



Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for April 24 and the Chapter 15 annual meeting, with the theme **'55 plus 55**. Chapter 15 was founded in 1955 and this year marks our 55th anniversary!

Instead of hosting our own two day regional this year, we will be holding a very busy program, including a one day mart, our annual meeting (including lunch), a great educational program/workshop, and a silent auction. Pat is gathering pictures of past events, memories from long-time and/or past members, and we will be putting together a display of memorabilia. Hours are planned to be from 9 AM to 3 PM. Stay tuned as more details are worked out. Ideas, information, and offers of assistance are always welcome!

Charles Terwilliger and The Horolovar Company

In my November article, I mentioned that the clock I inherited from my great-great grandfather had been overhauled by Robert Terwilliger in the late 1990s. Robert is the son of the late Charles Terwilliger, founder of the Horolovar Company and author of *The 400 Day Clock Repair Guide*. Robert is composing an on-line biography of his father at www.twigsdigs.com/cot/, which makes for fascinating reading.

Charles was an amazing fellow. His father was a chemist and inventor, and he studied engineering at MIT during prohibition. While he was there, he built a car out of spare parts and used it to smuggle grain alcohol from his father's lab to sell to fellow students at MIT. For some odd reason, this MIT-educated engineer wound up selling advertising space for a publisher of

magazines for the women's market. He got into clock collecting when his doctor advised him to take up a hobby to alleviate stress.

Broken clocks were easy to pick up at a low price after WWII, often at public auction. The Post Office, in particular, would pay insurance claims on damaged parcels and sell the broken items in large lots in New York, where Charles was working. Being a good salesman and mechanic, he fixed up some clocks and movements, cannibalized others, and put together a large parts supply organization out of his house.

400 day clocks were often broken (especially the domes), so Charles picked up a large number of them, usually in working condition. But these clocks often did not keep very good time, and Charles was able to use the knowledge he gained at MIT to figure out the problem: suspension springs of varying thickness and composition. He decided that these springs needed to be made of a new and more consistently reliable material and they needed to be made to tighter specifications. He then persuaded Waltham to manufacture them for him, and he had the beginnings of a legacy—it just needed a name.

Charles decided to name his new company Horolovar, from Horo (time) and the suffix "var" from the metal Invar. His springs weren't actually made from Invar, but they did have similar thermal characteristics. His new springs were ready for the market in 1951, and he published the *Horolovar 400-Day Clock Suspension Spring Guide* in 1953, with drawings of 99 different backplates and the corresponding spring strength for the associated clock. The Horolovar Company was on its way, and the world of 400 Day Clock collectors would never be the same. (see Terwilliger p. 2)

Terwilliger (continued)

Charles Terwilliger joined NAWCC in 1950, and became Chairman of the Membership Committee in 1951. He later served as an officer, chairman of other NAWCC committees and as a trustee of the NAWCC Museum. Few people realize it, but most of the Ignatz flying pendulum clocks, Dickory Dickory Dock Clocks, and Anno 1492 Columbus Clocks in existence were made by Horolovar. Fewer than 500 of the original Columbus clocks were thought to exist as long ago as 1945, but Horolovar made a large number of reproductions. The flying pendulum clocks were a reproduction of an original New Haven design.

If this isn't more than you ever wanted to know about this pioneer and early leader of the NAWCC, then I urge you to read Robert's online biography in detail.

Mike Williams,
President

The World Wide Wonder

On Saturday January 24th, about twenty Chapter members were treated to a program on the resources available to us courtesy of the World Wide Web. From the Chapter 15 website and NAWCC online resources, to suppliers of horological items, to research websites and email groups, Mike Williams served as tour guide on a scenic trip around the Web.

In addition to being the tour guide, Mike was also the driver, taking us to each stop so we could see the sights firsthand. Since no one took photos along the way, as a memento of the trip, Mike has posted the links along with a brief description of each in the Links and Research sections of the Chapter 15 website. Not only are those of us who were on the tour able to look back at these treasures from our trip, they're available for us to share with others.

Thanks, Mike, for a wonderfully informative presentation and for posting the links so everyone can take advantage of them.

Basic clock repair class

The Capital Area Watchmakers and Clockmakers Guild is offering a two-day basic clock repair class in College Station. The class will be held on February 27 and 28. Cost of the class is \$100. Please contact Pat as soon as possible for additional details if you are interested.

Treasurer's Report	
Chapter Account	\$8,220.07
Expenses – room rent for 1/24 meeting	\$50.00
Income – Dues	\$50.00
Regional Account	\$4,463.60

Fun facts from 1955

To help us prepare for the *'55 plus 55* Chapter 15 anniversary celebration here are some fun facts to think about...

- Dwight D. Eisenhower was President
- McDonald's opened their first franchised restaurant
- Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California
- NAWCC was incorporated
- Fats Domino was singing "Ain't That a Shame"
- Chuck Berry's hit was "Maybelline"
- "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and the Comets was the first rock and roll song in a major movie
- Charles O. Terwilliger, Jr. was elected as a Vice-President of NAWCC
- The Brooklyn Dodgers beat the New York Yankees in the World Series
- The Cleveland Browns defeated the Los Angeles Rams for the NFL championship
- The NAWCC National Convention was in Washington, D.C.
- Disney's movie "Lady and the Tramp" debuted
- First issue of the "Guinness Book of Records" was published
- What other fun memories of 1955 do you have?

Calling all pictures...



Do you have any pictures of Chapter 15 events? Can you help us identify the members in this picture? Do you have fond memories of gatherings, events and/or members? If so, we'd like to hear from you. These are some of the things we're planning to share at our **'55 plus 55** themed annual meeting. Don't be surprised to see or hear from Pat over the next couple of months as she gathers memorabilia.

Thanks to Dick Dorer for sharing several pictures including this shot of a 1972 one-day at his home. We hope others also have pictures you're willing to share.

Board members and Contact Information

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Member news

We were saddened to hear that Maxine Walker, Chapter 15 Life Member, passed away last month. Many of you may remember Maxine and her husband Bill who were long-time Chapter members. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Chapter membership

In case you haven't renewed, or if you know of someone who might like to join Chapter 15, it's easier than ever with the addition of the Chapter 15 website PayPal option. Thank you for your continued support of our Chapter!

Chapter 15 Membership Application
New Application / Renewal (circle one)
Membership Dues are \$10

You must be a current and paid NAWCC member 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: _____

_____ Please send my Chapter 15 newsletter by email.

Make Check Payable To: Chapter 15, NAWCC
Enclose this application and check and send to:
Pat Holloway
1105 Lafayette Lane
Pflugerville, TX 78660

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Save The Date

- February 20/21
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day
Dial Painting workshop
Pflugerville, TX
- Lone Star Regional
March 5th – 6th, 2010
Mesquite
- April 24
Chapter 15's '55 plus 55 Anniversary
Celebration and Annual Meeting
- May 22
Chapter 15 Program

Dial painting workshop this month!

There are still a couple of openings for the dial painting workshop on February 20/21. The cost for the two-day class is \$65. If you have a painted metal dial in need of some TLC, please bring it along. If you don't, but would like to increase your skills, don't let this stop you. All supplies will be furnished. This is your opportunity!

A final count must be provided by February 15th, so please contact Pat Holloway as soon as possible to reserve your space.

Did you know...The 2010 NAWCC National offers educational opportunities in the form of Field Suitcase Workshops as well as a variety of very affordable eight hour classes on Thursday. To check out the offerings, go to <http://www.nawcc.org/> > 2010 National > Education Opportunities.