



THE PENDULUMS CONTRIBUTION

THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK is actually a great monument to a millennia-long search to find some way to measure time more precisely. It appeared almost simultaneously in England and Holland in the mid 17th century, and the Puritans of both countries championed the advance.

It was all about the pendulum. Pendulums had been used by astronomers and physicists for centuries, but it wasn't until 1656 that the eminent Dutch astronomer-physicist Christian Huygens invented the pendulum clock, a considerably more complex piece of scientific engineering. English clockmakers quickly refined Huygens's invention. In just a few years, the longcase clock, as the grandfather clock was then called, had turned the lantern clock into a relic. The lantern clock, which ran on a system of weights and pulleys, had to be wound every 30 hours and could lose as much as 15 minutes a day. A well made pendulum clock, which usually needs winding only every seven days, can keep accurate time for centuries.

Despite its status as a scientific breakthrough, a longcase clock is often best identified by the craftsmanship and style of its cabinetry. Over the past 300 years, fashions have changed dozens of times, but a few general distinctions can be made. The earliest grandfathers look like housed lantern clocks, rectilinear and austere. Dark wood, either ebony or ebonized oak or walnut, has been one of the most consistent elements, except on the Continent, where the oak and walnut cases were often splashed with colorful veneers and patterns rather than ebonized. But long cases were always less popular in Europe than in the British Isles and America. Most were crafted by English clockmakers for such prized Continental customers as Russian czars and Italian doges.

Stylistic variations, including clock faces and hands, can give important clues to the age of the large timepieces. Moon phases appear only after 1740. After 1780, Arabic numerals replaced Roman ones. Heavy or intricately carved hands are rare after 1825. Elaborate hoods (the upper



portion of the clock that houses the face and movement) only became popular in the 19th century. But amidst all the style changes, the aesthetic challenge of the clockmaker has remained the same: how to accommodate the standard 3 ½ foot pendulum, the base, and the hood while imparting elegance to the form.

It wasn't until the 1870s that the common name changed from longcase or tall-case clocks to grandfather clocks. The renaming was inspired by a popular ditty, "My Grandfather's Clock," by American songwriter Henry Clay Work. Judging by its long success, it's a campfire favorite to this day, Work's sentimental song has kept good time too. ■

This Chippendale tall-case clock, circa 1773, was made by noted astronomer David Rittenhouse and is on display at Drexel University.

The article and photo are from the September 2003 issue of Traditional Home Magazine.

The Repair Job

The following article was given to me some years ago by Jim Chamberlain. The author, Leonard Miller, was responding to a letter in a local newspaper in the early 1900's.

Editor

The Sunday Express of 30 October published a letter from a reader entitled "Repair job" Your reader's letter reminds me of another half-hunter watch. It belonged to an old friend. When he retired from the Indian Civil-Service he chose to return home by way of Japan. His watch had stopped, so when his ship arrived for 24 hours in Yokohama he asked a Japanese watchmaker to see to it.

The watch was returned next day with the explanation that it had needed a new hairspring.

For the rest of the voyage home it kept perfect time, but after some months it began to lose time. So my friend took it to a well-known London firm for adjustment.

When collecting it, he was astonished to be told that he must, of course, expect some variation with climate, considering its wooden hairspring. Unable to believe this, my friend opened up the watch, and there it was, a tiny sliver of bamboo, beautifully cut and coiled into a complete replica of the original spring."

I expect most people have enough trouble with ordinary metal hairsprings let alone a wooden balance spring! (It wouldn't rust, of course, but might get wood-worms). ■

Leonard Miller, Suffolk England

Officers and Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Mike Schmidt

(805) 988-1764 • EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken McWilliams

(818) 718-8300 • internut@socal.rr.com

SECRETARY

Paul Skeels

(805) 525-7325 • plskeelsatty@verizon.net

TREASURER

Dona Gaglini

(805) 497-8381 • gfgaglini@adelphia.net

DIRECTOR • Public Relations

Robert Gary

(805) 388-1694 • homepromousa@earthlink.net

DIRECTOR • Mart

William Robinson

(805) 642-7329 • whrobi@adelphia.net

DIRECTOR • Membership

George Gaglini

(805) 497-8381 • gfgaglini@adelphia.net

DIRECTOR • Education

Ferdinand Geitner

(805) 565-9097

DIRECTOR • Hospitality

Dutch & Dorothy Friou

(805) 985-6438 • dmottar@yahoo.com

EDITOR

Ken McWilliams

Web Site:

www.nawcc-ch190.com

WEBMASTER

David Coatsworth

dave@biswebdesign.com

E-Mail For Newsletter:
internut@socal.rr.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

Well folks! Chapter 190 moved forward into the month of May with a lot of positive momentum. Our Chapter now has 74 members. That is quite an accomplishment for a new Chapter. Everyone in the Chapter is to be congratulated. The warm reception that visitors and new members receive at our meetings really makes a difference. We all seem to remember that we were all beginners at one time and someone helped and guided us in the right directions.



We have completed the first suitcase class “Basic Pocket Watch Repair” and will soon announce other educational opportunities.

We have committed to the Santa Paula Tower Clock project.. A committee chaired by Richard Henderson has formed with work commencing this month.

Your Board has voted to incorporate Chapter 190 as a Public Benefit, non profit corporation for educational purposes. The corporation will comply with all Federal and State nonprofit requirements and all NAWCC Chapter requirements. This will give the Board and Chapter members the proper legal protections and the ability to accept donations. The cost to prepare the legal documents has been donated by a member of the Board and the \$400 fees for incorporation have been donated by another Board member. *On behalf of all Chapter members a special THANK YOU for these donations.*

At the April meeting a lunch of Pizza, Salad, and drink was provided to sooth those hunger pangs earned from all the haggling, negotiating, questioning and smoothing that goes on during the mart. The lunch was enjoyed by all. The majority vote was to continue with the pizza lunch at future meetings. The cost of the *optional* lunch will be \$5.00, children free. The entrance fee is still \$3 and includes coffee and snacks.

The May meeting topic will be on “Clock Collecting-How to identify clocks, evaluate the condition and how to place a value for buying and selling” This will be led by Ken McWilliams, a 15 minute presentation, followed by a round table discussion.

The Show and Tell portion will be Seth Thomas Series Clocks. Please bring any City, or other series Clocks or your favorite Seth Thomas Clock or Watch. Any clock or watch you may wish to share is always welcome.

See you all at the next meeting

Mike



Happy Birthday

George Antinarelli,

Henri Bonnet, Ron Boogreen

Russel Frey & Gale Mostyn

“If you don't stand behind and practice your values and principals, they're not your values and they're not principals.”

Michael Josephson

Ventura Chapter 190 people

Each issue of our newsletter will feature members of our chapter with a short biography or some of their horological interests to help us get to know each other.

Dutch & Dot Friou - Hospitality

Forrest "Dutch" and Dorothy "Dot" Friou, our Directors of Hospitality, can usually be found at our meetings some where close to the hospitality table. They both come in early to the Chapter meetings and set up the coffee and treats. Dutch, who usually sets up a sellers table, is always close by, available for Dot if she needs him. Dutch has always been close by for Dot, that's the way it's been for 56 years.

Dutch started collecting clocks in the early 60's, when his brother, stationed in Germany, returned with a shipment of 27 grandfather and 75 wall clocks. His first clock from this shipment was a 2 weight "Lenzkirch". That was the start of Dutch and Dots collection. According to Dutch, and their granddaughter, who helped count the clocks, they have 165 nicely displayed in their home. There collection includes many interesting grandfathers, carriage clocks, Atmos, Gruen, LeColtre , early 400 day clocks, French, German, American clocks, electric clocks and many others.



Dutch likes all clocks. All have been repaired by him and are in good running condition. He learned how to repair clocks from repair books, help from chapter 75 members and other friends that were in the repair business. Much of what he has learned came from just doing it, and his inquiring mind asking "just how does this work".

Dutch has a shop in the back yard where he spends his time working on his latest finds. He likes to work on French movements because of their quality.

Dot has a collection of small glass and crystal clocks. Some are beautiful blown glass. They add a special touch to all the well displayed clocks in their home. Dot also likes to design and make costume jewelry.

Dutch and Dot have acquired most of their clocks from home garage sales beginning in the early 60's. The variety and quality of their finds is amazing. Dutch says the hunt for good quality clocks has become more difficult over the years. "You have to go to a lot of garage sales before you find a treasure". Dutch and Dot enjoy

the hunt at garage sales and that is where you likely will find them on a Saturday morning. ■

Notice to members:

Each month Robert Gary, (our director of publicity) sends out dozens of press releases about our chapter. We never know which ones get printed and which ones get ignored.

You can help us evaluate this effort by letting us know when you see one in print. Contact Robert or Mike and tell them where and when you saw the item. That way, Robert can concentrate on publications that are supportive and not waste time on the others.

Thank you for your help. Editor

Welcome New Members

John Berney, Richard Banks

& Laurie Conti



Chapter 190's Basic Watch Repair Class Enjoyed by all attendees. Plans underway for Advanced Class



The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
Will be May 20, 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



COMING EVENTS

Chapter 75 Meeting & Mart

Sunday, May 27th
Call Kim St Dennis for info.
(818) 349-8031

Next Chapter 190 Meeting

June 17th

PROGRAM

"Evaluating and Dating Antique Clocks"

This will provide some guidelines to aid in buying or selling old clocks. A round table discussion will follow, so here is your chance to get your questions answered

SHOW & TELL

Seth Thomas clocks will be featured. Bring your favorite

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.

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

PACIFIC COAST CLOCKS

In business since 1977.

Sales and Restoration of both new and antique clocks. Repair of all types of mechanical clocks.

Loren Miller proprietor.

4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca. 93003

(Located in Firehouse Plaza at Main St. and Telephone Rd)

Monday through Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 pm.

Tel. 805-650-8800

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 Vienna's, 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.

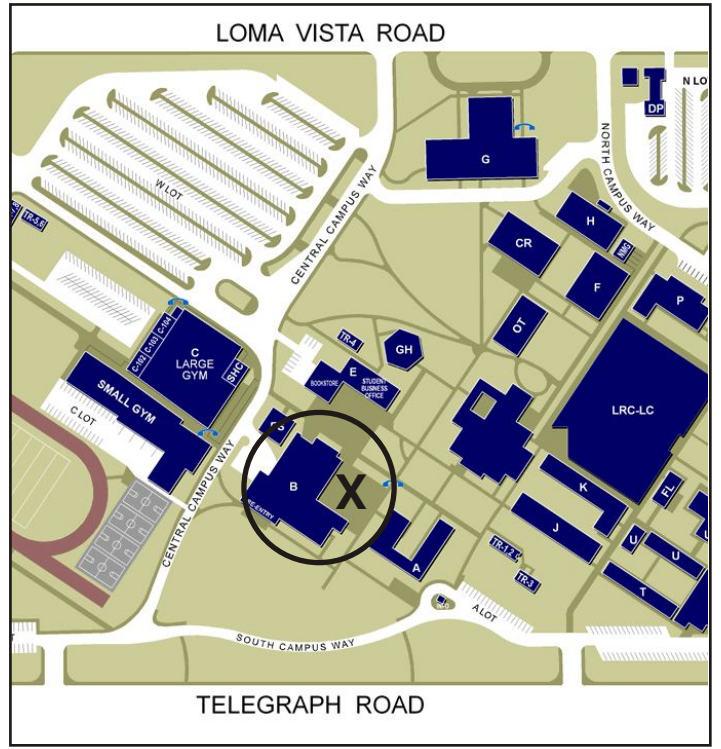
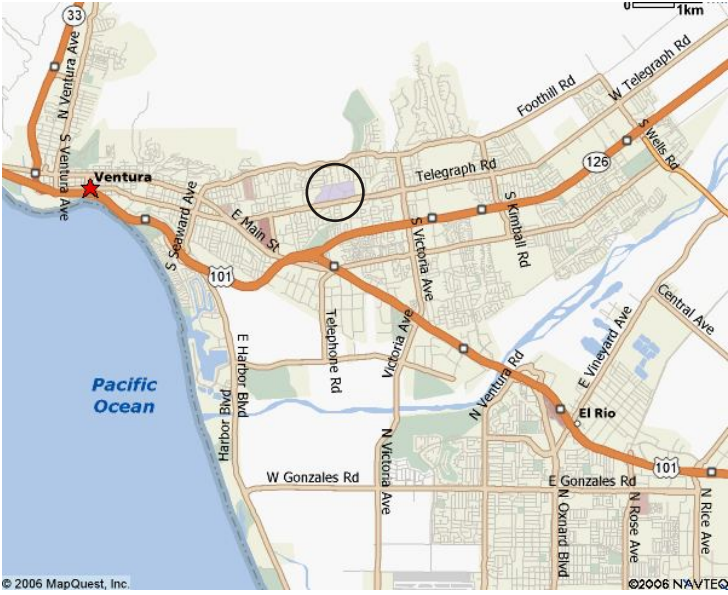
Runs & Looks Perfect. \$5,000

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!

May 2007 Issue

MAY 20
NEXT MEETING

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