



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY REGULATOR



CHAPTER 75 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1973

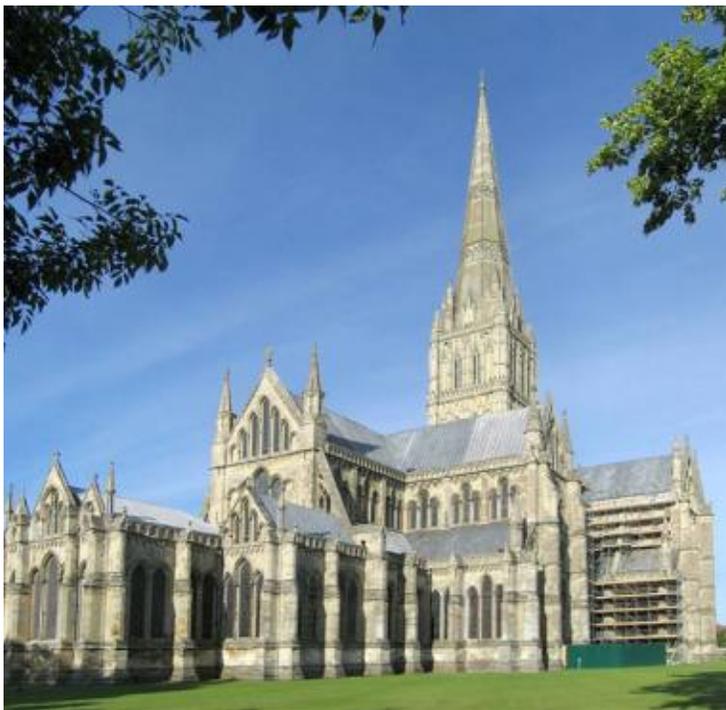
August, 2007

## CLOCK TOWERS & TOWER CLOCKS

*By Laurie Altieri-Conti*

One need not be passionate about horology to stand in awe at the foot of a clock tower. Ancient or modern, grand or modest, gigantic or diminutive, most every person will take notice of these, the first public clocks, the first keepers of civic order.

Before the middle of the 19th century, most people did not have watches so tower clocks were the only means the town's people had for making and keeping appointments. Most early clock towers were placed near the centers of town



and were often the tallest structures there, and became landmarks. Public clocks were placed wherever large groups of people gathered. Placing the clock in towers allowed maximum audibility and visibility. The use of clock towers in the West dates back to the ancient Roman period. Other civilizations such as medieval China also featured them.

Clock towers spread through Europe beginning in the 14th century. Early colonists quickly imported them from England to erect in their new land. The first was in Boston, Massachusetts in 1668. By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century tower clocks were being mass produced in the U.S. The two biggest manufacturers were the Seth Thomas and E. Howard clock companies. Sadly, many of these original mechanical movements, also known as turret clocks, have been discarded or replaced by electrically driven movements.

Simply put, in this age, clock towers and tower clocks are obsolete. The amazing accuracy of inexpensive quartz watches has eliminated the need for public timekeepers. Still, no one can deny the stately grace, the lasting charm, of public clocks counting out the hours.

We begin this series on CLOCK TOWERS & TOWER CLOCKS with what is generally regarded as the oldest running public clock in existence; it resides at Salisbury Cathedral in England.

Of all the mechanical clocks mentioned in records going back to 1280, the clock at Salisbury Cathedral is the oldest, dated 1386 and could possibly be even older.

The main purpose of the clock was to strike the hour on a bell. It did not have a dial. Single strike clockworks are mounted in an open iron frame held together with metal dowels and pegs because nuts and bolts had not yet been invented. The verge and foliot escapement is powered by two large stones hanging from pulleys. As the stones fall, ropes unwind from two wooden barrels, one driving the main wheel and the other the striking mechanism and air brake. When the stones reach the floor, they are raised back up by means of two large wheels at each end.

The clock was originally housed in a bell tower that was demolished in 1792. It was then moved to the central tower where it resided for almost 100 years. In

1884 a new clock was installed and the old one discarded in a cathedral attic.

In 1929, a maintenance crew found and described the old clock as "an unkempt pile of junk". Fortunately, the historic importance was realized, and it was put on display. In 1956 it was restored to its original working condition.



At the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, along with many other clocks of that era, the clock's verge and foliot escapement was replaced with a more accurate pendulum and recoil escapement. The 1956 restoration project returned it to its original design. Today, though the striking mechanism is silenced, the clock runs as it did over 600 years ago 🕒

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Ken McWilliams

Once again our annual Mini Mart was a sellout. It was well attended and no one went away hungry. Laurie Conti volunteered to head up the food court this year with help from her husband Mike, Fred Lipman, Beverley Plekus, Barbara Bishop, and Bernie McCabe. Laurie and Mike also donated the chili to the chapter. Overall, it was another successful chapter 75 event.

Success rarely happens by luck or accident. I believe it was Samuel Goldwyn who said "The harder I work, the luckier I get." Our success was due to the tireless efforts of an amazing group of volunteers headed up by Toni Moss, our mart director. Hours before the mart opened there was a bee hive of activity in the mart room. People scurrying around setting up tables, putting down table covers, marking spaces, organizing name badges, preparing the food court and a myriad of other tasks.

None of these volunteers received any financial compensation. The only reward they get is the satisfaction of knowing that their work helped create this success. So, the next time you see Toni Moss, Chris & Kim St. Dennis, Jim Chamberlain, Marshall Knowlton, Jim Gilmore, Jeanne Van Ausdall, Barbara Morse, Bill Robinson, Robert Gary and of course the food court crew, take a moment and tell them that you appreciate their efforts. Without them there would be no mini mart.

At our last Board meeting we made some organizational changes. A new post was created to strengthen our commitment to continuing horological education. Jim Chamberlain will head up this new position as "Director of Education" We will be defining and refining his duties over the next few months.

Laurie Conti was appointed to the position of "Director of Membership," replacing Jim Chamberlain. Membership will be getting a makeover in terms of recruiting new members and communicating with present members. Laurie will have a membership table at our meetings to aid present members and for enrolling new members. Please stop by her table and make sure that your contact information is up to date.

The board also approved a motion to sponsor a program proposed by Jim Bland for distributing the Huell Howser GLAR DVD to new NAWCC members. (Jim is the Director of Marketing & Media Relations for the NAWCC.) Additional information on this can be found in this newsletter.

See you all at the August meeting,

Ken



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The scheduled presentation for the August meeting of Chapter 75 is:

**Quartz Watches** by Ken McWilliams.

The topic for the September meeting is, **Escapements** by Jim Chamberlain.

A workshop on **Wheel Cutting** is planned for the second weekend in September.

## Dean Von Ausdall Memorial Award

by Fred Lipman (6/26/07)

At the May meeting of Chapter 75, Bernie McCabe received the Dean Von Ausdall award.

The Dean Von Ausdall is a memorial award to honor Dean. He was a charter member and the second president of the chapter. He was an elementary school teacher and then a principal. He became interested in clock repair when his parents gave him a school clock that needed repair. After he took a clock repair class he became interested in collecting and repairing clocks. He was an inspiring member of the chapter and was instrumental with other charter members in making chapter 75 the most outstanding chapter in the NAWCC. At a young age of 56 he passed away due to cancer in 1982. To keep his memory alive the members at that time decided to give the award to a most deserving member.

The criteria to receive the award are to be an exemplary member of the chapter. Bernie McCabe meets and exceeds the criteria for receiving the award. Bernie has been involved from the day he became a member of chapter 75. He was the audio-visual director, is the Historian, voluntarily took over the hot dog sales at the mini mart, made sure that sellers at GLAR had their business license and had the AV equipment set up at the chapter programs as well as the programs at GLAR. He is generous with his time

Bernie is an outstanding craftsman and machinist. He has given demonstrations on repairing clock barrels and wheels. You can hardly tell where broken teeth have been replaced on a wheel or a barrel. He has made clock tools that many members use and manufactures tools for suppliers. He does excellent clock repair and restoration. He donates his tools for door prizes at the chapter meetings.

Best of all he is a kind, conscientious, a warm generous man. At this time he is fighting his own battle with cancer and we wish him well and a speedy recovery. He most deservedly earned the Dean Von Audall Memorial Award.

Dean's widow, Jean, has the first table on the right as you enter the room.

She gave me the history of Dean. Jean was also instrumental in helping the chapter get started. She mailed out postcards to members of the NAWCC living in the vicinity inviteing them to come to the chapter meeting. I quote Jean: "Dean was one of the nicest and funniest people on the face of the earth". Say hello to her.



Street Clock, 720 Main St.  
Santa Paula, CA

# Time Machines

by Ken McWilliams

I recently completed an overhaul of a Schatz 400 day anniversary clock. Nothing special, you see them for sale at every mart. Not very valuable, you can often buy the entire clock for less than the price of a new dome. Not valuable in terms of dollars but priceless in the eyes of some owners. This was one of those. It was a wedding present and the couple will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversary next month. The clock ran faithfully throughout their marriage and was a constant reminder of the day they exchanged vows. It took the Northridge earthquake to still the little clock. It was like a good friend passing when it ceased its animation.



Several clockmakers were consulted but they all said the same thing "It isn't repairable" Not being able to bear the sight of it just sitting motionless, they moved it to a closet. There it sat for thirteen years.

As their 50th anniversary approached they remembered the clock and decided to try one more time to see if it could be brought back to life. Someone gave them my name and they asked if I would look at it. After they told me their story, I assured them that it would be running strong on their anniversary.

I delivered and set up the clock and the look on their faces was beyond description as they held hands and watched it slowly rotate. Sometimes we fix more than just a clock and it really feels good.

The reason I titled this article "Time Machines" is not for the obvious time keeping functions of the clock but rather their ability to take us back in time. I find it difficult to work on an old clock without drifting back to the time that it was made. And that is exactly what we are going to do with this series of articles, starting with the Schatz anniversary clock.

Our little clock was born in Germany early in 1957 and was immediately shipped to the United States, the biggest market for these clocks. While 1957 was only fifty years ago, a short time for

clock collectors, it is worth visiting or revisiting for some of us.

Except for the cold war, 1957 was a peaceful time. The Korean war was over and most people had not yet heard of Vietnam. Eisenhower was in his second term as president and Nikita Khrushchev was his Russian counterpart. In the middle east a mother gives birth to a son who would later become known to all, Osama Bin Laden

The technology explosion was in its infancy but growing rapidly. Russia shocked the world when it launched Sputnik, the first orbital satellite. Boeing test flew the worlds first jet passenger plane, the 707. 39 million homes now had television sets and color sets were available even though most of the broadcasts were still in black & white. Hamilton introduced the world's first battery-powered watch, the futuristic.

The average cost of a house was \$13,500, the average annual income, \$5,400; new car, \$2,100; postage, 3 cents/oz; minimum wage, \$1.00 hr; a loaf of bread, 19 cents; hospital stay, \$32 a day; hotel, \$16 per night; and cigarettes were 24 cents a pack.

America is taking to the road in droves, even though there is concern as gas prices have risen 4 cents a gallon over the last five years bringing it to 31 cents per gallon. However, it would take another nine years to reach 32 cents a gallon.

The Detroit big three auto makers are enjoying record sales and barely noticed when upstart Toyota introduced its first car to the US market. Ford also introduces the revolutionary car of the future, the Edsel.

Popular new TV shows were "Father Knows Best", "The Price is Right", "American Bandstand", "Twenty-One", "Leave it to Beaver", and the "Nat "King" Cole Show."

"West Side Story" and "The Music Man" opened in New York. "The Bridge on the River Kwai", "Twelve Angry Men", "Sayonara", "Peyton Place", and "Witness for the Prosecution" were the hot movies that year.

After 69 years, the last issue of Collier's Weekly magazine is published. The first edition of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* went on sale.

Walter O'Malley announces that the Brooklyn Dodgers would be playing in los Angeles in 1958.

All things considered, 1957 was a nice time to live. It was a peaceful, easygoing period, our personal freedoms were at an all time high and you could get some great clocks and watches for low prices.

# BOOK REVIEWS

by Ken McWilliams

I will be reviewing three books that were released this year. One is a traditional printed-on-paper book and the other two are e-books.

## **“Cuckoo Clock Repair Made Simple”**

by Tom Seaman

**8½ x 11, 136 pages, spiral bound \$39.95**

This is the first repair book that I have seen that is dedicated 100% to the Cuckoo clock. While it is well written and generously illustrated, I would not consider this to be a book for the beginning clock repair person. But then, a beginner shouldn't be starting with a Cuckoo clock anyway.

It is a no nonsense instructional repair book. You won't find the history of Black Forest clocks or photos of fancy cases or even case repair information in this book. What you will find is a well thought out Cuckoo clock movement repair book with about 150 detailed photos. The book uses the Regula 25 one day movement. This is the most common movement used and the one you are most likely to run into. Once you master this one it will be easier to transition to the other makes and models.

Tom accompanies most of the text with a relevant photo. Whether he is talking about a tool, a part, or a procedure, he will show a detailed photo to support the text. He often even labels the items in the photo for easy identification.

A list of the tools required for repair work and where to get them is provided. There is also a “Trouble shooting guide” for solving common problems.

However, there is one thing that is missing from Tom's book and that is a table of contents and index. If you want to find a particular item like the bird arm locking position, you will have to thumb through the book until you find it.

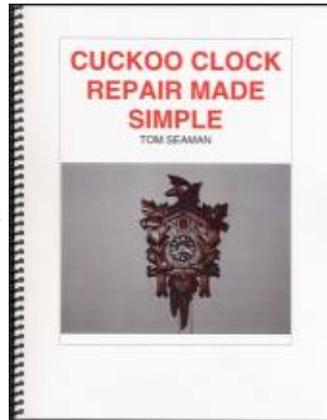
If you work on or plan to work on Cuckoo clocks this is a must have book.

The next two books are e-books. What is a e-book you ask? It is a book written to be viewed on a computer or other electronic display device. The “e” stands for “electronic.”

Some advantages of e-books are, they don't take-up any bookcase space, no environmental resources are used, lower cost because there is no paper or printing involved, and they allow special interest low volume authors to publish without the prohibitive publishing costs.

Many e-books are Acrobat files and can easily be printed if you prefer hard copy or you can just print selected pages. With a text to speech converter you can even have it read itself to you.

One of the things I like best about e-books is the instant availability of it. I recently found a book that I wanted on a London website. Within a few minutes after I bought it, I was reading it.



## **“Adjusting the Anniversary (400 Day) Clock”**

by William J. Bilger

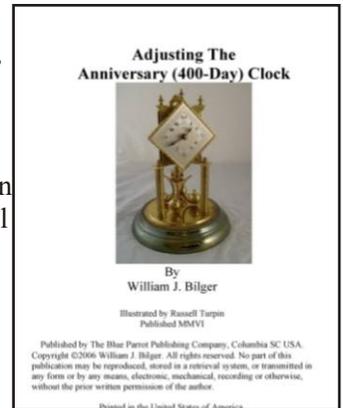
**133 pages, 8½ x 11 (If printed) e-book \$5.99**

Bill does a nice introduction to 400 day clocks. While this is not a movement repair book, he does spend about a page listing the items to be aware of when cleaning and repairing.

This is a companion book to Terwillinger's “Horolover 400 Day Clock repair Guide.” He does a very good job taking you step by step through the processes starting with identifying the clock by its back plate, selecting the correct suspension spring, installing it and finally putting it in beat. Following his guidelines will greatly improve your chances of getting your clock up and running correctly and in a minimum amount of time.

Illustrations are a little sparse. While his verbal descriptions of the required actions are very good, additional illustrations would definitely help.

If you work or plan to work on these clocks, this book should be in your library. (e-library or bookshelf) For \$5.99 it's really a no brainer. Available on eBay, use title in the search box.



## **Clock, Watches, & Bells**

by Edmond Beckette & Lord Grimthorpe

**298 pages, 8½ x 11 (if printed) e-book \$4.95**

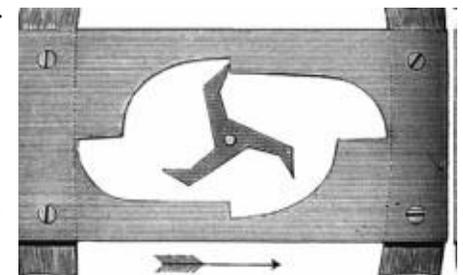
I stumbled across this e-book by accident while looking for another book. It was released as an e-book this year but it was originally written in 1883. A new preface and an updated list of great bells was added in 1903 but it is basically as written in 1883.

This is an amazing book. It covers just about all aspects of horology starting with eight pages dedicated just to the concept of measuring time. It is not possible to list everything that is covered as the table of contents alone is eight pages long.

Some areas that are covered in depth are, the history of clocks, pendulums, escapements, dials, striking clocks, turret clocks, chime tunes, train remontoires, the Westminster clock, teeth & wheels, watches and chronometers, and bells.

Don't expect to find any Hermle movements. If it was invented after 1883 it ain't here. There are many old engraved illustrations throughout the book like the three legged dead beat escapement on the right.

Some parts gets very technical but it is still very enjoyable and educational to the non technical reader. I have found escapements in this book that I haven't seen anywhere else. Just the illustrations are worth the \$4.95.



**NOTE: If you would like a closer look, I will have these books at the August meeting .**

# Chapter 75 Mini-Mart 2007



## WANTED

Will purchase your clock collection, all or part.  
Call **Jerry** at **(818) 986-1159**

Brewster & Ingram 30 hour movements spring & weight. Also; Seth Thomas advance black adamantine, part or complete.  
Call **Hugh Jay** at **(805) 733-1858**

Welch, Verdi: Case and Dial  
Call **Hugh Jay** at **(805) 733-1858** or write  
P.O. Box 71, Lompoc, CA 93438

E. N. Welch - 8 day T/S & alarm movement mounted on wood blocks for beehive.  
Call **Hugh Jay** at **(805) 733-1858** or write  
P.O. Box 71, Lompoc, CA 93438

Waltham 18s Appleton Tracy ca 1883 with gold flash movement.  
Call **Glen Frizzi** at **(818) 894-1960**

Wanted: LeCoultre model clock in decent condition Rue de la Paix made in the late 70s or early 80s.  
Call **Herman Berman** **(818) 788-4230**

WANTED: Chinese duplex or market pocket watches. Also verge fusee pocket watches and old enameled case watches.  
Call: John Bolen (818) - 892-0633

## SERVICES OFFERED

**Mike Murray**, certified clocksmith, will repair atmos and other clocks.  
E-mail: [mikem@atmos-man.com](mailto:mikem@atmos-man.com),  
Web: <http://www.atmos-man.com>

**Allen Perdomo** repairs complicated watches in his new shop in Thousand Oaks. He also buys parts of aircraft clocks or complete aircraft clocks. Call him at **(805) 495-3495**  
235 N Moorpark Rd, Suite D, Thousand Oaks

**Nik of Time Clock Repair**  
Service and restoration of antique cocks and tower clocks. Member since 1991, 26 years experience. **Nik Pliagas** **(800) 313-TIME**  
[www.nik-of-time.com](http://www.nik-of-time.com) • [pliagas@aol.com](mailto:pliagas@aol.com)

### **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.  
Call **Jorge** at **(562) 531-0545 • (562) 688-6171**

Restoration, repair, sales of clocks and watches.  
**Ferdinand Geitner**, mbhi, is owner and operator of "The Montecito Clock Gallery" now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a Montecito

## FOR SALE

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
Clock, Watch, & Jewelry Repair  
ShopNorthridge area  
Contact Eddy: 818-383-7901

### **OUT OF BUSINESS** **SALE**

Ingersoll's Clocks and Antiques, 62 Palm Dr, Camarillo, CA. Over 50 wall, mantel, and long case clocks.  
**Now Discounted 50%**. Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10:30 to 4:30. Call to confirm: 805-482-9936 or 805-484-

### **FOR SALE** **TIMEX WATCH DISPLAY CASE**

17" Diameter, 69" Tall  
Excellent condition  
You pick up in Westhills  
Call Ed: 818-346-4688



## Chapter 75 Ladies Table

I would like to thank all the ladies who brought treasured items to sell at the "Ladies Table" last meeting. I hope you had a good time.

Because we had so many items, we will have two tables for future meetings, so please join us. I would also like to thank Jeannie Van Ausdell for all her assistance in helping with the "Ladies Table".

Jeanne suggests that all items be labeled with the price and the name of The seller. That way, if you want to look around, and one of your items Sells, we will know whose it is.

We look forward to sharing the tables with you and having a good time.

Chris St. Dennis



**"I trust your repairs with my life!"**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chapter's new website is now up and running.

[www.nawcc-ch75.com](http://www.nawcc-ch75.com)

As of now, it has the following features:

- All 2007 downloadable and printable Regulator newsletters.
- Downloadable and printable membership application form.
- List of board members.
- 2007 meeting schedule, times and maps.
- Chapter activities. (This is where we will list workshops, GLAR info, special chapter awards, photos etc).
- Clock info.
- Watch info and helpful articles.
- Member Business links. Any member can have his or her clock/watch related business listed here.
- Links to other horology sites (We have about 30 listed so far).

This site will be updated every month, rain or shine, with the latest newsletter and pertinent news items. If you have any suggestions or things to add to it, let Ken McWilliams know.

## MEETING LOCATION



Chapter 75 meets the 4th Sunday of every month, except December. **Visitors are welcome.** For more information, phone Ken McWilliams at 818-718-8300.

Set-up Time: 11:00-11:30 • Operating: 11:30 to 2:30  
, Meeting: 2:30 to 3:30

Quartz Watches,  
by Ken McWilliams

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:  
August 26



If Undeliverable return To: The Regulator  
2130 Saxe Court  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360