

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

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June 29, 2021

Vol. 44, No. 29

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

1951 Ford panel truck drove highest bid at Dale's

BY NANCY
KELLY

HOLLAND, Mich. — An eager crowd gathered at the Auction Barn of Dales Auctioneering Service. There the contents of an estate that belonged to a local collector who was employed by Sealed Power piston ring found-

ry and machining operations were on display. His interest in everything automotive drove him to collect related items such as die cast models, lighters, car parts, signs, and clocks. Those in attendance at this in-person auction included several out of town folks who wished to add a keepsake

to their own collection. As always, Dale Flokstra, his wife Elaine, and their entire crew made everyone feel welcome.

The center of attention was an impeccable 1951 blue Ford panel truck. Described at 95 percent restored, a loving hand had taken care of every detail, from the rust-free exterior to the clean and rebuilt interior complete with a new wooden floor. It was a 3-speed on the column and the instrument panel looked amazing. When started up it "purred like a kitten" according to Elaine. This spacious, eye-catching vehicle was considered by many before driving the final bid up to \$13,000.

In keeping with the owner's interest in cars, there was a nice selection of 200 diecast trucks and semis in the 1/64 and 1/34 scales. However, the model car that heated up the competition was the

vintage 18-inch Hiller Comet tether race car. This fascinating hobby consists of racing miniature vehicles that are equipped with a gas combustion engine. They are fastened or "tethered" to a post by a 33-foot steel cable and individually race around the track at amazing speeds. This brilliant red vehicle bearing the number 6 was claimed with a high bid of \$1,300. Other vintage toys included a Mobile Gas tanker that was claimed for \$110, a model International dozer for \$90, and a Smith Miller dump truck for \$100. The Lionel trains, many still in their original boxes, were also popular with the collectors, with the Halloween train selling for \$300 and various engines and cars from \$50-\$250.

Other items related to

See Dale's page 4



Above: This 1951 Ford panel truck was driven away with a final bid of \$13,000.



Above: "Sound your Z" was the slogan to ask for Pennzoil at the service station. This commercial sign was claimed with a high bid of \$275.



Above: A 16-drawer antique wooden cabinet proved to be perfect for pocket watch storage. It found a new home with a high bid of \$400.

FEATURE

Celluloid Uncle Sam marches on

BY LARRY
LEMASTERS

Author Julie Robinson called Celluloid "one of the nineteenth century's greatest inventions." In fact, it may be the greatest, especially when one considers the that the invention of celluloid directly led to the invention of plastics. Celluloid is considered the pre-historic relative of plastic's historic revolution. If you want to understand the importance of celluloid, try envisioning a world without plastic.

American businessman John W. Hyatt invented celluloid in 1869, and it was the first entirely synthetic plastic-like material. Being man made there was an endless supply of

celluloid for manufacturer's use.

Hyatt invented celluloid as an inexpensive alternative to ivory for manufacturing billiard balls. Historically, all billiard balls had been made of elephant ivory, which caused the prices for these balls to remain quite high and the mortality rate of elephants to be even higher. Hyatt's discovery was a giant leap for mankind but proved a small step for him since celluloid, by its nature, is highly flammable and explosive. Hyatt's billiard balls tended to either explode or catch on fire on contact with another ball, causing quite a few distractions during play.

But celluloid lived on,

and by 1890, it had become a part of everyday life in American homes. By the turn of the century, celluloid was used to manufacture a cornucopia of different items for the home and workplace.

Celluloid literally revolutionized America just as the Industrial Revolution was kicking into high gear. Manufacturers saw celluloid as an inexpensive synthetic substitute for a variety of natural materials, such as ivory, coral, horn, bone, mother-of-pearl, amber, and tortoise shell.

Even with the high risk of fire or explosion, dolls and toys were soon made of celluloid. Julie Robinson states that both parents and children liked celluloid toys

Right: 7-inch tall Viscoloid Company Uncle Sam. Marked "Made in USA" on its back, this patriotic celluloid toy doll sells for \$190.

"because they were inexpensive, lightweight, and unbreakable."

The heyday for the manufacturing of celluloid toys was from 1895 through 1960, when plastic totally replaced celluloid in dolls and toys.

The good news for collectors is that all celluloid toys were mass-produced, so there are still thousands and thousands of these toys on the secondary market.

While some collectors look for any type of celluloid toy, other collectors

See Uncle Sam page 10



Above: Baby Uncle Sam celluloid mailman, circa 1930s, valued at \$325.

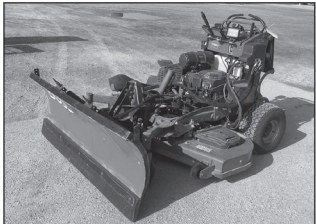


SINCE 1978 THE WEEKLY AUCTION & COLLECTORS
GUIDE FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION



CONSTRUCTION & LAWN EQUIPMENT

ONLINE AUCTION | TUES., JULY 6 zone web



HIGHLIGHTS:
2012 Volvo L220G Wheel Loader
2011 Volvo L220G Wheel Loader
2012 CAT 226B3 Skid Steer Loader
Bobcat 753 Skid Steer Loader
2006 International 7600 Vac-Tron
ATV1850 Vacuum Truck
2005 Gehl CT7-23T Telehandler
(2) 2022 Quality Steel CJ Heavy Hauler
Dump Trailer
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ESTATE AUCTION

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 2725 FOREST LAKE DRIVE.
DIRECTIONS: . From I-94 take M-60 South Exit to second stoplight, turn left on Reynolds Road to Vrooman Rd., turn left 2½ miles to Horton Road then left ¼ mile to Forest Lake Drive turn left to auction. Watch for auction signs.

JACKSON, MICHIGAN zone 5

Excellent offering of quality made household furnishings including furniture, grandfather clocks, Waterford china including Chandelier and much more. **FURNITURE:** La-Z-Boy 4 section sofa w/reclining ends; 5 leg spindle oak 44”x50” carved table; Peral 3 weight walnut case grandfather clock w/Michigan State Univ. emblem on pendulum; Howard Miller 3 weight oak case grandfather clock; 2 Tempur-pedic twin beds; queen size bed w/brass headboard; 2-Kindel dressers; pair matching leather glider rocker recliners; Rosewood glass inlay sofa table & coffee tables w/claw & ball feet; oak 2 drawer lead glass china cabinet; variety of living room chairs in assorted colors & patterns; 3 drawer small dresser; floor model jewelry cabinet; wood accent sofa; log finish side table; 40” claw foot table; 60” walnut china cabinet; mahogany lighted china cabinet; white-iron framed table, glass top, 4 chairs & pads; 43”x30” rolling stainless steel top island table; 50” church pew; 4’ walnut sofa table; small roll top desk; oak 4 section room divider; 5 bookcases; walnut wash commode w/towel bars; love seat w/carved back; cane seat base rocker; Howard Miller Westminster chime wall clock; Ethan Allen desk w/bookcase 26”x56”; oak glass top coffee table; oak 4 drawer file cabinet; world globe w/floor stand; mahogany round drum table; metal cart w/oval glass top; Vizio 42”, Magnavox 32” & Samsung 18” TV’s; Yamaha stereo w/Polk speakers; Onkyo CD disc player; Bose Wave Radio; oak TV stand; spindle leg piano stool; pair crystal base table lamps; brass floor lamps. **WHITE WICKER PATIO FURNITURE:** 5 piece set w/sofa, chairs & tables; glider rocker; plant stand; stand w/doors; frog. **WATERFORD CRYSTAL:** Comerage 22” Single Tier Chandelier; assortment of bowls, plates, stemware, vases. **RUGS. FROM THE KITCHEN:** Royal Albert “Old Country Roses” service for 8; Wedgwood set for 12; Pyrex dishes; dishes; flatware service for 12. **ORIENTAL RUGS; PERSIAN SHIRAZ (YALAMEH) 8’6”x11’3”;** Kashmir 24”x56”; 54” octagon; 24”x104” hall rug; 8’6”x12” oriental runner; modern rugs & runners in various sizes; 5’x8’ blue rug; 4’x5’ wall tapestry; **STAIR CLIMBER:** Acorn 14 step Superglide 130 left side chair lift; oil paintings & prints. **COSTUME JEWELRY:** A variety from a 9 drawer chest including several 10K & 14K gold rings. **NOTE: Jewelry will sell at 11:00 AM.** **GENERAL:** Yamaha guitar & case; display of 1960’s Boy Scout Badges on board; Exerpeutic bike; GE Dehumidifier; Ideal white metal washtub; Craftsman shop vac; Toro CCR 2450 snowblower; Snapper push mower; Task Force 2000 pressure washer; 24’ alum. extension ladder; wheelbarrow; 1960’s girls Firestone bike; boy’s bike; 6’&8’ stepladders; 45 & 78 records; upright tool chest; hand tools; 6’ folding table; Pro Form 520X treadmill; marble base boy/girl birdbath; golf clubs; large dog cage; cookbooks; 2 easels; quilts & linens; Kirby vac & attachments; lots of Holiday decorations.

For photos go to
www.belcherauction.com.

If inclement weather smalls will be sold in garage & tent.

TERMS: Cash, Check. CC. *Note, there is a 4% handling fee for CC use.* Furniture, rugs & clocks will be sold in the house.

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TOBIAS COMING AUCTIONS

★ ESTATE AUCTION ★ SATURDAY, JULY 3, 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 9733 STERLING RD.
DIRECTIONS: From the McDonald’s in Richland, go 3 miles north on M-43 to Tanglewood Hills, turn left, go short distance to Sterling Rd., turn right to sale.

RICHLAND, MICHIGAN zone 4

CONVERTIBLE: 2003 Mazda Miata convertible w/red & white top & approx. 18,000 miles. **MUST SEE! ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES:** Nice dishes incl. Carnival glass; Hull; McCoy; Red Wing; Depression; China set; Roseville #310-10, #632-ILL, IBL2-D, 205-5; Ruby glass; McCoy cookie jar; & more!! Silverware set in case; dolls in boxes; Wicker Creek; Victorian porcelain figures; dolls in boxes; clown figures; lg. pharmacy bottles; advertising boxes; buttons; doll cradle; doll high chairs; small hutch; mantel clock; Underwood typewriter; small slot machines; Uncle Sam’s 3-coin register bank; Kodak camera; Viewmaster; pictures & frames; wood barrel; cuckoo clock; Barbies in box; advertising toy semi truck; birdcage; mirrors; banks; Alan Trammel cars in case; 45 RPM records; silver plated items; store ribbon machine; dollhouse furniture; wicker doll bed; wicker creel; Union & Confederate soldier decanters. **ALSO COINS** incl. Franklin halves; Indian Head pennies; Seated half dimes; Mercury dimes; Flying Eagle & more! **MISC.:** Doghouse; table saw; Neuton lawn mower; safe; push mower; Elgin boat motor; 2 nice Schwinn bikes; & **MUCH MORE!!**

This is just a partial listing of this Estate of a 92-year-old lady. **EXPECT SURPRISES!**

ESTATE OF HELEN RICHARDS
For more, go to www.auctionzip.com #23371.

KENDALL TOBIAS, AUCTIONEER
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J. T. Baker Trust Real Estate & Personal Property LIVE AUCTION SATURDAY, JULY 10 @ 10 AM

LOCATION: 173 FURNACE STREET.
DIRECTIONS: Approximately ½ mile southwest of downtown Frankfort.

ELBERTA, MICHIGAN zone 2



REAL ESTATE BY AUCTION: Parcel No: 06-502-024-00. **Description:** Older 1½-story, 2-bedroom, 1-bath, brick & wood sided home situated on corner lot with detached 24x24’ garage & fenced yard. The home is a fixer upper but is solidly built with a newer furnace, updated plumbing & some electrical. Sits across street from Betsie Lake & less than ½ mile from Lake Michigan. **Terms:** Sold in live-auction format in as-is condition.

A \$5000 nonrefundable earnest money deposit required from successful bidder - day of auction in the form of cashier’s check to Wegner Auctioneers, cash or credit card. A 3% buyer’s premium is in effect for this sale. Real Estate to be sold at 1 p.m. See website for additional information & images.

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS: 2014 Forest River 12x6½’ implement trailer * Torch set, welder & generator * Table saw, wood planer & cutoff saw * Poulan gas chain saw & Stihl gas trimmer * Portable gas & electric power washers * Hand, electric & pneumatic power tools * Fiberglass step & extension ladders to 24’ * Yard & garden tools * Home improvement supplies incl. vinyl windows * Some furniture & household items.

WEGNER AUCTIONEERS
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ONLINE AUCTIONS zone web

Bid and view articles now until closing www.MerrittAuctionService.HiBid.com



MONDAY, JUNE 28 ENDING AT 6:00 PM

ARTICLES FEATURING THE SONIA SPEAKMAN ESTATE PLUS ADDED CONSIGNORS

Cervelo Racing Bicycle (\$4000 New); Very Nice Matching Whirlpool Duet Sport Washer & Gas Dryer; MTD 38 in Riding Mower; Outdoor Patio Furniture; Antique & Modern Furniture; Cast Iron; (30) Lots QVC Temptation Stoneware; Granite ware; Glassware; (20) Nice Fishing Reels; (6) Coach Purses; Fenton Birds; Costume Jewelry; 1973 Greenville Varsity Jacket; Nike Air Size 15 Shoes; Tools; Ammunition; & Much More Being Added Daily!



MONDAY, JULY 5 ENDING AT 6:00 PM

Look for great items to be determined.
Items are located for preview and pickup at our new auction facility located at
100 E. Coffren Ave., Greenville, MI 48838.

Merritt Auctions

Auction Manager Jamie Meyers
(616) 631-0027
www.MerrittAuctionService.HiBid.com

Dale's

FROM FRONT PAGE

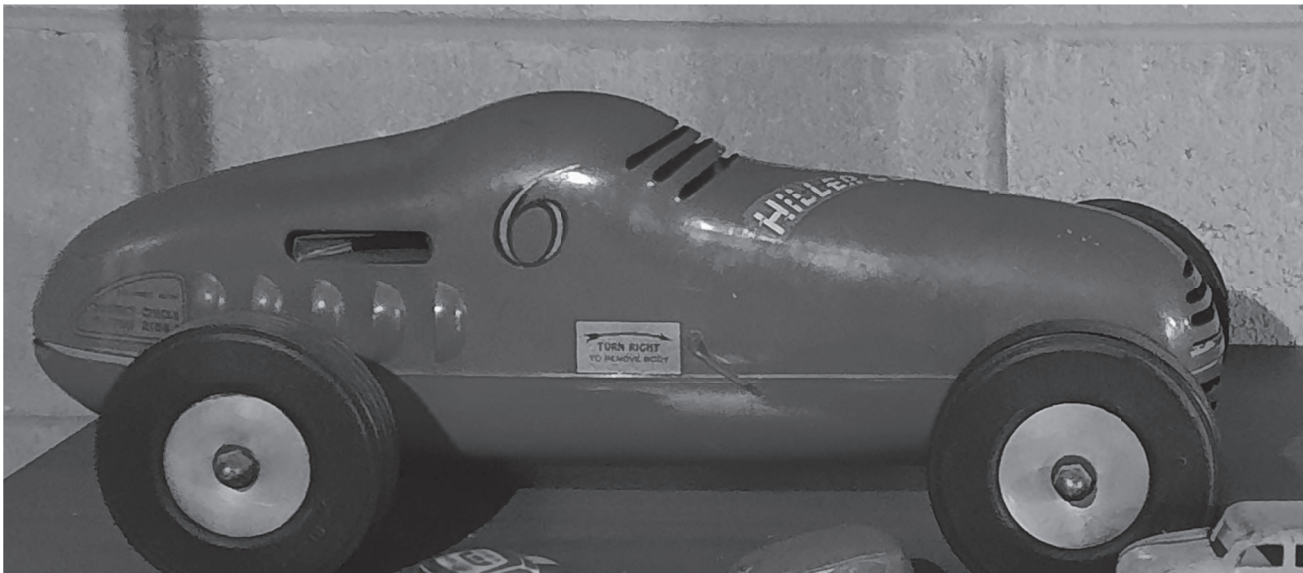
the automotive collection theme also did well. Signs proved popular, including a metal sign with the slogan “Home of the DOCTOR OF MOTORS, we install Perfect Circle Piston Rings”. It featured a very confident-looking mechanic and left with a final bid of \$425. There was a Sealed Power Piston Rings rectangular white plastic lighted sign with red letters mounted on a chain that left for \$325. A brilliant yellow metal Pennzoil sign boasting the slogan “Sound your Z” and the words “100% pure Pennsylvania oil Pennzoil safe lubrication” superimposed over a red image of the Liberty Bell was claimed with a high bid of \$275. Another familiar sight at a filling station was a Coca Cola metal sign. Offering “ice cold Coca Cola” and “a sign of good taste” this recognizable red and white sign drew a final bid of \$425.

Several items that were found in service stations were offered, including some highly collectible clocks. Leading that category, Perfect Circle

piston rings lighted wall clock consisted of a white plastic body with red lettering around the perimeter. There was a small stain on the edge, but otherwise it was in very good condition and was claimed with a high bid of \$450. Not far behind, the American Hammer lighted clock was picked up with a bid of \$325.

Sorting through the many automotive collectibles, the Diamond Reo model engine stood out as a favorite. It was mounted on a wooden platform which had a triangular metal tag that read “Diamond Reo”. This handsome model required a bid of \$400 to claim it. Another fun piece was the 1951 Ford red front bumper wall display, which despite some dirt and rust still commanded a final bid of \$200. Other related lots included several glass oil jars, some complete with their carrier, an ANCO windshield wiper metal cabinet, a box of miscellaneous hood ornaments, and even an engine lift.

Moving on to other popular areas of this estate, the owner certainly proved to be a music lover in addition to enjoying his gadgets. Two



Above: A brilliant red vintage Hiller Comet gas powered tether race car zoomed to a final bid of \$1,300.



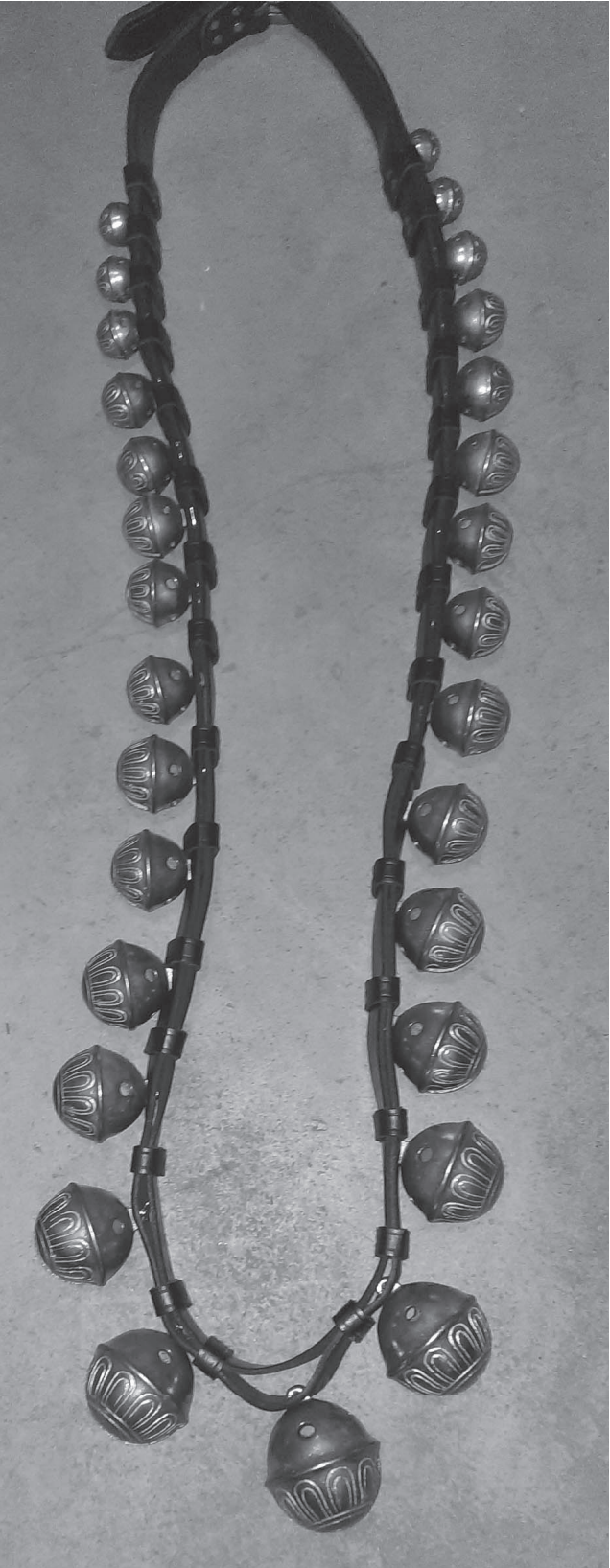
Above: This Waltham pocket watch soared to a final value of \$600.



Above: Beautiful music could be heard from the handsome Imperial Symphonion player which was claimed with a final bid of \$900.



Above: This Doctor of Motors metal sign was one of several offered. This one required a final bid of \$425 to claim it.



Above: Thirty merry-sounding sleigh bells mounted on a leather strap required a high bid of \$500 to claim it.

items in particular highlight this interest. There was an Imperial single comb Symphonion with wind up lever and 30 discs. The handsome mahogany case featured a lithograph (with some damage) showing 7 young children playing music on the lid interior. The mahogany veneered stand provided space for disc storage. Elaine remarked that “soft tones of music could be heard” from this lovely instrument that was claimed with a high bid of \$900. An Edison Amberola model 5217 found a new home with a high bid of \$500, while several other Victor & Edison Amberolas went for \$250-\$500.

The collector was a man of many interests, including a passion for pocket watches and there were several to choose from. The most desirable proved to be a Waltham gold pocket watch which soared to a final value of \$600. Other watches sold for \$250-\$375. A 16-drawer antique wooden cabinet proved to be the perfect place to house several pocket watches, and this display along with several watches inside found a new home with a high bid

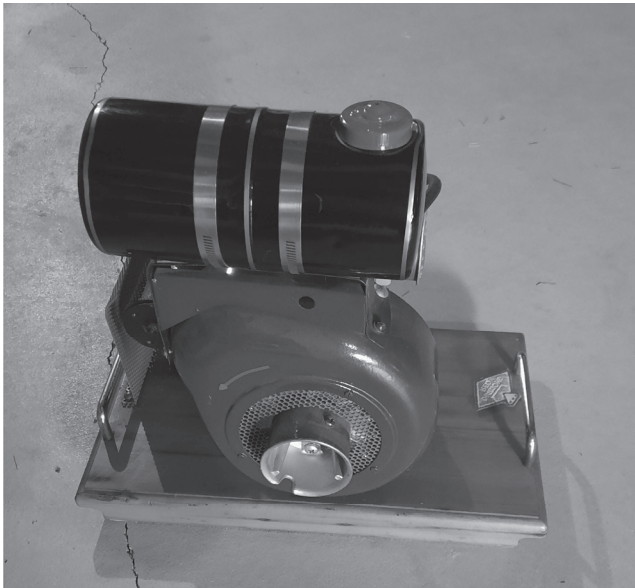
of \$400.

A couple more items that don’t fall into these categories were also well appreciated by the crowd. The merry sound of brass jingle bells will always encourage an enthusiastic response, and this set of 30 sleigh bells mounted on a leather strap, all in excellent condition, certainly proved the point. It required a high bid of \$500 to claim it. Then there was the brilliant red cast iron Gamewell telegraph fire alarm box from days gone by that proved to be popular. The paint was in excellent condition (likely restored), but the original key and alarm mechanism were missing. It required a bid of \$160 to claim it.

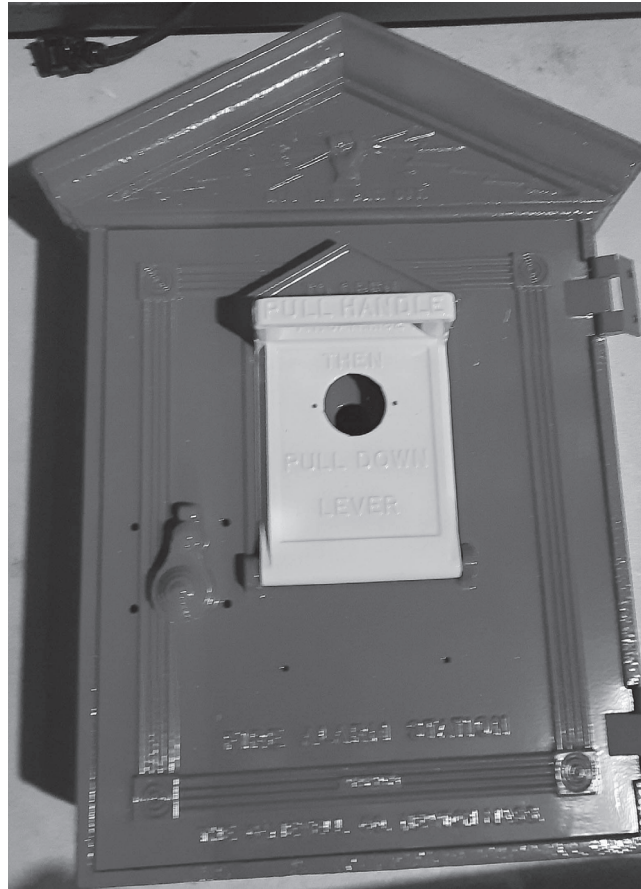
For more information and future auctions, contact Dale at Dales Auctioneering Service (616) 836-3132 or check out their web site www.dalesauctioneering.com.



Above: The Perfect Circle piston rings lighted wall clock was the most popular clock at the sale, topping out at \$450.



Above: The Diamond Reo model engine stood out as a favorite among the automotive collectibles, requiring a bid of \$400 to claim it.



Above: A vintage Gamewell telegraph fire alarm box without the original alarm mechanism proved popular, drawing a final bid of \$160.

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POSTAL REPORT

Without fail for 42 years, The Auction Exchange & Collectors News has been delivered to the USPS by 5 pm every Friday.

Currently we are delivering the newspaper to the USPS by midnight Thursday. Despite this early entry into the postal stream and our vociferous lobbying at all levels of the USPS, we are experiencing delivery problems in the following areas:

Dorr MI, Gaines MI, Marquette MI, Stockbridge MI, White Lake MI

If you don't receive a paper by Tuesday's mail, you may call us to have a paper sent first class.

If it is after normal business hours, please call 888-339-3795 ext. 177.
Please also call your Post Office to report your late delivery.

GENERAL ADVERTISING INFORMATION

DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY AT 12 NOON

Unless otherwise noted

ADVERTISING SIZES AND RATES

1/8 page (5"Wx4"H) - \$83.80

1/2 page (10¼"Wx8"H) - \$315.56

1/4 page (5"Wx8"H) - \$157.77

Full page (10¼"Wx16"H) - \$546.15

Call for additional sizes and rates 888-339-3795

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Our open rate is calculated at \$7.33 per column inch. Call for more information about our Low Cost Standard Open Rate (\$6.98/col.") which is based on a minimum of 10 point type in the body copy.

Display Advertising

Each page is six columns wide (10-1/4 inches) by 15-1/2 inches high. Each column is 1-5/8 inches wide. We use a minimum of 10 pt. type (for body copy) for purposes of readability, and specific point sizes for heading (24 pt.), date (18 pt.), city/state (16 pt.) so please keep this in mind as you plan your ad. We typeset your ad to fit our specifications while keeping in mind your requirements and the need to minimize the cost of your ad.

Back Cover Ads:

(Non-auction ads only.) Back cover ads are booked in advance by reservation - call for availability.

Deadlines/Sending Copy:

Our deadline is 12 noon on the Wednesday before the issue date, (Monday). All material must be received by this time, including photographs. (Call for holiday schedules.) A 10% surcharge will be added to display advertising received Wednesday between 12 Noon and 3:00 p.m. We cannot always guarantee insertion of late ads. In all cases, it's a good idea to call and notify us that an ad is being sent, and to confirm that your ad has been received.

Mail Your Copy:

27 N. Jefferson St., Knightstown, IN 46148. First class mail may or may not be delivered by deadline if you mail on Monday or later. If you mail on Tuesday, send by U.S. Express Mail, UPS Next Day or other "next day" services.

Fax Your Copy:

You may fax your ad to us at: 877-223-3778.

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Please send "Text Only" format, we cannot use files that have been saved in their native software. Email address: info@eauctionexchange.com

Photos:

should be sent in JPG format, as attachments to E-mail. We accept color, or black and white.

Accuracy:

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of your finished ad. Sending it to us well in advance is essential in allowing adequate time for proofing and faxing layouts to you for approval. We assume no guarantee or liability concerning the accuracy of published advertisements.

ISSUE DATE

DEADLINE (NOON)

JULY 6

.....WED., JUNE 30

JULY 13

.....WED., JULY 7

JULY 20

.....WED., JULY 14

JULY 27

.....WED., JULY 21

AUGUST 3

.....WED., JULY 28

AUGUST 10

... WED., AUGUST 4

AUGUST 17

.. WED., AUGUST 11

AUGUST 24

.. WED., AUGUST 18

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE

And COLLECTORS NEWS

ZONE MAP

This zone map is a feature of *The Auction Exchange & Collectors News* and is designed to make it easier for you to locate events throughout the region.

You will find the Zone symbol following the city and state in the heading of each ad.

This symbol will correspond to the zone map shown here.

UPCOMING AUCTION CALENDAR

JANUARYFEBRUARYMARCHAPRILMAYJUNEJULYAUGUSTSEPTEMBEROCTOBERNOVEMBERDECEMBER

ZONE 2

Sat., Jul. 10, Wegner Auctioneers, RE, PP, Misc., Elberta, MI

ZONE 4

Sat., Jul. 10, Epic Auctions, Personal Property, Bangor, MI

Fri., Jul. 30, Stantons Auctioneers, Ammo, Gun, Misc., Hastings, MI

ZONE 5

Thu., Jul. 8, Belcher Auction Co., Estate, Jackson, MI

Thu., Jul. 8, Spieth & Satow, Gun, Coin, Tool, Coldwater, MI

Sat., Jul. 10, Furlo Auction Service, Estate, Midland, MI

Sat., Jul. 10, K&M Auction Service, Estate, Eagle, MI

Sat., Jul. 10, Mel White Auctioneer, Estate, Mason, MI

Sat., Jul. 10, White Star Auction, Boat, ATV, Misc., Bronson, MI

Fri., Jul. 16, Furlo Auction Service, Equipment, St. Charles, MI

Sat., Jul. 17, Furlo Auction Service, Commercial, Merrill, MI

Sat., Jul. 17, Mel White Auctioneer, Auto, Equip., Misc., Dimondale, MI

Sat., Jul. 17, Yutzy's Auction Service, Farm, Charlotte, MI

Sat., Jul. 24, Furlo Auction Service, Estate, Midland, MI

ZONE 12

Sat., Jul. 10, Bonnigson & Assoc Realty & Auctioneers, Farm Mach., Wauseon, OH

Sat., Jul. 10, Whalen Realty & Auction, Equip., Tool, HH, Napoleon, OH

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Collectors get a bang out of vintage fireworks

BY BARBARA MILLER BEEM

Peonies, chrysanthemums, dahlias. Snaps, poppers, spinners. Snakes, strobes, fountains. Who hasn't looked up into an otherwise dark sky and been enchanted by fireworks? Colorful, loud, but with a hint of danger, firework displays are the much-anticipated climax of many community Fourth of July celebrations, a tradition that dates to Philadelphia in 1777. These days, fireworks have also found their way into New Year's Eve, baseball games, and the grand opening of furniture stores. And then there are those who prefer their fireworks intact, never ignited: For them, the thrill is owning rare (and sometimes unique) vintage examples. Just ask Bob Gerau.

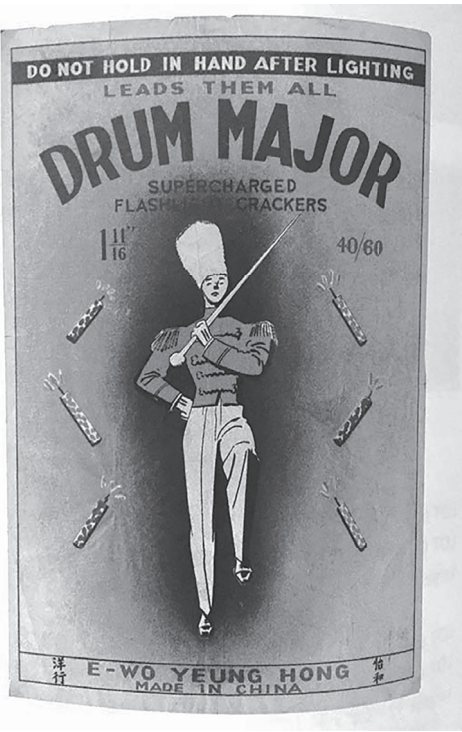
For decades, Gerau, a resident of Columbia, Mo., has been a major retailer of fireworks ("business is booming," he reported), the kind people shoot off in their backyards. Their vibrant colors first attracted him, he said. But sometime in the early 1960s, his business interest



Above: In near mint condition, this label was sure to get the wheels in a young boy's mind a-spinning. The 40-pack has not lost its magic, making more than \$4,000 (including buyer's premium) when sold at auction. Images courtesy of Morphy Auctions (morphyauctions.com)

took something of a detour when he decided to set aside some bricks (packs bundled into wholesale lots). His intention was to preserve for his grandchildren a legacy so that future generations

in air. Fast forward a few decades, when Gerau attended a convention of the Pyrotechnics Guild International (PGI). While



Above: Picnics, parades...and fireworks! But fireworks are popular among serious collectors year-round, not just on the Fourth of July.

might someday enjoy the excitement of simulated bombs bursting

there, he mentioned that he had stashed a few bricks aside for posterity. He was encouraged to bring them the following year because someone might be interested in them. It was the same story the following year, and the one after that. He really didn't have much hope for them, because they had

Right: When's the last time you heard someone say, "Gee whiz"?

cost him "not more than \$20 each." But the next year, he finally relented. And to his amazement, he went home with an extra \$1,800 in his pocket. Thus, this fireworks fan soon afterward became a serious collector. As he put it, "You don't have to hit me over the head with a two-by-four." Gerau began buying in earnest.

He's not alone. Although it's difficult to say how many people are active collectors of fireworks, he estimates they number in the hundreds, maybe more. Serious collectors are a tight knit group that buys, sells, and trades among themselves. He noted that collectors who live where



fireworks are prohibited focus on wrappers. For other aficionados, witnessing extravagant displays is enough. And when they're gone, well, they're gone.

Gerau explained that exactly when, where, and by whom fireworks were invented remains a mystery. But the "consensus of opinion" is that the formula for black powder was developed in China many hundreds of years ago. The formula was a

See Fireworks page 7



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DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV.CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
ZONE 2 MICHIGAN				
Sat., Jul. 10	10am	Wegner Auctioneers Elberta, MI	RE, PP, Misc.	3
ZONE 4 MICHIGAN				
Sat., Jul. 3	11am	Kendall Tobias Richland, MI	Antq., Coll., Misc.	3
Sat., Jul. 10	10:01am	Epic Auctions Bangor, MI	Personal Property	7
ZONE 5 MICHIGAN				
Thu., Jul. 8	11am	Belcher Auction Co. Jackson, MI	Estate	3
Thu., Jul. 8	4:30pm	Spieth & Satow Coldwater, MI	Gun, Coin, Tool	2
Sat., Jul. 10	11am	K&M Auction Eagle, MI	Estate	2

CATEGORIES		• Computer	• Firearm	• Industrial	• Office Equip.	• Sports
• Antique • Business/Commercial • Clock • Coin • Collectible	• Consignment	• Food	• Furniture	• Jewelry	• Personal Prop.	• Tag Sale
	• Doll	• Glass	• Household	• Lamp	• Pottery	• Tool
	• Equipment	• Government	• Musical	• Livestock	• Primitive	• Toy
	• Estate	• New Merchandise	• Real Estate	• Quilt	• Vehicles	
	• Farm					
DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY		TYPE	PAGE/SEC.	
ZONE 12 OHIO						
Sat., Jul. 10	10am	Whalen Realty	Napoleon, OH	Equip., Tool, HH	2	
ZONE WEB						
•	•	Pamela Rose	Online	Estate	10	
Tue., July 6	•	Repocast	Online	Const., Lawn Equip.	3	
•	•	Merritt	Online	Miscellaneous	3	
•	•	Leonards	Online	Toy, Antq., Coll.	12	
ZONE CALENDAR						
Every Wed.	5pm	Trading Place	Shipshewana, IN	Miscellaneous	12	



Fireworks

FROM PAGE 6

well-kept secret because it gave Chinese warriors “superiority over their enemies. People had never seen anything like it,” Gerau said. And, he added, “It scared their horses.” Over the years, saltpeter, charcoal, and sulphur were supplemented with aluminum or titanium, which resulted in more flash. Metal salts produce the colors. But the details of all of this, he said, “are lost to history.”

For years, he continued, fireworks are said to have been a cottage industry in China, one that involved the entire family: Dad made the

firecrackers, Mom braided them together, and the kids used a dab of glue to affix the labels. There was little uniformity in the process, resulting in a seemingly unlimited number of variations in packaging. As a result, “labels continue to show up that we’ve never seen before,” Gerau said.

Although there are pricing guidelines for fireworks, valuations are subjective, and determined collectors are often willing to pay whatever it takes to separate a rare example from its owner. In his own voluminous collection, Gerau said he has three packs that are worth over \$3,000 a piece, one of which is the only one known to

exist, and the other, one of five. Rarity is important in determining value, and the better the condition, the higher the price.

Collectors classify firecrackers into seven categories: Class 1 firecrackers were made in China or Hong Kong before 1950; Class 2, made in Portuguese Macau (1950-1954); Class 3, made in Macau and marked “ICC” (1955-1968); Class 4, made in Macau, marked “ICC,” and including “cautions” (1969-1972); Class 5, made in Macau or China with “DOT” and “cautions” (1973-1976); Class 6, made in China and marked with “DOT,” “50 mg” and “cautions” (1977-1994); and

Class 7, made in China with UN0336 1.4G” and “warnings” (1995-present).

Serious collectors are primarily interested in those from Classes 1 and 2, for which they pay serious money. Gerau points to a 2012 two-day auction at Morphy Auctions that netted nearly a half-million dollars in sales of vintage fireworks; even the catalog remains essential to collectors.

But there is room in this collecting category for beginners with a limited budget. Examples dating from the 1970s might sell for \$5 to \$10, although prices can easily slip into the hundred-dollar range. Although there is no right or wrong way to begin, a new collector might select a specific kind of graphic and focus on labels that are personally pleasing. Reproductions can be a problem for the untrained eye; one way to learn more is to join a collector’s club, of which there are a number.

The uninitiated would do well not to ask Gerau “Aren’t fireworks dangerous?” His standard answer is, “no more than a book of matches.” Neither, he pointed out, will spontaneously combust. “They’re not going to explode. They can lie there for eternity.”

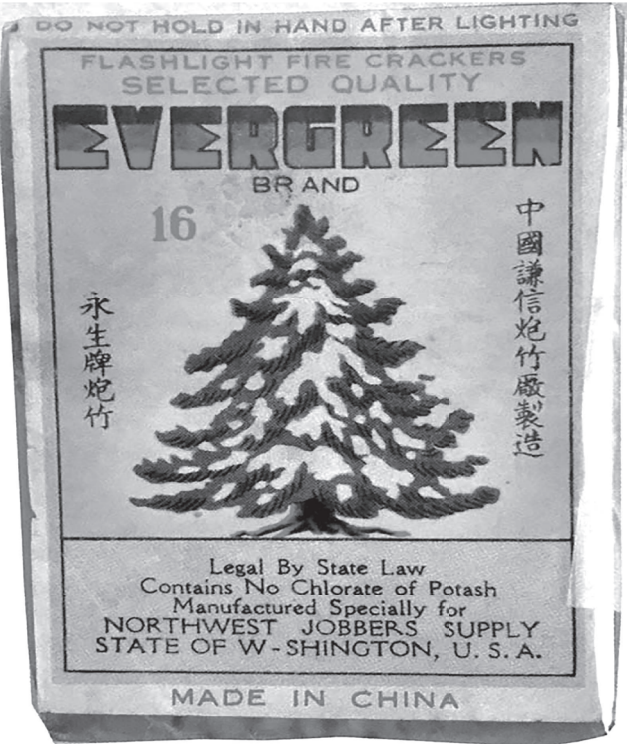
On the other hand, when asked why he collects fireworks, Gerau turns contemplative. “I have thought about that for years,” he said. He explains that when he was growing up, a child could go to a corner store with 13 cents in his pocket and purchase two nickel packs and three penny packs. That is, if that child was fortunate enough to have 13 cents. “I didn’t have a lot of money, and I was limited as to what I could buy.” Things have changed for him. “Now, I have millions of fireworks,” he concluded. “I’ve got them, and I’m not going to shoot them.”

Right: “Legal by state law” in the “state of W-shington,” reads this pre-1950 label. Collectors in states where fireworks are illegal can collect just the labels.

Right: “Warranted Highest Quality.” It’s uncertain how the China makers could be held to this bold statement. But due to its extreme rarity, this label is prized by collectors determined to own what no one else does.



Above: “America’s pastime” was used to catch the eye of young customers.



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* 1972 CORVETTE 454 STINGRAY * KOMATSU D20P BULLDOZER * 1973 FORD DUMP TRUCK
* 1986 FORD F250 FLOW TRUCK * (2) - 1987 HONDA BIG RED 3-WHEELERS *
* 1987 HONDA FOREMAN ATV * TOOLS * SHOP & WOOD WORKING TOOLS *
* ANTIQUES * FURNITURE * GLASSWARE * HOUSEHOLD ***

2003 BMW 525i sedan – loaded, manual transmission, disc changer; **1987 Honda Foreman ATV** – 4x4, front and rear racks; **(2) Honda Big Red 250ES 3-wheelers**; **1986 Ford F250** – 4x4, manual trans, gas engine, 96k miles, Western snow plow, regular cab – runs good; **Komatsu D20P dozer** – 6 way blade, 1927 hrs, ROPS, cab; **John Deere 1520 tractor** – 2wd, gas, 3 pt., PTO, 4500 hrs; **John Deere JHD500 backhoe** – was running a year ago; **Ford 5 ft. brush cutter**; **1972 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray** – 454, T tops, 72187 miles – condition unknown; **1973 Ford dump truck** – 24k GVW – non-running, rough **GUNS**: (2) Springfield 1864 black powder, Russian Mosin Nagant rifle marked 1927, Lee Enfield No 5 MK1 Jungle carbine, Steyr Mannlicher M.95 rifle. **TOOLS**: Central Machinery demo hammer, Circular saws, Central Machinery breaker hammer, 10” compound miter box, Grease guns, Transits, Chicago Industrial electric jackhammer, Taps, dies, drill bits, Levels, Torch sets, Torch hose and regulators, Craftsman band saw, Full range of hand tools – wrenches, hammers, screwdrivers, socket sets, etc., Assortment of Large pipe wrenches, Milwaukee rotary hammer, Makita rotary hammer, DeWALT 18v cordless drill, Bench vises, Porter Cable cordless set, Bench grinders, Paslode air nailer, Milwaukee circular saw, ¾ drive socket set, Small torch set, Carpet tools, (2) DeWALT compound miter box, Booster cables.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Victor Talking Machine Company Victrola, Crocks and Stoneware, Glass insulators, Ball Canning jars, Bay City Area Milk and Cream Bottles, Hummel Collector Plates, Dresser Boxes, Man on Horse Weather Vane, Mantel and Shelf Clocks, Pressed Steel Trucks, Victorian Greeting Cards, early almanacs, early Crayola crayons in box, postcards, costume jewelry, Lone Ranger pedometer toy, Depression Glass, Royal Haegar Pottery, kitchen primitives, hump-back trunk, Hull Pottery, primitive boxes, license plates, and more still to be uncovered!

SHOP EQUIPMENT: Generator set on cart with Briggs engine, Lincoln 295 amp welder, Sears drill press, Ram Machinery drill press, Atlas lathe and tooling, Delta 4x6 horizontal band saw, Small Craftsman air compressor, Tool chest with tools, Goodall booster starter, Ridgid pipe vise, Craftsman table saw, FMC tire balancer, Coats tire changer, Porter Cable air compressor, Buzz Rig.

GARAGE & SHOP ITEMS: Huge assortment of yard tools – rakes, shovels, brooms, etc., Log rollers, Ramps, Fiberglass extension ladders, Aluminum extension ladders, Fuel cans, Top links, drawbars, Floor jacks, Assorted fasteners, Motor oil, Electrical boxes, Assorted shoplights, Wire, Extension cords, 6’ fiberglass stepladder, Kerosene heater, Log chains, Clevises, Shop stools, Totes, Several fiberglass stepladders, 2 wheeled carts, Little Giant ladder, 100 gallon portable fuel tank, Well pumps, LP cylinders, Oil tank, Shop carts, Appliance dollies, Ridgid shop vac NIB, Tarps, Sawhorses.

SPORTING GOODS: Compound bow in case with arrows, Several Coleman lanterns, Crosman Co2 BB pistol, Bean bag set, Several live traps, Ammo boxes, Aluminum tree stand, SmokerCraft canoe, Fishing poles, Canoe paddles, SkiDoo snowmobile (older).

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT: Stihl MS 360 chain saw, Stihl weed whip, Stihl HT75 tree saw, (3) Stihl 028AV chain saw, (2) Stihl 024 chain saw, (3) Stihl 025 chain saw, Stihl 036 chain saw, Stihl 048 chain saw, Yard carts, Wheelbarrows.

Plastic barrels, Rake wheels, Anvil, Oars, Soda crates, (5) Large safes, Trampoline, (2) rolls of barbed wire.

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Uncle Sam

FROM FRONT PAGE

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Uncle Sam has always

been, next to Old Glory, the most recognizable symbol of American patriotism. Normally colored in red, white, and blue, Uncle Sam reminds all of us of what America should always represent—honesty and strength.

Many American companies manufactured Uncle Sam celluloid dolls and toys during the early part of the 20th century, but Viscoloid Company led all other manufacturers in this field.

Founded in 1901 by Bernard Doyle, Alexander Paton, and Paul Rie. Viscoloid began by using celluloid to manufacture ornamental hair combs. By 1914, as Europe entered World War I, Viscoloid began making celluloid dolls and toys. And by 1920, Viscoloid was America's leading manufacturer of celluloid toys, employing over 350 workers in its Wilmington, Del., plant.

In 1925, Viscoloid merged with The DuPont Company, becoming The DuPont Viscoloid Compa-

Left: Another Viscoloid Uncle Sam celluloid doll. This one has a red coat with blue vest and is priced at \$190.

ny. This company later, in the 1950s, hired Don Featherstone, whose claim to fame was designing the famous plastic pink flamingo yard ornaments that still grace American front lawns after more than 50 years.

A couple of the Viscoloid Uncle Sam toys worth searching for are the 7-inch celluloid Uncle Sam character that has been found wearing both a blue coat with red vest and a red coat with blue vest. Viscoloid's "Made in the USA" trademark is located on the back of these toys. In good condition, these Uncle Sam character dolls sell for \$190 or more. Viscoloid also manufactured a smaller, 5 ½-inch, Uncle Sam celluloid doll, which is also valued at \$190

Along with American manufacturers, many foreign companies manufactured celluloid Uncle Sam dolls with Germany and Japan leading the group.

Above: This roly-poly Uncle Sam was made in Germany and while its colors are off, his face is easily recognized. He is valued at \$125.

Left: 1890 Pepsin Gum celluloid pin back badge, showing Uncle Sam heading to Cuba for the Spanish American War. This pin is valued at \$58.

Uncle Sam's. In good condition, this celluloid toy costs about \$200 on the secondary market.

Julie Robinson's book, "Celluloid Dolls, Toys & Playthings" (Collector Books, 2006) is an invaluable resource book for Uncle Sam celluloid toy collectors, and it is a fun read for any collector.

Above: 1898 Celluloid Uncle Sam pin back button, advertising a carnival in Benton Harbor, Mich. This pin is valued at \$54.

Above: Democratic Party pin back button with Uncle Sam, made by the Torsch & Franz Company, circa 1904, that is valued at \$41.

Above: Celluloid Uncle Sam lapel pin with articulated arms, circa 1930s, that is 2 ½ inches tall and is valued at \$98.

Above: This World War I Liberty Doll could easily represent a young Uncle Sam with its striped pants and original 13-star American flag.



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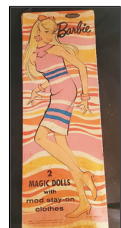
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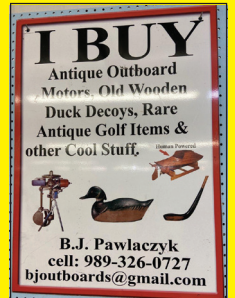


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