friends,

I hope this message finds you all safe and well.

Because of the current COVID situation, we have decided to cancel our August potluck. We appreciate member Andrew Kronmal generously volunteering his yard for our potluck and hope that by next year, we can safely gather there.

We will continue to monitor the safety of social gatherings in the hope that we will be able to resume our Chapter meetings, but the outlook doesn't look favorable for the near future.

A tip in our last bulletin listed the Abby Clock Clinic site as very interesting. I checked it out and found the site contained a wealth of helpful information in the form of PDF articles on clock repair. It's well worth exploring:

<http://abbeyclock.com/antiqueclockrepair.html>

Helen

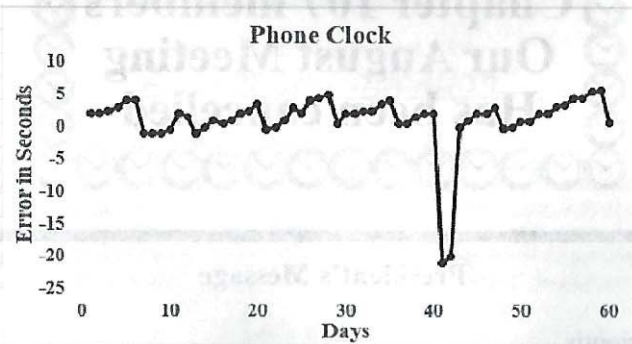
#### Minor factoid

ON MAY 31, 1859, BIG BEN (THE BELL) BEGAN CHIMING. AND HAS EVER SINCE.

ROSS

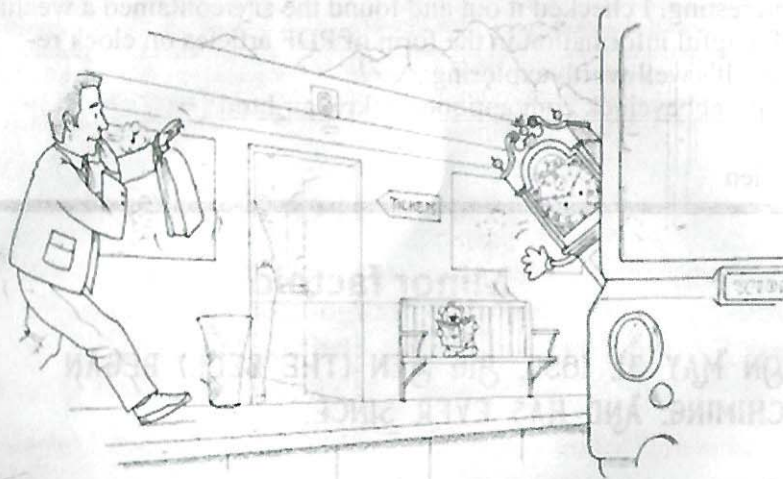
## Shop Hints

My smart phone turns out not to be very smart or at least a lousy time-keeper when seconds count such as when one is timing a precision clock. Back in the good old days we used WWV to get the correct time. Now it is easier to turn to one's smart phone. As shown in the graph my phone's clock is not to be believed.



This may not be true of all clocks but beware. Fortunately there are apps that will show the correct time. Some read to milliseconds. The one I use is "AtomicClock". In addition to showing the correct time, it gives the system time error to 0.1 seconds. I believe it is available for all the usual operating systems. So called "atomic clocks" that are set by radio signals also seem to keep proper time to the second.

## Price Russ



TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN



Our Chapter President, Helen sent me these two photos of an 1837 token that a member of her family added to his collection. I had never seen one of these before and had to check it out. President Andrew Jackson served from 1829 to 1837. In 1836 Jackson issued an order that federal lands would be sold only for Gold or Silver. At the same time his supporters allowed the charter of the Bank of the United States to expire. The bank closed peacefully and paid all its depositors.

These two changes lessened the money supply, causing business activity to dry up. This period became known as the Hard Times. People hoarded precious metals. Gold, then Silver coins disappeared from circulation. Copper cents were next to disappear from the market.

With coinage gone, private business stepped in to fill the void. Several companies experienced in metal working began issuing copper tokens. These tokens were bought in bulk by storekeepers and business owners for less than 1 cent each, who gave them in change to their customers at a value of 1 cent. Token makers earn profit for their work, merchants profited from the difference between purchase price and face value, and the general public profited by having coins for conducting their daily business. These tokens became known to collectors as Hard Times Tokens. The above example is also advertising the Smiths Clock Establishment located at 7 1/2 Bowery, New York City.

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The Atkins Clock Manufacturing Company of Bristol, Connecticut. This very rare 30-day shelf model is called the Gilt Parlor.

This is a very interesting and rare mantel clock made by the Atkins Clock Manufacturing Company of Bristol, Connecticut. The case appears to be constructed in white pine is architectural-ly designed. The fancy decorations and various details are formatted in gesso. These surfaces have been gilt painted in a gold foil. This treatment is original to this example and is in my opinion, in excellent original condition for the clock's age. The minor areas of loss to both the decoration and to the gilding are not significant.

This case sits on a large molding that rests flat on the shelf. The front two corners have been blocked out and the design of the lower moldings nicely conforms to this modified shape. Many of the surfaces are decorated with applied gesso designs that provide this model with a three dimensional presentation. These designs include pendants, leaves, shells ,etc. The front of the case is fitted with two doors. The lower door frames a glass panel through which one can view the brass faced pendulum bob. This door opens to allow one access to the pendulum in order to rate the clock. The upper door is in the form of a brass bezel or ring. This is also fitted with glass. The dial is original to this clock and is in excellent condition. It is somewhat unusual to find an Atkins clock with its original painted dial. Most examples have been repainted due to the poor preparation of the tin when first painted. This tin dial features a traditional Roman numeral time ring. Original steel hands indicate the time. Inside this case one will find a very unusual movement that was originally designed by Joseph Ives. (These wagon spring movements were categorized by Fred Selchow in an April 1953 NAWCCbulletin. This is referred to as a "Type 3.") Unfortunately, this is difficult to view due to the design of the case. This movement is powered by 8 leaf or flat springs. These are held or supported by a large and decorative cast iron bracket. This bracket was necessary to prevent the case from breaking apart under the pressure of a fully wound movement. This must have been a major contributing factor to the cost of producing this clock.

Continued on page 11

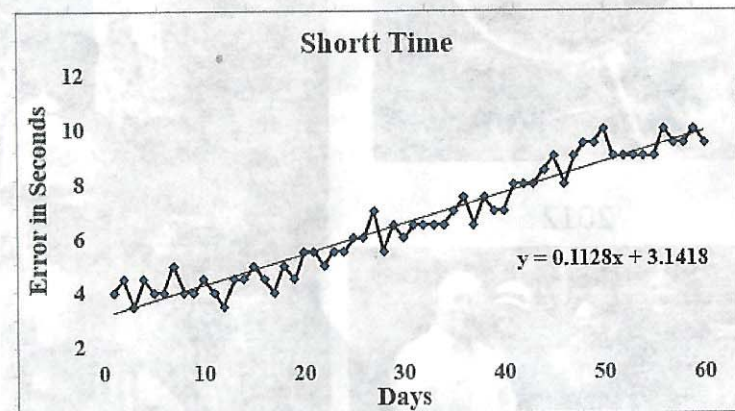
Continued from page 5

Smith issued a number of variant tokens that would make an interesting collection. This establishment was in business at the New York City location from about 1834 to 1851 and was known by several different names. I have found a number of their clocks shown on the internet with several different labels, but always located at 7 ½ Bowery. The above information is mainly from an article by David Schwager. The complete article can be found on the web at: <https://www.coinagemag.com/getting-started-with-hard-times-tokens/>

John Koepke

### Shortt Report

Using a sidereal time app on my cell phone to track the Shortt's performance was giving results varying by seconds per day. Finally it occurred to me that the app was probably using the phone's system clock. As discussed in Shop Hints, the system clock in my phone is a poor timekeeper. Once I started correcting the time given by the sidereal app for the error in the system clock, the results improved substantially. As shown in the graph, the Shortt is gaining 0.11 seconds per day. A good deal of the residual scatter is due to my inability to read the



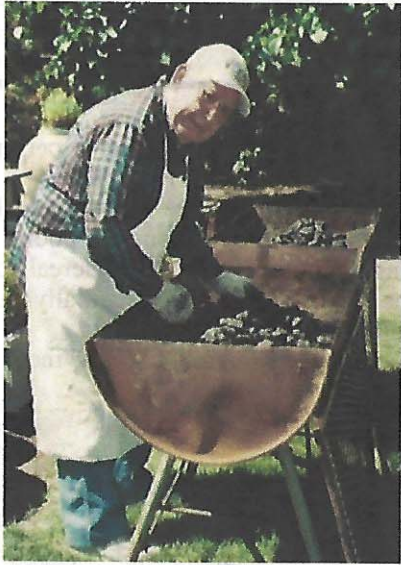
sidereal app to better than about a half second. It would be possible to bring the clock to closer than this to the correct rate by removing about 0.1 grams from the weight tray, but I am more interested in consistency of the rate than the absolute value.

Price Russ

# Picnics Past



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2017



2016



2018

2019

### Maker, Unknown

**Probably English.** c. 1890. Movement 5h" x 12" dia. / 11"h x 13" over hexagonal glazed case. Clock work driven orrery with Earnshaw type, split bi-metallic jeweled chronometer detent escapement and driven with chain fusee. Eight day duration. An additional spring barrel drives the orrery with one year duration. It also serves to eliminate the backlash that would be present in a mechanism with so many wheels. Subsidiary dial for the Bisextile, four year (leap year) cycle. Outer ring with year calendar and zodiacal indicators. Orrery with two inner planets, Mercury and Venus with rings to indicate each planet's orbital inclination to the sun. Also a separate tellurian depicting the Earth and moon system, with moon phases, the moon's orbital inclination in relation to the ecliptic represented by a ring around the Earth and a track for the moon to physically rise and fall with respect to the Earth, an indicator to show where it rises and sets relative to the surface of the Earth, as well as the ecliptic. Below is a subsidiary dial for moon's age and phases. The Earth at correct inclination with dial ring above divided into two twelve hour sectors illustrated with Roman numerals rotating with the earth. An apparatus connecting the earth to the Sun to shows the Sun's zenith and declination around the Earth as well as lines showing the approximate areas of sunrise and sunset in the Northern hemisphere. The entire mechanism pirouettes upon its central spindle once per year with indicator hand for outer silvered ring to indicate the position of the sun in the ecliptic as well as the date, month and zodiac house. All subsidiary dials engraved and silvered on skeltonized frame with unique upper and lower plates (not mirrored) held by nine pillars. Total of 45 wheels within the mechanism.

Pictures on page 12



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One can also assume that this movement was much more expensive to build as compared to a more common Connecticut format. The movement is a combination of brass gearing and steel pinions. The plates have been skeletonized. When fully wound, this clock is designed to run 30 days.

This clock measures approximately 18.5 inches tall, 6 inches deep and 12.25 inches wide. This clock was made circa 1856.

This very clock is one pictured on page 165 in Lester Dworetzky and Robert Dickstein's "Horology Americana." A similar example is on display at the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol, Connecticut.

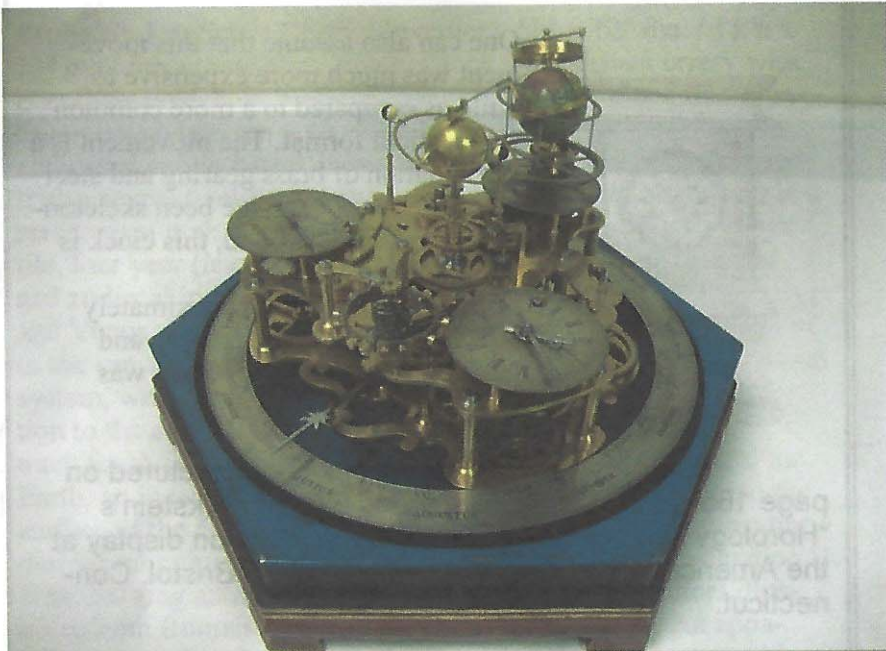
### Horology Americana Hardcover – 1972



by Lester Dworetzky  
(Author), Robert Dickstein (Author)

Lester Dworetzky presents over 200 antique American clocks from the earliest colonial days through the 1800's--many of them never before seen in any other publication. 212 pages; 204 color and 96 b&w photos; 7.25 x 10.25 inches.

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## Learn About Precision Pendulum Clocks

For anyone wanting to learn about precision pendulum clocks, there are a number of excellent books on the subject. They range from easy for anyone to read and understand to the highly technical. The books by Derek Roberts are a good place to start. They have nice color photographs and quit readable text. All are available on the internet or for loan from the NAWCC library.

“Precision Pendulum Clocks” (1986)

“Precision Pendulum Clocks: The Quest for Accurate Timekeeping “(2003)

“English Precision Pendulum Clocks” (2003)

“Precision Pendulum Clocks: France, Germany, America, and Recent Developments” (2004)

The more technically minded might enjoy the following

“My Own Right Time” by Philip Woodward

“Woodward on Time “ published by the BHI

“Accurate Clock Pendulums”  
by Robert J. Matthys

“The Science of Clocks and Watches”  
by A. L. Rawlings

## CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

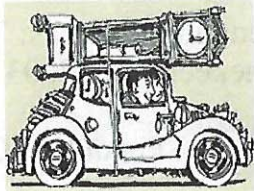
### Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

Mart: 10:30AM  
 Chapter: 12:00PM  
 Board: after the Chapter Meeting

### Future Meeting Dates

October 11, 2020  
 December 13, 2020

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 2020 membership card.

Other NAWCC Chapter Meetings in Northern California		
Chapter	Meeting Address	Meetings
De Anza #94	Odd Fellows Lodge 20589 Homestead Rd Cupertino, CA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday even months (except April)
Sacramento #71	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday odd months
San Francisco #5	Monroe Elementary School 3750 Monterey Blvd San Leandro, Ca	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday odd months

## 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.

## CHAPTER LIBRARIES

**BOOK:** The Chapter book library is located at Classical Clocks and Antiques, 1082 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.

## Disclaimer



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