

New shop pulses with hums, beats, ticks and cuckoos

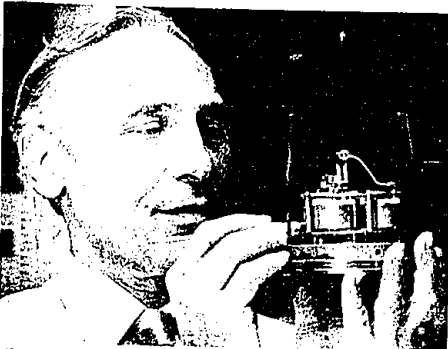
Thursday, August 18, 1983 O&E

(F38)

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

while a little sooner than they had expected when they happened by accident to find the just-right spot in Old Village Mall.

Valerie and Perry Swartz opened the shop they had talked about for a long



It seemed to be waiting for us," Valerie Swartz said, pointing to the built-in niches along the walls that now house a collection of clocks, some that were manufactured 100 years ago.

The shop, called "Tic Toc," is filled with clocks that hum, beat, tick and cuckoo, represents years of collecting by the Farmington Hills couple, who long ago turned their love of clocks into an absorbing hobby.

Now Perry Swartz says he has never been given an antique clock that he wasn't able to put back into good running condition, if it was worth the time and trouble.

"And when I give that final push to the pendulum and I see it move in perfect order it has never failed to give me a thrill," he said.

THE COUPLE'S collection of clocks all began when Valerie Swartz bought an old school clock for her very modern kitchen.

"But it was too good for the kitchen," she said. "I moved it to a place where it

could be better seen, so I had to buy another clock for the kitchen."

That clock was faulty, and because her engineer-husband believes that "everything should work and serve a purpose as well as be decorative," he set off or the library to learn how to repair it.

"That was more than 16 years ago and I've been repairing old clocks ever since," he said.

The interim years brought him into repairing music boxes (which are also offered in Tic Toc), membership into the National Association for Watch and Clock Collectors, and traveling, mostly through the Midwest and eastern states to seek out finely made antique and unusual clocks.

"I never buy what I wouldn't want for myself and then I try to make it better," he said. "Even though it's a quality clock that's been in fine running condition for a hundred years, I always clean and check the movements, and

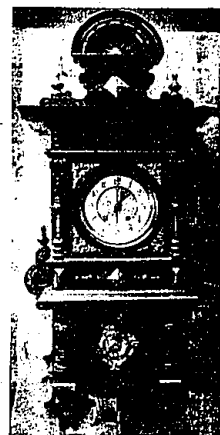
check out its authenticity."

ALONG WITH antique wall clocks and shelf clocks made of rosewood or china or intricate inlay the store has utility, decorative, or "collectible" clocks, as well as some new pieces.

"Because we're a clock shop, we have modern pieces in a wide variety. All of our cuckoos and our music boxes are new and imported, and we have some antique reproductions," Valerie Swartz said. She doubles as Tic Toc's interior decorator.

But even a layman will know with a casual glance that the decorator's heart was really bent on showing off the rarely seen and exquisitely fashioned marble, brass or copper combinations that joined with quality craftsmanship to make up the ancient time pieces.

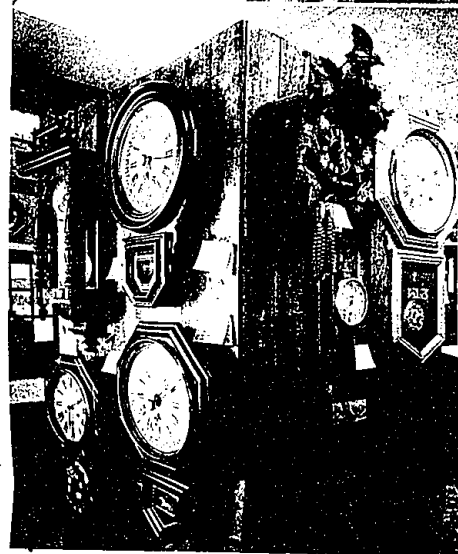
Tic Toc is located on the first floor of Village Mall, on the southeast corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.



Staff photos by Randy Borst



A workbench for lock repairman Perry Swartz (above left) was one of the few things that had to be added to the Village Mall shop for the opening of Tic Toc. At left, Valerie Swartz shows one of the shop's rarest clocks, but the one at upper right, manufactured 100 years ago in Germany by the Junghans Clock Company is the most expensive. Other antique wall clocks (at right) bear price tags the couple say they have made "comfortably affordable."



Quality arts, crafts sought by show jurors

A six-person committee is now selecting quality arts and crafts for Our Lady of Mercy High School's pre-Christmas show and sale set for the last week in November.

The jury's work began early in June when members began sending out contracts, taking phone calls, judging work and actively canvassing other craft shows seeking quality craftsmen.

"Our intent is to provide a quality show on Nov. 26-27," said Roxann Eathorne who is chairing the committee with John Gernacy. "And we are still looking for pewter and metal crafts, as well as others who produce unusual crafts."

About 60 craftsmen have already been accepted into the show in response to previous contacts. They will show baskets, calligraphy, candles, tile painting, folk art, pottery, ceramics, painting, stained and leaded glass, tinware and needlepoint.

Several categories are already closed because a limited number has been set for those showing in each craft.

The chairmen are working on the committee with Mary Ann Polakowski, Berta Nakagawa, Pat Young, and Shirley McLaughlin.

Persons interested in having their craft juried for the show are invited to call Eathorne or Gernacy at the school, 476-8029, ext. 241.



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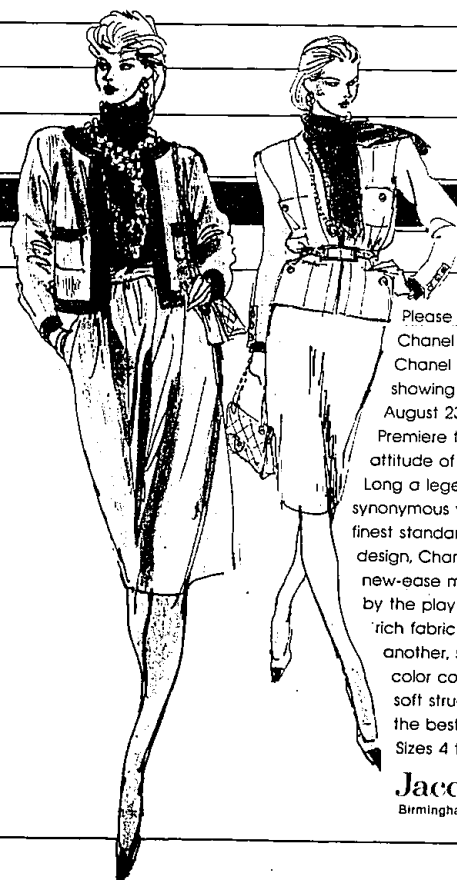
Jack McCarthy, host of Detroit's well-watched weekly television show Friday Feast, will be in our store to prepare culinary delights from his cookbook *Jack McCarthy's Restaurant Recipes*. Come and gather the cooking secrets of some of Detroit's finest chefs from the man who learned them first hand.



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