



The MAIN SPRING

A Monthly Publication from
Southwestern Chapter 15 of the
National Association of
Watch and Clock Collectors

Wharton One Day Clock & Watch Show Saturday, September 13th

The One Day Show and Mart will be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Wharton, Texas. The address is 1717 Pioneer, at the Boling Highway. Parking is behind the Fellowship Hall. Unloading will be at 8:00 am.

Directions: When coming into Wharton on Business 59, you will need to turn in front of the CVS Pharmacy. This is at 1301 Boling Highway.

If you would like to bring "Goodies" to eat, it would be appreciated.

The program will be a video from the NAWCC National.

There are three motels in Wharton that you may wish to stay at. The TeePee Motel is a 1930's motel that has been renovated – phone is 979-282-1152. Country Hearth Inn – phone number is 979-532-1152. Holiday Inn Express – phone number is 979-282-8300.

The cost for attending the meeting will be \$5.00 and there will be a \$5.00 charge for a table.

-Shirley and Harold Secor

Tri-Chapter One Day and Mart Sponsored by Chapters 15, 124 and 139 October 18, 2008 Lockhart, Texas

Mark your calendar now for the Tri-Chapter One Day to be held on Saturday, October 18th, 2008 at the following facility:

1st United Methodist Church
313 W. San Antonio St.
Lockhart, TX 78644

The Mart will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and it is being held only three blocks west of the Museum in Lockhart. Admission is \$10.00 and includes tables on a first-come-first-served basis. Coffee, doughnuts and breakfast goodies are also included.continued next column....

...Tri-Chapter continued....

In addition to seeing the historic Caldwell County Courthouse on the square, the Show will include a presentation on the Courthouse tower clock. There are several restaurants and some of the best barbecue in Texas within walking distance for lunch.

For an overnight stay, hotels in the area include:

Plum Creek Inn
(512-398-4911)

www.plumcreekinn.net

Best Western Lockhart Hotel & Suites

(800-780-7234 or 512-620-0300)

www.bestwestern.com/lockharthotelandsuites

Watch the Chapter 15, 124 and 139 newsletters and websites for more details, or you can contact Roy Barnard at OneDayMarts@nawcc-chapter15.org or by phone at (512) 225-4783. See ya there!

"My Interest in Clocks"

Harold Secor

My interest in clocks started when I was 13. I put a misplaced click back on an old family clock – wound it and it ran again. When I was 14 I saw a wooden works movement, weights, and pendulum in a antiques store. But I couldn't raise the necessary \$5 to buy it.

I met Mr. Tate in 1970 and he convinced me to join the NAWCC. I had gone to him to have my Grandfather's key wind pocket watch repaired. There was no stopping after this. My first meeting was in Mississippi. We were passing through and heard about the meeting. Saw some nice Fashion clocks for \$200 each, but didn't have that much – like the \$5 that I didn't have years ago. But things improved and now I do have some Fashion clocks – but they weren't \$200.

Editor's note: we are asking members to let us know how they got started in clock or watch collecting, or how they came to be in Chapter 15. Please consider submitting your tale by email at newsletter@nawcc-chapter15.org

*or by mail at: Newsletter Editor
1502 Dartmouth Ave
Austin, TX 78757*

Visit Your NAWCC Chapter 15 Website at www.nawcc-chapter15.org/ - new information updates!!

President's Message to Horologists

~ Gene Galbraith

While watching a TV commercial the other day, I heard a lofty play on words from a professor who was addressing a group of students on their first day at the university. The professor was stressing the importance of words and language in building successful careers. He was trying to turn phrases into an impressive discourse while his audience yawned in utter boredom. His speech ended when a young man in the audience jumped to his feet and shouted, "The end!" Everyone started applauding. The professor mistook the applause for praise; the audience was, instead, cheering that the wordsmith professor was done. Two different outcomes resulted from one lesson on the use of vocabulary and language skills.

The point of this rhetoric is to introduce an observation I have made about clock and watch enthusiasts as well as clockmakers and watchmakers in the trade. While mixing and mingling with clock and watch people, I have noticed a general lack of knowledge about the language of horology. I hear so called clockmakers talk about the parts of a movement in terms like, "the wire that hangs down," meaning the crutch; "the wheel that holds the mainspring, or the wheel that 'ticks'," meaning the great wheel or the escape wheel respectively; "the ring of wood or metal around the dial," meaning the bezel; and so on. I have had clock repairers talk to me about problems with a movement, but they cannot accurately describe the parts of the clock to help me understand the problem. Naturally I use the opportunity to "teach" them the preferred terminology.

Horology is defined as *the science of measuring time or making timepieces*. There is a beautiful language associated with horology that should be learned and practiced at the bench, in presentations, and in conversations on the subject. Using the proper names of clock parts and descriptions of clock functions is important in establishing confidence with potential customers. Although the customer may not have a clue as to what it means for a clock to be "out of beat", or, why a clock runs "fast or slow," it will help a customer's understanding of the mystery of clocks if the professional clockmaker can explain the various functions of the clock using the correct names of the parts. The rewards of the "professional approach" should be quite apparent:

1. The clockmaker establishes his professional credentials with the customer.
2. The customer gains an understanding about the mysteries of how clocks function.
3. The clock repair business will grow and the art of horology will be perpetuated.

There are many sources available to horologists where the language of the trade can be acquired. All too often I find that my colleagues do not

own books on clock and watch repair, or, if they do, they never open them to gain the knowledge between the covers. It is amazing how much can be learned by simply reading the "Glossary" that is often found in reference books. Few of us have the opportunity, or the inclination, to develop new research in the science of horology. However, we can gain valuable knowledge and improve our work as professional clockmakers and watchmakers when we avail ourselves of the research and techniques of those who have gone before.

Furthermore, we owe it to the future generation of clock and watch enthusiasts to be teachers as well as practitioners of horology. When, in the course of collecting or repairing clocks, we come upon unusual timepieces or unorthodox repair techniques, there should be a thorough and systematic study made of the piece, including photographs and notes. Our findings may deserve to be developed into a formal presentation for meetings and workshops. If one is uncomfortable with making presentations, the information can be assigned to someone who can take the material and make a PowerPoint or table-top presentation for a future meeting.

We can all benefit from this approach to the education of our colleagues, as well as the public, on *the science of measuring time and the making of timepieces*—Horology.

Heirloom Clockworks Missing

The following is a request that all of us could relate to easily.

My name is Michael Stefflen. Last year I gave Mr. Carl Schmiege the movements to an heirloom 18th Swedish clock to repair. After some time of not hearing from him, I found out he passed away and the contents of his shop had been sold (as advertised in the December 2007 newsletter).

I have been referred to your group, hoping that someone in your group may have purchased the movement and weights to my clock and would be willing to return them home. This clock means a great deal to my grandmother.

The movements are Swedish circa 1770, but English style.. square metal face with engraved Roman numerals, the back or interior of the movements are signed by 'Lars Andersson' and the maker's location 'Langlett' is also inscribed beside his name. It had no pendulum, unless Mr. Schmiege had already replaced it before his passing, and it had new cord and wooden pullies with two very heavy old iron weights.

Can you help us?

Thank you, Michael Stefflen
713-521-2147

Science Olympiad Opportunities

Have you been looking for opportunities to reach a younger generation who are interested in the study of horology? If so, this may be just what you've been looking for. Opportunities are now available as the NAWCC is reprising its role with the National Science Olympiad and its program *It's About Time* event for high school students. Those of you who have been involved with NAWCC for many years may remember that from 1990-1997, representatives from NAWCC helped the Science Olympiad run this popular event.

For everyone who may not be familiar with the Science Olympiad Program and the *It's About Time* event, here are some of the basics recently shared with us by Katie Knaub, NAWCC Director of Education:

- The basic description of *It's About Time*:
"Students will use a non-electrical device which they have constructed prior to the tournament to measure time intervals between 10 and 300 seconds. They will be asked to answer questions about issues such as the concept of time, timekeeping, astronomy, physics, mechanics and horology."
- *It's About Time* will reach at least 2,600 US high schools, with at least 4 students per high school preparing for the event – for a local participation of about 10,000 US high school students in 2009.
- There are 47 state organizations which run 240 regional and state Science Olympiad tournaments annually.
- The event will run for at least 2 years, so chapter or member involvement will have time to grow and reach a new generation of possible NAWCC members.

How can you help? Science Olympiad is looking to the NAWCC members and chapters to assist in the following ways:

- Mentor teams in their local area
- Work with students at Science Olympiad practice sessions
- Assist at regional or state tournaments
- Present at teacher trainings
- Provide expertise to national event supervisors on industry-specific concepts
- Provide web, electronic or visual resources to assist students with the event research

Additionally, financial sponsorship enables the National Science Olympiad to bring this event to over 10,000 high school students and their teachers. If you're interested in learning more, volunteering with a local Science Olympiad team, or assisting at a regional or state tournament, please contact Katie Knaub at the NAWCC National Offices.

Great Southwestern 2009 Update April 17-18, 2009

What? News about the 2009 Great Southwestern Regional Already? If it's September, then we are a whole seven months away, but that's only seven months to put together the biggest regional we've seen in these parts in quite a while. So I've already started putting together a team to plan, promote, and run every aspect of the regional. We're looking for volunteers to head up or help in the areas of security, unloading, educational programs and classes, hospitality, finance, mart room, exhibit, door prizes, silent auction, banquet, photography, and announcements. We also are looking for donations of at least one major Raffle item and several smaller door prize items.

We have a contract with the city of New Braunfels for their Civic Center Exhibit Hall (same as last year) and special rates at the Hotel Faust if reservations are made before April 1. Friday hours will be expanded from last year at the request of several table holders and potential table holders, but we will continue to emphasize Saturday events and the shopping spree to encourage members to participate on Saturday.

We are offering a special "Early Bird" discount of \$5 off regular prices for both registration and tables through January 31, 2009. The forms are available for viewing or printing on our website at www.nawcc-chapter15.org/SouthwesternRegional.htm and a few hundred of them were distributed at the All Texas Chapters Regional in Houston (co-sponsored by Chapter 15). Printed copies of the forms will also be distributed at Chapter 15 events in September (Bi-Chapter One-Day Mart in Wharton), October (Tri-Chapter One-Day Mart in Lockhart), and November (Social "Pot Luck" in Pflugerville).

Believe it or not, we've already received our first registration form and a commitment from a clock parts supply house to participate. I'm really excited about our next Great Southwestern Regional. We have a great facility, free, convenient parking (no longer available in Houston) and as far as weather goes, the best location/time-of-year in Texas.

Mike Williams, General Chairman
Great Southwestern Regional



**The Southwest Museum of Clocks and
Watches Presents a Special Event!**
Saturday, September 27th, 6 PM

“It’s About Time” features Austin artists Kara Bliss McGregor and Austin Haller performing music from Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, George Gershwin and more. Tickets are \$12, or \$10 for Museum Members, and will include gourmet ice cream from Lockhart’s Boca Chica Micro Creamery.

Call 512-376-4266 for reservations. The Museum is located at 101 E. San Antonio Street, Lockhart Texas. Proceeds benefit the Museum.

Survey – Still Time, Get Busy

The Chapter 15 survey still needs more input, we want your opinions and insights so please consider filling one out. The Survey form is still on the website, or contact one of the officers or the Newsletter editor (email and mail address located in this newsletter) to get a copy to fill out.

Thank you for your participation.

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