

The MAINSPRING

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

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Save these 2017 dates

November 11th

10 a.m. – noon: Pok-e-Jo’s on Parmer
Program – Michael Webb

November 12th

6:00 p.m. – NAWCC Webinar
American Watch Company
Presenter – Tom McIntyre

2018 dates

January 20th

10 a.m. – noon: Pok-e-Jo’s on Parmer
Program – Jay Holloway

February 17th

10 a.m. – noon: Pok-e-Jo’s on Parmer
Program – Steve Tibbitts

March 2nd – 3rd

Lone Star Regional
Mesquite TX

March 17th

10 a.m. – noon: Pok-e-Jo’s on Parmer
Program – Jay Pine

July 19th – 21st

2018 National Convention - York PA

Current Board Members

President – Jay Holloway
President@nawcc-chapter15.org

Vice-President – Gary Sertich
VicePresident@nawcc-chapter15.org

Treasurer – Don White
Treasurer@nawcc-chapter15.org

Secretary – Pat Holloway
Secretary@nawcc-chapter15.org

Director of Programs – Dulen Lee
Programs@nawcc-chapter15.org

President’s Message

Welcome to all our Members and Friends of Chapter 15,

We are quickly reaching the year end of our meetings, with Mike Webb prepared to present another fun and unique presentation. I encourage all that are in the area to attend the meeting. Our tradition has been to skip a December meeting due to Thanksgiving and Christmas being packed into the last 5 weeks of the year. Families are gathering to fellowship and many travel long distances. We want everyone to be safe and have a great year end.

We have enjoyed multiple training classes this year and many of our members have participated. Our goal is to expand horological knowledge, be it technical or historical. Our latest training class is on the care and maintenance of a jeweler's lathe. We expect a good turnout between Chapter 15 and CAWCG. The plans for 2018 will depend on members providing us with your needs. Please speak up at a meeting or contact us by email so we may set up the classes.

I want to thank our faithful members who come to our meetings each month and provide their input which makes everyone better horologists. We can never say enough for our members who take time to present a program to the group. Pat Holloway gave a fun presentation for October. Our request for programs did bring many of our members to sign up for 2018. One response we hear is that they are not knowledgeable enough to present a program. From my personal experience, I just took the leap and studied one item. From this study, I quickly found out that I knew much more than most in that one area, so please consider expanding your knowledge and share with the chapter.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our November meeting.

Jay Holloway,
President Chapter 15

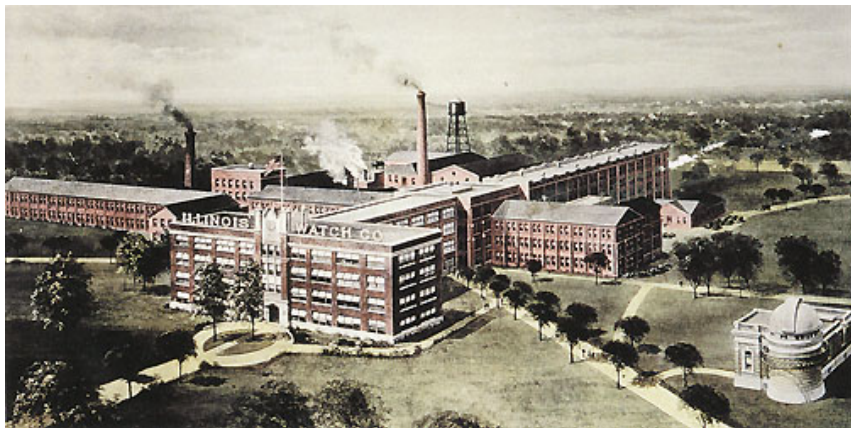


REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS
“FALL BACK” SATURDAY NIGHT!



Observatory time

Founded in 1869, the Springfield Watch Company encountered financial difficulties and was reorganized in 1877 and again in 1878. Both reorganizations included name changes, first to the Illinois-Springfield Watch Company and then to the Illinois Watch Company. In 1913, the company constructed an astronomical observatory on their grounds. Like the other watch companies that had added observatories, this allowed them to measure their time onsite rather than depending on time signals from another observatory. Up to 1902, the product of the Illinois Watch Company had been almost exclusively cheap and medium grades, but in 1903, they discontinued production of inexpensive watch movements and focused primarily on higher grade movements with 17, 19, 21 and 23 jewels for railroad use. These included the Sangamo Special, Bunn Special and the Bunn.



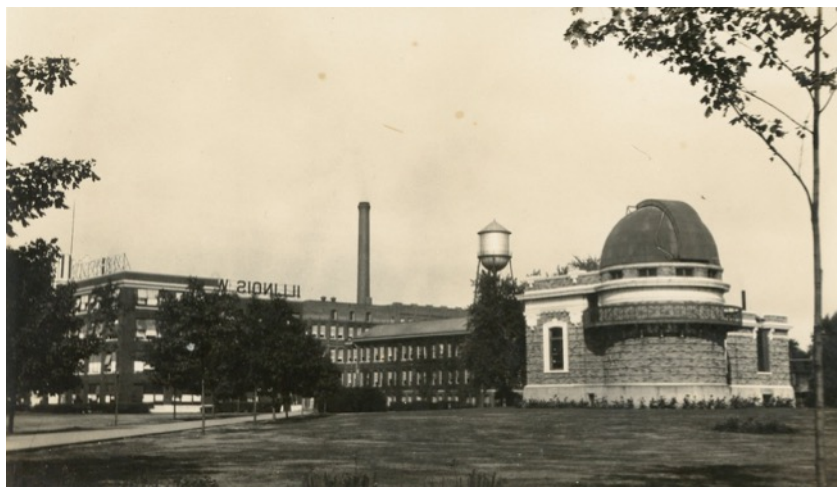
Demand increased and additions were made to the building in 1910 and 1912. In 1913, the astronomical observatory and wireless station were added. In addition to using the observations to time their watches, the company also sent out the correct time twice daily (12 noon and 8 in the evening) for the Central Time Zone. The signals reached 500 to 1,000 miles in all directions from Springfield. The wireless station was also a great school for amateur wireless operators during the war.

The observatory was listed in the United States Nautical Almanac. At that time, there were 256 observatories in the world that were listed. Of these, there were 84 in the United States. Additionally, George F. Johnson, Superintendent of the Watch Company and Custodian of the Watch Company Observatory was “one of 315 persons in the United States who were competent to write acceptable papers on astronomy, astrophysics or related branches of physics...” Information on the observatory was included in the company’s factory paper as well as in their advertising literature.

In 1928, the Hamilton Watch Company of Lancaster PA purchased the Illinois Watch Company. Hamilton changed the focus to wrist watch production and continued to operate the factory under the Illinois name until 1932 when the Great Depression forced them to close the factory. They retained the Illinois name until recently. (Wikipedia.org)

One of the telescopes from the observatory was purchased by Bradley University, but never used. In 1955, it was moved from Bradley and reassembled at the Northmoor Observatory located at the Leo Donovan Golf Course in Peoria. The telescope continues to play an important part with the Observatory. It is open to the public every cloudless Saturday night from the beginning of May through October. There are volunteers there from sunset to midnight to assist. You can see a short video on the observatory and telescope at this link: <http://www.illinoisadventuretv.org/index.asp?page=st&site=1188>

Note: Much of the information in this article came from a reprint of the booklet “Illinois Watches and Their Makers” by the Illinois Watch Company circa 1920. The booklets were distributed at the 1999 Southern Ohio Regional.



Chapter membership renewal

It's that time again. If you have not renewed your membership for 2018, please take a few minutes to send along the completed form and payment. Your membership is important to us!

Chapter membership

If you've not yet renewed for 2018, please take a few minutes to complete and return the form below.

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

You must be a current, 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 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

Treasurer's Report

Chapter Account	\$7,672.72
Exp No change	-0.00
Closing Balance	\$7,672.72
Regional Account – no change	\$3,013.60

Upcoming Events

November 4th – CAWCG and Chapter 15 workshop

Make plans now to attend this one-day jeweler's lathe workshop. You will learn to use and maintain your lathe, sharpen gravers, and practice a few techniques. This is a great opportunity to learn and hone your skills.

November 11th – Chapter 15 Program

Michael Webb will give the presentation on use of a rounding up tool and attachments, as well as some associated tools at the November meeting. Not many of us know the purpose of this tool, so plan now to attend.

November 12th – NAWCC webinar – 6 p.m.

Tom McIntyre will give a presentation on **The American Watch Company and the 1876 Centennial.**

October program recap

Pat Holloway gave the October program called "What else did they do? A look at some talented horologists." Many individuals who are known for their horological accomplishments have also been involved in other endeavors during their lives. For instance, individuals who hold one patent might hold others - some totally unrelated. Some were trained clockmaker and watchmakers, while others learned the trade.

The program loosely followed a game format where each individual's list of facts was revealed one at a time, ending with the item for which they are best known. Individuals associated with both clocks and watches were included. Some were well-known, while others played more of a behind the scenes part in the horological world. The Chapter officers were sprinkled throughout the presentation to add a little fun and help everyone get to know more about them. Attendees were invited to name the person as soon as they guessed.

In addition to the Chapter officers, the program included E. Howard, Aaron Dodd Crane, Theodore Timby, and P.T. Barnum, along with D.A.A. Buck and W.N. Weeden who were responsible for the Waterbury long wind watch, and Robert Ingersoll who carried on the dollar watch tradition. After the presentation, several attendees suggested others who could be added. Who knows, perhaps there will be a Part 2 in the future!

Newsletter Editor
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Spot a clock

In keeping with this month's Illinois Observatory article, this month's Spot a clock is actually a Spot a watch. Pictured are two of Illinois' best grades – the Sangamo Special and the Bunn Special. In addition to being excellent timekeepers, they are miniature works of art!

