

NAWCC Chapter 190 Newsletter

Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties May/June 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Ken McWilliams

I n last month's message I said that we would be looking into the possibility of our chapter meeting at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. Well, that possibility is now a reality. Our October 16, chapter meeting will be held in the Mural Room of the Santa Barbara courthouse. Lunch will be catered, and tours of the courthouse and the Tower Clock will take place. There will not be a Chapter 190 meeting at Ventura College in October. Advanced registration for this event will be required due to the fact that we must commit the number of attendees to the caterer, provide tables and seating, and arrange for tour docents. More information will be provided in the coming months.

Along these lines, several people have suggested to me that we should organize field trips involving the Chapter. These would be in addition to our regular monthly meetings. The Nethercutt collection in Sylmar and the Getty collection are two destinations that were suggested. I would like to hear your opinions and suggestions on this possibility. Let me (continued on Page 5)

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CHAPTER 190 MEETINGS ARE HELD THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT JUNE AND DEC.) AT VENTURA COLLEGE IN THE CAMPUS STUDENT CENTER

SELLERS MAY START SETTING UP AT 11:30

THE MART IS OPEN FROM 12:00 TO 1:15

THE MEETING STARTS AT 1:15

TALES FROM THE BENCH By Ferdinand Geitner

What's In a Name?

A friend once asked me which watch he should choose, an Oris chronograph, which is mainly sold in Europe, or a Porsche Design chronograph. Which is the better watch? Well, the last thing I look at when I'm servicing a watch is the name on the dial. The most important thing in my opinion is the movement. The particular Oris and TAG watches my friend was interested in had exactly the same movement. There was of course a difference in price. In this case, the



TAG Carrera Automatic



Omega Speedmaster Automatic

"better" watch would boil down to the design of the case, dial, overall appearance and price.

Another example of two different brands of watch with exactly the same movement are shown to the left. Here we have a TAG Carrera. A very nice design with automatic winding, chronograph and date. The other is an Omega Speedwith master month, day, date, automatic winding and chronograph . Both have minute and hour recording but the Omega has an additional 24 indicator hour behind the small (continued on page 3)

TALES FROM THE BENCH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

seconds indicator. Again, one has to decide on design preferences because the movement is exactly the same - of high quality. There is actually a gear on the TAG which could work an additional function but runs idle. One can tell from the pictures, the external designs are totally different. They both require about the same time and care to be serviced.



Another customer brought me some watches he inherited to be serviced. One name did catch my eye. Perpetual. The crown is at the 9 O'clock position, not the usual 3 O'clock position.

It has a movement with an unusual automatic winding mechanism. It uses a weight swinging only about 10 degrees. It's manufactured by the Frey Watch Co. in Bienne, Switzerland around the 1920s for Perpetual Watch Co. NYC. The company was still operating in 1968 but there are no records of its existence since then.

There is no means of winding manually and the movement sits in a special frame which has the winding weight attached. The pendulum has a special movable ratchet with an adjustable stop screw and one stationary ratchet. The barrel bridge is modified to work with the automatic only but the basic movement was

(continued on page 4)

Perpetual Watch

TALES FROM THE BENCH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

originally designed for manual winding. Facilities for a clutch wheel and a winding pinion are cut



into the plate and the setting is as normal by pulling out the stem.

The assembled movement and its automatic winding mechanism removed from the case.

The movement separated from its supporting frame and automatic winding mechanism. The winding mechanism with its pendulum/weight is on the far right.





Close up of the automatic winding mechanism and its pendulum/weight.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

know if you think that it's a good idea or a bad idea. If I receive no response, I'll interpret indifference as a bad idea and not pursue it further.

Chapter 190 had its first education committee meeting on March 26, 2016. It was a productive meeting and it was decided that we would pursue creating our own workshops. The first two workshops will be American-style count wheel time and strike movements, and rack and snail with spring barrel movements. Following these will be a series of repair workshops, as well as specialty workshops. As they become available, they will be announced in the Chrono Times, on our website, and in our social media.

".....and it was decided that we would pursue creating our own workshops."



Speaking of social media, Jess Ashby (our Social Media Director), has created a Chapter 190 YouTube account where we will provide various chapter and horology related videos. YouTube joins our existing Facebook and Chapter 190 blog. Jess has done a great job introducing us to this media. Thank you Jess, for bringing our Chapter into the 21st century.

At the April Board of Directors Meeting, representatives from Chap-

ters 75 and 133 asked Chapter 190 to take the lead for the 2017 Channel Islands Regional. The board voted not to participate as a sponsor in a 2017 Regional. The board also voted to reinstate our annual mart for 2017. No date has been determined yet.

Ken McWilliams



"He has to be older than he looks. He uses a watch to tell time."

A LOOK BEHIND THE PRIVATE LABEL (PART 2) By Dave Coatsworth

A s stated in Part 1, a 'private label' is, simply put, a watch (or clock) that has the name of the retailer or distributor on the dial and/or movement instead of that of the manufacturer. A private label may, instead (or in addition), have other markings specified by the retailer, as is the case with two of the watches that we will examine in this installment.

Frank V. Kent

Frank V. Kent (November 13, 1861 - September 3, 1944) was a jewelry store owner, Postmaster, and Red Cross Campaign Chairman in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Yet, despite many accomplishments in his long life, he is better known for a single event in North Dakota history. Frank Kent was the first North Dakota resident to fly as a passenger in an airplane. The nine minute flight occurred at the Grand Forks Fair-



Archibald Hoxsey's Flying Machine

grounds on July 10, 1910 in Archibald Hoxsey's flying machine (pictured from a flight the previous day). Kent was said to have not been nervous at all as Hoxsey went through his usual barnstorming routine with Kent aboard, even to the extent of not letting his cigar go out during the flight. This was quite a feat (continued on page 7) $_{6}$

THIS MONTH'S MINI WORKSHOP



Starts At 11:00 a.m.

This will be an open workshop

All are invited to share and ask questions on all clocks and watches.

CHAPTER MEETING CALENDAR

15 MAY MEETING

ALAN BLOORE

SCHOOL AND INDUSTRIAL ELECTROMECHANICAL CLOCKS

NO MEETING IN JUNE

A LOOK BEHIND THE PRIVATE LABEL (PART 2) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

given the risks of airplane flight in those early days. Hoxsey himself was killed while flying his airplane later that year.

Grand Forks was incorporated as a city February on 22, 1881. Between 1880 and 1890, the population grew from 1,701 to 4,979, in large part due to the introduction of the railroad to the region and subsequent business boom. А jewelry store, such as Frank Kent's, was often one of the first businesses to establish itself in a town undergoing a boom period at this time in American history.

The watch shown is an Illinois model 3, grade 61, 15 jewel movement housed



The Frank Kent watch utilizing an Illinois Movement

in a Dueber Silverine case. It was manufactured in August 1889, just a few months before North Dakota was being admitted as the 39th state in the Union. It is, therefore, unclear whether the 'N, Dak.' on the dial refers to the state or the territory that preceded it.

W. P.& H

With many Illinois Watch Company private labels, we have only a monogram or set of initials to represent the retailer. Such is the case with our next watch, which has an Illinois model 2, grade 103, 15 jewel movement manufactured in 1880. It is housed in a gold filled hunting case. The movement is marked 'President' and 'New York'. The dial is marked (continued on page 8)

A LOOK BEHIND THE PRIVATE LABEL (PART 2) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)



'W. P. & H' in an old English font. While I have not been able to find any concrete evidence to support this, I believe that it is for the firm of Wheeler, Parsons and Hayes, who had a business establish-

Left and Below: The W P & H Watch utilizing an Illinois Movement

ment at 2 Maiden Lane in New York. The principals of this firm were Hayden W. Wheeler, Lewis Abra-

ham Parsons and Henry Hayes which is consistent with the

manufacture date of these W. P. & H. movements that have been observed. After Parsons and Hayes retired in 1888, the firm continued as the Hayden W. Wheeler Company. Wheeler retired in 1891 due to ill health, at which time his son, Willard Hayden Wheeler, took over the business. Hayden Willard Wheeler passed away on October 20, 1904.

Hayden Willard Wheeler was well known as a purveyor of high end jewelry and high grade watches. He is perhaps best known in the horological world for the hundreds of private label Hamilton watches that bear his unique touch. (continued on page 9)

ham Parsons and Henry Hayes. The firm existed with these three partners from 1871 to 1888,



A LOOK BEHIND THE PRIVATE LABEL (PART 2) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

In addition to having H. W. W. Co.

engraved on the movement, these movements have a spebridge cial configuration and a special wavy-line damaskeening pattern. These watches are highly prized by collectors today.

Maud S.

Sometimes. instead of revealing an interesting story, a prilabel vate watch provides an intriguing mys-The tery. movement shown here



The Movement Marked "Maud S." utilizing an Illinois Movement

is an Illinois model 2, grade 103, 15 jewel manufactured in 1880. The movement has the name "Maud S." engraved on it. Who is "Maud S."? A historical or literary figure, perhaps? Or, perhaps the buyer of the watch or someone that the buyer wanted to remember. A private label name doesn't necessarily need to be that of a retailer. Any individual could have had a name engraved on a movement by paying the additional fee. Does anyone know who Maud S. might be?

HOROLOGY TRIVIA By Giorgio Perissinotto

The Tower Clock of Venice ... Italy

Which are the most famous tower clocks of the world? Is it the Prague Astronomical Clock from the outset of the XV century, the third oldest one known and the only one still operating? Or is it the London Clock, also known as Big Ben even though Big Ben is the Great Bell and not the time piece? The Clock Tower is now officially



Prague Astronomical Clock

called the Elizabeth Tower after the 2012 Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. It is the fourth largest clock in the world, the largest being located, of all places, in Minneapolis. As to its age, it is relatively new, having been installed in 1858. The design and construction of the movement were entrusted to an amateur clock maker by Edmund the name of Denison and the very well known horologist Edward Dent. But it is Denison who is credited with inventing the double three-legged gravity escapement. Yes, the same type of escapement which characterizes the Santa Barbara Courthouse Clock.

Undoubtedly many of us have

been to Venice, Venecia, Venise, Venedig and strolled around the Piazza San Marco, St Mark Square, visited the stunning cathedral and even passed under the Bridge of Sighs on a gondola. But what may have escaped your attention is the Torre dell'Orologio, the Clock Tower. The Tower and the adjoining two buildings were erected in the early Renaissance Period, towards the last quarter of the XV century. The location, on the Piazza San Marco, was meant to highlight the (continued on page 11)

17 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ROLEX

By ETHAN WOLFF-MANN

1. Though it's a Swiss company, it was founded in London by a German and a Brit.

Hans Wilsdorf and Alfred Davis started out as "Wilsdorf and Davis," putting movements into cases for jewelers.

2. The name Rolex came about because Wilsdorf wanted his brand to be easy to say in any language.

He also thought the word sounded like a watch movement. Maybe.

3. Rolex moved from London to Geneva in 1919.

Not because it's the watch capital of the universe, but rather because import and export taxes were too high in England due to wartime.

To see the rest go to https:// www.thrillist.com/gear/rolexhistory-facts-and-trivia-of-the -swiss-watch

Chapter 190 Meetings

Third Sunday of the month (except June and Dec.) at Ventura College in the Campus Student Center

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

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

The meeting starts at 1:15

The Prague Astronomical Clock

HOROLOGY TRIVIA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

(From Wikipedia)

600TH ANNIVERSARY

On 9 October 2010, the Orloj's 600th anniversary was celebrated with a light show on the face of the clock tower. Two projectors were used to project several animated videos on the clock. The videos showed it being built, torn down, rebuilt, and peeled away to show its mechanisms internal and the famous animated figures, as well as various events in the clock's history. The video interacted with the tower's architecture. such as rain rolling off the arch, and showing the passage of time with moving shadows.

https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Prague_astronomical_cloc k#600th_anniversary



power and wealth of the Venetian Republic of the time. At the very top of the tower there are two large bronze figures with hammers striking the hours on a bell. They are known as I Mori (The Moors). Some have suggested that they look Moorish, but in reality it is just the color of the bronze, which darkens with time. They were cast in 1494 and if you dare to climb up to the top you will learn that they are supposed to be shepherds. Some would-be scholars suggested that the dark skin reflects the skin hue of Venetians. Well, my father was Venetian and I was born 80 miles away. I will let you be the judge.

Elizabeth Tower

Above the large dial

there is statue with the Virgin and Child and on either side there are two large blue panels showing the time in a curious manner: the hour on the left in Roman numerals and the minutes on the right in Arabic numerals. For over two hundred years there were lanterns placed behind the panels so that the time (continued on page 12)

HOROLOGY TRIVIA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)



The Venice Clock Tower

could be read in the Piazza below. The very large 24 hours dial is mainly marble and the numbers in Roman numerals. The Sun serves the function of an hour hand and the signs of the Zodiac adorn the center of this marvel of Renaissance art. The dial confirms that the original clock was very much another example of the astronomical clocks in vogue at the Very little time. is about known the original movement, but it is quite clear that it has been worked on and modified over the centuries. The original movement was weight driven and had a foliot escapement. It did not survive. The escapement changed was to Pinwheel in mid XIX Century and the latest restoration-much criticized--was funded by the watch firm Piaget in the 1990's.

The winged lion with the open book is the symbol of the patron saint of Venice, St Mark the Evangelist, who authored, of course the Gospel by the same name. But (continued on page 13)

HOROLOGY TRIVIA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

how do we link St Mark to Venice? The story goes that in the IX century the much revered saint's remains were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice by two Venetian merchants aided by Greek monks. But the Coptic Orthodox Church, however, believes that the head of St Mark is still in Alexandria. What does the book say?

PAX TIBI, MARCE EVANGELISTA MEUS

Peace to you Mark, my evangelist. And peace to you all.



The Dial of the Venice Tower Clock. Note the location of the XXIIII hour.



Happy Birthday

May

GEORGE ANTINARELLI RON BOOGREN JOHN DARBY GEORGE GAGLINI MOSTYN GALE FRANK HUTTLINGER MELVIN JENSEN JULIE PALLADINO

June

MATT BONACCORSO DARRELL JONES PHIL KEYS HARRY LARSON RON MARICICH JEAN MARKEVICH HUTTON "CHRIS" MARTIN TOM MCKNETT GIORGIO PERISSINOTTO RICKY RODRIGUEZ

BIOGRAPHY: PAT FITZGERALD

By WALTER PICKETT

- Wife is Leanore

– Currently resides in in Northridge, in the San Fernando Valley

– Background in Mechanical Engineering and hardware design.

Here is Pat's story in his own words

I like to collect and restore old clocks. My specific area of interest is in skeleton movements of either clocks or watches. I purchased my first clock when I was about 13 years old at a store in San Diego and still have the clock today. It is an old kitchen alarm clock. This



was also one of the first clocks that I ever repaired or serviced. I took this clock apart and a Seth Thomas chiming clock. I had no tools or let down clamps and it was very exciting as the plates came apart and the parts were "released". I did successfully reassemble both clocks and they still run today. I also collect and restore old first and secondgeneration Mustang cars. One of the cars is shown on a regular basis in local car shows.

I don't know what got me interested in clocks and watches, but I cannot ever remember not being interested in them. My family would give me old clocks or watches and I would somehow get them going again.

I took many mechanical clocks apart and got most of them to run. What I did not know nor understand was the concept of wear. I suspect many of the clocks I worked on back then needed to have the pivots polished and in some cases new bushings.

I once worked on a Seth Thomas chiming clock and it ran for several months but got very unpredictable. I took it to a clock repair shop in the Old Topanga Plaza Mall in the mid 70's and I explained my previous attempt to repair it. The man behind the counter just smiled and I knew that he then understood the condition of the clock. It turns out that it needed a couple of bushings. After he repaired it, he gave me a couple of spring clamps and explained how to use them to hold the springs. I still have the clock and those spring clamps. The clock belonged to my great, great, great aunt and it's (continued on page 15)

BIOGRAPHY: PAT FITZGERALD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Welcome New

Members

now well over a 100 years old. It was wedding present from her husband (my great, great, great uncle).

I also have my great, great, great uncle's old Elgin pocket watch. The watch has very cool family story. It was given to him by his brother as a thank you gift for helping to pay his passage over from Scotland to the United States back in about 1879. He wore the watch for so long that the cover is worn very thin and his initials are becoming faint. It still runs well today. It was serviced back in the late 70's at a jewelry store in Sherman Oaks called Lowman's Jewelers. The store is still there.

I have been a member of NAWCC for about 6 years. I am currently working on building two clocks from scratch.

From WatchTime America's No. 1 Watch Magazine

Leather and Lugs: The Making of a Hermès Watch Strap

Written by Gisbert Brunner, April 22, 2016

Watch straps usually play second fiddle to the watches they hold in place. Not at La Montre Hermès, which takes its leather goods as seriously as it does its watchmaking. In this feature from the WatchTime archives, Gisbert Brunner explores how a fine leather watch strap is crafted.

For many watch fans, connoisseurship stops at the case lugs; the watch strap, a temporary, easily replaced accompaniment, is no more worthy of study than a paper napkin. That isn't fair. Fine watch straps reward scrutiny the same way fine watch movements and cases do. Equipped with a little knowledge of leather-crafting techniques, a connoisseur can become as expert a judge of the former as of the latter.

A good place to start one's study is at the world-famous, crème-de-la crème leather goods company Hermès. The company makes some 120,000 straps per year, not only for its own collection of Hermès-brand watches but for those of Parmigiani Fleurier as well.

For the complete story, go to http://www.watchtime.com/wristwatchindustry-news/technology/leather-lugs-making-hermes-watch-strap/ Alex Rose from Santa Barbara & Tyler Kalb from North Canton, Ohio



Island of the Blue Dolphins is a 1960 children's novel written by Scott O'Dell and tells the story of a young girl stranded alone for years on one of the Channel Islands off the Southern California coast. It is based on the true story of Juana Maria, a Nicoleño Native American left alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island in the 19th century. Juana Maria is buried at the Santa Barbara Mission Cemetery.



Canton, Ohio—home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

MINI WORKSHOP NEWS By Mike Schmidt

The Sunday morning workshops, held prior to the monthly meetings, are free and open to all. This is a great opportunity to learn new repair techniques. It's also an opportunity to bring in your clocks or watches and receive assistance with perplexing problems. Guests are always welcome. The workshop usually starts at 10:30 and the free coffee will be on.

At the February morning workshop I learned a repair tip that is extremely useful. I have had several requests to share the information that I gained. Ferdinand Geitner gave us a demonstration on how to successfully repair a broken minute hand. The challenge was repairing a broken, fancy, Vienna minute hand. *How do you hold the thin, curly, flat parts together so they won't move while they are soldered?* The minute hand had broken about ¹/₂ inch from the tip. It had a very fancy end and had broken in two places. (See photo)



The solution:

Tools and material required:

- Grobert Universal silver solder with flux
- A torch for soldering
- A special pad that is heat absorbent "solderite Board by Eurotool"
- Brass taper pins
- Small needle nose pliers

Ferdinand bent the broken ends to assure that both parts of the hand were flat. This involved

ends. Once this aligning four was accomplished, using the needle nose pliers, both pieces were lined up on the heat absorbent flat pad. Ferdinand used many brass pins to keep the parts stable on the pad. The pad is firm but will accept the taper pins. After some fussing, and magnification using to make sure everything was perfectly flat, lined up and pinned in place, the hand was ready for soldering. Ferdinand then cut very small pieces of solder and placed them over the broken areas. He then applied the torch, heating the broken ends to a cherry red. The solder, with the aid of the flux, made a successful connection. (See photos). Ferdinand commented afterwards, "See how easy that was".



HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH'S MEETING By David Perez

The presenter of March's meeting was Matt Bonaccorso and the subject was A Sampling of Quality American Clocks from the Companies of Joseph Henry Eastman.

Matt developed an interest in clocks and watches at an early age. He had relatives that had lots of worn out dollar watches and clocks needing attention. His first attempt at cleaning the watches was by using a tuna can filled with gasoline. He continued working on these time pieces until it was time to head to college where his horological interests laid dormant. Later, he wandered into a bookstore and found *Clock Repairing As A Hobby*. This rekindled his interest and led to the pur-



GEORGE DANIELS WATCHMAKING

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Chapter 190 continues to offer our popular *Introduction to Antique Clock Collecting, Repair & Maintenance* workshop. Open to members, friends and the public. The only prerequisite for this workshop is "Interest & Curiosity" in mechanical clocks. All tools, movements, and knowledge will be supplied. For further information contact Mike Schmidt 805 988 1764 or email EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

Other workshops will be scheduled as interest develops: These may include: FSW 302 Wristwatch, FSW 200, 201 and 202 Lathe Workshops, FSW104 Fusee & Vienna Regulators, FSW101 Introduction to American Clocks and others.

Chapter 190 Educational committee will soon be offering some new workshops and some new reformatted Field Suitcase Workshops. In addition to new Field Suitcase Workshops we have strong interest in a *Platform Escapement Workshop* and a *400 day/Anniversary clock Workshop*.

NAWCC "Luxury or Lie" How To Identify Genuine Watches- Nov. 12 -14 in Santa Paula

Please let us know what workshops or repair instructions you desire.

For further information on any of the above workshops, contact Mike Schmidt 805 988-1764 or e-mail eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

<mark>"Action is the F</mark>oundational K<mark>e</mark>y to Al<mark>l Success</mark>"

NAWCC CHAPTER 190

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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

Great Lathe Package For Sale

Fred Tischler is selling his 8mm *Levin Lathe*. This lathe is in great condition and comes with many accessories. The single condition is that you must purchase everything related to the lathe (see photos). Fred is not willing to sell items piecemeal. **It's all or nothing. Asking price is: \$5,000 (All offers considered)**

Items include:

A) Base lathe with headstock, ram style collet holding tailstock, lathe bed, motor, jack shaft, and Variac

B) Chucks: 3 jaw, 4 jaw, and Bezel. (Bezel chuck is very nice and is seen mounted on lathe holding a winding barrel).

- C) Vertical milling spindle
- D) Cross slide
- E) Aloris style quick change tool holder with 4 tool holders
- F) Several standard Levin tool holders
- G) Full set of 8mm collets

H) Many different sizes of 8mm arbors with many grinding stones, diamond disks, and circular saw blades

- I) a couple of dozen wax chucks, and several Jacobs chucks
- J) Dead & live centers
- K) Drill bits with stands/holders as well as center drills.
- L) Dozens of lathe cutters and tool bits
- M) Lots and lots of gravers
- N) Files and burnishers
- O) Dial indicator with magnetic mount

And many more items that are not listed here, Most of these are in the photos.

If interested in this lathe package, please contact Pam Tischler at:

fswprogram@verizon.net

(continued on page 22)





Continued on page 23

For Sale (continued)











