



UP-DATE ON OUR MART

by Ernie Jensen



Seated at the controls of the North American SNJ-5 is Mitchell Lopes, the recipient of the free ride that was won at our Annual Antique Clock & Watch Show. The big smile on Mitchell's face is credited to his grandmother, Wilma Lopes, who held the winning ticket at the raffle. Wilma and her husband, Larry Lopes, are members of Chapter 190 and brought the family, three generations of the Lopes, to the Mart.

Wilma said "It is fitting that Mitchell should enjoy the ride as he is off to Notre Dame in the fall where he will be majoring in Aerospace Engineering and is ultimately aspiring to be a navy pilot." The smile on Mitchell's face, when seated in the cockpit, is only exceeded by the smile on the face of Wilma when she is talking about her grandson.



Mitchell's other interests are helping his dad, David Lopes, in their hobby of restoring Model A automobiles where they have received National Championship Awards.

We were happy to see many families enjoying the Mart this year. We expanded the scale of the Mart to reach a larger group of interests this year. How fitting that the reward should go to the Lopes' family. Congratulation to Mitchell! ■

NO LIMIT TO THE THINGS WE'LL DO TO HELP A CLOCK OR FELLOW CHAPTER MEMBER

by Ken McWilliams

Mostyn Gale is the caretaker of the tower clock in the Santa Barbara Courthouse. It had gone without professional care for a long time and Mostyn has been slowly bringing it back to its original state. (See article in August 2009, Chrono Times)

Earlier this month, Mostyn discovered that the minute hand on the east dial was frozen. He removed the drive tube to prevent damage and investigated the cause. He soon discovered that the problem was somewhere in the motion works unit and it would have to be removed, this was not a one man job. So, he sent an e-mail to a few of his fellow chapter 190 clock repair members, and asked for a helping hand.

The following Saturday morning, Mike Schmidt, George Gaglini, and myself met with Mostyn at the courthouse. We examined the situation and agreed that the problem was most likely the outer minute arbor bearing and the entire unit must come out. To accomplish this, the minute and hour hands would have to be removed.

There was a small access window near the center of the dial. It is about 18 inches square and about 12 inches deep. Not much room and awkward, but it was worth a try.

Since Mostyn is the skinniest and youngest of our quartet, he was elected to be the one to let it all hang out.



Mostyn is not standing on the floor but is perched on a ledge that runs along the inner wall. (I tied a bungy cord to his ankles, in the event something happened we could retrieve him on the rebound.) The wrench and minute hand were secured to nylon straps to prevent them from falling to the ground. Working from both sides of the dial, the nut was removed in a surprisingly short time.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

The Chapters third Annual Mart/Show by all accounts was a great success. The weather was perfect and the nearly four hundred NAWCC members and invited public had a wonderful time. The Air Museum venue has become a favorite for all of our sellers and buyers.

The Chapter 190 Board introduced some new innovative features to the Mart. The features were directed to appeal to all the NAWCC members, their families, and the attending public. By the attendance numbers and 99.9 % of comments by those who attended these features were well received. The introduction of an evaluation and repair table was an overwhelming success. The door prizes were well received and the few antiques and jewelry tables introduced provided a unique mart experience for the whole family. My personal favorite was "Rose Ann's" fudge table.

This clock and watch show introduced the public to the wonderful world of horology. The public display of unique and amazing clocks provided by Jim Chamberlain and the 75 tables of watch and clock offerings from our sellers were admired and appreciated by all who attended. For many of the public this was their first exposure to the NAWCC and the wonderful world of horology.

I wish to thank our Mart Chairman Ernie Jenson and the Mart committee for all the effort put forth in making this event a great success. I thank all of the other folks who stepped forward to give a hand when they saw the need. A special thanks to the CAF World War II Air Museum's Steve Barber, Jr. and crew, and docents who made our Mart a great experience.

A FSW 101 is offered for October 22-25 "*Introduction to Basic Time & Strike.*" There are a few openings left in this 4th beginning class. coordinator Giorgio Perissinotto: 805 637-9810
email: giorgio@spansport.ucsb.edu

A special Class is offered for June 4-7 "*Dial Painting Class*" This class will be taught by Phil Gregory and will include one metal dial and one wooden dial. Coordinator Jim Gilmore: cell 805 341 2204 or 805 492-1827
email: bgil7007@verizon.net

A FSW 103 is offered for December 3-6 "*Introduction to Chiming Clocks*" coordinator Paul Skeels: 805 525-7325
email: plskeelsatty@verizon.net

The show & Tell has been terrific the past several months. Please keep bringing!

See you at the meeting! *Mike*



Happy Birthday

George Antinarelli, Henri Bonnet,
Ron Boogren, Russell Frey,
Mostyn Gale and Julie Palladino

With the minute arbor nut removed, Mostyn could remove the hand. He then lowered it until the end of the counter balance was even with the window. With a co-ordinated effort, we were able to bring the hand in through the window intact.

The hour hand presented Mostyn with a greater challenge due to the method of attachment to the arbor and difficult working conditions.

Eventually, the hand surrendered to Mostyn's will, and was brought into the tower.

Now, we were free to remove the motion works and tube assembly. As suspected, the outer minute arbor bearing was shot.



LOOSE, RUSTED, ROLLER BEARINGS

The bearing was an open race roller bearing and was not sealed or very well protected from the elements. The assembly also had a set of thrust bearings that looked OK. The next step will be to clean and examine all parts and replace those that show wear or damage. The outer minute arbor will probably get fitted with a full race bearing and a weather seal. When that is completed, we will re-install the assembly, hands, connect the leading off rods and the Dial will again be displaying the time to eastern Santa Barbara.

I would like to talk a little about the movement. It is a Seth Thomas #18 with a gravity escapement, factory installed chimes, strike, and auto rewind system. It was installed in the summer of 1929 but oddly the strike and chimes were never connected. Only the time train was activated. No one seems to know the reason for this, but the stock market crash of 1929 was only months away and may have had an influence on the decision. Amazingly, all of the original hammers and hardware necessary to connect them are still sitting there in the boxes they came in. All of the cams, hammer tails and gearing for the strike and chimes are as pristine as when they left the factory. Unused for the past eighty years.

I would venture to say, that this is probably the only Seth Thomas tower clock in the world that is in this condition.

I'll keep you informed of the progress of the Santa Barbara Courthouse clock. It is a great old clock, in a grand setting and a joy to work on. ■



George, Mike & Ken examining the minute arbor.

CHAPTER 190 PEOPLE

by Kris Clarkin

David Rubright



David Rubright was born in New Mexico and raised in Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Navy in 1958 where he applied for and was accepted into a four year college program with the University of Oklahoma. He graduated with a Chemical Engineering degree from OU which enabled him to get a commission.

He spent the next twenty years on submarines or submarine related shore billets, mostly stationed in New London, Connecticut. David served on both diesel submarines home ported in New London, and nuclear missile submarines making patrols out of Holy Loch, Scotland. (FYI he is so very not claustrophobic). He remained in the Navy for twenty years, retiring in 1978. After retiring from the Navy, he worked in Albuquerque, New Mexico for four years before moving to Camarillo to accept a better position at the CBC Base in Port Hueneme, ultimately retiring for a second time in 2000.

David has been married to Brenda since 1960. Congratulations and happy fiftieth anniversary to you both. They have one son, Cory, who is a Deputy Sheriff for Ventura County, living in Ventura.

Through most of the last fifty years, David carted around some clocks that both his and Brenda's family had passed on to them. None of them were in working order. When David saw an ad for a clock repair course at Ventura College given by Ken McWilliams, he signed up. He attended the Basic and Intermediate courses plus a weekend workshop.

Mike Schmidt came to class one day and announced that he was starting a local chapter of the NAWCC should any class members be interested. David signed up then and there, so he is a charter member of Chapter 190. He attends the monthly meetings (where he kindly provides the door prizes) and has taken several FSW clock classes. These classes have been beneficial in that all of his clocks are working once again, even his favorite, a Seth Thomas mantle clock that had been in his father's family. He finds that he does not enjoy collecting as much as he enjoys repairing clocks, especially old pendulum driven mantle clocks. While he certainly enjoys the NAWCC programs, he finds the FSW classes and people the absolute best part of the Chapter. ■

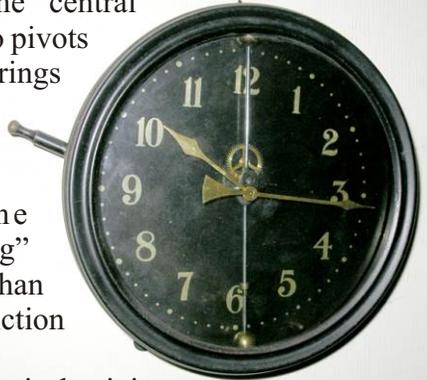
Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

A Curiosity

I came across an attractive, very simple, gravity style wall clock with a compound pendulum and a tic tac escapement spanning 1 ½ escape wheel teeth. I think it's of German manufacture from the 19th century and a well made simple movement.

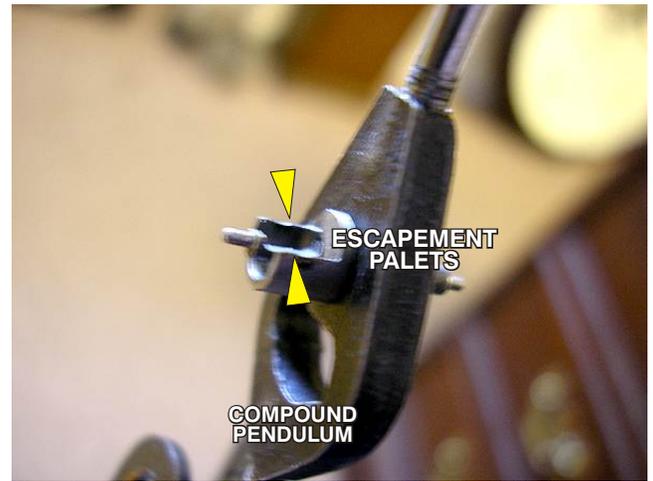
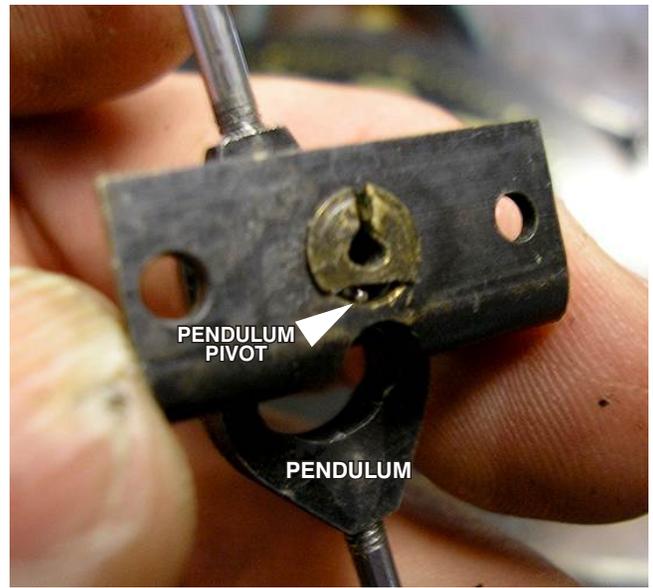
The case is just a pressed tin can but fits very precisely together. The central pendulum arbor has two pivots which do not run in bearings but roll inside a larger hole, being held in place by a half, split bush. This has the advantage of a "rolling" friction which is less than the usual "rubbing" friction in a tight round bearing.



The disadvantage is that it is not very precise lining up with the escape wheel. So one cannot use this kind of bearing in a quality dead beat escapement where one degree makes a difference in the clock working or stopping. The larger arc Tic Tac escapement used in this case is more forgiving.



The rate is adjusted by a nut on the lower pendulum rod and the clock is wound once a day by pushing the lever on the side of the clock down which raises a half round weight inside the clock.



It looks attractive and interesting with the visible escapement. But, I will let you be the judge of that. I like it. ■

When our chapter was new, and poor, J-n-K printed the Chrono Times free, for two and a half years, before we went to e-mail distribution. They continue do all of our printing, including our new brochure, at or below their cost. They have saved us, chapter 75 and GLAR many thousands of dollars over the years. This ad is our way of saying "Thank You" Remember J-n-K when you need one of the services they offer, you won't regret it. See their website for complete capabilities, examples and testimonials. www.jnkservices.com



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EVERYMAN'S WRISTWATCH

(Part three: Battery powered wristwatches)

by Henri Bonnet

In previous articles I have discussed some wristwatches that were popular in the nineteen fifties and sixties. The sixties and seventies were periods of rapid technological development, especially in the field of electronics. So, it was just a matter of time before battery powered wristwatches made their appearance on the horological scene. Early models were actually electro-mechanical timepieces, rather than electronic which still included a balance wheel. Hamilton was by far the prevalent brand of electrical wristwatches. They were reasonably accurate, however, they suffered from relatively rapid battery exhaustion.

With the appearance of the electronic tuning fork regulated Bulova Accutron, in the early sixties, the popularity of the electro-mechanical watch rapidly declined. The Accutron, not only was the most accurate watch on the market at the time, but its battery lasted for a full year, which was a significant improvement. Their price, initially high, gradually declined with increased demand and mass production. Other watch brands also began to offer tuning fork wristwatches, usually under a Bulova license. The Accutron timepiece was accurate and reliable enough to eventually participate in the space program. Many attractive models of tuning fork wristwatches were available. However, the appearance and proliferation of the quartz regulated timepieces, in turn, spelled the demise of both the electrical wristwatch and the Accutron. The nineteen fifties and sixties were also famous for the great variety of wrist chronographs which became available at a relatively reasonable, if somewhat higher, price. This seems to have been due primarily to a renewed interest in sports of all kinds, all of which requiring accurate time measurements.

Most of the sport chronographs were rugged timepieces, usually waterproof, with a black dial, airplane style. In addition, chronographs became quite popular with the urban population of that period as well. These chronographs featured a more elegant appearance with flat pushers and non waterproof thinner cases. Most had a silvered dial and many were offered in gold as well.

Practically all of those chronographs were Swiss made by multiple brands. Some of the better ones were fitted with Valjoux movements, including a full calendar and a 12 hour register. As an interesting aside, the chronographs of that period, oddly enough, also fulfilled a minor communications purpose. Since cell phones didn't exist at the time, there was a proliferation of pay-phones in virtually all public places. A 4 minute local phone call initially cost a dime. Some of the chronograph manufacturers accommodated the public by marking the 30 minute register in 4 minute increments, in order to make it easier to time a local call. Later chronograph editions featured only 3 minute marking increments, as

the cost of a local phone call increased. The following photos are some battery powered wristwatches as well as chronographs from the nineteen fifties and sixties.



Left: A Hamilton Electric with an attractive dial. Unfortunately, its battery life was short. **Right:** A Bulova Accutron with a calendar, a very handsome and most accurate wristwatch.



Left: A Universal Geneve Unisonic with calendar. Swiss made under Bulova license. **Right:** A Wakmann sport chronograph. Note the black dial, full calendar and 12 hour register



Left: A Tissot dress chronograph. Note the 4 min increment marks on the 30 min register. **Right:** An Ernest Borel chronograph. Note the 3 minute increments on the 30 min register. ■

Welcome New Member

Steven Schechter
from Fountain Valley



While Steve is a new member, his face will be recognized by many chapter members. Steve has attended several FSW workshops and meetings.



BREAKING NEWS!

Chapter 190 Has Accepted Invitation To Participate in New Horology Gallery

As we were going to press, the Santa Barbara Courthouse received approval to proceed with its proposed creation of a horology gallery in the clock tower. Our board of directors, by electronic vote, has agreed to accept their invitation to participate in the project.

The Santa Barbara Courthouse is a National Historic Landmark and part of that status includes the 1929 Seth Thomas Clockworks in the "Clock Tower." While the clock is loved by all who have been lucky enough to have seen it, that number is very small due to the unfinished room in which it sits. For those who live close by, the four faces are their daily time keeper.

The clock is carefully and lovingly cared for by Mostyn Gale, a member of the National Watch and Clock Collectors Association and our chapter.

The clock room, as it stands now, is little more than a storage room for miscellaneous original components of the courthouse, doors, windows, etc. The room has access by both an elevator and stairs from the ground floor's main lobby. It is principally the home of the Seth Thomas "Tower Clock". There are original parts that would complete the clock so that the hour and chime hammers would strike bells in appropriate sequence. The only components missing from the assembly are the cables and bells that were never installed.

Gallery Concept:

The room would be transformed into a gallery, telling the story of horology as the Seth Thomas clock faithfully ticks the minutes away just as it has since 1929. The vision for the room includes exhibits on the 3 walls surrounding the Seth Thomas clock.

Exhibit 1 would communicate the story of the history of horology, from the earliest sundials to the foliot to the pendulum to the hair spring to the quartz to the atomic clock.

Exhibit 2 would describe and illustrate the five critical parts of every clock, how a clock works with direct reference to the Seth Thomas clock in front of which everyone would be standing.

Exhibit 3 would interweave the history of horology with the history of Santa Barbara. It is thought that an exhibit of this type would be both appealing and compelling to a wide audience.

The Seth Thomas Clock would have any deficiencies corrected, including bearings, winding apparatus, balance and functionality issues. Once the deficiencies were corrected, the activation of the presently non-functioning elements of the clock would be corrected. This includes installation of pulleys and cables to activate the clock hammers for the strike and chime trains. Also included would be a glass enclosure to protect the clock during visiting hours, yet allow regular maintenance to occur. ■

The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
is May 16, 2010

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

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

The Meeting starts at 1:15

PROGRAM

"The Illinois Watch Company"

Presented by Dave Coatsworth

Learn about the Illinois watch history and models.

SHOW & TELL

"Bring an Illinois pocket watch or something you got at the Camarillo Mart"

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A FSW 101 is offered for October 22-25
"Introduction to Basic Time & Strike" There are a few openings left in this 4th beginning class.

Coordinator, Giorgio Perissinotto: 805 637-9810
email: giorgio@spansport.ucsb.edu

A FSW 102 is offered for August 13-16
"Time & Strike Barrel with Rack/Strap"
Coordinator Laurie Conti: 805 813-2216
email: Remember_the_Clock@me.com

A FSW 103 is offered for December 3-6
"Introduction to Chiming Clocks"
Coordinator, Paul Skeels: 805 525-7325
email: plskeelsatty@verizon.net

A FSW 402 is offered June 4 - 7
"Dial Painting Class"
Coordinator, Jim Gilmore: cell (805) 341-2204 or leave a message on (805) 492-1827.
email: bgil7007@verizon.net

The class will be held in Northridge, near Tampa and Mayall. We have room for 12 participants.

The class will be taught by **Phil Ggregory**. It will include restoration of one metal dial and one wooden dial. Some metal dials and blank wood will be available for those that do not have specific projects. Tools will be available for use in the class and tool kits will be available for those that wish to continue working after the class.

CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

SERVICES OFFERED

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Please contact: **Giorgio Perissinotto**

E-mail: giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

- Watch Repair Tools -

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I would prefer to purchase an entire collection of old
watchmaker's tools.

Please contact:

David Clarkin **Tel: 805-988-4384**

Antique French 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks.

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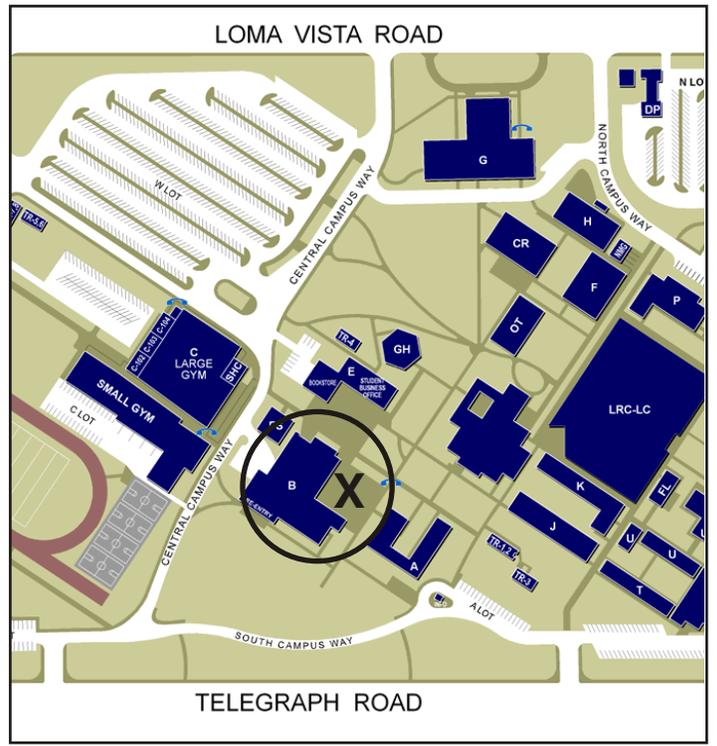
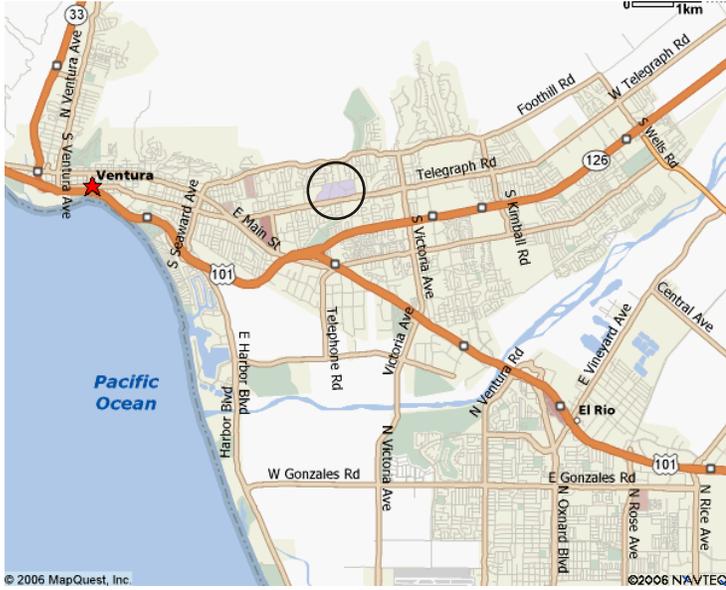
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The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)
 We will meet in the cafeteria on the Ventura College campus. The cafeteria is located in building "B", east of the gym and athletic field.



Hope to see you there!

May 2010 Issue



MAY 16
NEXT MEETING

Chrono Times
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