

**Times Remembered***by Ken McWilliams*

Time goes by hour by hour, day by day, many of them could be laid on top of each other and we would not see much difference between them. But there are other days that will be indelibly etched in our memories for all of our lives. Most people can recall exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first learned of Pres. Kennedy's assassination, or when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. There are events in our lives that invoke strong emotions and live within us forever. Sometimes we feel pride, sometimes joy, and sometimes grief.

Ten years ago we experienced one of those occasions. I doubt that any of us will ever forget the feeling of shock, confusion, and disbelief when we watched in horror the destruction of the Trade Center in New York City.

On that Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, I had just showered, dressed, and went to the kitchen for a cup of coffee. My wife, Lynn, told me that the World Trade Center was on fire. I went to the family room and turned on the TV. I soon realized that this wasn't just a fire because it was being covered by every network. The first information was sketchy but it was confirmed that a passenger plane had crashed into the North tower of the Trade Center. I became transfixed with an eerie feeling of impending doom. My dog, Brandie, was impatiently sitting at my feet with her leash in her mouth. She knew that this was supposed to be her morning walk time. I was unable to leave the TV.

When a second plane hit the South Tower I knew instantly that we were under attack. More information began to trickle in about the hijacking of the planes. About a half-hour later the news of the terrorists attack on the Pentagon was broadcast. How could this be happening to us?

As I watched the trade center fires and the efforts to evacuate the buildings, I saw the South tower begin to move, then it just collapsed on itself. In disbelief, I remember yelling to Lynn "it's gone, it's gone." A half-hour later, the north tower did the same. I can't remember any time in my life, when I experienced so many different emotions than at that moment.

By now, Brandie had given up, dropped her leash on the floor and retired to her bed. I stayed glued to the TV for the next few hours and then realized that I was late for work.



I called my business partner to tell her that I was going to be late, only to find that she was in about the same state of mind that I was.

She had already contacted one of our employees to open the offices and instructed him to tell any of our crew that it was okay if they wanted to take the day off.

I couldn't get the images of that morning out of my mind, so that afternoon, with the help of Photoshop and some stock photos, I created this picture. I removed the towers from

the N.Y. Skyline but not from the reflection that I created of it in the water. I wanted to symbolize that they will always live on in our memories, and that this event will not defeat us.

The Saturday morning, following the attack, I was walking Brandie, and since it was such a beautiful, crisp morning I decided to extend our walk a few blocks. As I turned a corner, I saw a woman washing her car. As I approached, I saw her put her head on the hood and I could tell she was crying. I went up to her and asked if she

was all right. Without looking up, she said "I just can't do it alone." I tied Brandie's leash to the faucet, picked up a sponge and told her "I have some free time, let me help you." She looked at me and said, "It's not the car."

She was a young woman but when I looked into her eyes, red and swollen from many hours of crying, I saw an aging far beyond her years. She began sobbing again. I searched for handkerchief but all I could come up with was a crumpled Kleenex. I offered it to her but she didn't really need it, there weren't any tears left. I helped her to her porch and she sat down on the steps. I asked her how I could help, when a neighbor suddenly appeared. Without a word, she helped the woman into her house. I waited a few minutes, then picked up the hose and sprayed the soap off of her car so that it wouldn't dry and leave marks. It was the only thing that I could think of to do for her.

I untied Brandie and was preparing to leave when the neighbor reappeared. She told me that the woman's husband was on the flight from Boston to LA, the first plane that crashed into the Trade Center. She said that the young couple, and their new baby, had just purchased the house a few months ago. She babysat for her whenever she needed to run errands or do a little shopping, and got to know, and like them very much. They were always happy, full of optimism and obviously, very much in love.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

This month continues the election process for Chapter 190 Officers and Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the September meeting. The installation of the 2012 Board will be at the November meeting. Fortunately for me and the chapter, all current board members have agreed to stay on, albeit some in different jobs. We also will have added a few new directors.



Finding new members and growing a chapter has been a topic of discussion for NAWCC members and Chapters for many years. I have been very fortunate at Chapter 190 to have many members who have donated their time and talents to do all of the important tasks that make a chapter grow.

One of the easiest and the simplest ways to grow membership in any organization is welcoming visitors and guests. Chapter 190 Officers, Directors, and members have done a great job of making guests fit right in to all the activities of the meeting. The attention often continues with the members, in the form of giving personal time and mentoring (giving back) by many of our members.

At a meeting it is very nice to meet and spend time with old friends, but you can learn something new by interacting with someone new. Help grow your chapter.

Exciting news for Chapter 190! The Board of Directors has committed to be the sponsoring Chapter of the 2013 Ward Francillion Time Symposium. The Symposium titled, "2013 Public Time Symposium", will be held at Cal Tech in Pasadena. This will be a landmark world class event for the world of horology.

Our "CHRONO TIMES" editor, Ken McWilliams, will be presenting a very interesting program at the Sunday meeting titled, "The American Banjo Clock." The history and development of this uniquely American clock will be very interesting. For show and tell please bring Banjo Clocks from your collection. Of course, any horological item you want to bring for sharing will be welcomed.

The Sunday morning workshops are free, open to all, and are well attended. At 10:30AM a discussion, "Common Clock Dial Problems", will be led by Ferdinand Getner, George Antinarelli, and Paul Skeels. If you need help with a repair problem this is the place to be. The coffee will be on early.

See you at the meeting

Mike



Happy Birthday

Ed Armstrong, Thomas Beard, Thomas Ferkel,
Paul Highfill, David Rubright, Chip Stevens
and Norma Zuber

Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

A “Mystery” Clock/Watch?

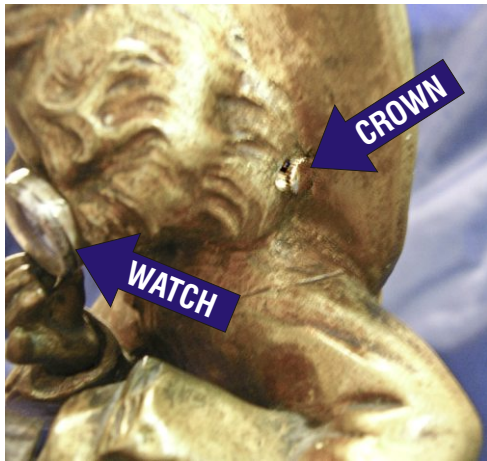
After servicing one of my favorite figurine clocks for a customer, it became apparent that it was not exactly easy to operate,

(not user friendly) and the customer asked if there was an easier way to operate the watch. The design tried to hide the winding crown below the edge of the cheek, which required the crown to be small and unobtrusive; otherwise it



would be like a big wart on the statue's face. The angle of the watch by the side of her face put the crown in a recess by the neck and

shoulder making it even more difficult to operate. The winding stem came out of the head at an angle through a (relatively) large hole creating an unsafe situation as any sideways trust during winding or setting could easily break of the stem and crown.



I had to come up with a way for the winding and setting to be “comfortably” possible within the excising design and layout. I came to the conclusion that ‘any’ winder which could be accessed and correctly operated would look out of place in that location so I decided on a form of key which could be introduced into some kind of receiving mechanism. It could not be a “normal” watch key like one used for old pocket watches as it needed to pull out the stem for setting the hands; the angle of the stem could not be changed and the hole it came through was not exactly round or at the same angle as the stem.

So, the first order of business was to modify the hole so that it could be used as a guide (or bearing).

I wanted to be able to wind and set the watch with a key that did not have to be inserted exactly straight, but would work at slight offset angles as well (a loose fit would achieve that.) A smooth fitting bush in the hole would save the stem from being bent sideways. It had to be able to pull out the stem without falling off and (ideally) work in both directions. A loose bayonet style fitting seemed the best solution.

I used a clock bush to save time, modified the hole in the statue just enough so the bush fit smoothly without binding while holding the stem straight. I cut a thread for the stem (0.9mm, not all the way through) into the bush and used my jewelers saw to cut some slots with a 90 degree angle into the other side of the bush to receive the key. (See picture)



The key was the easy part. Just a straight piece of brass with a thicker end for a knurled grip, which fits loosely into the bush, a steel wire at 90 degrees at the other end to lock into the bush and away we go. Now, it's a nice looking statue clock with a hidden winding mechanism. Almost a Mystery Clock. ■



MY FIRST CLOCK

by *Ralph Napolitano*

As a boy growing up in the Chicago suburbs in the 1960's & 70's, I had many experiences that helped shape my life. One of those experiences was with a spring-wound Vienna Regulator with a firm, strong strike. For years, my mother's cousin was a produce route deliveryman in Chicago.

During his travels throughout the City of Chicago, he came across many antiques and collectibles, which not only included Vienna Regulators, but also juke boxes, pinball machines, slot machines, nickelodeons, and antique cars and trucks. I remember going to his house was like a day at the museum and the arcade all rolled into one. He had *at least* 20, 3-weight grand sonnerie Vienna's, with total Vienna's easily over 100.

I don't really remember any American clocks, French clocks, or English clocks at his home.

He eventually opened an antique store near where I grew up. My mother became interested in his Vienna's. In the late 60's, she convinced him to sell her this particular spring-wound Vienna, which he really had no intention of selling. But the families were very close; my mother was very persuasive. She ended up taking the Vienna off of his wall, telling him to name a price. He reluctantly agreed to \$75.

That clock was put above the fireplace in the basement of our Chicago home. I can still remember hearing that strike while playing in the basement, especially when coming inside on a cold Chicago winter day after ice skating across the street from where we lived, and warming myself by the fireplace. That strike became one of the memories that will stay with me forever. That's when I became interested in horology and that's why I became interested in horology. I've rarely seen or heard that clock for the past 30 years. Only when I visited my family in Chicago was I reminded of its majesty.

I started my own collection in the early 1980's with a 2-weight Vienna, a German box clock, 2 Berliner "free swingers", and 2 spring-wound Vienna's. Then I got married. Then I wasn't married. Then there were no



more clocks! I haven't owned any clocks for over 10 years. I also joined the NAWCC in the early 80's while in my early 20's. Unfortunately, I was not actively involved for years. However, I did have a chance to attend a National Convention in Chicago in the early 90's. I rejoined the NAWCC earlier this year. They even gave me back my old membership number!

I've started collecting clocks again, just since this year's mart in April at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. I purchased several quality clocks from Giorgio Perissinotto, George Gaglini, and Dutch Friou. I've also learned so much from Ernie Jenson, George Antinarelli, Jim Chamberlain, and Ken McWilliams. Two months ago at their own expense, my parents were kind enough to UPS that very Vienna clock to me. It now proudly hangs in my living room, for me to see and hear every day. The memories are magical. ■

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This Month's Mini-Workshop

At 10:30AM, "Common Clock Dial Problems" will be led by Ferdinand Geitner, George Antinarelli, and Paul Skeels.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

FSW 101 - *Beginning Clock Repair*

This is a 4 day workshop offered October 7-10
Coordinator Ralph Napolitano, phone: 805 509-2530
email: ralphnapolitano@msn.com

FSW 104 - *Introduction to Weight & Fusee Driven Clocks*

This is a 4 day workshop offered Nov. 11-14
Coordinator Paul Skeels Phone: 805 525-7325
email: plskeelsatty@verizon.net

FSW 302 *Beginning Wristwatch Repair*

This is a 4 day workshop offered January 27-30, 2012
Coordinator Weber Wang phone: 626-336-2870
email: weberwang@hotmail.com

A future workshop to be offered, if there is enough interest, is the **F502 *The Atmos Repair Course***. If you are interested in the 3 day workshop please contact Coordinator George Gaglini 805-647-6463 or email: ggaglini@roadrunner.com

If you have an interest in a workshop or horological subject, please make your interest known to me or any Board member.

A TRIP TO THE MOON

by *Henri Bonnet*

It is a fair assumption that if the moon was anything like the earth it would be inhabited by now. But unfortunately, the moon is dead and its appeal to humanity is primarily scientific rather than social. Although the moon orbits the earth roughly once a month, nothing on it actually moves. This very absence of motion signifies the absence of life. Therefore the likelihood of man ever colonizing the moon is purely fictional. For better or for worse, man is destined to inhabit the earth forever, simply because he is a product of the earth. On the earth, all that is alive is evidenced by motion. Man's brain is programmed to perceive motion above all else. This is why, deep down human consciousness, lies his fascination with mechanics.

The purpose of mechanics is to produce, or reproduce motion. Man's innate fascination with motion begins at an early age, a six month old baby stares in wonderment at the mobile suspended above his crib. From that moment on, this obsession with motion will stay with him for the rest of his life. From the tower clocks of the late fifteenth century, to the diminutive mechanical marvels that wristwatches are, man has successfully harnessed mechanics for the purpose of timekeeping. This, by any measure, is a prodigious accomplishment.

The current nearly explosive resurgence of the mechanical wristwatch on the horological scene is nothing short of phenomenal. Consider for a moment that in our present digital age, over 70 percent of all wristwatches made in Switzerland (by value), are mechanical. What drives a person nowadays to buy a mechanical wristwatch when precise timekeeping can easily be obtained from a cell phone or a quartz timepiece? What possesses such a person to choose a mechanical wristwatch that costs 50 times more than its quartz counterpart, knowing full well that it will never be as accurate as the later? These are not easy questions to ponder, but several possible answers come to mind. For one thing, due to early exposure, most people have become very familiar with mechanics and feel quite comfortable with it. Secondly, mechanisms in general exhibit visible and understandable motion. In addition, due to man's innate curiosity, complex mechanical horological devices of all kinds are exceedingly intriguing to most people. Man tends to develop an affinity and even an intimate bond with the diminutive machinery that is mechanical wristwatches. To the wearer, a mechanical wristwatch doesn't merely mimic life with its incessant motion; it actually seems to him part

of life itself as it is connected to his wrist. Those of us who have been so fortunate as to have worn a bumper automatic, know the feeling very well. The sheer pleasure derived from its tactile feedback is simply indescribable. The same goes for a mechanical alarm wristwatch. Apart from that, mechanical wristwatches are known and appreciated for their durability, and man is determined to see the things that he loves survive, for at least as long as he does.

Most people who wear a mechanical wristwatch nowadays do not do so merely to know the time. A mechanical wristwatch becomes part of their very being, where the passage of time takes place with similar lack of precision and imperfection as life itself. People tend to develop affection for objects that in some ways resemble them. Is any human being perfect? Perhaps it is this particular lack of precision that endears a mechanical wristwatch to its wearer and thereby makes it appear more "alive" to him.

Have you ever wondered why people are so fond of handmade objects? Nowadays handmade anything carries an aura of quality that isn't always present in objects that are primarily machine produced. A handmade artifact conjures up visions of a skilled craftsman, painstakingly creating the item that has captivated you, imperfect as it may be. Peering at the beating heart of a mechanical wristwatch is indeed a wondrous experience. Have you ever been curious as to why a quartz wristwatch isn't fitted with a see-through case back? Simply, because nothing moves there.

By looking at the back of a quartz movement it is impossible to determine whether the watch is running or not. So, given the current trend, it seems that the ubiquitous mechanical wristwatch of the fifties and sixties, or its current reincarnation, isn't dead after all, and unless I am very wrong, may outlive most digital gadgets that come and go with persistent regularity. In an incredibly small package that a mechanical wristwatch is, you have the entire universe to contemplate and you will be able to witness and appreciate the laws of classical physics in action; gravity, potential and kinetic energy, angular momentum, moment of inertia, mass energy equivalence, inertia and acceleration among others. These and more will inspire you and capture your imagination in ways no other personal object can. Motion is truly a miracle of creation. To many people it is considered nothing short of divine.

The book of Genesis begins with the creation of

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motion, which on earth is synonymous with the beginning of life itself. Can anything be more magnificent than that? Then do yourself a big favor and wear a mechanical wristwatch, it really moves, and it will move and elevate your spirit as well. So, forget about a trip to the moon, there is absolutely nothing to see there except lifeless dust and utter bleakness.

The pictures below symbolize the difference between the earth and the moon as well as the difference between a mechanical wristwatch movement and its quartz counterpart. Compare the joy of admiring a mechanical watch movement in action and see if you can find similar interest by looking at a quartz movement.



Mechanical watch



Quartz watch

Continued from page 1

I asked if she had any friends or family nearby. She said they had moved here from San Francisco but that her sister was arriving later that day. The neighbor's eyes became a little misty and she left to go back inside with the woman.

The walk home was a solemn one and I began to realize the enormity of what had happened on the 11th. It wasn't just the loss of American icons, or the loss of lives on that day, it went far beyond that. The devastation to the friends and families of the people who died are also victims. We are all victims, to a lesser degree perhaps, but we will never again know the security and freedom that we enjoyed prior to 9-11.

I never really knew the woman, in fact I don't think that I even knew her name, but she touched something deep within me and I think of her often. A few weeks later I saw a for sale sign in her yard. I don't know how this story ends, but even though I know she has a scar, from a wound that will never completely heal, I would like to believe that she was able to carry on and start a new dream. ■

CHAPTER 190 PEOPLE

by Bill Robinson

Ron Kubitsky



Ron was born in Chicago, IL, and moved to the LA area when he was five years of age. He has lived in the San Fernando Valley since the early 60's, purchasing his first home in Chatsworth in 1974.

After high school, Ron joined the US Navy Reserves in 1966, and completed almost three years of active service in the Long Beach area.

After getting his Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Ron joined the LAPD, starting the academy in 1970. His first assignment was as a trainee in Hollywood Division. He also worked Anti-Terrorist (ATD), Devonshire, West Los Angeles, West Valley, and Rampart Divisions during his 31 years with the department. During that time, Ron worked varied assignments, including Patrol, Detectives, Vice, and a special assignment while he was at ATD. Ron retired from the LAPD in 2002 as a Sergeant.

He joined a non-profit organization which held fund raising events to purchase needed equipment the City could not afford for patrol officers. This included digital cameras, lights, crime scene tents, and other items.

Ron was an avid runner and cyclist until age caught up with him. He does all of the cooking at home and completes various other chores around the house to keep busy.

In the past, Ron has collected pipes and items regarding cycling, including some older bicycles and signed jerseys. He also collects Hawaiian and Pendleton shirts.

Ron has been a member of the NAWCC since 1983, with his main focus on wristwatches and books on watches. He also has a small collection of pocket watches and clocks.

Ron is married to his best friend, Sue, a high school teacher with the LAUSD. He and Sue have two sons, one working on his MBA at Pepperdine while working full time in the aerospace industry, and the younger one is starting his second year of medical school in Dublin, Ireland. Ron has two other step-sons from his marriage to his wife Judy, who passed away in 1996.

THE EXTRA PAGE

FACES SEEN AT AUGUST'S MEETING *Photos by Bill Robinson*



The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
is September 18, 2011

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15

The Meeting starts at 1:15

PROGRAM

"The American Banjo Clock"

Presented by Ken McWilliams

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CLASSIFIED PAGE

This page is dedicated to advertising for Chapter 190 members. It is, of course, free to members.

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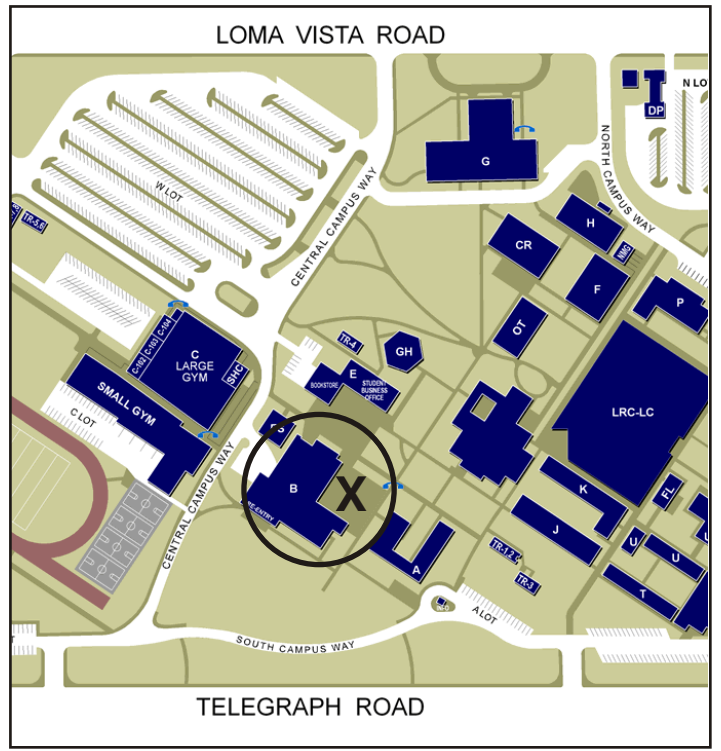
- Chronometer -

Hamilton 21 Marine Chronometer in running condition, with
inner box and gimbals; outer box not essential.

Please contact: Giorgio Perissinotto

E-mail: giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)
 We will meet in the cafeteria on the Ventura College campus. The cafeteria is located in building "B", east of the gym and athletic field.



September 2011 Issue

NEXT MEETING
SEPT 18



Chrono Times
 If Undeliverable return To:
 17738 Superior St. Unit 21
 Northridge, CA 91325