



## The John Barr Clock Project

by Ken McWilliams

Chapter 190 volunteered to restore an old Scottish tall case clock for The Dudley House museum in Ventura. The clock was made by John Barr of Port Glasgow, Scotland circa 1820. The restoration of the clock was completed in November of 2008 by Mike Schmidt and myself. Mike took on the case and I overhauled the movement. The history of the clock has been documented by Darlene Stevens Holaway, the great granddaughter of the original owners. Here is her accounting of the clock:

*My Great-Grandparents, Edward Clayton Gillibrand and Ellen Leyland, were married in Manchester, Lancashire County, England in 1886. They left very soon after on a ship bound for America. Edward wanted to be an "American Cowboy" and his bride was on the verge of tuberculosis and needed to live in a hot and dry climate. They were five months at sea and round the Horn before landing in Port Hueneme.*

*My Great-Grandmother was pregnant with my Grandfather part of this time. They moved to Lancaster then to Ventura and finally to Tapo Canyon in Simi Valley in 1889 where they purchased 2000 acres. The clock came with them from England and was in the old family home in Tapo Canyon, Simi Valley until their daughter Juanita Gillibrand Parker passed away and bequeathed the clock to the Ventura County Museum.*

*Darlene Stevens Holaway  
Ventura, California*

The Ventura County Museum gave the clock to the Dudley House in 2008. It is not known when the clock last ran but was quite dead when we first saw it.

The case was in good overall shape, for its age, with the expected loose and missing wood moldings and vernier. Mike did a great job of "tightening" it up and putting the loose and broken pieces back where they belonged. He then removed decades of dirt leaving the case in a very presentable condition.

The movement was mostly original and complete. Evidence of a not-so-knowlegeable clock repairman was evident throughout. Nails were used in place of tapered pins. A badly worn pivot turned out to be a nail also. Pieces of brass were soldered to several teeth and filed on the

escape wheel in an attempt to fix some worn or broken teeth. The pallets were deeply scored and rounded, requiring them to be re-ground, polished and adjusted. It also was covered with decades of dirt and had six spider corpses in it.

After making a new escape wheel, a new pivot, a couple of bushings, some polishing and adjusting, the movement was reunited with its case and is happily ticking away the hours at the Dudley House.

### The Dudley House

If you have not visited the Dudley House, it should be added to your to-do list. It is a nice way to visit life in the 1890s.

Built in 1892 by B.W. Dudley, the Dudley House depicts a Ventura County farmhouse and the lives of the Dudley family from 1892 to 1930. One of the few authentically restored Victorian houses in Ventura County open to the public, the Queen Anne-style home is open for tours on the first Sunday of the month and July 4. It is also open for special events such as the Victorian Holiday Boutique, murder mystery evenings and the Ventura County Preservation Faire.

San Buenaventura Heritage, Inc. (SBH) is a non-profit educational and charitable corporation founded in 1978. It is active in historic preservations in the City of San Buenaventura (early name of Ventura), California. The primary focus of SBH is the preservation of the Dudley House. The house and SBH headquarters are located at 197 N. Ashwood, the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista in Ventura. (See photos on page 3)

The house has been an ongoing preservation activity since 1977. Owned by the city since 1977, SBH was formed and took over the project when Proposition 13 prevented the city from continuing to fund the project. To date, the interior and exterior structure has been restored as well as the basement.

The basement is used as a community room and visitor center. It has cooking facilities and is available for small events and receptions. The grounds include an amphitheater, gardens, and out buildings.

*Note:*

*Laurie Conti will be using their community room for her program on "Case repair using dental techniques" on Saturday the 17th.*



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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

We start this New Year with 99 members, all the bills paid, a small reserve and a very positive outlook for 2009. The strength of chapter 190 is in our membership. We are so fortunate to have so many interesting, diverse members who have been willing to share their interest and knowledge with each other

Your Chapter 190 Officers and Directors are busy planning special programs, events, a few surprises, and educational opportunities for 2009. With all of your help we will keep the meetings, newsletter and events interesting.

Chapter 190 is a legal non-profit entity for its members. A financial report is available at chapter meetings or by written request. Chapter members are invited to attend Board meetings or ask questions about Board business or Chapter policy.

The beginning of a new year provides us all with many new opportunities and choices. We thank all of you that have become new members and thank all of you who have renewed your 2009 membership.

Education- Chapter 190 Opportunities:

A new 2 day field suitcase class, FSW 501 "The Repair and Replacement of an American Strip Recoil Escapement", will be offered for Feb. 9-10. The coordinator for this class is Mike Schmidt, 805 988 1764 Email eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

To view the other FSW classes offered for 2009 go to the Educational Link at the Chapter 's Website [www.nawcc-ch190.com](http://www.nawcc-ch190.com)

Reminder- Jan. 17th workshop "Dental Techniques used in Clock case repair" Instructor Laurie Conti, 805 813 2216 Email: Remember-The-Clock@mac.com

Congratulations to all the students who have recently completed the January FSW 202 "Lathe Skills II for Clock Repair" Instructor Ray Marsolek, students-Laurie Conti, David Clarkin, David Coatsworth, Mostyn Gale, Dick Henderson, Bill Lockyer, Kathi Sheffrey, Kim St Dennis, Larry Smith and coordinator Paul Skeels.

The program for Sunday January 18th at 1:30 will be "Where Did All Those Old Japanese Clocks Come From?" The program will be presented by Charles (Charlie) Davis. Charlie is a NAWCC Fellow and a member of the NAWCC Speakers Bureau for California.

Remember, you never know when or what you are looking for, or not looking for, will appear at a Mart. January is a month of promises, clean out the garage and bring some clocks, watches, parts and tools to sell or trade at the Mart. Your garage may look better and you can always use the extra cash.

Come join us for a nice Mart, Lunch and a Great program.

*Mike*





# FACES SEEN AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING



*The Dudley house then*



*The Dudley house now*

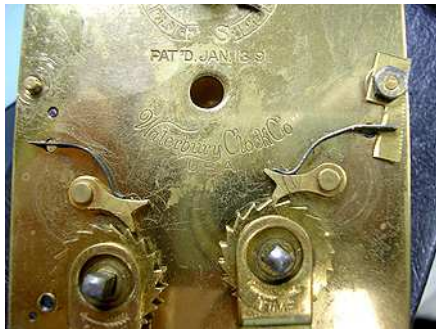


# Tales From the Bench

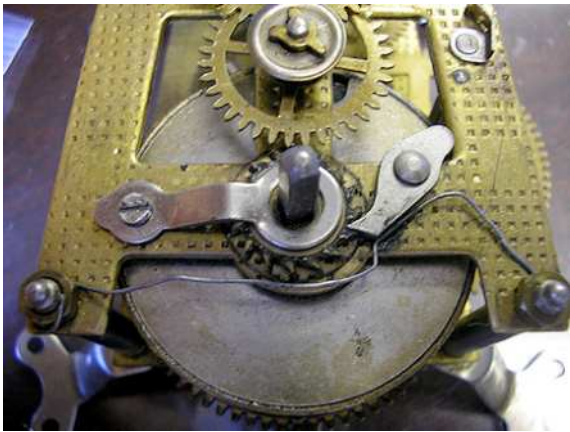
by Ferdinand Geitner

## *An Engaging Question*

During a routine repair or restoration one item often overlooked is the Click. There are different styles and shapes but all have the same purpose and function, to stop the unwinding of the Main spring. American clocks are mostly overpowered and have relatively thin plates to hold the rivet for the (equally thin) click so there is often too much side play and the click can slip past the Ratchet wheel. With painful side effects!!! New clicks and Rivets are available. I've enclosed a picture from a Waterbury with a "Fishtail" type click which can be reversed when one side gets too worn. One can see the nice point on the click and the undercut (tilting) teeth on the ratchet wheel. However, look closely, the right clicks tip is bent down and in danger of slipping.



Sometimes it's not the manufacturer who is to blame. Someone "constructed" a click spring without much spring. (see picture below)



However, there is another (painful) scenario, usually found on newer German clocks. The click is shaped in a way that the line to the point of the click goes directly through the center of the arbor. That means no undercut to draw the click towards the arbor. The Ratchet wheel is also stamped out of steel plate (not cut out) and the corners are rounded. If the clock is wound quickly by an energetic person, the click sometimes just catches the tip of the ratchet wheel tooth and gets thrown out, away from the ratchet wheel, spinning the key back through the winders fingers. "OOOUCH"

Often I find that when a customer brings a clock for repair due to a "broken" spring, the real reason is that the click has been thrown away from the ratchet wheel with such force that it bent or broke the ratchet spring, disabling the click. ■



**The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190  
is January 18, 2009**

**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**

**"Where did all of those Japanese clocks come from?"**

**Presented by Charlie Davis**

*There is a lot more to the Japanese clocks than you may think. Mr. Davis presents a very informative program on the subject.*

### **SHOW & TELL**

**"Clocks and Watches from the far east"**

*George Gaglini will also be sharing with us a clock with a "Grass hopper" escapement*

*Welcome New Members*

**Dan Weiss  
Philadelphia, Pa.**



## Vintage Seiko Quality Wristwatches

by Henri Bonet

A lot of ink has been spilled praising the quality of Swiss timepieces, but not very often have I come across an article in the horological press extolling the virtues of Japanese mechanical timepieces, such as Seiko. Of course, there are relatively few collectors in this country who would consider vintage Seiko wristwatches as collectible as Swiss brands, even though Seiko has been manufacturing wristwatches since the 1920's.

It is my opinion, however, that Seiko vintage timepieces have by and large been underestimated by watch collectors. Most Seiko wristwatches come with stainless steel or gold-tone plated base-metal cases, and I have never seen a solid gold one in the US. The company also has a luxury line under the name of Credor, made only for the Japanese market. The typical Seiko movement is rather dull looking compared to its Swiss equivalent. You will find no beveled edges on the bridges and no blued screws. No useless decorations of any kind on the movement. No "perling" and no "cotes de Genève". No, none of that fancy stuff. All you will see are plain functional components; very unimpressive as compared to a "quality" Swiss movement. While some Swiss brands import parts from other countries, Seiko watches are entirely made in Japan.

I have always thought that highly decorated Swiss movements are an extravagance with no horological function, whose only apparent purpose is to raise the price of the timepiece. Before the advent of transparent backs all those decorations were visible only to the watchmaker, and he certainly had no use for all the cosmetics. After the first few days of ownership of such a watch, how often does a typical buyer look through the transparent back to admire the decorations on the movement? Of course, a transparent back is more expensive than a regular solid one. Under some mistaken notion, Swiss watch producers have come to equate decorations with quality. Having said that, I know that many people consider wristwatches as luxury items. Therefore, under those circumstances, fancy decorations and a high degree of finishing play an important role to the persons willing to pay for them. In my way of thinking, however, the beauty of a mechanism lies primarily with the coordinated function of its components, and cosmetics of any kind do not enhance its operation at all. The famous architect Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe had it right when he stated that: "form follows function".

Over the years I have acquired several Seiko wristwatches, simply because I found them to be attractive and inexpensive. Here are some examples of what I mean: The



square Seiko (shown bottom left) is relatively small at 32 by 32 mm. It is fitted with an amazingly accurate "high beat" 23 jewels automatic movement of 28,800 BPH (4 hertz) and shows the date and the day of the week in two different languages. I have owned this watch for 38 years now and I have worn it on and off over that period. It has never been serviced and still keeps time with greater accuracy than some other watches I own which had cost me a hundred times more.

The round gold-tone "Gyro Marvel" (shown at right), is a plain, time only automatic wristwatch with a 17 jewels movement. I have owned it for over 30 years but have seldom worn it. I remember having paid only "pennies" for it. It has never been serviced and still keeps time with great accuracy to this very day.



The round stainless steel Seikomatic (shown at right), with date and day of the week has a 26 jewels automatic movement and was given to me as a gift nearly 30 years ago. This timepiece too has never been serviced and keeps time with great accuracy as well.



The modern looking Seiko Kinetic (shown below) is over 20 years old and I have worn it only for a few months. It is fitted with an automatic hybrid movement equipped with a rotor-driven microgenerator charging a small capacitor.



The capacitor, in turn, provides power to the highly accurate quartz movement. The micro-generator continually charges the capacitor when the watch is being worn on the wrist. When the watch is at rest the capacitor will continue to run the watch for a week. The small button at the 2 o'clock location actually functions as a power reserve indicator. When

depressing the button, the sweep second hand indicates the level of charge of the capacitor on the colored scale on the right side of the dial and will stop there until the button is released.

These are just a few examples of my experience with Seiko timepieces. Although Seiko wristwatches will probably never count among the highly collectibles such as Patek Philippe timepieces, they nevertheless offer superb value to those of us who believe that the primary function of a watch is to tell the time with maximum accuracy, with as little maintenance as possible over the life of the product. What do you think? ■



# THE GREATER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

**FRIDAY FEB 6TH & SAT FEB 7TH  
AT THE PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER**

This is one of the largest shows of its kind in America  
Entrance Friday requires NAWCC membership  
**Saturday is open to the public (10 am to 2:30 pm)**

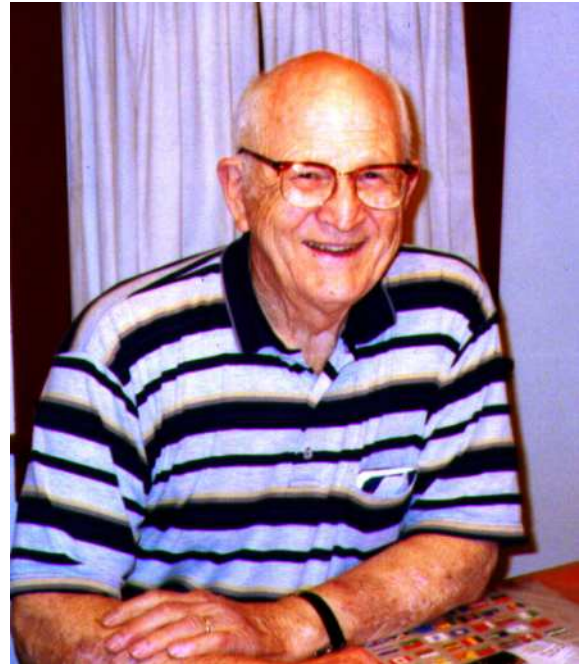
The L A Pottery Show is also being held in an adjacent  
building. Combined discount tickets for both Saturday  
shows will be available in the registration room

For more information visit our website:  
[www.nawcc-glar.com](http://www.nawcc-glar.com)



George Gaglini will display this clock at show  
and tell. The Grasshopper Clock is based on the first  
marine chronometer made by the world's most famous  
clock maker, John Harrison (1693 - 1776).

Charlie Davis, our program presenter this month,  
is well known throughout the NAWCC. He is a member of  
the national speakers bureau. His program will be on  
Japanese clocks.



Charlie Davis got hooked on Japanese clocks when  
he taught his first clock repair class soon after joining the  
NAWCC in 1968. They proved the ideal vehicle to  
introduce newcomers to owning and repairing clocks--  
plentiful, cheap and badly in need of overhauling! Since  
then he has handled hundreds of them and his curiosity  
grew about the story of those clocks.

Charlie has been teaching clock repair for the  
Pomona Adult School for over 25 years and is a popular  
presenter of clock related programs to service clubs,  
schools, retirement homes, church groups and many  
NAWCC chapters in the central and southern California  
areas. He was named a Fellow of the NAWCC in 1999.

After nine years in the printing trade, Charlie taught  
printing at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College for 25  
years. Retiring at 60 he then owned and operated a trade  
typesetting and graphic arts camera business in Rancho  
Cucamonga for nine years. He now devotes much of his  
time in piecing together the material he is finding on the  
development of the Japanese clock manufacturing  
industry.



## Happy Birthday

Wayne Callaway,  
Katherine Demny, Sylvia Grisswold,  
Richard Henderson, Rock Newton,  
Zaki Salahuddin, Beverly Schmidt, Paul Skeels



**This month's Mini-Workshop will be  
"Hands for Clocks & Watches"  
Repairing, making, blueing, adapting,  
locating etc. Conducted by Jim Chamberlain  
The workshop begins at 10:30 am. Free to members**

# 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

complete shop with all the latest equipment.

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

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

**Dave Coatsworth**

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

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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.

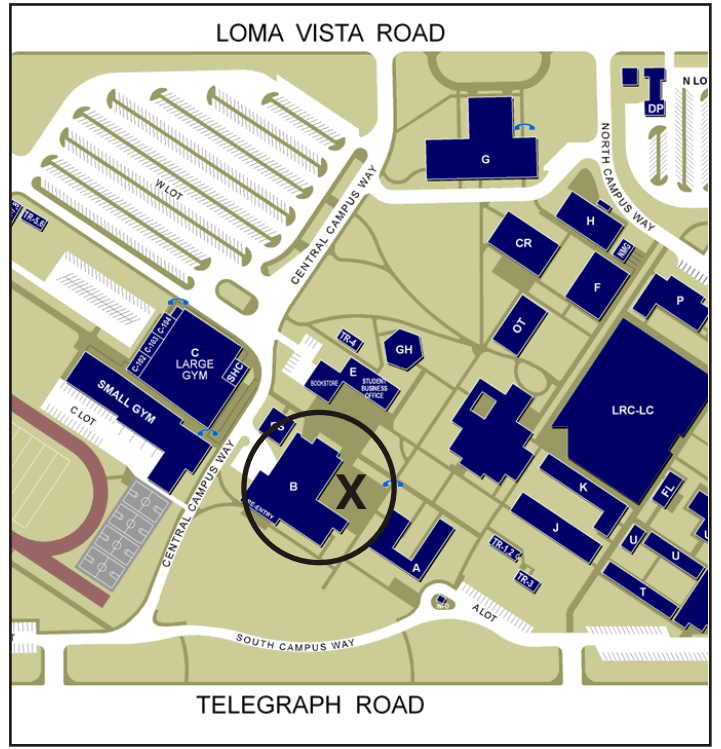
Loren Miller, **Pacific Coast Clocks**

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!*

*January 2009 Issue*

**JAN 18**  
**NEXT MEETING**

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