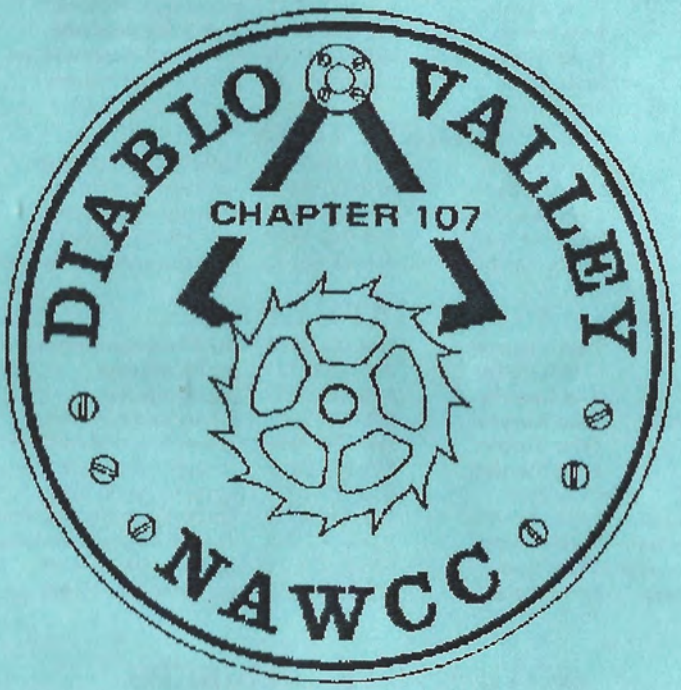
BULLETIN



February 2021
Volume 252

DIABLO VALLEY

Chapter 107
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors
Chapter107.nawcc.org
email account chapter107nawcc@gmail.com

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

"Accent on Education"

2020 OFFICERS

President	Helen Wheeler	925-240-1691	wheelha@yahoo.com
Vice Pres.	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Secretary	Ross Smith	925-820-2180	mainuse@msn.com
Treasurer	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net
Past Pres.	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

DIRECTORS

2020	Bob Thomas	209-815-3292	btclock@comcast.net
2020	Stan Janczura	925-937-5139	sjanczura@aol.com
2020	John Koepke	510-236-2197	jskoepke@comcast.net
2020-2021	Leonard Boone	925-946-1832	lenboone@gmail.com
2020-2021	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	lindatowers@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Editor	Tina Thomas	209-481-3930	ch107bulletin@comcast.net
Library	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	jng3@aol.com
Mart	Nile Godfrey	925-449-2127	jng3@aol.com
Membership	John Koepke	510-236-2197	jskoepke@comcast.net
Nominating	John Koepke	510-236-2197	jskoepke@comcast.net
Photo	John Koepke	510-236-2197	jskoepke@comcast.net
Program	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Refreshment	Linda Towers	925-935-6272	lindatowers@hotmail.com
Tool Library	Walt Hubrig	925-685-0260	dottiewalt@astound.net
Video Library	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net
Web Master	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

NOTICES FOR 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: Articles for the *Bulletin*. Contact Tina Thomas (209) 481-3930. Or email ch107bulletin@comcast.net.

Meeting Notice

Sorry
Chapter 107 members
Our February Meeting
Has been cancelled

Happy 2021!

As you might or might not have noticed, instead of our usual December Bulletin, Tina Thomas sent us all a lovely Holiday card with my President's message enclosed. That's how we wrapped up 2020. We are hoping that eventually we will be able to meet again in 2021, but for now, we wait. We have also postponed our yearly Board Meeting until we know when we can resume our regular schedule and bimonthly meetings. We will resume sending out our bimonthly bulletins in 2021 and keep you updated on Chapter 107.

I received my first COVID vaccination and hope that our members are also scheduled or have already received their first. We are looking forward to life safely returning to indoor gatherings, including our Chapter 107 meetings at the Danville Grange Hall. In the meantime, I continue to wind my clocks and tinker with the ones that need attention.

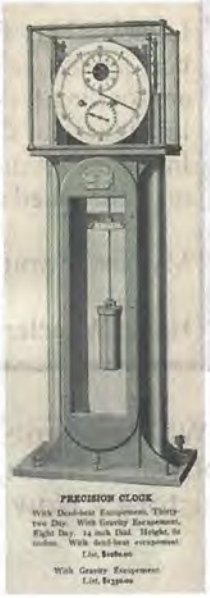
My best to you all and looking forward to seeing you again,

Helen Wheeler

"Without time there is chaos. Time links cartography, physics, math, astronomy, navigation, art and military history." *New York Times*

Seth Thomas Precision Clock

The clock on the left was recently donated by a couple in the Sacramento area to the NAWCC Museum. Vince Angell and I had the opportunity to help pack the clock for its trip to Pennsylvania. Neither of us had ever seen one. This example had a large brass plaque attached to the top with Precision Clock in large letters on the first line. This model has a Gravity Escapement which in 1909 had a price of $1350 or $1080 for the dead-beat version (see illustration at right)! The case is made of cast iron making the clock very heavy. The pendulum must contain 50 pounds of Mercury. The 2 weights run the dead-beat escapement for 32 days while the gravity escapement model runs for 8 days. The clock is wound through 2 holes in the glass top. The clock stands 62" in height (without the top brass plaque) and has a 14" dial. The top hour dial is labeled from 0 to 23. The main dial shows 12 hours and is unusual in that it has both an hour and minute hand. The astronomical regulators I have seen would just have a minute hand at this location. The lower dial is for seconds.



The United States Naval Observatory displayed two of these clocks at the 1889 Paris Exposition. The time service exhibit featured the Gardner system of linking clocks together and a collection of Seth Thomas Clocks. The September 1889 Jewelers Circular contains an article on the Gardner system, while the October 1889 issue discussed the Seth Thomas Precision Clocks. An illustration of the time service exhibit shows the 2 precision clocks at the front center of the exhibit. The clock on the left showed siderial time while the other

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http://abbeyclock.com/calendar.html

Mark Headrick

Southern Calendar Clock

This Southern Calendar clock is from the 1890s. Its calendar is similar to that of the Ithaca Calendar clock of New York (see below). The calendar mechanisms may look somewhat different, but their action is the same. While many of the Ithaca Calendar clocks have Welch movements in them, most Southern Calendar clocks have Seth Thomas movements, like the one below. There is some history at the bottom of this page.

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Southern Calendar Clock

The calendar usually works well, as long as it has not been modified during any previous repairs. This calendar only required a very small adjustment to function correctly.

On the movement it says clearly that this clock was manufactured by the Seth Thomas Clock Co. in Thomaston, CT. for the Southern Calendar Clock Co. in St. Louis, MO.

Looking at the back of the mechanism, you can see the wire, used to trip the calendar once a day.

The snail allows the lever to fall. This lever and the wire hold the trip mechanism in the calendar, the weight of which moves the calendar forwards when it falls from a specified height, which is adjustable

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Southern Calendar Clock

Servicing the movement is similar to other Seth Thomas clocks, such as the ST #89. The strike count lever should have a return spring, but the clearance between the count lever and the warning lever is very tight. A return spring reduces the likelihood that the detent on the count lever would jump up unexpectedly, allowing the clock to strike further.

HISTORY:

The Ithaca Clock Co. was in business between 1866 and 1917 in Ithaca, New York. According to the Ithaca Daily Journal, Sept. 20th, 1875, the patents on the calendar and improvements were sold to the Seth Thomas Clock Co. This detail may help explain how the Culver brothers got the design and used Seth Thomas movements in their calendar clocks.

The Southern Calendar Clock Company was in business from 1875 to 1899 in St. Louis, Missouri. The three Culver Brothers incorporated the business on March 2nd 1875 and manufactured these double-dial calendar clocks in their factory on 802 Washington Avenue in St. Louis. Most of the mechanisms used in their clocks were made by the Seth Thomas Clock Company in Connecticut although some have been found with movements made by the Gilbert Clock Company in Winsted, Connecticut and others by the New Haven Clock Company. They feature a "perpetual" calendar, meaning that the date hand changes from day to day adjusting automatically for 30 and 31 day months as well as for Leap Year. The company sold their clocks directly to its customers and even offered a time payment plan that allowed six months for completion (with 10% interest added). In September 1899, the Culver Brothers turned their manufacturing interest to stoves and the clockmaking business was closed.

OTHER INFORMATION:

The Southern Clock Co. is one of a number of companies located in the Southern US probably in the late 1880's. They purchased movements from New England companies (in this case Gilbert) and put them in cases, applied their label and sold them throughout the South. Clocks with New England or "Yankee" labels would not sell very well during the period following the Civil War. In addition, counties and local governments levied a tax on clocks bearing New England labels. This was in the form of a license to sell that had to be purchased for the particular county that you wanted to sell your clocks in.

Photos from the
West Coast Clock and Watch Museum
And
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum

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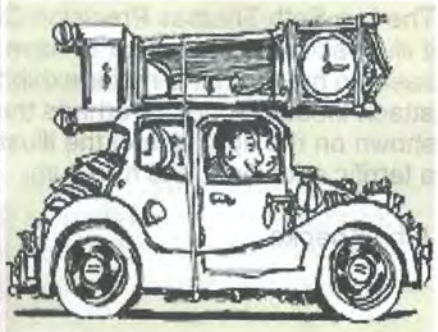
Below is an example of an Ithaca Calendar clock of New York, with a Welch movement. Most calendar clocks I have seen have white dials. Black dials make this clock unusual for a clock that is rare to begin with.

From John Koepke

I saw the following in the Trade Gossip section of the February 1876 issue of the Jewelers Circular:
A Worcester gentleman recently sent a very fine French clock to a well-known jeweler to be repaired, saying that he wished each item of repairing specified. The following is a copy of the bill rendered:

To removing alluvial deposit and oleaginous conglomerate from clock a la French..... $0.50
To replacing in appropriate juxtaposition the constituent components of said clock..... 0.50
To lubricating with oleaginous solution the apex of pinions of said clock..... 0.50
To adjust horologically the isochronal mechanism of said clock..... 0.50
To equalizing the acoustic resultant of escape wheel percussion upon the verge pallets of said clock..... 0.50
To adjusting the distance between the centre of gravity of the pendulum and its point of suspension, so that the vibration of the pendulum shall cause the index hand to indicate approximately the daily arrival of the sun at its meridian height.....0.50
Total..... $3.00



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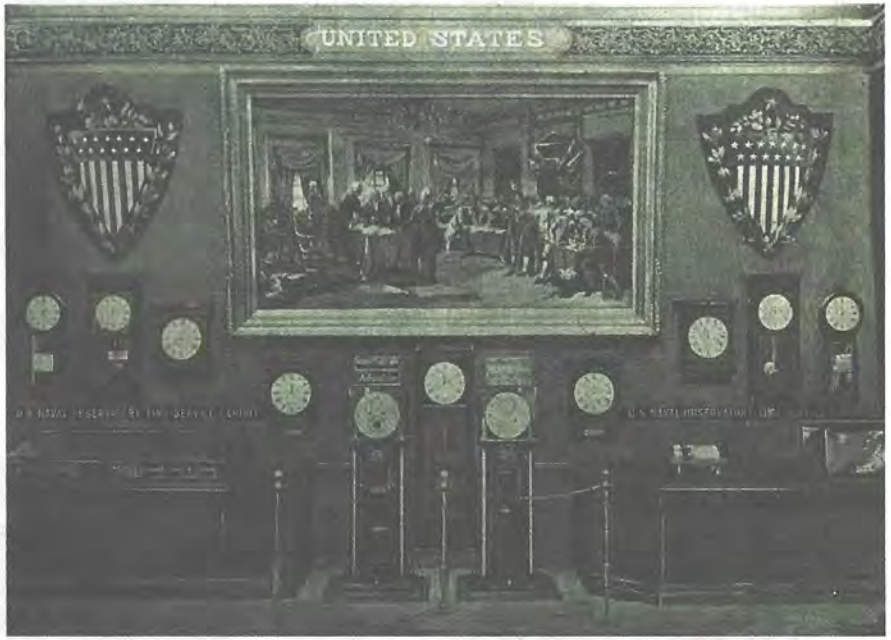
one was set to Paris Observatory time. The article states that the Precision Clocks were originally designed and built under the scientific supervision of Dr. Leonard Waldo, then astronomer in charge of the Horological Bureau in the observatory at Yale College. The clock was introduced in 1888 but had been in the process of construction for several years. The other clocks in the display are Seth Thomas' Regulators.



The two Seth Thomas Precision Clocks in the above Paris Exhibit illustration would appear to have large plaques on top. It would seem to me that for a major exhibition it would be reasonable to attach these plaques. Perhaps the donated clock was the one shown on the right side of the illustration? The donated clock is a terrific addition to the museum.

John Koepke

It's Complicated

The Australian firm of Buchanan states that they produce "extra ordinary handmade clocks". The one shown is being made for Mark Frank of Chicago. This 15 year project is nearing completion. Monthly reports on its progress and other clocks in Mark"s collection can be found online at my-time-machines.net

Incidentally Mark has been helping Price Russ restore his Warren Master Clock.

Shortt Report

As you may have noticed, Covid has not gone away, so Shortt #23 continues to run at my house. In the October Bulletin, there was a graph showing its performance over a period of 50 days. At that time it was gaining 0.113 sec/day. I now have 250 days of data. Shortly after the 50 days, the rate changed to 0.221 sec/day. (For the entire 250 days it was 0.196 sec/day) Extrapolating from day 50 to 250 at the original rate gives an observed error of 31 seconds. I consider this pretty good considering that my house is not a stable environment.

Surprisingly during the last 180 days my regulator had a total deviation from standard time of 30 seconds but with a significant rate change 100 days ago. Considering that for nearly three months my grandson was doing vigorous calisthenics in the room with the regulator it is surprising it kept running much less kept within 30 seconds.

Price Russ

Shop Hints

As our life experience increases, our sight changes in inverse proportion. After the tender age of about 40, we need better lighting for our activities. Recently the two bulb florescent light on my watch bench decided it was not going to stay in position. Surprise, those lights are no longer available. I ended up ordering the LED gooseneck unit shown. The light bar is 30 inches long, so it covers most of my bench. The intensity and color temperature are both adjustable. Importantly for me, I could mount it on the vertical backboard of my bench. The manufacturer is "Phive". By the way, the clock on the right in the picture is my Warren Type C Master Clock. The box to its left holds the associated electronics built by Bob Wahrer. The Shortt is on the left.

Price Russ

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

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