

# THE Tic Talk Times



July 2010  
Vol. 29, No. 12

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

Meeting Minutes June 4, 2010

## “Time to Twist!”



*Some of Larry Squires torsion or “Anniversary” clocks shown during our June Program.*

President Doug Adams called the meeting to order at 8 pm.

We had a number of guests, including Dean, a founding member of Chapter 75, who is from Virginia. We were glad to see Larry Squires’ wife, Nancy, Eric and Pat Leung, long-time members Charlie Davis, Carl Carlson, Charles Register, David Domash, and Don Bendz.

Thanks to Anna Pond who dropped off the refreshments and then continued to the hospital to see her sister Esther.

Old Business: We still need a Vice President to set up the programs. The Board has a list of suggestions.

There is no Beginner’s Corner tonight.

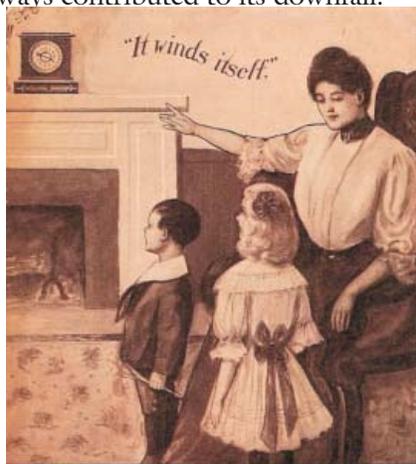
New Business: The Treasurer’s Report from Bob Linkenhoker: The Goodtime Mart grossed \$1,746, our expenses were \$790.16 and our net profit was \$955.84. Everyone did a

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This Month

## “It Winds Itself”

In February of 2008, Ray gave a presentation on the National Self-Winding Clock Co., a mostly undocumented company that manufactured self-winding clocks at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ray has uncovered more interesting facts about the company and its people, and recently made a trip to its final location in Champaign, Ill. While there, Ray had a chance to visit the original factory building and find out more details of the people who developed and ultimately in some ways contributed to its downfall.



Ray will provide an overview of the companies early history and show some pictures of the factory in 1906 and as it is today. He will present some new information on the people and some unexpected details on their subsequent careers. Finally, Ray will tell you about the restoration of the “Dean Clock” at the University of Illinois (see “Restoration” pg.1 this newsletter).

## Restoration

by Ray Brown



*Ray Brown & Bruce Hannon with the restored “Dean’s Clock” at the University of Illinois.*

As part of my investigations of the National Self-Winding Clock Co. (NAWCC), I visited the University of Illinois archives in Urbana/Champaign in 2007 and met professor Bruce Hannon, an NAWCC member who repairs and restores clocks for the University and for local customers. While there, Bruce told me about a National clock he had seen in the office of the Dean of Agriculture. I did not have time to see the clock then but remembered Bruce’s comment.

A year or so later I was visiting Les Lesovsky at his home to discuss issues related to NAWCC Chapter 133 of which we are both officers and

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**DUES ARE DUE!**

(See page 3)

## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

good job.

Dave Weisbart, Goodtyme Mart Chairman, thanked Bob and Cora Lee Linkenhoker, Doug and Phyllis Adams, Randy Ema, Charlie Lowry, Annette and Sally DiMino for all their help. Thanks to Laurie Di Mino who pinched-hit for Annette in the kitchen.



Tonight's Presentation: Larry Squires is talking about 400 Day Clocks tonight, the old-fashioned way, with a camera and a screen. He pointed out the correct title is "History of Torsion Clocks".

Mr. A.D. Crane was born in 1804, he was self-taught, and he ran the J. R. Mills & Co. Company. He received Patent #1973 for "torsion clock". This clock ran for a year. He also had patents for an astronomical time clock and a self-rocking cradle.

In 1887, he failed to renew the patent and by 1900, there were a dozen companies making 400 Day Clocks. The ones in glass cases were sold in high-end stores such as Tiffany's. The trade name was "Anniversary", which Larry showed us on the dial. It was a brilliant marketing pitch, give it as a present on your anniversary, and then wind it on your anniversary. The name "Anniversary" became a trademarked in 1901. These clocks were expensive and cost \$70 to \$100. These older clocks had steel pendulum wires and didn't keep good time.

American soldiers sent Anniversary clocks home as presents starting in 1949. They are still available in the PX to this day.

In repairing torsion clocks, first Larry suggests cleaning the mainspring. He informed us there are 20 different thicknesses of springs and the springs are affected by temperature. The suspension wire and foot have to be precise. Sometimes you can use emery paper on the wire to reduce the thickness. The NAWCC 400 Day Clock Chapter is Chapter 68.

## Show & Tell:

Bob Linkenhoker showed a 1930's Anniversary Clock and a Marine movement with deadbeat escapement and forged spring from 1850 or so.

Charles Davis showed us some new logos he got from Japanese auctions.



David Domash showed us an electronic clock.



Tony Baker showed us a 400 Day Klienskel from 1908 which has the same serial number on the dial and the pendulum.

Steve Rini showed us a Khedive Welch clock, which is an

8 day. This person is not an opera star, but he built an opera house.

The raffle prizes were won by Bev Bruce, Eric Leung and Bernie Peralta.

~Phyllis Adams



## Dues are Due!

Our “prospector” mascot is trying to get things going! If you haven’t renewed your membership to Chapter 69, it’s time. Your support of our activities is very important to the chapter’s well-being, so we’re counting on every member to send in his or her renewal.

Please fill out the form on the right and bring it with you to the meeting. If you can’t attend this month’s meeting, please mail your dues today!

### Don’t Like to Stand in Line?

Get the annual pass option! This permanent badge gets you into every regular meeting without having to pay at the door.

For an individual pass, include \$44 plus your dues (\$54 total). For a couples pass, include \$66 plus dues for two (\$86 total).



## Orange County Chapter 69 Membership Application

New Member  Renewal  
(check one)

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name

First Name

Spouse Name

Street Address / P.O. Box #

City, State, ZIP

NAWCC #

Phone

Email Address

Check here to receive the Tic Talk Times by U.S. Mail (\$5.00 additional)

Dues for 2010-11 are \$10.00.  
Please make your check payable  
to: “Orange County Chapter 69.”

Check below for options. Amounts  
are in addition to dues.  
 Individual annual pass (\$44)  
 Couples annual pass (\$66)

Complete this form and mail to:  
Cora Lee Linkenhoker  
7186 Calico Cir.  
Corona, CA 92881

## “Restoration” *from page 1*

Les, knowing my interest in clocks made by the NSWCC brought out a rare, (they really are!), office clock movement made by that company. Les had got the movement with a lot of old clock parts and had begun to restore it. Sometime in the past the electromagnets had been removed and the wiring for the switch was missing. Also, it had been modified to work as a master to drive a slave clock with a minute jumper arrangement, clearly not an original feature. I later told Les to let me know if he ever thought of selling the movement and Les and I came to an agreement and the movement was mine.

Late last year I began to plan for a visit to relatives in Illinois, not far from the U of I and I remembered Bruce’s comments about the “Dean’s Clock” and sent him an email asking for more information. Bruce replied that he did find the clock, it was made by the NSWCC but no longer had the original movement but had a manual wound movement and holes had been drilled in the dial to access the winding arbors. At about the same time I was using online access to the U of I archives and found a warrant paid to the NSWCC on Feb. 8 of 1907 for an office clock for the U of I Agriculture Experiment Station. I sent and email to Bruce telling about the warrant and suggesting that it would great to have the “Dean’s Clock” restored as

original and Bruce said “yes, but where will we get a movement?” My answer was obvious.

Bruce and I put together a plan for the restoration and I agreed to donate the movement if the U of I would agree to our plans and pay for any additional parts needed. Bruce and I would donate our time if the U of I agreed. Bruce presented our plans and in a short time we got the agreement and our work began.

My job was to work on the movement and Bruce would install the movement, and all other needed parts in the case. In addition to the movement replacement, the shelf for mounting the movement was missing, the dial had to be repaired or replace, the pendulum for the original movement was missing and all the electrical wiring was gone. The good news was that the case was in excellent shape with original glass and the Maltese hands were original too.

There were the usual problems but Bruce & I were successful in fixing everything and by early June the clock was up and running with as original in the Dean’s office. I made my visit in early June to see Bruce and the clock but there was little else to do but admire Bruce’s work and see the clock, self-winding again, our restoration a success!



**DATED MEETING NOTICE  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Orange County Chapter No. 69  
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker  
7186 Calico Cir.  
Corona, CA 92881

*The National*  
**ASSOCIATION OF  
WATCH & CLOCK  
Collectors, Inc.**



**Our Next Meeting: Friday, July 2, 2010**

*Program:*

**LIVE PRESENTATION**  
**"It Winds Itself Part II"**  
**by Ray Brown**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*

The Beginner' Corner will be included in the main presentation.

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letter "L" or a self-winding watch or clock.

*Board Meeting:* To be announced at our July meeting.

*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

