



The Bells Ring At the Santa Barbara Courthouse

by Mostyn Gale

It has been almost two years since we set off to restore the Santa Barbara County Courthouse Seth Thomas tower clock. On 18 June 2010 a crew of eager Chapter 190 volunteers met at the courthouse to begin the disassembly process. The clock was stopped at 11:46 AM and the wrenches came out.

On 27 April 2012, those same volunteers and many others gathered again at the courthouse to review all the work that had been done and to receive recognition from the project sponsors. The event began at 4:30 PM and we were all able to experience the sights and sounds of the Westminster chimes at 5:00 PM.

The final phase of the project involved mounting of the hammers and connecting cabling as well as installation of magnetic sensors to trigger an electronic chiming system. The triggers and electronics were created by Bryan Mumford. In an earlier report, I mentioned that the strike and chime trains on this clock had never been made operational – bells had never been installed. Due to either the expense of bells or lack of an appropriate place to mount them, bells were never part of the installation. Some of us who had been around the clock in the last 5 years were disappointed that the electronic carillon that had been in operation until we started this restoration, was run entirely separated from the clock itself. A goal of this project was to restore the strike and chime trains to operation and to use the mechanical operation of the clock to trigger the “bell” ringing. We were not able to use real bells but we wanted to make them look real to give as close as possible to the real operation of the clock. See the Feb 2011 Chrono Times for my report about the bells.

On 25 March 2011 we witnessed the first operation of the strike and chime trains on the clock since it had left the factory in Connecticut in June of 1929. It took another couple weeks of adjusting and tuning to get everything aligned and to adjust the silencing mechanism to correctly stop the strike and chime overnight.



Santa Barbara Courthouse

With the project complete, I thought it would be interesting to conclude this series of reports with the highs and lows that I have experienced during the restoration.

Lows:

- Bruising my ribs from leaning squeezing out of the “porthole” next to the dial hands to demount them and bring them in for repair.
- Having the suspension spring break (twice) not long after we restarted the time train.
- Cutting and fitting electrical conduit (the old stuff was more like plumbing pipe) to place on the inside of the clock frame.
- Getting sore wrists and forearms from cleaning gear teeth with a tooth brush.
- It took so long to get this project done.

Highs:

- Removing rust from the strike cam gear and seeing the original paint drips on the teeth confirming that this train had never been in operation.
- Getting to clean the gold painted cam for the chime train lifting levers. They look so fantastic – original paint!
- Experiencing the clock in an environment so enhancing to the clock itself – the clock room, or Bisno Schall Gallery as it is called, has painted murals around three walls, a ceiling depicting the heavens on Dec 4, 1602, the day Santa Barbara got its name, a nice new tile floor, glass walls to allow the public to see the clock from the tower stairwell.
- Getting to work with the really great folks from Chapter 190.
- Discovering where the proverbial extra part fit. I found a small gear in a box underneath the clock. I knew it belonged but didn't find out where until I was almost finished cleaning all the parts.

There is so much more that could be said and of course like all good things that come to an end, it is really only the beginning of a new phase. There are things yet to be done, like a good maintenance manual and of course, doing the maintenance itself, but more exciting than that – a few weeks ago we received the promise for funding to

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

A few weeks ago a group of chapter members were invited to attend a celebration of gift, work, and achievement at the "BISNO SCHALL CLOCK GALLERY." The celebration was for all the good people who made the artistic and historical addition to the Santa Barbara County Courthouse possible. At 5:00 pm on April 27, the 1929 Seth Thomas 3 train model No. 18 tower clock chimed and played the Westminster chimes in a room with fantastic murals, bells, and an historical night sky. All in attendance cheered the ringing of the bells. The Clock Gallery will soon be open for public tours.



In October, Chapter 190 will hold its regular monthly meeting in Santa Barbara. Tours of the Clock Gallery and the Courthouse will be offered. This will be a special day by invitation for chapter members, family, and invited friends. Please mark Sunday, October 21st on your calendar for this special event.

Good news for pocket watch and wristwatch collectors. Chapter 190 is offering education opportunities for pocket watch and wrist watch collectors. Offered is the "FSW 302 Beginning Wrist Watch Repair Workshop" August 24-27. To make reservations contact coordinator Zaki Salahuddin 805 654-8552 email phoenix@cimm.net.

A "FSW 301 Beginning Pocket Watch Repair Workshop" will be offered December 7-10. Contact Mike Schmidt email eaglecreekclocks@msn.com for information.

Congratulations go to all the students who recently completed the May "FSW 102 Time & Strike/with Barrel Springs and Snail Striking." The Instructor was Lex Rooker and in attendance were students: class coordinator Dan McKinnon, David Longenecker, Ron Maricich, Ralph Napolitano, Chris Martin, Michael Pollard, and Robert Thomas.

A watch repair workshop and clinic is provided at each monthly meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. This will be led by Jorge Montoya with input from Ferdinand Geitner. Everyone is welcome to bring repair questions or participate in the discussion.

The program for this Sunday will be "ENEM Dutch Master Clock." Neil Kunns and Ernie Jenson will make the presentation. This unique and beautiful rare clock was highlighted in the July 2011 "CHRONO TIMES". This is a great story and clock!

The Sunday morning clock workshop begins at 10:30 am. The beginning topic for this round table discussion will be "Measuring Tools." The leaders for this discussion will be George Antinarelli and Ken McWilliams. Everyone is welcome to bring their clock repair questions. The coffee will be on early.

See you at the meeting *Mike Schmidt*



Happy Birthday

George Antinarelli, Henri Bonnet,

Ron Boogren, George Gaglini,

Mostyn Gale, Frank Huttlinger,

Bruce MacLaughlin, and Julie Palladino

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do a computer animation of the clock that will be placed in the Gallery and used as a teaching tool. This is just the beginning of many as yet unthought-of uses for this magnificent gallery. **Thank you Chapter 190!** ■



How it looked when we started the project.



How it looks now.



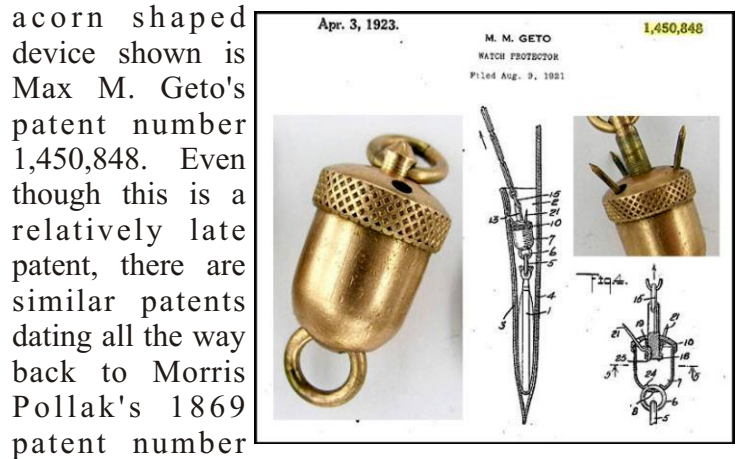
Bells and, Dec 4th 1602, fiber optics night sky.

POCKET WATCH ANTI-THEFT DEVICES

by Dave Coatsworth

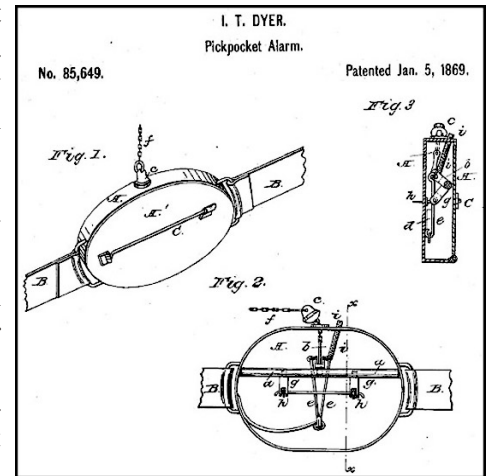
In the late 1800's and early 1900's, a pocket watch could cost the average owner a fairly high percentage of their income. It only made sense that one would want to protect this investment against theft. A search through the patent database, using terms such as "pocket watch theft," reveals no shortage of devices designed to answer this perceived need.

The most common type of device fits between the chain and the watch bow and uses spring loaded prongs or hooks to prevent the watch from being jerked out of the pocket abruptly. The prongs stay safely inside the device as long as the watch is removed from the pocket slowly and by holding the watch itself. If the watch is removed quickly by pulling the chain, the hooks come out of the device and catch on the wearer's clothing. The specific



acorn shaped device shown is Max M. Geto's patent number 1,450,848. Even though this is a relatively late patent, there are similar patents dating all the way back to Morris Pollak's 1869 patent number 93,344. In fact, it is quite difficult to determine the improvements that Mr. Geto can legitimately claim as some of the earlier patents appear to be identical except for variations in shape.

A second type of device, called a "Pickpocket Alar" in Isaac T. Dyer's 1869 patent number 85,649, was designed to alert the wearer of a theft attempt by means of a pin prick. To quote from the patent: "The nature of my invention consists in the construction of a guard or protector, to be connected with a watch or pocket book, and worn under the clothing, in such a manner that if the article to which it is attached be forcibly removed from the pocket, it will prick the wearer, thus giving an alarm."

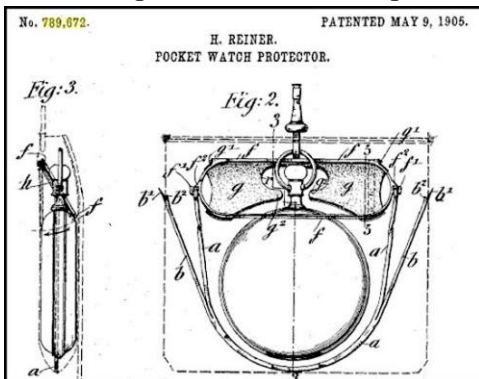


This device would typically be attached to a belt that was worn around the waist.

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The last type of device, of which there are also many variations, is one that fits into the pocket and makes it difficult to pull the watch from the pocket except in a very specific manner. An example here is Harry Reiner's 1905 patent number 789,672. In this case a wire frame, a little larger than the watch, is placed in the watch pocket. This frame is held in place by two metal barbs. The top of the frame is slanted so that the watch will not fit through the opening if the watch is pulled straight up, as would be the case in a pickpocket theft. The user can remove the watch by rotating it so that it is perpendicular to the opening in the top of the frame.



All of these devices seem to meet the intended need. However, the scarcity of devices surviving today, when compared to the number of antique pocket watches and chains surviving, would seem to indicate that none were overly successful. Perhaps many were simply discarded, but I tend to believe that none of these devices achieved widespread popularity.

These, and other, patents can be easily searched by using Google Patents. Google has scanned and digitized the text of all old patents going back to the beginning of the patent database. Simply go to www.google.com/patents and enter the patent number or other search terms. It is also possible to use an advanced search to search on particular patent dates or date ranges. ■

Camarillo Ranch House Clock

by Ernie Jenson

The Camarillo Ranch House has a Sessions No 4 Time & Calendar clock hanging over the fireplace that hasn't run for many years. It was missing parts and in need of some tender loving care. Darlene Chinery, a new docent at the Camarillo House, and a member of Chapter 190, decided that they should get the clock running and asked for help. The clock, in this configuration, sold for \$7.15 in 1912 (45 cents extra for the calendar movement).

The Ranch House was built in 1892 by Adolfo Camarillo in its present location. It was the home for "Rancho Callegus," which was one of the last Mexican land grants (9,998.29 acres.) The house is beautifully restored and is on display with regular docent-conducted tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. The house is also open for all types of social functions.

It is a three story Queen-Anne style Victorian house with two turrets, a large veranda, and sprawling lawns.

The barn, that housed the beautiful Camarillo white Arabian stallions, (regulars in the Pasadena New Years parade), has been configured for social functions as well.



The four ladies in the picture are happy to see the clock running again. They are docents: Nedra Kindig, Sandi McAninch, Sherry Reynolds, and Darlene Chinery. ■



Wristwatches of Distinction

by Henri Bonnet

The Franco-Prussian war had just come to an end (1871,) and the masses of Europe were looking forward to a peaceful and prosperous future. Hope and expectations were in the air, and people began to "live-it-up," for a change. This is how the "Belle Époque" erupted in Paris and lasted for over 40 years, until the start of World War I (1914). These were exciting times, when champagne, the Model "T" Ford, the phonograph, the electric light, the telephone, and the airplane were developed. The "Belle Époque" center was Paris, where "haute couture," long gloves, the waltz, impressionism, and operettas were in vogue. In all that turmoil, Louis Cartier, one among scores of Parisian jewelers, made history. Not only did he produce exquisite jewelry for royalty and the nobility, he also made wristwatches, which at that time were sheer novelty. Although Louis Cartier didn't invent the wristwatch (Patek Philippe is credited with that,) he was instrumental in propagating its acceptance among the gentlemen of the period. In 1904 he made a wristwatch for his good friend, the Brazilian daredevil aviator, Alberto Santos-Dumont. The "Santo-Dumont" wristwatch subsequently became the rage of the well to do, and it remains so to this day. Following such tradition, his descendent, Francois Cartier, established the Cartier firm in the fashionable Palais-Royal district, at 13 Rue de la Paix, in Paris. Cartier soon became the favorite jeweler of royalty, and affluent society.

When Francois died, Alfred and Louis Cartier took over the company from their father. They increased Cartier's prominence by making elegant wristwatches for the ladies, and by opening branches in major cities such as London, St. Petersburg, and New York. Monarchy and aristocracy of Europe, as well as Asian potentates, were among their best clients. King Edward VII pronounced Cartier: "Jeweler of Kings, and King among Jewelers." Cartier became the official purveyor of King Edward VII of England, King Alphonso XIII of Spain, King Carlos I of Portugal, King Fuad of Egypt, King Albert of Belgium, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, as well as assorted Pashas and Maharajahs, among others. Later on, Cartier came to be the favorite jeweler of movie stars and celebrities. Cartier also accepted commissions for custom-made jewelry, and even made batons for Field-M Marshals. In 1909, Pierre Cartier, one of Alfred's sons, opened a boutique in New York at 653 Fifth Avenue, in a building he traded for a pearl necklace, then valued at one million dollars. Cartier sold the famous Hope Diamond, as well as the 69.4 carat pear shaped "TaylorBurton." Following World War I, additional branches were opened in Hong Kong, Geneva, Munich,

Cannes, and Monte Carlo. Cartier was now renowned the world over for setting fashion trends in high-end jewelry and wristwatches.

Following World War I came the "roaring twenties," along with the Charleston, the Flappers, Coco Chanel, Zeppelins, Department Stores, Radio, Moving Pictures, and luxurious Ocean Liners. This carefree era saw the introduction of the "tank wristwatch" which soon became a classic, remaining so to this day. The "tank wristwatch" was originally inspired by the Renault tank, which fought the German Army on the Western Front. The first prototype of the "tank wristwatch" (1917) was offered to General Pershing, then Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Cartier wristwatches were not only small, slim, and elegant, but very accurate and reliable thanks to their superlative movements supplied by Movado, Audemars Piguet, Vacheron & Constantin, and Jaeger Le Coultre. However, the cases, dial, and straps were all meticulously manufactured in Paris. Cartier, to this day, excels in its large selection of high

quality timepieces, including minute repeaters, chronographs, as well as assorted quartz wristwatches. With a background in expensive jewelry making, Cartier never pretended to make watches for the average consumer. Cartier watches eventually became a status symbol of the rich and famous, due to their superb quality and enduring authoritative appearance. Cartier remained a family enterprise until 1972 when it was purchased by a financial syndicate. Cartier bought a sizable business interest in the firms of Piaget and Baume & Mercier, thereby becoming part of a conglomerate under the Vendome Group. The Vendome Group in turn being part of the Richemont Group which is owned by the Rupert family of South Africa. Cartier today operates more than 200 stores in over one hundred countries. In 1997, Cartier celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Shown is the "Tank Francaise Chronoflex." (top photo)

This wristwatch is equipped with a quartz movement that displays time and date, as well as with a chronograph featuring a 12 hour totalizer. In addition, its timing accuracy is radio controlled via a tiny built-in radio receiver tuned to detect a time signal from the WWVB radio transmitter in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Also shown (bottom) is a modern version of the original "tank" wristwatch. Typical of Cartier wristwatches of the period were the cream-colored dial, Roman numerals, sword shaped hands, and the bejeweled crown (cabochon). In addition, gold cases and alligator straps were "de riqueur." Notice the Cartier name in sub-miniature print, as part of the number VII marker. A date window came along later on. ■



Chapter 190 People

Tom McKnett

by Ernie Jenson

Tom's involvement with Chapter 190 begins at Day 1 of our club as he was a Charter member. The club was formed in September 2006, with our first meeting in January 2007.



Tom, a native Californian, was born in Lynwood, CA. At the time his father was working for Pacific Telephone Co. After doing some work in the Ventura area he liked what he saw, and when an opportunity to transfer to Ventura came up, he took it. In 1954 his Mom, Dad, Grandmother, and his two older sisters

migrated sixty miles north to Ventura.

He attended schools in Ventura and graduated from Buena High School in 1969. He said, "I made it through one year at Ventura College but Uncle Sam was breathing down my neck so I joined the Army National guard and spent six exciting years protecting our state."

He played drums in many local rock bands in the sixties and he still says, "Some day I'm going to get the old band back together!" (At sixty, I don't think so.)

He married his wife, Laurie, in 1971. They have two grown children, Keith, and Corinn and two grand daughters ages five and three. He has been with the City of Camarillo Water Division for twenty seven years as an Inspector.

His first experience with clocks was when he was four years old. His Great Aunt gave him a cuckoo clock which he broke into a million pieces within five minutes. Lesson learned; never give a four year old a clock. His serious passion for clocks started in 1990. Before, he had always been a record collector, but slowly his wife turned him in the direction of old clocks, and the rest is history. He now has about eighty clocks in his collection with his two favorite being a # 1 New Haven eight bell musical clock and a Seth Thomas external bell ship's clock. He has completed the beginning American clock time and strike repair class and does most of his own work on American clocks, but, "Anything European I let the more experienced people handle".

His wife, an RN for the County of Ventura, retired three years ago. She is also quite an artist. In a couple of years, when he retires, he intends to get more involved in all areas of clock repair. His collection has come from family, estate/garage sales, and auctions. They are planning on spending a month in Italy this spring. He says, "Who knows what treasures I'll find?" ■



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
is May 20, 2012

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

"ENEM Dutch Master Clock"

Presented by Neil Kunns
and Ernie Jenson

A very unique and interesting clock.

(See July 2011 Chrono Times article on this clock)

SHOW & TELL

Bring your favorite clock/watch

This Month's Mini-Workshop

At 10:30AM,

"Measuring tools, and how to use them"

This will be an open forum, moderated by
George Antinarelli & Ken McWilliams

THE WORKSHOPS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

*If there is a topic that you would like to learn about,
just mention it at the workshop. We are always looking
for good topics for the workshops.*

The following workshops will be scheduled for 2012:

Sherline Lathe Workshop - Advanced tool making. (Date to be determined)

F510 Clock Camp I - This is 2 day course for students who have completed the F101 and 102 and want a Refresher course of that material

F511 Clock Camp II - This is a 2 day course for students who have completed the 103 and 104 and want a refresher course for that material

Suggestions for chapter 190 workshops, demonstrations, or programs are always welcome. Contact any board member with your ideas.



April's program on French clocks, presented by Ferdinand Geitner and Giorgio Perissinotto

CLASSIFIED PAGE

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

SERVICES OFFERED

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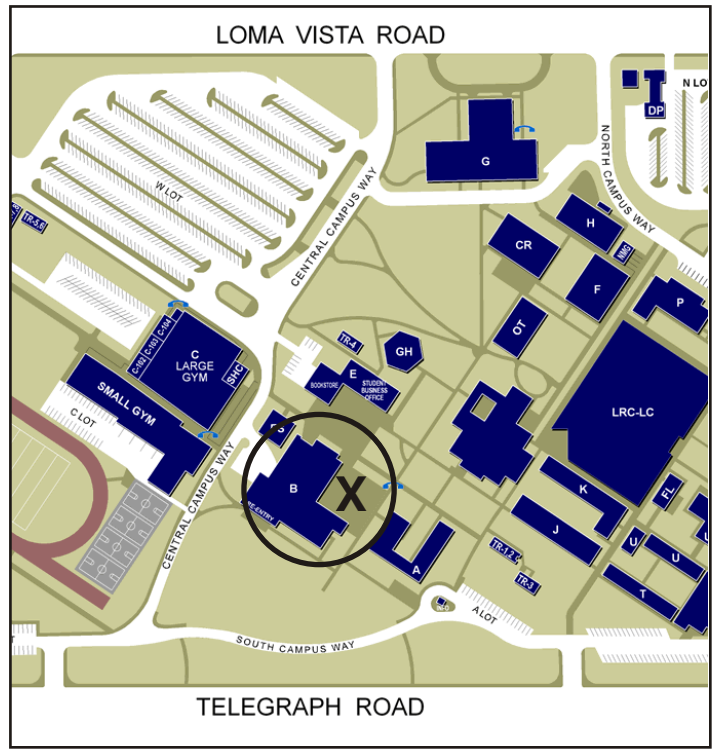
- Chronometer -

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.



May 2012 Issue

NEXT MEETING
MAY 20



Chrono Times
 If Undeliverable return To:
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 Northridge, CA 91325



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties Chapter 190 of the NAWCC

NEW **RENEWAL**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date: _____

Name: (First) _____ (Last) _____ Phone: _____

Street address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Birth Day: (Month) _____ (Day) _____ NAWCC # _____
Membership in the NAWCC is required

Person to contact in the event of an emergency: Name: _____ Phone: _____

What is your clock/watch interest? (Check all that apply)

- I collect clocks I collect watches I have a basic understanding of clocks watches and have repaired a few as a hobby.
- I have studied clock watch repair via books, videos, or by attending classes. I repair clocks mostly as a hobby. I have been repairing clocks for over 5 years and am familiar with many types of movements. I repair clocks for pay and as a hobby.
- I have a well equipped shop and can repair most clocks watches. I have an extensive knowledge of clock/watch design, function and repair techniques. Most repairs are for pay. I am a serious collector of clocks watches and have a very good knowledge of their history, models and value.

Why do you want to be a member of Chapter 190? _____

Would you like to volunteer in helping Chapter 190 achieve its goals? Yes, how can I help? No, not at this time

Membership in Ventura chapter 190 of the NAWCC requires that you also be a member of the parent organization, The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. If you are not a member, you may join online by going to their website at www.nawcc.org, or you can contact us and we will send you an application.

Chapter dues run from January 1st to December 31st. Annual dues are \$25.00 for immediate family.

Please make checks payable to;

Chapter 190 NAWCC

Mail this form & check to:

Ernie Jenson

25 Norma Ct, Camarillo CA 93010

Family membership dues \$25.00 _____
Membership includes spouse and other family members.
Other members names.

NOTE: Spouse or family members do not have to be a NAWCC member when accompanying the primary member to chapter events.

Signature _____

FOR CHAPTER USE

Date received _____ Amount received \$ _____ Member ID number;

Added to mailing list. Date _____ Membership card sent. Date _____

Notes: _____