

Bytown Times

Volume 28, No. 1, January 27, 2008

ISSN 1712—2799

NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008
meeting begins at 1:30 PM

WHERE:

Qualicum & Graham Park
Community Centre
25 Esquimalt Ave., Nepean

MEETING AGENDA:

- **ANNUAL AUCTION:** buy some new treasures, and sell your unwanted collectables
- Wally Clemens will give a short talk on the Peace Tower clock
- Show and Tell period: members are invited to share their latest acquisitions with the group

1950's Snider Clocks

At our November 2007 meeting Allan Symons gave a "Show and Tell" presentation on the typical designs of Snider wall, mantel, and TV lamp clocks made in Toronto in the 1950s for the Canadian market. His talk included an exhibit of many examples from the large Snider collection at The Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River, Ontario.

Harry Snider set up his first company, the Snider Clock Corpora-

tion, in 1950. The name was changed in 1957 to the Snider Clock Manufacturing Company Limited, which continued in business until 1976. One or the other of these names is usually found on their clocks dials or labels, although sometimes the only indication is the script word Snider on the dial.

Initially the models were simple mantel and wall designs based on china cases made in Toronto and 8-day spring-

driven Ingraham movements. Horses and panthers were popular subjects for the cases. The hand-painted Birdhouse and the Baker were early wall models.

By the late 1950s electric motors were an option for buyers. Except for some initial stock from Smiths in England, electric motors were purchased unassembled from Lanshire in Chicago. By the mid 1960s the Snider company line was focused mostly on wall models, with well over one hundred versions and many tens of thousands of clocks sold each year. Some designs are quite unusual and very collectable today.

Cont'd on page 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1950's Snider Clocks	1&3
Dial Cleaning Workshop	1
Chats Falls Discovery	2
Training Activities Update	2
George Kozoriz	3
Wine & Cheese Party	4&5
November Show and Tell	5
Club Info & Contacts	6
Secretary's Corner	6
The President's Desk	6

Dial Cleaning Workshop



During the few hours leading up to the November 2007 chapter meeting, some members participated in a dial cleaning workshop that was held at the Qualicum & Graham Park Community Centre.



Chats Falls Horological Discovery

Ontario Power Generation held an open house to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Chats Falls Generation station. Near the entrance were two clocks. I stopped dead in my tracks, as one clock appeared to be a Post Office Master Clock. What was it doing here?

The DC operated Synchronome clock (1925/6) was used as the master time reference at the Chats Falls generating station when it went into service in 1932. Notice the 15-tooth wheel. Is it a Post Office Clock Type 36? It appears to have a 1-second beat (2 second period).

The AC operated Telechron Clock (1953/5) is an electric clock which uses the hydro supply as its timing reference. Telechron Clocks was granted a patent #1,283,431 on 29 Oct. 1918. It describes a system where the time on a synchronous clock is compared to the time on a standard regulator, and a control means for correcting the speed of the generator so the average speed is 60 cycles per second.

The above system was used at Chats Falls, however, in 1932, the frequency was 25 Hz; it changed to 60 Hz



some time after 1949.

Around 1960, the Synchronome clock was replaced by a clock which was linked to an atomic clock.

Paul has a fascination with the Post Office type of clock. Paul notes that Synchronome clocks were made by amateurs. He is interested to know if anybody knows where Paul may get some plans, etc. Paul also suggests that Barrie's Virtual Clock

Museum is worth a visit:

www.clock-museum.co.uk

Some notes on the above clocks:

The **Synchronome** clock was patented in 1907/8. A key element in the clock is its version of the Hipp toggle. These clocks were built in England and Australia until 1968. They were used for astronomical applications until the 1950s.

The **Post Office Master Clock Type 36** is similar to the Synchronome clock. It uses the Hipp toggle which was invented by Mattheus Hipp in 1838. It was made by Gillet & Johnson, Magneta, Synchronome and Gents.

The **Telechron clock** uses a synchronous electric motor. The motor uses the frequency of the Hydro supply as its timing reference. This was the basic electric clock until the invention of the quartz crystal controlled clock.

Notes and research for this article were provided by chapter member Paul Williams.

Update on Training Activities

Other Courses:

- F301 - Introduction to Pocket Watch Repair: plans are in the works to hold this course sometime after April 2008. Course details are available at www.nawcc.org. If you are interested in attending this course, please speak to Dan Hudon, or email erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com
- Introduction to Clock Repair: if there is interest, this course will be run again in the early fall of 2008. More details will be available at a later time. Please contact Dan Hudon for more details.

*Course info provided by:
Dan Hudon & Grant Perry*

NAWCC Field Suitcase Workshop: Fundamental Clock Repair (F200)

The NAWCC Field Suitcase Workshop 'F200 – Fundamental Clock Repair Course' (formerly F100) will be offered in the spring of 2008.

The F200 course has no pre-requisite. It is a good opportunity for members to enhance their skills utilizing hand tools, and also to learn how to make or adapt tools. The F200 course itself is a pre-requisite for the NAWCC lathe courses. Those members who eventually want to learn how to work with a lathe (whether watchmaker's or micro lathe) need to take this skills course. A full course synopsis is available on the NAWCC website.

The course will be held at Algonquin College, in Ottawa, on May 16,17,18, & 19, 2008. Lodging will be available on site. The cost for lodging will be approx. \$25 per night (to be confirmed at a later time). Family members are welcome to stay at the college as well, but the course coordinator, Grant Perry, will need to be advised ahead of time. The cost for attending the course is \$275 USD. Grant will start collecting deposits in April. Scholarships are also available.

For more information, contact Grant: pargetime@rogers.com or 613-324-0347

1950's Snider Clocks cont'd...

Cont'd from page 1

Perhaps the most bizarre wall clock shown by Allan was the black version of what the company called their Snider "spider" (model 500), with its twelve eyes staring at the person trying to determine the time!

The first starburst style of wall clock that appeared in the late 1950s typically had a glass-covered dial, electric motor and brass-plated metal rods. One of three different models from the museum's Snider collection was on display. Westclox Canada produced similar designs at that time. The use of open dials and wood for the rays of starburst clocks seems to have started in the 1960s, and continued into the early 1980s for Westclox.

TV lamps became very popular in the mid 1950s as families brought home their first television sets. The low-level light's purpose was to protect the viewer's eyes while staring at the small black & white screen. Not only the lamp designs but also the colours from that era stand out today – especially pink and turquoise! Examples were shown for the three metal-cased models of TV lamp



Allan Symons discusses Snider clocks at the November 2007 chapter meeting. Shown here, Allan displays a Snider Model 500 clock.

clock registered by Harry Snider in 1957. His designs are numbered 503 ("bow tie"), 504 ("in-car heater"), and 505 ("squashed diamond"), with Allan's description of their appearance in brackets. Available colours were black, ivory, light brown, pink, and turquoise. If those models did not attract you, Snider also sold several china-cased TV lamp clocks in

several colours of horses and panthers, as shown in the exhibit.

Copies of two photographs received from Michael Snider, Harry's younger son, were circulated at the meeting. Michael has provided much background information about the family's clock businesses. The pictures show Snider family members promoting their clocks at gift shows in Toronto in the late 1950s. On the shelves and walls behind their promotional display are samples of their product range. Many of those models were represented in the exhibit at the meeting.

The museum has received a small, federal Community Memories grant to put the Snider story on the Internet. With Michael Snider's participation, Allan expects to have the results ready early in 2008 for hosting on the Virtual Museum of Canada. Pictures of more than a hundred clocks will be included.

If you have any questions about Snider clocks, you can contact Allan by e-mail at:

manager@canclockmuseum.ca

The web site is:

www.canclockmuseum.ca

George Kozoriz Will be Missed

George Kozoriz, a Quinte Timekeepers past president and a member of our chapter, passed away on December 21 2007 at the age of 84.

George retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after a long and very distinguished career in the Air Force. During his retirement

George turned to Horology, in which he both collected and repaired. As an active member in both Chapters, George will be missed.

*Article provided by Wally Clemens,
Chapter 111 president*



George and his wife, Rose, at the 2001 Chapter Picnic

Wine and Cheese

There's nothing quite like getting up the morning after a great party. The beautiful calm sun beaming through the windows illuminating the empty wine glasses left standing on tables, shining on leftover crumbs of a yummy cake, following me from room to room as I clean. Some people may be depressed by this sight, and all the cleaning that it implies, but I find it welcoming. With each room I tidy, I remember another great moment from the night before.

In the living room, as I'm straightening out the display of my watches, I remember having picked through them with Jean Paul the night before. Picking up a few stray wine glasses in the same room, I remember conversations with Maynard, Rita, Veronica, and many others. In the kitchen, while washing the cake platter, I remember trying to convince Monique, that there were no calories in the cake, trying to persuade her to take another piece. In the dining room, while gathering up the tablecloth to toss in the washer, I remember discussing the pronunciation of Irena's name with her, and her husband Peter.

Cont'd on page 5...



Wine and cheese continued...

Cont'd from page 4...

This is just a slight spattering of the memories of that evening. Paul and I both had a great time, and we hope everyone else did as well.

The NAWCC Chapter 111 annual Wine & Cheese Party was held Saturday, November 10th at the home of Erin Fox (chapter secretary) and her 'better half' Paul Johnsen.



November 2007 Meeting: Show and Tell

Clayton Duff brought his Zapper Clock to show to the chapter.

The small, Austrian-made clock has a movement that is only 2-3" high, with a pendulum just as tiny. The clock got it's name from the German word 'zapper', meaning restless or fidgety, referring to the motion of the tiny pendulum. The clock has a 30-hour movement, and is wound by a very small key. The clock, which dates back to the late 18th or early 19th century, is shaped like a cathedral.



Brian Hollebhone brought a clock built in 1843 or 1844, by the Borden Company in Connecticut. The timepiece's mainspring is wrapped around a fusee, giving it constant and consistent power. It takes 30 turns to wind the clock for 1 day's worth of power!

Charlie Beddoe brought his Newhaven Clock to show to the club. Papers on the back of the clock show T. Eaton Co.



Club Information

This club acts as a meeting place for antique clock and watch enthusiasts. Members are interested in a wide array of topics: some collect, some do research, some do repairs.

Formal club meetings take place five times each year, on the fourth Sunday of every second month, with a break in the summer. Meetings are held in January, March, May, September, and November. Doors open at 1:00 PM.

Club members also enjoy two annual social events: a Wine and Cheese party each November, and a Picnic BBQ each July.

Courses on clock and watch repair are held throughout the year.

The Bytown Times is published five times each year.

Annual Dues for club membership is \$16. Club members should also have memberships to the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC). NAWCC Dues are U.S. \$55.

Club Officers & Contacts

President: Wally Clemens
Box 311, 4970 Opeongo Road, RR#3
Woodlawn, ON, K0A 3M0
(613) 832-3085

Vice President: Patrick Bigras

Secretary: Erin Fox
erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com

Treasurer: Bill Pullen

Auditor: Georges Royer

Librarian: Wally Clemens

Bytown Times Editor: Erin Fox

Immediate Past President: Maynard Dokken

Program & Social Director: Tim Bryans

Education & Workshop Chairman: Dan Hudon



Secretary's Corner

As always, I have had plenty of help with this issue of the Bytown Times. I would like to thank Allan Symons, Paul Williams, Wally Clemens, Dan Hudon, Grant Perry, Ben Roberts, Charlie Beddoe, and Maynard Dokken for their contributions, large and small, to this issue. Your help has been very appreciated.

I would like to take this chance to remind everyone that, if you have a project you are working on, or a collection you are proud of, please consider giving the club a presentation of your findings. We are always eager to learn what other club members are working on, and how our common interest is be-



ing pursued by others.

As usual, I would like to, welcome the club members to submit their own articles for the newsletter. Topics can be anything: a review of your collection with pictures, a summary of some research you've gathered, 'how-to' or instructional information, museums and other horological sites you've visited, etc. Articles and pictures can be emailed to me at:

erinfoxnawcc111@gmail.com

Please don't forget to visit our website as well:

www.ottawaclocksandwatches.ca

Notes from the President's Desk



I do hope we can put our snow shovels down long enough to attend our next meeting. This meeting is our annual auction, so please bring those horological items you want to part with and those you wish to "show and tell". Also, remember to bring a dry pair of shoes, as we will be requesting you to remove your winter boots at the door.

See you there.