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Subject: Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

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NAWCC School of Horology to Close



NAWCC School of Horology

Since 1995 the **NAWCC School of Horology** worked diligently to provide a first-rate curriculum for the training of professional watchmakers and clockmakers in both modern and vintage repair. Unfortunately, enrollment in the SOH diploma programs steadily declined because of the recent economic downturn and lack of industry and government subsidies. Because of continuing uncertainties and the corresponding strain on Association finances, the Board voted to close the School as a full-time diploma-granting vocational institution. We continue to make use of the School facilities and equipment to develop and expand short-term courses related to watchmaking, clockmaking, and other horology-related subjects. Questions related to the school can be directed to Ruth Overton, Board Chair (rwoverton@att.net) or Steve Humphrey, Executive Director (shumphrey@nawcc.org).

GIANT CUCKOO CLOCK TRANSPORTED TO NEW HOME

Dear NAWCC Member,

This month we examine a few historical watches, learn how a watch was the focus of a famous duel, delight in some truly monumental clocks, and look back to a wartime love story.

Enjoy!

Harry Houdini's Pocket Watch Offered At Auction



Photo: Bonham's

On June 12 buyers at Bonham's Fine Watches and Wristwatches Auction in NYC will have a chance to bid on a true piece of history- Lot 43, a yellow gold pocket watch once owned by famed magician and escape artist Harry Houdini. The watch, a 59mm 18K yellow gold, hunter case, minute repeater chronograph with calendar and moonphase (of unknown manufacture), was given to Houdini in 1914 by his English manager, Harry Day, and is inscribed "To my dear pal Houdini | From his Sincere friend | Harry Day | May 1914." A chain and locket containing pictures of Houdini's wife and mother, plus additional materials, is included in Lot 43. A photograph of Houdini is also included in the back lid of the watch.



Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was born in Budapest as Erik Weisz, but after his family relocated to America he developed a keen interest in magic and renamed himself after celebrated French conjurer and clockmaker, Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin. Houdini gained fame in vaudeville as a magician and escape artist, becoming an international celebrity before his untimely death in 1926.



Photo: Timesreporter.com

One of the world's largest cuckoo clocks was recently relocated to a new home in Dover, Ohio. Contractors secured the clock on a mover's truck with cables, then hauled it to the foundation of its new home on property purchased from village blacksmith Bob Parks. About 50 people turned out to watch the 45-minute-long move. The clock stands 23 feet, six inches tall. It is 24 feet wide and 13 feet, six inches deep, and is constructed of 2x4s, plywood, redwood, and cedar. It will require extensive electrical work to restore to working order. It's hoped that repairs will be made in time for The Ohio Swiss Festival, Sept. 28 and 29. The Cuckoo Clock was once listed as the largest in the world by the Guinness Book of World Records.

MOVIE STARS AND THEIR WATCH BRANDS



Horological Sponsorship is Big Business for Celebrities

Nicole Kidman

The Oscar-winning star is a brand ambassador for Omega and is often seen wearing Omega's latest women's watch, the De Ville Ladymatic.

Clive Owen

The British actor attended this year's Salon Internationale de la Haute Horology in Geneva, where he helped unveil the latest offerings from Jaeger-LeCoultre. He's known to be a fan of its Aston Martin-inspired racing Amvox watches.

Leonardo DiCaprio

The American actor is a celebrity



Photo: GrapevineTexasUSA.com

GRAPEVINE GLOCKENSPIEL ELEVATES BUNGLED TRAIN ROBBERY TO NEW HEIGHTS

The city of Grapevine, Texas, recently dedicated the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau's Headquarters and Museum Complex during the City's 28th Annual Main Street Days festival by debuting the city's 127-foot-high Clock Tower featuring two larger-than-life, nine-foot-tall Glockenspiel characters, "Would-Be Train Robbers" Nat Barrett and Willy Majors. Situated 75 feet in the air inside the clock tower, these two mechanical figures emerge each day shortly before noon and 6 p.m., supposedly to attempt the perfect heist. The two Wild West desperadoes have come to rob the Grapevine train, but when they meet and argue, they miss their chance and learn that crime doesn't pay...the figures' actions are powered by a mechanical movement and are visible from a viewing plaza located across the street. The Would-Be Train Robbers figurines were created by LifeFormations of Bowling Green, Ohio. The Glockenspiel mechanism was built by The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. Grapevine's Cotton Belt Hotel Tower's Glockenspiel is the first of its kind in North America.

To view the Would-Be Train Robbers in action, click [HERE](#).

MALAYSIAN WATCH ENTHUSIASTS GATHER IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR SECOND "H4U" GATHERING



The participants at 2010's Horology For Unity (H4U) gathering in Putrajaya.

Photo: TheStar.com

Two years ago, after years of communicating online, a group of Malaysian watch enthusiasts finally gathered together in person. The event was formally christened **Horology For Unity (H4U)** and was held in Putrajaya in 2010.

spokesman for TAG, highlighting its line of racing chronographs.

Kate Winslet

The famous British actress has been a brand representative for Longines for two years, supporting its cinema-themed Longines Dolcevita watches.

Natalie Portman

The celebrated star recently announced that she is becoming a brand partner of the Richard Mille watch company.

Historic clock reinstalled in downtown Sacramento



The historic Fred Mayes clock was recently reinstalled as part of a ceremony celebrating the history of the clock. The city oversaw the restoration, performed by horologists, metalworkers, and neon lighting experts. The Mayes Jewelry shop is no longer at the clock's 10th and J location, but the clock was donated to the city by Mayes in 1993. An art deco steel base (intended to thwart vandals) now encloses the original iron column. A key element of the installation is the ring-motif clock, high above the sidewalk, brightly glowing with new neon to display the correct time for future generations.



Our online home for auctions, trading, and classifieds now has over 2,200 registered members and continues to grow. Auction fees are 1/3 the price of similar online auction websites. NAWCC members can sell and trade; non-members are welcome to browse and buy.

[Click HERE To Visit: 4Sale\\$NAWCC](#)

This June watch lovers will once again gather in Kuala Lumpur to showcase their collections, trade watches, and exchange notes at **Horology For Unity (H4U) 2012**. From the original modest group of 40 attendees at the inaugural event, this year's version is expected to be a bigger and better venue for sharing horological knowledge and watch-collecting enthusiasm. The organizing committee of H4U takes pride in its expressly nondiscriminatory stand and favors no particular watch brand or style over any other. H4U was created by Malaysian horology bloggers, collectors, and enthusiasts to serve the entire watch community.

FAMOUS WILD WEST DUEL FOUGHT OVER A POCKET WATCH



Davis Tutt takes Wild Bill Hickok's Pocket Watch

A legendary duel was fought by Wild Bill Hickok and Davis Tutt on July 21, 1865, in Springfield, Missouri—an apocryphal event that lives on in the annals of American history—over a gunfighter's beloved pocket watch.

How did the feud start? Former friends Hickok and Tutt were already at odds over Hickok's past romance with Tutt's sister and Tutt's amorous advances toward Hickok's current paramour. Their mutual hatred culminated in a poker game at the Lyon House Hotel on July 20, 1865, when Hickok refused to play cards with Tutt. Tutt accused Hickok of owing him money from a past card game and took possession of Hickok's treasured **Waltham Repeater** gold pocket watch in trade. Hickok demanded Tutt return the watch, but Tutt merely responded with an "ugly grin" and left the saloon with it.

For days afterward a large group of Tutt's cronies baited Hickok with talk of the pocket watch, hoping to draw him into a gunfight. When Tutt's supporters told Hickok that Tutt planned to wear the watch in the middle of the town square the following day, Hickok warned "He shouldn't come across that square unless dead men can walk."

Tutt appeared in the town square the next morning with Hickok's watch openly hanging from his waist pocket. Hickok confronted Tutt to discuss the terms of the watch's return, to no avail. Both men said they didn't want to fight, and they even went for a drink together. But Tutt later left, returning to the square.

At 6 p.m., Hickok was seen calmly approaching the square from the south, his pistol in hand. Hickok stopped, facing Tutt, and called out, "Dave, here I am." He cocked the pistol, holstered it on his hip, and gave a final warning, "**Don't you come across here with that watch.**" Then Tutt reached for his pistol. Each man fired a single shot at the other. Tutt missed, but Hickok's bullet fatally wounded Tutt. The stricken man called out, "Boys, I'm killed," then collapsed and died.

Hickok was acquitted of murder; the jury decided his self-defense was justified when eyewitnesses reported Tutt was the first to reach for his pistol, absolving Hickok of guilt. Several weeks after the gunfight a writer for Harper's Magazine sought out Hickok and began the interviews that would eventually turn the then-unknown gunfighter into one of the great legends of the Old West.

Horology in the Media

FILM

Rental Services



NAWCC recently concluded negotiations with Avis and Budget rental cars to provide benefits to members. If you are renting from either of these, you can get up to 25% off by using the NAWCC rental codes (for **Avis** use **AWD U195070** and for **Budget** use **BCD U175812**). Besides getting great rates, the NAWCC also receives rewards for member rentals!

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE NAWCC!

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THE CLOCK

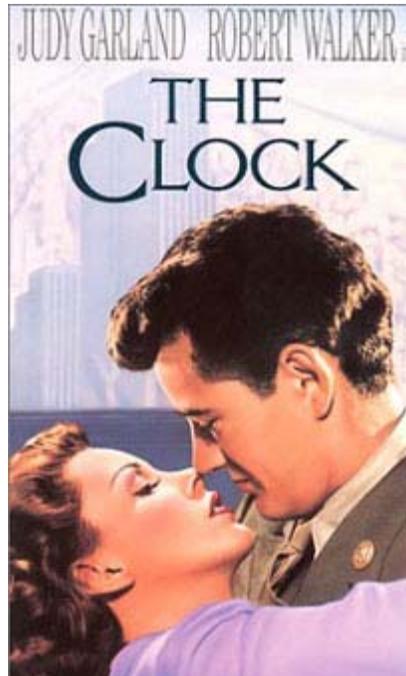


Photo: MGM

TWO LONELY STRANGERS FIND LOVE BENEATH THE TICKING WARTIME CLOCK

The Clock (1945) was directed by Vincente Minnelli and is a wistful wartime love story about Joe Allen, a naive young soldier (Robert Walker) who falls in love with Alice Mayberry, a New York City office worker (Judy Garland) while on a 48-hour leave from the army. They first meet in New York's Pennsylvania Station when she trips over his duffel bag and breaks the heel off one of her shoes. Joe helps get her shoe repaired and the two begin to explore New York together. He asks her for a proper date, and she promises to meet him under the clock at the Astor Hotel. They have several adventures together, and though they accidentally get separated in a subway, they reunite by returning to the place at which they met for their first date: the clock at the Astor Hotel. Having fallen in love, they find themselves racing a maze of red tape, hoping to get married in the short time before Joe's leave of absence ends.

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