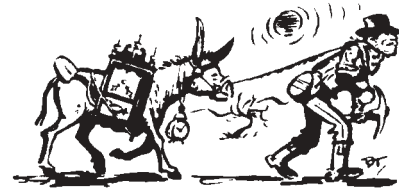


# THE Tic Talk Times



September 2008  
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the  
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

## Meeting Minutes Aug. 1, 2008

### Unusual Watches

President Dave Weisbart opened the meeting at 8:00 and introduced guest Don Mabry and Roger McBride. He thanked Anna Pond for the refreshments. The minutes from the July meeting were approved as published in the Tic Toc Times.

Dave asked if any members had any clock stories from the earthquake. Larry Squires said that three rotary pendulum clocks stopped and a few clocks started up. Anna Pond said her mother lost a New Haven clock that fell from a shelf. Doug Adams told a story about a previous earthquake when he was in Big Bear. A grandfather clock was north – south facing and during the earthquake, the weights wrapped around the pendulum. The east – west-facing clocks were fine. An aftershock a short time later started the grandfather clock and the wall clocks stopped. Dave said his west facing clocks stopped and 29 clocks started!

The annual barbeque will be held at Randy Ema's house. Thank you Randy!

Upcoming marts are Chapter 136, Vista, August 23, 2008; Chapter 4, Bellflower, Sunday September 21; Chapter 116, Arcadia, Sunday October 19; and the Del Mar mart will be the third weekend in November.

Bob Linkenhoker said that Bob Olson has jeweler's lathe and staking set for sale. See Bob for Bob Olson's

*continued on page 2*

## This Month

### Making a Point!



Doug Adam's Beginners' Corner will cover the fine points of tweezers, including various types, uses, and maintaining them.

### Case Finishing

by Foster Campos

Foster Campos trained under a master furniture maker (*see below*) and worked in that business before forming his own company making reproduction clock cases. Many of the members may have seen examples of his excellent work. In this video he discusses some of the techniques he uses in the repair and finishing of the cases he makes as well as many of the methods he uses in the repair and refinishing of old cases. Any who is anticipating doing repair and refinish work will gain from the video.

### An Interesting Background

For thirty years, between the 1940s and the 1970s, Elmer Stennes was famous for being the only large-scale reproducer of classic American clock cases in the country. But his former friends and associates remember him for another reason, too: because he killed his wife and later was himself killed, perhaps by one or more of his children. In fact,

*continued on page 3*

## Message from the president

### Boy, Did You Miss Out!

I have a feeling that if all of you knew how much fun our annual potluck was going to be, there would have been an overflow crowd. Randy and Diana Ema were fantastic hosts, and we even had the same delicious bratwurst as in past years. But that was just the beginning.

Randy took anyone who was interested on a tour of their house and his fascinating collections: Above the garage was an interesting bell-only tower clock (no dial); his clock workshop was a converted playhouse (watch your head going through the door!); and his house was full of interesting antiques of all kinds, including a beautiful sounding disc music box.

Those of you who know Randy also know that he has a collection of antique and vintage cars. On display this night were a 1937 Cord, an extremely rare 1909 Chicago Electric, and a movie-prop "Reo"



100 Year Old "Electric"

*continued on page 3*

## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

phone number.

Don and Eveyln Buster – good to see you back!

Doug Adams, Staking Tools, presented the Beginner's Corner. Doug said the staking set is the most versatile and well-used tool the watch repairman has. He showed us a Kendrick & Davis inverto set. An inverto set has a hole to put the punch in to be used as the bottom piece. He showed us the punch used to rivet balance wheels on balance staffs, the pusher pieces to push jewels out of plates, reamers to ream holes to press jewels into the plate. He showed us a micrometer assembly, flat ended punches, round ended punches, punches for staking in wheels and a center punch. The die plate has different sized holes and different sizes of bottom stakes for various jobs. Doug showed us a second staking set of unusual punches. A flat end with a narrow, flat ridge and a cylinder staff punch. And a third set contained a punch for pressing rollers off of a balance assembly. He showed us a Boley and Levine staking set for wristwatches, an example of a small, fine miniature staking set.



The program for the evening was a video, "Character Watches" by Julia Mueller. In the video, she said she began her collection at the side of her collector husband. Her first watch is a 1982 Charlie The Tuna Promo watch, \$4.95 plus three labels. She has a 1933 Mickey Mouse watch, a 1935 Dick Tracy and Orphan Annie and many more. She showed various advertising watches with revolving disks, and later musical watches. She has a Spiro Agnew watch from the Dirty Time Watch Company.

Show and Tell began with the letter I and J or, a character watch.

Larry Squires brought an animation watch. It is a diner watch and VW bounces. He also brought a car clock he told us about a few months ago. This is an Oldsmobile car clock that went in the steering wheel. When you turn the wheel, the watch winds.



Bernie Peralta brought seven watches, Snoopy with a tennis ball going around as the seconds. Minnie and Mickey,

Spiro Agnew, Trickie Dickie, Pepsi, Mao waving his hand as the seconds. The red star at the 12:00.

Julie Stevens brought Fred Friedberg's book, "Illinois Wristwatches." She also brought, "Julie's favorite Illinois wristwatches,"



*Chairman Mao*

getting both letters! Her favorites are, of course, the Stephen and the Piccadilly and the Ritz.

Annette DiMino brought seven of her Mickey Mouse watches. One of them plays the Mickey March and



*Julie's Illinois Favorites*

another plays "It's a Small World." Doug Lynn brought a Goofy watch by Lorus. It runs backwards. He also brought a Pepe LePew Armitron, Tweety & Sylvester, Scooby Doo, Snoopy and Donald Duck. He also brought a Star Trek pocket watch and a Coca Cola Polar Bear pocket watch. Ken Lynn brought a Tasmanian Devil watch. Phyllis Adams showed us her Garfield and Mickey.



*Annette's  
Mickey's*

Bob Linkenhoker mentioned that Bud Saiben's clocks are going to auction on October 3 and 4. Visit [TomHarrisAuctions.com](http://TomHarrisAuctions.com).

The lucky winners of the door prizes were Julie Stevens, Don Buster and Anna Pond.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## Program (cont.) (from page 1)

it's hard to say if the clocks and other items made by Stennes' hand are so collectible today because of their quality or because of his notoriety.

Stennes made banjo clocks, shelf clocks, and girandoles; he made tall-case clocks, too—grandfathers, grandmothers, though he didn't make the movements: he bought antique ones, rebuilt them, and installed them in his reproduction cases. The finishing touch was his own name painted across the dial. Not only a craftsman, Stennes was a crafty marketer, and his clocks were sold nationwide through contacts he made as a member of the National Association of Clock and Watch Collectors. Unfortunately, Stennes is also described as a hard drinker whose disposition, never sunny, could quickly become as ugly as his clocks are beautiful. After a few drinks, Stennes often did become abrasive at meetings, members recall; but he was still politic enough to be elected their chapter president. At the group's October gathering in 1968, Elmer and his wife, Eva, sat with Brooks Palmer, and someone snapped their picture. By the time the photo ran in the association's Bulletin, however, Eva was dead. It happened shortly after Thanksgiving—on December 2, 1968—in the kitchen of 45 Church Street. According to court documents Elmer took out his 357-magnum derringer, which he was licensed to carry, and shot one bullet into Eva's head. She staggered from the kitchen and died on the bathroom floor.

Boston attorney Albert J. Hutton, Jr., one of two lawyers who defended him, says that when Stennes was released on a bond of \$25,000, there was "consternation among the neighbors and chagrin in the police department. It was business as usual at Tick Tock Lane, with one exception. Stennes now added a flourish to his clocks, branding them with the initials, "O.O.B.," to signify his new status—"out on bond."

"The craftsmen of Tick Tock Lane"—a phrase from a Stennes clock catalogue—were back at work, too. In truth, he had only one full-time employee, Foster S. Campos. Campos started working for Stennes in 1952 and continued for 22 years, so he knew him perhaps as well as anybody did. Stennes was sentenced to eight-to-ten years. Campos regularly visited Stennes in his new home: the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Plymouth. Supposedly, Stennes was teaching carpentry classes in the prison woodshop; actually, the rogue was carrying on his business, using prison equipment and inmates, with Campos bringing in wood and other supplies and taking cases back to Tick Tock Lane for finishing and sale. The prison clocks, as they are called, have their own idiosyncratic mark branded into the cases: "M.C.I.P.," the abbreviation for Stennes' temporary address, or, alternately, "Made Case in Prison"—a coincidence that surely amused the peculiar Stennes.

In January 1972, Stennes was paroled, after having served only two years and four months, and business resumed at Tick Tock Lane, Nonetheless, around midnight on October 4, 1975, as Elmer lay sleeping in his upstairs bedroom, two men burst in and started shooting. Stennes was shot four times in the mouth and once in the side of the head; the police arrived to find that Elmer was dead. The lurid tale detracted from the value of Stennes' clocks for a time. Campos says people even asked him to remove the notorious name from the dial. Later, when the prices started rising, a few had him put the name back on. As for Campos, his sales brochure alludes to his "extensive apprenticeship under a highly renowned master clockmaker," but doesn't mention his mentor's name.

## Potluck (from page 1)

automobile that was built to exacting specifications for a John Wayne movie.

And here's the kicker – Randy took our members for rides in the electric car and the Cord! What a treat! While riding in the magnificently styled Cord, and hearing from Randy the details that made this car so avant-garde for its time, I couldn't help think of my 90-year-old father, who was 19 when that car was built. As soon as we got back to the house, I pulled out my cell phone and called him up to share my excitement.



There was delicious food galore. Beyond the bratwursts, Berkley's Backyard BBQ (the same company that donated the griddle for our pancake breakfast) donated

some of the best BBQ chicken I've ever tasted. We had lots of delicious sides and desserts as well.

Everyone had a great time. The only thing that would have made it better would be if more people had attended. Next time, make it a point to attend, OK?

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Emas for all the work they did in preparing for the potluck. It's volunteers like Randy and Diana that make our group worthwhile.

And speaking of volunteers, we're coming into our own election season. There are a couple of vacancies coming up on the board of directors. I hope you'll consider volunteering so I don't have to start arm-twisting.

On a personal note, ask me about my new jewelry at the next meeting.

See you there!

— Dave Weisbart

**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, September 5, 2008**

*Program:*

**VIDEO PRESENTATION  
"Clock Case Refinishing"  
by Foster Campos**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*

"Tweezers" by Doug Adams

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letters "K"

*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

