



Founded In 1949

THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

Official Publication of the
Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association
By Marty Arnold, CML

WWW.GPLA.ORG

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7.00 Food & refreshments

Meeting 7.30

**Our next meeting is scheduled
for Monday March 20**

Program

**John Handschuh Jr. will present a program on the SDC
Automatic operator and the S5000 retractable bar**

**2023 I.D Cards and Membership Rosters
will be available.**

Membership Notes

The Membership will be asked to approve:

Martin White, CPL, employed by Villanova University as an active member of GPLA. Martin applied for membership during the 2022 convention drive.

Anthony Wiersielis, from Staten Island, NY. He is our NE director of ALOA for approval as Associate member. Tony was sponsored by Bob Mock.

Dan McGlynn, CML from Hopelawn NJ as active member. Dan was Sponsored by Ed Fitzgerald

I was informed that retired member # 96 Myron Bird was hospitalized for about 55 days during November 2022 and January 2023 with Congestive Heart Failure. He is home again carefully watching his diet, but doing a lot better and says HI to the membership. His Email is <myronrocky@gmail.com>

My wife Nelly took a nasty fall at home last Saturday morning, causing us to spend the weekend in the trauma center of Cooper hospital. She tripped and hit her face on the edge of the dining room table, causing the top dentures to break in pieces cutting through her lips and jaw. Surgery was needed and 8 stitches to fix her lips, her face is so black and blue, she is unrecognizable.

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Hello GPLA members and friends,

We've been quite lucky so far this year with a mild winter and I'm looking forward to the first day of spring, March 20th, the same day as our next general meeting. I always look forward to the warmer weather, a trip to Phillie Phanatic Spring Training, and the ability to get work done outdoors both at home and work. I'm sure our members that specialize in automotive work appreciate the warmer weather as well.

As was previously announced by the Convention Committee Chairman Sven Hellwig, the decision has been made to forego a convention this year in favor of gearing up for the GPLA 75th Anniversary and Convention in 2024. This will give the convention committee additional time to put together something very special and memorable. This will be a great opportunity for the membership to step up and pitch in, as the committee can always use help to make this happen. The more hands that pitch in can make any big task easier and thus successful. Consider helping out and showing the locksmith industry why GPLA has been successful and keep your calendars open once we have a date confirmed.

I'm hoping for a good turnout on the 20th as Paul Kline has lined up an interesting program, and what I can attest to being a very valuable and profitable addition to your business. Our program for the March general meeting will be presented by Jim Handschuh, Jr. on SDC automatic door operators and retractable bar. We have been installing power door operators since the mid 90's and they have added nicely to our product line. The installation and services associated with these units add to what we can offer our existing customers as well as helping attract new ones. Come out and see what they're all about.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, myself, the officers, and directors want to make our meetings informative for the members. Bring your ideas for upcoming meeting programs you think would be of interest and beneficial to our members with you. This is your association, let's add some real value to being a member. Looking forward to seeing you on the 20th. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ed Fitzgerald, CML
President

**Thank you “Bill Neff” for printing the ID Cards and
Membership Rosters**

For changes to the database reply to Marty <martysr1@mac.com>

A Timeline for the History of Locksmithing

By Don OShall

With several certification testing groups requiring a knowledge of the history of the Locksmithing industry, I have received many questions about where to find the information. Frankly, the books on the topic are not as commonly available as they once were.

What appears here is the product of my research, from combing the internet, searching patent registrations, and extensive discussions with other industry historical experts such as Billy B Edwards, Jr., Laurie Simon, Scott Reed, and Greg Mango,

In approximately 2000 BC the first primitive locking devices appeared. They were created by the Phoenicians of Egypt, which is generally considered to be the fore-runner of the pin tumbler lock design (although to me they resemble wafer tumbler locks rather than pin tumbler).

In about 870-900 BC, the first all-metal lock appeared.

In 1646, the first American iron works was erected at Sagus, Massachusetts. The Lock and Key makers working there were called whitesmiths because they filed and polished their products, unlike the blacksmith who left the surface much as it came from forge. (Source: Ball & Ball Co. 2002)

In 1778, Englishman Robert Barron patented the first double-action lever lock, the world's first patent for a locking mechanism.

In 1784, Joseph Bramah introduced the first lock in which the key did not make direct contact with the bolt. In 1818, in response to a British government competition in England to create an un-pickable lock, Jeremiah Chubb invented and patented a detector lock. This lock indicated to the owner that it has been tampered with.

In 1820, a patent was issued for a latching bar that lifted through a brass rimmed keeper on the Carpenter locks, a uniquely American lock design which was exclusively manufactured in England. None of these English made locks have ever been noted anywhere but in colonial America.

In the 1830s, combination safe locks were first patented, and were more often called permutation locks.

In 1831, Frederick Stanley established the first factory specifically for the mass production of locks, in New Britain, CT, which is known as the "Hardware City of the World". (Other companies existed making locks but Stanley mass produced them, and that was its only purpose.) The Stanley company provided a start for other now famous American lockmakers, including Seth North of North and Stanley; Henry Russel of Russel and Erwin and Philip Corbin of P&F Corbin.

In 1833, J.A. Blake patented the predecessor of the tubular lockset of today, which was installed by drilling only two holes into the door.

Continued on page 6

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A Timeline for the History of Locksmithing continued from page 4

Beginning in 1839, Corbin Russwin remains the oldest continually active lock manufacturer in America today.

In 1844 Linus Yale Sr patented the first pin tumbler lock. It featured four pins in a cross pattern and the key was a bit type key with four small bits, with the cuts drilled in, at 90 degrees from each other.

In 1851, John Pepper patented one of the most noticeable developments of the period, the widely used Mineral knob in White, Bennington brown and Black. Mr. Cornelius Erwin of Russell and Erwin helped him form "The Mineral Knob Company" to produce these knobs.

In 1857, James Sargent invented the world's first successful key-changeable combination lock, which became popular with safe manufacturers and the United States Treasury Department.

In 1861, Linus Yale Jr. patented the first North American pin tumbler lock. It used a key with cuts arranged on a single plane, on a single surface of the key. While it still used the post key - similar to a bit key without a bit - the cuts were all drilled into the top of it in one straight row.

In 1863 Yale modified the Yale pin tumbler lock to accept a flat key, and introduced a unique padlock. The shank of the key beyond the plug was long enough to permit the plug to be pushed in far enough to clear the shackle of the padlock. Yes, the shackle was also the plug!

In 1864 Yale introduced the flat key operated mortise cylinder – the first cylinder separately removable from the lock.

In 1865 Linus Yale, Jr patented a removable and changeable mortise cylinder. It used the flat key he had introduced with the slide padlock of 1863, which interestingly, he had never patented.

In 1865, Sargent and Greenleaf was formed in Rochester, New York and created the first changeable combination lock for safes and vaults.

In 1867 Yale introduced milled keyways (similar in pattern to corrugated steel or cardboard).

In 1870, Hiram Shepardson patented the first wafer tumbler lock.

In 1880, Lewis C Norton (his name is mis-spelt in many tellings of the story), a New England master carpenter was frustrated when doors at Boston Trinity Church which he had worked to balance were too noisy for the Bishop. In anger, on his way out he slammed a closet door. But because it was air-tight, it did not slam. He realized the value of this and created the first pneumatic door closer in 1881.

In 1883, Blount introduced the first liquid operated door closer.

In 1889, Yale & Towne manufactured the first rack and pinion hydraulic door closer.

To be continued

Upcoming Conventions in 2023

The SAVTA show is scheduled for April 17 to 22, 2023 in Reno, NV

ALOA will be August 6-12 2023 In Orlando, FL

The International Automotive Association convention will be September 14 -16 in Kansas City, MO

While talking about exhibits and classes, the Yankee show for 2023 is scheduled for October 25 to October 29 in Springfield, MA

Friend from over the pond asked me to publish this info on the MLA Expo



MLA EXPO 2023

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Held at the exceptional exhibition spaces at the Telford International Centre, MLA EXPO 2023 will take place over the 20th, 21st and 22nd of October.

As one of the most anticipated events in the security industry calendar, MLA EXPO provides a great opportunity for anyone in the profession. Exhibitors can showcase their products and services, whilst visitors can find out the latest industry news, network, share knowledge and make new contacts whilst also undertaking several training courses and seminars all under the one roof.



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