

BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: YE OLD CLOCK AND GIFT SHOPPE



Tom Quinn, Manager, Ye Olde Clock and Gift Shoppe stands at one of the display counters.

Elizabeth Baumeister/The Dallas Post

Timeless treasures

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From pocket watches to grandfather clocks, Ye Olde Clock and Gift Shoppe in Dallas offers a vast selection of time pieces, both new and antique, as well as collectibles and gift items.

The business originally opened in Kingston the 1960s, according to manager Tom Quinn, of Forty Fort. It then moved to the Dallas Shopping Center after the flood of 1972. It has since expanded to include additional watches, collectibles, artwork and giftware and also offers a full-service repair department.

"Each week we see clocks from all over the world that have been in customers' homes for generations, some dating back to the 1700s," Quinn said. "We love restoring these clocks and making them function just like they did when new."

Quinn said this passion for clocks runs in the family, as his parents, Tom Quinn Sr. and Melissa Quinn, currently own the shop.

"We love clocks," he said. "My grandfather was a clock

collector, which laid the groundwork. Clocks are great gift items because they are timeless. They become the heart beat of many homes."

Quinn described the shop as "a family business that takes the time to get to know each and every customer."

"Many have shopped with us for generations," he said, adding what makes the business unique is its "diverse products and ever-changing inventory."

The best thing about running the business, however, he said is meeting the customers and artisans who make the products.

He added, "It's also wonderful to celebrate special occasions with families. Lots of people buy clocks to signify life events. For example, marriage, a new home, birth of a child... then we see them get handed down to the next generation."

He said he loves the shop's location in the "beautiful Back Mountain," to which many customers travel hours to visit.

Meet the manager: Tom Quinn
Residence: Forty Fort
What is your favorite clock or watch you own? I have several clocks that have been in my family for generations. If you could travel back to any time in history, when/where would you go? I make it a point to be happy in the here and now. Favorite time of year? I love all the seasons here.
Best vacation of all time? Each vacation I've taken leads to great opportunities to see interesting clocks. We make it a point to check out clock stores and local historical clocks, which we share on our Facebook and Pinterest pages.
Who or what inspires you in the business world? We find inspiration from all types of leaders and entrepreneurs.
Advice to new businesses: Love what you do! You need to have a passion for your business to make it truly successful.

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