

NAWCC – Chapter 154 – Daytona Beach, Florida

www.nawcc154-daytonabeach.com

July 2008 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING & MART

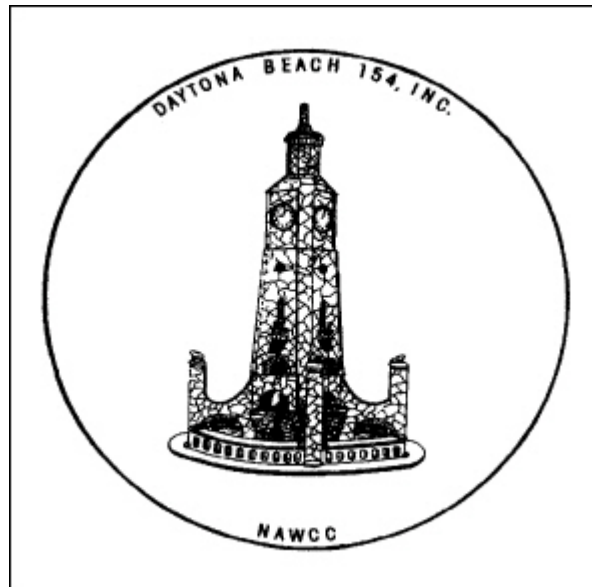
Sunday, July 20, 2008

Doors Open at 8:30 am

Meeting Includes:

- * **SILENT AUCTION** - Don't throw it out. Bring any horological item in any condition. What you consider junk may be someone else's treasure.
- * **Mart Table** is included (bring your items to sell or trade.)
- * **Meet old friends and make new friends.**
- * **Full Buffet Lunch.**
- * **You are welcome to join us!**

Presentation: “A Horological Show and Tell” – any member or guest can bring any horological item and show and tell about it.



REGISTRATION AND DUES

Annual Chapter Dues are \$8.00 per year

The Mart, Meeting, with a **Full Course Buffet Lunch included** is \$15.00 per person. Also included is a Free Mart Table.

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“New” MEETING PLACE

**Whistle Junction
(Banquet Room)**

**1854 S. Ridgewood Ave. (US Hwy 1)
South Daytona, Florida**

Phone: 386-761-5472

Chapter 154 "In the News"

Our chapter made it into the local Daytona Beach news on May 26, 2008. The Daytona Beach News-Journal did an article on member Tom Bransford. (Pictures and the complete article are preserved on-line on the home page of our chapter's website.)

Making Good Time

DeLand retiree keeps busy with quirky clockwork

By AUDREY PARENTE
Staff Writer

DELAND -- "Retirement is hell," reads a sign on a shelf in a small outbuilding behind Tom Bransford's 103-year-old home. It's a little clock workshop -- crowded with hundreds of chiming, ticking, bim-bamming timekeepers, from cuckoos to grandfather clocks to French imported wall dials -- where Bransford, 77, spends most of his waking hours.

The former career Army pilot and retired supervisor from the Boise Cascade manufacturing company who then taught a vocational clock repair class for 21 years, is most happy there.

His favorites: the Atmos clocks, some worth as much as \$40,000.

An Atmos is perpetual -- doesn't need winding, but runs by a hermetically sealed capsule filled with ethyl chloride (gas and liquid) which expands and contracts with temperature change, Bransford explained.

"They shipped one from Anchorage, Alaska, that just came in -- which makes 14 here now to be fixed," he said. "I have six from individuals in New Orleans that were presentation clocks. They were underwater in Katrina. They are government clocks."

...he was involved with fixing one of the world's most remarkable timepieces: England's Big Ben. Boise Cascade was one of only a few companies with a lathe large enough to create an 8-foot and 12-inch-by-12-inch slide replacement part for Big Ben, Bransford said.

Recently he took time off from his pressing tasks to work with his friends Jim Zeisler, 66, a retired firefighter and clock enthusiast, and Randy Jaye of Orlando, president of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors of Daytona Beach.

The three took part in a public-clock repair project, fixing the timepiece in the coquina tower on the Boardwalk behind the Hilton Hotel.

"The idea was hatched three years ago, and it took this long to come to fruition," Zeisler said.

While Jaye organized the effort and Zeisler rode the lift-bucket to work on the clock, Bransford did much of the behind-the-scene preparation.

"Tom called and sent all kinds of pictures and information on the restorations he was going to do on the clock," said Rosie Karg, a spokeswoman for American Time and Signal. "The system was ancient and now everything is more compact. He had a lot of work to do to refit the new pieces to work within the tower."

But it turns out there's a glitch, which the association members hope to resolve on Tuesday with the help of American Time and Signal.

The clock hands are a fraction too long and must lean out to clear the tower. The tip of the hands on the clock will be shaved slightly to correct the problem.

Fixing the problem will take "patience and a good mechanical mind," he said.

A Short History of the Buren Watch Company

Written by Randy Jaye

The Buren Watch Company was named after the location of its initial start up in a little village in Switzerland called Buren, located on the banks of the Aare. The firm started in 1842 making watch parts. In 1873 they started making complete watches and F. Suter officially founded Buren and initially called the company F. Suter & Co.

Buren sold many watches and movements with other company's names on them such as Elgin, and were often used in Railroad Watches because of their accuracy and reliability.

The first ever micro-rotor automatic watch movement was patented by Uhrenfabrik Büren A.G. in the mid 1950s. When their "planetary rotor" automatic movement was released in 1957 in the "Super Slender" line, it was one of the flattest automatics of its time and derivatives of the movement competed with the Universal Geneva micro-rotor for thinnest automatic in the world for many years.

In the early 1960s Buren was sold in 60 countries. They created many brands for the various markets: Van Buren (South Africa), Steelco and Haste (Mexico) and Dugena and Monza which were sold in the United States.

Although Hamilton produced Thin-O-Matics wristwatch models with high-grade ETA movements as well, they were so fond of the Buren movement that in 1966 they purchased the company.

Hamilton (which became Hamilton International S.A. in 1968) kept producing fully assembled watches under the Buren name (alongside Huguenin (whom they purchased in 1959) and Vantage (purchased in 1962)). They kept Hans Kocher (Buren's chief designer) on as the president of Buren Watch Company S.A. which they owned and operated until Hamilton was in turn purchased by SIHH (later called SMH, now the Swatch Group) in 1971 (a controlling interest was purchased at that point, all watchmaking assets were then completely turned over in 1974). Buren went into liquidation within months and their impressive and productive 101 year existence came to an end in 1974.

A Short History of Howard Miller and his Clock Company

Written by Randy Jaye

Howard Miller started his clock manufacturing company in 1926 at age 21. He was schooled in the art of clock making by his father, Herman, in the Black Forest region of Germany. He is considered a visionary in the clock manufacturing business for his trend setting designs and affordable and quality clocks. Today the company is headquartered in Zeeland, Michigan, and has manufacturing facilities there and in Germany.

The first types of clocks he produced were chiming wall and mantel clocks. During World War 2 the Howard Miller Clock Company teamed up with the Ford Motor Company to build anti-aircraft covers to support the war effort.

In the 1960s the company focused on designing and manufacturing grandfather clocks and soon grew the product line to be known as the "World's Largest Grandfather Clock Manufacturer."

In 1989 the company started making collectors cabinets using the same techniques utilized in their clock cases. They are built with hardwoods and glass which appeal to collectors of glassware, plates and other displayable collectibles.

Although most people today still associate grandfather clocks to the Howard Miller Clock Company their list of products includes; floor clocks, wall clocks, mantle clocks, tabletop clocks, weather and maritime equipment, wine and spirits furnishings, display cabinets, memorial clocks and urns.

The Howard Miller Clock Company recently purchased three companies to expand on their handcrafted product offerings: The Hekman Furniture Company that produce 18th and 19th century sculptured hardwood pieces; The Woodmark Company that produce fine upholstered pieces; and the Kieninger Company of Germany that manufacture clock movements.

Howard Miller died in 1995 at age 90, but his vision to build affordable clocks of various types and styles while keeping quality in mind lives on.

Order a Chapter 154 Custom-Made Polo Shirt (Very High Quality including embroidery with 1400 stitches)

Pricing:

\$25.00 (Sizes: S, M, L, XL)

\$27.00 (Size: 2XL)

\$28.00 (Size: 3XL)

Made by: GILDAN Active Wear

Features:

100% ultra-cotton pique polo

Preshrunk cotton

Quarter-turned

Tapes welt collar

3 wood-tone buttons

Welt cuffs

Double needle stitched hemmed bottom

Contact Information
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Chapter Officers (2008)

President: Randy Jaye

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Vice-President: Jesse McKnight

Director: Ed Epp

Director: Tom Bransford

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US POSTAGE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO: