**Have I Got A Story To Tell You....**

**Hal Martin sells status. They come for a watch; they leave with a lifestyle accessory. They leave with a smile. Not bad for a post-high school hobby.**

**Hal received his first gold "Texas Timex," as** [**Rolex's**](http://www.halmartins.com/rolex_watch.html) **were known, as a high school graduation gift from his father in 1964. Upon entering college, a growing fascination with vintage and high-grade timepieces, and a $200 profit for selling his first Rolex, encouraged Hal to start collecting American watches.**

**Also an active scuba diver, Hal combined his two interests and while dabbling more and more in Swiss pieces. Collecting now for ten years, he learned the art of selling and trading timepieces in order to buy others. As the '80s came and went, Hal expanded into modern and** [**vintage Swiss watches**](http://www.halmartins.com/)**, but only as a side project to his many business ventures.**

**Quickly becoming more than a hobby, Hal continued trading and selling timepieces to fund trips to the Caribbean, where he purchased more fine watches to sell in the states. When the oil boom hit, Hal answered the requests to the newly affluent for used Rolexes. When the oil industry crashed, he was ready to buy them back for cash.**

**The turning point came in 1990, when, with the help of his business partner Suzanne, Hal realized his "side" watch business was generating 75% of his income but only taking up 30% of his time. A cash advance and a maxed AMEX later, Hal and Suzanne traded their first inventory, and** [**Hal Martin's Watch and Jewelry Company**](http://www.halmartins.com/) **was born.**

**Operating first from his home, Hal started establishing his reputation for knowledge, and his brand of customer service; strangers when they walk in, most patrons become customers, if not friends for life. As the business grew, Hal opened his first showroom on San Felipe Drive in Houston, TX in 1993. Three years later they moved to Westheimer, and Suzanne joined full-time in 1999.**

**Recognizing the wants of a diverse, growing Houston, Hal Martin's continued to evolve, accommodating clients new and old. When he opened his first storefront retail location in 2001, Hal had room to showcase jewelry and offer additional services in restoration, repair work and appraisals.**

**After adding new space and new services, Hal needed to add a few new faces behind the counter to help carry the load. Long-time friend Barbara Ruggiero came by during the holiday season in 2001 to just help out for a few weeks. In 2005, she was still around to help welcome Hal's niece Amanda and show her the ropes. The same year the "family" also welcomes Tarang Patel to help manage the showroom. Tarang's 18 plus years of experience in** [**diamonds, rare gems**](http://www.selladiamondonline.com/) **and** [**custom jewelry**](http://www.halmartins.com/) **provided new avenues of expansion.**

**The hobby-turned-livelihood that quickly became a lucrative business arrived at its newest location in September 2006, a freestanding store at 6266 Westheimer. As one of the Southwest's largest watch trading companies, Hal Martin's houses** [**Houston's largest selection of pre-owned Rolex watches**](http://www.halmartins.com/)**, with Hal still driving the business. He travels to trade shows, runs ads in off-the-beaten-path periodicals and negotiates with watch dealers and collectors from around the world all in his quest to bring the rarest,** [**hard-to-find watches**](http://www.halmartins.com/) **to his clients in Houston.**

**Already have a fine timepiece? Ring the door bell at the new location, 6266 Westheimer in Houston, TX, and let the gifted and talented Repairs and Restoration department perform warranty and repair work all in-house. Maybe have then add a new bezel or dial to an old favorite. Need to say I love you? Meet Tarang in the Diamond Room, for his expertise in choosing the perfect diamond, helping reset a loved one's stone, or to trade-in an unloved gem. Don't see the perfect set? Tarang will make one. Celebrating a graduation or promotion? Barbara and Amanda will greet you at the counter, saving you $100 to $1000s on** [**Pre-owned and new Swiss watches**](http://www.halmartins.com/) **from, to name a few,** [**Rolex**](http://www.halmartins.com/rolex_watch.html)**,** [**Cartier**](http://www.halmartins.com/watch/cartier/cat_31.html)**,** [**Panerai**](http://www.halmartins.com/watch/panerai/cat_38.html)**,** [**Patek Philippe**](http://www.halmartins.com/watch/patek-philippe/cat_21.html) **and** [**Omega**](http://www.halmartins.com/watch/omega/cat_46.html)**. Still can't find exactly the perfect watch? Find Hal Martins roaming the store with his Bluetooth headset glued to his ear and with the same eagerness, interest and love that turned a hobby into a life's work, he will find you that perfect timepiece.**

**~ as seen in Houston Texas Magazine (April 2007)**