Member Notes

On Sunday, August 3, former chapter member Carl Carlson passed away. Carl was born in Portland, Oregon on October 15, 1919. His parents were Carl Felix Carlson and Thora Linea Carlson, both Swedish immigrants to the United States. Felix was a carpenter on large building projects and Thora was a homemaker. They lived in Arizona, where Carl's brother Ben was born, and throughout California. During the Depression, the family moved to Fontana, CA where they had a chicken farm. Carl did not eat chicken or eggs for many years after leaving Fontana for college in 1938! But despite lots of chicken and eggs on the table during the 1930's, he frequently said he had the best childhood ever and had no regrets in life.

Carl graduated from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1941 and had a long and successful civil engineering career until retirement at age 65.

Carl met his beloved wife Patricia (Morse) Carlson when she and her family were living in Edmonton, Alberta. Carl was working as an engineer on the construction of a nearby refinery. After marrying his "prairie flower" in Winnipeg on August 5, 1950, Carl brought Pat to the United States. Their daughter Judy was born in Pasadena, California in 1955. In 1960 the family moved to Santa Ana, California. Pat passed away in 2006.
Carl was extremely proud of his Swedish heritage and made many trips to Sweden to visit family between 1930 and 2009. He was also an avid clock collector and he and his wife Pat took many clock tours around the world through the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. And of course, he also loved good wine and good food, and good friends to enjoy them with. Besides being a generous and loving father to Judy, he was a proud and loving grandfather to his grandson Carl Riemer. He was also a proud and loving father-in-law to Judy's husband Craig Riemer. He is survived by her family and many longtime friends. We will miss him terribly. But he would want us to remember, as he frequently had told us, "I've had a great life."

Bernard L. Pollack of Oceanside California passed away on July 14, 2014 at the age of 94. He was always affectionately called "Bernie" by his family, friends and colleagues. Bernie was born January 18, 1920, in Detroit, Michigan and was the oldest of four siblings. His father died when Bernie was 19, leaving him to help his mother, Ida, care for the younger children. He graduated from high school in 1932 excelling in both soccer and chemistry.

While attending Penn State School of Forestry, Bernie was drafted in 1942. His military duty ultimately sent him to England and the Philippines.

After the war Bernie completed his degree in horticulture at Penn State where he met his future wife Sonia Blostein, and they were married May 29, 1949. He proceeded to earn his PHD in Horticulture with a major in plant genetics and a minor in biometry. Bernie and
Sonia had a son, John, born in 1951 followed by a daughter, Abbie in 1954. In 1960 the family moved to New Jersey where he took a new position at Rutgers Department of Horticulture.

Bernie suffered a heart attack in 1961 and then again years later. While recuperating from his second attack he became interested antique clock repair.

His attraction to collecting and restoration of clocks flourished, and he especially liked English made Industrial Time Recorders and Watchman's Clocks. He referred to the Gledhill-Brook Time Recorders, as the Rolls Royce of time recorders. Bernie soon became the 'go to man' for industrial time clock questions and in 1997 he started Chapter 175 "Industrial Time Recording Clocks". As the originator and charter member of 175, Bernie took it upon himself to be the president, acting secretary and treasurer. In addition, Bernie, almost single handedly published an extensive newsletter 4 times a year. For the last 17 years, Bernie assumed much of the responsibility for the chapter, and his efforts and knowledge have been invaluable.

Bernie also belonged to Chapters 69, 133 and 136. He became a Fellow in January 1998 and has received numerous certificates of appreciation for work and programs at Regionals and Nationals. He was on the museum-library committee from 1997-2003 and finance committee 2007-2009.

One of Bernie's unwavering characteristics was his enthusiastic willingness to share his expertise, be it one on one or with a group. He is survived by Sonia his wife of 65 years, their two adult children, and two grandchildren.

Dave Weisbart has posted a video on YouTube about the New Haven Chime clock he showed at the February Show & Tell. Here it is:

In case the embedded video does not work, you can also see it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhLNOu87nNw .

Do you have information you'd like to share about yourself or another member of
Chapter 69? Drop an email to webmaster@nawcc69.org!

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