



A newsletter for and about members of San Jacinto Chapter 139 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

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## Annual Meeting and One-Day

You won't want to miss our Chapter 139 Annual Meeting and One-Day on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at Grace Community Church, 1021 Campbell Road. The day kicks off at 8:00 with a mart, and if the November meeting was any indication, there will be plenty of good stuff looking for a new home. (Missed the November One-Day? Check out the great pictures [here](#).)

Then, in addition to our annual meeting and election of officers, Jay Holloway will present "Putting Your Mark on Horology: Walter Durfee and His Clocks." This is your opportunity to learn more about why Durfee's clocks are so sought after, along with his influence on tubular chime clocks. Jay has been doing some extra research and you might be surprised what you'll learn.

This will also be a great opportunity to pay dues – not only will it ensure you're paid for another year, you can save yourself the cost of a stamp while you're at it! See you there!

## Clock Case Restoration

~ Nita Mixon

In December, my husband, Joe, and I took the Clock Case Restoration class taught by John Schmiege.

John started the class by explaining all of the materials that were in our kit and the use for each one. First, John had us make a color board so we could identify the different colors and how to achieve them. John then demonstrated how to do different repairs on the cases such as scratches, chips, cracks and worm holes.

After lunch we each started on our clock cases with John walking around and helping each one of us to repair our case, and explaining different techniques to achieve what we needed for each clock case. The next step was to start painting our repaired cases. It was amazing to see what could be achieved with just a few drops of this color and a few drops of that color mixed together to make just the right color for our cases.

The next day we started the finishing of our clock cases. First applying the shellac and then buffing to a shine. All this time John was checking on our progress, encouraging us, and helping if we had a problem.

To see all of the clock cases before we started and then to see the final projects on Sunday was amazing. One member even restored a clock that he had found in the garbage!

John was an amazing instructor and made the class a lot of fun! (Darrah has posted more pictures, including some "before and after" shots, from this great class. Take a minute to check them out by clicking [here](#).)



## New from you

This month's "New from you" comes from Pat Holloway.

Much can be learned from studying some of the early watch advertising – not only about the watch itself, but also about competition as well as what was happening in the world at the time. For instance, let's take a look at some of the early Waterbury advertising. Many of us have heard about the "long winding" issues of the first Waterbury watches. Although the Waterbury models were among the first truly affordable watches, selling for about \$3.50 each, the fact that they had a rotary movement and 9-foot long spring that required an eternity to wind made them the brunt of many jokes and disparaging remarks.

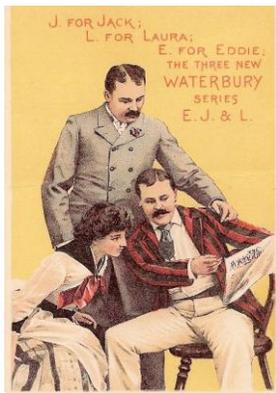
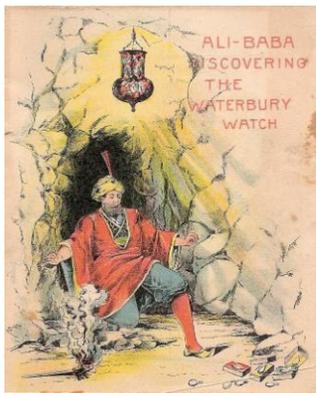
In spite of these early setbacks, Waterbury persevered, continuing to improve their watches and utilizing innovative marketing materials. By about 1885, they were producing the Series E (the last of the rotary movement models), J and L watches and had developed quite a variety of trade cards and booklets that targeted a wide demographic market – both males and females, young and old. Let's take a look at some of these pictured below.

The first picture is the cover of an eight page booklet that takes great liberties with the story line of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," placing Ali Baba's cave in Waterbury, Connecticut and progressing to the thieves leaving in search of some high cost Jurgensen watches, then to the discovery in this cave of a short-wind, stem-set watch that he calls the "Series J," and ladies' watches that he called "Series L" or "The Ladies Waterbury."

The second card features an older gentleman and mentions only the Series J, while the two cards with gold backgrounds reference all three: "Series J" for the gents, "Series L" for the women and "Series E" for the boys. Although not called by name, the card with the red background seems to speak to the "Series L."

Interestingly, the card on the lower left and the larger card on the right give us a little insight into the world at that time. An article in the Spring 2000 issue of "The Advertising Trade Card Quarterly" includes trade cards for Ayer's Sarsaparilla and Phenix Insurance, along with this one – all with the same couple. It turns out that Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Gilbert were a popular comedy team who were appearing on the New York Stage in the 1880s. The card on the right uses the Three Little Maids to play off the widespread popularity of Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado" which opened in 1885 in London.

Hopefully, next time you see a watch trade card, you'll take a minute to "read" its whole story!



## Holiday party

On Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>, the San Jacinto Chapter 139 holiday Christmas party was held at the home of Marcus and Becky Bush. It was a mild day so guests could wander out on to the patio or stay inside and enjoy all the ticking clocks. Actually, I saw a wrought iron design of a clock hanging on the back fence. Marcus specializes in Ansonia Clock Co. clocks of all types. Most notably were several ‘Swingers’, porcelain-cased and humongous wall clocks. There were electro-mechanical master as well as old ‘time’ punch clocks. A detailed explanation of each was given upon request.



The afternoon meal included ham, brisket, cooked and raw veggies, sweet potatoes, corn, salads, etc., and concluded with pies, cookies and other treats.



The annual White Elephant exchange was a fun time for over 40 participants. The largest gift was a five foot grandfather clock and smallest a bracelet that could very well have been used for ear rings. Correct me if I am wrong on that Marcus. There was one special ‘yak spit’ award given to a member who recently took the wood case restoration class. Her name is being withheld so that she does not get flooded with calls requesting free samples of this fabulous wood polish. (One has to take that class to appreciate the story behind it).

To see more of the fun, take a few minutes to check out additional pictures in the [Gallery](#) section of the Chapter website.

## Upcoming events

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend these upcoming events. Additional details will be provided in the newsletter as well as on the [website](#).

➤ January 21-22	8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Clock Case Restoration Class (2-day)</b> Contact Tim Glanzman for information.
➤ February 11	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session*
➤ February 18	8 a.m.	<b>Chapter 139 One Day Show and Annual meeting</b> Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055 Entry \$3; Table \$5
➤ March 10	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session*
➤ April 14	8 a.m. – noon	Tech Session*
➤ May 19	8 a.m.	<b>Chapter 139 One Day Show</b> Grace Community Church 1021 Campbell Rd, Houston 77055 Entry \$3; Table \$5

\*Location: All Tech Sessions are held at Turn-Key Coatings, 8411 Rannie Road, Houston, Texas 77080 (just off of Hempstead Highway / near Bingle). The space is donated by fellow member, and company owner, Tim Glanzman.

### Things are not always what they seem

~ Marcus Bush

I have had one clock in particular recently that has been a pain in the neck, so to speak. It is an eBay purchase that was advertised to be a strong runner. Buyer Beware. This clock is a better than average looking English tambour with inlay adorning the case. Upon arrival and initial inspection all seemed good. The movement appeared clean, seemed to function properly on the strike side and all was a go. I set the clock up for observation and went about my business. The next day my nice new purchase was dead in the water. She had stopped. Time to disassemble. After taking the movement apart and cleaning ultrasonically she was ready to go back together. So I gave the springs, which appeared good, a wipe-down and lubricated them. They went back in the barrels easily, but thinking back the barrel caps seemed a little hard to press into place. Maybe the barrel or cap was sprung just a little.

After cleaning the pivot holes, reassembly was next. I put the movement back into the case and back to the observation deck she went. Wound her up; set the beat and just sat back to observe my latest victory over machine. WRONG. In two hours she was dead in the water again. I removed the movement and there was little or no power to the escapement wheel. I then repeated the whole process. Disassemble and inspect. I put every shaft on the lathe to recheck for bent pivots or bent shafts. All were okay. I then removed and ordered new springs almost exactly the same as had been in the clock. New springs arrived and were put into the barrels. Guess what? Same result. She would run two or three hours and stop. No power. Again the movement was taken apart and put back together one wheel at a time. Everything was working, spinning very freely. It had to be the springs. I ordered two more springs. This time the springs I ordered were about forty thousandths narrower. Bingo. It seems the springs that came to me in the clock were too wide causing friction inside the barrel.

Never take for granted that the movements now 80 years old and older have not been tinkered with. I suppose the purpose of this article is to remember: things are not always as they seem.

### San Jacinto Chapter 139 – Renewal/Membership application

If you are a member of NAWCC and would like to join with other collectors and your friends as a member of San Jacinto Chapter #139, please complete the form below and return along with \$10.00 dues to John Trego, 11258 White Oak Way, Conroe TX 77304. Please make checks payable to San Jacinto Chapter #139. A spouse/significant other can join for an additional \$3.00 per year. If registering your spouse/significant other, please include their full name as well.

Membership is concurrent with the calendar year, and renewals are due each January. To avoid the hassle of having to remember every year, why not consider renewing for up to five years?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/significant other name (if also registering): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

New membership / Renewal (Please circle appropriate choice) Number of Years? \_\_\_\_\_

\*To reduce time and expenses, all newsletters and Chapter 139 correspondence will be distributed electronically to members with email addresses. Not only does electronic distribution save money, it's good for the environment.