

Tic Talk Times



February 2010
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting Minutes Jan. 8, 2010

Dating Ansonia

The meeting was called to order at 8pm by President Doug Adams.

We were all happy to see Doug back officiating.

We had 3 guests join us: Jan and Fred Anderson, who are former members who have moved out of state and also George Ridley.

Old Business: Debbie Abbott has resigned so there is still an opening on the board. Sally and Annette Di Mino have offered to handle the hospitality and raffle duties. We still need to fill the Vice President's position. This is critical to the health of our chapter since the V.P. plans the speakers and we are not too far from *not* having a quorum since we have only 75% of the board. We have no speaker for next month and need membership to step up.



Dave Weisbart presented our January Program on Dating Ansonia Clocks.

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NOTICE

This month's meeting will be held on the **second Friday, Feb. 12** to avoid a conflict with the Greater LA Regional on Feb. 5 & 6.

This Month

A Brief History of Clocks & Watches

A video produced by the American Clock and Watch Museum, funded by Chapters 133 and 75 of the NAWCC in 1992.

Although this presentation is titled 'A Brief History of Clocks and Watches' it's main focus is on the American products and their makers. It is in fact a tour of the museum in Bristol Connecticut, showing many of the unusual and sometime routine pieces made in this country.

A professionally produced film this is a great introduction to what one would expect to encounter if they visited this museum.



Beginners' Corner

Let's Twist Again!

by Doug Adams

This month Doug will drill down to the point of what else...drills! Doug will share his experience with using a variety of different drill types in the repair and restoration of clock and watch movements. Be sure to have some pointed questions to try on stump Doug!

Why a Clock Museum In Bristol?



On October 24, 1952 Edward Ingraham, president of E. Ingraham & Company, invited ten local businessmen to the "Town Club" (now the Dupont Funeral Home) in Bristol, Connecticut to discuss forming a clock museum. Since Bristol had become an industrial town due to its designation as the world's center of clock manufacturing, it seemed appropriate that a museum be formed to preserve the heritage of the industry for future generations. Although there had been discussion about renovating a home close to the factory on North Main Street or constructing a modern facility located on nearby Rte. 6, the 1801 home of Miles Lewis located on Federal Hill was purchased and renovated for the museum. Except for the modification of the stairway for safety and the conversion of the carriage shed into an apartment for the caretaker, the original features of the Federal style house were retained. The Bristol Clock

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We're on line at www.nawcc69.org

Meeting Minutes (from page 1)

New Business: Our mart will be held on Saturday, May 22nd. Dave Weisbart will be chairman and he has once again obtained the El Bekal shrine for a location. We need to take care of our budget deficit and the mart is the way to accomplish this. We will need volunteers on that day. Flyers will be available at the Pasadena Regional. Dave has also arranged for a Barbershop Quartet including Woody Woodson to be the entertainment at the GLAR.

Financial Statements: We need to balance the budget for the end of the fiscal year. The budget sheets are available.

Dave Weisbart gave us a presentation on Dating Ansonia Clocks, complete with a romantic full moon. On a more serious note, he started compiling dates for the model name and the years they appear in each year's Ansonia catalog. The first Ansonia Clock Company existed in 1850. In 1878, Ansonia Clock Co. was reestablished in Connecticut and then moved to New York. It was interesting to see how models waxed and waned throughout the years.



Some of Dave's Ansonia Clocks Used as Presentation Examples

Ansonia started using radium on their alarm clocks in 1917, but they continued using radium even after the famous "radium girls" lawsuit in 1927 brought by dial painters who were getting cancer from licking their brushes. Ansonia was out of business in 1929.

Over the years they introduced a great variety of models: The first flush-mounted automobile clocks in 1917; "nickel novelties" models that lasted for decades, Crystal Regulators having 73 models in 1917; and an electrically wound movement in 1928 and 1929.

Throughout this talk, Dave used Tran Du Luy's method of categorization of the models. Figure clocks were popular from 1886-1914, but in 1917 all were discontinued. In 1883 there was a "Plush" model, with velvet covering. As Dave said, a housewife's nightmare.

The Royal Bonn had 40 styles in 1901, with domestic porcelain clocks from 1894 to 1901. By 1906, all the porcelain were Royal Bonn. Dave also brought 7 clocks in to the meeting to show us.



Seth Thomas "Fortress" c.1880

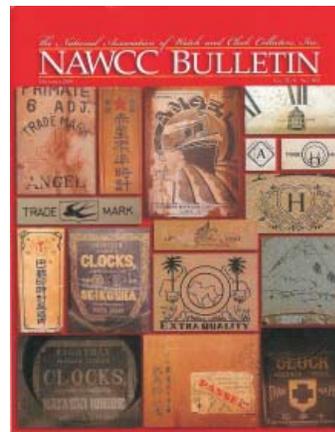
We had one Show & Tell Item: Ray Brown brought in a Seth Thomas 'Fortress' clock, which he thought was a craftsman style, but it is patented on the dial 1878. It is NOT electric, which is unusual for Ray's collection.

The raffle prizes were won by: Ray Brown, Derald Kleim, and Bernie Peralta.

~ Phyllis Adams



California Authors



California and our chapter were well represented in the December 2009 NAWCC Bulletin and Mart. Charlie Davis' article on "Post 1887 Japanese Clocks & Logos" also set the theme for the cover that is a collage of colorful Logo's from Charlie's research. In the same issue your editor has an article on the inventor of the Eureka clock, Timothy Bernard Powers. Ray gave a presentation of his research results used in this article at our January 2009 meeting. Two Chapter 69 members having a publication in one month is great, but we had another! Les Lesovsky provided a complimentary article to Charlie's titled "Pony Express System Clocks," which gives an account of how these Japanese clocks made it to the US and of some of the questionable merchandising techniques used to sell them. I read them all, of course, and thought they were delightful (excuse my modesty).

~ Ray Brown

Why a Museum? (from page 1)

Museum opened its doors to the general public on April 10, 1954. At the time of the opening there were approximately 300 clocks on display and a small library containing 50 books. The collection grew quickly and by 1956 a new wing was added to the museum. Named the Ebenezer Barnes Memorial Wing, the addition was financed through the generosity of Fuller F. Barnes in honor of his ancestor, Ebenezer Barnes. The memorial wing was constructed using paneling from the homestead of Ebenezer Barnes, which is believed to be the first permanent residence erected in Bristol. The massive support beams used in this wing were once part of the Lewis Lock Company that was located in nearby Terryville. In 1958, due to the enlarged scope of the collection and the growth of membership, the name of the museum was changed to the American Clock & Watch Museum, Inc. Continued growth over the next thirty years made it necessary to expand the facility once again and resulted in the construction of the Ingraham Memorial Wing in 1987. The additional 3000 square foot expansion improved display capabilities and provided a gallery area for the museum's gateway exhibit, "Connecticut Clockmaking and the Industrial Revolution." Future expansion plans include the incorporation of adjacent museum properties in order to offer additional display and research facilities as well as larger spaces for public programming. Visitors to the museum will find over 1,500 clocks and watches on display including old advertising clocks, punch clocks, grandfather clocks, blinking-eye clocks, railroad clocks and even Hickory Dickory Dock clocks. While the museum is known to house the finest collection of American-made clocks on public display, its primary emphasis continues to be that of the Connecticut manufactured clock. The museum is open to the general public from April 1st to November 30th, seven days a week, 10 AM - 5 PM (except Easter and Thanksgiving). Friendly hostesses greet visitors and volunteer docents are available to point out highlights of our collection and discuss Bristol's fascinating history. The museum also has an authentic early American garden with sundial and period flowers and herbs, lovingly tended by the Bristol Garden Club. Group tours for adults and children are available throughout the year with advanced reservations. Please call the office for details. The museum is a non-profit charity (a 501 (c) (3) institution) and is supported solely by private donations, a modest endowment, museum admissions and gift shop proceeds. The organization publishes a semi-annual newsletter and a semi-annual horological



The Barns Room at the American Clock & Watch Museum

journal, reprints antique catalogs from the archival collections, holds seminars and gives off-site lectures.



Local Timekeeper

Unusual Sundial

Before clocks the sundial provided our means to tell time. The common garden sundial is usually circular and horizontal mounted on a post. But sometime we find something different. If you live in or near Huntington Beach you may have seen the one above.

Location: Warner Firestation on Warner Ave, where it meets Pacific Coast Highway.

Remarks: A vertical dial in wood with a metal gnomon, mounted on a stucco wall. 9 feet high by 8 feet wide, rectangular with 6 inch numerals. The large dial face was constructed at an angle of 18 1/2 degrees to the main building.

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

*The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.*
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker
7186 Calico Cir.
Corona, CA 92881



Second Friday! Our Next Meeting: Friday, February 12, 2010 Second Friday!

Program:

Video
**"A Brief History of Clocks
& Watches"**

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Drills" by Doug Adams

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letters "G"
or items purchased at the Pasadena Regional

Board Meeting:

To Be Announced

Time: 7:00 – Doors open
8:00 – General Meeting

Admission: \$4.00 – General
\$6.00 – Couples

Location: Acacia Grove Masonic Lodge
11270 Acacia Parkway
(in the Civic Center)
Garden Grove, CA

