

THE Tic Talk Times



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

Meeting minutes, July 1, 2005

Punching the Evolutionary Clock

President Charles Register called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. He welcomed our guests: Bernie Pollack, Wayne Preston, Juerg Boo, and Brian & Joan Williamson from Australia.

Charles announced that Chapter 4's Merrimart will be held on Sunday, September 18, at the Bellflower Masonic Lodge.



Bob Linkenhoker demonstrated lathe maintenance.

Ray Brown displayed a soon-to-be-implemented addition to the Chapter 69 web page that will have a complete listing of the chapter's library offerings, including both books and the video programs.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. The ad for local chapter meetings that ran in the L.A. Times was shown. The sign-up list of the pot luck at the Saiben's was circulated.

Bob Linkenhoker reported on his experiences at the recent National

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This month

Dem bones, dem bones

Question: What would Charlie Davis do if he needed a set of original bone hands for an old cuckoo clock? Well he definitely wouldn't go and try to purchase them, not if there was a challenge and he could figure out just how to make a pair himself. Come to the meeting this Friday and watch Charlie's PowerPoint presentation. He'll demonstrate how to make a soup bone became part of a clock. This is an interesting show and definitely points out some of the problems encountered when you work with an other than common material.

For our Beginner's Corner, Ray Brown will provide an overview of why swingers have special requirements for rate regulation. We will take a look at why swingers behave differently from most pendulum clocks and how to make sense of their contrary behavior. We will also look at some additional unexpected results of swinger design.

I hope to see you all on Friday.

— Bob Linkenhoker

For Sale

10" Craftsman radial arm saw: \$125

8" metal turning lathe with many attachments: \$450

From the estate of Murray Lefkowitz.
Contact Bob Linkenhoker at 951 / 898-5825 for more information

Message from the President

Traditions

On behalf of the members, officers and board of Chapter 69, I'd like to thank distinguished members Pat and Bud Saiben for hosting the Directors' Potluck. I'd also like to thank all those who contributed and participated.

It's now time to focus on a new slate of officers and directors for our upcoming elections in November. At our next meeting, I expect we will discuss a nominating committee. Members, please, this is your organization. We need a few good people to carry on the traditions of Chapter 69.

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Charles Register

More on British Time Recorders

*The following timelines are from
www.clock-museum.co.uk*

Brook and Gledhill

1889 – Frank Brook devised and supplied time clock to mill where he worked.

1896 – Frank Brook founded the Brook Time Check Company, product called "Paragon Time

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Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

convention. He said it was a well done convention and he and Cora Lee had a good time there.

Then, for Beginner's Corner, Bob gave a brief talk and demonstration on taking care of a lathe; specifically, a jeweler's lathe head stock. He showed how the head stock was disassembled, cleaned, reassembled and oiled. This is a



very necessary procedure for extending the life of a lathe, and should be performed frequently, with the interval depending on lathe usage. Bob said that a drop of oil should be added to the bearings each time it's used. He also said that to protect the chromed parts of the lathe, he covers it when not in use with a rag that's slightly oily, and a regular plastic cover. Thanks, Bob, for an informative presentation.



Bernie Pollack then presented his program, enigmatically titled "Evolution." Rather than being about "big picture" evolution, Bernie's talk centered around the evolution of time recorders from one particular British maker, Gledhill-Brook. He examined the changes in G-B's offerings between 1912 and 1964 based on an extensive database he had compiled of 120 extant clocks. During that

time, G-B produced around 50,000 time recorders.

He divided G-B's production into three periods: 1912 – 1920, 1920 – 1940, and 1945 – 1964. The WWII years were spent making parts for the war machine.

Over time, the changes in the line affected cosmetics (going from more to less ornate and detailed), functionality (e.g., moving from paper tape recording to time card recording), efficiency of production, and features that were implemented due to the pressures of competition.

Bernie pointed out how these clocks could be quickly dated by the presence or absence of certain features: brass vs. aluminum dials, plain vs. fancy dial surrounds, types of

case molding, and changes to the movements and print mechanisms.

Throughout the program, Bernie used a computer slide show to display both photographs of these clocks as well as text slides explaining points of interest.

Bernie's expertise in time recorders is renowned. It was fascinating to see his mastery of detail in this very specialized field. Our thanks to Bernie for a very interesting talk.

Show and Tell was very active this month. The letter of the month was "P". Gene Osten showed a Pocket watch (left top). It was the oldest one in his collection, from around 1809. Labeled "Charles Clayton," it has a verge escapement and a fusee power source.

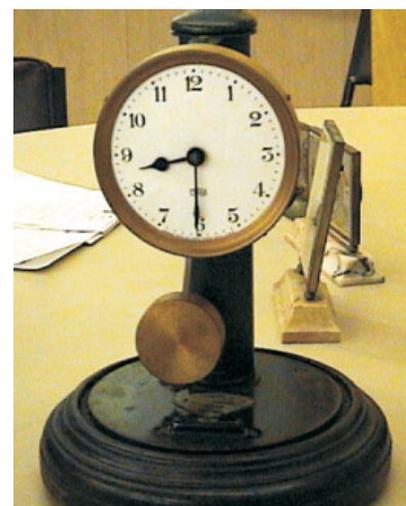
Les Lesovsky had another pocket watch, this one with a Pair case (left below). The case was hallmarked. The maker was Wontner (German or Austrian, active between 1786 and 1795) but was signed "Rentnow" (Wontner backwards) probably to appeal to the British market.



Phyllis Adams showed some Plates – decorated dishes with clock dials around the outside and different vegetables painted in the middle.

Dick Duwe showed a later Phinney-Walker clock, one that's battery driven with digital wheels to display the time.

Ray Brown brought a Poole battery clock from around 1922. In this clock, the pendulum drives the hands, and it's impulsed every 25 swings by an electromagnet.



Bud Saiben shared several Picture clocks, in which a pictured scene includes a clock into which a working

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movement has been fitted. They included a monastery, a clock tower in Switzerland, a castle on the Rhine, and a Prague clock tower.



Bob Linkenhoker told us of a Pretty unusual clock invented by an M.I.T. student. This robotic alarm clock sits by the bed, but if

you activate the snooze alarm, the clock runs off and hides so that the next time it rings, you have to get out of bed to find it before you can turn it off! (Where else but M.I.T.?)

Door prizes were won by Jan Duwe, Gene Osten, Bud Saiben, Roy Irick, and Dave Weisbart. But our meeting wasn't over yet!

One of our Australian visitors, Joan Williamson, delighted us by talking about their clock museum in Australia. This is something she and her husband Brian have been doing for 21 years. They have 515 pieces in the museum.

Among other things, Joan talked about the process of restoring their clocks for display. In one case, the restorer took *nine years* to do the job! (Just remember that next time you complain to your repairperson about taking too long.)

– Respectfully submitted, Dave Weisbart

British Time Recorders *(from page 1)*

Checker”

1899 – Brook Time Check Company wound up.

1901 – Frank Brook and a Mr MacMaster took out a patent for a signature recorder

1904 – Frank Brook and MacMaster took out a patent for a dial recorder

1907 – the firm of Stockall and Sons Ltd. who had some time clock related patents joined with Brook to market time recorders.

1908 – Stockall-Book [sic] Time Recorders Ltd was incorporated

1911 – Improved time recorder put on market

1912 – In March Stockall-Book Time Recorders Co. Ltd was wound up and the assets sold to GH Gledhill and Sons Ltd. Gledhill took over the premises and staff and production continued without interruption. F Brooks became a salesman for Gledhill.

1912 – In August Gledhills floated a new company, Gledhill-Brook Time Recorders Ltd, selling them the

assets bought from Stockall-Brook. Brook became a director of the new company. Now that Gledhills engineering resources (and finance) were available, many months were spent in deciding how to improve the existing clock design which had not been entirely reliable. A clock of high quality was produced.

1914-1918 – The factory made Bomb Gear

1920 – A new wing was added to the factory as business continued to increase.

1939-1945 – War again stopped clock production and the factory was making bomb fuses etc.

1945 – Clock production resumed but with difficulties over material supplies. In a paper on Gledhill-Brook Harrison says

“For Gledhills, the numbers of potential Time recorder users increased only at a moderate, regular and predictable rate. The replacement market, which was large, presented an additional opportunity for market growth. Due to Gledhills quality product however the market was not as large as for other Time Recorder manufacturers.”

1963 – Gledhill-Brook Time Recorders, Ltd ceased trading, and its interests were transferred to GH Gledhill and Sons Ltd who continued to supply the recorder until May 1964

1964 – All time recorder interests acquired by the Simplex Time Recorder Co (UK) Ltd.

Early UK Time Recorder Timeline

1888 – “British Bundy Clock Co”. Takes patents for time clock. (entries in chronological order) Source UK-IBM

1888 – Alexander Dey of Scotland invents time clock with entries in order of worker’s number. Source CC

1892 – First “Dey” clock produced. Source CC

1893 – Bundy clocks on sale in the UK. Source CC

1889 – Brooks invents a time recorder. Source CC

1896 – Howard Bros started to market “Dey” clocks.

Source CC

1900 (circa). – “British Bundy” becomes “British Time Recording Co”. Source UK-IBM

1908 – Howard Bros. form “Dey Time Registers Ltd”. Source CC

1912 – Gledhill joins forces with Brooks to form “Gledhill-Brooks Time Recorders”. Source CC

1912 – BTRC becomes “International Time Recorders Co”. Source IBM

1917 – “Blick Time Recording Devices” established.

Source Blick

1920 – Blick agrees to market “National Time Recording Co” machines as “Blick National”.Source Blick

Timeline continues at www.clock-museum.co.uk

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

*The National
ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.*
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o Dean Armentrout
332 Forest Avenue, Suite 6
Laguna Beach CA 92651



Our Next Meeting: August 5, 2005

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
**"Bone Hands for
Cuckoo Clocks"**
by Charlie Davis

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:

"Those Strange Swingers" by Ray Brown

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "Q" and "R"

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, August 10, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of:
Dean Armentrout
2683 Victoria Dr.
Laguna Beach, CA
(949) 246-3647

