

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE[®] And COLLECTORS NEWS[®]

\$150

ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • ESTATES • FARM • REAL ESTATE • COMMERCIAL

www.eauctionexchange.com

June 15, 2021

Vol. 44, No. 27

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Carousel figures gallop to fantastic bids at Rowley

BY NANCY
KELLY

ATTICA, Mich. — There is a familiar saying associated with auctions that goes something like “This sale has something

for everyone.” In the case of the monthly Rowley’s Auction Service estate and consignment sales that is certainly true. With 1,563 lots to choose from at this June auction, including farm equip-

ment, carousel horses, vintage toys, antique furniture and much more, it was easy to find something to bid on. Rowley Auctions is a family owned and operated auction company that has been conducting auctions for more than 30 years, and their experience in the field shows. There were preview opportunities prior to this online-only sale and convenient pick-up options, plus shipping was offered.

The 2017 John Deere 4WD 1025R sub-compact diesel tractor drew much interest early on and the price just kept soaring. It was listed with many desirable features such as an H120 loader and bucket, a 260 backhoe, hydrostatic drive, and a 23HP 3 cycle engine. This one-owner vehicle showed 35 hours of use, was listed as runs and drives, and in nice condition. It

reached an impressive final bid of \$16,300.

Fourteen enchanting, full-sized carousel horses were presented for consideration, and the two with the real hair tails led the pack. Measuring 57 inches tall and 60 inches long, a majestic outside row wood caramel brown carousel horse in excellent condition with horsehair tail, golden tack, white fringe, and a head held high was claimed with a final bid of \$2,475. Coming in a close second, the slightly smaller prancing Herschell-Spillman carousel horse with blue and mauve trappings and real hair tail finished at \$1,925. Another prancer which was attributed to the animal carver Gustav Denzel featured a bold palomino color, glass eyes, an elaborate saddle decoration, and mounting stand. This 53-inch-tall



Above: This unusual carousel figure left with a final bid of \$500.

beauty earned a final bid of \$570. Other horses with plainer decoration or in lesser condition closed from \$150-\$460.

An irresistible 40-inch-tall brown rocking horse with hair mane and tail plus a leather saddle and

bridle all in very good condition was ready to give a child a ride for a final bid of \$166. For those with more exotic taste, an adorable Luis Ortega Mexican kiddie

See Rowley page 4



Above: Having a real horsehair tail contributed to the excellent final bid of \$2,475 on this majestic carousel horse.

FEATURE

Collectors are bubbling over these bottles

BY LARRY
LEMASTERS

In the early 1960s, companies such as Purex and Colgate-Palmolive began marketing bubble bath in character-shaped bottles. This marketing approach appealed to parents since children, wanting to play with the character bottle, readily agreed to baths.

The earliest character bubble bath bottles were Bobo Bubbles and Betty Bubbles. Lander Company manufactured these early bottles in the mid-1950s.

Although Bobo and Betty Bubbles were the first produced, they are not the most sought after. The Colgate-Palmolive Company in the mid-

1960s produced Soakies, a name that has become synonymous with character-shaped bubble bath bottles. Soakies were manufactured using many well-known characters, including Disney characters, Warner Brothers cartoon characters, King Features Syndicate (newspaper cartoon characters), and many others.

Soaky bottles came in three distinct types: 1) Early Soakies had the cap on top of the character’s head. 2) Mid-Soakies had a bottle with the cap under the character’s head. 3) Later Soakies, called Soaky Squeezables, had a soft rubber character figure that slipped over a plain bottle of bubble bath. Children

could play with this later toy immediately, rather than wait for the bottle to empty.

The Purex Company manufactured Bubble Club bubble bath bottles in the 1960s and ‘70s. Purex bubble bath was offered in liquid or powder form. Powder forms came in two types of bottles — a single unit bottle with a plugged opening in the base or a bottle with a removable head, which concealed the plug in the neck. Liquid forms came in a bottle with a screw-off cap under the removable head of the character.

Only four characters were ever manufactured with a plug in the neck. These were Quick Draw McGraw, Yogi Bear,

Huckleberry Hound, and Baba Looney. Each of these four had slots cut in their hats so that they could also serve as banks when the bubble bath was gone. Collectors sometimes overlook these four bottles, wrongly thinking they were made as banks only.

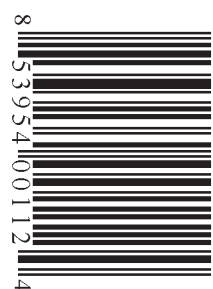
During the 1980s, a few character bubble bath bottles occasionally were manufactured, but only one company — Omni — produced a collectible series. Eight Star Wars characters were marketed as bubble and sham-

See Bubbles page 14

Right: Paul McCartney (The Beatles) bubble bath bottle by Colgate-Palmolive, circa, 1965, that is valued at \$120.



Above: Colgate-Palmolive produced this early Mickey Mouse bubble bath bottle that is valued at \$18.



SINCE 1978 THE WEEKLY AUCTION & COLLECTORS
GUIDE FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION