It all started with a broken clock up a ladder in a tower... and led to the birth of the finest (and only) Clock Museum in the Southwest! Pictured here is the clock tower that started it all – Caldwell County’s historic Courthouse – as it is seen reflected in the glass front of the museum which houses a restored Seth Thomas Tower Clock. The museum celebrates its SEVEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY Saturday, March 28, 2015. See inside for details!
The Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches proudly exhibits over three centuries of horological achievements. Among our galleries, you will find an enormous variety of timepieces unrivaled in any other clock museum in the Southwest United States. Our museum strives to unearth, restore and present to the public timepieces that are truly unique, rare, unusual, and historically significant. Each one has its own story to tell! The galleries are full of these very fine clocks recently put on display.

**Crosley Clock Radio**

This rare Crosley Clock Radio was purchased at an estate sale in Pennsylvania. Restoration of this impressive timepiece was led by Gene Galbraith, President of the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches. The radio was restored by the Lockhart Radio Club. It works!

**Arthur Poole Electric Clock**

This Arthur Poole clock has a Hipp Toggle movement powered by a battery pack. The case is Bakelite. It is in pristine condition and quite scarce. Poole was a second cousin to Gene Galbraith’s mother, Evelyn Ottillie Poole Galbraith.

**Black Marble Table Clock**

The French clockmaker, Marti, made this 1885 black marble clock. It has been restored for a client by the Museum’s Chief Horologist, and is on exhibit in the front gallery. A photo of the clock when it was in pieces is shown, also. (at left)

**Tower Clock Initiative Report: Bosque County**

Bosque County’s Courthouse has been ‘modernized’ with electric clocks in its grand tower. However, a full tower clock restoration of its original, historic Seth Thomas clock for exhibit in the courthouse is pending per the Bosque County Judge, G. Dewey Ratliff.
The Ursuline Academy was established on the San Antonio River in 1851, within sight of the Alamo. The Academy’s primary mission was to provide a school for girls in San Antonio and surrounding villages. The school by the river became one of the renowned academies for aspiring young ladies, and was chronicled by Maria Watson Pfeiffer in her outstanding book, *The School by the River*.

In 1866, a ship came into the Galveston Bay, carrying a great clock which was to be mounted in the tower of the Ursuline Academy. The clock was from the Ursuline Order in France in recognition of the great work the Catholic nuns were doing in San Antonio. For over a century, the clock, which was made by the French clockmaker, Cretin, was *Keeping Time* and sounding the hours on a clear-toned bronze bell.

Then, one day the clock stopped. While the nuns were caretakers of the clock, they were not suited to the tasks of servicing it. Due to the lack of proper maintenance, the weight-driven clock became a dormant curiosity, and languished in the tower for many decades.

The Ursuline Academy moved to its new and larger campus, leaving the clock in the tower. The historical Ursuline Academy building was saved from the wrecking ball when the Southwest School of Art acquired the property. Paula Owen, the President of the SSA, decided it was time to do something about the old tower clock. She asked her staff to research the field of tower clock restorations. Steve Strapple, Head of Operations, contacted the Texas Historical Commission. The THC Director recommended the SW Museum of Clocks & Watches to restore the historical clock. The Museum had restored tower clocks in five counties in Texas. Therefore, THC’s recommendation was very significant in the decision by Mr. Strapple to contract with the Museum for the restoration of their tower clock.

The old Cretin French clock was restored, and once again it is *Keeping Time* in the school by the river.

Look for more of this story with photos on our website: www.swmuseumofclocks.org.
The mission of the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches is the preservation of Horological History through unique and historical clocks, watches, tools and literature.

ALL CLOCKS WERE ONCE NEW.

Visit our website for more details: swmuseumofclocks.org

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