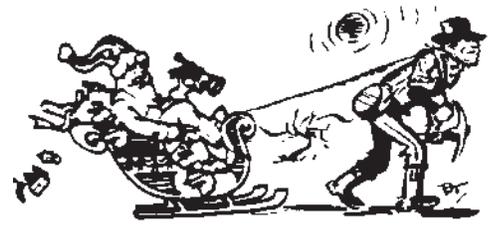


THE Tic Talk Times



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

Meeting highlights

23 Skidoo!

As an example of state-of-the-art filmmaking in 1923, our November program was absolutely fascinating. As a document of factory watchmaking techniques of the time, it was unparalleled. And the glimpse into factory workers' lives it provided was very entertaining as well.

If you missed our showing of "The Story of a Watch," you missed one of the most interesting programs we've had. This silent movie (a "three reeler"!) showed in great detail the entire procession of manufacturing and assembly of an Illinois Watch Company pocket watch. And the procession was no static representation, either. Using clever animation, parts of the watch – wheels, jewels, screws, ratchets, and springs – all danced across the screen, landing in their appointed places in the movement. The screws even spun around to secure their plates and bearings. Other examples of fancy cinematography included fades, wipes, and even overlapping cross fades!

Tool-heads loved watching the old belt-driven machinery operating, as well as all the specialized jigs, drills, and routers being used. The film also showed jars holding tens of thousands of small screws or pivot jewels. Jewels

continued on page 2

This month's meeting



Chapter 69's December meetings are always lots of fun. For most, it's the first holiday party of the season, and a chance to share good times and best wishes with friends old and new. This year promises to be more fun than ever!

Of course, there will be big plates of holiday goodies. (Remember, bringing goodies = free admission!) But this year, we're having the Great Gift Exchange. Here's how it works: Buy a \$5.00 - \$10.00 item (preferably suitable for someone with a horological bent), gift wrap it, and bring it to the meeting. When you arrive, you'll be given a numbered ticket in exchange for the gift. When the exchange starts, a ticket number will be called. The person holding that ticket will have his or her choice of all available gifts. The drawings will continue until the last ticket holder gets the last remaining present. Opening the gifts should be lots of fun! (We have a pretty creative group.) But it won't be fun for anyone unless everyone participates. So get down to the mall or open your Timesavers catalog and pick up something that one of your fellow members will enjoy receiving.

continued on page 2

Message from the President

The Rumor Mill

Each one of us is a representative of Chapter 69 – whether you're "just a member" or you've been active in the leadership. So as representatives of our chapter, I'm asking each of you to set the record straight when you hear anyone say, "They're going to cancel the 2002 national." It's just not true!

The 2002 committee met a couple weeks ago. Twenty-two people spent five hours going over preparations for the convention in considerable detail. The budget was reworked to account for a possible – repeat: *possible* – decline in attendance. Even with some trimming of fat around the edges, the 2002 convention is still going to

continued on page 3

What every member should know

After many months of discussion and research, **the new camera is here!** This will especially benefit watch enthusiasts since very sharp and detailed close-ups are now possible.

The workshop on platform escapements has been postponed until next year. We need your input regarding content, cost and scheduling! See Doug Adams or Terry Cunningham at the meetings.

This Month *(from page 1)*

In addition to the gift exchange, we're planning an old-fashioned sing-along, including the "12 Horological Days of Christmas" that Dave Weisbart presented last year (although without his guitar accompaniment). Our popular 50-50 raffle will take place as well.

Come to the meeting and help make this the start of a truly joyous holiday season!

Meeting Highlights *(from page 1)*

were shown being sorted by size, with each size being matched to its bushing.

The human aspect of working for the factory was also shown. Shots of the company cafeteria and baseball team demonstrated what a progressive employer the Illinois company was. And when the whistle signaled the end of the work day, it was "ladies first" out the door!

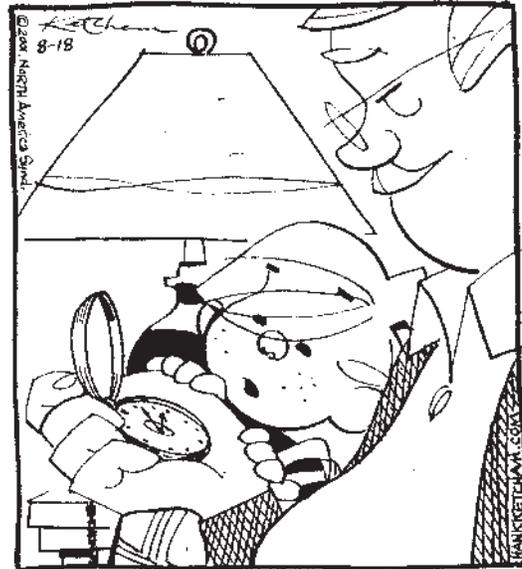
In these days of rapid-fire images, imposing background music, and short attention spans, it says a lot that this old, silent, leisurely-paced film could hold the rapt attention of a roomful of people for over 50 minutes. It was a real treat.



Our Show & Tell included two watches from the Illinois Watch Company, closely matching the vintage of the movie. Gene Osten showed a size 16 Illinois factory display watch that was made in 1919 (above). The case back was glass to allow a view of the working movement. Our new video camera did a fine job of picking up very small details of the movement. Then Tom Purce displayed a 1926 Illinois 21 jewel watch in a gold filled case.

Terry Cunningham brought a Royal Bonn clock (right) which appears in an 1894 catalog. It has Ansonia's "faux-French" round movement.

DENNIS THE MENACE By HANK KETCHAM



"Wow, Grampa! I'll betcha that takes a REALLY big battery!"

UPCOMING MARTS

- 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



President's Message *(from page 1)*

be an outstanding and enthusiastically staged event. All the committee chairs are singing from the same hymnal, and they are all dedicated to making this convention a great one.

Another rumor, which I was unable to authoritatively refute at the last general meeting, is that the chapter is going to suffer severe financial hardship putting this convention on. At the meeting, it was reiterated that the way the convention's contracts have been written, most of the high-ticket expenditures can be scaled according to attendance, some as late as two weeks before the event. I have the highest confidence in the administrative savvy of Bill McNelis, the 2002 Chairman, having seen first hand his attention to detail and non-nonsense approach to running an efficient show. One good indicator of our potential will be the L.A. Regional, which I'm told has current sales that are on track with previous years. The 2002 Committee will have a table at the Regional and will be selling tables and registration for July.

We all need to exude enthusiasm when discussing the convention with "outsiders." And there's a lot to be enthusiastic about! We'll have excellent speakers, excellent facilities, an excellent exhibit, and a locale that's second to none. We also have a great metropolis to tap for new interest in the NAWCC. Come May, I'll be asking our evangelists to help with the distribution of window posters at antique, clock and watch stores throughout the area. The Publicity Committee already has plans to get local television and newspapers involved. There will even be a Saturday program on "Discovering Clocks and Watches" for the novice collectors. This event can be a tremendous boon to the long-term health of our chapter and possibly the national organization. The NAWCC Southern California Adventure is on!

On another topic, everyone seemed very pleased with the performance of our new video camera. The auto-focus worked extremely well and the higher resolution image allowed for sharp, detailed close-ups of the watches our members brought for Show & Tell. The camera also captured the still images that you'll see in this issue. We're ready for some watch programs! Any presenters out there?

Finally, I'm going to miss seeing all of you at the December meeting. I'm also going to miss our "Great Gift Exchange" and the sing-alongs. But as you read this, I'll be somewhere around Missouri, making my way across the country to begin a new chapter in my life at the NAWCC school in Columbia, PA. I wish for each

of you the happiest of holiday seasons, a joyous New Year, and may we all be blessed with that most noble of wishes, Peace on Earth.



Self Ringing Bells Come to Beijing

Here is part of an account by a Jesuit priest, Father Ricci, on the presentation by the Jesuits of two clocks to the Emperor of China almost exactly 400 years ago:

One day the King of his own prompting suddenly remembered having seen a petition by some foreigners who wanted to present him with a self-ringing bell. Thus he cried, "How is it that those foreigners do not give me the self-ringing bell?" The eunuch who always accompanies the King, replied, "If Your Majesty does not endorse the record, how would the foreigners dare come to the Court with no licence?" Whereupon the King endorsed the record and summoned the foreigners... The Fathers arrived in Peking at the end of the Chinese year, namely on the 24th day of January 1601. On their arrival they took up residence at the palace of the eunuchs, just outside the gate, and here they arranged the presents and made a list of them. The following day the presents were brought to the Imperial Palace with considerable show and excitement.... The big clock, however, was not set and did not strike the hours, thus the King gave orders to summon the Fathers. This was done and they came post haste.... The Fathers were admitted to the second wall in a courtyard where the big clock had been laid and where a multitude of people had gathered. The King sent one of his high-ranking eunuchs named Li Chin who received the Fathers very graciously. He asked the Fathers many questions and he wanted to know their purpose in bringing presents to the King. He was quite pleased to know that they were not asking for any position and that they were religious people who served God with no interest in worldly goods. He was told that the clocks served to tell the time by day and by night, either by the striking of the bells or by the hands on the dials. The Fathers also explained that the clocks had to be regulated and that in two or three days they could give anyone the necessary instructions. The eunuch reported all this to the King and the King appointed to the task four eunuchs from the College of the Mathematicians which is within the Palace and is composed of twenty or thirty eunuchs. The four eunuchs had to learn how to

continued on page 4

Chinese Clock *(from page 3)*

regulate the clocks and to bring them into the King's room within three days. Thus the Fathers were lodged for three days in the quarters of the mathematicians and they spent days and nights teaching the four mathematicians how to take care of the clocks. They were always treated with great respect and the eunuch Mathan and his group paid for everything. It had been rumoured that he had accepted many valuable presents from the Fathers, which was not true, but Mathan had to disburse much money to silence the eunuchs who are close to the King.

The four mathematicians learned very diligently everything pertinent to the clocks. They actually wrote down everything they were told for they could not afford to forget any detail since this could cost them their lives. The King is so cruel to them that even for a slight fault the poor unfortunates are beaten to death or killed in some other manner. Their first care was to ask for the names in Chinese of all wheels, pinions, keys, and every other part of the clocks, and this the Fathers did, creating names both in the spoken and in the written language.... The three days assigned for instruction had not passed before the King called for the clocks. They were hastily taken to him and he was so pleased with them that he promoted the four eunuchs to a higher rank, which is a way to give them more authority and more income. The eunuchs were delighted, especially because, from that day on, two of them were permitted to enter the presence of the King to wind the small clock which he always kept with him day and night....

There was no place in the Imperial Palace where the big clock could be set to allow the weights to fall low enough to govern the wheels. So in the following year the King sent the clock to the Department of Public Works and gave the order to build a suitable wooden tower according to the design made by the Fathers. This tower had staircases, windows, and balconies, and it is very beautiful indeed. He also had the bell of the clock replaced by a new one. The clock tower was indeed worthy of royalty and one thousand and three hundred ducats were spent on it. By royal order the clock tower was placed outside the second wall of the Palace, in one of the gardens of the King, where he often goes for recreation and where he keeps many other precious things.

From Clocks and Culture 1300 - 1700 by Carlo M. Cipolla, W. W. Norton Company, publisher

General Meeting Minutes November 2, 2001

The President, Dave Weisbart, called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. He welcomed our guests: Don Hosford, Michael Razee (new member), Betty and Dennis Woodson, and Jerry Happ. He also expressed delight in seeing Betty and Herb Wanser. Dave thanked Elle Clark for bringing the scones for refreshments. The prior meeting's minutes were approved as published in the Tic Talk Times.

Announcements

The Director's meeting will be at Terry and Marsha Cunningham's house on Wednesday, November 7. Dave said that the

continued on page 5

Directors' Meeting Minutes November 7, 2001

Dave Weisbart opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Marsha and Terry Cunningham's house. Those in attendance were: Dave Weisbart, Terry and Marsha Cunningham, Charles Register, Ed Athey, Angelo and Sally DiMino, Ray Marsolek, Mary Ann Wahlner, and Bob and Cora Lee Linkenhoker.

December Meeting

Terry said the December meeting would be the gift exchange and asked that Dave send him the horological version of the 12 Days of Christmas so he can upload them to his computer. He plans to have the lyrics projected on the screen for the members to "sing along." Sally was asked to have different colors for the raffle tickets and the gift exchange. Bob Linkenhoker said he had some blue raffle tickets that he would also bring. Dave said that Bud Saiben agreed to do the 50-50 raffles.

Dave discussed the November meeting's wonderful program and how well the meeting progressed. He was very enthused that we had such a large turnout and pleased at the number of "evangelists" who picked up applications to distribute.

Fellow applications were discussed, and the rules for the different levels were explained. Mary Ann told us that the committee chairpersons for the 2002 Convention would automatically get a Certificate of Achievement, as long as Bill Mc Nelis submits their names to National.

Library

Dave asked Charles Register if he had reviewed any of the videos in the library to recommend for future programs. Charles talked about the time factor in reviewing them and said he would do so as soon as possible. Dave asked him for an article about a video to put into the Tic Talk Times for the January issue. He was asked to get this to Dave before Christmas.

Camera Purchase

Dave told us that the \$700 plus figure he gave us as the price of the camera was made in error. That figure was for Japanese delivery models and had no warranty. He had to spend about \$100 more to get us the U.S. delivery model. He said he would donate the difference in price if he could use the camera for some special events of personal use. Sally moved and it was seconded that he could do so. Terry expressed his disapproval to have Dave use the camera for his personal use, reminding us of the standing policy that the equipment could not be used by any member unless the board approved of it and that it had to be used only for local Chapter, Regional, or National

continued on page 5

General Meeting *(cont. from page 4)*

company that has our clocks in the exhibit at LAX has asked that we allow the clocks to remain there until June of 2002. Dave told the membership that he would personally contact all members who had put their clocks in the exhibit to make sure it was OK with them.

The platform escapement class has been postponed until early next year. Doug Adams has asked for feedback on what members might want.

Dave Weisbart talked shortly about the 2002 National. The committee is working diligently to make sure it will continue. National has informed us they cannot pay for any losses so we are economizing to scale down to the attendance.

Dave asked for more evangelists to take our brochures out to antique stores. This is a great way to get new members into our Chapter.

Our December meeting will be "The Great Gift Exchange." Anyone wishing to participate please bring a \$5 to \$10 gift-wrapped present. You will then get a raffle ticket and when your number is picked, you can pick one from the total group. Cora Lee Linkenhoker reminded everyone to bring a plate of goodies to get in free. Dave asked Bud Saiben to do the 50-50 raffles as he has always done such a wonderful job of it in the past.

Charles Register advised the membership that some of the overdue books were returned; and he welcomed all members to take advantage of checking them out.

Dave told us that he is making a career change and will be taking the nine National clock courses being offered starting in January, and will be away from most of the meetings until April. He will continue to do the Tic Talk Times while there. He plans to go into the clock business when he finishes the courses.

We watched the video on the Illinois Watch Company that Terry Cunningham got from the National. It was absolutely wonderful.

Chapter 69 got a citation for all its help at the Del Mar Regional.

Show and Tell

Gene Osten brought a size 16 Illinois factory display watch that was made in 1919. He told us that he also has a wristwatch that was made in 1948 when the company went out of business.

Tom Purce brought a 1926 Illinois 21 jewel watch. It was a gold filled case.

Terry Cunningham brought his #506 Royal Bonn clock and told the members it was featured in the 1894 catalog. It has a round movement.

Dave Weisbart talked about our new camera and its great features. He asked for any member to consider giving a watch program now that we have the camera and it shows the fine details of watches so well.

Door prizes were won by the following:

- Dick Dewey, demitasse cups
- Doug Adams, book
- Ray Marsolek, candy
- Pat Espe, tools
- Pete Powers, delft battery operated wall clock

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

Respectfully Submitted, Marsha Cunningham, Secretary

Directors' Meeting *(cont. from page 4)*

business. Mary Ann revised the motion to reimburse Dave the full cost of the camera without personal use; and the motion was passed.

Workshops

Workshops were discussed in length. Terry expressed concern about the price of the workshop and the required tools. The board discussed the fact that if tools will be needed, a list should be given to attendees well in advance. Dave said the Education Committee should be involved in this information.

Ray Marsolek offered to give three separate six-hour classes during the next year for free with a maximum of six people each. He said that he would not charge for these classes but would like the Chapter to reimburse him for the small expenses of material. The expenses were discussed and the board agreed to charge a nominal fee to the attendees for coverage of those expenses.

Terry said he would be able to have a small class on shellac. Dave also said that he might be able to hold a class after he completes the clock repair classes.

Miscellany

Dave talked about his plans for his trip to Columbia and how it will work concerning his duties with our Chapter. He very much wants to stay involved and brought a speakerphone to enable him to participate in our board meetings.

A discussion was held on the door receipts. Ray wanted some way to the track different ways people pay at the door (like paying as a couple, having a yearly pass, being a member, or being a guest). Charles said he would provide a "clicker" that has six buttons to enable us to do this. Charles was asked by Ray to have this for the January meeting.

Bob gave us a copy of the financial report. After reviewing it, the board moved and passed to accept it as printed.

Terry expressed concern that the Tick Talk Times was too lengthy. A discussion was held and it was decided to leave it as it is. Marsha wanted the board meeting minutes left out of the Tick Talk Times, but that was also defeated. A motion was passed to have the secretary e-mail the minutes within five days after the board meeting to all the board members for their approval before publishing them in the Tick Talk Times. The board members will, in turn, have five days to approve or correct the minutes and get this information back to the secretary. This motion was passed.

Charles talked about the elimination of the hospitality room at the 2002 National. He wanted a place to "put his feet up" and wanted our Chapter to consider having one. It was explained that the hospitality room being discussed is the one that provides refreshments to all attendees at the mart, and there will be a room for the workers to relax.

Ed told us he has the refreshments lined up for the Chapter meetings to February.

Mary Ann told us she would not be at the December meeting. She distributed L.A. Regional flyers and said she would mail 170-180 to Bud Saiben to put into the Tick Talk Times. Mary Ann also talked about a recent communication from headquarters regarding our Chapter's ability to underwrite losses that might result from the 2002 National. Charles moved that our Chapter draft a letter to headquarters expressing our concerns regarding financial responsibility. Dave said he would write to Doug Cowan by e-mail and send a copy to Bill McNeil's and all the board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Marsha Cunningham, Secretary