



## THE GOLDEN AGE OF WRISTWATCHES (Part four: Ladies wristwatches)

by Henri Bonnet

In previous articles I have discussed some of the men's wristwatches that were popular in the nineteen fifties and sixties. Obviously, the same brands that made wonderful timepieces for men, also made beautiful mechanical wristwatches for women. Among some watch "experts" there is a mistaken notion that women's wristwatches were less accurate than their men's counterparts. In my experience, from a practical point of view, I have seen no strong evidence that this might actually be the case. As far as I could tell, men's and women's wristwatches, of similar quality, were nearly as equally accurate.

Millions of women of that era showed up for work everyday on time, just as men did, relying primarily on their wristwatches. There is no question that because of their diminutive size, ladies mechanical wristwatch movements had to be exceedingly well made, assembled, and regulated, in order to perform on par with men's timepieces.

Many were fitted with automatic movements as well as a calendar. As befits the timepieces of the period, their appearance was elegant and simple, thus enhancing legibility, despite their small size. Actually, the world's smallest mechanical wristwatch was Swiss made (by JLC) and was offered as a gift to Queen Elisabeth II of England, for her coronation in 1953. It could not possibly have lacked accuracy. I seem to recall that my wife's wristwatch was generally just as accurate as my own. (See below an advertisement by Movado suggesting that men and ladies wristwatches they made were equally accurate.)

The caption reads (in French), "the joy of meeting at the same minute."

One could choose between Omega, Tissot, Jaeger Le Coultre, Movado, Eterna, IWC, Longines, Bulova, and Timex, among many other brands. In general, ladies wristwatches of similar quality were somewhat more expensive than men's. Perhaps this was due to the extra care in the manufacture and assembly of their tiny movements.



Historically, it should be remembered that wristwatches were initially crafted for women, while men, at the time, preferred to wear their pocket watches. It is during the First World War that men began to develop an interest in wristwatches, as a matter of convenience, for aviators and soldiers. Not long afterwards, most men abandoned their pocket watches in favor of wristwatches. Hence began the serious development and evolution of wristwatches that culminated in the nineteen fifties and sixties. The following are several examples of ladies mechanical wristwatches that were popular at that time.



**Left-** Note the size comparison between a typical man and a ladies wristwatch of the sixties. **Right-** A Tissot Visodate Seastar ladies wristwatch, with calendar and a 17 jewel movement.



**Left-** A Signal, 17 jewels automatic, private label ladies watch, made in the Far East. **Right-** An Omega Ladymatic with calendar. It was one of the smallest automatics at the time.



**Left-** A Bucherer automatic with calendar, very slim and waterproof with a screw in crown. **Right-** A Kienzle 17 jewels, elegant hand wound wristwatch from Germany. Swiss movement. ■

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

*Happy Fathers Day!* I am always pleasantly surprised by the turnout for the meeting on Father's Day. Each year, as we schedule the meetings for the coming year, I ask the board, do we really want to have a meeting on Father's Day and, to my surprise, they all vote yes. We will not have our largest meeting of the year but a large number will attend the workshop, lunch, and program.

One of the jobs of fatherhood and motherhood is teaching or mentoring the next generation, and passing on what skills and knowledge we have acquired. It is an important obligation to give something back for what has been given to us. In the field of horology, most of our knowledge and skills are shared freely with fellow members. But, once in a while, an opportunity to mentor a young person presents itself. Paul Skeels spoke at our May board meeting about a young man who was interested in repairing an Anniversary clock. Paul has spent a good deal of time teaching this young man ( High School age) with very excellent results.

The clock is repaired and running very well. The young man has shown much interest and enthusiasm for learning clock repair. This report encouraged a discussion among the board members about developing a mentoring program for chapter 190 members, and a chapter sponsored scholarship program for horological classes. This discussion will continue and any input or suggestions for a program are welcome.

Thanks to Laurie Conti, our public Relations Director, with an assist from Ken McWilliams (Vice President and editor), the Chapter has produced a first class brochure. The colorful brochure will be used to inform and invite the public to participate in the Science of Horology and the NAWCC. An invitation to a free lunch and a visit to a Chapter 190 meeting is included. The attractive and informative brochure will be placed in public places; antique shops, watch and clock repair stores, and other appropriate places. If you would like have a few of these really neat brochures to pass out they will be available at the monthly meetings.

Chapter 190 will be represented at the NAWCC National Convention by Dave Coatsworth and Daniel Weiss. They will be hosting a table flying the Chapter 190 banner. If attending the convention please stop by and visit with Dave and Daniel.

The monthly meeting workshops have been extremely popular and well attended. A lot of experience is available to solve your repair problems. It's impossible to attend a workshop without learning something new. This months workshop is an open workshop, so bring your clock or watch problems.

See you at the Meeting *Mike*



## Happy Birthday

Matt Bonaccorso, Darrell Jones,  
Harry Larson, Tom McKnett,  
Georgio Perissinotto, & Glen Webb



*by Ernie Jenson*



The pilot, Al Kepler, is giving Wilma Lopes instructions before beginning her flight in the North American SNJ-5. Wilma was the recipient of the free ride that was won at our Annual Antique Clock & Watch Show. She gave up her ride to her grandson, Mitchell Lopes, who was also at the mart. However, Mitchell's parents, Dave and Lisa Lopes decided that Mom should also go for a ride. Mitchell and Wilma each enjoyed a fun ride over the Camarillo area and Mitchell's home in Simi. When the pilot asked Wilma where she wanted to go her answer was, "Not over the ocean!" Wilma and her husband, Larry Lopes, are members of Chapter 190 and brought the family, three generations of the Lopes, to the Mart.

Mitchell with Mom and Dad are off to Indiana for most of June to show several antique cars at the car show in French Lick, Indiana and to visit relatives in Indianapolis. We will see them again at our July meeting. Mitchell wants to thank our club for the enjoyable airplane ride and maybe give us a little information on his summer's activities before he is off to Notre Dame to begin his studies in Aerospace Engineering.

We were happy to see many families enjoying the Mart this year. We expanded the scale of the Mart so as to reach a larger group of interests. How fitting that the grand prize should go to the Lopes' family. Congratulations to Mitchell & Wilma!



*From left to right; Mitchell Lopes, Wilma Lopes, Dave Lopes, Larry Lopes, Lisa Lopes, Ernie Jenson, & Al Kepler*

*by Robert Gary*

## **Giorgio Perissinotto**



Giorgio Perissinotto, member of Chapter 190, has always been fascinated by time. He has long conducted research on the history of time and time keeping in society, from sundials to sand timers, to Chinese water clocks to tower clocks.

A professor of Historical Linguistics at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Giorgio began collecting clocks about 20 years ago. He has picked up clocks for his collection in his travels around Europe, purchased a three wheel Morbier pinwheel escapement with three bells and a sweep seconds hand in Mexico, and tower clocks from Spain. His collection contains a German time-only tower clock with an anchor escapement, a French two train time and strike tower clock movement, and an 1885 French Remontoir pinwheel time and strike tower clock that uses discarded cannon balls for the weights.

Giorgio describes himself as a collector, rather than a clockmaker. He repairs only the clocks in his own collection. He does not do repairs for others.

French street clocks, marine chronometers, military aircraft timepieces, and a Vienna Regulator round out this fine collection of a man whose passions are clocks and sailing.

Giorgio shares his love of time with the members of Chapter 190 by frequently bringing pieces of his collection, including tower clock movements, to the Chapter meetings. ■

# Ya Gotta See It To Believe It.

by Ken McWilliams

I'm thinking about starting a column on the absurd. The word "Absurd" is defined as: *so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be laughable or ridiculous.*

We run across these things all the time. They can be in the form of misinformation, terrible repair methods, or just plain bad decision making.

An example of this is shown below. *Ferdinand Geitner* sent this one to me, which he found on a popular "Help" website.

I got a chuckle out of it because it is so blatantly wrong, but what if I wasn't familiar with Rolex watches?

I masked the author and website but the rest of the text is word for word.

If you run across something that you think qualifies as "Absurd", send it to me. If I receive enough, I'll make it regular feature in our newsletter. (E-mail: [internut@socal.rr.com](mailto:internut@socal.rr.com))

## How to Fix a Slow Rolex Self-Winding Watch

By ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Contributing Writer

When your expensive Rolex watch starts to slow down, it is probably because of a dying **battery**. Your watch needs battery power to run, so when you find that you watch isn't keeping time as well as it used to, you may need to change the battery. If you don't want to bring your watch to a timepiece servicer, you can do it yourself. All you need is the battery and a small screwdriver, and you are ready to fix your slow Rolex self-winding watch.

**Difficulty:** *Moderate*

### Instructions:

**Step 1** Choose the correct die from your watch opening kit by matching it to the size of groove on the back of the watch. You may need to try a few before you get the right fit.

**Step 2** Insert the die into the groove and twist to carefully remove the back of the watch case. Set aside in a safe place. Remove the gasket.

**Step 3** Pry the battery from the back of the watch using a small, flat screwdriver. It should come up very easily. Beware of pulling too hard on it. If you cannot get it easily out, take it to a servicer instead.

**Step 4** Check the old battery so you can make sure you've purchased the correct battery model number to replace it. Not all batteries are compatible with every watch type.

**Step 5** Insert the battery and replace any screws that you may have removed while taking the old one out. Make sure the new battery is secure and in the exact place as the old one.

**Step 6** Replace the rubber gasket, and secure the back of the watch case back on by using the die inserted in the grooves and twisting.

**Step 7** **Wind** the watch and test it for a full 24 hours against another clock to make sure that it is no longer running slowly.

## BRAIN TEASER

There are enough facts to answer the questions using only logic. The solution will be in next month's newsletter

Five houses, each of a different color, are inhabited by men of different nationalities, who collect different types of clocks, each have different physical characteristics and drink different drinks.

### CLUES

- \* An Englishman lives in a brown house.
- \* The Spanish guy only has quartz clocks.
- \* The guy in the green house drinks coffee.
- \* The German drinks beer.
- \* The green house is to the immediate right of the ivory house.
- \* The guy with a bad back collects time-and-strike clocks.
- \* A very tall guy lives in the yellow house.
- \* Tea is drunk in the middle house.
- \* The Italian lives in the first house on the left.
- \* The very short guy lives next to the guy who collects 400 day clocks.
- \* The very tall guy lives next to the guy who collects cuckoo clocks.
- \* The guy with poor vision drinks wine.
- \* The Asian has poor hearing.
- \* The Italian lives next to the tan house.

**Question 1, Who drinks only water?**

**Question 2, Who collects alarm clocks?**

*The first person to e-mail me the correct solution will get a free lunch at our meeting. [internut@socal.rr.com](mailto:internut@socal.rr.com)*

## WHO WEARS WHAT

Let's see how well you can predict the brand of watches celebrities wear. This was sent to me by *Fred Lipman* of chapter 75. (I think he wears a sun dial) By the way, I did not get a single one correct.

**Match the watch in Column A to the celebrity in Column B**

### Column A

1. Omega
2. Tag Heuer
3. Rolex
4. Hublot
5. Timex

### Column B

- A. Arnold Palmer
- B. Prince Charles
- C. Bill Clinton
- D. Anna Kournikova
- E. Maria Sharapova

(Answers below)

*"If the rich could hire people to die for them, the poor could make a nice living." - Yiddish*

*"If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." - Abraham Maslow*

(Answers 1-D, 2-E, 3-A, 4-B, 5-C)



# FACES SEEN AT MAY'S MEETING



They don't seem to be buying Giorgio's fish story



Clay Sheffrey wins the cookies  
(His wife, Kathi, later gave them to me)



Jim Wertz from Bakersfield wins a small reward for his long trip



Tom Beard wins the top prize



Ferdinand, connecting his digital microscope to his computer



Zaky wins some goodies



Giorgio tries the fish story on me





### Dudley House Museum

197 N. Ashwood, Ventura, CA 93003

**July 4th**

**Flea Market and Collectibles Fair 9-4 pm**

**Guided Tours of the house 1-4pm**

**Admission is FREE!**

**Stay and watch the fireworks.**

*Call 805-388-2670 for information*

### San Fernando Valley Chapter 75's 2010 Mini Mart

**Sunday, July 25th**

**11:30 to 2:30**

### At The Granada Pavilion

11128 Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills CA

**70 tables of antique Clocks & Watches!**

**Consignment Table**

**(Limit 2 items per person)**

**Admission-\$5.00**

**Sellers tables-\$10.00**

*Call Kim at (818) 349-8031 for information  
Get Flyer/Application at: [nawcc-ch75.com](http://nawcc-ch75.com)*



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### The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190

is **June 20, 2010**

**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

### "Chapter 190's Camarillo Mart"

**Presented by Bill Robinson**

**(Photos by Steve Murphy)**

### SHOW & TELL

**"Bring something you got at the Camarillo Mart  
or something else of interest"**

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FSW 101 is offered for October 22-25 "Introduction to Basic Time & Strike" coordinator Giorgio Perissinotto: 805 637-9810 email [giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu](mailto:giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu)

FSW 103 is offered for December 3-6 "Introduction to Chiming Clocks" coordinator Paul Skeels: 805 525-7325 email [plskedls@tyt@verizon.net](mailto:plskedls@tyt@verizon.net)

The following are future courses that may be offered to those who are interested and have the required prerequisite.

FSW- November 2010 "Introduction to Wrist Watch Repair"

### For the year 2011

FSW- 102 "Time & Strike Clocks with Spring Barrels"

FSW- 200 "Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair Course Part I"

FSW- 201 "Fundamental Skills for Lathe & Clock Repair Course Part II"

FSW- 202 "Lathe II Clock Repair Course"

FSW- 103 "Introduction to Chime Clocks"

FSW-104 "Introduction to weight and Fusee Driven Clocks"

**Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.**

*Thomas Edison*

**Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.**

*Will Rogers*

**Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got.**

*Janis Joplin*

# 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@roadrunner.com](mailto:theclockgallery@roadrunner.com)

### ***The Tic Toc Shop***

**Clock**

**Repairs,**

**Restorations**

**& Appraisals.**

**Ken McWilliams**

**(818) 718-8300**

**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  
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*Loren Miller* proprietor.

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(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 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.

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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](mailto:giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu)

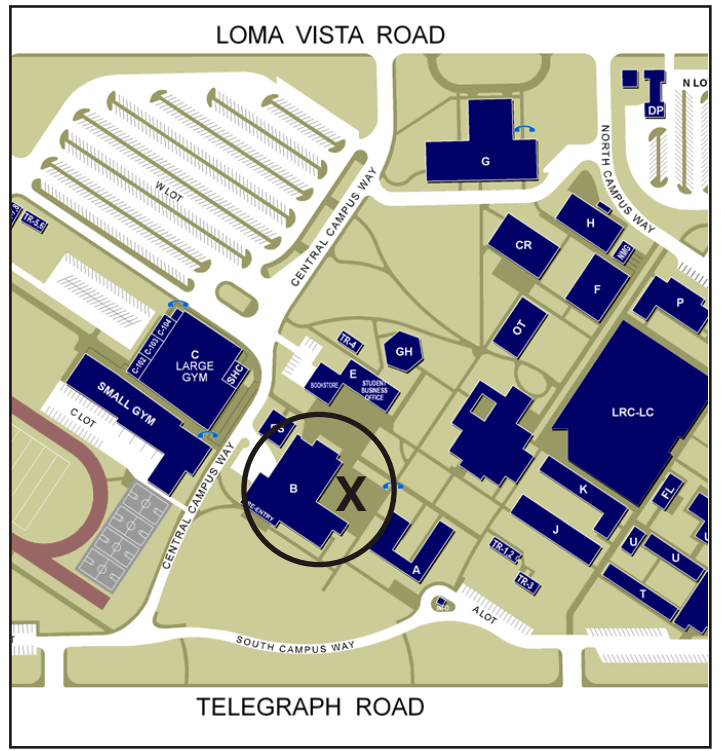
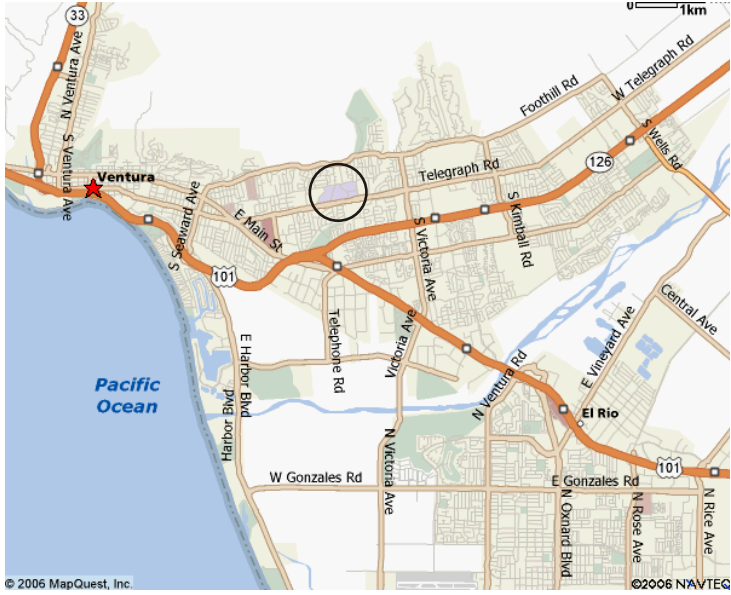
**- Watch Repair Tools -**

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**

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!*

June 2010 Issue



**JUNE 20**

**NEXT MEETING**

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

**Chrono Times**