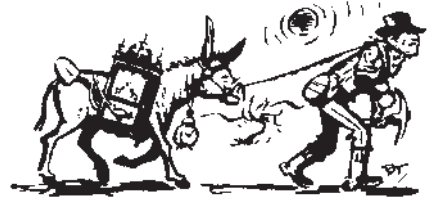


THE Tic Talk Times



November 2001
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Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting highlights

Preserving More Than Wood

Jim Gilmore began his program at our October meeting by explaining a philosophy of collecting and restoring. The gist seemed to be that, as collectors, it is our duty to keep these old treasures in service, both mechanically and as attractive additions to a home's decor, preserving whenever possible their original components and finish.

That said, he began showing us several of the clocks he had brought to demonstrate various aspects of wood finish restoration. On one, a mini-Vienna, he showed a newly fabricated top section which he had finished to be amazingly close to the original finish on the rest of the clock.

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This month's program

An Exceptional Documentary

In 1923, the United States Department of the Interior released an extraordinary film. It was called "The Story of a Watch," and it documented the making of a watch – start to finish – at the Illinois Watch Company. The NAWCC has preserved this important historical document on video tape, and we are delighted to show it at our November meeting.

Made four years before Al Jolson's "The Jazz Singer," this silent, black and white movie uses caption cards to fill in the visual narrative. Beyond the horological interest, this movie also provides a fascinating glimpse of life and work in the early 1920s. This is a must-see program, one that you will not soon forget!

Message from the President

Hook, Line & Sinker

Yes, I'm hooked on clocks. And in retrospect, this interest goes back around 25 years. At that time, I was working in retail as a jewelry manager for a department store. Aside from jewelry, I also sold clocks and watches – even replaced a few watch batteries in my time. It was a turbulent time in horology; digital watches were just hitting the scene. I was contemplating going into watch and clock repair at that time, but was spooked by stories of repairmen losing business because of the new technologies.

Many years later, my interest in timepieces returned as I began

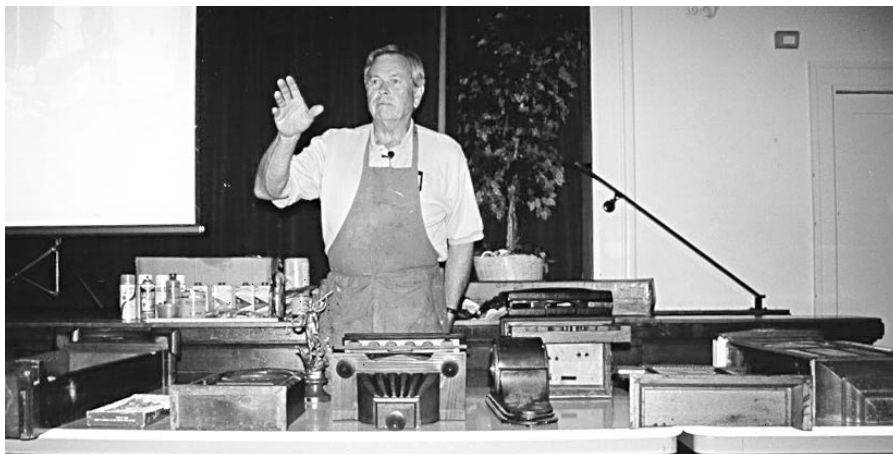
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What every member should know

There are still openings for the Platform Escapement Workshop! If you can't devote the whole 3 days to the hands-on workshop, consider coming to the opening lecture. It's only \$50, and will be well worth your time.

Finances for the 2002 National will be discussed at the November general meeting.

We still need evangelists to distribute the membership applications and invitations at local antique, clock and watch stores. Pick up your supply at the meeting!



Jim Gilmore fields questions from our members about clock case restoration. Note how many clocks and products he brought for his demonstrations!

Visit us on the web at www.nawcc69.org

Meeting Highlights *(from page 1)*

He brought a number of wood finishing products and discussed his uses for several of them. They included products by Formby's, Howard's and 3M. Most of these products were used to preserve existing finishes rather than to strip off old finishes, a practice Jim highly endorses. He demonstrated his technique on an old tambour clock.

Jim also showed a product used to make molds of intricate parts, and discussed how to use it without damaging the original piece. Once the mold his made, he uses plaster of paris to replicate the part, then stains or paints it to suit. He passed around a sample mold and showed a part made in this way.

Veneering was also discussed, and Jim told of the process of re-gluing separated veneer. This involves removing all the old glue residue on the case and the back of the existing veneer. When the veneer is only partially separated, he goes in with sandpaper in between the veneer and case, a painstaking process indeed!

Jim touched on other restoration-related subjects as well, such as reverse glass painting, dealing with crystal regulators, and using oil paints to create wood grain where needed. The goal was always the same: to preserve the original clock as much as possible while restoring and enhancing its appearance.

Finally, Jim took on a large regulator case belonging to Terry Cunningham. Terry, intent on stripping and refinishing the clock, was rebuked by Jim as Jim used one of his products to remove the old shellac without removing the original stain. The debate continued even after the program was completed. Our thanks to Jim for trekking down from the valley to present this very interesting and informative program.

Beginner's Corner was presented by Dave Weisbart. Entitled "How to Spot a Marriage," the talk began with a picture of Carmen Electra and Dennis

Rodman, which Dave said was not a marriage, followed by a portrait of Dave's parents, Gladys and Mel, who will celebrate their 62nd anniversary in November – a real marriage. Getting serious, Dave handed out a list of things to look for when buying a clock to make sure the movement belongs to the rest of the clock. (See sidebar.)



What a marriage isn't



Act of Parliament clock by Thomas Moore of Ipswich, Suffolk, mid-18th century. The drinking scene is on at least two other Moore clocks. (Clocks & Watches by E.J. Tyler)

Spotting a Marriage

- The name (or logo) on the movement does not match the name on the dial, or the name on a pasted label on the case. (Exception: private-branded clocks)
- There's an extra set of winding holes, or winding holes have been plugged and moved.
- There are unused mounting holes around the current movement mount.
- A nut is used to hold the minute hand in place on a clock that should have a taper pin (anachronistic).
- In a movement that mounts on a seat board or between wooden brackets, fresh or newer areas of wood have been carved away to accommodate the new movement, or perhaps older, originally carved areas have no obvious purpose.
- The movement or its enclosure are a bad fit for the case, or an old backboard doesn't properly fit on the front part of a case.
- In a Vienna or box style clock, the pendulum length is visually wrong for the case.
- On an O.G. type clock, there are weight pulleys, but a spring driven movement.

Last Chance to Register!

The platform escapement workshop begins the day after our November meeting. You can still register for either the half-day lecture or the three-day workshop by filling out the form below and bringing it to the meeting. Here is the course schedule:

Nov. 3 – Morning (lecture)	Principles and types Disassembly and Diagnosis Cleaning and lubrication Assembly, installation, and adjustment
Nov. 3 – Afternoon (hands-on session)	Application of mornings lecture
Nov. 10 – Morning	Pivot repair and polishing Repivoting Cylinder repair
Nov. 10 – Afternoon	Jeweling
Nov. 17 – Morning	Hairspring truing Hairspring installation and fitting Index pin repair
Nov. 17 – Afternoon	Balance truing, poising, and adjustment

Reservation Form

for Platform Escapement Workshop

Sign me up for:

- the first-morning lecture (\$50)
 the three-day hands-on workshop (\$250)

Name

Address

City

Phone

Email

NAWCC #

Make check payable to “Orange County Chapter 69” and submit it with this form by either bringing it to the October meeting or mailing it to:

Doug Adams
1483 Paseo Grande
Fullerton, CA 92833-1347

For questions, call Doug at (714) 870-1644

Coming in December...

THE GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE

Put a \$5.00 to \$10.00 gift for a fellow horologist on your holiday shopping list now! At our December meeting, bring your wrapped gift and get a ticket for your choice of the collected gifts when your number is called! (And don't forget the “golden rule”!)

Recent losses

Two members close to many at Chapter 69 have recently passed away.

Ron K. Reed

It is with great sorrow that I announce the death of Ron K. Reed on October 8, 2001. Services were held in Banning on October 13th. Ron was a pillar of Chapter 4, guiding the group as president for the past 5 years. He saw that the newsletter was published every month, opened the meeting hall for the mart and meetings, led the group's meetings, often gave live presentations, and graciously greeted all newcomers, making them feel welcome. In the field of clock collecting and repair, Ron was a stalwart. He was very active in the world of internet discussion. Whenever repairing a timepiece, Ron always carefully researched its history and could speak knowledgeably about it. He was a quite capable appraiser of timepieces, whose advice was frequently sought by others. On a personal level, Ron was warm and friendly. Overall, Ron will be sorely missed.

— Doug Adams

Jack Barrow

At the October meeting, Jim Espy eulogized Jack Barrow, who passed away on September 30. Jim knew Jack as a member of both the NAWCC and The Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. He talked about Jack's many talents apart from horology, and his good-hearted and gentlemanly nature.

President's Message *(from page 1)*

collecting American antique and vintage clocks. I did a lot of reading, and found and joined the NAWCC. As my collection grew, the financial necessity of learning how to service my clocks became apparent. But I also found that I really enjoyed the work – disassembly and assembly were like working with puzzles, diagnosing an ailing movement was an exercise in deductive reasoning, and putting a previously inoperative timepiece back into working order was tremendously satisfying (as our recent speaker, Jim Gilmore, so eloquently expressed).

The line and sinker? I've recently decided to do this full time. Starting in late November, I will be "commuting" to Columbia, Pennsylvania, to take the clock repair courses at the NAWCC school. When I get back, a good position awaits, and I will have fulfilled the idea I had a quarter century ago.

What will this mean for my position as President of the chapter? I will miss a few meetings; I will not be at the December, February, and April general meetings, at which Vice-president Terry Cunningham will be in charge. I will also be attending three Directors' meetings via speakerphone. Interestingly, I will be able to continue producing the Tic Talk Times, thanks to the wonders of the Internet (although I am not looking forward to returning to a 56kbps connection).

Terry, who is recovering very well from his back surgery, is still going to need some help with the A/V equipment. We need volunteers for the Audio-Visual committee – urgently! This involves setting up and operating the video and/or slide projector, the video camera, and the wireless microphone. It's not that hard – if you can assemble a clock or watch movement, you can certainly do this!

Speaking of audio-visual, there will be a surprise at the November meeting. Let's just say that with the Illinois watch program and Show and Tell letter of the month being "O", I want to see plenty of Illinois and Omega watches there – I promise spectacular views on the screen. Also, we will have our first look at the projector as television, since our program, which promises to be absolutely fascinating, is on video tape.

I want every member to know that despite my detour to Columbia, my commitment to help make Chapter 69 the "must join" chapter in Southern California is stronger than ever. We have our first technical workshop in several years coming up this month, we've had an enjoyable field trip, we mounted a spectacular exhibit at LAX, and we've improved our

meetings with more live programs, better audio-visual capabilities, and better door prizes and refreshments. These things have not happened by themselves; a dedicated core of volunteers has been working hard to make a difference. But none of this matters unless you continue to participate in chapter activities.

See you there!



UPCOMING MARTS

- November 3, 2001: Chapter 118 Big Fresno Mart, Ramada Inn, 324 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, California
- November 18, 2001: Chapter 4 Merrimart, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Bellflower Masonic Lodge, 9813 Beach St., Bellflower, California
- February 9 & 10, 2002: Greater LA Regional at the Pasadena Center, 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, California
- July 3–7, 2002: The NAWCC Southern California Adventure (national convention), Anaheim Convention Center and Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, California

Director's Meeting Minutes October 10, 2001

Dave Weisbart opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the recreation center in Julie Stevens' complex, and gave out copies of the agenda. Those in attendance were: Julie Stevens, Doug Adams, Charles Register, Terry and Marsha Cunningham, Bill McNelis, and Dave Weisbart.

November Meeting

Terry Cunningham said that the program would be "The Story of a Watch" which will run 51 minutes. Because of the length of this video, he suggested that we not have the Beginner's Corner in November meeting. The December meeting was also discussed and it was decided that we would have a \$5 to \$10 gift exchange. Everyone bringing a gift will get a raffle ticket for the drawing of those gifts. Dave will ask Bud Saiben to handle the 50-50 drawing since he has always done such a wonderful job in prior years. Jay McAlister's program will be shown in January.

Library

Charles Register talked about the six people who are delinquent in returning books that they have borrowed from the Chapter's library. It was decided that he should make a personal phone call to each of them to remind them.

Camera Purchase

Dave did more research on the camera and the cost will be \$720 for a Sony camera with the features that we need. A few of the features are electronic picture stabilization, extreme close-up ability, still image capture, and computer interface. Doug Adams suggested we get it as soon as possible so it would be available for his workshop.

General Meeting Minutes October 5, 2001

The President, Dave Weisbart at 8 p.m., called the meeting to order. He welcomed our guests: Manual Esqueda, Ted Lo, Sandra Beat, Jerry Happ, and Dennis Woodson. The September minutes were approved as published in the Tic Talk Times. Our next Board meeting will be at Julie Stevens' clubhouse Wednesday, October 10.

Doug Adams talked about the upcoming marts: Chapter 116 (Santa Anita) will have their mart at the new Arcadia location on October 27. Chapter 4 (Bellflower) will hold their mart on November 18. Doug encouraged everyone to support these functions.

Doug Adams also discussed the "Platform Escapement Workshop" being held in November. Terry Cunningham asked that all participants be issued a list of what tools, etc., the attendees should be bringing with them. Doug Adams said he would issue a list for those attending.

Dave talked about the differences between "Show and Tell" and "Announcements." He asked that the membership make all announcements during the Announcements item on the agenda and keep the Show and Tell program for just that.

Jim Espy announced the passing of Jack Barrow on September 30. He was very active in both the NAWCC and the Elks organizations. He was also a musician. Services are at the Christ Community Church on Tuesday, October 9, at 10 a.m.

Charles Register made a plea for all members who have checked out books from our library and have allowed them become past due to please check them back in with him. Al Kahn suggested that Charles send those members a postcard reminding them of this fact.

Old Business

Dave asked that all members who picked up the applications and invitations at the last Chapter meeting for the purpose of taking them to antiques stores near them to please pick up the literature holders, which have arrived from back order.

Program

Dave gave the presentation for the Beginner's Corner on "Spotting a Marriage" (which is when the movement and case do not match).

Jim Gilmore presented an informative program on "Restoring Clocks and Cases." Jim covered wood refinishing products, fabricating molds and plaster of paris parts, repairing veneers, and reverse glass painting, among other topics.

Show and Tell

Charles Davis brought a back plate from an old Osaka Japanese clock. He started collecting the paper from the backs and realized too late that this clock he was showing us was quite probably quite rare. Unfortunately he had already disposed of the clock before finding that out!

Larry Squires brought a clock and two pictures of his very young grand daughter showing her working on a clock. She likes to work side by side with him when he does his repairs, and he is very convinced that she will become a future clock repairperson also!

Door Prizes

Charles Register won a tool set; Bill Miller won a bottle of wine and 4 glasses; Terry Cunningham won a beautiful little porcelain clock that Jan Duwe made, fired, painted and donated; Jim Mahaffey won some candy and Angelo DiMino won tools.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Marsha Cunningham, Secretary

Directors' Meeting Minutes (cont. from page 4)

Workshop

Doug Adams confirmed that the workshop would be held at the Sunny Hills High School. They have asked for a copy of the certificates of insurance and our non-profit status. He scheduled the class to be held for three 6-hour sessions, with the first session split into 3 hours for the lecture and 3 hours for the participation part. He said he had two sign-ups for the full class and none for the lecture. Terry Cunningham reminded him that he was also taking the class. Terry also asked for a list of what tools, etc., the attendees should bring with them to the class. Doug said he would give a list to those who sign up.

Married Couple Discount

Dave said that he received a telephone call from Judge Bob Murray who informed him that the discount as implemented was illegal. A discussion was held on this. It was decided that we would change the policy to give the discount to all couples instead of just married couples.

Certificates

Terry Cunningham said that Jim Gilmore is the Chairman of the National Awards committee. He talked to the National and they are sending the forms to him. Certificates are awarded to members for various deeds performed. Fellow and Star Fellow take 6 months for approval. Bill McNelis told us that the criteria for both certificates and Fellows are getting stricter and that fewer will be given out in the future. This discussion was tabled until the November meeting.

Miscellany

Dave told us he will be taking the National clock class and will be gone from January through April. He said he will still be able to do the newsletter and will transmit the print file to a Kinko's near Bud Saiben's house for him to pick up and send out. Julie was asked to do the Chapter Highlights during Dave's absence.

Bill McNelis discussed the concerns of going forward with the National in July of 2002. The last three conventions were not profitable and had losses, and we will look at the New Orleans losses as soon as we get records from them. There is some concern about the attendance because of the September terrorist attack and whether people will fly next July. We may get the majority of the attendees from states near us where they can drive to it easily. Bill also talked about the need to keep all costs to a minimum. He plans to have the next meeting in November, probably Thursday, November 8.

Dave told us of Ron Reed's passing. Doug Adams will write something on him for our newsletter, and Dave will send flowers or donate to a fund from our Chapter.

Dave brought up the poor attendance for our October meeting. He asked for opinions on why attendance was down, and the consensus seemed to be that there was no particular reason, it was just an off month. It was decided to track attendance at the next few meetings and then take action, if needed. Doug Adams suggested we put details of the upcoming programs in the Tic Talk Times to stimulate our membership, and Terry Cunningham asked that we put dates and times of all upcoming marts in it.

Julie Stevens wanted to know when the exhibit at the Airport is going to be moved to the other airport. Bill McNelis wanted to advertise the NAWCC in this exhibit; but Dave said that was prohibited.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully Submitted, Marsha Cunningham, Secretary