

# THE Tic Talk Times



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October 2010  
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the  
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

General Meeting Oct. 2010

## Tic Talk Tony



*Tony Baker with a painted clock dial from his September Presentation*

President Doug Adams called the meeting to order. We have a new member, David Kesler. Guests: Linda Baker, Tony's wife. Thanks to Annette for the refreshments.

Old Business: Elections will be held in December. We are short on Board Members now. We have already trimmed down the Board. We need a Nominating Committee to get a slate for October. We need a new Vice President and Program Director. Doug does not and cannot run again, so we need a new President also. Doug reminded us that we might need to close the doors of this chapter if no one is willing to step forward.

Calendar:

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This Month

## “Welch Tidbits”

by Steve Rini



This month, Steve Rini will share with us “tidbits” he has found over the years about the Elisha Welch and the E N Welch Clock Company. Steve will relate how Welch grew his company through numerous acquisitions and how the style of the clocks evolved over long history of this remarkable company.

Steve will also share pictures and will bring a some examples from his extensive collection of Welch clocks. This month's program will provide a chance to learn more about this interesting company.



## The E.N. Welch Clock Company

Before 1831, Elisha Niles Welch was in business with his father, George, who operated an iron foundry in Bristol, Connecticut. The foundry made weights and bells for clocks. When Elisha Welch formed a partnership with Thomas Barnes Jr., they named the company Barnes & Welch. The firm manufactured wooden-movement shelf clocks and was involved in business with Jonathan C. Brown and Chauncey Pomeroy.



*E. N. Welch Parlor Shelf Clock  
circa 1880*

From 1841 until 1849, E.N. Welch partnered with J.C. Brown, who used Forestville Manufacturing

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## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

- Chapter 4 Merrimart September 19
- Chapter 116 Mart October 23
- Del Mar Regional – November
- Ward Francillion Symposium – October 28-30, Williamsburg, VA
- GLAR – February 4-5, 2011

Our program was presented tonight by member Tony Baker. “Tick-Tock Tony” bought his first clock for \$1.

History – From 1600 -1770 the dials were brass, hammered in the center, with cast brass spandrels and were expensive to make. In 1772 Osborne and Wilson, ages 17 and 19, had a new idea. They both came from clock families in Staffordshire that is famous for painted pottery. They took an iron plate, painted it, baked it, put gesso on it, then gold leaf on the spandrels. This was from 1772 to 1870. Another difference was that the clockmaker didn’t make the dials; they were made in Birmingham and shipped all over. The false plate on these clocks has the name of the dial maker and it goes directly on the clock.

The early white dials had great painting, such as copies of Constable’s works. These dials did not come from London, as they were considered inferior. Also fruit such as pineapples, and flowers were popular, and Scottish clocks had thistles. The spandrels became less detailed from 1840-1860 and mass-produced. One subject for the spandrels was the Four Corners of the World.

In 1777 Osborne and Wilson split up and Osborne went into business with his mother. He continued painting flowers. James Wilson painted birds, and older ships. Fennimore Walker painted pink roses and geometric shapes. There are also many different styles of moon faces.

Show & Tell:



*Steve Rini with German orphan clock*

Steve Rini –A Welch Opera clock “Norma”, and a German clock rescued under sawdust from the top of blacksmith shop turned cabinetmaker.



*“Norma”*

Anna Pond – A Fusee watch with a tortoiseshell case from her father’s estate, dated 1674 with papers that he willed to her.

Doug Adams – A pivoted detent escape-ment pocket watch from Ulysses and James Nardine.

Raffle prizes were won by Doug Lynn, Linda Baker and Julie Stevens.



Anna’s fuzee (above) & Doug’s Nardine (below)



Phyllis Adams, Secretary



“Now that we’ve all learned to tell time, our first meeting is tomorrow at 10am, sharp.”

## Welch History (from page 1)

Company and J.C. Brown of Bristol, Connecticut as company names. Chauncey Pomeroy was also a partner in these companies. The two factories manufactured eight-day clocks with brass movements.

In 1853, fire destroyed J.C. Brown's Forestville hardware and Clock Company. Welch bought Elisha Manross' failing clock parts business and J.C. Brown's Forestville company after it went bankrupt. He also purchased Frederick S. Otis' casemaking business. He consolidated these new purchases under one name, E.N. Welch, which became one of Bristol's largest clock companies. In 1868, the Welch, Spring & Company was formed. It specialized in high-quality clocks, including regulators and calendars. After Elisha Welch's death in 1887, his son James became the company's president.

The Patti Era, lasted for five years, from 1879 until 1884. This developmental period was named for Adelina Patti who was a Spanish coloratura soprano who won fame as one of the world's greatest operatic singers. Her career was almost without parallel in the history of opera.

This period marked the company's final effort to be financially successful. The staff believed the company's success would depend on the success of the Patti models. The original Patti clock was known for its fancy column turnings, glass sides, rosettes, and fancy finials. Its case was rosewood and featured a Sandwich glass pendulum. The Patti was considered by many as the most collectible and famous parlor clock ever conceived by an American manufacturer. However, sales did not live up to expectations.



*E.N. Welch Shelf Patti circa 1884*

The company tried to dress up the Patti to improve its sales. It added French-style cloverleaf hands, a brass pendulum with a Sandwich glass center, a gold leaf border on the glass door panel, and a bell mounted on the movement. Black labels with gold print replaced the wire labels with black print.

Unfortunately, fire destroyed the movement factory in 1899. Later that same year, the case factory was also destroyed by fire. As a result of the fire, financial problems plagued the company. Mortgages were past due and bank notes were due and unpaid. Liabilities were growing and legal suits were pending. Realizing the troubles that faced the Welch clockmakers, the Sessions family, who had a clock business in Forestville and were interested in expanding their business, began buying Welch company stock. After Albert L. Sessions became treasurer and W. E. Sessions assumed the presidency, they borrowed over \$50,000 to revitalize the company. At the time, the Welch Company ceased to exist, and the name was changed to the Sessions Clock Company.

*From "Clockinformation.com"*

CHAPTERS 75 & 133 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS PRESENT  
**2011 GREATER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL**  
PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER

**FEBRUARY 4 & 5, 2011**  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SATURDAY

*Advance Notice!*

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CHAIRMAN: RAY BROWN (714) 968-5526

PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS JANUARY 30, 2011

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.NAWCC-GLAR.COM](http://WWW.NAWCC-GLAR.COM)**

**TABLES \$55 & UP**

THIS YEAR'S EXHIBIT: "CLOCKS AND WATCHES WITH A CALIFORNIA CONNECTION"

**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, October 1, 2010**

*Program:*

**LIVE PRESENTATION**  
**"Welch Clocks"**  
**by Steve Rini**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*

No Beginners' Corner this month.

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letters "O" or a clock manufactured by E N Welch or a company associated with Welch.

*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

