

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE[®] And COLLECTORS NEWS

\$150

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December 17, 2024

Vol. 48 No.03

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Rifle arcade game scored \$319,800 at Morphy



The event's highest bid went to an exceedingly-rare 1905 Ray-O-Lite arcade game which sold for \$319,800.



BY WILLIAM FLOOD

LAS VEGAS — Held Dec. 5-7 in Las Vegas, Morphy Auctions hosted a major coin-op and advertising auction with over 1,200 lots. Offerings from collections and individual consignors went well beyond vending machines and arcade games, spanning 30+ categories.

Kicking off Thursday were 460 lots, including vintage jukeboxes, signs, and exceptional arcade, barbershop, carnival, and coin-op items. The day's high of \$28,905 went for an Auto-Photo Model 14 photo booth in very good condition. Designed in 1958 and manufactured until 1974, only a few dozen remain. This later example came complete with original signage.

A \$27,060 bid secured

a double-sided porcelain mortar & pestle drug-store sign. Circa 1910, it was emblazoned "Drugs & Soda" and carried its maker's mark, "Federal System Electric KC, MO." The very-good condition sign had been rewired and showed minimal loss, damage, and rust. Close behind, at \$24,600, was a 1950s double-sided porcelain Dog N Suds sign. The working five-color neon sign was in very good shape, showing light porcelain loss, scratching, and rust.

Eighteen additional lots topped \$10,000, including a 5¢ Mills Novelty Co. Violano Virtuoso music player, hitting \$20,910. Invented by Henry K. Sandell in 1912, it featured a keyboard and viola that played from perforated music rolls. Only 4,000-5,000 were made. This



Above: A fully working Dog N Suds neon sign landed \$24,600.

1915 unit had a deeply-finished quarter oak cabinet with four-panel front glass dividers, original brass hardware, and interior lighting. The working unit was in very good condition, rewired,

recently tuned, and came with several rolls, plus the ability to play via wireless MIDI.

Bidding reached \$17,220 for a 1¢ Mlle.

See Morphy Page 4

FEATURE

Dent made cast-iron toy vehicles that withstood play

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

It has been said that cast iron was to manufacturing in the 1800s what plastics has been to manufacturing in the 20th and 21st centuries. Almost everything in the

mid- to late-19th century was manufactured using cast iron.

Archeologists believe cast iron was produced in China in the 5th or 6th century BC where it was used for weapons, but it would be almost 2,000 years before it was pro-

duced sporadically throughout Europe in the 14th century AD. By the 1500s, it was being used in England, and the first ironworks to produce cast iron in America was in Jamestown, Va., around 1619.

Cast iron is made from pig iron, which is produced by melting iron ore in a blast furnace. Cast iron is produced when quantities of iron, steel, limestone, coke (carbon), and pig iron are melted together and the impurities are removed. The ingredients of cast iron are considered cheap, making cast iron an inexpensive way of producing items.

Cast iron is brittle, but it is ideal for mass-producing almost anything where molds are used



Above: Large cast iron "Hook and Ladder" truck by Dent Hardware Company. This "Made in USA" truck, circa 1910, is in excellent condition for its age, over 27 inches long, and has two of the original firemen.

since molten cast iron may be poured into a mold and allowed to cool; thereby, forming an identical cast of whatever the mold was.

America was rich in iron ore, so cast iron quickly became the preferred way of producing needed items, and the three areas that profited most from cast iron production were farming

tools, household skillets and kitchenware, and toys. From roughly 1880 until 1935, cast iron toys dominated the toy market in America.

Today, collectors search for many of the cast iron toys made in the 19th and 20th centuries. One company that nearly all toy truck collectors search for is Dent, a company that specialized in

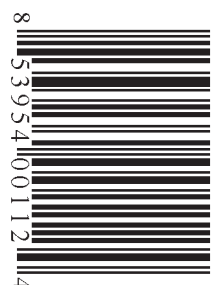
cast iron toy trucks.

Henry H. Dent (along with Mr. Kaiser and Mr. Newhard) founded Dent Hardware Company, in Newark, N.J., in 1894, and by 1895 the company had moved to Fullerton, Pa. Dent Hardware specialized in brass refrigerator hardware and refrigerator appliances.

See Dent Page 8



This Dent cast iron "School Bus" is original and is valued at \$400.



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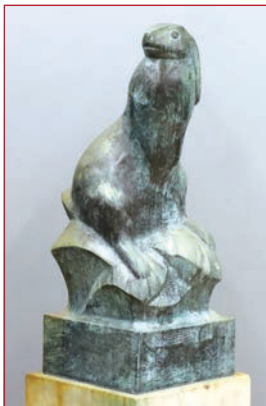
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New Year's Day Gallery Auction

WED., JAN. 1st, 2025, Starts at 11:00 AM

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Large Wooden Hardware Store Sign

Preview More Items on AuctionZip.com - Auctioneer ID # 1945

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LOCATION: 124 S. LAKE PLEASANT RD.

ATTICA, MI 48412 zone web

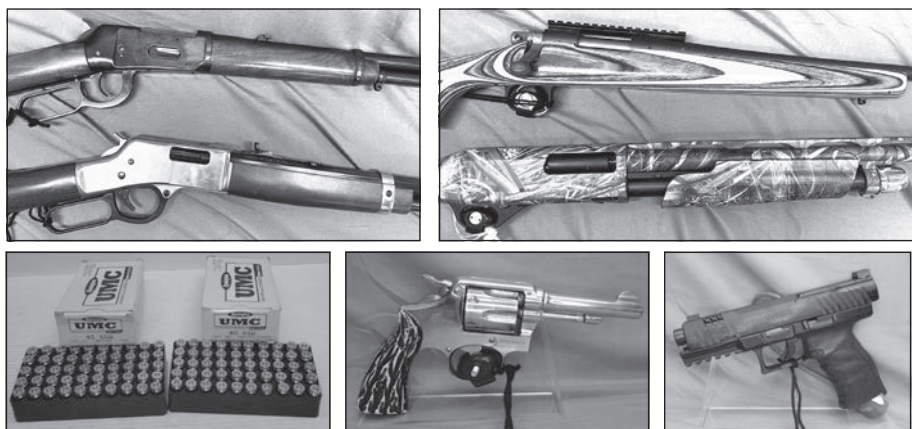
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Morphy

FROM PAGE 1

“Zita Tells Your Fortune” arcade machine by Gorsky Recreation. The floor model featured Madam Zita, who dispensed a fortune card when the handle was cranked. It was in good condition, with keys. Then came an unusual circa 1930 clown-sized delivery truck. It was made by Rebel Corporation of Berwick, Pa., and painted for Divco Dairy in St. Louis. The good-condition truck retained its original gas engine, green paint, and Divco advertising. It rolled off for \$14,760.

On Friday came 264



Above: Over 30 bumper cars were offered, selling from \$160 for a standard model in fair condition to \$2,460 for a restored Lusse Auto Scooter. This unrestored Lusse hit \$1,536.



Above: Selling for \$172,200 was a 1930 Cadillac Anheuser-Busch “Bevo Boat.” It advertised Bevo non-alcoholic beer.

lots, including more signs, barbacks, fire and police collectibles, kiddie rides, and classic vehicles. One of the most unusual items, hitting the session’s high of \$172,200, was a 1930

Cadillac Anheuser-Busch “Bevo Boat.” Eight of these inboard-styled cruisers built on automobile chassis were made. Named “Bevo” after the non-alcoholic beer, they traveled the country to promote the brand. They sported leather upholstery, thick carpet, and fine wood trim. This cruiser, restored for the 2004 St. Louis Exposition, was the only known survivor from the original fleet. It had provenance to a brewery sales manager who purchased the vehicle upon retiring in 1960.

The Bevo Boat was followed by other vehicles including a 1927 Ahrens-Fox Model MX-4 triple-comb pumping fire truck. The fully-restored, museum-quality engine, painted for the Bristol Fire Dept and outfitted with all the engine’s original gear, sold for \$129,150. A 1960 Volkswagen Type 2 Westfalia conversion camper bus pulled \$49,200. Restored for the 2004 St. Louis Exposition, it had 6,598 miles, and featured original equipment, including birch plywood interior, foldout seats, door table, and top carrier.

Seventeen other items exceeded \$10,000. A child-size traveling carnival carousel by Allen Herschell went for \$29,520. The fully restored, operational ride had a link-belt motorized drive, mirrored wooden interior, 20 horses, and two benches. And, a beautiful 1920s mahogany bar-

back with a marble top and stained glass reached \$21,525. The 103-inch by 118-inch bar was in very good condition, with all its original metal hardware.

On the final day, 553 lots of general store items, coin-op games, gumball machines, jukeboxes, slot machines, and collectible signs were auctioned. Saturday’s highest bid, and the top bid of the entire event, went to a rare Automatic Target Machine Company “Ray-O-Lite” rifle arcade game, which sold for \$319,800. The circa 1905 machine featured a variety of unique targets. Originally battery-operated, the model fell out of favor when AC current became more common. This one had an AC revamp from the 1920s. In all-original working condition, the machine was extremely rare and possibly the only known survivor with its original target cabinet.

While not six figures, a still-impressive \$51,660 picked up a 43-inch-tall corner drug store leaded glass mortar and pestle light. The circa 1910s commercial light wore “Corner Drug Store” in ruby-red stained glass around the top and “Cigars” and “Prescriptions scrolled around the bottom. The body was clean and all glass panels and glass jewels retained strong color. It was lit internally by a fluorescent bulb attached to a modern power cord.

Seventeen of the day’s offerings also broke the \$10,000 mark, including a refurbished 5¢ Caille Eclipse upright slot machine with keys that pulled \$20,910. The circa 1905 machine by Caille Brothers of Detroit was housed in an oak cabinet with ornate copper-flashed cherub, claw legs, and trim. Restoration included replacing castings on the coin head, a refurbished mechanism, and a new back door.

An exceptional ceramic Coca-Cola dispenser, complete with its lid and original spigot, proved

popular, grabbing \$17,220. Made by the Wheeling Pottery Company around 1896, the model was the first to serve the now-iconic beverage. It was in superior condition, with bowls still gleaming bright white, with only a glint of browning from the syrup. The base still

displayed the words “Delicious and Exhilarating” and “Refreshing and Invigorating,” along with vivid red and gold scrollwork.

For information on Morphy’s upcoming sales, visit: morphyauctions.com



\$20,910 was paid for a refurbished 5¢ Caille Eclipse upright.



Above: Mini delivery trucks, like this one for Divco Dairy, were often driven in parades to advertise a company’s brand. It was picked up for \$14,760



Above: A dozen fortune teller machines were available, selling from \$338 for a 1¢ scale type to \$17,220 for this Madam Zita machine.

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Multiple areas have reported late deliveries for the week of 11/12/24.

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While we agree that the physical copy of the paper is the top priority, we do want to remind everyone that in the event your paper does not arrive by the issue date, the current issue is available to view on the website www.EAuctionExchange.com. The online issue is free to subscribers and totally keyword searchable. Thank you for your continued patience & support as we work through the issues with USPS.

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

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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.

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ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE (NOON)
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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
FEB. 11.....	TUES., FEB. 4
FEB. 18.....	TUES., FEB. 11



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., Jan. 11, Stantons Auctioneers, Antique, Hastings, MI

ZONE 5

Wed., Dec. 18, Spieth & Satow, Miscellaneous, Addison, MI

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

ZONE 6

Wed., Jan. 1, Schmidt's Antiques, Miscellaneous, Ypsilanti, MI

ZONE 7

Wed., Dec. 18, Kraft Auction Service, 4 Day Farm & Equip., Walkerton, IN

ZONE 8

Thu., Dec. 19, Chupp Auctions & Real Estate LLC, 3 Day Antique, Shipshewana, IN

Mon., Dec. 30, Chupp Auctions & Real Estate LLC, Toy, Coin, Misc., Shipshewana, IN

ZONE 12

Wed., Dec. 18, Whalen Realty & Auction, Primitives, Coll., Neapolis, OH

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

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

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HOLIDAY PRINT SCHEDULE

Our offices will be closed
Dec. 23-Dec. 27

We will not be printing a paper dated Tues., Dec. 31st, therefore all New Years 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.



☆☆ 2-Ring Auction! ☆☆ TOYS • COINS • POCKET WATCHES

To be held at the Chupp Auction Center, 890 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, IN
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MONDAY, DEC. 30, 2024

9:30 AM - Uncataloged Toys
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NOTICE: Catalogs will be printed for the auction with online bidding available only for the Toys.

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DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
ZONE 4 MICHIGAN				
Sat., Dec. 21	10am	Dales Auctioneering Holland, MI	Estate	9
Sat., Dec. 21	9:30am	Stantons Auctioneers Battle Creek, MI	Miscellaneous	7
Sat., Jan. 11	9:30am	Stantons Auctioneers Hastings, MI	Antique	7
ZONE 5 MICHIGAN				
Thur., Dec. 19	10am	Stantons Auctioneers Sunfield, MI	Farm Equipment	7
Fri., Dec. 20	10am	Stantons Auctioneers Eaton Rapids, MI	Estate	7
ZONE 6 MICHIGAN				
Wed., Jan. 1	11am	Schmidt's Antiques Ypsilanti, MI	Miscellaneous	2

DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.
ZONE 8 INDIANA				
Mon., Dec. 30	9:30am	Chupp Auctions Shpshewana, IN	Toy, Coin, Misc.	6
Wed., Dec. 18	9am	Shpshewana Shpshewana, IN	Antique & Misc.	2
ZONE 12 OHIO				
Dec. 27, 30 & 31	•	Aaron Mast Middlefield, OH	3 Day Antique	8
ZONE WEB				
Jan. 16 & 17	9am	Pook & Pook Online	Americana	12
•	•	Pioneer Online	Estate	11
•	•	Rowley Online	Firearm, Sporting	3
•	•	Tim Narhi Online	Consignment	3
Thur., Jan. 8	•	Sheridan Online	Farm	3
Thu., Dec. 19	•	Ripley Online	Wine & Spirits	3
ZONE CALENDAR				
Every Wed.	9am	Shpshewana Shpshewana, IN	Antique., Misc.	11

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FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

THURS. MORNING, DEC. 19, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 13014 CRUCIBLE LANE, SUNFIELD, MI 48890 zone 5

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Massey Ferguson 1085 Diesel Tractor with wide front and 3-point hitch, S/N 9B75840 and only 2570 hours, set of 18 - 4 x 34 duals, John Deere 1219 Hay bind, John Deere Model H Ground driven manure spreader, John Deere Par Bar Hay Rake with front dolly wheel, John Deere Par Bar Hay Rake for parts. A Demo trailer-type crop sprayer, John Deere 335 Round Baler, approximately 25 round bales of hay. There may be no other items offered beyond 10:00 am.

A 10% buyer's premium will be charged on all items sold.
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FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 5332 MILLS HWY. EATON RAPIDS, MI 48827 zone 5

Having sold our farm and moving, we will sell all of the following including Yamaha Kodiak 4 x 4 ATV with front blade, 2008 Volkswagen Rabbit automobile, an E-Z Go Gas Powered Golf Cart/Utility Vehicle with rear box, 3 power push mowers, 2 wheel barrow, Huskee Rear Tine Rototiller, nearly new generator, lawn sweeper, Campbell Hausfeld Power Washer, bicycles, air compressor, a number of Vintage Christmas Blow Molds, a Stihl 024AV Chain Saw, a Ridgid Modern Table Saw, large multi-drawer tool bench cabinet, bench vise, Bosch Pancake Air Compressor, a large quantity of nails, screws, hand tools, extension cords, shop vac, acetylene-type welders, double end grinder, Jet 26" 2-speed Scroll Saw with stand, and a small amount of home furnishings with sofa, chairs, and rustic style log furniture, Cobalt Blue Glass refrigerator with top freezer, a few antiques and collectibles.

10% buyer's premium charged on all items sold.







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SHORT NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024 AT 9:30 AM

LOCATION: 12433 VALPINE DR. BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017 zone 4

Having offered this lake front home for sale and moving, I will sell all of the following including a very good selection of modern home furnishings, living room furniture with leather sofas, chairs, tables and more. Antique Brass National Cash Register, Model 441E, very nice oak 5-piece bedroom suite, antique oak chest, pictures, frames, lamps, Jenn-Air Stainless barbecue grill, John Deere E100 Riding Mower, Generac GP 8000E Generator (used 1 time), Power washer, patio furniture, a portable greenhouse, some tools, side-by-side refrigerator, upright freezer, air compressor and more. This is a nice sale of clean, ready-to-use furniture.







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ANTIQUQUE AUCTION

SAT. MORNING, JANUARY 11, 2025 @ 9:30 AM

LOCATION: BARRY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, 1350 N. M-37. HASTINGS, MI zone 4

Now accepting additional quality antiques and collectibles to round out this auction which already includes antique furniture, stack bookcases, a large collection of banks, a huge collection of jewelry (sterling, costume) including many sought after makers (an estimated 1,000 pieces to be sold). Fountain pens, watches, compacts, match safes, paperweights, 50 hat pins and holders, clocks, pottery, glassware, china, and more. Lionel trains and collectibles. Contact us early to have your items included in this upcoming event.

A 10% buyer's premium will be charged on all items sold.







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Dent

FROM PAGE 1

In 1898, Dent Hardware began making cast iron and aluminum toy vehicles and banks. Some of Dent's most sought after toys included its "Pioneer" fire truck, its Standard Oil tanker trucks, its large hook and ladder fire truck, and its Ford Tri-Motor truck. Dent Hardware, at its peak in the 1920s, employed over 400 workers.

Dent cast iron trucks were ruggedly built, and they had the reputation for solidly built steel wheels on all of their toys. Dent often put solid metal discs on their trucks as wheels and then painted the inset of the disc a bright color. Always look for the solid steel wheel to know a Dent truck is in original condition.

Like many toy truck manufacturers, Dent Hardware cast iron trucks were not intended to be scale models. Dent designers often took liberties and created generic looking trucks that were not true to scale or even appearance. For instance, a Dent school bus is an amazing cast iron toy that is too tall and narrow to resemble a "real" school bus. Dent's school bus has a more artistic interpretation than true-to-life scale



Above: This restored cast iron "Pioneer" ladder fire truck, produced by Dent Hardware, was offered on eBay for \$1,400.



Above: Detail on the Dent horse-drawn "Hook and Ladder truck." Facial and clothing details make this a fabulous piece.



Above: An original Dent Hardware cast iron toy catalog, circa 1920, with great illustrations. In excellent condition, this catalog was offered on eBay for \$60.



Above: Dent Hardware produced this cast iron, Mack Standard Oil tanker truck with a C-cab and driver.

toys. These buses were painted a bright, industrial orange color rather than the more common school bus yellow we are all used to seeing.

Dent Hardware produced some of the best quality trucks ever made, becoming one of the two largest producers of cast iron toys in Pennsylvania

and one of the highest sought after manufacturers by cast iron toy collectors.

Children always liked Dent cast iron toys because their substantial and stable wheels allowed them to roll easily across the floor or outdoor surface. Such durability has insured many of these



Above: This horse-drawn ice wagon, made by Dent Hardware, is nearly 16 inches long and is in original condition. It is valued at \$180.

Right: This Breyer's Ice Cream delivery truck, circa 1930, is over six inches long and is valued at \$400.



toys still exist in excellent condition today.

Collectors like Dent toys because they are sturdy and, if needed, easy to repaint or even weld if necessary.

15848 Nauvoo Road Middlefield, OH 44062

4TH ANNUAL

New Year's Eve ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

5 AUCTION SEGMENTS over 3 DAYS!

GIVE-AWAYS AND DOOR PRIZES THROUGHOUT ALL SEGMENTS!

1ST AUCTION SEGMENT AND PREVIEW | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 AT 4 PM
 Noncatalogued Items. Selling: Miniatures; Signs; Knives; Toys; Cast Iron; Antiques

2ND AUCTION SEGMENT (400+ LOTS) | MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 AT 9 AM
 Toys, Miniatures & Salesman Samples, Local Advertising
 Selling: 100+ Lots of Toys including Ertle, Smith Miller, Horse Teams and much more! 200+ Lots Miniatures and Salesman Samples, Hohner Autoharp Harmonicas, Assorted Rook Cards 1912-1978, 2-Pocket Watches, Some Coins, Local Advertising such as Johnson Rubber, Middlefield, and Bloomfield and More!

3RD AUCTION SEGMENT (400+ LOTS) | MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 AT 4 PM
 Tools, Griswold, Railroad, Advertising, Signs
 Selling: Antique tools including Stanley #1 Sweetheart Planes, Black Raven Axe and Oil Jar, Keen Kutter, Bluegrass; Dazey Churns, Elgin Churns, Wood Churns; Primitives; 25+ Lots of Griswold Skillets, Cake Molds, and Dutch Ovens including #13 w/Lid; Traffic Lights; 50+ Lots of Signs including Keen Kutter, Plain Dealer Porcelain, Swifts Fertilizer Porcelain; Assorted Steam Whistles; 70+ Lots of Railroad including Oilers, Locks, Tools, 35+ Lots of Lanterns such as B&O, NYCS, PRR, Switch Lanterns and more; Barn Lanterns; Wood Crates; and much more!!!

4TH AUCTION SEGMENT (400+ LOTS) | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 9 AM
 Miniatures, Salesman Samples, Advertising, Signs
 Selling: 225+ Lots Miniatures and Salesman Samples such as Rock-Ola Shuffleboard, Seed Cleaners, True Temper Pitchfork, Sea Fury Gas Boat Motor, Axe Collection; 50+ Lots of Oilers & Oil Cans (Assorted Sizes); 25+ Advertising Thermometers including Dad's Root Beer, Barques, Pepsi, Mail Pouch; Neon Signs; Advertising Clocks; 30+ Lots of Signs including Oliver Plow Sign, Sohio Porcelain

5TH AUCTION SEGMENT (250+ LOTS) | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 4 PM
 Guns, Ammo, Collectible Ammo, Winchester, Remington
 Selling: 50+ Lots Winchester Tools, Ammo, Signs and Advertising; Knives; Military; Bear Traps; 70+ Guns including Colt Bat Masterson Series Revolver .22 revolver (Nickle), Ruger Redhawk .44 Mag. With Scope and Case (Stainless), Winchester 94 .32WS; Numerous .410's

LEGEND 350 GIVEAWAY AFTER THE 5TH SEGMENT*

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Terms and Conditions: All items to be paid for in full by cash, check, or credit card. Local: 10% Buyer's Premium. Online: 20% Buyer's Premium, 5% Waived for cash or check. Auctioneer and staff are not responsible for originality, quality or accidents. Everything is sold at buyer's discretion unless otherwise announced.

Auctioneers Note:
 This is by far the largest New Year Eve Auction we have ever had with a ton of great items. This is a very limited list! Detailed Catalogs will be available after December 1st at the following locations: Mulletts Harness, Farmington Hardware, The Back Forty, Grand Valley Footwear, and 176 Antique Mall, Non-local, call Order Buyer Ivan Yoder 440-636-3636 for catalog.

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Music boxes continue to entertain with beautiful sounds

BY BARBARA MILLER BEEM

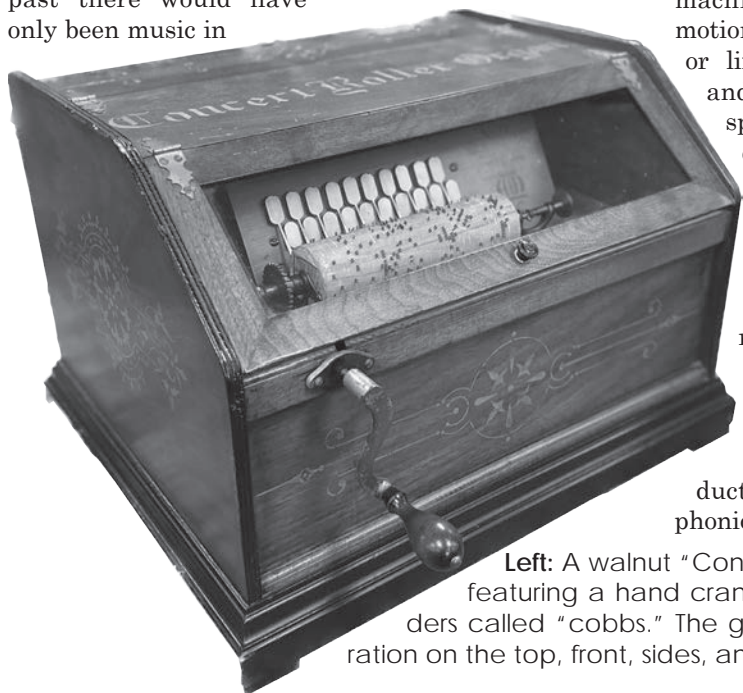
Greeting cards with sound chips, cell phones with ringtones, and even dog toys that sing a tune: These days, the hills aren't the only places that are alive with the sound of music. But that wasn't always the case. In the past there would have only been music in

the house if there was a musical instrument (and someone who could play it). With the introduction of the music box, however, everything changed. And this holiday season, one antique mall in Oklahoma City is celebrating 20 days of "A Music Box Christmas," showcasing

20 different Victorian music boxes.

The first cylinder music box dates to the last years of 18th-century Switzerland. As its name implies, this music box was characterized by a horizontally positioned cylinder that featured hand-set pins. The machine was put in motion by turning a crank or lifting a lever back and forth. When the spring-driven cylinder rotated, the pins rolled over steel teeth attached to a stationary comb. Musical tones resulted.

This process was refined a century later in Leipzig with the 1886 introduction of the Symphonion music box, which



Left: A walnut "Concert Roller Organ," featuring a hand crank with wood cylinders called "cobbs." The gold-colored decoration on the top, front, sides, and back is original.

Right: A Criterion disc player sits atop an original matching cabinet full of 15 ¾-inch discs.

relied on a disc rather than a cylinder to supply the notes. Music was sounded from a disc when tuned steel teeth were struck, activated by projections on the underside of a turning metal disc. Simplifying the finer points in the two procedures, Larry Baker, an expert in the field of vintage music boxes, declared, "They basically did the same thing." However, as music lovers were about to realize, there were advantages to metal discs over cylinders.

Switching out one disc for another was a relatively easy process. And discs, which could be mass-produced on stamping machines, were easier and less expensive both to make and purchase than was the case with cylinders, which were made individually by hand. Those who could afford a disc music box could purchase discs with their favorite songs at a reasonable price, choosing from a broad offering of musical selections.

These metal discs were sold by a variety of music box companies, but not all discs could be played on every disc music box. To alleviate this situation, some manufacturers worked together to make their discs and music boxes compatible with those offered by their competitors. Even though "hundreds and hundreds of tunes from all over the world" were produced for disc music boxes, Baker noted that many of them were geared to American listeners. According to Baker, the wide range of offerings included patriotic tunes, religious music and songs for dancing.

And, of course, Christmas carols.

Demand for disc music boxes spread throughout

the United States, and the New Jersey-based Regina Company became the best-known domestic supplier, Baker noted. Records show that the company shipped 100,000 music boxes between 1892 and 1921, with sales topping more than \$2 million a year, a princely sum at the time. He pointed out that even though they were considered to be a luxury by many turn-of-the-last-century families, music boxes were available in many different models with a wide range of price tags. Basic models, Baker estimated, were priced from \$35 to \$75. For those who made the investment, he said, "every household could have music, because anybody could play a music box."

Of course, not all disc music boxes were designed to rest on a parlor table. In 1897, a music box with an automatic changer was introduced. Operating like a jukebox (and ahead of its time), the music box featured a vertical display of 12 discs positioned within a tall cabinet. By dialing a number, a specific disc was selected and played. Adding to the entertainment value of this complicated music box was the fact that the entire process could be viewed by the person who paid for the tune. Baker, who has

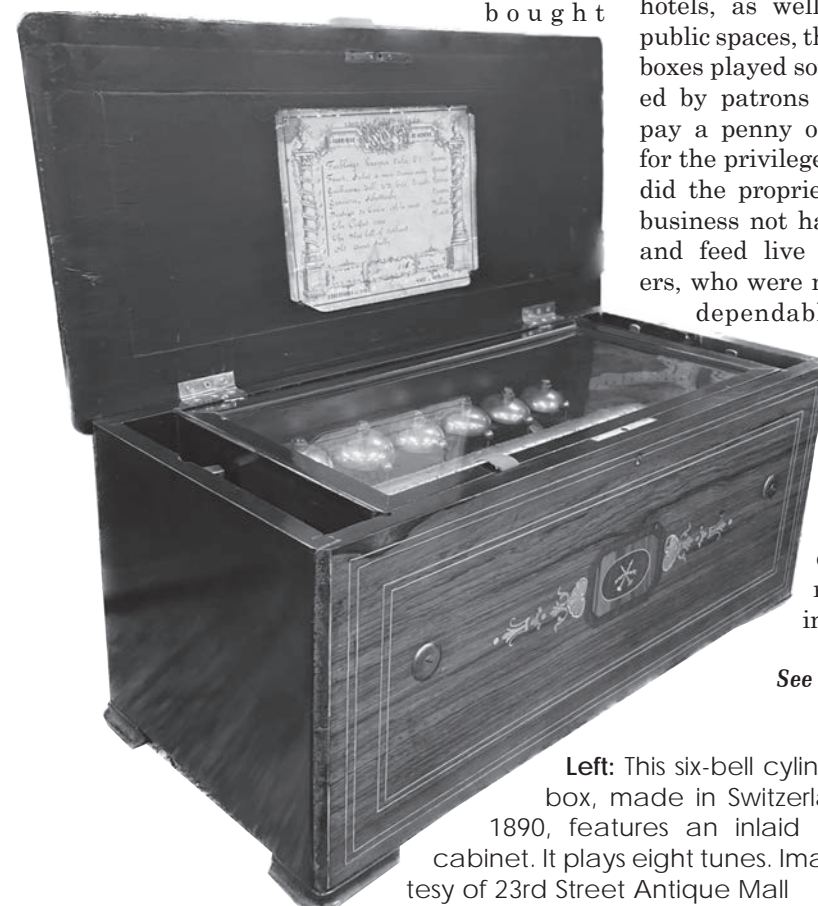
bought



Above: For one nickel, a music lover could hear one song on this coin-operated Regina disc player, made circa 1898.

and sold vintage music boxes for decades, characterized this music box model as "so elite" and "very expensive."

Another advancement was marked when an early coin-operated model was introduced to the market. Intended for use in bars, restaurants, and hotels, as well as other public spaces, these music boxes played songs selected by patrons willing to pay a penny or a nickel for the privilege. Not only did the proprietor of the business not have to pay and feed live entertainers, who were not always dependable, but patrons paid for their musical entertainment directly, resulting in a profit



Left: This six-bell cylinder music box, made in Switzerland circa 1890, features an inlaid rosewood cabinet. It plays eight tunes. Images courtesy of 23rd Street Antique Mall

See Music Boxes page 11

LARGE ESTATE AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 5075 RUSSCHER ROAD.

HOLLAND, MI 4

HOUSEHOLD: Pyrex bowls and casserole dishes; Fire King bakeware; Corelle dinnerware; stemware; small appliances: WOK; coffee maker; electric fry pan; lots of towels & bedding; wool blankets; kitchen household items; Roseville Snowberry Console Bowl & candle set.

FURNITURE: Broyhill 5 pc bedroom set-full size; Universal Furniture olde Mill Tavern Collection, cherry finish dining table (70x43 w/2 18" leaf's) 6 ladder back side padded chairs; leather type sofa & 2 chairs-emerald green; 2 reclining chairs; antique parlor table; china cabinet; antique dresser w/mirror; several small dressers; entertainment center w/bookshelves; cedar chests; wrought iron patio set; bar stools; Farfisa electric organ; brass duck head fireplace set.

MISC: Iverson snow shoes (10x46 & 13x16); Samsung 43" flatscreen; enamelware; Nautical round mirror; pottery; Wind River Sequoia 25-45X spotter scope; Nikon 28-80 camera w/accessories; Bell & Howell Model 493F movie camera; Brownie special six ; Argus antique camera; iPhone 4G smart phone; mantle clock; Lots of Christmas; MANY books - Time Life WWII Series (25); Gander Mountain tent; Screen house; Eureka tent; camping items—chairs, North Fac sleeping pad; air mattresses; backpacking stove; Kangaroo Kitchen cook stove; camo backpack, duffel bags, cartridge belt, 30 cal ammo box.

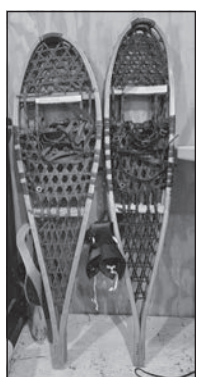
TOYS: HO scale trains - approx. 60 various cars, some die cast (Bachmann, Tyco, Athearn, Pemco); Buildings; track; accessories; Amway 1/64 Winross; Red Ryder BB gun; Vanguard Road Racing Set; KNEX, Tinkertoy sets; Hot Wheels race ramp & cars; Model rocket set; box of 54 "MAD" magazines 1960's—80's; board games; drawing supplies.



COLLEGE/HIGH SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS: Hope College Millestone (1944, 45, 46, 48, 50); Holland High Boomerang (1938,39,40,41,42); West Ottawa ICON (1962, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69,70, 71, 72); Grand Haven (1940, 42, 43, 47, 48); Central HS Helios (1950, 51); Ferris College (1973).



AUCTION NOTES: LOTS of good clean items fills this auction! Come out for our warm facility with seating. Check website for many pictures.



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Music Boxes

FROM PAGE 9

for the house. Business owners saw the investment as a good one, Baker explained.

Similarly, there were variations in music boxes intended for home use. Most of these examples were tabletop models, but Baker described a disc music box that was sold in conjunction with a supporting cabinet, which supplied storage space for discs.

As was the case when they were new, he continued, so the price of a vintage music box is often dependent upon the intricacy of the case. "The

cabinet represents a lot of the cost of a music box," Baker said. Woodworking techniques such as inlay and marquetry add value, he stated, as do exotic woods and ebonized finishes. "Some of them are absolutely gorgeous."

As for what to consider when purchasing a vintage music box, Baker said there are no hard and fast rules. "There's no telling why one will be selected over another," he said. "There's so much variety that it really depends on individual taste." He did suggest, though, that one deciding factor might be the music available for a specific

model. Because vintage music boxes are more than 100 years old, Baker said that some "normal wear and tear" would be understandable. "For something that was played for hours everyday, you'd expect something to fail," he said. But he characterized music boxes in general to be "very dependable," adding that it was unusual for them to be abused. As for reproductions, Baker acknowledged that companies continue to make music boxes, along with discs featuring new songs. But he stressed that they are simply newer models and are not

represented as vintage in nature.

Those fortunate enough to visit the 23rd Street Antique Mall this month will be able to enjoy Baker's inventory of 20 music boxes ("maybe more," according to the mall's co-owner, Denny McConnell), thereby setting the tone for "A Music Box Christmas." And because Baker noted that he has always been a dealer and not a collector, the sound of this music might well lead to the beginning of many new collections.

antiques23.com

Right: Encased in a rosewood cabinet, this cylinder music box, made in Switzerland circa 1880, features illustrated tune card listing the eight songs it plays.



Right: This Swiss 12-tune cylinder music box is notable for its three butterfly striker bells and tune card.



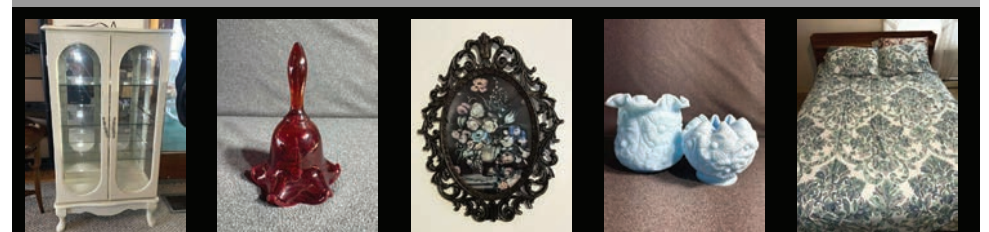
Left: A Swiss "Columbia Mandoline," dated 1894 inside, featuring an oak cabinet and a 12-tune single cylinder.

Below: A Swiss four-cylinder interchangeable music box. The oak cabinet has a locking top and drawer.



ONLINE AUCTION **PIONEER** QUALITY ITEMS
AUCTION SERVICE

Estate of Bob & Loren Field - Edmore, MI
Auction Location: 700 E Howard City Edmore Rd., Edmore, MI 48629
Item Preview: MONDAY, December 16th from 3pm - 5pm
Soft Closing: Wednesday, December 18th @ 7:00pm



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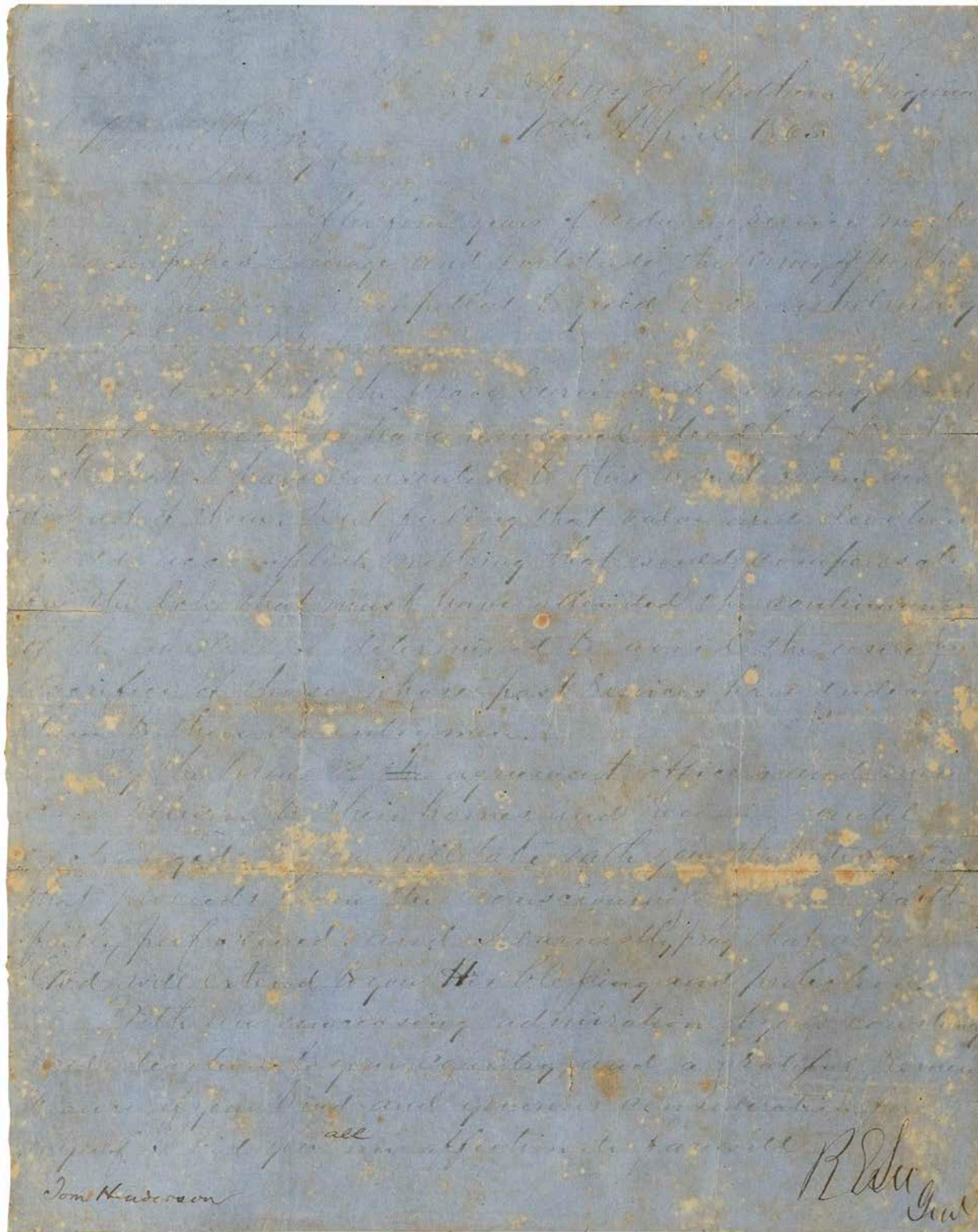
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AMERICANA AUCTION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH & FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2025 AT 9AM



GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE SIGNED FAREWELL ADDRESS GENERAL ORDER #9, DATED APRIL 10, 1865

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia

10th April 1865

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but, feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuation of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen. By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged.

You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection. With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all on affectionate farewell.

R. E. Lee, General

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