



The MAIN SPRING

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

A look into the world of watches

On Saturday, June 27th, Dick Dorer gave us a fascinating look into the world of watches, sharing some of the watches from his collection, along with pictures and personal stories. The journey began with a boy in West Virginia who couldn't get enough of watches – his days often took him around the neighborhood, to the local watchmaker's and even to nearby cities to learn more about what made these wonderful inventions work or to find parts.

As the boy grew into a young man, his fascination with watches didn't wane, and his journeys took him beyond the boundaries of his home when he went into the military and was stationed in Germany. Fortunately, while there, he was able to meet a master watchmaker and work with the man's three apprentices – spending many hours observing and learning even more. During this time, he was able to observe first-hand how the guilds operated.

Upon his return home, Dick soon decided to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the Bowman Technical School of Watchmaking and Engraving in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. So began another leg of his journey. With pictures of the school, Dick shared a portion of this trip, including some of the techniques in watch making and repair that were in common use at the time.

From this beginning in the watch industry, the young man began a career with the Elgin watch company: a career that took him on a journey far from West Virginia and Pennsylvania to a wonderful area of Texas – a "little" area that stretched from Fort Worth to El Paso. This time brought many changes in technology and in the watch industry.

The next stop on the trip was in Fredericksburg where Dick was able to combine many of the things he had experienced. Not only did Dick share the historical perspective of watches during this period, he also shared pictures of Chapter 15 events. Along with bringing us to the end of our program, these pictures provided a great opportunity to identify past – and current – Chapter members and to talk about upcoming events.

Our thanks to Dick for a great program!

Perspectives

As we celebrate the 233rd birthday of American Independence, it's easy to lose track of the great gifts that we have in this country. Many of us are not as wealthy as we were a year or two ago, or we worry about our financial future. Some worry more about our health this year, as costs escalate and we grow older. We've heard the news of several deaths this past month: Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcett, Michael Jackson, Billy Mays, Karl Malden... If this wasn't enough, one of the CAWCG's newsletter mailings was returned, marked "deceased" (not a CAWCG member). We seem to be as politically polarized as ever, with plenty of name-calling: Nazi!, or Socialist! No public figure is immune from these attacks, no matter their political or religious affiliation. But in reality, today's "attacks" are nothing new. It was the same in the very beginning of our republic—only the medium has changed.

One of the things that we celebrate for the 233rd year is the freedom to speak out for or against our government or public figures. On the other side of the world, people were gunned down in the street this past week for daring to

speaking against their government. This weekend, I plan to worship at church, and my biggest decision is whether to attend early or late service. I am free to choose how to worship, where and when to worship, or not to worship at all. On the other side of the world, failure to worship “correctly” can get people killed, and even that isn’t a guarantee of safety—just driving down the street or buying groceries for dinner are life-threatening events. I read a newspaper every day, published independently of the government, watch TV news unfiltered by government news censors, listen to radio news, and receive email news feeds, all free from government interference. On the other side of the world, I would be arrested because of my satellite dish alone. Because I can freely gather information on any topic I choose, I can even surf the Internet and put together a presentation on watches, even though I’m a clock person!

Independence Day is a good time to step back and take stock of the blessings we enjoy. We can always work hard on improving them. We always have, and we always will. But every once in a while, when working hard, it’s very rewarding to take a break, step back, wipe the sweat off your brow, smile at the hard-working person next to you (even if you don’t always agree), and appreciate the things we have to enjoy.

Hope everyone had a Happy 4th!
Mike Williams
President

July meeting reminder

Mark your calendar now for the July meeting. Jay Holloway will present a program on Southern Fashion clocks. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 25th, at the Holloway’s, 1105 Lafayette Lane, Pflugerville.

Directions to the Holloway’s:

From the south on I-35, take Exit 247 FM 1825/ Pflugerville/Wells Branch Parkway. Right at the light on Wells Branch Parkway. Wells Branch

Parkway turns left and becomes S. Heatherwilde Boulevard. Right on Olympic Drive (.6 mile). Right on Brown (1mile). Right on Lafayette. Red brick house on the left at the end of the block.

From the north on I-35, take Exit 247 FM 1825/ Pflugerville/ Wells Branch Parkway. Left at the light on Wells Branch Parkway. Wells Branch Parkway turns left and becomes S. Heatherwilde Boulevard. Right on Olympic Drive (.6 mile). Right on Brown (1mile). Right on Lafayette. Red brick house on the left at the end of the block

Please call with questions (512-252-3881).
See you there!

Board Officers and Contact Information

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Above Dick Dorer shared pictures and his knowledge of watches. Below and to the right are some of the watches Dick talked about



Chapter 15 Membership Application
 New Application / Renewal (circle one)
 Membership Dues are \$10
 You must be a current and paid member
 of NAWCC to join a Chapter.
 You may be a member of more than one Chapter.
Please Print or Type

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/COUNTRY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

NAWCC Member # _____

HOROLOGICAL INTERESTS: _____

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC
 Enclose this application and check and send to:

Pat Holloway
 1105 Lafayette Lane
 Pflugerville, TX 78660

| Treasurer's Report | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chapter Account | |
| Beginning balance | \$8,510.38 |
| Income | |
| Reverse glass painting class | \$360.00 |
| Total income | 360.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Website | 84.99 |
| Reverse glass painting class | 537.76 |
| Total expenses | \$622.75 |
| Ending balance | \$8,247.63 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Regional Account | |
| Balance (unchanged) | \$4,563.60 |

Save The Date

- Chapter 15 monthly program
Southern Fashion clocks
Location: Holloway's at 10 a.m.
July 25th
- All Texas Chapters Regional
Houston, Texas
August 28th – 30th
- MKOA Regional
Carthage, Missouri
September 24th – 26th
- Chapter 15 monthly program
September 26th
- Chapter 15 monthly program
October 24th

Newsletter Editor NAWCC Chapter 15
1105 Lafayette Lane
Pflugerville TX 78660

Old Photographs Wanted

Do you have any pictures around your house of Chapter 15 events, functions or members? Currently, our website only has recent pictures. We'd like to be able to include more pictures as well as historical information, so if you have items you'd like to share (we can scan and return the originals), please contact Mike Williams.

As we gather some of these pictures and items, we may be asking for assistance in identifying names and date, so don't be surprised to hear from us!

The Five States Collectors Regional scheduled for August 14 – 15 in Lubbock has been cancelled. Please continue to watch for updates on a rescheduled event.