

# A Collection of Information about W(illiam) Barclay Stephens, M. D.

The information presented here is taken from publications of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors and the California Academy of Sciences, Dr. Stephens scrapbook, and chapter members. No attempt has been made to be authoritative or comprehensive. For Dr. Stephens' technical publications concerning horology, the reader should consult the Bulletin of the NAWCC and other sources.

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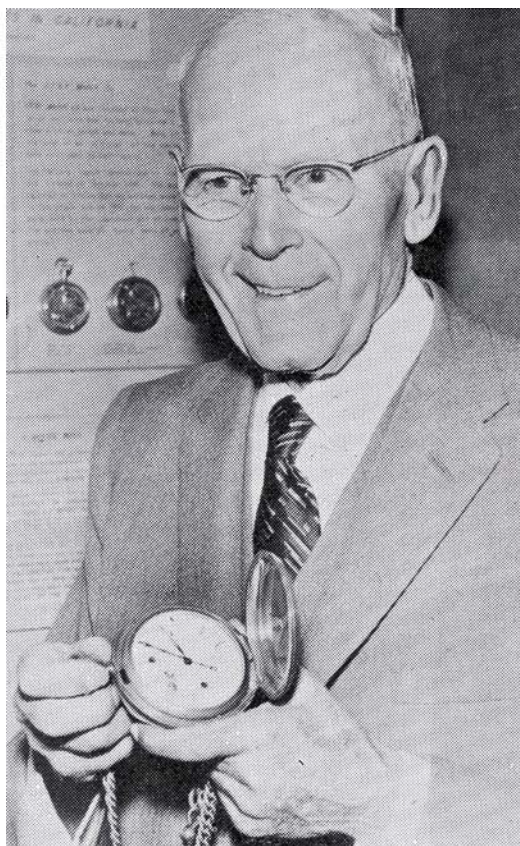
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# EARLY GIANTS

by Urban Thielmann (CA)

## DOCTOR W. BARCLAY STEPHENS



Doctor W. Barclay Stephens, internationally renowned authority in the fields of medicine and horology, was, in addition to his activities as a philanthropist of considerable generosity, a charter member of the NAWCC and the person whose membership number 22 was selected as the identifying number for the "Old Timers Chapter" when that group came into being. He was a man whose amazing diversity of talents, coupled with his complete dedication to the highest principles of mankind, made him an inspiration and personal treasure to everyone who knew him. Possessor of every honor that civic, educational,

service, and horological association could bestow on him, Doctor Stephens so maintained his magnificent ability to be quietly self effacing that many of his friends and associates were completely unaware of the tremendous honors and citations that had been awarded him throughout the years. All this in addition to his achievements in the field of medicine.

He was born in Paris, KY, on January 4, 1869, of American parentage that dates back to the first half of the 17th Century. As a child, his exceptional mental abilities were immediately apparent, as were his talents in scientific areas. As a young man, already the possessor of a Master's Degree in History, he decided that his life's calling belonged in medicine, and so he attended Columbia University in New York, from which he graduated with honors and his medical degree in 1893.

That same year he moved to San Francisco and began the practice of medicine, first as a general practitioner (as was the usual procedure in those days) and then gradually moving into the specialization fields of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. During this period he also attended Dublin University in Ireland for additional studies in medicine. It was through his early research in the field of color that San Francisco's St. Luke's Hospital became the first in the United States to adopt a light green coloring on the walls of its surgeries as a means of giving the greatest amount of reflected light with the smallest amount of glare; a color formula that was quickly adopted by other hospitals throughout the U.S.

Always active physically, as well as mentally, he devoted himself to helping build the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts into the outstanding organiza-



tions they are today. Serving as a memento of his abiding interest in scout programs is a large, lovely house in Alameda that he gave them many years ago to act as a gathering place and center for scout activities.

In conjunction with his staggering schedules of participation, Doctor Stephens quietly and unostentatiously was a donor to many philanthropies. The breadth of his interests knew no bounds and the wonderful personality and knowledge he possessed surrounded him with the warm friendship, respect, and admiration of men and women from every avenue of life. Historical societies of California were the recipients of considerable research material on which he was always working, as well as the financial support he provided them.

Widely acclaimed for his work in medicine and greatly admired for his diligent efforts in behalf of civic groups, service clubs, and business organizations, Doctor Stephens was also a very devoted family man and shared constantly, with his wife and their three children, in their individual and collective projects and activities. His family was especially important to him and their interests always came first throughout his entire life.

As well as being a charter member of NAWCC, he gave a great deal of time to the Association by serving as Director, Vice-President, Vice-President Emeritus, and as a highly valued member of many committees. He was the Founder President of San Francisco Chapter #5 (now the Dr. W. Barclay Stephens Memorial Chapter #5), and also served as President of the Old Timers Chapter #22. The numerous articles he contributed to the BULLETIN and other periodicals were authoritative, brilliant landmarks in horological research and are constantly used as references by collectors everywhere.

Great as were his intellectual achievements and knowledge, even they were transcended by his magnificent qualities in the area of human relations. Always of a superb and inquiring mind, coupled with indefatigable energy, his hobbies covered every field imaginable. For instance,

at the age of 90 he started slicing thin strips of geodes to the point that he could project them on a screen, where they took on the appearance of landscape paintings and forms of abstract art.

Especially dear to his heart was the exceptional collection of watches and clocks, along with other items of time-keeping, he had painstakingly acquired through the years. Thus, it was a logical procedure that motivated his giving this outstanding collection to the California Academy of Sciences, located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. He personally catalogued and arranged every piece in this magnificent and comprehensive collection. Doctor Stephens was now in his early 80's but he made almost daily trips over to Golden Gate Park. He was a lifetime member and had actively been associated with the Academy for more than 50 years, first as a member and then serving as Honorary Curator of Horology. It goes without saying that he was tremendously popular with the Museum's staff and that they more than enjoyed his daily trips from Alameda to the Academy in Golden Gate Park while he was busy setting up and arranging his collection. This outstanding and permanent horological exhibition is maintained by NAWCC members of the Dr. W. Barclay Stephens Memorial Chapter, and may be viewed daily without charge. It is a unique and comprehensive exhibition of timekeeping devices and should be a "must" on the list of every NAWCC member when visiting the San Francisco area.

He also gave a fine collection of watches and clocks to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu and traveled there personally to catalog and arrange the opening exhibition. Also, he was a vital and moving financial force in their acquiring a planetarium in Honolulu.

Though he quietly slept away into eternity on February 28, 1962, this remarkable and much loved man will really never be gone. He will always remain in the memories of not only those who knew him personally but also in the consciousness of all those who, in the future, will learn of him and the exceptional contributions he made to mankind and knowledge.



## GIANTS IN THE BEGINNING

Rose P. Brandt (NY)

*Editor's Note: We are pleased to share this article adapted from one of two James Arthur Lectures at the 1997 NAWCC Seminar, Bristol, Connecticut.*

When we reflect on the founding and formative years of our country we cannot help give thanks for the giants among the early patriots: Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Madison and others too numerous to list here. Not only were they of high intellect and great determination, but they were men of noble character, integrity and vision. Without such people our nation could have been built on sand instead of granite. As an aside, I am saddened by the apparent scarcity today of leaders with comparable character, integrity and vision.

I see similarities within the history of the NAWCC to the early history of our country. Those who participated in the establishment and first growth of our Association were giants also. And I had the rare privilege to be acquainted with them and eventually to share in some of their work, their goals and their accomplishments. I want to share with you my personal recollections of a few of them—who they were and what they did. I have selected a baker's dozen (13 for the young folks) to talk about. There are more that could and should be included, so I extend my apologies now to all whom I have left out.

I will begin with three special men among the giants. One was the man I loved most, one of my closest personal friends, and one of the most complete gentlemen I have ever met within this great Association. Bernie Brandt became my husband in 1944, and became member #196 in 1945. He was what today we would call an activist. He worked hard to achieve goals he supported and just as hard to change those he did not.

At a meeting of the New York chapter in November 1946, he addressed the fact that women were not being invited to join the Association as full members but were only welcome as guests and helpers. In the spirit of Patrick Henry he delivered his "You take Rosie or you lose me" speech. In BULLETIN #15 (December 1946) a list of new members appears which includes Mrs. B.W. Brandt and six other women. Since Bernie was dominant in my life from then on, in the NAWCC and otherwise, I could do an entire paper just about him. I am going to resist that temptation.

I have and have had a multitude of wonderful friends through the NAWCC. I hope no one will feel overlooked if I speak now of the one I call "Friend #1"—Henry Fried. Most of you knew Henry in some way: professional colleague, writer, speaker, friend, humorist, tour leader, and so on and so on. The son of



Rose Brandt

an Austrian watchmaker, he not only continued and enlarged the family tradition, he won medals in athletic events, notably bicycle races and marathons. The multi-talented Henry was a constant asset to Chapter #2 where he gave of his skills freely to our members but also provided the hospitality of his home for our meetings, and this hospitality often included dinner. On a personal note, it was Henry Fried who taught Bernie how to repair clocks. A line from a New York chapter notice that reported his death in March 1996 sort of says it all: "With his friendly smile, ready wit and willingness to share his wealth of knowledge, he was welcomed everywhere he went." We were truly blessed to have this giant among us. Even severe bouts of illness could not dampen his enthusiasm or slow his contributions.

With rare exceptions, the men I have known through the NAWCC have truly been gentlemen. But even among them there was one who stood out in gentle graciousness toward everyone who was privileged to know him—Dr. W. Barclay Stephens. One of the founders of our Association, pioneer eye surgeon, discriminating collector and philanthropist, Dr. Stephens won the hearts of all who knew him. At the Council meeting in 1958, everyone rose in unison when he appeared—a display of affection and respect I never saw accorded to anyone else. At this same convention he resisted buying a "Peddler" clock with which he had fallen in love until Bernie and I agreed to pack it up



and ship it to him. We were happy to oblige and sent it on to him after we enjoyed it ourselves for a little while, after which we quickly received a most gracious thank you letter from him. He was part of the small group that met to organize the "Early Birds Club" in 1957; the club was shortly renamed "Old Timers" and became NAWCC Chapter #22, which was his membership number. On his death in 1962 at age 92, his home chapter in San Francisco changed its name to memorialize him and show their esteem for this warm and wonderful man. He donated the bulk of his collection to the San Francisco Academy of Science for the perpetual benefit and pleasure of the public.

In 1947 the NAWCC held its first convention outside Philadelphia. We met at the Mitchell Inn in Middletown, New York. This being only four years after the founding of the Association, several of the founding members were present. I am going to talk briefly about four that were with us that day.

Bob Franks, member #7, was elected as first president of NAWCC and served for six years, a record not likely to be duplicated since our bylaws now say that two years is all we should take of any one president! Bob was born and educated in England. In one of the early BULLETINS he listed his occupation as "machinist" and his special horological interest as "mechanical variations." He actually had an engineer's training which led to his keen interest in horology, navigation, and related mechanical instruments. He did acquire some outstanding timepieces, but by his own word he was more interested in collecting collectors than in collecting clocks. In addition to his leadership role as first president, he served as editor of the BULLETIN after Professor Milham and before Earl Strickler (more about both of them shortly).

The NAWCC can boast of outstanding craftsmen in its ranks, from the beginning through today. One of the founders, Jean Louis Roehrich, member #19, was certainly one of the finest. He learned his craft in his native Switzerland where a pocket chronometer that he made from bare metal won third prize at the Geneva Observatory competition in 1919. After coming to this country in 1926, he managed the clock and watch sales and service for Cartier. He was Commissioner of Watchmaking for the Swiss Government at the 1939-1940 World's Fair, after which he founded and ran his own company, the Watchmakers of Switzerland, located in New York City. He retired to his farm in Newtown, Connecticut, where many enjoyable NAWCC meetings were held. As was almost standard in those early years of the Association, Jean Louis was a true gentleman and a willing friend to anyone who needed him.

Among the distinguished scholars who were important to the beginnings of the NAWCC was Professor Willis Milham. He served as the first vice-president of NAWCC and also as the first editor of the BULLETIN. I

was amused to read Professor Milham's report as vice-president at the convention in 1946 (see BULLETIN #15, page 170): "A Vice-President should be seen and not heard unless necessary. The function of a Vice-President is to uphold the hand of the President and substitute for him when absent. Our industrious President has attended every meeting and the Vice-President has nothing to report." Ah, for the good old days!

It pleases me to recall the warm friendship Bernie and I had with Ed Ingraham. He was a native of Bristol, Connecticut. After graduating from Yale in 1910, he went to work as an office boy for the Ingraham Co. to rise through the ranks to eventually become president and chairman of the board. His dual connection to clocks through life in Bristol, Connecticut, and his career with the Ingraham Co. led to his acquiring a marvelous collection primarily of New England clocks. In order to preserve his collection for the enjoyment and study of future generations, he established the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol and served as its first president. Edward Ingraham, NAWCC member #48 and ACWM member #1, has done "founding duty" twice on our behalf.

In 1951 President Brooks Palmer moved to make the MART a separate publication of the NAWCC; until then articles offered for sale were listed in the BULLETIN. On May 29, 1951, the first meeting of the MART Committee was held in my office in New York. Among those present were Bernie Brandt as chairman and Dr. Anthony Benis. Jim Gibbs and Brooks Palmer were not able to attend. I'd like to share a few recollections about these friends whose vision and energy gave us this important part of our publication output.

Brooks Palmer, member #265 and third president of NAWCC, was a one-man fan club for me—second only to my Bernie. He "put me on the map" by getting me involved in many NAWCC activities throughout the Association. When Bernie finished his term as director on the NAWCC Council, Brooks insisted that a Brandt had to be on Council, so I ran for the post and began an eight-year turn as director. As many of you know, Brooks was the author of two early books on American clocks that became "bibles" for collectors at that time. He appointed Bernie chairman of the MART Committee and me as a member of it. So it was for the next 30 years and the rest, as they say, is history. I note in closing that Brooks might have done well as a medical doctor for he had some of the most atrocious handwriting I have ever puzzled over.

Jim Gibbs, member #79, was a powerhouse in NAWCC, not only in the early years but right up to the time of his death in 1990. When he was not occupied with getting things done himself he was busy firing off pointed letters to others trying to spur them into action. His correspondence was voluminous, but so were his accomplishments. Did you know that in addition to his interest in clocks and watches he had a deep



interest in railroads and things connected to them? He had a wild desire to own a caboose. One year, his wife Mary sought help from Brooks Palmer, another railroad buff, to find a purchasable caboose. Brooks located a DL&W caboose in upstate New York. It was secured and brought south to a proud new home in the back yard of the Gibbs' Germantown, Pennsylvania, home where Jim used it as a library. The NAWCC is better because Jim Gibbs was part of it for so many years.

Dr. Anthony Benis was the father of that popular feature of the BULLETIN, "The Answer Box," a feature that was later handled by Henry Fried. Dr. Benis' interest was primarily in watches and he was a popular lecturer about the subject. He was a bit hard to listen to because of some damage that had been done much earlier to his vocal chords; I do not know the origin of or the nature of that damage. In private life he was an international banker. He and his family fled their native Austria ahead of Hitler. He relocated in Rye, New York. Shortly after Bernie and I met him I was able to purchase the form watch I am wearing now. This watch was at a later time repaired by Jean Louis Roehrich. See how everything gets to stay in the family!

It wasn't until 1955 that the NAWCC became incorporated. Did you know that the meeting to sign the papers as incorporators took place in the office of a New York dentist, Dr. Percy Small? Included among those present and participating were Charlie Terwilliger and the Stricklers—Earl and Millard (also known as A.M.). Let me tell you a little about these men who completed the structure of the NAWCC as a business, a haven for horological enthusiasts, and a fellowship for all who enjoy clocks, watches, and their collectors.

When I was serving as vice-president of New York Chapter #2, Percy Small was the president. We developed a close personal friendship that gave rise to an unusual teaching arrangement. Each Saturday afternoon he came to our home in Montrose and undertook to teach me how to service and repair a watch. In return we had him as our guest for dinner that evening. We usually had something more elaborate than he was likely to prepare for himself as he lived alone. This exchange of food for knowledge worked well until, unhappily, Dr. Small died. He also left his teaching post before I could reasonably think that I was ready to graduate.

This brings me to my pal Charlie Terwilliger. Charlie was a staunch supporter of the MART and a regular advertiser in it beginning with the first issue in 1951. He was always very, very helpful to me. Because we both worked in New York, he was a regular at both our house in Montrose and my office on 42nd Street. In 1951 he was appointed chairman of the Membership Committee and began the first organized effort to

reach prospective members of NAWCC. He was the designer of the first membership brochure that NAWCC used; remember, he was in the advertising business. Charlie was not pleased about getting older. When his employer retired him at 65 he reported that he was fired because he reached 65. He did not want to be recognized in NAWCC as an "Old Timer."

One of the most unique and influential men in NAWCC was Earl Strickler, member #568, the son in A.M. Strickler and Son, coal and heating oil dealers in Columbia, Pennsylvania. Earl and his father joined the NAWCC in 1948. Earl was president of the York chapter and national secretary of the Association by 1952. He subsequently added the titles of editor and chairman of the Editorial Committee and served in them until his untimely death in 1974.

He owned a double house on Third Street in Columbia, where he lived on one side and housed his collection in the other. On the collection side you were greeted by a gold-lettered sign on the door that read "Columbia Museum of Horological Antiquities." He was generous with his time and willingly showed anyone with an interest in clocks through the collection, and, if you had a real interest, he might take you to the basement to see the general office of the NAWCC. (I still have files that have that distinctive smell of old basement.) Earl was a champion fixer of all problems and a supporter of any who were trying to do good for the Association. For me, Earl was the "best of the best."

Each of the pioneer members about which I have spoken is gone from this life but lives forever in our individual memories and our collective appreciation. I hope that I speak for us all when I express a debt to them and to those who were with them in the pioneering efforts. Their gifts to us allow us to grow and get pleasure in one of the most fascinating of avocations. We should continue to seek among ourselves those who can, in character, integrity and vision, match the extraordinary "Giants in the Beginning!"

### About the Author

Rose Brandt is an artist, advertising woman, and interior decorator. She is a graduate of Butlers Business School at Yonkers, New York, and the International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Rose is also a boating member and past commander of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, teaching safe boating on Lake George, New York. She was cited by them for 25 years service in 1995. She collects clocks, watches, books and barometers. She joined the NAWCC in November of 1946, so has been a member over 50 years. She is a Silver Star Fellow and was awarded "Old Timer of the Year" at the 50th Anniversary of the NAWCC at Dallas in 1993.



# Autobiography of Dr. W. Barclay Stephens

**Wherein he reminisces  
of his early years,  
in a letter to  
Harry S. Blaine  
dated  
October 30, 1950**

(GENERAL)

*On May 20, 1950, the late Dr. Stephens, the well-remembered Mentor of the Academy of Science in San Francisco, California, and pioneer of the NAWCC, together with the writer was in attendance at the National Convention of the Association at Dearborn, Michigan. On the evening of that even.ful day the Doctor accompanied us to our home in Toledo, where we had the pleasure of his company for the all-too-short ensuing twenty-four hours. During his sojourn with us Dr. Stephens was shown a small book which we had written, descriptive of our own early life. Evidently greatly interested, the Doctor was presented with the book. During the following October he had occasion to make a railway journey from his home in Alameda to Exeter, California, and on the return trip took time to write the following autobiographical letter containing many references to events of his early years.*

*In view of the high esteem in which Dr. Stephens has been held as a physician, scientist, horologist, indefatigable workman and gentleman, it is thought that these words from his pen may be of interest to those friends who hold him in grateful remembrance. We wonder how many of us would undertake the composition of such a work on a moving train! (H. S. B.)*

## Dr. Stephens' Letter

"Dear Mr. Blaine:

I have delayed acknowledging the receipt of your interesting letter and excellently written history until I had completed reading it. A trip to Exeter, California, from which I am now returning, has given me the opportunity to complete this pleasure and now I am having the rather shaky opportunity to tell you how much I have enjoyed it.

Our boyhood years have embraced pretty much the same years and were spent in places much alike and I have noted incident after incident in your account which were similar to many of my experiences, and the citing of which by you would recall my own. The planing mill was one of my favorite haunts and there I wangled the rough staves from which my stilts and other things were made.

There were two grist mills within easy walking distance on the stream which ran a short distance from the home. These were operated by undershot wheels and in those days no one would eat meal which was not ground with millstones and water power. The dam provided deep water above for fishing and swimming after I had learned to swim, and shallow water below where I learned to swim and where we caught crawfish and minnows with which we fished. One of those mill houses was of limestone and two stories high. The other had the lower story of stone and the upper of wood; and the proprietors of this second one bore the name of Coulthard & Honey. The other was Billy Shaw's mill and was in plain view of our front porch. Our home was on a hill and we could see the curving stream for some distance. In addition to the mills this stream had two distilleries on its banks, one of which could be seen from the porch. This stream also afforded us boys boating and skating.

Our water supply for the house was a cistern for which we had various kinds of pumps during the course of the years, but the last one was a chain pump. At my grandfather's were both a cistern and a well; and in the cellar was a walled-up spring in which were set the crocks of milk and butter. We bathed in a round cedar tub. Since we lived in town (about 5,000) we had bar soap, but practically all the farmers had an ash hopper with a trough below into which the lye drained as the rains leached out the potash from the wood ashes. This lye was used for converting the waste fats into soft soap. I had many friends among the country boys who came to town to attend school and frequently I would go home with some one of them on Friday afternoon and return with him on Monday for school. In turn one of them would make a similar visit with me in town. In the summers I would at times spend a week or more with a cousin in the country and then work in the hayfield and also help make apple

cider. Sometimes we would lie down under the press and let the cider run into our mouths. In your recipe for applebutter I noted that you failed to say that the cut up apples were boiled in cider. Our applebutter usually came to us in a wooden firkin and it did taste good.

I neglected to tell you that our grist mills did not have a roof of stone such as your Grandon Mill. (\*) The only place I recall seeing stone roofs was going down the grade from Switzerland to Italy when I saw several houses with roofs of thin stone, probably about one inch thick. Did the big, yard-square Grandon stones overlap at the edges shingle style; or set edge-to-edge with cement between? Were they of limestone? Our farm too had the farm bell and it was a very welcome sound when it rang for dinner and supper, especially if I were working in the hayfield or helping to shock wheat. The same busy time occurred at threshing as did on your farms.

Our county fair usually occurred in early September before school opened and was on the edge of my home town, Paris, which was and is still the county seat. We almost always had visitors during the fair season, relatives or friends. There were booths at the fair grounds which were rented by some of the wealthier farm families and then each day they provided bounteous lunches for all their friends. There would be quantities of chicken croquettes, fried chicken, ham, hard-boiled eggs, lemonade, ice cream, and cake.

Our early ice cream freezers were long, slender tin cylinders holding a gallon or more. In these were placed the properly sweetened and flavored cream, the lid with strong handle running crosswise was put on tight and then the cylinder put in a pail of cracked ice and salt. Then the handle of the cylinder would be

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(\*) The Grandon Mill was in Greenfield Twp., Huron Co., Ohio. It had a slab-stone roof, native-quarried limestone. The squares overlapped shingle style. It had water power from the Huron River and is still standing. (HSB)



taken in the hand and the cylinder twisted back and forth in the ice. As freezing progressed the cover had to be removed and the frozen cream scraped from the side walls with a long-bladed knife. I liked this part because some of the cream usually stuck to the knife and my tongue was good for its removal. This freezer was later succeeded by a 'White Mountain' freezer which was turned with a crank and had paddles inside to scrape off the frozen cream and stir it up well. The cover did not have to be removed from this until the cream was frozen, but some always clung to the paddles and this was removed in the natural way by the tongue.

Our first telephones were tin cans over the heads of which were tied wet 'bladders,' then after they were dried a cork fixed to a wooden button was run through the center. One of my friends and I thought to improve on this by using 'stove' wire instead of cord. This did not work as well as cord and one day during a thunderstorm I started to strike

the button with my knife to attract my friend to the phone and about a five or six inch spark flew from the wire to my knife. The first electric doorbell in Paris I put in — blue stone cells. I had to crawl under the unexcavated part of the house to run the wire.

Your mention of Put-in-Bay recalls the head of a pike which long hung on the wall. It was caught by my father on a fishing trip to Put-in-Bay. Fishing was my father's favorite sport and I might add his only one unless gardening could be so called. The Old Soldiers' Home at Dayton, Ohio, I visited when I was about ten years old. I was taken by some relatives while visiting them at Eaton, Ohio. We drove from there in a surrey. It was the first time I had ever seen food prepared in great quantities. I well remember the large cauldrons for the coffee. My last visit to Dayton was in the 1920's when I went there to meet and watch a famous eye surgeon operate for the removal of cataracts with a method he had devised. Bicycles:— My first



NO MATTER HOW YOU TRAVEL, COME TO SAN FRANCISCO IN MAY!



and second were high-wheeled ones, and then came the safety; and with both kinds, trips. I had two brothers and one sister — all younger than I. Both my brothers are gone but my sister, as you may remember, is still alive and living in Paris.”

Oct. 14th

“At this point a lady took the seat adjoining mine and I had to suspend my writing on the train. Probably you are glad that I did have to stop, since my writing under most favorable circumstances is bad. From the foregoing citations it is apparent that our boyhoods had much in common as regards incidents, but quite different as regards the family life and provision for our children. We had our own home which was occupied by my parents and those of us who remained at home during the whole of their married life. My father was not a wealthy man but had ample to provide for his family, thus I did not have to earn my own living or help provide for the family in my boyhood. After finishing at the local school I went to college at the age of 16 and from there to the medical college, Columbia University; and not long thereafter became self-supporting. You on the other hand had an almost continuous session at the ‘School of Hard Knocks,’ which undoubtedly developed your later successful life, bringing out latent good qualities in many forms.

Before leaving your ‘Recollections’ entirely, there is one thing more to which I would like to refer. On the bicycle trip (100 miles) you stopped at Canton and spoke of the Dueber factory. It so happens that I have just finished a paper on ‘The New York Watch Co.’ which terminated with the Dueber Company. I have been unable to learn just why the Dueber-Hampden Company closed down and sold the watch factory to Russia. My guess is that the Hampden failed to meet the competition of the Elgin and Waltham Companies. Do you know anything of why the company sold out? If you can give me any information on this subject I will be grateful to

you. The article came in from the typist this morning, but if you can give me any additional information I can have it incorporated.”

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) BARCLAY STEPHENS.

We believe that the question propounded by Dr. Stephens as to why the Dueber watch factory at Canton, Ohio, sold out to Russia is sufficiently well answered by the booklet, “The Dueber-Hampden Story,” authored by our own James W. Gibbs and issued in February 1954.

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# MY HOBBY PHILOSOPHY

by Dr. W. Barclay Stephens

As a result of the many happy and wonderful years Doctor Stephens spent in collecting various items in numerous fields, and doing considerable research in those areas, he developed a certain personal philosophy that had given him so much pleasure and happiness that it was only natural he wished to pass on his ideas to others and so, put down in writing the following article.

NAWCC and its members occupied places of particular importance in the Doctor's affections and thus it was one of his final wishes that these thoughts regarding his hobby philosophy be printed in the BULLETIN. With affection, esteem and great admiration we present them.

Urban Thielman

Having always had a mechanical bent and being fairly deft with tools, it was not surprising that I should find a strong appeal in the mechanism of old clocks and watches, and that I should find pleasure in taking them apart, repairing them, replacing missing parts, calculating the number of teeth in missing wheels, making new ones, making tools and devices for carrying on these repairs.

Too, I found great pleasure in learning about the makers of the pieces, their contemporary history, and the legends and stories connected with them. To get this information often required much reading and investigation, varying from questioning old time watchmakers to the examination of old documents and even inscriptions on old tombstones. Incidentally, during the course of these experiences I have met numerous interesting people and many of them have become friends.

It may seem strange to you for one engaged in so serious a profession as medicine to spend any of his time tinkering with old clocks and watches, but to my way of thinking, the more serious the vocation, the greater the need for some diversion.

During the course of the years I have formed some rather definite opinions concerning hobbies and these opinions I have formulated into what may be called my hobby philosophy. I am firmly convinced that every man should have a hobby and learn to ride it before he has reached middle life.

This may hold good for the ladies too. In this day of short hours and early retirement age, hobbies would seem all the more necessary.

The provident man lays aside a portion of his earnings against the day when his earning capacity ceases. Is it not equally important that provision should be made for the intellectual and spiritual welfare during the declining years, as for mere food and raiment. I regard it a duty to prepare for an orderly, useful and enjoyable old age, and so to be able to profit by the leisure which has come; otherwise the last years are apt to be dour and mere vegetation—just sitting around and twiddling your thumbs and making life miserable for those about you.

The hobby or hobbies should be adapted to the temperament, tastes, and needs of the individual. The ideal is one that satisfies the physical, mental, and spiritual cravings of his nature.

I suggest the following features as desirable in a hobby:

1. It should be something that you like to do, but do not have to do.
2. It should be such that it may be followed either indoors or out. More than one may be necessary to meet all specifications. I confess to more than one. If it is not found that a suitable or satisfying selection has not been chosen, there is no reason why a change should not be made. The choice is purely voluntary in the first place.



3. It should provide an intellectual stimulus and an opportunity for discovery; serve as a sort of springboard to project you into new, interesting, and stimulating adventures.

4. There should be some artistic or aesthetic appeal.

5. It is desirable that some material or concrete thing should be included, about which the various interests may converge. Old china, furniture, paintings, clocks, garden, etc.

6. In most instances it is desirable that one or more of the hobbies should require the use of the hands, i.e., be creative, e.g., wood carving, painting, weaving, hook rugs, photography, or other creative hobby. There is a certain pleasure gotten from the object which you have created with your own hands.

7. It should offer opportunities for forming new friendships, thus providing friends for that period of life when death or other causes are reducing their number. This is brought home to me forcibly as I stand in my ninth decade. Few of my old time friends remain. Their ranks have been recruited from those made through my hobbies, and they now range from the Pacific to the Atlantic seaboard.

A worthwhile hobby is a most vital thing for maintaining mental and physical health. The one who has no absorbing interests after retirement from an active career is apt to deteriorate quickly, both mentally and physically. Both our brains and our bodies need exercise and the moment we let go and drift, deterioration is almost certain to begin. A worthwhile and absorbing hobby can help to lift you over many mental and physical hurdles.

We cannot hinder the passage of the years but we can do much by so properly ordering our lives as to keep from prematurely growing biologically old. Some are biologically old at forty and others put it off until twice that age. The ideal is for the brain and body to give out together and like Oliver Wendell Holmes' "One Horse Chaise," go up in a puff of dust.

It was over ten years ago when I first made this formulation of my

hobby philosophy and I have found no reason since to alter it.

My hobby has been the occasion for me to delve into history, biography, geography, mythology, various branches of science, astronomy, mechanics, and mechanical manipulations. Through my reading, correspondence, and personal interviews, I have been brought into friendly relations with astronomers and other scientists, clergymen, philosophers, engineers, statesmen and artisans. All these different classes have made definite contributions to horology and many have even made clocks and watches with their own hands.

My hobby has given me relaxation and respite in the midst of a rather strenuous professional life. It has taken me for outings both in the physical and intellectual world. There have been occasions for familiarizing myself with certain phases of art. It has opened new vistas and increased my interest and added zest and purpose to my reading. My circle of friends has been enlarged, delight and interest added to travel, and many an otherwise prosaic trip has been raised to an adventure.

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Bulletin of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, August 1962, Vol. X, No. 5, Whole Number 99, pp 328-329.

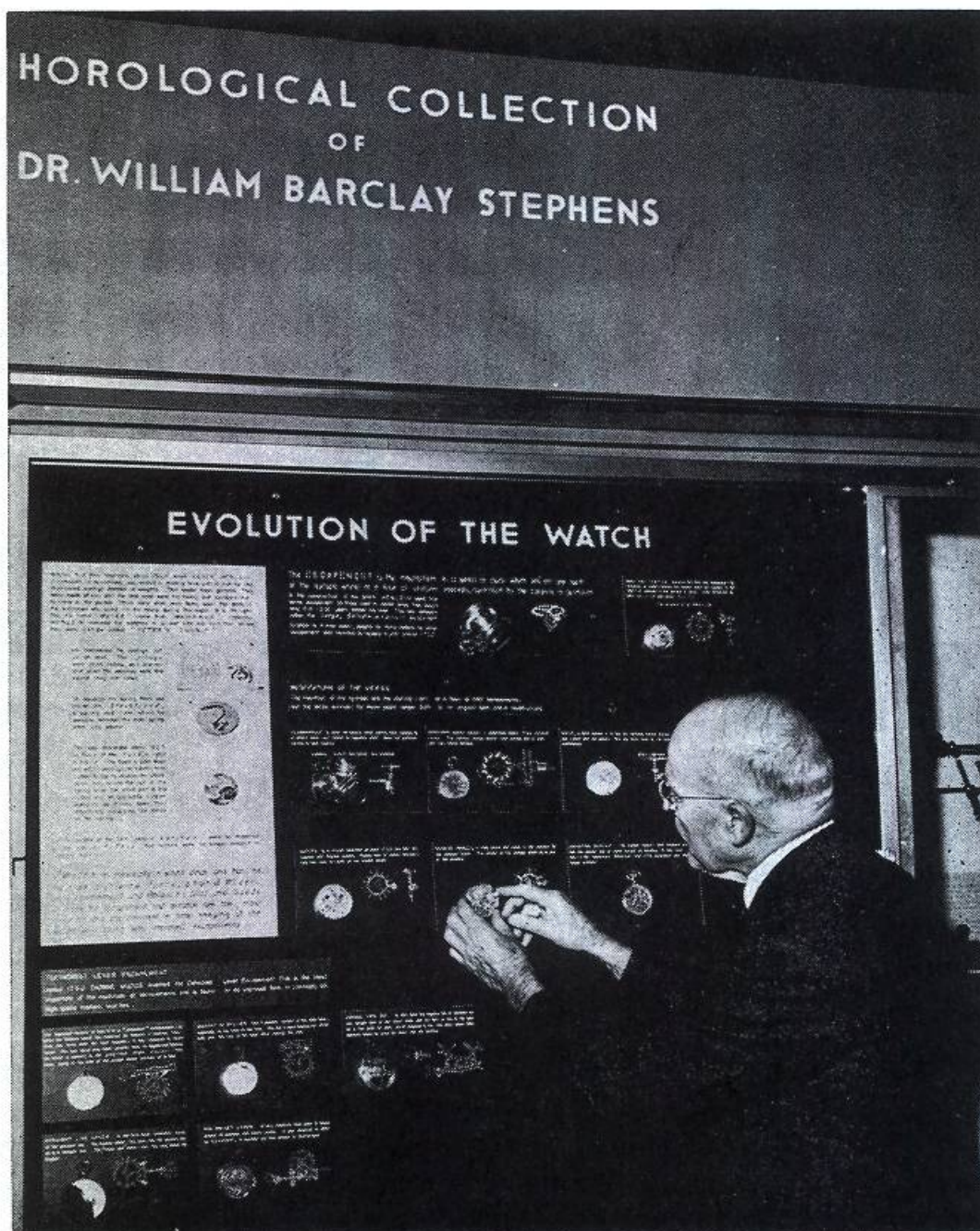


# The Horological Collection *of* Dr. William Barclay Stephens

HONORARY CURATOR OF HOROLOGY  
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Bulletin of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, December 1951, Vol. V, No. 1, Whole Number 41, pp 15 - 29.





W5

**G**OLDEN GATE PARK is a civic asset of which San Francisco can justly be proud. Reclaimed from sand hills, its 1031 acres extend from the shores of the Pacific eastward for three miles, where it joins the Pan Handle, which adds another mile. It is one of the world's most famous parks, both in regard to size and beauty.

It is in this beautiful park that there is located the California Academy of Science, the oldest scientific institution in the West, having been founded in 1853.



The housing of the Academy consists of a group of four buildings: first the North American Hall, which contains the dioramas of North American mammals and birds, the hall of gem minerals, the departments of Botany, Herpetology, Paleontology, and the Library. The second is the Steinhardt Aquarium, which is unsurpassed by any other aquarium in the United States. Third is Simson Hall, in which are the African dioramas, department of Entomology, and the offices.

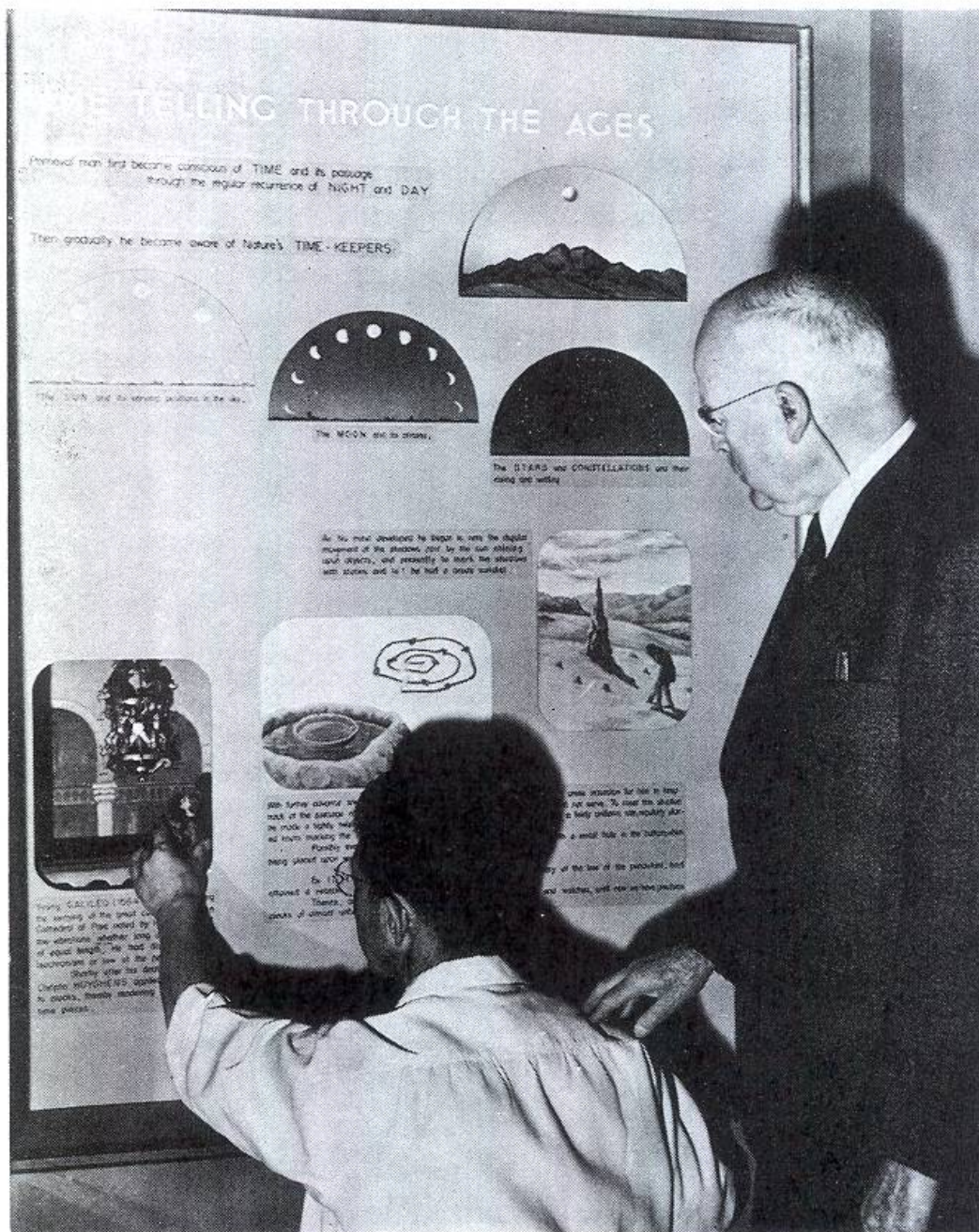
In the fourth, recently completed, is, first and most important, the Planetarium Auditorium, with its great dome; all in readiness for the projector, which should be completed this fall; an auditorium for lectures and other meetings; the departments of Exhibits, Mammology, Ornithology, and the Machine Shop, where the projector is being constructed; and finally the Hall of Science, wherein are

[illegible]



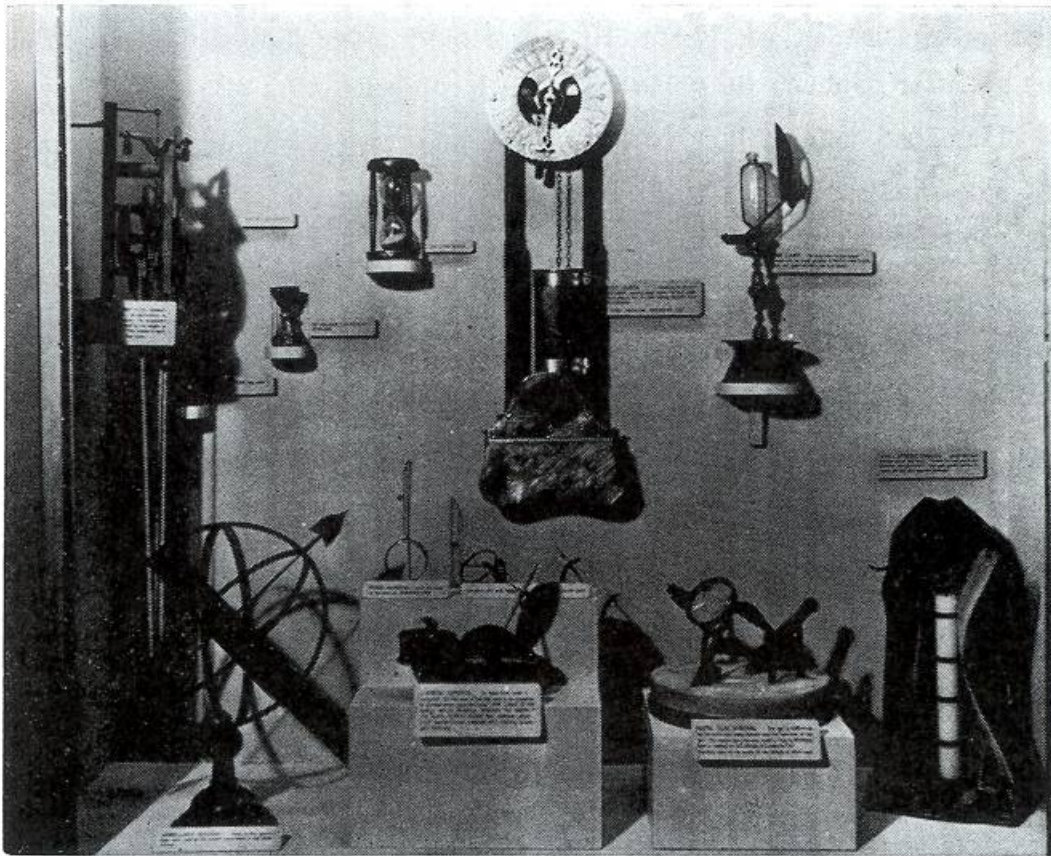
the Astronomical, Meteorological, and Horological exhibits. It is in this last most fitting setting that my horological collection of many years has found its permanent home.

The floor plan of the cases shows the general arrangement of the exhibit which is located immediately across from the entrance to the Planetarium and about fifteen feet from the Foucault Pendulum with its 175-pound bob swinging



C1





C2

to and fro. The woodwork of the cases is a blue, toning in with the walls. The plate glass doors have aluminum frames. The inside of the cases are of pastel, of color to set off to best advantage the exhibits therein. Each case is individually lighted by fluorescent tubular lights.

The clocks are grouped generally in accordance with the countries of their origin. This is not so much a factor in the arrangement of the watches.

The color of the labels, as a rule, matches the color of the inside of the case, but vary in some instances to distinguish subsidiary groups. For the pleasing color schemes, I am much indebted to the artists on the Exhibits staff.

Great effort has been made to have this exhibit attractive, pleasing, and harmonious, but underlying all efforts has been the prime purpose of making it of educational value, a place where the young and old, whether they be casual visitors or serious students, can find horological information in its varying branches, often not otherwise available to them.

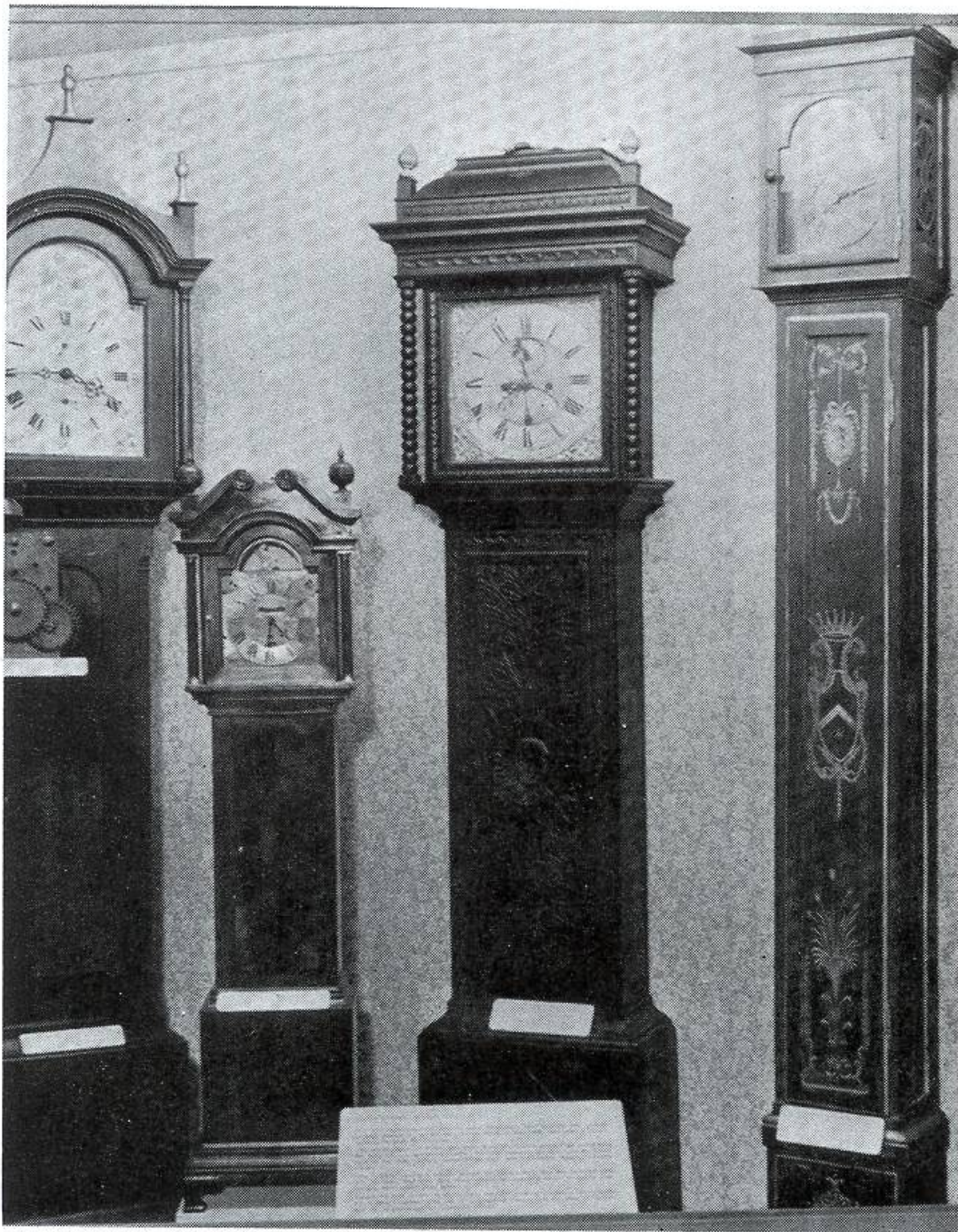
Daily bus loads of school children are brought to the Academy by their teachers and I am frequently amazed at their interest in the exhibit and at times



their intelligent queries. The instructors of the watchmaking schools have found this a source of much information for their students.

Here, too, come fellow collectors, those interested in antiques, and in art.

The labels have been prepared with especial care and with an endeavor to give the essential facts as concisely as possible. The clock labels and legends are



C3





W7

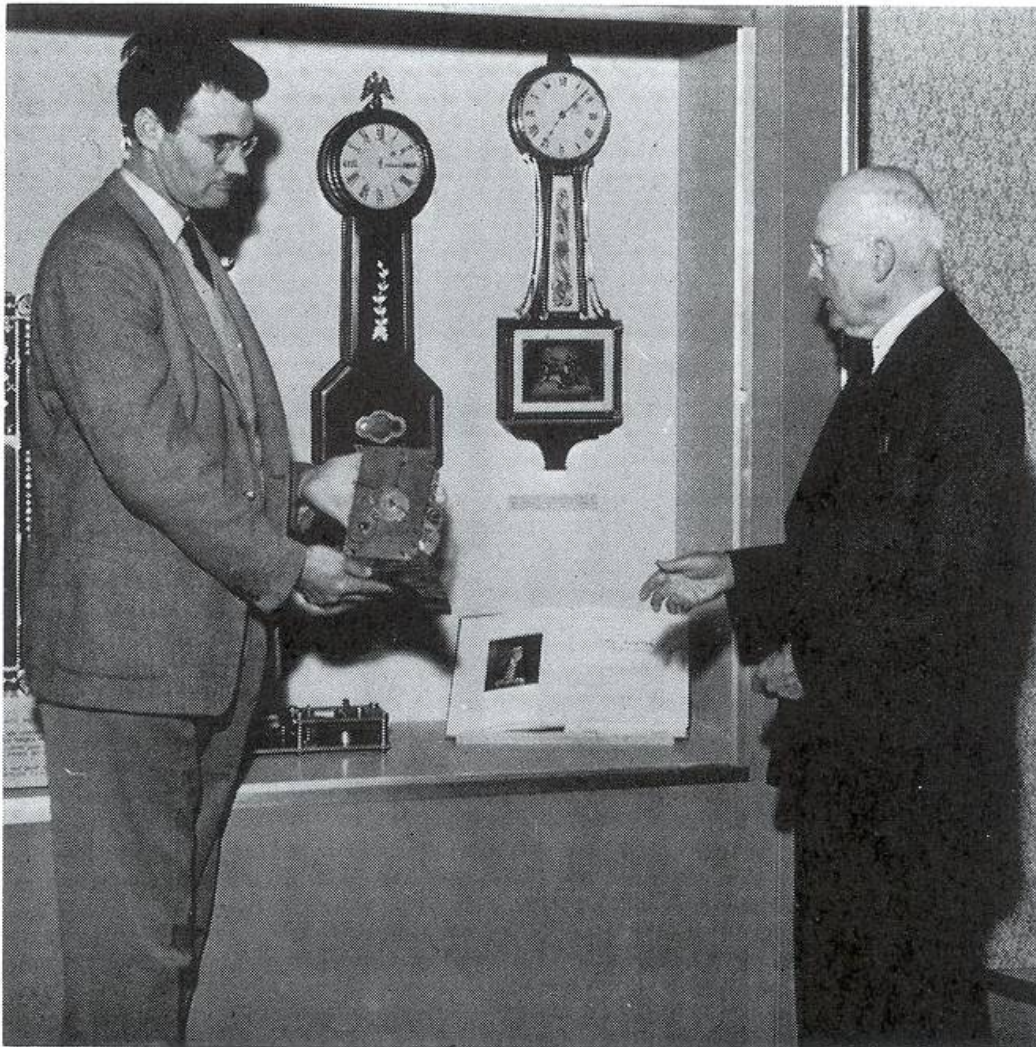
all hand made and likewise those for the watches, except the ones in the cross cases, for which the typewriter and photography were used.

The installation has proven to be an almost monumental task, but lightened because it has been a labor of love.



The guiding principle which has been followed in this installation has been to avoid crowding, since it is believed that a few well selected items are more effective and useful than many crowded together. This rule has eliminated many clocks and watches from display.

The various horological items are contained in fourteen cases of more or less conventional design. Seven of the larger cases are devoted to the clocks and miscellaneous items. The other seven to the watches. In addition, for the watches are two unconventional cases in the form of a cross, the four wings of each case giving a view of the watches from both front and back, duplicate labels being provided for each watch. Each wing has five rows with four watches in each row.



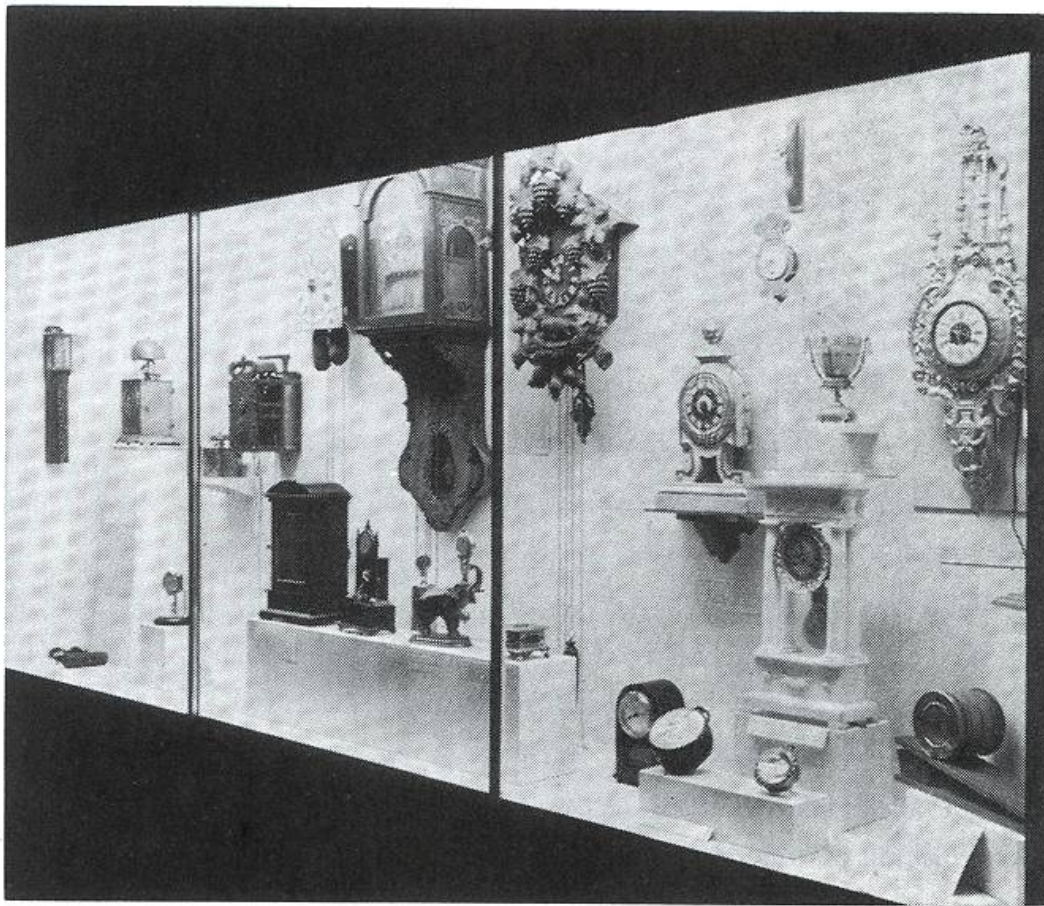
C4A



The general theme running through this collection is to show the progress of man's knowledge of time from the primitive beginnings to modern times.

In Case No. C-1 are portrayed by means of moving dioramas, paintings, and text, man's first awakening to a consciousness of time and its passage and the various stages of his growing knowledge.

Doubtless the first thing to arouse man's idea of time and its passage was the regular recurrence of night and day. This phenomenon is shown in the first moving diorama, in which the sun and moon make their respective excursions across the sky in their risings and settings.



C7

Then he noted the positions of the sun in the sky, the moon's phases, the varying positions of the stars and constellations, and the shadows cast by the sun, and presently marking them, he had a crude sundial; the slow burning dampened grass rope; the basin with a hole in the bottom sinking in the water, followed by





C6

the water clock or clepsydra; and finally Galileo watching the swinging candelabrum and timing it by his pulse. This last is a moving diorama.

In case No. C2 are the Early Time-Telling Devices; various kinds of Sundials, Water Clock, King Alfred's Candles, Time Lamp, Sand Glasses, and a Columbus clock showing the earliest form of escapement.

In case No. C3 are the Early Tall Clocks. This case to be in keeping is lined with old fashioned wall paper. Text giving some account of the beginning of clock making in America. There are four clocks in this case.

Case No. C4 is devoted to Early American Clocks and is 30 feet long. It starts with the Boston Group of clockmakers, followed by the Connecticut wood clock period, with its change later to the Great Brass Clock era. There are examples of many of the outstanding makers, *e. g.*, Willard, Terry, Thomas, Hoadley, the Ives, Jerome, and others. This case begins with a pedigreed Aaron Willard Banjo clock and ends with a Timby Solar clock.





W1

Case No. C5 is for tall clocks and arranged as No. C3, and has a Juvet Time Globe, Wenzel Air Clock, and a Chiming Clock by P. C. DuBois.

Case No. C6, English Clocks. Examples of Lantern, Bracket, Skeleton, and Hanging Clocks. Drawings showing four forms of early clock escapements.



Case No. C7. French, Swiss, German, Dutch, and Japanese clocks in separate groups. This is the final clock case.

The seven conventional watch cases are:

Case No. W1. Watches of Historical or Associational Interest.

Case No. W2. Watches of Beauty, Dials, Top Plates, Balance Cocks.

Case No. W3. Early American Watch Factories.

Case No. W4. Tools and Appliances of the Early Watchmakers.



C4

Case No. W5. Evolution of the Watch, with drawings of many of the important escapements.

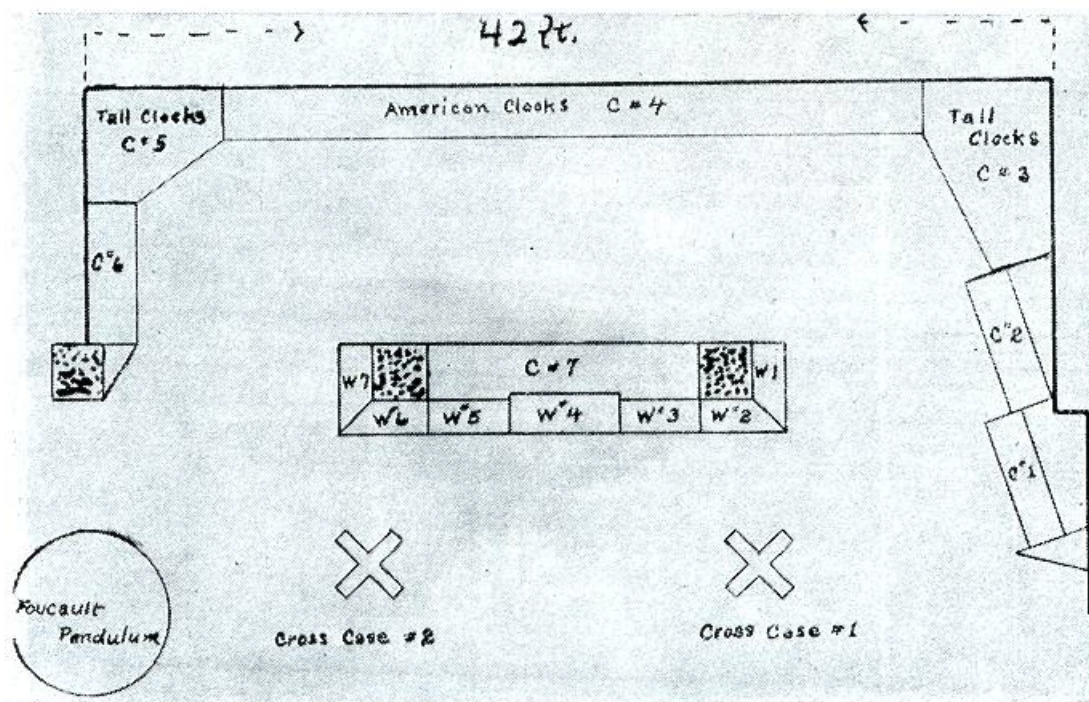
Case No. W6. Mystery Clock, a temporary exhibit.

Case No. W7. Time and Navigation. An account of the invention of chronometer by Harrison, an Earnshaw Ship chronometer; chronometers by Urban Jurgenson, Brockbank, Potter, and others. Drawings showing both spring and pivoted detent escapements. The chronometer's importance in navigation in determining longitude.



## Cross Case No. 1.

- Wing A. English watches of the "Golden Age of English Horology," 1690-1850. Some examples: Thomas Tompion, Daniel Quare, George Graham, Thos. Mudge, Arnold, Earnshaw, and others.
- Wing B. French and Swiss Watches. Watchmaking began early in France and there were many brilliant makers. Watchmaking spread from France to Switzerland. Some examples: the LeRoys, Berthoud, Breguet, L'Epine, and others.
- Wing C. Miscellaneous.
- Wing D. Some American watches which have had their day of fame. Examples, Auburndale Rotary, Waterbury, and others.



FLOOR PLAN

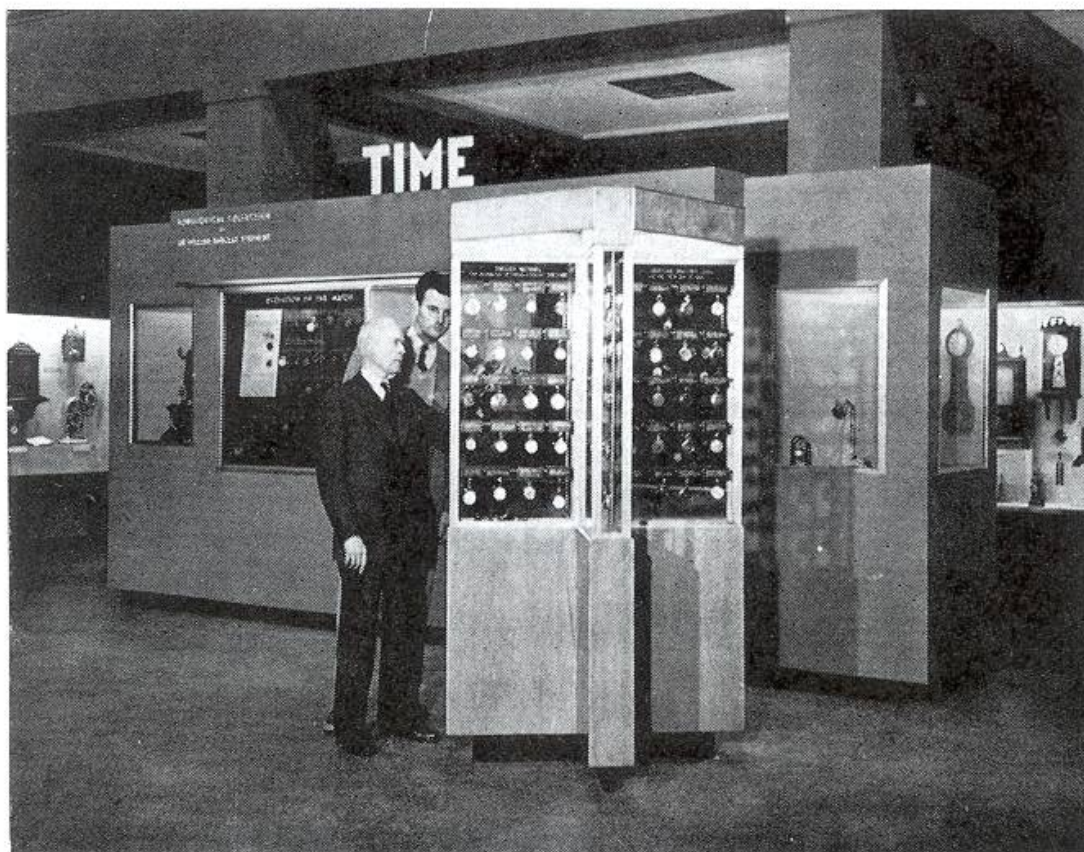
## Cross Case No. 2.

- Wing A. Many old watches were things of beauty both inside and out. These four at the top are in silver repoussé cases. In repoussé work the design is hammered out into relief from the back.
- In the second row are watches in enamel cases.
- In the third, repeaters; two with automatons.
- In the fourth, four "Chinese watches" with text below.



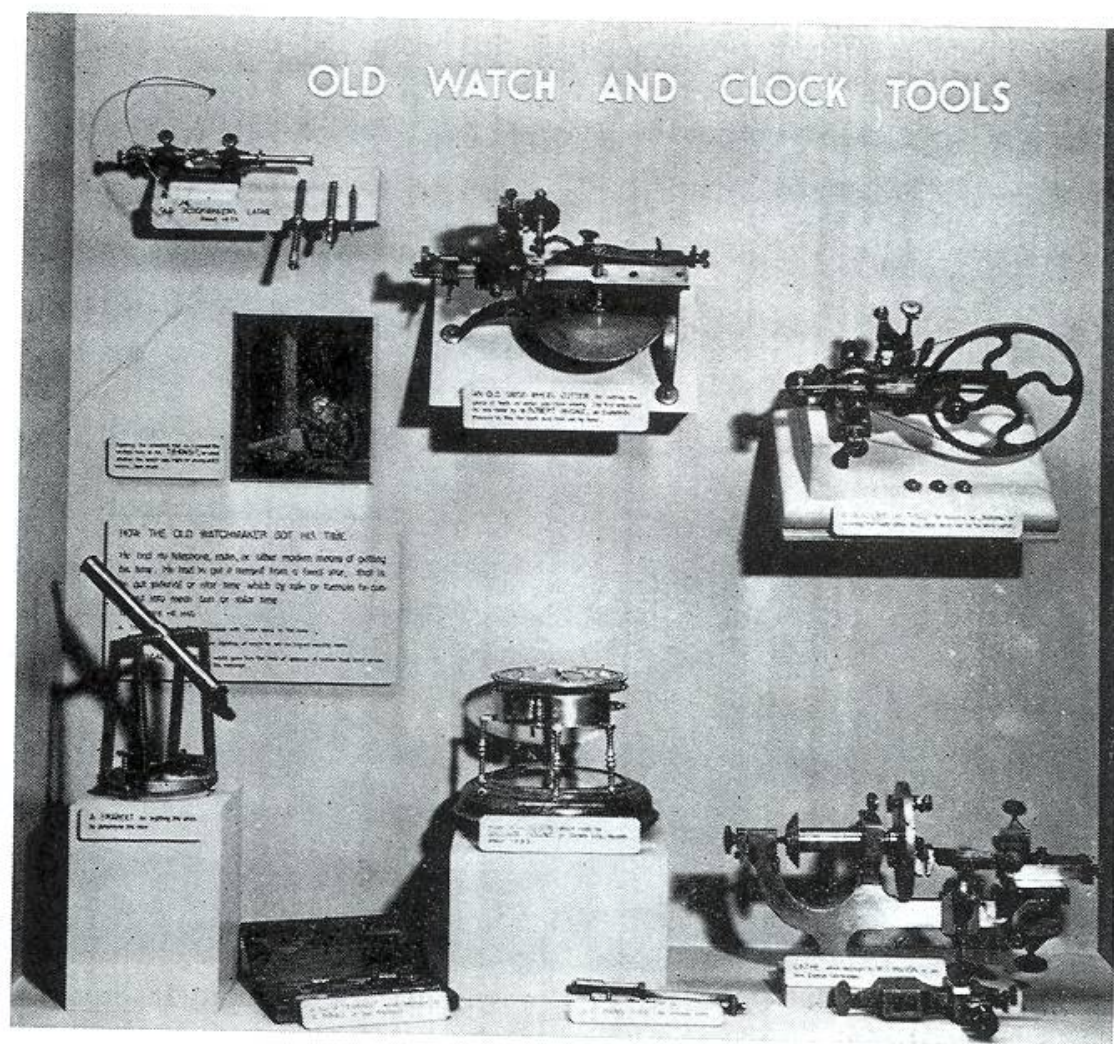
- Wing B. Various kinds of watches; alarm, calendar, with more than one dial and various methods of winding.
- Wing C. Watches running more than one day with one winding. Watches with decimal and duo-decimal dials, 24-hour dials, chronographs, and repeating watches.
- Wing D. Chiefly old watches, with stackfreed; alarm, repeaters, calendar, and pre-hair spring.

The watches which are not on display are to be catalogued and filed in a cabinet for reference. Especially useful should be the American watches, since these will supplement the few which are in the Early American Watch Factories case. Later, along with the watch files, will be placed the horological library of some 300 volumes.



A more detailed cataloguing of the various items would be wearisome, so it is hoped that this outline together with the photographs may give some idea of the scope of the collection.





W4



Famed  
**Dr. W. Barclay Stephens Collection**  
 Of The  
**California Academy Of Sciences**  
 To Be Focal Point  
 Of  
**Association's**  
**Twenty-third Convention**

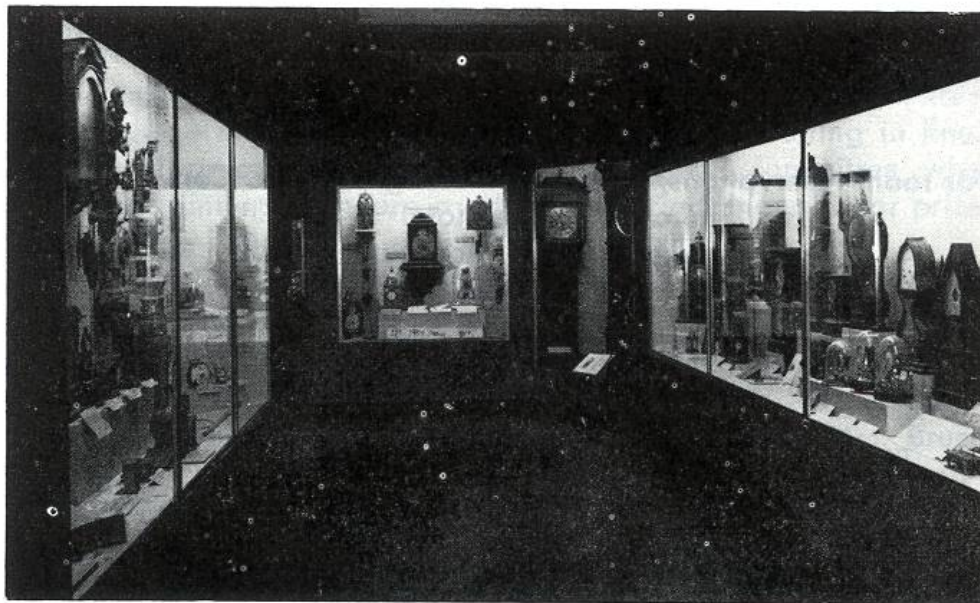
One of the highlights of the 1967 NAWCC Convention in San Francisco will be a visit to the Dr. W. Barclay Stephens horological collection, located in the California Academy of Sciences, the oldest scientific institution in the west, having been founded in 1853.

The housing of the Academy consists of a group of four buildings: the North American Hall, Steinhart Aquarium, African Hall, and the Hall of Sciences. The horological display is in the Hall of Sciences, together with the Morrison Planetarium and the astronomical and meteorological exhibits. This entire group of build-

ings is in world-renowned Golden Gate Park, over one thousand acres of lush greenery which stretches four miles long through the heart of San Francisco. Also nearby are the H. M. de Young Museum and the Japanese Tea Garden, both of which warrant a visit.

The Dr. Stephens collection is located directly opposite the entrance to the Planetarium and about fifteen feet from the Foucault Pendulum with its 175-pound bob swinging to and fro. The Foucault demonstrates rather dramatically the rotation of the earth on its axis.

The clocks are grouped generally





in accordance with the countries of their origin; this is not so much a factor in the watch arrangements.

The general theme running throughout the collection is to show

the progress of man's knowledge of time from primordial eras to modern times. Included in the trip to the Academy will be a "show" in the Morrison Planetarium.



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