

General Meeting Oct. 1, 2010

A Welch Feast

President Doug Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Thanks to Phyllis for the refreshments. Gene Osten announced the nominating committee is accepting names for 4 officer and 2 director positions and also the position left vacant when Debbie Abbott left. Bob Linkenhoker heard from Bud Saiben that he didn't agree that the clock in the newsletter was a Patty clock; he believes it is another model of Welch clock but Steve Rini believes it is a German made copy.

Larry Squires asked if anyone knew who could make replacement glass dials needed for the Santa Ana Tower Clock. The city is in the process of making money available to refurbish this clock.



From our October Meeting

Doug Adams gave an impromptu Beginner's Corner in which he talked about the history of Washington Court House, Ohio, which has had 3 courthouses. The bell from the first courthouse was bought in Chicago

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This Month

"Lawson Time"

By Neil Kuns



The Lawson "Zephyr" and art deco clock attributed to K.E.M. Weber, c. 1933

Neil Kuns, Past President of NAWCC Chapter 133 and current Program Chair for the 2011 Greater LA Regional, will present our November program.

Neil has developed an extensive collection of clocks made by the Lawson Clock Company that had offices in Los Angeles, Pasadena and Alhambra beginning in the early 1930's. These clocks are distinctive in having a digital dial and artistic case designs typical of that period. Neil has developed a history of the company and of the evolution of their clocks that he will present at our meeting. No history of this company has been published so this is all original research performed by Neil. The development of these clocks provides an interesting insight into the clock business in the early 20th century and is especially interesting because it was a California company from our local area.

Beginners' Corner Chapter 69 members attended the Ward Fancillon Time Symposium in October on "Conservation, Restoration, and Repair." Dave Weisbart, one who attended, and is chapter Webmaster and producer of the Tic Talk Times, will provide us an overview of this latest symposium.



KEM Weber

Artistic Design in America



Born Karl Emanuel Martin Weber in , Weber initially trained under the royal cabinet maker Eduard Schultz in Potsdam, before enrolling at the Kunstgewerbeschule (School of Decorative Arts) in Berlin in 1908 where he studied under . Graduating in 1912, Weber went on to work in Paul's office, having previously assisted his tutor in the design of the

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Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

for the tower for \$100 because that was all the money that was budgeted. The second courthouse burned down. The present courthouse contains a Seth Thomas Tower clock dating from 1885 that was the largest clock of that type at that time. There was a tornado which ripped the wooden hands off the present clock on September 8, 1885 and the hands ended up blocks away. This 3rd courthouse was the scene of a riot in October 17, 1894 when a prisoner was being held for his

own safety inside the building. At that time a battering ram breached the door and so bullets were fired from within by the State militia. The prisoner was escorted away safely in military clothes. The bullet holes are still in the doors to this very day. It is a working courthouse that was evident to Doug and Phyllis when they saw the arm of the law marching a man down the stairs when they went to see the Archibald Willard murals and wonderful stained glass.



Door to Courthouse after the riot!



Our presentation tonight was by Steve Rini on Welch Clocks and was very factual. Steve says he is not an expert but has 25 years' experience collecting E. N. Welch and Welch Spring & Co. clocks and he has taken notes all through the years.

Elisha Niles Welch was a business and financial expert; Steve calls him a "magician". As a young man he got a wagonload of clocks from

his father for his graduation. He was told to come back when he had sold all the clocks, so he did, and also sold the wagon. He bought his father's company when he was 34 years old. He bought bankrupt companies such as Bristol Brass & Clock Company. He bought property on the river so he could ship his product world-wide. His son, James Hart Welch went into business with Solomon Spring who designed cases and formed the Welch Spring & Co. in 1868. There was a fire in 1899 and the case shop burned also. Each building was rebuilt. Session bought more of the stock. At this same time period, Waterbury manufactured 1 million clocks in one year.

Steve also showed us examples of Welch clocks, in many styles, and fabulous names such as: "Crystal" formerly named "Jewel" from 1885, "Alcove" from 1880, a No. 3 Astronomical Clock from 1879 - 1884. Also a "Patty" movement clock. This clock contained 2 8-day



springs so it would run for 30 days. This came about as a way to use up a large stock of 30 day springs.

Show & Tell: Les Lesovsky showed an "Oom-pa-pa" clock, electrical.

Gary Walters showed a Welch clock, "Gilda". Dave Weisbart showed us an "Anglo-American" clock from around 1870 with a Welch movement.

The raffle prizes were won by Dave Weisbart, Ray Brown, and Les Lesovsky.

~Phyllis Adams, Secretary

Weber from page 1

German pavilion at the 1910 'Exposition Universalle' in Brussels.

It was the design of a second pavilion that provides to be the turning point in Weber's career. Paul sent his assistant to supervise work on the German pavilion being built for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915. However, Weber was soon overtaken by other international events. The onset of World War I prevented him from returning home despite the construction of the pavilion being suspended, leaving him stranded in California.

Seeing greater opportunity in the New World, Weber stayed in the United States after the war ended, later becoming a U. S. citizen in 1924. In this respect, he is an early exemplar of the kind of progressive European talent whose immigration so enriched 20th century American design: a trend that accelerated in the 1930s after the rise of the Nazi Party, resulting in such famous names and making the move across the Atlantic. Weber went a step further towards forging a new identity in the New World, adopting the less Germanic name "Kem", formed from combining his three initials.

Having worked in Santa Barbara designing Spanish Colonial interiors and several buildings (inspired by ancient Mayan, Egyptian and Minoan architecture), Weber then moved to Los Angeles in 1921 and began working in the industrial and product design field for which he is perhaps best known. Until 1924 he worked as the Art Director for Barker Brothers, a large furniture and decorating store for whom he designed everything from furniture, interior fittings and packaging in a modernist style.

Weber then established an independent industrial design studio in Hollywood, where he also designed modern sets for films and private residences. The inclusion of his work in the 1928 'International Exposition of Art in Industry' held by New York store Macy's cemented his reputation and he went on to design many products for a wide variety of companies including Widdicomb, Berley & Gay, Friedman Silver and Lawson Time. Many of his designs, such as the copper 'Zephyr' desk clock (1933), can be classified as modern streamline, which was a popular style in contemporary architecture, as well as in the industrial designs of his contemporaries.

Weber's most famous work is probably the "Airline" chair of 1934, which exemplified the clean, streamlined style of the age, with its seat supported by a cantilevered frame reminiscent of wooden aircraft components. Although it was both a practical, stylish and economical to construct and ship, the Airline chair failed to find a volume manufacturer, and most surviving examples come from



KEM Weber's "Airline" chair

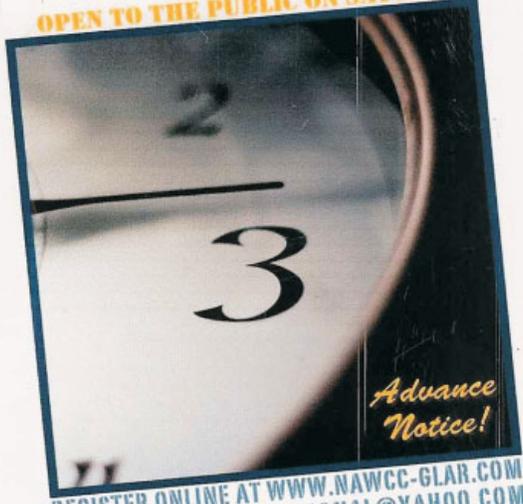
the batch of 300 made for the Walt Disney Studios, largely by craftsmen rather than machines.

From Wikipidia online



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!

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.NAWCC-GLAR.COM
EMAIL: GREATERLAREGIONAL@YAHOO.COM
CHAIRMAN: RAY BROWN (714) 968-5526

PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS JANUARY 30, 2011

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.NAWCC-GLAR.COM **TABLES \$55 & UP**

THIS YEARS 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



SECOND Friday! 

Our Next Meeting: Friday, November 12, 2010

Program:

LIVE PRESENTATION
"Lawson Time"
by Neil Kuns

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Francillon Symposium Highligths" by Dave Weisbart

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "P" or
a clock made by the Lawson Time Company.

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

