

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, 2011

The Story of Elgin

Our July meeting was called to order at 8:05 by President Ray Brown. We had no guests. Ray thanked the Linkenhokers for bringing the refreshments.

There was a small correction to the minutes of the June meeting. The article stated that the Elgin Observatory was at the Universty of Illinois. It is not. The minutes were approved with this correction.

Our next board meeting was announced. It is to be held as part of the Directors' Pot Luck at Ed Athey's house on July 9. A sign-up sheet for the pot luck was available.

The upcoming Super MiniMart on August 27 in Vista was announced.

There was also an announcement about the upcoming 2012 National Convention in Pasadena, June 13-16. A web site is up and running at www.2012nawccconvention.com. There will be 750 tables, 150 of which were sold at the Overland Park national in June.

Ray reminded us that Chapter 69 is 40 years old this year, and to celebrate this milestone we will be having a banquet in September at "Riviera at the Fireside." The chapter is subsidizing the meal, so our members and their guests will only pay \$20 for a truly gourmet meal.

Our program was a video presentation on the history of Elgin, Illinois. Produced by the Elgin Area Histori-

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This month

Memories of Sangamo

This month's video is from the 2008 Ward Francillon Symposium or, more specifically, from after the symposium banquet. One of the after-dinner speakers was Robert Lanphier III, grandson of one the founders of Sangamo Electric Company. He gives a very entertaining account of how the company was founded, family relationships of the founders of Sangamo Electric, product development, marketing strategy, involvement in products for war, and products for agricultural equipment. His speech is sprinkled with many anecdotes about founders, employees, customers, and products.

It's always fun to get an insider's view of the workings of a company. The contrast between that view and the official history is often amusing. Also, we'll have Ray Brown to give us a bit more background on Sangamo before the video.

President's Message

Food for Thought

We had an excellent turnout this year at our Directors' Potluck. The weather was great and the food was outstanding! Our hosts Ed and Karen Athey put in a lot of time and effort to arrange their place for our meeting and of course Ed cooked the traditional *pièce de résistance*, the Brats! The sides contributed by our members rounded out an excellent summer repast. If you were able to attend you experienced a great meal and a chance to visit informally with fellow members. If not, we hope to see you at next year's potluck.

Thinking about banqueting, we have our 40th Anniversary Lunch scheduled for September 24th at the Riviera at the Fireside in Westminster. We will announce the menu and details at our August meeting and will be getting a count of members planning to attend. See you then!

~Ray

Views from the Directors' Pot Luck (more on page 3)



Visit us at www.nawcc69.org

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*



cal Society, it naturally centered on the major impact of the Elgin National Watch Company's rise and fall on the city of Elgin. Here is a brief synopsis of the video:

In 1864, the National Watch Company of Chicago was gifted 35 acres of land in Elgin.

They raised \$25,000 to build a factory and buy the equipment. Key employees of the Waltham Watch Company were lured away by incentives of \$5,000, and acre of land, and an annual salary of \$5,000 at a time when the average factory wage was \$600. The company built "National House" for their new workers, which eventually housed 350 people.

By 1891 Elgin had a 60% share of the domestic watch market. But in 1893, a financial panic caused Elgin to have to lay off half its workers.

After it recovered from the panic, the company added two important structures: the 144' clock tower, with its 14' lighted dials, and an astronomical observatory, which allowed them to advertise their watches as "timed by the stars."

After WWI, the Elgin Watch Company was quicker to recognize the emerging market for wrist watches. This led to its most successful decade, the 1920s. The company had difficulty during the depression years, since watches were



Doug Lynn's Show & Tell (clockwise – of course): Elgin mvt. holder, National Watch, early wrist, 23-J Veritas

considered a luxury item. WWII provided business in the form of mechanical time fuses and aircraft clocks, but during this time, Elgin was losing its share of the consumer market to the Swiss. In the 1950s it lost further market share to Timex.

Elgin tried to diversify into fields such as electronics, but had little success. In 1958, the company lost \$2 million. They opened manufacturing plants in other locations including Lincoln, Nebraska and South Carolina in an effort to reduce costs. (Member Don Bendz remembers riding by the Lincoln plant as a child. It was night and the plant was fully lit. The young Don was concerned for the employees who had to work so late into the night.)

In 1965 the company sold the Elgin factory, and it was demolished the next year. The video showed archival footage of the clock tower, the last remaining part of the factory, being demolished.

It was a very informative and well-produced video, enjoyed by all.



Show & Tell

We started the alphabet again this month. But rather than the expected Ansonia, Dave Weisbart brought an Anchor escapement to show (*top left*). He had just completed design and fabrication (from scratch) of a Graham dead-beat pallet for an Edward Dent, time only, fusee movement. We saw close-up views of the pallet in action.

Doug Lynn shared several pieces related to our program (*left*). These included an Elgin movement holder used for shipping movements to jewelers, a "National" brand watch with an early serial number that dated it to 1868, an Elgin Veritas 23-jewel watch from 1900, a "Father Time" from 1919, and a 000-size wrist watch from 1917.

Les Lesovsky showed us a timing clock by the American Bank Protection Co. (which became O.B. McClintock). This type of clock was used to set the alarm on the doors of a bank. Les's father owned a bank that used these clocks, and Les found this one (*above*) at the Chapter 69 Goodyme Supermart!

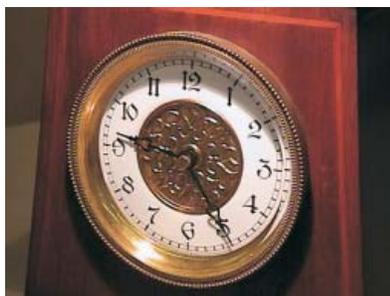
Doug Adams displayed three Elgin watches: a 16-size B.W. Raymond model with an up-down indicator, a 23-jewel Veritas with a Montgomery dial (*opposite, top*), and a flight watch made for the English military, also with a B.W. Raymond movement.

Finally, Ray Brown showed us a clock from the American Clock Co. dated c. 1903. As you might expect, it was a battery clock, with remontoire weights that were periodi-



cally lifted by an electromagnet. It also featured a mercury-compensated pendulum.

Our door prizes had a Kansas City theme! Thanks to our wonderful door prize provider, Sally DiMino, we gave away several items from last month's Overland Park convention. They were won by Ray Brown (See? The extra ticket you get for Show & Tell pays off!), Ken Lynn, and Julie Lesovsky.



The dial of Ray's American Clock Company remontoire clock

Respectfully submitted, Dave Weisbart, Secretary

More pictures from the Directors' Pot Luck



Ed Athey manned the BBQ and served up delicious bratwurst and kosher hot dogs



Annette samples the yummy side dishes

The usual suspects chat about everything from electronics to politics



*Ed's ample backyard provided a beautiful setting
Thanks, Ed & Karen!*

Board Meeting Minutes July 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. at the home of Ed and Karen Athey. In attendance were officers and directors Ray Brown, Phyllis Adams, Bob Linkenhoker, Dave Weisbart, Doug and Ken Lynn, Ed Athey and Annette Di Mino. Also attending were guests Doug Adams and Cora Lee Linkenhoker.

The first item discussed was upcoming programming. It was decided that our August meeting would be a video of a talk given by Bob Lanphier III on the early days of Sangamo Electric at the 2008 Ward Francillon Symposium. This will be accompanied by a short talk by Ray Brown with additional background on Sangamo clocks. The September program will be given by Doug Adams on Photography in Horology.

The board developed a unique idea for the October program. It will be called "The Orange County Clock and Watch Museum."

The board discussed the need for volunteers to bring refreshments to the meetings. Ken Lynn volunteered for the August meeting, and Annette said she'd bring September's goodies. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Annette or put their names on the sign-up sheet at the meeting.

The upcoming anniversary banquet was discussed. It will be at noon on September 24 at "Riviera at the Fireside," a first-class restaurant conveniently located at the Westminster off-ramp of the 405 freeway.

Ray asked board members to look ahead to this year's chapter elections. The importance of bringing "new blood" into the chapter leadership was discussed. New ideas and energy can only make our chapter stronger.

Bob presented information on our finances. This year, the Goodyme Supermart did not entirely erase our operating deficit. Several factors contributed to the deficit: lower interest on our savings, an increase in our rent at the lodge, and declining attendance. Considerable savings were seen in a few areas, notably the printing of the Tic Talk Times as more members are now receiving it electronically.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of organizing a chapter field trip next year.

The next board meeting was scheduled for September 12 at Ray Brown's house.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Weisbart, Secretary

**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, August 5, 2011

Program:

Video Presentation

**"Remembering
Sangamo"**

by Bob Lanphier III

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

More about Sangamo by *Ray Brown*

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "B"
or Sangamo timepieces

Board Meeting:

No board meeting this month

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

DUES are DUE For a Few!

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

