

Meeting Minutes, Sept. 6, 2002

Pocket Chronometers Highlighted

President Dave Weisbart called the general meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Our guest was Garret Graves. Dave thanked Jan and Dick Duwe for the refreshments. The minutes of June and August meetings were approved as printed in the *Tic Talk Times*.



Doug brought a large assortment of pocket chronometers, each with different features.

During the mart one of the videos from our library was shown on the front screen. Dave will continue to show them as requested by members. These videos are available for rent. See Ed Athey our librarian for details.

Saul Zitter will host the next board meeting.

Announcements

- Del Mar Regional 9/26-28
- Santa Anita Chapter 116 Minimart 10/26

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This Month

You Can't Pack It Too Well

Those of us who have ever shipped a clock to another locale know the feeling: the twinge that accompanies the nagging inner voice that says, "Did I pack it well enough?" And those of us who have shipped a lot of clocks no doubt have known the agony of the phone call from the clock's destination that reports cracked glass or worse.

The fact is, "modern" parcel handling includes deliberate drops of *three feet* from one conveyor to another. All the box marking in the world ("Glass," "Do Not Drop," "Fragile," etc.) *might* only have an effect on the carriers at the ends of the journey. The machines in between treat your priceless antique the same as the box of tennis shoes that came before it. So it is up to the packer to

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Message from the President

People Oil The Darnedest Things

"Good grief!" Charlie Brown's favorite phrase is getting evoked in my shop more and more as I open up clocks and see what clock owners and other "repairpersons" have done to their timepieces. Sometimes, there's nothing to do but shake my head in wonder.

The latest, the one that evoked the title of this article, was when I removed the pendulum bob from the suspension rod and noticed that the whole bob (a fixed-length dead weight) had been coated with oil! To make it slide through the air better? Good grief!

Those of you who have been in the business a while have certainly seen more of this kind of thing that I have, but some of it is still amazing. Like the person who bushed his

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Welcome New Members!

Many of you are receiving the *Tic Talk Times* for the first time, having become members at our National Convention in Anaheim last July. On behalf of Chapter 69, welcome to the association.

We hope you'll make plans to attend our chapter meeting this Friday evening. You'll be able to take part in the pre-meeting mart and refreshments, browse our library (although you must be a chapter member to check out material), and learn from our programs.

You'll also have a chance to meet many knowledgeable clock and watch enthusiasts. Chapter members can take advantage of our "mentor" program, in which volunteer experts will offer their expertise in your area of collecting.

If you love clocks and watches, the Ebell Club is the place to be this Friday. We look forward to seeing you there!

President's Message *(from page 1)*

movement with solder. Not soldering in brass bushings, oh no. Filling the old bearing holes with solder and then drilling them out. Guess how long *that* repair lasted.

At the school, our teacher, Roger Chastain, used to joke about people who had a screwdriver and a pair of pliers and went into the clock repair business. I'm seeing their handiwork now. Like a bearing hole that was closed not by bushing or punching, but by squeezing the area around the hole using big, heavily knurled pliers. What finesse!

I guess I must have been lucky in my decade of collecting. I had certainly seen my share of punched bearing holes, awkwardly soldered pieces, and movements that had been dipped whole in some unknown and now gooey lubricant. But now, it appears, I get to see the real dregs. Like the guy who tried to make his own combination suspension spring and rod by hammering flat the end of a piece of coat hanger wire and jamming it into the split post. He might have gotten it down to about 50 thousandths – a far cry from the 4 thousandths he would have needed. Needless to say, it didn't bend too well and it wrecked the split post.

These crude examples just drive home for me the importance of what we in the NAWCC do. When all clocks were mechanical (and none disposable), it was common knowledge that the movements needed to be serviced regularly. And communities had many trained, sometimes apprenticed, watch and clock makers to provide the service. I'm not saying that in days of yore all the workmen were of the highest caliber. But I do think that we are now seeing more attempts at do-it-yourself repair work by people who have a much more diverse range of mechanical aptitude and background (often at the low end), as well as a reluctance to sit and read a book on clock or watch repair techniques. However, fixing a car or a piece of furniture is not the same thing as fixing a timepiece, and the public needs to learn that again.

We are each part of the horological *cognoscenti* – the new keepers of the old knowledge. When someone we know says something like, "I have an old clock, too," after we ask about the clock itself we should also ask, "Who does your servicing?" Chances are their clock isn't running at all, or if it is, it hasn't been serviced in over a decade and its continued operation is now causing damage to the movement. But people don't know or have forgotten about how to maintain a clock or watch. They need to have someone to whom they can turn for solid advice on caring for their old timepiece. That's us.

See you at the meeting!



This Month *(from page 1)*

make sure the contents can survive some serious abuse.

Ray Marsolek gave a well-received talk on the subject of packing and shipping clocks at the National Convention in July. Since many of us couldn't attend due to the demands of running the show, Ray has graciously agreed to give our chapter a slightly condensed version of the talk. With the holidays coming up, it seems timely.

In addition, Les Lesovsky is going to introduce us to the world of Black Forest clocks for our Beginner's Corner. He's going to use a digital slide show which may be a precursor to a full-fledged program. It's sure to be fascinating!

Buy One Today!

The following text appeared in an ad for the New Haven Clock Company's new 400-day clocks in "The Jewelers' Circular and Horological Review," July 1883:

However astonishing the improvements recorded in the history of clock making since the days of Huygens, i.e., 250 years ago, no one until now ever succeeded in producing clocks of plain construction and general usefulness that would run longer than a week, or a fortnight at the utmost. This Clock has astounded everybody wherever it has been introduced, for it is of very simple construction, and runs with great accuracy throughout the whole 400 days, and it has an enormous sale in other countries. There have been former inventions of clock movements to run as long a time, but never on any such principle, or with any success, as they were never found to be at all accurate, and could only be bought at a very high price. Harder's patent does away with both of these objections, and we guarantee it to perform all that we claim for it.

The Clock with rotary torsion-pendulum owes its origin to the ingenious idea of replacing the swinging pendulum by a time measure of equal exactitude, viz., the rotary disc, which, in its rotation, meets with hardly any impediment from atmospheric resistance. The clock makes a very handsome showing in itself, and is a very great novelty; for this reason, every jeweler should have at least one. It attracts an unusual amount of attention in show rooms and windows.

The price is such as will enable the jeweler to sell it with heavy profit to himself. Each clock is securely packed by itself in a strong wooden box, with full instructions for setting up.

Great accuracy? I suspect their guarantee was invoked more than once!

From 400 Day Clock Repair Guide by Terwilliger.

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

- Southern California Chapter 4 Minimart 11/14
 - Juan Limon is having a clock repair course starting 10/11
 - Greater Los Angeles Regional February 27,28,2003
- It was announced that Ray Marsolek will hold a class on clock pivots. The date has not been determined.

Dave asks that any one who has ideas for a beginner's corner contact Charles Register.

Tic Talk Times went on line for first time this month. Contact Dave at webmaster@nawcc69.org to be added to receive your copy online. It's quicker than the old way and saves the cost of printing and a stamp.

A letter from Jim Cipra was read praising the Chapter for a job well done at the 2002 National. He also wished to thank everyone for the Foster Campos presentation clock that he won at the Banquet drawing.

Bud Saiben was concerned about Pasadena regional being left out of mart listing. The date is 2/27-28.

Dave shared the Presidential Citation that was presented to Chap. 69 at the 2002 National Convention. He also confirmed that the official Chapter 69 charter date is June 10, 1972.

The Financial statement for last year was posted for any who wished to review it.

Program

Doug Adams presented a program on chronometers. He had drawings showing some variations used in the shape of hairsprings and as well as the Arnold and Earnshaw detent escapements, explaining their differences. The definition of just what a Chronometer is and how it is used was given. Doug brought in a Hamilton 21 boxed marine chronometer, a sextant and a number of pocket chronometers, some manufactured as early as 1834, from his extensive collection.

Dave wished a Happy New Year to all our Jewish members.

Show and Tell

Larry Squires shared an American watch by Waltham.

Roy Irick had two carriage clocks, one with Austrian and the other with French painting (right).



Les Lesovsky shared a clock won by Robert Brown of Scotland for "Best Vegetable Basket" (right).



Bob Ciampa shared an Ansonia clock.



Bud Saiben had a series of Ansonia clocks (two at left) all having the same movement.

Bill Clark, Terry Cunningham, Les Lesovsky, and David Ford won door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Clock repair class

It all revolves around pivots

The importance of pivot work in clock repair cannot be overstated. A well polished pivot will reduce both friction and wear, making the clock run better and longer.

Ray Marsolek will be giving his second in a series of three beginners courses on Saturday, October 19. As you might have guessed, this course is called "All You Ever Wanted to Know About Clock Pivots and Then Some." This all-day class costs just \$25.00. Contact Sally DiMino A.S.A.P at (714) 557-1876 to sign up. The class is almost full already and remaining spots will go fast, so don't delay!



Tic Talk Times On Line

Would you prefer to receive the Tic Talk Times over the Internet? Send an email request to webmaster@nawcc69.org.

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**



Orange County Chapter No. 69
2855 Carlsbad Blvd.
Carlsbad, CA 92008-2902

Our Next Meeting: October 4, 2002

Program:

**"Packing and
Shipping Clocks"**
by Ray Marsolek

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Introduction to Black Forest Clocks" by Les Lesovsky

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letters "B" or
items acquired at the Del Mar Regional

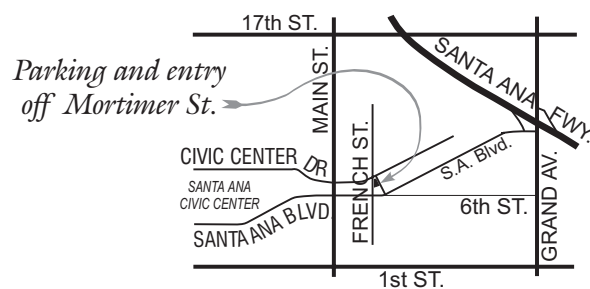
Board Meeting:

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of:
Doug Adams

Time: 7:00 – Doors open
8:00 – General Meeting

Admission: \$4.00 – General
\$6.00 – Couples

Location: The EBELL CLUB
625 French Street
(at Civic Center Drive)
Santa Ana, CA
(714) 547-6331



Ramp
available