



Don't Take Anything For Granted

This was the theme of Ferdinand Geitner's presentation at the Chapter 190 February meeting.

Ferdinand showed photos of various watches that looked to be in perfect condition with no need of cleaning until they were disassembled. Upon disassembly, it was obvious that there were major problems that required extensive repair, from parts corroded into place, to broken parts.

The presentation continued with photos and discussion of some very unique repairs, modifications, and unusual designs. A pocket watch with both a functioning 12 hour dial and a 24 hour dial. A clock movement that had been modified to use an Elgin pocket watch's time train to drive the clock's motion works. A statue of a girl cupping her ear with her hand and, after closer examination, you could see that a very tiny functioning time piece was in her hand.

These, and other clocks, were on display for close up viewing. If you missed the meeting you missed a great program. It is unlikely that we will ever have the opportunity to see unique items like these anywhere again. ■



The best portion of a good man's life: his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.

William Wordsworth

Lead your life so you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.

Will Rogers

What Is A Regulator?

By Ken McWilliams

We have all heard various kinds of clocks called "Regulators" We have Vienna regulators, Crystal Regulators, Seth Thomas #2 regulator etc. Yet few of us have stopped to ask, "what the heck is a regulator anyway?" What right does any clock have to be called a regulator? There are many opinions by various experts but no universally agreed upon definition.

Let's do a logical analysis of the subject. If a clock is a regulator, what does it regulate? Webster defines regulate as:

"REGULATE - To dispose, order or govern by rule or system; as, to regulate the market. 2. To put or keep in good order; adjust according to standard; as, to regulate a watch or mechanism. 3. To reduce to or maintain in order; as, to regulate disordered finances."

Many makers of French and other European clocks printed an R and an A on the face of the pendulum bob to indicate that a turn of the rating screw toward the **R** would retard the rate, and a turn toward the **A** would accelerate the rate. By this they designated the pendulum bob as the clock's "regulator." Some put a plus sign (+) on one side and a minus sign (-) on the other indicating which way to turn the screw.

Misnomers occur quite often, much too often. If we hear or read a name or term used by someone who should know, we are prone to accept it and repeat it as authoritative and the incorrect name is then perpetuated.

I imagine, that sometime back in the nineteenth century a man made a clock. The customer who purchased the clock complained that it ran fast and then the maker had to explain the workings of the screw under the pendulum bob. As he made more clocks and more customers complained he came to the conclusion that there should be something to tell his customers what that gadget in there was. So he pasted a printed sheet of instructions inside or on the back. Then some enterprising clockmaker said to himself, "I'll put a sign on the front door so they can't miss it," and there it is in bold letters, right on the front door, **REGULATOR**.

The "do-dad" hanging directly behind that sign is the regulator. It is therefore the pendulum adjustment nut that is the regulator, **NOT** the clock.

So, if you are still determined that you will call your clock a regulator, make sure it regulates something. Perhaps it could turn on your coffee maker in the morning or turn the lights off at night. But the clock that hangs on your wall is not a regulator, only that little knurled nut on the rating screw at the bottom of the pendulum bob has the right or reason to be called a regulator. ■

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Nature gave men two ends - one to sit on and one to think with. Ever since then man's success or failure has been dependent on the one he used most.

George R. Kirkpatrick

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

Chapter 190 enters the month of March with new features to keep our chapter interesting, up to date, fun and moving forward.

The Chapter has a new Director, and Webmaster - Dave Coatsworth. Dave has been busy adding new articles and connections (links) that have made the Website a valuable tool. If you designate Chapter 190 website as a favorite on your internet provider you have direct access (short cut) to many of the horological sights that you may presently access. As an example, on the "LINKS" page are direct connections to horological parts stores, where you can find and order parts and tools, there are connections to horological book stores and many links for research. There are links to get you to the NAWCC for research and other NAWCC offerings. Please check out the excellent article on "Pocket Watches" written by Dave. New articles, links and features will be added periodically.

Our Website www.nawcc-ch190.com is also part of a "Web Ring" that you can find on the bottom of the Home page. This Web Ring, set up and supported by Samuel Kirk in Arkansas, will get you into other Chapters and their offerings. Also check out "KIRK KLOX SPECIAL PROJECT INDEX" at the bottom of the Home Page.

All of the work in providing this Website is the donated talent and the labor of Dave and Samuel. Have some fun and explore these other areas.

Our Chapter is providing an educational opportunity, a Field Suitcase Class- FSW 301 "Basic Pocket Watch Repair" see details in this newsletter. Other educational opportunities are to be announced.

Your Chapter Board through its educational opportunities, publicity in local papers, website and Chapter Meetings is reaching out beyond its NAWCC membership to foster interest from the public. We are looking for opportunities to exhibit in public places. There is also the possibility of an interesting tower clock project in our future.

All of these items described above are opportunities to grow our Chapter, keep it interesting, fun and moving forward.

The Chapter meetings have been well attended. We have all met some very nice people. The clocks and watches that have been shared were received with great interest. A lot of questions and help have been exchanged by all who have attended.

For our next meeting please continue to bring and share some clocks and watches that have your interest. I look forward to what neat things you will all bring.

See you all at the next meeting

Mike



Happy Birthday

Robert Gary • Richard Glen

Paul Meder • Jorge Montoya

Toni Moss

A Mid Nineteenth Century Elisha Manross Spring Driven Clock

by Bill Robinson

The clock shown is a Sharp Gothic on Frame (steeple on steeple) with an eight day brass strap, reverse fusee movement. The bottom reverse painting is probably a replacement. Manufactured date, about 1848 1851.

The following facts were obtained from "The Contribution of Joseph Ives to Connecticut Clock Technology 1810-1862" by Kenneth D. Roberts. (Revised Second Edition, 1988)

Elisha Manross was born in 1792 and died in 1856 two years after his clock manufacturing business went bankrupt. Elisha Manross and John C. Cowles bought a clock factory from Joseph Ives in 1812 in the village of Bristol, Conn.. After 1813 Manross may have made wooden movement clock parts for Chauncey Boardman. He is recorded as having made clock parts for Boardman & Wells and Orton & Preston. Manross manufactured wood movement parts in Bristol, Conn. at least through 1836. By 1847 he was manufacturing 8-day brass movement clocks.

In 1851 the tax assessment dollar valuation of his clock manufacturing firm in Bristol, Conn. was \$5,000. For comparison, the tax assessment valuation in 1851 of Birge, Peck & Co. was also \$5000, J.C. Brown \$5,800 and Brewster & Ingraham \$15,000. Elisha Manross declared bankruptcy in 1854 and his firm was dissolved.

The Elisha Manross brass strap movement pictured here was unusual in this style of small shelf clock. The cast iron frame below the movement contains the reverse fusees and the springs that drive the clock and the strike. The springs are near the back of the case and are attached to arbors that are affixed to wooden cones. The smaller radius of the cone is nearest the springs towards the back of the case. A line is wrapped around grooves in the cone and travels up to the large great wheel arbor at the bottom of the movement above the cast iron frame. As the springs are wound up by turning the great wheel arbor and winding the line onto the drum, the line travels up the cone



towards the front of the case and, when fully wound, the line is tangent to the large radius of the wooden fusee cone in the cast iron frame. As the clock runs down, the line is transferred from the great wheel arbor drum to the wooden cone fusee and, when wound down, the line is tangent to the small radius of the wooden fusee cone.

This arrangement provides an approximately constant tension on the driving line between the fusee cone and the great wheel arbor. The earliest clocks of this sort had the springs contained in circular wells bored into a wooden block affixed to the back of the case.

Those familiar with the English-European construction of the fusee should note that the English style fusee-spring-great wheel structure is the reverse of that described here. The great is wheel affixed to the large diameter of the fusee and the spring in a separate barrel with the tension on the driving line between the two being variable rather than constant.

For more information on the American style reverse fusee see page 241 of the volume by Kenneth D. Roberts cited above. There is also a short article on page 616 of the October 1983 copy of the NAWCC Bulletin, whole number 226, which discusses the reverse fusee using elementary physics and very basic algebra.

"Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them."

Eeyore, from Winnie the Pooh

It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first.

Ronald Reagan

**The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
will be March 18, 2007**

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15

The Meeting starts at 1:30

PROGRAM

by Harry Larson

"Lux Clocks"

The Lux clock company was started in 1914.

**Even though they were inexpensive, mass produced
clocks, they are still very collectable and affordable.**

This is a very colorful and fun program

SHOW & TELL

Bring anything that you would like to share with us



COMING EVENTS

Chapter 75 Meeting & Mart

Sunday, March 25th
Call Kim St Dennis for info.
(818) 349-8031

11th Inland Counties Fair

Ch 81's Watch & Clock Annual Mart

Saturday, April 14th. 9:00 am to 1:00pm
Palomares Park senior Center
499 East Arrow highway, Pomona, CA
For info call: Al Umbrello, (626) 339-8129

Next Chapter 190 Meeting

April 15th
Jorge Montoya will be presenting
a program on modern mechanical watches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basic Pocket Watch Repair Class

The NAWCC sponsored
FSW 301 Pocket Watch class
May 4-7 (Fri, Sat, Sun & Mon)
It will be held at Ventura College.
The class is almost full. Only a couple
seats remain and they are on
a first come basis, so if you are interested
in the class contact Paul Skeels soon.
(805) 525-7325

Santa Paula Tower Clock And Street Clock.

Paul Skeeles, Bill Robinson and Ken McWilliams
will be examining a Seth Thomas tower clock in
Santa Paula later this month. It was installed in the
Odd Fellows lodge in 1905. They will determine if
its restoration/repair/maintenance is something
that our chapter would like to take on as a project.
If we do decide to accept the challenge, interested
members may volunteer their help. An old street
clock will also be evaluated at the same time.

Some Candid February Meeting Shots



Relaxing at the Mart



Reading the Chrono Times



Ferdinand preparing for his program



Jim Chamberlain sharing a rare English fusee



Watching Show & Tell

CLASSIFIED PAGE

This page is dedicated to advertising for Chapter 190 members. It is, of course, free to members.

There are two ways to get your ad listed here.

1. The quickest way is to e-mail it to internut@socal.rr.com. Text should be in MS word, MS notepad or RTF format. If you want to have a photo in the ad attach it to the e-mail. (JPEG or TIFF Format)
2. Bring your ad to the monthly meeting and give it to Ken McWilliams or Mike Schmidt. Pictures can be scanned into your ad at no charge. If you want it returned provide a stamped self addressed envelope.

When you create your ad remember to describe the item or service clearly. When possible, include prices. ALWAYS include a way to contact you. Phone number and e-mail address if you have one. Just give us the information and we will help with the layout. If you prefer to create your own ad, provide it in an EPS format or hi res jpeg.

SERVICES OFFERED

The Montecito Clock Gallery

Restoration, repair, sales of clocks and watches.

Ferdinand Geitner, mbhi, owner and operator
Now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a
Montecito (one block from old site)
(805) 565-9097

Jorge Montoya

Complete Watch Service Center

Repair & Restore all American & Swiss watches.
12 years as a Rolex technician. We maintain a
complete shop with all the latest equipment.
(562) 531-0545 • (562) 688-6171
E-mail: jorgemont2001@netzero.net

WANTED

Looking for a particular clock, watch, tool, part service etc.

You may get lucky here.

FOR SALE

Ingersolls Clocks & Antiques

STORE CLOSING SALE

30% off everything!

50 Clocks

1 wt Viennas, Mantle, Wall, Long Case and more.

Open Thurs, Fri, & Sat 10:30 to 4:30

62 Palm dr. Camarillo, Ca

(805) 484-8813 - (805) 482-9936

Magnificent Herschede

Five Tubular Bell Hall Clock.

Eight feet tall with three inch full columns on a solid mahogany case. Gold-plated dial with hand painted moon phase indicator. Recently professionally serviced.

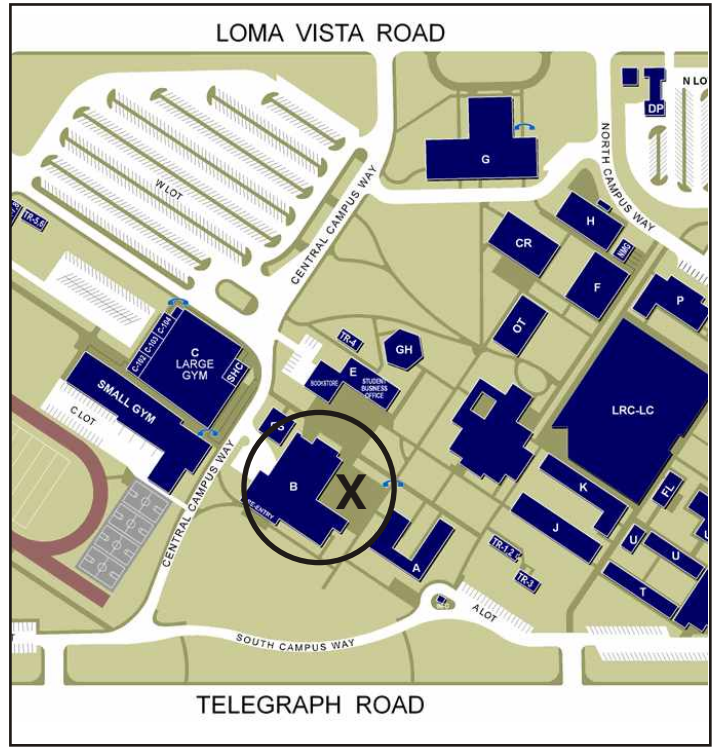
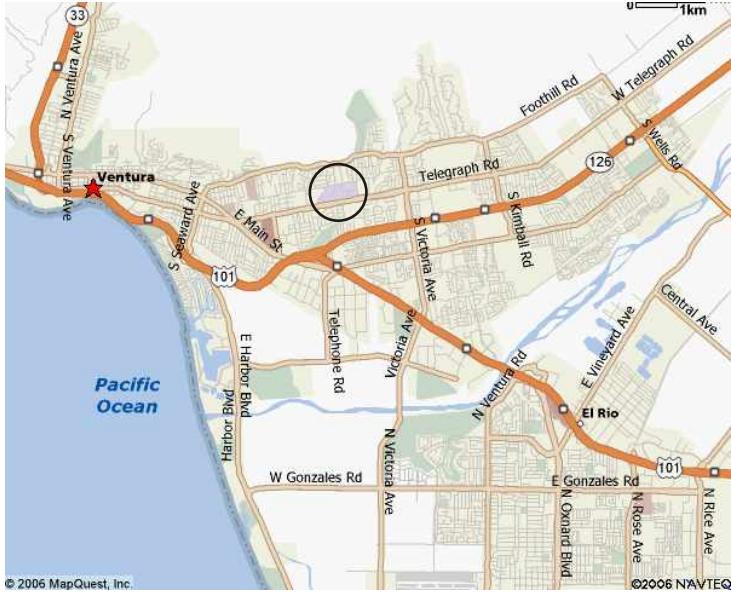
Runs & Looks Perfect. \$5,000

Call George Gaglini **805-647-6463**

Need to dispose of a clock, watch, tool, excess stock?

Someone may be looking for just that item.

The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)
We will meet in the cafeteria on the Ventura College campus. The cafeteria is located in building "B", east of the gym and athletic field.



Hope to see you there!

March 2007 Issue

MAIR 18
NEXT MEETING

If Undeliverable return To:
 17738 Superior St. Unit 21
 Northridge, CA 91325

Chrono Times