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ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Buckeye railroad show celebrates its 75th running

By William FLOOD

COLUMBUS, Ohio -On Dec. 7, Golden Spike Enterprises marked a milestone with the 75th Buckeye Model Train and Railroad Artifacts Show. From a strong start, Golden Spike has evolved into the premier organizer of railroad shows across the United States. The biannual Columbus event has grown steadily along with it.

The story began in Columbus some 30 years ago. Charles Miller, one of the organizers, recalled that the first show was a success, with 150 tables and about 1,000 attendees. "People were a lot younger then," he chuckled, noting the railroad hobby's older following. This round, there were 325 tables and 1,500



Above: Railroad uniforms and accessories including badges and buttons are available throughout the show. These two caps were priced at \$175 each.

attendees expected. Golden Spike has expanded into a multi-state affair, hosting shows not only in Columbus but also in Atlanta, Gaithersburg, Maryland, and two Florida locations: Deland and Jacksonville. Miller and a small team organize the events and are vendors themselves.

Railroad shows draw a dedicated crowd of sellers and attendees. Conversations often unfold matter-of-factly about times spent on the

Norfolk Southern, or about the intricacies of couplers and traction motors. Even model train enthusiasts can be overheard passionately debating the merits of one scale over another.

Golden Spike takes pride in the loyal community of buyers and sellers it has built over the years. A major draw is the high-quality, often rare, merchandise available. The attendees tend to be

See Trains Page 4



Above: Model engines and cars in all scales were available. This MTH "O"

FEATURE

scale Lackawanna locomotive and tender was priced at \$240.



Belsnickel visited the naughty children

This area included the

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

The name "Belsnickel " is a compilation of two German words — "bels," which means "fur" and "nickel," which refers to St. Nicholas, so the term Belsnickel actually means "a fur clad St. Nicholas."

variety of ways, is a

crotchety, fur-clad fig-

Christmas presents to

people in the southwest-

ern area of Germany.

Left: This antique, circa

1920s, papier-mâché

Belsnickel depicts the

tortured face of a man

who switches children.

This arouchy figure is

valued at \$1,450.

ure

that brought

Rhine Valley, the Saarland, and the Odenwald area of Baden- Württemberg. Belsnickel is a Father Christmas-type figure that lived in the time of Nicholas and St. emerged in German folklore as the original European woodsy

Right: Historically accurate Belsnickel wearing a black mask and carry a hazel switch. He is valued at \$600.

scary manner. Belsnickel sometimes resembles Krampus, an anti-St. Nicholas figure who is often depicted as black and evil with a hairy



Belsnickel, spelled a Christmas figure.

Historians believe Belsnickel evolved from an older Germanic figure — Knecht Ruprecht, a companion of St. Nicholas. However, unlike Knecht Ruprecht and other St. Nicholas' followers, Belsnickel is a loner and does not follow St. Nicholas. Belsnickel visits families alone and often in a threatening or

body, horns, hooves, and fangs.

The more traditional Belsnickel is a woodland man, wearing furs and, occasionally, a mask with a long tongue protruding. Belsnickel is often ragged appearing with torn, dirty clothing, and he is depicted carrying a switch torn from a tree that he uses to beat

See Belsnickel Page 9



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

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posters from the US & Britian including "Because Somebody Talked", "Back Them Up" series, "Bits of Careless talk ... ", "A careless word...", "Doing all you can, Brother" - most on temporary backing with clear covering for protection and transport - some too large and therefore sold for you to pack and take home. Please visit our catalog with photos and catalog listings.

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Antiques & Art: Antique lighting by Handel, Pittsburgh, Pairpoint, Fenton, Alladin, and others; Galle', Daum, Steuben, Loetz, Durand, Mt. Joye, Wave Crest, and Murano art glass; Tiffany Favrile turtleback glass tiles; Art glass shades by Quezal and NuArt; Signed F. Barbedienne candlesticks; Political buttons; Large 45-star US Flag; Brass transit; Beautiful examples of Meissen and Dresden porcelain; Albert Hodge folk art bowl; Kutani temple jar; Late 1800's cloisonne bronze vases; French art bronze; Two Art Deco smoke stands and floor fan; Art glass paperweights; Navajo silver and turquoise jewelry; Vintage men's Russian watches; American art pottery by Roseville, VanBriggle, and Weller; Original Icart etching "My Secret Love" (signed); Original art by k Richter, R Rowland, Antique Maps: Approx. 300 (scarce and rare) maps dated (1690 -1880) to be sold individually, and in multiple lots many maps are on stiff temporary backing for protection and transport. Included are: Early Michigan and Northern America maps (1750's - 1840's), "New & Accurate map of Negroland-Bowen-1740", "Plat of City of Detroit-Farmer-1831", "Diverse Globe Terr-Aquei w/color-Augsberg-1740", "Map of Gen. Worth's Operations 8/20/1847", "Linguistic Stocks of American Indians", Junker maps of Africa, Maps of Polar Expeditions, Travels of Mollien, "Carte-Mers du Nord-1758", 10-pc. "Karte van InnerAfrica-1861", 8-panel "Special Karte von Australien-Petermann", "Tract of Red River-Dist. of Rapids (bought from Pascaquala Tribe-1811)", "Stati Uniti Dell' America -1797", "Geological Profile - Atlantic to Lake Erie -1828" ... Visit our website for full catalog with hundreds of photos...

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Trains From Page 1

from an older generation, many of whom grew up during railroading's golden era, whether they rode or worked on the rails or were introduced to model trains by family members. Thankfully, parents and grandparents still bring children to see the displays, helping to keep the hobby alive.

Among the longtime exhibitors was Vic Paynter from Indiana, a specialist in restoring railroad artifacts, especially Climax cocktail smokers. The pedestal tables with ashtrays and drink slots were originally made in Indianapolis and are perfect for a home bar. At his booth, Painter displayed a Pullmanbranded example and one from the Chesapeake &



Above: Set pieces to outfit a train display ranged from pre-war to modern. This circa-1930s Marx tinlitho Union Station was priced nicely at just \$25.

Ohio. "I've restored over 200 of these," he said.

George and Liane Seyk from Chicago have sold at the Columbus show for about 15 years. Their tables filled with popular railroad china and silver caught plenty of attention. Pondering the crowd, George remarked, "The people here are serious buyers." When asked what drew them to selling

Above: Chicago artist David Tutwiler's transportation-themed paintings capture the spirit of the rails, ushering in a new generation of collectible art.



Above: Many artifacts came from station yards and railroad offices, like this phone and ringer set

railroad tableware, George became nostalgic, recalling childhood train travels. "I like the historical context, and there's a certain beauty to it," he said, adding, "and it's a hobby we can enjoy together."

Some dealers were newer to the scene, such as husband and wife artists David and Line Tutwiler from Chicago, who have participated for just a few years. David often focuses on railroad and transportation themes, including commissions for Disney and LucasFilm studios and works displayed at the National Railway Historical Society.

Another addition was Jack Wall from Pittsburgh. The former railroad supply worker began collecting in 2004 before selling on Etsy and eventually atthe Columbus show. Among his wares was a unique Aerotrain plate. With the ease of someone wellversed in rail history, he quickly pointed out, "There were only two Aerotrains built."

Of course, it's the mer-



Above: Originally made in Indianapolis, these restored Climax Cocktail Smokers included a



Above: Builder's plaques like this one (\$1,200) are rare, coveted collectibles.

chandise that takes center stage. Whether searching for a model train engine, railroad artifact, or railroad painting, guests were eager to find that unique item. The room was divided into sections for railroad artifacts and model train gear, allowing attendees to focus on the area of their interest.

Of all the artifacts available, train lanterns and lights seemed to be most prolific, with prices varying from about \$65 to several hundred dollars. Next up was railroad china and silver, ranging from familiar B&O Railroad dining ware priced as low as \$15 to rarer pieces with high three-figure price tags. Other popular items included conductor uniforms, caps, buttons, and items like tickets and tokens.

Adding to the array were signs, train crests, and builder's plates, priced from under \$100 for small signs to over \$1,000 for crests and railroad crossing signs. For advertising collectors with limited funds, there was plenty of ephemera, ranging from timetables and train matchbooks costing as little as \$2 to locomotive operator manuals that could be purchased for \$10-\$25. Collectible railroad books were also popular, ranging from \$2-\$50 depending on title and condition.

Turning to model trains, a main attraction was several working train displays in multiple intended scales, to enthrall families and encourage an interest in model railroading. For those looking to build or expand their own layouts, there was a wide range of engines, cars, tracks, buildings, and accessories, including everything from pre-war Lionel engines to modern MTH sets. Since airlines, buses, and steamships were often allied with railroads, a variety of related merchandise was also available. Examples included Pere Marquette rail ferry china, seen in two booths, priced from \$140-\$375. Another table had a fleet of assembled plastic model World War



Above: Ephemera included popular dining car menus, like this 1949 example from the Fiesta Car on the Rock Island Railway.

II airplanes for \$10. Another vendor offered a brochure for the President's Conference Committee (PCC) streamline trolley for \$10.

Despite challenges from the multi-year renovation at the fairgrounds, which caused parking issues, and probably got





from the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad (\$190).

Pullman (\$1,000) and C&O (\$1,500).



Above: Railway cocktail glasses were reasonably priced, starting around \$10 each.

Above: Many vendors had railroad lights. This table held an Erie example priced at \$150, a Northern Pacific for \$275, and a North Ohio Traction & Light Co. for \$425.

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Rare Badger's Fire Extinguisher Copper



Fantastic Art Urn

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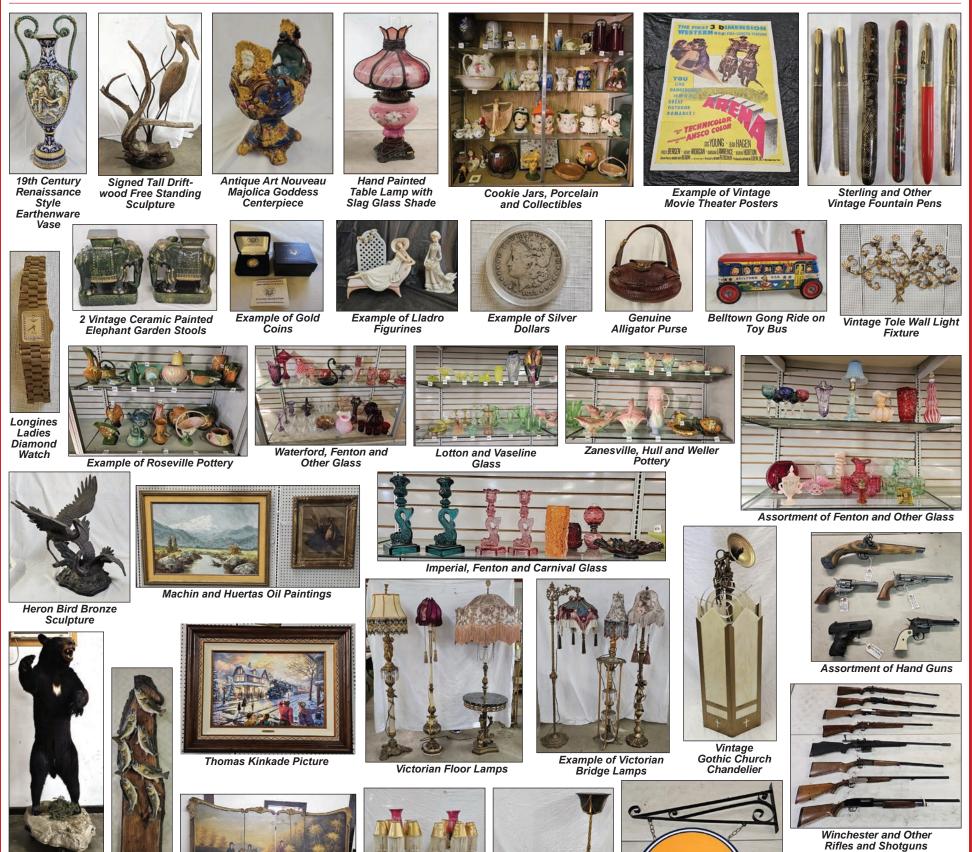


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Belsnickel From Page 1

naughty children with. He also carries pocketfuls of candies, nuts, cakes, and hand-carved toys for good little boys and girls. The folk tales of Belsnickel followed America, and Jacob Brown of Allegany County, Maryland, documented the "Beltznickle" tradition and folklore in his book Brown's Miscellaneous Writings. Around 1830 Brown wrote, "we did not hear of Santa Claus. Instead, the tradition called for a

German immigrants to



acteraltogether"a furnycladwoodlandmancu-named Belsnickel .le"Whether in GermanyinorAmerica, Belsnickeln'swas sometimes called thegs."Christmaswoman."wnChildrentoldtalesofBelsnickelsuddenly

Belsnickel suddenly appearing, and regardless of whether the Christmas figure was male or female, Belsnickel always carried a hazel switch, which was supposed to carry some type of Christmas charm as well as leaving stripes upon the backs of unfriendly children.

visit by a different char-

Belsnickel , like Santa, made his rounds at night, a few hours after darkness fell. He was usually disguised, especially about the face, where, as already mentioned, he wore a mask. Often Belsnickel 's clothing was female garb, Left: Belsnickel figure resting on a papier-mâché log. Marked "Germany," this figure is valued at \$115.

ESTATES & MOVING AUCTION! SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025, 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Auction Acres 1491 Perry Creek Rd. & M-33 Mio, MI. DIRECTIONS: Auction Barn is located between the towns of Mio & Fairview. Just 7 miles north of traffic light (M-33/M-72) in Mio or 2 miles west of blinking light (M-33/M-72) in Fairview.

MIO, MI 48647 Preview 8:30 AM Day of Sale

TO INCLUDE: New reclining sofa & rocker recliners; living room tables & lamps; TVs; dining table w/10 chairs; other dining room sets; asst. dressers; elegant to everyday glassware; kitchenware; Lionel Type ZW Trainmaster transformer; Tete Jumeau, Armand Marseille, Simon Halbig & other vintage dolls; antiques, iniquities & primitives; 3 & 5 gal. glass carboy & wine bottles; qty. sewing fabrics; Kenmore sewing machine; bedding & linens; Atari 2600 game system w/games; Xbox One, Xbox 360 & Playstation systems; NASCAR collectibles; Rottgames Bakelite Roulette traveling game set; 1920s Keystone Packard pressed steel army truck; portable room air conditioner; & more; 100 +/- Gold, Silver, Coins & Currencies lots, check website for list. **SPECIAL MENTION:** Longines Chronograph Comptuer 13.33 Sterling Silver wristwatch sn/2970013; other vintage & modern men's watches; Gold, Silver & estate costume jewelry; Guardian Plus whole house generator w/transfer switch.

SPORTSMAN: Marlin 336 lever action 30-30 carbine; WWII USMC Kabar fighting knife w/personalized sheath; Army Kabar knife w/sheath; Steyr 1878 bayonet w/ matching # scabbard; sheath & folding knives; 2) US Forestry double bit axes; Marbles Safety Axe No.2; Winchester high velocity air rifle; air soft guns; sm. caliber bullet trap; 10 person & other tents; coolers; camp gear; Kubota mini generator; deer head mounts; compound bows.

SHOP: Jet JWBS 140S bandsaw, JJG96 3/4 hp 6" belt/disc sander, JJ6CS 6" jointer, JDP17MF drill press & AFS 1000B woodshop air filtration system; Grizzly 1" belt/ disc & 12" disc sanders; Ryobi oscillating spindle sander; Craftsman 3 hp table saw, radial arm saw & router w/table; DeWALT surface planer; pedestal mounted bench grinder; 2) whole shop dust collection systems; Rock Island 594 bench vise; Craftsman bench top & rolling tool chests; Too Many quality hand & power hand tools to mention; jacks; asst. battery op. tools; C & bar clamps; Grizzly drill press vise;

Above: Huge, 16-inch tall Pennsylvania redware Belsnickel , circa 1986, that is valued at \$625.

turning the figure into a woman with masculine features and force.

Depending on the tales that were told, Belsnickel would carry an ample sack about his shoulders, filled with cakes, fruits, and nuts. Belsnickel 's left hand would scatter his sweet presents upon the floor, porch, or earth, and as the excited children scrambled to pick up all of the sweets they could, his right hand would ply the hazel switch upon the children's backs, making his yearly visits both a treat and a trick. It was said that no matter how hard Belsnickel switched a child, not a sound was ever heard. That may have been the switch's charm.

As German people immigrated toPennsylvania in the early 1800s, they brought their German myths with them, including Belsnickel. Pennsylvania Germans believed Belsnickel visited homes about 1-2 weeks before Christmas, checking on the behavior of boys and girls. Belsnickel always seemed to scare the children because he always knew if a child had been bad or good. Some Pennsylvania children



Above: A German papier-mâché Belsnickel figure with sleigh, circa 1900, that was offered on eBay for \$4,899.

swore that Belsnickel would make them sing or answer questions before throwing them sweets, and it was a painful time for any child that could not answer the questions correctly.

An 1853 article in a London magazine described the Pennsylvania "Pelsnichol" as dressing in skins and identical with "Krishkinkle." But most people of the early Victorian Era believed Krishkinkle rewarded good children and Pelsnichol punished bad children.



Above: Hand carved, wooden Belsnickel, circa 1800s, that is over 24 inches in height and valued at \$2,000.



air compressor; Senco pneumatic nail guns; 4" industrial high volume elec pump; 5" double wall type B chimney; ladders; shop vacs; dollies & carts; new pickup running boards; ATV/mower lift; Power Temp temporary 50amp power box.

OUTSIDE: 2023 New Holland Workmaster 255 all wheel drive compact diesel tractor, only 17.3 hrs., full cab, 100LC front loader w/quick attach bucket, 50RS front snowblower, garage kept, like new, sells w/reserve; 1953 Ford 800 series tractor w/ front loader & quick attach forks; Woods 3pt RBS 60" back blade; 2000 Toyota Tundra pickup truck vin 5TBJN3217YS54992; DR Power wagon walk-behind wheelbarrow; Cub Cadet CC 30H 10 hp riding mower & 1X221electric start walk-behind snowblow-er; Ariens ST824 snowblower; Craftsman garden tractor w/snow blade & mower deck; walk-behind mowers; Huskee 6.5 hp 22 ton log splitter; Stihl Woodboss 024AV chain saw; power chain saw sharpener; hitch platform; bikes; new double globe pedestal street light; & Plus More!

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Above: This five inch tall Belsnickel figurine was made in Germany and is valued at \$192.

Above: A black Belsnickel figure, on skis, from Germany, circa 1900, that is valued at \$4,000.

THE AUCTION EXCHANGE - www.eauctionexchange.com

December 24, 2024



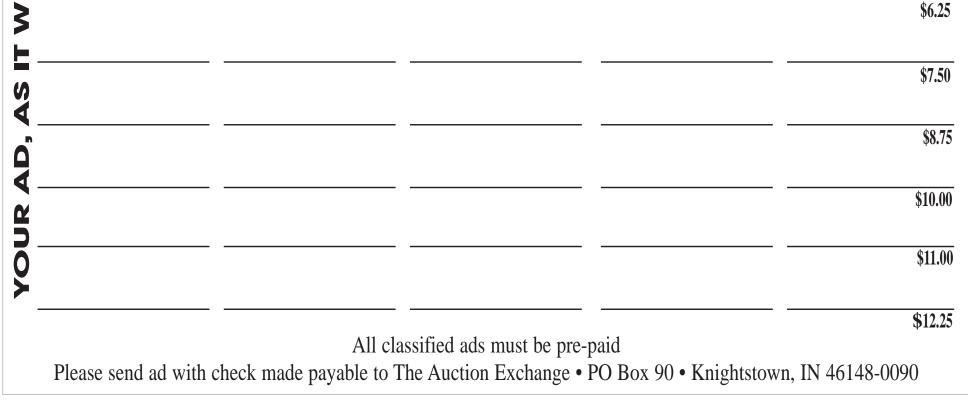
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in lawn broom; Snapper trim mower; 4 ft. & 8 ft. pallet shelving; DR EX-675string trimmer; bench grinder; 36 in floor fan; barn fan; Delta band saw; Craftsman band saw; Ryobi recip saw; Skil & Craftsman 10 in. table saws; Schumacher 200 amp charger; Power Stroke 1700 PSI elec. Power washer:

The following are new in box (NIB); Milwaukee M18 radio-several tool sets-mini air compressor-20V Hyper Touch elec. Chain saw--Husqvarna 120 gas chain saw-1 Ton trailer hoist-Daisy pellet gun-Ryobi 4X36 disc/belt sander-2400 PSI gas power washer & lots more to be found.

RON HARDESTY: OWNER

TERMS: Cash or check, credit card w/4% fee. Settlement before removal No Lunch on grounds.





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- 2019 Kubota Tractor L3901HST 2019 Vermeer Mini Skid Steer
- 2014 Bobcat S550 Compact Skid Steer
- Caterpillar D4D Dozer 2012 Teupen LEO 18GT Crawler Mounted Aerial Lift
- 2019 Techno Gen KL50TSX Towable Generator

Our offices will be closed Dec. 23-Dec. 27 in order for our employees to spend time with their families during the Holiday.

We will not print a paper dated Tues., Dec. 31st.

Our next issue will be dated Tues., Jan. 7, 2025 with an early deadline of Mon, Dec. 30 at noon.

Happy Holidays From The Staff of The Auction Exchange and Collectors News

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