

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE[®] And COLLECTORS NEWS

\$150

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December 3, 2024

Vol. 48 No.01

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

1919 Rumely made tracks to \$170,000 at Kraft auction

BY KARIN MILLIMAN

VALPARAISO, Ind. — Kraft Auction Service held a huge four-day fall collector tractor and vehicle auction. Some of the rare items they offered for sale were amazing, and the prices were rolling into the high banking numbers.

It was a surprise when the top-selling vehicle wasn't a collector auto-

mobile. Instead, an old tractor took top honors. A 1919 Rumely Model E tractor number brought an impressive final bid of \$170,000. This 30.8-liter 2-cylinder engine tractor had a restoration completed by JK Tractor in 2017. This one had excellent original gearing throughout, and some of the original road pads could still be seen on the rear wheels. It started and drove as

Right: This 1919 Rumely was the top seller at the Kraft Auction Service four-day auction bringing in a bid of \$170,000.

one would expect a 1919 tractor to perform. This one had been restored to a dull black with faded red highlights, including the metal wheels adding to the vintage look. The Advance-Rumely Company produced these tractors from 1909 and sold them from 1910 to 1930. Most were heavy tractors powered by an internal combustion, magneto-fired engine. A second tractor of the same year and model was sold immediately after this one, bringing a respectable bid of \$117,500.

A 1912 Baker 26-horsepower traction engine was parade ready. A new welded



boiler from JS Boiler was installed in 2005, with two injectors. But it also had two whistles, including a Lunkenheimer

Mockingbird whistle to draw attention during a parade. The lugs and gearing showed very little wear, and the throttle valve was replaced

with a ball valve. The throttle handle was modified, but both bunkers held water and

See Kraft Page 4



Above: One of the hardest to find bells for bell collectors is this rare one made by the John Deere Plow Company. It sold for \$10,000.

FEATURE

Willie the penguin made smoking 'Kool' for this brand

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

Willie the Penguin became the animated mascot of Kool cigarettes in 1934; however, Willie evolved from a much more primitive penguin.

The Brown &

Williamson Corporation launched Penguin cigarettes in 1931. Penguin cigarettes were unfiltered 70-millimeter menthol cigarettes that featured a penguin with its beak raised as the cigarettes' mascot. Brown & Williamson changed their cigarette brand's name from Penguin to Kool in 1933. The penguin mascot was kept in order to create an aura of "coolness" and due to its popularity with younger smokers and children. The penguin remained unnamed and was simply

Left: Willie the Penguin, circa 1938, Kool bar and tabletop electric lighter. In working order, this electric cigarette lighter is valued at \$1,400.

called "the penguin."

In 1934, the Ted Bates Advertising Agency created Willie the Penguin as the Kool cigarette mascot by transforming the unnamed penguin and giving him a personality. During the 1930s, cartoonish mascots were popular, such as Kellogg's Snap, Crackle, & Pop, Buster Brown, and Campbell's Kids.

Kool used Willie's image on a number of collectible products, including ashtrays, wooden match holders, salt and pepper shakers, and even air-conditioning units. Willie the Penguin also had his own line of comic books when Standard Comics licensed Willie to appear in six comic issues; however, Standard Comics insisted that the



Above: Willie & Millie salt and pepper set, circa 1950s, with original box. This set is valued at \$30.

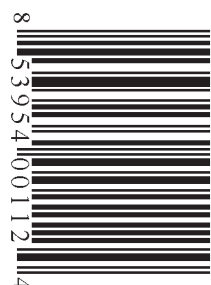
Kool cigarette brand be dropped from the comic books.

Like all good mascots, legends swirl around Willie. For instance, Willie & Millie plastic

salt and peppershakers are, arguably, the most popular of all Willie collectibles. The manufacturer of these salt and pepper shakers (F&F Mold and Die Works of

Dayton, Ohio) printed Willie's and Millie's names on the chest of each molded shaker. These figural salt and

See Willie Page 14



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

SEMI TRUCK & TRAILER ONLINE AUCTION

Tuesday, December 10 | Michigan 

TRUCKS

- 2020 Peterbilt 579
- 2015 Freightliner Cascadia
- 2014 Volvo VN
- 2014 Volvo VNL
- 2007 Freightliner Columbia
- 2006 Freightliner Columbia
- 2005 Peterbilt 379

TRAILERS

- 2016 PJ T/A Flatbed
- 2015 Wabash Enclosed
- 2014 Vanguard 53' Dry Van
- 2013 Hyundai 53' Dry Van
- 2012 Fontaine Composite Step Deck
- 2003 Transcraft Eagle 48' Flatbed
- 1998 Fontaine 50.5' Tri-Axle Step Deck
- 1989 Fontaine 52' Step Deck

Plus Much More



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DECEMBER ONLINE ESTATES & CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Bidding is Open!

PREVIEW OPEN DAILY MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

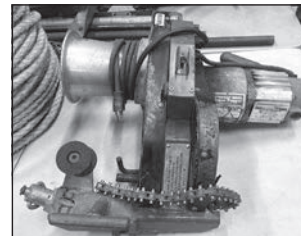
@ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: ROWLEY AUCTIONS, 124 S. LAKE PLEASANT RD.

(Just North of I-69, Exit #163)

ATTICA, MI 48412 

Online Auction Features - Pedal Tractors, Electrical Equipment, Jewelry, Primitives, Signs, Sterling, Antiques, Glassware & Pottery, Tools, Furniture, Blow Molds, Coins, Christmas, Collectibles, Sports Cards, Automotive, Plus Much More!



VISIT BIDONLINE.US FOR FULL CATALOG, TERMS & TO BID.

Closing Process Begins
Wednesday, Dec. 4 @ 8:00 PM

We have our regular online auctions ending on the first Wednesday of every month. Call for consignment details.

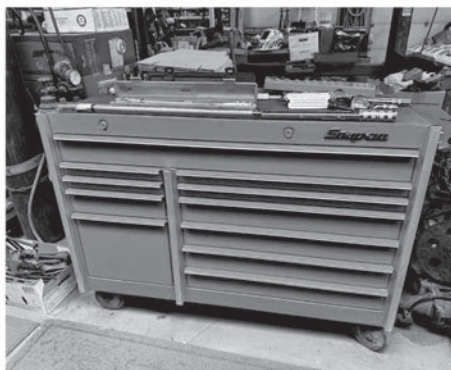
Rowley AUCTIONS
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www.RowleyAuctions.com

FORMER ASSETS OF PARKER & SONS GARAGE ONLINE AUCTION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 | WYOMING, MI 

The owner of Parker & Sons Garage has retired and sold his business.

Auction Highlights: This is a very exciting auction group that will include 100's of Snap-on Tools lots and a large assortment of garage related assets. Included in the sale but not limited to several large Snap-on Toolboxes, Snap-on scanners, Snap-on wrench and socket sets, 4-Post drive on Car Hoist, collectible car parts and engines, collectible motorcycle parts and engine, memorabilia, welders, air compressor, lawn mower, **Plus Much More.**



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ESTATE OF THE LATE TOM STRIEGLE ONLINE AUCTION

WED., DEC. 11 | WAYLAND, MICHIGAN 



- Ford 7710 tractor model FC415L
 - John Deere 2030A tractor with loader detachment
 - Kubota L2950GST 4WD diesel tractor
 - Ford 800 tractor
 - 2011 Dodge Ram 3500
 - 2008 Jeep Patriot
 - 1998 Claas Rollant 46 roto-cut round baler
 - Sundowner Trailer, 21', 3-slant horse trailer with living quarters
 - 2015 Shivers Manufacturing Country Clipper lawn mower
 - John Deere 160 lawn mower
 - Lincoln Electric arc welder
 - Power Craft 8" table saw
 - Speeco Split Master 28-ton log splitter
 - Attachments
 - Implements
 - Support Equipment
 - Gates and Fences
 - Farm Wagons
 - Tools
 - Ladders
 - Workbenches
- Plus Much More**



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Kraft

FROM PAGE 1

were tied together. It had a drawbar and an extra step at the rear of the platform for easier access. The engine operated at 150 psi and was last inspected in Kansas with a tag expiring in 2022. This one appeared less cumbersome with the narrower wheels. It was sold as it was, but the bidders didn't seem to mind that it might need some tender loving care. It brought a final bid price of \$95,000.

Some collector cars brought high bids. A 1903 Touring Car sold for \$69,000. This Stearns rear entrance Tonneau touring car was from the Nikodym collection. This 1903 Stearns is the oldest known surviving Stearns automobile out of about 130 known to exist. The E.C. Stearns company started out producing bicycles and hardware items. In 1900, the company decided to produce steam automobiles. This Stearns was the only known single-cylinder engine with a 6.5-inch bore and a 7.5-inch stroke. This made it the largest single-cylinder engine ever offered in an automobile. The transmission was a two-speed planetary with a chain drive to the rear end. In 1994, a restoration was completed on this car. This one sold with a clear title.

Selling for \$51,000 was a 1916 International Harvester 8-16 Mogul single-cylinder engine. This 16-horsepower engine was a planetary drive system both forward and reverse. It had a chain drive to the rear wheels. It was all original, and some of the original paint colors were still visible. The engine had been partial-



Above: Dating all the way back to 1912, this Baker 26-horsepower traction engine was sought after by many as it sold for an impressive bid of \$95,000.

ly taken apart, but all significant parts were believed to be accounted for. The original clutch pulley was still in place. The engine would spin freely but was not running. Part of the draw on this engine was that the original 2-bottom semi-mount plow and plow guide were included. It was sold as is whether for parts or to be restored.

A Fluted Hopper Aermotor Engine brought a bid price of \$10,000. This came from the Malleck collection. It was in beautiful original condition and came with a cart. It was not stuck and was a 5-horsepower.

A 1911 Root and VenDervoort 20-horsepower engine was sold. It is believed to be the only true 20-horsepower R&V engine in existence. It was a side-shaft engine with a flyball governor. The throttle-governed engine would fire with every compression stroke. It was sold on the original factory portable cart and had the correct clutch pulley. It had undergone a complete mechanical and cosmetic restoration and came with a tractor and horse-drawn hitch. It ran like it should and sold for \$36,000.

A 1919 Waterloo Boy 12-25 Model N was sold. With a two-cylinder engine powering it that had been completely overhauled, this one would make a great piece to put in a parade. It had chain steering with new ball gears and pinions. This running piece of history was a fantastic showpiece with a complete restoration behind it and the parade rubber on it. The amount you had to take out of your bank account for this piece was \$47,000.

Right behind the \$47,000 bid was a bid for \$45,000, which purchased a 1928 Velie 8-88 automobile. This exceptional Velie, one of just three known to exist, came from the Nikodym collection. The 8-88 was the top-of-the-line model offered by the Velie company in 1928. A 299 cubic-inch Lycoming straight-eight engine was under the hood to move it down the road. A three-speed Mechanics transmission went to a worm-drive rear end. The brakes were Lockheed four-wheel hydraulic brakes. This automobile also had a 125-inch wheelbase. The interior upholstery showed signs of breaking down, but the fabric was not torn.



Above: Revving up a bid of \$10,000, this fluted hopper animotor engine came with a cart on wheels.

A 1906 Moline Model G automobile from the Nikodym collection was offered for sale. It had a 16 horsepower, two-cylinder horizontally opposed engine with a bore and stroke of 4-3/4 x 5. A two-speed planetary transmission with a single chain drive to the rear axle drove it. This automobile was one of three of the two-cylinder

are known to exist today. This one runs and drives and did sell with a clear title. This piece of history that had traveled a lot was sold for \$34,000.

A dinner or school bell attracted a fair share of bidders. This one was made by the John Deere Plow Company and marked No. 4. The base measured almost 20 inches in diameter. The bell had wear from use

and age but was overall in decent condition. Very rarely is this one seen since very few were made. And of course, the fewer there are, the higher the selling price. This one brought the hammer down at an impressive \$10,000.

Kraft Auction Service offers both online and in-person auctions. For more information visit <https://kraftauctions.com>.



Above: The Velie cars had a short production run due to the death of the company's owner. This 1928 Velie sold for \$45,000.



Above: This automobile is believed to be one of only two 1906 Moline Model G cars left. It sold for \$34,000.



Above: This beautiful 1903 Stearns Touring car sold for \$69,000.

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➔ **DEADLINE IS TUESDAY AT 12 NOON**

----- Unless otherwise noted -----

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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

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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.

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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: Back cover ads are booked in advance by reservation - call for availability.

Deadlines/Sending Copy: Our deadline is 12 noon on the Tuesday before the issue date, (Tuesday). All material must be received by this time, including photographs. (*Call for holiday schedules.*) A 10% surcharge will be added to display advertising received Tuesday 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.

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

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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)
DEC. 10	TUES., DEC. 3
DEC. 17	TUES., DEC. 10
DEC. 24	TUES., DEC. 17
NO ISSUE DEC. 31, 2024	
JAN. 7	MON., DEC. 30
JAN. 14	TUES., JAN. 7
JAN. 21	TUES., JAN. 14
JAN. 28	TUES., JAN. 21
FEB. 4	TUES., JAN. 28



UPCOMING AUCTION CALENDAR

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

The Upcoming Auction Calendar is a listing of future Auctions beyond the current week.

Auctioneers: This service is provided at no charge. As with everything - we do our utmost to make sure that your Auction is listed in a timely and accurate fashion.

For our Readership: For more thorough listings contact the Auctioneer personally and tell them where you saw their ad!

ZONE 4

Sat., Dec. 7, Miedema Auctioneering, Equipment, Hudsonville, MI

Fri., Dec. 13, Stantons Auctioneers, Firearm, Hastings, MI

ZONE 5

Sat., Dec. 7, Wegner Auctioneers, Retirement, Moving, Auburn, MI

Sat., Dec. 7, White Star Auction, Powersports, Bronson, MI

Sat., Dec. 14, Boyne Valley Auctions, Tractor, Truck, Misc, Horton, MI

Sat., Dec. 14, Mel White Auctioneer, Farm, Owosso, MI

Sat., Dec. 14, Stantons Auctioneers, Farm, Equip., Misc., Williamston, MI

Sat., Jan. 4, Americana Auctions, New Year Auction, Grand Ledge, MI

ZONE 12

Sat., Dec. 7, Whalen Realty & Auction, Toy, Sales Brochures, Neapolis, OH

Fri., Dec. 27, Aaron Mast, 3 Day Miscellaneous, Middlefield, OH

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LIST YOUR UPCOMING AUCTIONS FREE!

Day	Date	Auction Company	Type of Auction	Town	State
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Our offices will be closed Dec. 23-Dec. 27

We will not be printing a paper dated Tues., Dec. 31st, therefore all New Year's Auctions must be advertised in our Dec. 24th issue.

The Deadline for the Dec. 24th issue will remain the same at Tues., Dec. 17th at noon

After the Dec. 24th issue, the next available issue will be Tues., Jan. 7th with an early deadline of Mon., Dec. 30 at noon.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE AUCTION EXCHANGE AND COLLECTORS NEWS STAFF!

WEEKLY Auction Calendar

The Weekly Auction Calendar is provided as a service for our Advertisers and Readers. We make every effort to ensure accuracy of the calendar but always refer to the complete Ad to verify the Calendar information. Unless specified by the Auctioneer in writing we reserve the right to designate the 'Type' of Auction listing. © INDICATES THE AD APPEARS IN SECTION 2 OF THE PAPER

DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
ZONE 4 MICHIGAN				
Sat., Dec. 7	10am	Merritt Auction Service Greenville, MI	Estate	11
Fri., Dec. 13	8am	Stantons Auctioneers Hastings, MI	Firearm	10
ZONE 5 MICHIGAN				
Dec. 13 & 14	•	Holler & Hammer Jackson, MI	General Store	16
Sat., Dec. 14	10am	Boyne Valley Horton, MI	Tractor, Tool, Misc.	7
Sat., Dec. 14	9:30am	Stantons Auctioneers Williamston, MI	Farm, Equip., Misc.	9
ZONE 6 MICHIGAN				
Sat., Dec. 7	10am	J.R.T. Thumb Auct. Goodells, MI	Equipment, Misc.	11
ZONE 12 OHIO				
Dec. 13 & 14	•	Whalen Neapolis, OH	Miscellaneous	2

DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
ZONE WEB				
•	•	Braun & Helmer	Online Vehicle	7
•	•	Kigar	Online Consignment	11
•	•	Pioneer	Online Estate	9
•	•	Rowley	Online Estate, Consignment	3
•	•	Wegner Auctioneers	Online Farm Toy	7
Sat., Dec. 7	8am	Cryderman	Online RE, Estate	2
Sat., Dec. 7	10am	Miedema	Online Miscellaneous	9
Tue., Dec. 10	•	Orbitbid	Online Tool, Garage, Misc.	3
Tue., Dec. 10	•	Repocast	Online Equipment	3
Wed., Dec. 11	•	Orbitbid	Online Equipment	3
Jan. 16 & 17	•	Pook & Pook	Online Miscellaneous	8
ZONE CALENDAR				
Every Wed.	9am	Shipshewana	Shipshewana, IN Antique., Misc.	9

Need to Contact Us?

Call: 1.888.339.3795 ext. 134

E-mail: info@eauctionexchange.com

Palmreuter On-Line Farm Toy Collectors Auction

Opens: Thursday, December 5th
Closes: Thursday, December 12

Register at HiBid.com zone web

Inspection & Open House: Wednesday, December 11 from 12-5 p.m.
Pickup: in Freeland, MI Limited Shipping available

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Over 400 Lots - Dealer Edition IH 74882+2 Boxed Tractors *ERTL Toys 1980's-2000's, many NIB *Toy Harvesting Equipment & Implements * Model Semis, Trucks & Cars * Custom Built Tractors & Equipment * Other Agricultural Collectibles * Monitor Website for Information & Images * A 10% Buyers Premium Applies to This Sale.

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AUCTION

Inventory reduction for Mike Aungst

Sat. Dec. 14th-10am

held 1 mile east of Moscow Rd. & US 12 corner
8105 Chicago Rd. (US 12 east of Moscow) Horton, MI 49246

Highlights include:
Tractors, Trucks, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Shop tools, misc. buildings

PHOTOS added daily as buildings and equipment are organized

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Bidding Starts: Thurs., Dec. 5th @ 9am zone web
Bidding Ends: Thurs., Dec. 12th @ 7pm - staggered soft close

In Person Preview will take place Wed., Dec. 4th - 10am to noon @ 3001 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI (Yellow Parking lot @ Wolverine Tower)

Pickup & Payment: Fri. & Sat., Dec. 13th & 14th from 9am -2pm
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For catalog with details visit: BraunandHelmer.com
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH & FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2025 AT 9AM



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HUDSONVILLE FALL 2024 LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, AT 10:00 AM

zone 4

HUDSONVILLE FAIRGROUNDS | 5235 40TH AVE, HUDSONVILLE, MI

Ring 1

- 2021 Bobcat T450 Rubber Track Skid Steer
- 2014 Bobcat T750 Rubber Track Skid Steer
 - 2012 John Deere 320E Skid Steer
- 2011 Case SR130 Skid Steer 2020 John Deere 35G Mini Excavator
 - 2017 Bobcat E26 Mini Excavator, Kubota diesel engine, leveling blade
 - New Stout 66-9 Brush Grapple, skid steer quick attach
 - New Stout HD72-8 Brush Grapple, skid steer quick attach
 - New JCT 72" Heavy Duty Skid Steer Brush Cutter
- New JCT Skid Steer Hydraulic Auger Drive & Bits (quick attach, 12" & 18" Alloy bits)
 - New JCT Skid Steer Backhoe Arm with 14" Bucket
 - New JCT 72" Skid Steer 4 and 1 Bucket
 - New JCT 72" Rock Bucket Grapple Skid Steer Attachment
 - New JCT 74" Heavy Duty Skid Steer Vibratory Roller
 - New JCT Skid Steer Rock Roller
 - New JCT Skid Steer Trencher
 - New JCT Heavy Duty Skid Steer Concrete Mixer
 - 2024 Fork Extension (2 qty.)
- 2024 Greatbear 78" Heavy Grass Fork Grapple. (2 qty.)
 - New Tomahawk 60" Snow/Mulch Bucket, skid steer quick attach
 - New Tomahawk 72" Snow/Mulch Bucket, skid steer quick attach
 - New Tomahawk 90" Snow/Mulch Bucket, skid steer quick attach
 - New Tomahawk Fork Frame, 2pcs 42" Forks Included
 - New Round Bale Hay Spear Frame, with 49" Spear
 - New Skid Steer Fork Frames
 - New 42" Forks
- New Quick Attach Plates, skid steer quick attach
- New Debris Bins, 4 cubic yard, forklift pockets
 - New Forklift Dump Hoppers
 - New Skid Steer Dump Hoppers
 - New Fork Extensions, 84"
- New Skid Steer Buckets with Blade, 78", skid steer quick attach
- New Skid Steer Buckets with Teeth, 66", skid steer quick attach
- New Brush Grapples, 76", single cylinder, skid steer quick attach
 - New Concrete Buckets, 3/4 yard, skid steer quick attach
- New Tree Booms, skid steer quick attach
- New Tree Spades, 40", skid steer quick attach
- New Root Rakes, 70", skid steer quick attach
- New Skid Steer Trailer Mover, skid steer quick attach
 - New Snow/Mulch Buckets, 84", skid steer quick attach
- New Snow Pushers, 8", skid steer quick attach
- SnoPro 8" Snow Blade Snow pusher

Cars/Trucks/Trailers

- 2007 Kenworth T300 Truck
- 2005 Kenworth T800 Truck
 - 2012 Ford F-550 4WD
- 2003 Ford F-550 Stakebed Truck
- 2013 GMC K3500 HD Service Truck
- 2025 Quality Steel Dump Trailer
 - 1993 Bison Livestock Trailer
 - 2-place snowmobile trailer
- Over 50 vehicles, trucks & trailers, Check website for updates

Tractors

- 2015 John Deere 6150M Tractor
- 2014 John Deere 4066R Tractor with Fisher 9' 6" XV2 stainless steel v-blade snowplow
- 2015 John Deere 4066R Tractor with Fisher 8' 6" Xtreme-V front snowplow blade
 - John Deere 4240 Tractor with 158 loader
 - Kubota M7040 Tractor W/ LA1153 Loader
 - Landini 8650F Orchard tractor

Farm Equipment

- Neubauer Automation Asparagus Line, Automated cutting, sorting and sizing to fresh pack asparagus
 - M-C 180-SB Stalk shredder, 15"
- Snow Pusher Box Blade, JD Loader quick attach
 - John Deere 1240- 4 row planter
 - John Deere 3-Bottom Plow
 - Blueberry fresh line blower (2 qty.)
 - 10' x 30" inspection conveyor

- 4' x 10" conveyor
- 14' x 18" wire belt conveyor
- Custom conveyor
- WECO Soft sorter
- Assorted roller conveyors (9 qty.)
- Big gun irrigation sprinklers
- Rain bird sprinklers. (100 qty.)
 - Webster valves with 18" galvanized nipple (400 qty.)
- Round bales pure Alfalfa hay, 4' x 5', appx 800Lb bales (22 qty.)
- Mira Fount waterers, double hole, rollaway ball closures. (2 qty.)
 - Towable PTO Generator
 - New Cattle Feeders
 - Cattle Gates
 - County Line Brush Hog, 5'
 - King Kutter Rototiller, 5'
 - MK Martin Snowblower, 6'
 - John Deere 714 Disc Chisel, 9-shank
 - Post Hole Digger, 3pt
 - New Holland Sperry manure spreader
 - Killbros 385 Gravity Wagon
 - Hay Wagon
 - John Deere 12" Disc
 - Disc, 8'
 - Demco Sprayer, 300-gallon, 30'
 - Fertilizer Spreader, 3pt
- **Lawn & Garden**
- Exmark 48" Quest Zero-Turn Mower, model QST22BE482
- 1967 Bolens Large Frame Tractor with 48" deck, 44" snowblower, spare tires, and (2) 50lb wheel weights.
- 1967 Bolens Large Frame Tractor with 48" deck, 52 snow blade.
 - 26 x 12 x 12 mounted Ag tires (2 qty.)
 - 26 x 12 x 12 mounted Turf tire.
 - Troy Bilt Horse Tiller
 - Troy Bilt Pony Tiller
- Truck Mount Snowplows & Salt Spreaders
 - Toro walk-behind snowblowers
- Landscaping – Trees/Fruit Trees, Shrubs, Bushes
- **Support Equipment**
- 2024 40' High Cube Four Multi doors Container. 4 Side Open Door, one
 - end door, lock box, side forklift pockets
- 2024 Gold Mountain Steel Carport, New light-duty model: M122009 (3 qty.)
- 2024 Gold Mountain Steel Carport, New light-duty model: M202010 (2 qty.)
- NEW 7' Red Work Bench with 10 Drawers & 2 Cabinets. 87" x 23" x 39" h (2 qty.)
- NEW 7' Blue Work Bench with 20 Drawers. 87" x 23" x 39" (2 qty.)
- NEW 7' Red Work Bench with 16 Drawers. 86" x 23" x 80"
- NEW 10' Red Work Bench with 25 Drawers. 112" x 26" x 39"
- NEW 10' Blue Work Bench with 25 Drawers. 112" x 26" x 39"
- NEW 10' STAINLESS STEEL Work Bench with 18 Drawers & 2 Cabinets. (2 qty.)
- 2024 Portable Metal Shed 10 x 20' (3 qty.)
- 2024 Portable Metal Shed 13 x 20' (2 qty.)
 - 2024 Greatbear Self Dumping Hopper, forklift pockets. (2 qty.)
 - 2024 Greatbear Safety Highway Cones, New Style. (250 qty.)
 - 2024 Greatbear 20' Bi-Parting Iron Gate With artwork "Deer" in the Middle of Gate Frame. (6 qty.)
 - 2024 Greatbear 14' Bi-Parting Iron Gate. With artwork "Deer" in the Middle of Gate Frame. (4 qty.)
 - 2024 Greatbear 14' Bi-Parting Iron Gate. With artwork "Ox in circular sector figure" in the Middle of Gate Frame. (4 qty.)
 - 2024 Bastone 110V Portable Toilets, Type A, Size: L1920 x W2160 x H2360mm.
 - Storage Shelter 203012P
 - Cattle Gates
 - Ingersoll Rand air compressor
 - Ingersoll Rand 80 gal 3 phase air compressor with air dryer
 - Wire belting. 16' x 24". 12' x 18"
 - New Harman PB105 Pellet Boiler
 - New Bosch GWH 425 Tankless Water Heater
 - North Star Generator w Honda 20 HP gas engine
 - New Welding/Shop Tables, 30" X 57", 5/16" top
 - Conveyors
 - 10R22.5 Tires & Rims

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FARM, LANDSCAPING & EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14, 2024 @ 9:30 AM

LOCATION: 3725 NORRIS ROAD.

WILLIAMSTON, MICHIGAN 48895

zone 5

Selling all of the equipment and small items for Sandalwood Farms and Go Green Landscaping including a Fendt Vario 716 Four-wheel Drive Tractor with front weights, cab and more, Massey Ferguson 1840 E Tractor with FLX2407 Front End Loader and FWA with only 303 hours. Also, a Three-Point Harley Rake, a number of Snowplows and Snowblowers, a quantity of Livestock Gates, Century Tandem Axle Crop Sprayer, Salt spreaders and De-icers, a Target Masonry Saw, a good group of smalls and other equipment. The list is presently being compiled; watch for updates. **10% buyer's premium charged on all items sold.**

For additional information, call Alec Kolenda (616) 560-0790.



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Pewter antiques have a silver lining

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

It's certainly no secret that pockets of traditional antiques have fallen out of favor. One category that's lost its luster is pewter — that's unfortunate, given the rich heritage of pewter making. Yet, the decline holds a silver lining; those who appreciate pewter can find wonderfully crafted pewterware, often inexpensively.

For centuries, pewter was a household staple, valued for its beauty and utility. It was used for everyday items like cups and plates, and decorative pieces like candlesticks and serving trays. Pewter's earliest known use dates back to ancient Egypt, where artifacts like small statues, jewelry, and containers have been found. In Ancient Rome, it was used for items like drinking vessels and oil lamps, which have been unearthed in ruins and tombs. By the Middle Ages, pewter was a popular material for making tableware, utensils, and tankards, with many examples discovered in castles and monasteries. These artifacts often feature detailed designs showcasing pewter's exceptional malleability.



Above: One of pewter's characteristics is its ability to hold fine details like those on this 20th-century candlestick (\$20).



Above: This ornate 19th-century teapot (\$29) showcases the evolution of pewter from purely functional to more decorative pieces.

Due to its low melting point and ease of manipulation, pewter remained a favored material with metalworkers until the mid-19th century. During the colonial era, pewter industries bloomed in Europe and the Americas producing everything from tableware to teapots. Skilled pewtering

guilds emerged, and regions like Sheffield, England, became celebrated centers of the pewter trade. At a time when the poor used wooden utensils, well-crafted pewter was a status symbol, often found in the homes of the wealthy. Archaeologists have found pewter objects in shipwrecks and across Europe's colonies, highlighting the material's significance in the daily lives of the upper classes.

Considered a practical, yet elegant alternative to silver, pewter's appeal continued into the Victorian era. By then, it had become less utilitarian, often used more for decorative objects like jewelry boxes, picture frames, and elaborate tea sets. By the 20th century, pewter was overshadowed by other metals like silver plate, and eventually stainless steel and

supplanted by the mass production of pottery and glassware. Still, pewter remained available, eventually becoming popular for commemorative merchandise and reproductions.

Pewter is an alloy, usually 85 to 90 percent tin. The remainder consists of other metals, including copper, antimony, and bismuth which enhance strength and/or workability. The specific composition varies depending on whether a piece is functional or decorative. Historically, pewter was also mixed with lead to make it more malleable, but that created an invisible problem. Lead is

toxic and can cause serious health problems with prolonged exposure. When found in everyday items like plates and mugs, it can leach into food or liquids, making them dangerous to consume. Centuries ago, many people, particularly sailors, suffered and even died from lead poisoning caused by prolonged use of pewter items. Around 1770, a new pewter alloy called 'Britannia' was developed, which was easy to work with, yet free of lead. Thankfully, modern pewter is typically lead-free, due to increased awareness of the health risks.

confused with pure tin, which is soft and lightweight. A quick comparison between a tin cup and a pewter one will point out the differences in weight and robustness. Pewter also differs from silver and silver plate. While some antique pewter included small amounts of silver to enhance its shine, true silver pieces are still much brighter and reflective. Silver-plated objects, made from base metals coated in silver, can wear over time, exposing the underlying metal — something that doesn't happen with pewter.

Pewter should not be

See Pewter Page 14



Above: This double-wick whale oil lamp (\$99) was crafted in the early 19th century by Massachusetts pewtersmith James Putnam.



Above: Objects like this pewter trinket box (\$22) were a familiar sight in the 1970s and '80s.

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ESTATE AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 9393 LINCOLN LAKE AVE.

DIRECTIONS: West of Greenville on M57 to Lincoln Lake Ave, South to Auction OR North of M44 on Lincoln Lake Rd.

GREENVILLE, MICHIGAN 48838 zone 4

Mr. Stearns was a retired detective with the Michigan State Police. He also bought, repaired and sold boats out of his house. 2-3 auctioneers selling. 10% BP.

1979 Allis Chalmers 5030 Compact Utility Tractor; 3 pt Scoop; 3 pt Boom Pole; 3 pt trailer hitch, 3 pt 6 ft Seeder/Aerator; Bad Boy Pro Series ADS 60 Zero Turn Mower; Club Car Gas Golf Cart, Lifted, Fold Down Rear Seat; Starcraft 18 ft Fishing Boat, Mercruiser 110, GPS; 20; Pontoon Trailer; Svl. Bimini Tops; other parts; Fishing Goods; Ruger .223 Competition Rifle; (2) Muzzleloaders; Winchester m. 1897 12 ga pump; Crescent 12 ga Dbl Brll; Shop Equipment; Power Tools; Woodworking Tools; Hand Tools; lanw & Garden Tools/Equipment; (2) Electrified Lighthouses; 2 Seater & Table Swing; Concrete Bear; 1995 Harley Davidson Wide Glide parts; (2) Santa Blow Molds; Nativity Blow Molds; Marantz Stereo; pr. JBL Speakers; (3) Vintage Motorcycle Helmets; MCM Amber Glass Lamps; T.V.'s; Yamaha Keyboard; Living Room, Dining room & Bedroom Furniture; Upright Freezer; Refrigerator; Washer & Dryer; Pool Table; Kitchen Goods; Office Furniture & Goods; (2) electric Mobility Carts; Patient Lift; Stand Assist transfer. (2) 48 ft Semi Trailers, used for storage, on wheels; 40 ft Storage Box; Tires; 15 x10 Hip Roof Storage Shed; Wood Trusses; (20) 10ft pcs Pole Barn Steel; Scrap Metal/Wire.



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ESTATE OF LLOYD STEARNS



ONLINE ONLY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

START TO CLOSE 6:00 P.M.

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Yoder Equipment, 14551 State Rt. 109, Lyons, OH

(Approx. 20 Miles West of Toledo, Just North of Rt. 20 on Rt. 109 OR Approx. 17 Miles South of Adrian, MI)

* VIEW EQUIPMENT: Saturday, December 7, 2024 ~ 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. *

FARMER 1 RETIREMENT - EXCELLENT LINE OF EQUIPMENT

1983 JD 4650 Cab, Quad Trans., 20x38 Duals, 3-Hyd, Wts, 5380 hrs., *Excellent*; 1982 JD 4240 Cab, Quad Trans, 18x38, 2-Hyd, 4035 Hrs, *Excellent*; 1987 JD 7720 Titan II 4WD, 30x32 Front, 16x26 Rear, 3400 Hrs, *Very Sharp*; 1991 JD 920 G.H.; JD 643 C.H., 2014 JD 2310 Mulch Soil Finisher, 21-ft 9-in w/Basket, *Like New*; Krause 4807 7x Disc Chisel; JD 7000 6x30 No-Till Planter, Dry Fert, *Sharp*; JD MX08 3-pt Chopper, *Like New*; Top Air TA 500 Sprayer 45 ft Boom; Case IH 720 5x16 Plow, New Mold Boards; (5) Killbros 350 Gravity Boxes w/10-Ton Gear, *Excellent*; Huskey Gravity Box; Clipper #2B Fanning Mill; Platform Scales; New JD Parts & Misc.; TeeJet Guidance System; Excellent Maintenance Program.

Owner: PAUL & JOSELYN CONRAD, METAMORA, OHIO

TRACTORS - SPRAYERS - CONSTRUCTION

2009 JD 7830 MFWD, Power Quad, Auto Steer, 18x46 Duals, 3 SEV., only 2350 hrs., *Excellent*; 1994 JD 4960 MFWD 20x42 Duals, 500 hrs. Major; 2005 NH TB 110 MFWD, 18x34 Dual Power, 1600 hrs., *Nice*; 2000 NH TN 55, 2300 hrs., *Nice*; 1999 CIH 9330, 4WD 18x38 Duals, PTO, 7000-hrs.; 1978 White 2-135 18x38 Duals, 5400 hrs., Rebuilt Trans.; 1970 Oliver 1955 18x38 Duals, 2950 hrs., original, *Nice*; Case 580C BH; 2021 Kubota SVL 97-2 Skid Ldr, 2200 hrs.; Case 1845C Skid Ldr, Cummins, 4000 hrs.; JD 762-B Scaper Pan; 2008 JD 4830 Sprayer, 90-ft Boom; 1000 Gal, 5800 hrs.; 1998 RoGator 854 4WD, 750 gal, 80-ft. Boom, 6200 hrs.; Terragator 1603T, Cat Eng., Dry Fert; JD 2600 Display-Auto-Selection Control; JD ATU 200

COMBINES - HEADS

1991 JD 9500, 30x32, 4600 hrs.; 1983 JD 7720 30x32, 3500 hrs.; JD 925 + 220 G.H.; JD 643 C.H.; CIH 1020 G.H. + 25 & 20 Header Carts; Brent 672 Grain Cart w/Scale

TILE EQUIPMENT - TREE EQUIPMENT

(3) Liebrecht Tile Carts; (5) Liebrecht Reel Spools; O'Connell 55, Parallel Link, Zero Pitch; Buckeye XL Trencher Boot; Gorman Rupp 663-A PTO Irrigation Pump; (3) 5-in. 30-ft. Pipe; New Milwaukee 2580-20 Pipeline Locator; Commercial Timberwolve TC-10 Log Splitter; Vermeer SC 802 Stump Grinder 2014 Atlas Copco 185 CFM; Air Compressor; Cat eng.

ANTIQUA TRACTORS - LAWN MOWERS - SNOWMOBILE - GATOR

Ferg 30 w/Ferg 2x Plow, Restored; 1954 Int Super D9, Restored; 1952 Int Super W6, Restored; 1952 MH Pony w/Blade; Restored; Int 560 G Parts; Int Super C, Needs Repair; Ford 9N Needs Repair; AC C w/Mower, Needs Repair; Cub Low Boy 185 w/Mower; Grasshopper 721 D w/Power Vac; Grasshopper 227; Scag V-Rde; (2) Simplicity Regent 18-hp; JD 400 Snowmobile; Rebuilt; 8-ft Snowmobile Trailer; 2020 XUV 865R Gator Cab, air 300 hrs, *Like New*.

TRUCKS - TRAILERS - GRAIN ITEMS

2013 Volvo D-11, Auto Trans, Single Axle, Sharp; 2013 KW T-660, Auto Trans, Tandem, 450-hp, *Nice*; 2007 Ford F350 dually 6 D, Toolbox w/5th Wheel; 2006 Chevy 7500, Cat eng, Dump, Single Axle; 2005 MAC 613 Tandem, 448,000 Miles; 2002 GMC 2500 D, 4WD, 8-ft Flat Bed; 2000 Volvo Quad Axle Dump; 1985 Ford 9000 D, Single Axle, Cummins 10-sp; 1987 Chev C-70 10-ft. Dump Detroit; 1984 Int S-1900, D-466 Eng, 20-ft, Tandem, Bad Trans; 2022 Jet 26-ft. Hopper Bottom, Tandem; 2014 Timpfe Ag Hopper 42-ft; 1989 Talbert 30-ton Detach Tandem; 2007 PJ 30-ft Trailer; 1975 Dorsey 40-ft Double Drop Trailer; Homemade 18-ft Hyd Tilt Trailer; 1977 East 5-Axle, 32-ft Dump; Super B Dryer 400-bu. LP; J & M 750 Grain Cart; 1000-bu. Wet Bin; Hutchinson 50-ft 8-in Auger; Hutchinson Jump Conveyor 10-in Belt; Hutchinson 52x8 Auger; AgriFlow Grain Spreader;

EQUIPMENT

2018 JD 2230 F. Cult. 44-ft 6-in, w/Basket, Trueset, *Excellent*; (2) Dominator 4850 11+5 Shank Deep Rippers; Landoll 875 Soil Finisher 15-ft.; JD 750 No-till Drill, 15-ft. Dolly; JD 7000 6x30 No-till Planter, Liquid Fert.; Hardee LR 50160 Ditchbank Mower, Long Reach; (2) Glencoe 9+5 Shank Soil Savers; 3-Section Spring Tooth; NH 328 Manure Spreader; JD 1408 15-ft. Chopper; Hardee 3-pt, 50-gal. Sprayer, 8-ft. Boom; Glencoe 10-ft. F.C.; Int 510 11X17 Drill; Donahue 8-ft Front Blade; Kelley 50 3-pt Backhoe; Int. 470 15-ft. Disc; 2022 CIH LB 334XL Square Baler; JD 336 Baler; JD 450 M Round Baler, Net Wrap; Bush Hog 15-ft. Batwing Chopper; JD 724 20-ft. Soil Finisher; UM 225 20-ft. Rolling Harrow, *Like New*; Wilmar 16 Ton Tender Box w/Auger; Parker Weigh Cart; JD 1770 16 Seed Units w/Precision; JD R240 Disc Mower; Kongskilde 8250 F.C. 43-ft., *Nice*; Gehl 970 Tandem 3 Beater Forage Wagon; (3) 1000-gal. Nurse Tanks w/Pump; Brent CPC 2000 7x Disc Ripper; Twin Head Multivator 22-in; JD 1008 Chopper; Flat Bed Wagon

MISCELLANEOUS

C7 Unused Items: Heavy Duty Power System HD 10,000 Task Force Pro 4x1, Heavy Duty Plasma Cutter Cat 40-M, Welder Smig-120GG, HDG 9000 E Gen. Tri-Fuel, Honda AD 651 Air Compressor; Pittsburg 1-ton Cherry Picker; (8) 50x480 Tires; (5) 34x420 tires; Duals; Various Size Tires; (2) Heavy Duty Band Saws; (3) Yale Electric Pallet Jacks; A-Frame w/Chainfall; Transfer Pumps; Manure Forks for Skid Ldr.; JD 5-ft. Grapple; JD & Int Front & Rear Weights; Grain Tester; Trailer Sides & Tarp; Auger Mate; 1000-gal. Fuel Tank w/Pump; Advance A-134 Floor Sweeper;

Partial listing, more items being added daily! All Local Farmers!

To view Sale, lot by lot, with terms, photos, descriptions and more, please visit www.kigarauction.hibid.com

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LIVE! PUBLIC AUCTION Sat., December 7, 2024 St. Clair County Sale Starts at 10:00 A.M.

8245 Lapeer Rd, Goodells, MI 48027 zone 6

Auction located at the St. Clair County Park, Goodells, MI: From Detroit take I-94 East to Pt. Huron then I-69 West 12 miles to Exit 189 Wales Center Rd go North to Lapeer Rd (M-21) and then East 1 1/4 miles to New Park entrance.

INSPECTION DAY OF SALE Starting at 12:30 PM vehicles & equipment will be simulcast on line at: jrtauctions.hibid.com



ST. CLAIR COUNTY SHERIFF AND OTHERS-2016 Ford Transit 350, 3.7 L. AT pass. Van, white, 2021 Dodge Charger, AWD, 2018 Ford Explorer AWD, 3.7L Grp,4 dr, flex fuel, cloth interior, blk, 2010 Chevy Tahoe, 2wd, white, 2018 Dodge Grand Caravan, white, Blue Max twin tank portable air compressor, Billy Goat blower, 8 hp, 2) John Deere 47" snow blower w/ shafts, John Deere tractor forks, MTD walk behind snow blower, Turf tires, DTF: 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe K1500 Hybrid, 6.0 engine, 4wd, maroon, 2007 Chevy Impala, 4 dr, charcoal gray, 2002 Ford Pickup, ext. cab, 2wd, black, PARKS & REC: 2013 GMC Sierra 2500, 4 wd pickup 8' box, 8'2" power V-Boss plow & TGS 600 rear salt spreader, Fischer stainless steel, 9' snow plow, Landscape trailer, tandem axle w/drop gate, 16' Land Pride 3 pt. landscape finish tool, 1991 Ford F700 grain truck, 429 V-8 gas 5 spd, man, airbrakes, PTO has 14' x 50" height dump box, w/ Midwest cover, 2004 Terry 16' camper trailer, has queen bed in front, power jack, bunk house, 2003 Suzuki MC, black, 2004 GMC Sierra V-8, 4x4 runs and drives good, 2005 Club Car gas runs good, Komatsu D68P lg. dozer, 12 ft blade, 37-1/2" wide track pads, \$5,000 worth of new parts, track pads & blade parts, shows 3650 hrs.-located at 3380 Keewahdin Rd, Ft. Gratiot, MI, DIVE TEAM ITEMS, LIBRARY ITEMS: chairs file cabinets, desks, WEST BLOOMFIELD: 2009 Ford Explorer 4 X 4, burnt orange, 2018 Dodge Charger, AWD, damaged front end, 2018 Dodge Charger, V-8 Hemmi, AWD, 2016 Ford Explorer, 2009 FORD F150 4WD pickup 8' box, WeatherGuard side & across the bed, alum. Tool boxes, 2) 2014 Ford Focus (L & Reverse only), John Deere X475 garden tractor, Hydro stat, 62" edge mower deck w/51" front quick hitch broom, (blown motor, Estate of Cole Lashbrook: CAT 320L excavator, 1995 Ford F250 4wd, pickup, 5.8 L V-8 A/T, lock out hubs, Meyers pump 8' Western snow plow, ladder racks, (no brakes-line rusted out) TERMS OF SALE: are CASH DAY OF SALE. or CERTIFIED FUNDS. NOTE: 10% Buyers Premium and 6% Mi Sales Tax.

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Willie

FROM PAGE 14

peppershakers were a mail-order premium for Kool cigarettes. For 25 cents and two Kool package wrappers, Kool would mail a set to anyone.

Willie was something of a plain penguin with a black bow tie and top hat, but Millie came from a whole different mold. She was one “Kool” woman with dreamy bedroom eyes and painted lashes. She appeared ready for anything with a big red bow on her head and red beads around her neck.

Another area of Willie collectables is found in old advertising posters. Kool wanted its cigarettes to be popular with men, so in the 1930s Willie started appearing in all types of masculine activities, such as fishing, golfing, sledding, sailing a boat, and participating, wearing a little jockey cap, in the 1936 Kentucky Derby. In one ad, Willie is seen floating down a river in a bright red lifesaver, suggesting that Kool ciga-



Above: Glass ashtray, circa 1950s, depicting Willie the Penguin advertising Kool cigarettes. This ashtray is valued at \$30.

rettes are “as refreshing as a dip in the ocean.” Most of these poster ads depict Willie smoking or holding a Kool cigarette.

While Willie’s name was not mentioned in the earliest Kool advertising posters, by the late 1930s the posters called Willie by name. As his popularity soared, Millie was added to the fun and excitement depicted in the posters so women

were sure to get the message that Kool cigarettes were for “Kool” women.

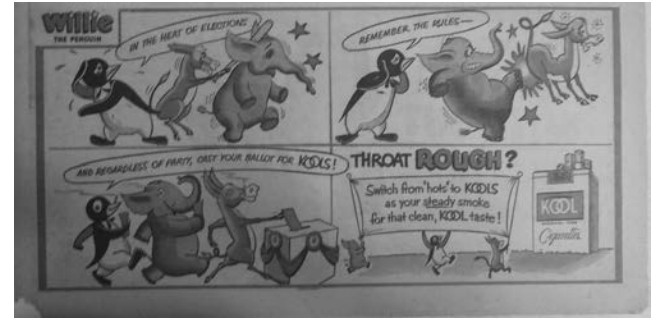
Even as cigarette smokers have dropped in number, collectors of cigarette memorabilia have grown. Today, there are several different types of cigarette collectibles, but

Right: Millie & Willie black with white tone brooch pins. Circa 1958 valued at \$20 each.



Above: Willie the Penguin cigarette lighter, circa 1960, that is valued at \$300.

as Willie the Penguin collectors have discovered, Willie is the “Kooolest” cigarette item to collect.



Above: Kool cigarette ad at the height of elections in the 1950s. Willie knew how to keep Democrats and Republicans Kool. This cute ad is valued at \$20.

Pewter

FROM PAGE 10

Beyond its physical traits, antique pewter pieces hold a fascinating history, often traced through makers’ marks (touch marks) left by craftsmen. Before the 19th century, most pewter was made by artisans working in small local shops. As early as the 1500s, makers began stamping or engraving marks to identify their work. Touch marks can not only identify the artisan, but the location and era in which a piece was made.

Among the many artisans, some stand out for their contributions to the trade. Thomas Williams, an 18th-century English pewtersmith, gained fame for his finely crafted tableware and flatware.



Above: This collapsible cup was commemorative produced for the Philadelphia 1876 Centennial Exhibition. A complete set, with its pewter case sold for \$400 at auction.

His business eventually became A.E. Williams, a company that remains in operation today. Williams’ pieces are highly collectible and in great demand. Similarly, James Yates, a British pewterer from the mid-1800s, was known for his distinctive mugs and tankards, which are frequently found at auctions and online.

Many European pewter makers emigrated to the Americas in the 18th century, gaining prominence there. One of them was William Will, a prolific pewterer known for tankards and teapots. Will emigrated from Germany around 1750, eventually opening a shop in Philadelphia. Another, Simon Edgell, trained in pewter and brass work in England before emigrating to North America around 1710, also settling in Philadelphia. Many of

his pieces are found today in museums.

What began as an imported craft evolved into a thriving homegrown industry in the American colonies. By the mid-1600s, pewter was being made in most colonies, although many early colonial pewtersmiths didn’t leave marks on their work. By the 1700s, the industry was flourishing. In 1755, for example, Thomas Danforth opened a pewter workshop in Connecticut, specializing in household goods. His business later evolved into today’s Danforth®, a company that produces everything from barware to decorative items. Pennsylvania, known for its immigrant pewter smiths, also became a hotbed for homegrown talent. Among the local artisans was Parks Boyd, who worked in Philadelphia from the late 1700s to early 1800s. Boyd’s covered dishes, bowls, and tankards are now highly collectible and frequently appear at auction.

In addition to renowned individual craftsmen, larger pewter-making enterprises emerged that, while operating on a larger scale, nonetheless manufactured high-quality products. One example is James Dixon & Sons, which formed in Sheffield around 1800 and lasted until 1976. Another Sheffield maker, Fenton Brothers, was founded in 1850 and not only manufactured pewter but sterling silver and silver-plated items. The company survived until the outbreak of World War II. In America, numerous com-



Above: A set of three vintage English pewter tankards was available for just \$25.

panies formed particularly in the industrial northeast, including Connecticut’s Meriden Britannia Company. It opened in 1852, eventually becoming part of the larger International Silver Company, which lasted into the 1980s.

Because of its heritage, the market for collectible pewter remained strong through the 1980s, especially for 18th and 19th-century pieces. However, by the 1990s, interest waned as vintage trends shifted toward mid-century modern. Today, you can easily find old pewter languishing in nearly all the typical haunts. Antique dealers often note a lack of demand, and estate sales often offer well-maintained pewter collections from families uninterested in it. Thrift stores can be particularly fruitful because staff are typically ignorant of pewter’s significance. Old pieces are often mixed in with cheap metalware or kitchen goods. In short, it’s relatively easy to find beautiful, well-made pewter pieces at a fraction of their former price.

While the pewter mar-

ket has softened, there are still exceptional pieces that can fetch commensurate prices. Items from the early 18th century — especially British export pewter with identifiable marks and American colonial-era pewterware — remain highly prized by collectors of primitives and traditional antiques. As with any historical collectible, fakes and forgeries do exist, so it’s wise to buy top-grade pieces through reputable dealers who vet their merchandise. Of course, for the knowledgeable and dedicated antique hunter, there’s always the possibility of discovering a hidden treasure among everyday items at a show or shop.

Beyond rarity and age, items in excellent condition, free from dents or damage, are generally more valuable than those that show wear. However, today’s collectors are more driven by personal interest and enjoyment than financial value. Many are drawn to the warmth, beauty, and history of pewter pieces, rather than their potential resale value.

Remember to exercise

caution with older pieces. As mentioned above, antique pewter often contains lead, which can pose a health hazard if used for dining. Lead was removed from English pewter in 1974, and by the 1980s, most U.S. manufacturers followed suit, making lead-free pewter the industry standard. However, if you’re unsure of a piece’s age or composition, it’s best to treat it as decorative rather than put it into functional use.

Considering the current market, there’s no better time to dive into antique pewter, as the prices for well-made pieces are within reach. Whether from the 1750s or 1950s, good pewterware is being passed by, despite the fine craftsmanship and unique beauty. Now is a perfect opportunity to start or add to a collection before old pewter becomes sought after once again.

If you are interested in learning more about collectible pewter, a good resource is The Pewter Society: www.pewtersociety.org

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