

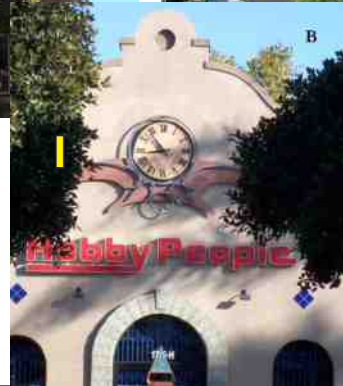
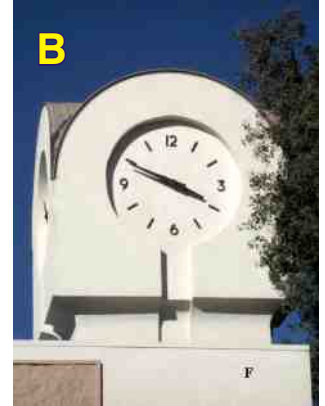


## Where Are We?

by Ken McWilliams

Robert Gary snapped some photos of public clocks as he traveled through Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. How many can you identify? How many have you driven or walked by without noticing them?

Their identities are revealed on page six. I'm sure there are a lot more out there so if you notice one, take a picture and send it to me. I'll add it to our collection and publish it in the Chrono Times. ■



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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

As your president, one of my jobs is to be a cheerleader for the Board and all the chapter members. My job is really easy with the great Board and membership that we have at Chapter 190. But your president has a small confession to make. At our July Board meeting I complained a bit to the Board that our marts were not very good. (*All members have a standing invitation to attend the board meetings.*) I said that there were not very many tables of clock and watches and if it were not for the great lunch it may not be of much interest for members attending.



The July meeting put that bit of grouching to rest. We had probably one of our best monthly marts in the short history of the chapter. We had 14 tables of watches, clocks, parts and supplies. The 46 members and guests participating found the mart to be great fun with selling, buying and information being exchanged. The August mart is going to be even better than July with the addition of more seller tables.

Remember, you never know when or what you are looking for, or not looking for, will appear at the mart. Some of best clocks and watches in your collections came from other NAWCC members. Bring something to sell or trade at the Mart.

The workshop for Sunday August 17th at 10:30 AM will be "Using the Microset Timer to test and adjust clocks and watches" The demonstration and discussion, led by Ken McWilliams, will demonstrate how to set the rate quickly and accurately. Putting the timepiece in beat as well as other functions of the Microset will be shown, including computer software that allows you to visually see the errors. Bring your clocks, watches, knowledge and questions.

The Mart and Lunch will be from 12PM until 1:15 PM with the program starting immediately thereafter.

The program for Sunday August 17th at 1:30 "Museum Quality Pocket Watches." The program will be presented by Joseph "Joe" Lenorovitz. Joe is a 30 year member of NAWCC and Chapter 75. He will share his collection of high quality pocket watches.

Show & Tell for August will be "Clocks & Watches with unusual Dials."

We will have some great door prizes.

See you all at the meeting.

Mike



## Happy Birthday

**Jeanette Barcroft, John Berney, Jim Chamberlain,  
Bill Frank, Leroy Grove, Ken McWilliams.**

## Tale of a Different Watch Winder

by Henri Bonnet

The year was 1995. In celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary, my wife and I were spending two weeks traveling through Europe. To make our trip complete, we could not miss visiting the watchmaking center of the world: Geneva, Switzerland.

My wife had in mind to buy me a special wedding anniversary present: a Patek Philippe watch directly from the manufacturer in Geneva. So, there we were, in Patek Philippe's headquarters plush showroom on 22 Quai General-Guisan, near the shore of lake Geneva. We were shown trays after trays of Patek Philippe's outstanding timepieces. After I selected a nice Calatrava wristwatch, I was offered the courtesy to try several other models on my wrist. One of those timepieces was a very complicated watch with half a dozen additional functions, priced at over a quarter of a million dollars. I was also given a brochure of that, as well as other complicated watches, as a souvenir of my visit. From the brochure, it became apparent that with all the various functions and complications, resetting such a complicated watch to current time, normally easy to do with any other timepiece, was far from being a simple affair. The watch had to be rewound daily in order to keep going since it wasn't self winding. By so doing, according to the brochure, there would be no need to reset it for a hundred years.

Later on, I learned that such wristwatches were highly sought after by wealthy collectors who didn't necessarily wear them daily and eventually placed their watch in a safe just because resetting it was too complicated as well as time consuming. I was also told that several owners of such wristwatches, who had tried to reset them by trial and error, promptly damaged the movement and had to pay for costly repairs. Others, who didn't want to take a chance, had to bring their watch to an authorized service center just to have it reset by an expert.

Sometime later, I decided to do something to remedy the impracticality of this whole situation. So, I went to work and within a couple of days I came up with an idea for a special watch winder that could keep the watch fully wound, day in, day out, without human intervention. The watch, with all its complications would thereby always be on time and ready to be worn at will by its owner.

There was, however, one problem. Most of these highly complicated wristwatches were not self winding, because there was no room in their case for a winding rotor

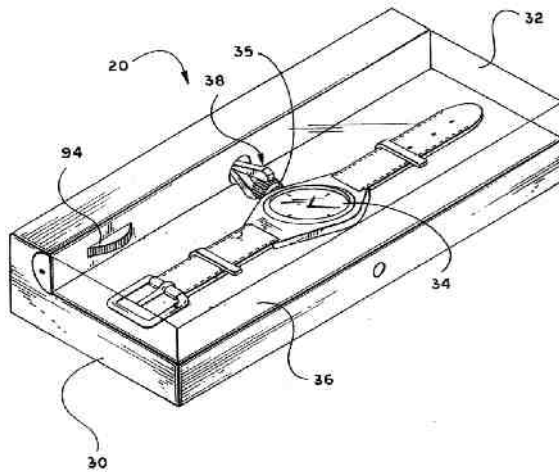
due to severe space constraints. This being the case, a regular watch winder could not be used. The winder I designed was battery powered and included both mechanical and electronic components. The size of the winder was no bigger than a small watch box. In principle, the winder consisted of a specially designed grabber driven by a micro motor. The grabber would grasp the crown of the wristwatch and rotate it a fraction of a turn at equal intervals, 24 hours a day.

Mechanical and electronic provisions were made to prevent over winding. Once I had the basic principle and appropriate sketches worked out I set out to build a proof of concept prototype, to make sure that the winder would work as designed. I used only readily available components, primarily from hobby shops and electronic stores, including a programmable timing chip from Radio Shack. When I was done, I inserted the battery and the winder began to work immediately. The only thing that didn't cross my mind yet, was what to do with it.

I possessed no watch that was difficult to reset and had no intention of purchasing one. At my wife's urging I eventually agreed to apply for a patent, though I had my doubts that something like that really qualified for one. To my surprise, a year and a half later I received a letter from the US patent office in Washington DC advising me that my patent application had been approved and on November 23, 1999, upon payment of the requisite fee, I was awarded patent # 5,988,871. My wife said, "now that will give you something to do when you retire."

I subsequently dropped the patent in a drawer and for all practical purposes forgot all about it. A few months later I received a phone call from the president of a watch winder company who was interested in licensing my patent for the purpose of manufacturing and marketing the watch winder. So, the patent was licensed and soon thereafter the manufacturer showed me the first prototype that came out of the factory. The new winder was now unrecognizable since it had been repackaged in a fancy highly polished box made of rare wood. I was told that was necessary so as to make it more attractive to the well to do customers who owned the complicated watches that needed winding.

The winder soon began to be advertized in watch magazines and became available at selected high end watch stores. The watch winder continues to be produced and is sold all over the world. If anything at all can be learned from this experience, it is that anyone can come up with a useful idea and one doesn't have to be a professional watch expert to do so. Attached is a sketch of the watch winder copied from the patent documents. ■



## An eBay Happy Ending

*The author of this article has asked that his identity not be revealed and I will honor his request.*

I recently made a great buy on eBay. It is a Herschede tall-case, spring driven three train Model 10. It stands 72 inches tall to the top of the finial and measures only 13.5 inches wide at its widest point. The serial number places the production date in 1928. My research indicates that the movement was used for a very short time; less than one year. The Model 10 was replaced with an electrical movement in 1929.

The clock is totally original, from the label to the key. The only thing missing is a small wood knob used to open the pendulum area door. The movement was filthy, complete with live resident critters to prove that the clock had not been run for years.

The movement plays your choice of two chimes, Westminster or Canterbury. All it needed to begin running, with amazing accuracy, was to be put it in beat. The dial needs re-silvering, the movement needs a thorough teardown and cleaning, the missing doorknob needs replacing, and the veneer on the base of the case has puckered in spots, which will need attention, but all-in-all this clock is in excellent condition.



The seller, at the time I picked it up from him, stated that the clock had been originally purchased by his grandfather. His father acquired it, then it went to him. The clock has been in one family since it was new.

The total cost for this beauty, including reimbursing Ken McWilliams for the gas he used in helping me pick up the clock and deliver it to my home, was \$307.00!

The seller made some serious errors in his listing that resulted in this very low price for him and an excellent value to me. Don't make these same errors in your listings:

1. The seller misspelled "Herschede" in his listing line. Potential buyers entering that into their search criteria couldn't find this listing.
2. The seller posted really lousy photos. The picture of the clock was taken with the sun behind it, so the clock was nothing but a black silhouette showing no detail; the photo of the label was too out of focus to be read; and, the photos of the movement were too dark to show anything but the grossest of detail.
3. The seller stated that this clock did not need a pendulum, that you "just wind it up and it runs fine". (As it turned out, the original pendulum was in the bottom of the case.)
4. The seller described the clock as a "Granddaughter Clock", missing the more common search criteria of "Grandfather", or "Grandmother", or "Tall Case".
5. The seller listed the clock as "For Pick-up Only", again severely limiting the pool of potential buyers. ■

*Editors note: I had a similar eBay experience a few years ago. I acquired an old English Fusee watch for almost nothing because the seller spelled Fusee with three "E"s. I was the only bidder. It had a solid gold case and dial. The movement was signed and dated. How did I get it? I accidentally added a third "E" in my Fusee search.*



# FACES SEEN AT THE JULY MEETING



Ferdinand Geitner led the workshop on “Erratic Timekeeping” and “Lack of Duration of Automatic Wristwatches.” Jeanette Barcroft presented an informative program on the effect of period art on case designs. I gave a mini workshop on various ways to repair lantern pinions. As always, the mart was a popular hot spot. By the way, the Morbier clock that George is looking at, went home with me.

## Answers to "Where are we"

- A) Santa Barbara County Courthouse. Anacapa & Anapamu
- B) Tower Clock, 4601 Telephone Rd. Ventura
- C) KSBY Building. 201 Calle Cesar Chavez, Santa Barbara.
- D) Solvang Antiques Building. 486 First St, Solvang.
- E) Street clock. Arneill & Ventura, Camarillo.
- F) Street clock. Haley & State, Santa Barbara.
- G) Street Clock. Main Street, Santa Paula.
- H) Wine Valley Inn, 1564 Copenhagen St, Solvang.
- I) Tower Clock, Camarillo Plaza.
- J) Clock Tower Inn, Ventura.
- K) De La Guerra & State St, Santa Barbara.
- L) Sun Dial on The Royal Copenhagen Inn, Solvang.
- M) Solvang School Tower Clock, Solvang.

### The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190

is August 17, 2008

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

**"Musium quality pocket watches"**

Presented by Joe Lenorovitz

*This will be a chance to see close-up some very rare and beautiful watches from Joe's personal collection.*

#### SHOW & TELL

***Clocks and watches with unusual dials.***

*Welcome New Members*

**Crawford Sachs  
From Oxnard**



## Ventura Chapter 190 people

Each issue of our newsletter will feature members of our chapter with a short biography or some of their horological interests to help us get to know them better.

### *Ernie Jenson*

By George Gaglini



Ernie received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from The Indiana Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, he went to work for General Motors. After many years with GM he accepted a position with the 3-M Corporation in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

He specialized in high-speed production equipment where lubrication was a critical component. Through the years the knowledge he gained, while working at 3-M, with synthetic lubricants helped him with another passion, the restoration of vintage cars. Ernie restored Corvettes, Jaguars, Porsches, MG's and other classic automobiles.

After transferring to 3-M Corporation in Camarillo, his passion for mechanical devices evolved from cars to clocks. While looking for a clock repairman, Ernie eventually met George Antinorelli, an expert in horology and a fine machinist. He would bring his problem clocks to George and together they would repair and restore various German, Swiss, French and other types of clocks. Their friendship has spanned four decades.

Ernie remembers fondly the time that George Antinorelli gave him a "project clock" to practice on. It probably never worked right from the time it left the factory. This "special" clock was a lesson for Ernie that kept him in touch with the real world of clock making and collecting. He learned the value and joy of repairing and learning about clocks versus just placing a running clock on the wall.

Chapter 190 members and guests will have an opportunity to share Ernie's passion and expertise when he presents a program at the Chapter's October meeting on electric clocks, featuring those that have unusual impulse characteristics. ■

# CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

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## SERVICES OFFERED

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### ***The Montecito Clock Gallery***

Restoration, repair, sales of clocks and watches.

**Ferdinand Geitner**, mbhi, owner and operator

Now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a

Montecito (one block from old site)

**(805) 565-9097**

### ***The Clock Gallery***

Serving All of Ventura County

Precision Repair - Service - Restoration

Grandfather - Wall - Mantel - Marine Clocks

House Calls • Packing & Moving

**805-497-8381 or 805-647-0699**

e-mail: [theclockgallery@adelphia.net](mailto:theclockgallery@adelphia.net)

**Jorge Montoya**

### ***Complete Watch Service Center***

Repair & Restore all American & Swiss watches.

12 years as a Rolex technician. We maintain a

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**(562) 531-0545 • (562) 688-6171**

E-mail: [jorgemont2001@netzero.net](mailto:jorgemont2001@netzero.net)

### **PACIFIC COAST CLOCKS**

**In business since 1977.**

Sales and Restoration of both new and antique  
clocks. Repair of all types of mechanical clocks.

*Loren Miller* proprietor.

4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca. 93003

(Located in Firehouse Plaza at Main St. and Telephone Rd)

Monday through Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 pm.

**Tel. 805-650-8800**

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## FOR SALE

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**NEW**

### **WATCH REPAIR TOOLS & MORE!**

I will have a huge selection of watch repair  
tools and other items from my latest estate  
buy at the *August* Chapter 190 meeting.

**Dave Coatsworth**

[dave@daveswatchparts.com](mailto:dave@daveswatchparts.com)

### ***Magnificent Herschede***

#### ***Five Tubular Bell Hall Clock.***

Eight feet tall with three inch full columns on a solid  
mahogany case. Gold-plated dial with hand painted  
moon phase indicator. Recently professionally  
serviced.

***Runs & Looks Perfect.*** \$5,000

Call George Gaglini **805-647-6463**

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## WANTED

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### **URGENTLY NEEDED, VISIBLE ESCAPEMENT MOVEMENT**

French type-platform escapement (no pendulum)

Winding hole spacing of 38.9 mm, (1.53")

Repairable, other details available on request.

Bob Reichel, [welchdoc@yahoo.com](mailto:welchdoc@yahoo.com) **Ph: 1-206-364-7374**

### **I'm looking for a five inch piecrust bezel for an Ansonia clock.**

**Contact:**

**Tom McKnett**

**805-444-6383**

### **- 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](mailto:giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu)

*(I'm teaching in Spain so there is no local California phone)*

### **- Watch Repair Tools -**

I'm just starting out and need just about everything.  
I would prefer to purchase an entire collection of old  
watchmaker's tools.

Please contact:

*David Clarkin* **Tel: 805-988-4384**

*Antique French* 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks.  
*Antique English* 2 or 3 gear-train skeleton clock.

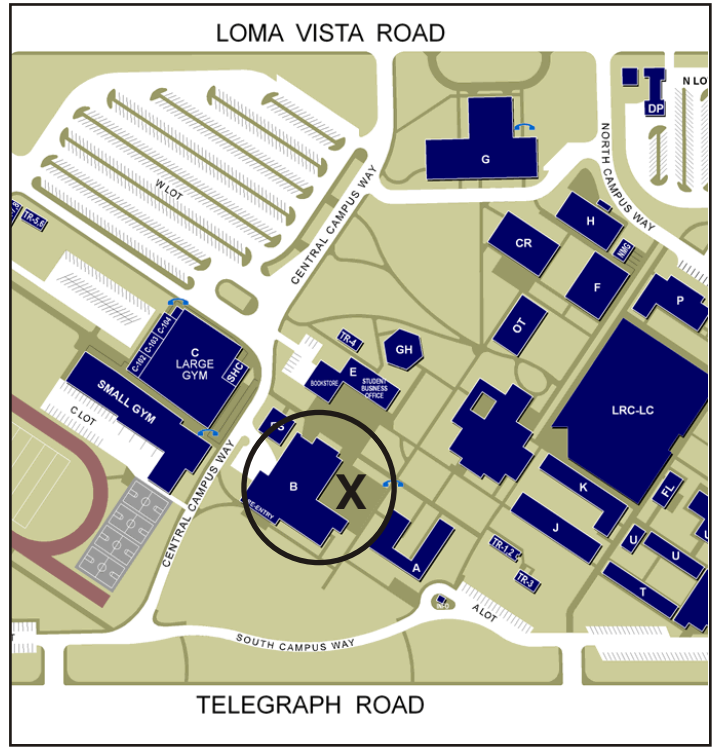
Loren Miller, **Pacific Coast Clocks**

4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca.

Located in Firehouse Plaza (Main St. & Telephone Rd.)

**Tel. 805-650-8800**

**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.**



*Hope to see you there!*

**August 2008 Issue**

**AUG 17**  
**NEXT MEETING**

If Undeliverable return To:  
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**Chrono Times**