

Newsletter for Chapter 190 of The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

May - June, 2014

### **Desktop Dial Clocks**

#### by Neil Kuns

I have written previously about American desktop digital clocks such as Lawson, Pennwood, Barr,

and Telechron. There is another series of clocks that include the same direct-read feature of showing the numbers, not on rotating wheels, but on discs that rotate and display the time through a window in the clock face. Among them are Eltime, Gilbert, Gottlieb, and Winslow. The Telechron 8B01 and 8B03 also used this aspect on early desktop digital clocks to display the passing of seconds.



Subsequent Telechron and General Electric models added a rotating seconds wheel on the same axis as the minute and hour wheels. All of the electric clocks of this class were produced late enough in the 1930's or 40's to be powered by self-starting synchronous motors.

### **Eltime Timeter Shutter Clocks**

Only recently have I become aware of the Eltime Timeter Shutter clock. Like the others in this class, the minutes are displayed through an arc-shaped opening in

the lower half of the dial on a disc that rotates once in sixty minutes. There is also a small disc in the center of the face that rotates, showing that the clock is running. Above the center of the face is an opening in which the hour is displayed. The hour disc advances with a click after sixty minutes and does not progress gradually as time passes like the minute disc



does. This is the reason it is referred to as a "shutter clock".

As the ad shows, five different models were offered, all

with extra features such as a lighted dial, a bell or buzzer alarm at an additional cost varying from twenty-five to fifty cents each at the wholesale level. All of the clocks cost less than \$4 wholesale. Eltime also produced an electric industrial clock with a chrome case and a face with traditional hands.



### **Gilbert Airmeter Clocks**

The Gilbert Airmeter was a spring driven clock

introduced about 1933. While not electric, the clock used the same rotating disc principle. This model f e a t u r e d a thermometer and a hygrometer on the lower corners of the face, and displayed the minutes and hours on a single dial that rotated once each twelve hours. Bent or



misaligned hands often scratch a clock's face, and the frame apparently sometimes did the same to the Gilbert rotating disc. It was easier to straighten a hand, out in the open, than to align a disc working within the case. Perhaps this was one reason this clock never became very popular.

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# **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

By George Gaglini

It was a chilly April morning at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. In the early hours, Mart Chairman Ralph Napolitano and his team were putting the final touches on the spacious old building and getting ready for Chapter 190's 2014 Seaside Antique Clock, Watch, and Jewelry Mart. In practically no time the great room with its 80 + tables began to fill up with enthusiastic buyers and sellers. It turned out to be one of the best Marts we ever had.



The Mart is one more example of the kind of activities Chapter 190 has become known for. Our web page states that our purpose is to "…have some fun, share our knowledge, help each other, and encourage others to become Watch and Clock enthusiasts." The Mart certainly helped fulfill those objectives.

Just a reminder that the 2014 National NAWCC Clock and Watch Convention will be in Milwaukee on June 17 through 21.

Another date to remember is May 17, 2014. That's the day for the "Goodtyme Supermart" presented by Orange County Chapter #69. Dave Weisbart, the Goodtyme Supermart Chair, invites everyone to come on down. Here is a link to the Mart flyer, www.nawcc69.org/pdf/14mart.pdf.

The second half of 2014 promises to be just as exciting at Chapter 190 as the first with upcoming public workshops, field suitcase training classes, and lively monthly meetings that include mini-workshops and interesting programs by clock and watch experts.

See you at the next meeting on May 18, 2014.

George Gaglini

# Pappy Birthday

May

George Antinarelli, Ron Boogren, John Darby, George Gaglini, Mostyn Gale, Frank Huttlinger, and, Julie Palladino,

### June

Matt Bonaccorso, Steve Cummings, Darrell Jones, Phil Keys, Harry Larson, Jean Markevich, Tom McKnett, Chris Martin, Giorgio Perissinotto, Kurt Triffet, and Glen Webb

### Winslow Direct Reading Clocks

The Winslow Direct Reading Clock Company of Stamford, Connecticut created a striking rotating disc clock in the late 1930's. The clocks were housed in solid color and marbled catalin cases. Three number wheels were regulated by a gear train driven by the motor and

w e r e illuminated by a small light bulb. The switch was either on the front or more often on the back of the case. O n l i n e



sellers tout these clocks as "streamline modern" and boast of their "racing stripes" and butterscotch-colored cases. In fact, the cases were originally cream or ivory colored. Time, smoke and oxidation have tinted them to the most-often seen color.

The clock case had one major design flaw. The movement was supported by a steel plate which was inserted into the case from below. Slots were cast into each side of the case for this purpose. Catalin was an unstable plastic material and over time the catalin shrank. The steel did not yield and most cases developed cracks at one end or the other. It is very unusual to find a case that is not cracked. You may recall how 1930's plastic automobile steering wheels also frequently cracked. The same reality of unstable plastics caused both problems.

### **Gottlieb Telometer Clocks**

Labels on these clocks say the sole manufacturers and distributers are M. M. Gottlieb Associates, Inc. Allentown, PA. The clocks employ the same mechanism as do Winslows. Labels also indicate that patents are pending. Because the patent was granted to Fredrick A.

Greenawalt in 1942, these c l o c k s p r o b a b l y predate that. Greenawalt also held the p at e n t f o r works used in Pennwood and Lawson wheel



clocks. By housing the works in wooden cases, Gottlieb avoided the problems associated with the Winslow catalin cases. In calling the clock a Telometer, the maker cashed in on the modern idea of immediate information without having to take time to figure out exactly where the hands were pointing. Both the Eltime clocks of the

30's and the later Lawson clocks of the late 40's and 50's used the same slogan, "Time at a Glance." Lawson's grandson told the story of how when his uncle started



Kindergarten he was unable to tell time with a hands clock because all the clocks at his home were Lawsons with the direct reading digits.

Gottlieb also produced wall clocks. The wall clock is 20 by 14.5 inches in size, and the numerals are two inches tall. One collector reported that the hour number disc was as large as an LP phonograph record. The larger model was also sold as an advertizing clock.

Both Old Gold cigarettes and Gotlieb clocks have passed into history.

The design of directreading time pieces was also applied to a few European clocks and watches, but the idea of digital display time pieces never really caught on until the electronic LED presentation became ubiquitous on alarm clocks, toasters.



microwave ovens, dish washers, television sets, etc. This rather gives weight to the old adage, "everything old is new again."

This article was previously published in ch 133's newsletter, "The Condenser"

### This Month's Mini-Workshop At 11:00AM

The workshop will be led by George Antinarelli. This is a round table discussion where everyone gets to join in and contribute. Bring the clock that is giving you problems. Don't let a clock baffle you, let our experts confuse you instead.

# Horology Trivia



by Giorgio Perissinotto

### **The Names of The Months**

A month is, of course, a unit of time and it is well known that its duration is related to the phases of the moon. Months are clustered in sets depending on the calendar in use. The most familiar to us is the Gregorian calendar, which has 12 months of 30 or 31 days, with February having 28, and 29 in a Leap Year.

January is named after Janus, the Roman god of transitions, of beginnings and ends, and, consequently, of time. He is most often represented as a two-faced bearded man, thus representing the past and the future.

The name Janus which is the origin of January, itself comes form Latin IANUA, meaning "door." Door to the rest of the year. Any other word formed on the basis of Janus? What about 'janitor?" Yes, a janitor is then a "door keeper" a meaning now usurped by "maintenance person." At times the Latin "IANUA, IANUARIUS" are obscured by linguistic development, but in others the etymology is quite transparent. Or maybe not.

### Catalan: *Gener*, Italian: *Gennaio*, French: *Janvier* Portuguese: *Janeiro*, German: *Januar*, Afrikaans: *Januarie*

Latin was pretty influential in many parts of the world, reaching as far as, for example, the Philippines, where January in Tagalog is ENERO, as in Spanish. As a curiosity, in Euskara, the language of the Basque in Spain and France, January is URTARRIL.

It would take many pages and would also tax your patience if I were to do the same for every month, so .... We are operating under the Gregorian Calendar, but until the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th Century of the Common Era, most of the Mediterranean cultures operated under the Roman or Romulus Calendar. Romulus was the founder of Rome (8th century BCE) and instituted the calendar.

The original Roman calendar is believed to have been a lunar calendar, which may have been based on one of the Greek lunar calendars. As the time between new moons averages 29.5 days, its months were constructed to be either hollow (29 days) or full (30 days). Full months were considered powerful and therefore auspicious; hollow months were unlucky. Unlike currently used dates, which are numbered sequentially from the beginning of the month, the Romans counted backwards from three fixed points: the Nones, the Ides and the Kalends of the following month. This system originated in the practice of "calling" the new month when the lunar crescent was first observed in the west after sunset. From the shape and orientation of the new moon, the number of days remaining to the nones would be proclaimed. At some point in history dates of months ceased to be connected with lunar phases, but it is unknown when it happened.

Even a casual reflection on the names of the months today would raise questions as to why September, October, November, and December seem to reflect the numbers 7, 8, 9, and 10 though actually not being the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth months of the year. The reason is, now you know, that March was actually the first month of a ten months calendar. Yet some of the months did have

interesting origins.

### February

The name comes either from the old-Italian god Februus or else from februa, signifying the festivals of purification celebrated in Rome during this month.

### March

This is the first month of the Roman year. It is named after the Roman god of war, Mars.

#### April

Called Aprilis, from aperire, "to open". Possibly because it is the month in which the buds begin to open.

#### May

The third month of the Roman calendar. The name probably comes from Maiesta, the Roman goddess of honor and reverence.

### Janus

### June

The fourth month was named in honor of Juno, the protector and special counselor of the state. She is a daughter of Saturn and sister as well as wife of Jupiter and the mother of Mars and Vulcan. Juno also looked after the women of Rome. Her Greek equivalent was Hera. However, the name might also come from iuniores (young men; juniors) as opposed to maiores (grown men; majors) for May, the two months being dedicated to young and old men. I do not think so.

### July

It was the month in which Julius Caesar was born, and named Julius in his honor in 44 BCE, the year of his assassination. Also called Quintilis (fifth month).

### August

Originally this month was called Sextilis (from sextus, "six"), but the name was later changed in honor of the first of the Roman emperors, Augustus (because several fortunate events of his life occurred during this month).

### September

The name comes from septem, "seven"

### October

The name comes from octo, "eight"

### November

The name comes from novem, "nine"

### **Chapter 190 People**

by Ernie Jenson

### Stephen G. Marks



Stephen joined Chapter 190 in early 2013 and wasted no time getting involved. He has already completed several Suitcase Training Classes, attends all the meetings, and was a part of our Mart at the Ventura Fairgrounds. There is no question that our extensive training classes are bringing new blood into our club and they are mighty welcome.

Stephen is a man of many talents. For example, he is a businessman, musician, wood carver, and clock repairman, just to name a few. He runs his own company"*InPunch Timekeeping Systems*" (visit www.InPunch.com), and Oak Clocks.

Stephen plays trombone and is in a musical group and says, "I am striving to be a professional trombonist with a focus on blues and jazz." He repairs clocks and occasionally gets to use his wood carving talents in this endeavor as you will see in his clock repair story.

Stephen was born in Buffalo, New York and moved to Los Angles in 1965. He is divorced and had a son Gabriel, who passed away in 2010. He also has a daughter Emily, who is the "Stars in his Sky," as he says. Pam joins him at our club meetings and Stephen says they are a couple.

Stephen has an A.S. in Data Communications from College of the Canyons, a bunch of tech certificates from UCLA extension courses, and a B.S. from Biola University in Organizational Leadership and Development. He says "I utilize my education from Biola every day. Another important tidbit of information that I learned is that every year, one needs to have a new three year plan to learn something new and prepare for life's ever changing adventure. It is better to be prepared when change happens than to be forced to make a change when life happens (something like that). In part, that is why I get involved repairing all types of clocks".

He loves to repair clocks and bring them back to life. Here is his clock story: "Last November I got a call from a man who had a Cuckoo Clock that was in a cardboard box on the floor of his garage for years. He wanted me to restore it as a Christmas gift for his wife. We met and I agreed to restore a German Cuckoo Clock (circa early 1900's).

This project required custom wood carving, refinishing of the clock house, and just making the clock look great and work well. The project was completed about a week before Christmas. When I returned the clock, hung it on the wall, and brought the clock to life, the entire family fell in love with the restored clock. The same one that had sat in a cardboard box on the floor of the garage for years".



By Noel B. Poirier, Museum Director



Pocket Watch, c. 1910, A Lange & Sohne. Stem-wind, lever-set watch with brass movement (karrusel table with escapement assembly revolves once every 53 minutes). Engraved on reverse, "A. Lange & Sohne, Glashutte & Dresden D.R.G.M. 121267, 62967." White enamel dial. Inset dial for winding. Watch is mounted in gold case with hinged and openfaced front and back covers.

#### Horology Trivia, continued from page 4

#### December

The name comes from decem, "ten". But like everything else, there is more to it. DECEM means 10, but what about the rest of the word? The Latin DECEM VIRI clearly suggests a "ten men" as "three men" is in "triumvirate". And so a TEN MEN (DECEMVIRATE) commission was formed early in Roman times to develop relevant legislation for the state and its citizens.

Organizing the passing of time in sets and subsets was a formidable enterprise, always intertwined with the political, religious and social fabrics of societies. And it is much, much more complicated than the rather simple account offered here. We celebrate SOLSTICE without knowing what it really means or meant. We have heard, maybe, of "Beware of the Ides of March" without knowing why Julius Caesar should have been made aware. Perhaps now, when you look at your Calendar (from Greek calends, the first day of the month) and plan an activity on a specific day of the week and a month, you might be spurred to find out more. Try it as an exercise with your own birthday, day of the week, and month. I was born in June and therefore protected by Saint Anthony (June 13th) and the goddess Juno, Hera to the Greeks. Saint George (Giorgio) is remembered on April 23rd. Do you know why he is known as the dragon killer?

Note: Some of the above information comes from: http://www.pantheon.org/miscellaneous/origin\_months.html

# **Tales From the Bench**

### by Ferdinand Geitner

### Loose Swinger

After the excellent program presented by Robert Gary on Junghans swinger clocks at a recent chapter 190 meeting, it was pure coincidence that a Junghans swinger appeared in the shop for repair.

The customer implied that the spring appeared to be broken as one could turn the key continually without winding anything. I was a little suspicious about this diagnosis as it seemed to turn too easily. Broken springs usually have some resistance.

After removing the barrel it became apparent that

the pinion next to the barrel had become loose from the wheel. It was the result of the mainspring slipping off of the hook inside the barrel after almost being fully wound. Fortunately no teeth where broken in the

process. This is one of the reasons Waltham invented the safety pinion in their watches,

Often, this style of barrel hook gets flattened when a spring breaks, pushing it out during the sudden, violent expansion (see picture). Most of the time the hook can be pushed back into the barrel unless it happened too often, in which case the hook will break. Using a jewelers saw, you can easily cut a new hook.

One has to be careful when pushing the hook back so as not to make the barrel drum oval. I made a tool for this very purpose as French clock barrels often

protrude at the site of the hook after a few breakages, This makes it hard to hook the spring because the hook is almost recessed.

FLATTENED HOOK

CORRECTED

HOOK

In this case the hook is pushed back to where it is supposed to be and then the spring locks onto it securely.

I like to take the stress off the mainspring's hole end by adding an extension which eliminates the constant bending of the end of the spring in & out on every wind. In German we call it a "Zaum" translated; like a horses "bridle" (harness) which controls the movement and stresses at the end of the mainspring. (See





The wheel was

another story. It was too loose to just rivet back onto the pinion. I had to turn an angle along the arbor into the



pinion so I could use a curved hole punch to spread some steel into the wheel locking it on followed by a flat hole punch to tidy up. (See picture) After cleaning and

assembling... everything worked just fine.



**190 MART PHOTOS** 



# **Chapter 190 Mart Recap**

### **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

by Ralph Napolitano



After a 2-year hiatus, the 2014 Seaside Antique Clock, Watch, and Jewelry Show was held on Sunday, April 13th at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. We were blessed with a sell-out of the more than 85 tables available to vendors. We also had a good turnout of walk-in attendees, who seemed to enjoy the variety of horological items on display.

We had sellers from as far away as the San Francisco Bay area, Palm Springs area, San Diego, and Phoenix, Arizona. We were fortunate to have a lot of volunteer help from the ch 190 membership, without whose help the mart could not have been the success that it was.

I especially wanted to thank Mike Schmidt and Ernie Jenson, who were both instrumental in carrying out such a big event. I also wanted to thank Donna Gaglini, Susan and Robert Gary, and all the others who gave their time and talents to help make this such a successful show. I want to thank all of those ch 190 members who offered to give up their tables so that we would have room for lastminute sellers.

If there are future ch 190 marts, there will need to be a discussion as to the possibility of using one of the bigger halls at the Ventura Fairgrounds. It is what I affectionately refer to as the "crisis of abundance".

I enjoyed the honor of being the chairman of the 2014 mart. I learned a lot from the "seat-of-my-pants" experience, not ever having previously chaired the mart. I was asked about the possibility of chairing next year's mart. Unfortunately, I will be unavailable as I will be embarking on the Mars One, one-way trip to the red planet immediately prior to next year's mart. But hopefully, there will be others in 190 who will step-up and continue the tradition of our mart. I will be happy to share what knowledge I have gained during the past few months of this experience. We continue to have an exceptional local chapter, which I am very much honored to be a member.

#### The following workshops are scheduled for 2014:

Chapter 190 will continue to offer the "Introduction to Antique Clock Collecting & Repair & Maintenance" workshop. This 2 day workshop is open to members, friends and the public. The only prerequisite for this workshop is "Interest & Curiosity" in mechanical clocks. All tools, movements, and knowledge are supplied.

The date for this 5th workshop is July 26th & 27. This 2 Day workshop will be in Ventura at the Historic Dudley House Museum.

The next workshop will be September 6th & 7th and will be in Santa Barbara at the Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse.

For information or to sign up for either workshop, contact Mike Schmidt, phone 805 988-1764 or e-mail: <u>eaglecreekclocks@msn.com</u>

A FSW 201 Fundamental Skills for Lathe and Clock Repair workshop is scheduled for September 26-29. This 4 day workshop will be instructed by Lex Rooker. The coordinator for this workshop is Tom Ferkel. For further information please contact Tom at email tferkel@gmail.com

The **FSW101** for June has been canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

# The May Chapter 190 Meeting is May 18, 2014 Sellers may start setting up at 11:30 The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15 The Meeting starts at 1:15

### "The Lawson Clock" Presented by Neil Kuns

Neil has presented this program at the greater los Angeles regional. Never heard of Lawson clocks? Come to the meeting and learn.

# No meeting in June. Next meeting is: Sunday July 20, 2014

# **CLASSIFIED PAGE**

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

## 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 I0a Montecito (one block from old site) (805) 565-9097

# **The Clock Gallery**

George Gaglini Serving Ventura County and More... Expert Repair - Service - Restoration Grandfather - Wall - Mantel - Marine - Atmos House Calls - Packing & Moving 805-647-0699 or 805-497-8381 theclockgallery@roadrunner.com

### WATCH REPAIR TOOLS & MORE!

I will have a huge selection of watch repair tools and other items from my latest estate buy at the Chapter 190 meeting.

> Dave Coatsworth dave@daveswatchparts.com

# The Tic Toc Shop

Clock Repairs, Restorations & Appraisals.

Ken McWilliams (818) 718-8300

FOR SALE =

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### WANTED =

#### URGENTLY NEEDED, VISIBLE ESCAPEMENT MOVEMENT

French type-platform escapement (no pendulum) Winding hole spacing of 38.9 mm, (1.53") Repairable, other details available on request. Bob Reichel, welchdoc@yahoo.com **Ph: 1-206-364-7374** 

Antique French 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks. Antique English 2 or 3 gear-train skeleton clock. Loren Miller, Pacific Coast Clocks 4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca. Located in Firehouse Plaza (Main St. & Telephone Rd.) Tel. 805-650-8800

### - Chronometer -

Hamilton 21 Marine Chronometer in running condition, with inner box and gimbals; outer box not essential. Please contact: Giorgio Perissinotto E-mail: giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

# Chrono Times

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



# NEXT MEETINGS MAY 18 NO MEETING IN JUNE



May - June, 2014 Issue



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