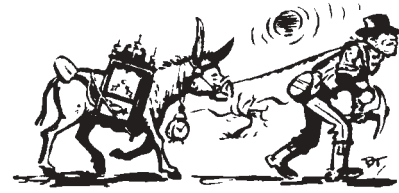


Tic Talk Times



September 2009
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting Minutes Aug. 7, 2009

An Ongoing Project

President Doug Adams opened the meeting at 8:10 and introduced guests Alex Barcelo, Charlotte Marcella and Keith Knabe. He thanked Ken Lynn for the refreshments. The minutes from the March meeting were approved as published in the Tic Toc Times. There was no new business. There will be a board meeting Monday night at Doug's house. Everyone is invited. Two birthdays tonight! Randy Ema and Bill Bruce. Happy Birthday! Doug reported the very sad news that long time member Dick Pridham and former Chapter 69 member Travis Wilson passed away. Phyllis Adams announced that there was a table full of magazines available free for the taking, donated by Jana Smith.



Les Lesovsky provided our program on restoration of a tower clock.

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This Month

American Time

In Pennsylvania, Roland G. Murphy mixes native ingenuity and old-world craftsmanship.

By Carlo Wolff~



A surprising number of folks are filing into the lobby of the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pennsylvania, a small community in the south-central part of the Keystone State. Nearly 200 visitors enter the Museum to hear about Caliber 801, the new movement from Roland G. Murphy and his RGM Watch Company, based in Mount Joy some twenty minutes away. Mount Joy is also a stone's throw from Lancaster, the center of American watch making in the first half of the 20th century.

Caliber 801 is the first American-made mechanical watch movement since the death of the venerable American watch company, Hamilton, in 1969. The Hamilton factory was located in Lancaster, and Murphy uses Hamilton movements

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Board Meeting Aug. 10, 2009

2010 Officers Needed!

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. In attendance: Doug Adams, Debbie Abbott, Ron Abbott, Bob Linkenhoker and Julie Stevens.

It was agreed, the main focus should be on growing and increasing our membership. Looking around at our last meeting, there is encouragement!

The election is coming up and the installation is in January 2010. Currently, we are short a board member. Some names were suggested for the Nominating Committee Chairman.



I WANT YOU

We need a President, Vice President and Secretary. Doug, Bob, Phyllis and Debbie will either continue or run again. Julie will not run again.

It was agreed that we will drop members who have not paid from the membership list.

Possible programs – Three short programs were mentioned. They are on watches and they have been professionally produced. There is a DVD of a play of Ben Franklin with Bill Ellison playing a part.

At the next general meeting, Bob will give the Treasurer's Report.

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

Ray Brown announced the upcoming marts – Chapter 136, Super minimart is August 22, Chapter 4's mini mart is September 20 and Chapter 116, Santa Anita, October 24. Ray also informed us about a clock collection for sale in Yucca Valley. The tentative open house dates to view the collection is September 15 and 16. The photographs showed some really nice looking clocks! For information, email , Jim Hadwin.

The evening's program was presented by Les Lesovsky, "Preservation of the Church of the Angels Tower Clock." The Church of Angels was built in 1889 as a memorial to an early Los Angeles landowner, Alexander Cambell-Johnston, in Garvanza, California. Garvanza borders Pasadena and the Los Angeles City limits. In 1889, the cost for the chapel was \$20,000, the Seth Thomas No 16 clock and bell cost \$719 and the freight cost \$85.91 (3,370 lbs). The Church of the Angels originally included a cattle farm and winery. There is even a postcard of the church! Dated 1930.

Years ago, Chapter 116 member Wilber Spears offered to buy the movement from the church. They declined his offer, but asked if he could design an electric winding mechanism. Wilber Spears, John Colavan and Juan Limon did the work. The time train weight is 25 pounds and the strike train weight is 65 pounds. The job was completed January 5, 1985.

The belfry was removed after the 1971 earthquake. Later, the church became an historical landmark and the replacement of the belfry was done with a grant. The church under went seismic reinforcement during the belfry replacement. During the retrofit, the clock was damaged and never worked properly again.

A few years ago, Les became tired of going to the church once a month and oil the clock whether it needed it or not. During the retrofit, the front bushing in the frame became out of alignment. Les made a special reamer and realigned the bushing. It has worked great ever since.



"PUJA" Thermo-pneumatic self-winder mechanism

Show and Tell began with the letter A. Ray Brown brought a clock he purchased from Dick Pridham and Ray restored. It is an AC electric clock, a German "Puja" electric clock from 1942. The German patent was issued 12/9/41. The clock was made to run on 220, 110, AC, DC, doesn't matter. There is a balance and to the left of the balance

assembly are tubes of liquid – methylene chloride. It runs by heat, a candle, light, whatever. The heater in the clock did not work. Ray used a hair dryer to show us what happens when it heats up. The fluid heats up and unbalances the system. When Ray turned the hair dryer to high, it really started spinning. Once heated, the clock will



1922 Advertisement for the Keith-Landis Clock



run up to six hours. Ray also brought an auto clock, a Keith Landis Electric Clock from 1925. Steve Rini brought three Welch clocks, an Alcove from 1880, wood case. It winds by pulling a cord in the back. They called it a self winding. Sold for \$7 in 1880. He also brought an Argenie, a perpetual calendar (knows the difference between 28, 30 and 31 day months – accurate for 400 years!) This cost \$14 in 1880. The Alexis No 1 was the next clock. It was originally named the Ionic, but a lawsuit by Ingraham forced a name change to Alexis. Ingraham had a clock named the Ionic. This sold \$9.80 in 1880.



There is an Alexis No 2, it is smaller. Doug Adams brought an Anniversary Clock, a Gustav Becker with a flat pendulum. It has a grooved post so the pendulum lifts off. Dave Weisbart gave us "A Book Report." Dean Armentrout recommended the book to him, "Shop Class as Soulcraft", by Matthew B. Crawford.

The lucky winners of the door prizes were Stan Goldklang, Charlie Lowry and Sally DiMino.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



This Month *from page 1*

in his Signature Series of specialty RGM watches. Tradition is important to him.

Most of the fans attending the event are locals, though some have come from quite a distance away. One of many Good Customers adds- as he was wearing the Rare RGM / Hamilton 222/923 "Its a singular beauty" , " Is this your only RGM I ask? " "No", he sighs. "Its not my only and definitely not my last,". The project to create this watch almost took a year to complete, this beautiful 222 with a custom made guilloche dial.

As we linger over cases of watches monitored by Murphy and Richard Baugh , RGM's Chief Designer and General Manager. There are no sales, but you sense deals being made, orders being placed. There's a custom made cake designed in the form of Caliber 801. There are refreshments and free gifts.

And there are RGM watches, spanning the new model 801 manual wind model , among the whole collection of RGM watches to be seen. The William Penn tonneau models both in Steel and Gold ; various pilot's watches including the 250 Classic Aviator's model, a particularly sleek and modern variant; and the new 300 Professional Diver;'s watch - an unusually rugged, imposing diver's watch, RGM only producing 100 pieces in the Limited Series of Professional Models. Those with exhibition case backs routinely showcase perlage, cote de geneve decoration and blued, highly finished screws.

Toward the end of the evening Murphy assembles his fans for the showing of a special short film on the "Production of Caliber 801" , a 16-ligne movement he hopes follows in the tradition of the American railroad watches of a century ago, watches that set the standard for elegance and, of course , accuracy. Among his role models: Hamilton (of course), Illinois and pocket watches manufactured by the Howard Watch Company of Boston. The Edward Howard model, that company's best, is a particular talisman.

"Coming out of the 1800's and into the 1900's, one of the most astonishing things you'd see in American watch making were the high- end railroad watches, very high-quality watches that were stat-of-the-art for the time and beautifully finished," Murphy says that the same morning, when opens his "plant" in Mount Joy to a reporter and photographer. "How things looked was very important: The finishing, the decoration, the shape of the bridges, the quality of the finishing on the steel parts. They also had railroad watches that weren't railroad-issue. Any of their high-grade products were like that."

"American watchmakers, they did make some complications, but that wasn't where the market was," he says, warming to his subject. "The market was really driven at that time by the railroad industry; so as far as

complications went, it was time-only, beautifully and solidly made, with wonderfully decorated movements. "Made to last forever" was how they built watches, and that's what we want to do with the 801: make a well built caliber that would outlive me by several generations," he adds.

"As a watchmaker , it's always a dream: Anyone who works with high end watches, especially who is building them, wants his own movement. That's really the heart of the watch. That is where it all starts."

Where it all comes together is 801 West Main Street, the RGM stronghold and the namesake of Murphy's first original movement; it relies on some Swiss parts, including jewels, balance and hairspring, but the bridges and plates are made in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and its all put together right here at RGM.

The RGM office is a former 1920's Ban Building equipped, naturally, with a vault where Murphy stores his watches and parts. The main floor boasts five machines for engine turning. All RGM watches are hand engraved and not stamped, and hand assembled.

A 1913 Leinhardt Rose Engine Machine gets the heaviest use. Murphy puts a brass plate into a machine with five rosettes to demonstrate engraving. Watches aren't the only things he applies it to.

While he's a watchmaker first and foremost, Murphy is also a catalyst, a self-styled "engine" of other local industry. His company brings together various disciplines to yoke old-style craftsmanship to the most modern technology.

Murphy and his crew are very busy, busy enough producing 300 to 400 RGM Watches each year, but they also spend at least half of their time servicing and maintaining other high end brands. "Because there are so many watches, there's a severe shortage of people to service them," Murphy says. "half of our business is service and we are always backed up; we never catch up. There are only so many of us who know how to do the work ...right, so even though we have these great demands on us, we can't do them as fast as we would like, Quality not Quantity."

"I do not want anything to pull me away from RGM," Murphy says. "Over the next few years, the RGM line will narrow a little bit, but the focus will be more on things like the 801 and variations and building more special things.

"Building things like the 801 takes considerable amount of time than building something using an existing movement," he says, "so something will have to stop."

If the economy continues to worsen, it will affect everyone, he says, "but that's when you have to really focus on doing a good job."



**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, September 4, 2009

Program:

**VIDEO PRESENTATION
"RGM Watch Co - Made in
America"**

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

To be announced.

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "B"

Board Meeting:

No 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

