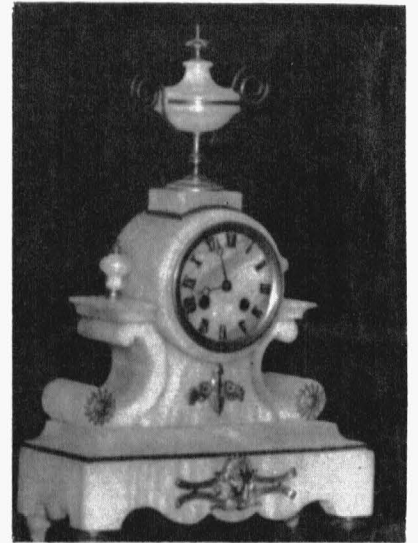


By VIVIAN HANSBROUGH



*Heirloom from estate  
of E. W. Stephens  
is Mrs. Nance's favorite.*

## he makes them tick

Say the name Gordon Nance to Missouri farmers, and they recall the extension economist who visited their communities for 26 years. Say it to industrial managers, and they praise the witty and instructive speeches on economics that he has made from coast to coast. To his colleagues on the University campus, he is a jovial professor of agricultural economics. But mention Gordon Nance's name to Columbians who attend local auction sales, and the response is sure to be, "Oh, yes, the man who buys clocks."

One night in 1945, while Mr. and Mrs. Nance were playing bridge with the Tom Utterbacks, their host made the remark that started a hobby. "I have an old clock in the basement you might like" broke up the game and sent the two men to the basement.

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*Gordon Nance pays due respect by looking up to one of his "grandfathers."*



*Wagon-spring clock in double-steeple case, at left, is valued at \$350. Calendar clock at right has five hands indicating hour, minute, day, month, and date.*



*With simple tools and magnifying glasses, Nance urges balky parts to run.*

Mr. Nance had been refinishing furniture as a pastime. Here was a walnut clock case in good condition that would make a handsome cabinet for his wife's trinkets, so that night he carried it in his arms half a block to his home. After he restored the case to its original beauty, Nance tinkered with the works and found that he could make them run. In that instant he became a clock collector.

Now, 12 years and hundreds of clocks later, he has a valuable assortment representing every major type of clock made in the United States since colonial days. He buys any old clock that interests him, because of beauty, rarity, or novelty in case or mechanics. The choice ones remain in his collection, after he has refinished the cases, replaced faulty glass, and repaired the mechanical parts. Others furnish parts for repairs, or are resold.

He is one of 4,176 members of the National Clock and Watch Collectors Association. This group helped him in a five-year search for two missing wheels for

a hunter-and-fisher clock. Complete at last, it now keeps perfect time.

A few years ago Nance consulted his carefully-balanced books, and found that the cost of his first 200 clocks was exactly offset by the 100 he had sold. Now he's getting behind, as a result of buying five rare antiques last June, but before long he'll be out of the red. Being Scottish and an economist, he watches the ledger.

Of the 150 in his present collection, his favorite is a 110-year-old "wagon-spring" shelf clock in a double-steeple walnut case. Calendar clocks that indicate the hour, minute, day of the week, date, and month—30-day clocks, eight-day clocks, one-day clocks—banjo clocks, mantel clocks, cuckoo clocks—clocks made of wood, brass, iron, china, porcelain, marble, onyx—clocks seven feet tall down to tiny miniatures—there are all sorts in the Nance home. All are in running order, but not all are kept wound; that would mean too much ticking!