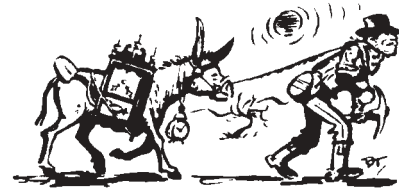


THE Tic Talk Times



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August 2010
Vol. 30, No. 1

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

Meeting Minutes July 2010

Horological Historicals

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Adams at 8:00 pm.

Bob Linkenhoker spoke about the National that was held about 3 weeks ago in York, PA. He said there were 1,800 attendees, over 800 tables, and five very diverse one-day workshops. He also saw Ian Fleming's Rolex at the new James Bond exhibit. He reminded us that the 2011 National will be in Kansas City, and more importantly, the 2012 National will be in Pasadena. Be prepared to volunteer!

Upcoming events:

- July 25th – Chapter 75 Mart
- September 4 – Chapter 4 Merrimart
- November 18,19, 20 Del Mar Regional
- Silver Dollar Regional – Reno
- October – A symposium on Repair and Restoration in Williamsburg, VA

Also: A couple in Ohio wants to sell their Hershede clock. See Bob for details.

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DUES ARE PAST DUE!

(See last month's Tic Talk Times for application)

This Month

Watchmaking The Real McCoy!

This Month we are treated to two presentations on using tools and many specialized techniques needed to not repair but make replacement parts from scratch.

Most of us have a watchmakers lathe which is a handy tool but without gravers its use is extremely



Detent pinned and running from Doug's presentation for August.

limited.

For his month's Beginner's Corner, Bob Linkenhoker will show how to make various types of gravers as well as the techniques one can use

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OBSERVATORY STORY



A small whitewashed and pumpkin-shaped domed building sits perched upon a hill. It once overlooked the expansive site of the Elgin National Watch Factory. Now the Elgin National Watch Factory Observatory, the Elgin Observatory, stands alone as the last remaining symbol of one of the nation's best known manufacture of watches. As the 1800's were coming to a close the commerce and industrial segments in America were full steam ahead. This was especially true in the railroad industry. In the 1880's the persuasive railroad industry lobbied successfully in getting Congress to establish four time zones. Before this legislation was adopted time would be set by individual cities and towns. As passenger trains increased scheduling from town to town the logistics of scheduling became a horrendous nightmare. At one time there were thirty-eight different time zones in Wisconsin and the Buffalo, New York, train station had three different clocks.

Continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes (from page 1)

Treasurer's Report

- We are slightly in the red at \$385.09 but with the depreciation of the audio/visual equipment (\$530) we are actually ahead \$150.82.

Membership dues are due July 1st. We have approximately 80 members.

Presentation:

Ray Brown - on the National Self Winding Clock Co.

Ray restored one of these clocks for the Dean of Agriculture at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and while he was there he also did some research and gave this presentation to Chapter 66. He donated the movement and had a new dial made. He also



Ray with a Style number 7 mantel clock made in Champaign Ill.

showed photos of a restored tower clock movement, which had lightning protection.



Dr. Precy Clark (seated) and A R Lamb exhibit office regulators at the 1902 Independent Telephone Operator's Convention in Philadelphia.

Many different styles of this clock were made in the Bristol factory, and bonds and stock were sold for the old company in Illinois. A new factory was built in Champaign in 1906 (below). They ran into technical and financial difficulties and ceased business in 1907.



Show & Tell: Letter "L" -



Julie Stevens has Lots of Leftover parts. She brought in a Gruen with Luminescent hands and dial, and a Longine with fancy Lugs. Doug Adams showed a hunting case A. Lange & Son and a Julian LeRoi conversion from 1790-1804 with a brass cylinder escape wheel.



Steve Rini: brought in Welch clocks: Little Grip (a small suitcase), Little Lord Fauntleroy, Lurline, Le Roi, Le Prince, Good Luck (a horseshoe), and a souvenir of the Columbian Exhibition.



Doug Lynn brought in a Leftover from Last month's meeting - A Coca-Cola anniversary clock with polar bears.

The raffle was won by Julie Stevens, Woody Woodson and Doug Adams.

Thanks to Sally for taking care of the refreshments.

~Phyllis Adams

Doug Lynn's "Leftover"

This month *(continued from page 1)*

to keep them sharp so they perform to their maximum.

Next Doug Adams will present a program on making various steel parts for timepieces with documentation of process with photographs. Doug's work involves annealing, rolling, roughing out, milling/gear cutting, threading, hardening/tempering, finishing, polishing, and bluing. Some of the parts Doug will show include a detent assembly for a Frodsham chronometer, repeater mechanism springs, Breguet style mainspring stop-works, screws, etc. This presentation on the manufacturing process will be interesting in itself but in addition, Doug will add insight into the engineering background in the area of the properties of steel versus its state of heat treatment.



Elgin Observatory *(from page 1)*

With no real national time standards and an increasing amount of railroad traffic, the accuracy for correct time became much more significant. Disastrous rear-end collisions occurred when the time interval between trains had failed. Some individuals soon linked these collisions with faulty chronometers the train's engineers were carrying. The slightest speck of dust could have caused an error of a few seconds to several minutes. An error of this sort with the close schedule the trains had could only mean deadly results.

It would not be until 1908 that the United States government came to regard timing efficiency of such economic importance as to take a hand in its management. It was President Theodore Roosevelt who directed the United States Bureau of Standards to set up tests for watches. Already at the forefront of watch manufacturing the Elgin National Watch Company chose to build its own observatory. This Observatory would further help to ensure the scientific accuracy of its already famous timepieces.

Clocks Stolen!

Long-time members Bill & Bev Bruce recently had two clocks stolen from their antique shop in Old Towne Orange. Be on the lookout for a French statue clock in red marble, with the statue depicting a young boy throwing a top. Also, a German wall clock with turned half-columns and pendulum visible behind glass. The top of this clock may have been broken during the theft. These were brazenly stolen from the shop during business hours by a woman with very curly hair. The phone number at Plaza 42 Antiques is (714) 633-9090.



The Observatory was equipped with four Riefler astronomical clock. These clocks were recognized as the most accurate type of timepieces that existed in 1910. The two clocks found in the vault, No. 220 and No. 224(above), are hermetically sealed in a long glass cylinder jar. This is done in order to maintain partial pressure and thus eliminating barometric pressure correction. The slightest change in air pressure just as in air temperature could affect the rate at which the clocks beat.



Upstairs under the dome of the observatory, is the observation instrument or the transit telescope. This instrument which has a three inch objective lens was made by the Warner and Swasey Company of Cleveland Ohio. Just like the clocks the transit telescope, too, was mounted on a concrete pier separate from any part of the building. The

telescope is set exactly north and south, as all time observations must be made on the meridian. The meridian is an imaginary north-south line.

By the 1950's the need for a primary time determination like the Observatory offered practically ceased to exist. There now were other methods available for the gathering of correct time and in a much more accurate way. In 1960 the Elgin National Watch Company also coming under the specter of closure decided the Observatory over to School District U-46.

Today the Observatory is one of the most unique educational tool for students to learn science and astronomy as well as the historic impact the Observatory had on the community. The Observatory's historic impact was acknowledged by its listing on August 16, 1994, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Gary L. Kutina, Director of Observatory

**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, Aug. 6, 2010

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
"Watchmaking-Really!"
by
Doug Adams

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:
"Gravers" with Bob Linkenhoker

Show & Tell:
Horological items beginning with the letter "M"
or a special tool used in watch or clock part fabrication.

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

