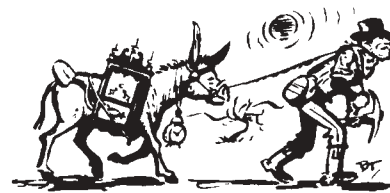


# THE Tic Talk Times



March 2011  
Vol. 30, No. 8

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

*Meeting minutes, Feb. 11, 2011*

## Detective Debunking

Our February meeting was called to order at 7:55 by President Ray Brown. He welcomed a new member of both the national and chapter 69, Leon Coufal. He also thanked Phyllis Adams for our refreshments. Ray acknowledged Dave Weisbart as the new (returning) editor of the Tic Talk Times.

Minutes of the last meeting as published in the Tic Talk Times were approved.

Ray reported on the accomplishments of the January meeting of the board of directors. Programs presenters were scheduled through June. (Additional presenters were solicited – see Phyllis if you have any program ideas.) Beginner's Corners were also arranged. A picnic was discussed, with possible venues being a space at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley, or the community center in Garden Grove.

Our annual Goodtyme Supermart has been scheduled for May 21 at the El Bekal Shrine in Anaheim. Ray made the point that the Supermart is a major source of our revenue, typically erasing our operating deficit. (Our current fiscal YTD shortfall is \$980.) It's important that every chapter member contribute to making the mart a success. Dave Weisbart stated that the mart flyer will be available on the nawcc69.org

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*This month*

## Musical Interlude

Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Handel, C.P.E. Bach, Wilhelm Friedemann Bach. What do these great composers have in common? They all wrote for musical clocks and other mechanical musical instruments! And composers such as Ravel, Richard Strauss, and Tchaikovsky wrote references to clocks or watches into their ballets and operas.



This month, Dave Weisbart presents his program "Music in Clocks and Clocks in Music." He will talk about the various types of musical clocks, the works written for them, and musical references to clocks, both in music that imitates the sound of clocks and music that refers to clocks as part of a story line.

There will be abundant examples, both video and audio, including several that were recorded *exclusively* for this presentation. These include transcriptions taken from original musical clocks from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical musical periods.

This promises to be an informative and entertaining talk. We hope to see you there!

*Message from the President*

## 2011 Plans

One of the first actions of our new board was to plan our future meetings and programs for the first six months of 2011. In Chapter 69, the program responsibility is handled by our vice president, Phyllis Adams, who has put together a program committee and we had those members at the meeting too; we had a full house!

As your new president, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for stepping forward to help make our chapter activities interesting and of value to the members. Most of the volunteers have provided support roles in the past and we are always looking for new faces to help make the monthly programs more varied and to cover more topics. If you have an idea for a program or are willing to contribute to the Main Program or Beginners' Corner, please let either Phyllis or I know...we welcome all new ideas and presenters. Remember, the Beginners' Corner is targeted as a short "Do it Yourself" idea that you have found of value that you would like to share. It does not have to be a complex horological topic. It could be something like tips on selling an item on eBay, a useful tool or gadget that you have discovered, maybe a method of restoring a clock part.

As detailed in the minutes of our combined January board and program meeting (see the February Tic Talk Times) we need volunteers to

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## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

web site on February 12.

Ray Brown then presented our Beginner's Corner. He demonstrated a method of invisibly marking almost any item for future identification. The pen he showed us uses



ink that fluoresces under ultra-violet light. He also showed a relatively inexpensive flashlight that uses UV light-emitting diodes (LEDs) which make the ink marks visible. Ray related that an

Internet seller of ceramic figurines uses this pen to mark items because some unscrupulous buyers were buying figurines identical to damaged ones they already owned. They would return the damaged ones and attempt to get a refund! No UV mark? No refund!

Ray introduced Les Lesovsky, our main presenter. Les played for us a segment of the PBS show "History Detectives." The episode revolved around a woman's large regulator clock (*right*). It belonged to her grandfather, John Mayo, who owned a jewelry store located in the famous Palmer House in Chicago. The detective interviewed many "experts," and weaved a story about this clock being involved in telegraphic time signals that kept uniform time for the Illinois Central railroad.



After the segment ended, Les presented his analysis of the detective's conclusions. He began by characterizing the show as "very entertaining for a TV audience," but "flawed and not well researched." First on the chopping block were the various dates that were discussed during the show, but never assembled in a coherent timeline. America's conversion to standard time zones (1883), the great Chicago fire (1871), Western Union's establishment of time service (1888), and a printed Illinois Central timetable (1874) were all treated in the show as contemporaneous.

The experts either ignored or mis-stated certain facts about the clock itself, which the show attributed to E. Howard. For example, the glass vial on the pendulum was said to be filled with mercury, when it seemed pretty certain from the images shown that the vial contained a lead slug.

Finally, the detective had talked about the Illinois Central Railroad providing service between Chicago and New Orleans. Les showed us that a number of carriers and



conveyances were involved is such a journey at that time, and while Illinois Central may have sold tickets for the whole trip, whatever time signal they were using would not have been used from start to finish.

The level of detail in Les's research was impressive to say the least, and difficult to summarize here. So, we'll just say "thanks"!

In the discussion after the main presentation, Larry Squires told us about a double-dial Seth Thomas clock from that era – one dial showed local (apparent solar) time, and the other showed railroad time.

Our Show & Tell began with Doug Adams showing a watch he acquired at the Pasadena regional (*top*). He explained it was an early English fusee watch with pink gold hands, pierced bridge, and a cylinder escapement. He went on to talk about the operating theory of a cylinder escapement in which the escape wheel and balance wheel interact directly without an intervening pallet.

Bob Selene then shared a pocket watch. It was a 16-size Swiss movement in an 18-size English demi-hunter case. The case featured an enameled family crest.



Les Lesovsky brought a clock that really went with last month's presentation.

It was an ATO battery driven clock that had been improperly packed (*below*). One of the glass panels had a crack when it was shipped, but the shipper did not tape the glass! It shattered in transit, of course (Murphy's Law), and the shards of glass decimated the inside of the clock.



Phyllis Adams showed us a little heart-shaped pin she had acquired featuring Mickey and Minnie Mouse. She also displayed a Rolling Stones pocket watch.

Dave Weisbart showed an E.N. Welch

## President's Message *(from page 1)*

operate the camera which is used in some presentations and is used to document our "Show and Tell" for this newsletter; see Dave Weisbart if you can help. Annette also needs volunteers to bring refreshments and has a sign-up sheet out for those who can help. Our new Mart Chair, Doug Adams, is looking for help with the Goodtyme Supermart in May, which will be here before we know it!

~ Ray Brown

## Meeting minutes *(from page 2)*

clock he bought in Pasadena. It had a green onyx case and a Patti movement.

Ray Brown brought clocks related to our month's letter, "s". They were made by the Sterling Electric division of Westclox. One was from a trolley car, the other was an automobile clock. He also had an ad that featured the car clock.

Door prizes were won by Norton Wiederrich, Bob Selene, and Doug Adams.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

*Respectfully submitted, Dave Weisbart, Secretary*



## Carillons

A carillon is a musical instrument that is usually housed in a free-standing bell tower, or the belfry of a church or other municipal building. The instrument consists of at least 23 cast bronze bells, which are played serially to play a melody, or sounded together to play a chord. A carillon is played by striking a keyboard the keys of which are sometimes called "batons" with the fists and by pressing the keys of a pedal keyboard with the feet. The keys mechanically activate levers and wires that connect to metal clappers that strike the bells, allowing the performer, the carillonneur, to vary the intensity of the note according to the force applied to the key.

The carillon is the heaviest of all extant musical instruments; the total weight of bells alone can be 100 tons in the largest instruments. The greatest concentration of carillons is



still found in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Northern France, where they were symbols of civic pride and status. Some of the most spectacular are now protected by UNESCO as part of the world heritage site the Belfries of Belgium and France.

In medieval times, bells were first used as a way of notifying people of fires, storms, wars and other events. The great bell Rowland announced births, deaths, fires, and military attacks. A ringing of bells rung from the lowest note to the highest note indicated that an attack had taken place. The use of bells in a musical fashion originated in the 14th century in the Low Countries.

In the 17th century, François and Pieter Hemony developed the art of bell-founding and -designing, and tuning, which they passed on to Antwerp bellfounder Melchior de Haze. In the 18th century, several members of the Van den Gheyn bellfounders dynasty also mastered the skill of bell tuning, such as Andreas Joseph Van den Gheyn. Unfortunately his techniques also died with him. It was not until the 19th century in England under the John Taylor Bellfounders at Loughborough, England, that bell tuning was re-invented.

The greatest concentration of carillons is still found in the Netherlands, Belgium, and in (the North of) France, where they were mounted in the grand towers of rich cities as tokens of civic pride and status. Carillons were usually housed in church towers, belfries, or in municipal buildings. In Germany, a carillon is also called a Glockenspiel.

*(Excerpted from Wikipedia)*

**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



**Our Next Meeting: Friday, March 4, 2011**

*Program:*

LIVE Presentation

**"Music in Clocks and  
Clocks in Music"  
by Dave Weisbart**

*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

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*

No Beginner's Corner this month

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letter "T"  
or musical clocks and watches

*Board Meeting:*

Monday, March 7 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of  
Dave Weisbart  
12831 Canter St.  
Garden Grove, CA  
(714) 891-9906

