

Seco

Second Hand TIME CLOCK

by Mary Ann Hutcheson

Before the dawn of modern timekeeping devices, many a young child were lulled to sleep by the repetitive, soothing note of a ticking clock. Often, it was the safe, dependable sound of an old grandfather clock's heavy pendulum swinging a gentle rhythm back and forth until the reluctant youngster gave up the fight.

Times have changed, and so too have the rituals associated with keeping time. Now those clocks are historical relics, some sitting idle in their homes, others given away or sold at auction.

Visiting Harold MacVittie's Second Hand Time shop in Chapin is a step back into time and an opportunity to see and hear those clocks come alive. Around 35 to 50 clocks decorate the walls of the shop's front room, one as old as 200 years. Several grandfather clocks stand sentry duty along the wall. All the clocks are restored to operate like new, and most are for sale. Customers are treated to the distinct sounds of individual chimes and tick tocks – and every now and then, on the hour, the playful sound of a tiny wooden cuckoo bird.

MacVittie's shop is family-owned and operated since 2013, and MacVittie is a gifted and devoted clock repairman. Second Hand Time's presence on eBay has earned a 100% customer satisfaction rate.

Discovering a New Trade

MacVittie was in his fifteenth year as maintenance group leader for a large distribution center when he discovered he had

a knack for fixing clocks. He tells the story of buying a clock, about 12 years ago, that broke during its first week. With no training, he began to work on it. Before long, he had acquired 50 clocks in the workspace of his home garage, "all going off at the same time," he says.

In time, he decided to take his accrued pension and put it into the little Chapin shop he envisioned as perfect for his clock repair business. MacVittie was told, "Clock repair is a dying breed. Are you crazy?"

MacVittie was neither crazy nor planning to let his dream die, not with his skill, dedication, and people skills. The business proved to be an adequate money-maker for him, and it's something he loves doing "all day long."

MacVittie says as a child, he never showed any interest in the art that he now considers a passion. "I fell in love with something I never thought I'd do," he smiles, "and it is a real treat."

He adds, "There is a certain satisfaction that comes with repairing something that hasn't been working for years and years."

In July of this year, MacVittie's Chapin shop will have operated for five years.

“Way too happy for a clock guy”

In MacVittie’s line of work, a person needs to be dexterous, mechanically inclined, and, most importantly, patient. He says, “You have to be patient enough to sit and watch a mechanical movement for a long time in hopes that it’s going to slip up for you.”

Because no one was teaching it anymore, he learned by experience. In the process, he broke and threw away plenty of clocks, while accumulating a useful stock of parts.

MacVittie specifies that he is not a horologist (a maker of clocks); he is a barebones clock repairman. He is apparently quite an excellent one, as he no longer needs to advertise. In fact, he has been working six days a week for almost three years. A comprehensive list of his Monday appointments alone boggles the mind. His business takes him as far north as Laurens, as far south as Branchville, as far west as Atlanta, and as far east as Charleston.

“No one is doing this anymore, at least not reasonably. You can get a clock repairman in some areas of the state, but a cleaning alone will cost between \$400 – \$500. I charge between \$85 – \$200. You’re not going to get it cheaper.”



Nostalgia

MacVittie believes he is probably harder on himself than others. He needn't be. Customers are thrilled with his work, and many have become friends after years of doing business with him.

Harold's wife, Karen, says, “I love that he takes care of everyone’s clock like it’s our own. I love this shop, and it’s perfect for him.”

Throughout his interview, the shop’s phone rang and customers came in to drop off or pick up their clocks.





"I hope you're writing a great story! He is great," says the first customer. Another describes what an amazing job Harold had done on his grandfather clock.

Harold MacVittie admits that much of his work is nostalgic. People bring in their grandparents' clock or are looking to replace a specific, treasured clock they lost in a house fire, or one that was given as a Christmas gift. A

couple might tell Harold that he brought them back to when they were first married. They will show him a picture, and MacVittie can usually find the exact same clock for them. Sometimes, people come in to buy a clock, and upon seeing MacVittie's work, will bring in their old one for him to repair.

"I love the shop," he says again, with a smile.

The Old Clock on the Stairs

by HENRY WADSWORTH
LONGFELLOW

*"By day its voice is low and light;
But in the silent dead of night,
Distinct as a passing footstep's fall,
It echoes along the vacant hall,
Along the ceiling, along the floor,
And seems to say,
at each chamber-door, —
'Forever — never!
Never — forever!'"*

Thank you for Nominating us for
Best Accounting/Bookkeeping



**LICENSED &
DEGREED
ACCOUNTANTS**



TAXES • ACCOUNTING • BOOKKEEPING

Tax Remorse or Paid Too Much? Let Us Take a Second Look



7130 Broad River in Irmo

Open Year Round

JavisTax.com • 803-567-5796

Photonica UltraSlim

Summer is Here!

**LOSE 3.5 INCHES
IN 32 MINUTES**



The Photonica
Professional UltraSlim can achieve amazing results immediately. FDA clinical trials showed on average subjects lost 3.5 inches in circumference in one 32 minute treatment with Photonica.

Non-Invasive Laser
Bodysculpting and LED facelifts using the latest **FDA approved** technology for immediate fat removal without exercise, drugs or surgery.

\$200 OFF
Any Package
of 3 or More Treatments



*Lake Murray Contour
Light Body Sculpting*

943 Old Cherokee Rd. Lex | katiezetterlmcl@gmail.com
(800) 513-2261

HMP

HARRELL, MARTIN & PEACE, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

- L.K. (Trey) Harrell, III • Jeremy C. Martin • Jennifer Dowd Nichols • M. Alan Peace • Thomas B. Jackson, III • Donald W. Tyler • Taylor A. Peace • William "Bill" Buchanan • Andi Cornelison • Robert Dibble, Jr

**REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS
ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE
DIVORCE AND DUI
INCORPORATIONS**



*Thanks for nominating us for
Best Real Estate,
Family Law and
Litigation attorney*

HARRELLMARTIN.COM

135 Columbia Ave. • P.O. Box 1000 • Chapin, SC 29036
803.345.3353 • Fax 803.345.9171

**Tipsy Towing Services
Available All Summer...
Play it Safe!**

(Max Two People Per Home)



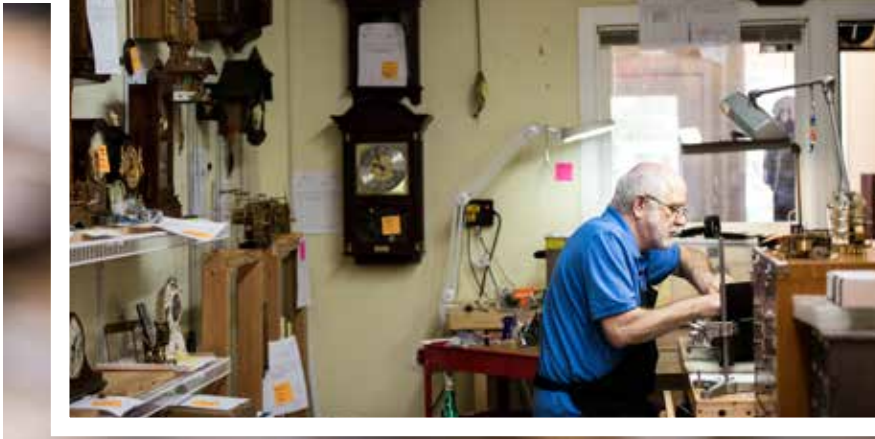
Thank you for
Nominating Us!

EAGLE ONE
TOW & TRANSPORT, DBA

10019 BROAD RIVER ROAD
IRMO, SC

749-2727

\$20 OFF
Ride Home SAFE
for you and your car
Exp 9/7/18



“You have to be patient enough to sit and watch a mechanical movement for a long time in hopes that it’s going to slip up for you.”

Sometimes his work can be sad. He might get old clocks through charity or people who have no use for them and give them away. In their era, those clocks were serious time pieces.

Times have changed. With them goes the understanding of the fractional divisions that define time on an analog clock. Digital representations do the work for us. The charm of our old clocks, adds an element to our lives worth valuing. And Harold MacVittie understands that.

When asked how long he continues to repair clocks, MacVittie says, “as long as people keep wanting it done. We’re going to deal only in used clocks and keep doing it until or as long as my wife says we’re making money!”

You can learn more about MacVittie’s amazing clocks by browsing his website, where you can hear the actual gongs and chimes of clocks and view his photo gallery, including some of his amazing before/after repaired clocks. Better yet, visit him at his shop in Chapin, and maybe you will be

lucky enough to hear the soft chimes of his 1825 “French Prayer Clock,” or 150-year-old “Blind Man’s” clock. Harold MacVittie will greet you with a warm smile, wearing his classic leather shop apron, and you will be enchanted by the backdrop of softly chiming clocks that you won’t soon forget. ■

Second Hand Time Clock Sales and Repairs

Harold MacVittie,
second-hand-time.com
803-345-0322
106A Beaufort St.,
Chapin, SC 29036