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February 25, 2025

Vol. 48 No.12

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Creamery clock rose to the top with \$5,290 bid

BY NANCY KELLY

CORYDON, Ind. — Beckort Auctions recently was asked to sell a collection of more 200 vintage advertising signs, clocks,

and thermometers. Most items were in very good condition and the results were rewarding. Prices do include the buyer's premium.

There were more than



Above: This shield shaped highway sign for Arizona US Route 66 displayed reflective marbles within the numerals for improved night visibility. Despite surface wear, it still earned a final price of \$3,960.

150 signs, but the top earning lot of the day was the Emery's Ice Cream, New Albany, Ind., clock and photo. The 15-inch photo read "beharrell and oak, NA" and it appeared to be the original location for the creamery. The business has since moved. and it still offers homemade ice cream and other confections. This nostalgic photo and General Electric Bakelite clock (in working condition) stirred up enough memories to drive the final price to \$5,290.

Two vintage gas pumps provided a look back to earlier times. The Wayne Pump Company #80 Mobilgas script top gas pump had been beautifully restored, including the display with working lights. The metal tag read 1952, Salisbury, Md. The

Indiana pump came equipped with a hose and a Buckeye nozzle. It stood 62 inches tall and proved exceptionally popular with a final

Emery's

New Albany.

Cream

gas pump complete with blazing red flying firebird logo. This nicely restored pump only had a round gauge on the front to indicate how many gallons of fuel were being dispersed. There was no need to measure the cost of per

This nostalgic Emery's Ice Cream, New Albany, Ind., photo and General Electric Bakelite clock stirred up enough memories to drive the final price to \$5,290.



fueling for this application. The globe on top of the unit was in exceptional condition, complete with working lights. It finished at \$1,595.

Petroleum products

See Clock Page 4

FEATURE

Hubley logging trucks were in play for the long haul

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

John Hubley founded Hublev the Manufacturing Company in Lancaster, Pa., in 1894. Initially, Hubley produced a wide range of



cast iron doorstops bookends, and toys. Hubley cap guns led the company's sales for a number of years, but the company kept evolving. As the Industrial Revolution brought innovative ways manufacturing of

Left: Vintage, Hubley #452 die cast log hauler that is 6.5 inches long. This red logging truck is valued at \$14.

mass-produced toys, Hubley sought to bring to boys and girls the exact type of toy they were looking for.

Over the years, Hubley introduced zinc alloy and plastic into its toy motor vehicles and cap guns. The company became well known for its detailed 1/20th scale metal car kits. By 1960, Hubley was replicating Detroit cars in plastic as

promotional items for several car manufacturers.

price of \$4,510. There

was also an eye-catching

Erie #4007 Pure Oil

Firebird "Farm Fueler"

Some of the earliest Hubley toys were famous for their detail, including a replica of a five-ton truck that came with hand tools, a road roller that was offered in five different sizes, a steam shovel with working arms and shovel, and the company's many different offerings of motorcycles, which were highly creative for the times and included sidecars. Some of the Hubley motorcycles pulled deliverv vans with the catchy phrase "Say it with flowers" on the side of the vans. By the late-1930s, increasing freight costs and foreign competition making more highly detailed toys forced Hubley to switch from



Above: This Hubley short logging truck, circa 1950s, shows how a load of logs is carried on truck's bed. This truck is valued at \$20.

cast iron to die cast zinc for every type of collecalloy, called mazac, and tor. The toy logging plastic toys. Hubley trucks that came out in the 1950s were meant to attract actual loggers or children of loggers. Hubley began trying to reach different lifestyles, such as loggers, so that the purchase of Following World War Hubley logging toys would tie the loggers and their children to both the toy hobbyists and collecfamily's past and to tors. Hubley quickly America's past, helping diversified its toy line,



Above: Hubley large logging truck, #47,0-58, has three removable logs and is nine inches long. Produced in 1950, this truck is valued at \$40.

called them KiddieToys and they continued into the 1950s. One of the last lines of Hubley toys manufactured in its KiddieToys brand was its line of toy logging trucks. II, Hubley looked for new toy lines that appealed to

hoping to offer something

See Hubley Page 14

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Unusual Advertising Radio Lamps



Signed Base/Shade Jefferson Lamp



1820 Queen Ann 2-pc Tiger Maple Highboy



Vintage Quilts

Signed

Tiffany Studios Lamp



Unusual Inlaid Box



1920s Raggedy Ann Dolls



1840 Early Painted Stepback Cupboard



Pair of Hardware Store Display Figures



1820s Grain Painted Blanket Chest (Original)

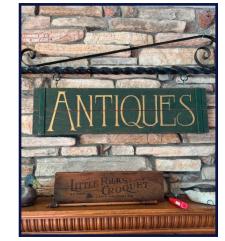


John Rupp 2-pc Painted Corner Cabinet



15-pc Dresser Set Sterling

16 Tin 1840s Pie Safe



Double-Sided Advertising Sign



1780s Tallboy Chest

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Clock FROM PAGE 1

were a recurring theme throughout this auction. A massive 72 inch tall by 92 inch wide Marathon porcelain gas station double-sided sign was marked "S.P.S. *'*62". Despite edge rust, this remarkable emblem drew a final price of \$4,510. The Liberty Gasoline double-sided porcelain another sign was example. eye-catching This orange and blue sign with the image of the Statue of Liberty was mounted in a steel frame and supported by a cast iron base for a total height of 8 feet. The orig-

good condition, earning it a final price of \$3,190. This collector evidently enjoyed large signs. A vertical "Sterling Ignition Efficiency" wood framed painted tin sign measured 6 feet tall by 13 inches wide. Featuring the Sterling Elf, it was captured with a final price of \$3,080.

inal paint was in very

Other signs that were originally from service stations also did well. These included а Wadhams True Gasoline porcelain flange sign that was claimed for \$2,255, a Laher "The Battery With 9 Lives" embossed vertical metal sign that left for and \$2,145,an Independent Oil "Red

Hat Motor Oil Gasoline" porcelain round sign that finished at \$2,145.

Other categories of signs were also plentiful. Signs for US highway routes have a distinct shield shape. There was an interesting example of this style from Arizona US Route 66. The numerals "66" had marble-like objects imbedded to provide a reflective effect for night driving. Measuring 16 by 17 inches, and showing a very weathered surface, it still commanded a final price of \$3,960. Originally used to direct the crowd, the "Indianapolis Speedway Straight Ahead" steel sign retained its original paint although it was severely worn. Measuring 30 inches by 20 inches, this rectangular single-sided marker was purchased for \$1,485.

The Land O' Lakes butter sign provided a



Above: With a colorful image on the painted tin sign, this Land O' Lakes butter advertisement was claimed for \$2,255.





Above: This Erie Pure Oil Firebird gas pump had a round gauge on the front to indicate gallons dispersed. It closed at \$1,595.



to the Best" logo was presented on a porcelain metal thermometer. It was still quite functional and measured 19 inches wide by 6 feet high. This handsome relic was

claimed for \$1,925. Several Coca-Cola products were scattered throughout the sale. A Coca-Cola "Sign of Good Taste" fishtail tin sign commanded attention with its 72 inch wide by 36 inch high dimensions. It was rehomed for \$2,035. A similar vertical sign cleared a \$1,072.50 price, and an inviting V.V. Cooke Chevrolet Coca Cola "Service Waiting Room, Free Coffee and Donuts" tin sign left for \$715.

An early Harrington Sign Flasher Company red fire alarm box supported by a cast iron



Above: Despite edge rust, this massive 92-inch-wide Marathon porcelain sign drew a final price of \$4,510.

www.beckortauctions.



Above: Harrington Sign Flasher Company red fire alarm box. On a cast iron base, it was claimed for \$1,155.



Above: A restored 1952 Wayne Pump Company #80 Mobilgas script top gas pump sold for \$4,510.



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Page 4

Above: Several Coca-Cola products were scattered throughout the sale, including this Coca-Cola "Sign of Good Taste" fishtail sign that was rehomed for \$2,035



Above: Still displaying its original paint, this "Indianapolis Speedway Straight Ahead" steel sign was purchased for \$1,485.

stand and cradle was available. It came complete with the original key, stood 7 feet tall, and was in very good condition. The stability of the base meant that this unit was extremely heavy. It was claimed by a collector for \$1,155. A Philip Morris cast iron hotel smoke stand depicting a nicknamed figure "Johnny" for the actual bellboy Johnny Roventini. His distinctive voice could be heard on radio commercials in the 1930s and 1940s as he became a spokesman for the company. This 33 inch tall piece was rehomed for \$473.

Beckort Auctions has a very busy schedule that

This orange and blue Liberty Gasoline sign supported by a cast iron base stood 8 feet tall. The original paint was in very good condition, earning it a final price of \$3,190.

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Tony GregoryPublisher Auction Exchange and Collectors News Published weekly except one week in Decemb (51 issues) and mailed every Thursday

Lorri Egan Publication Mgr./Advertising

Connie Swaim......Managing Editor

Tari True Pre-press Manager

Publishers Emeritus: John Armstrong, Randy Barz, Judy Huxmann, Lars Svendsen

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Subscription price: \$42.00 for one year \$75.00 for two years; \$104.00 for three years

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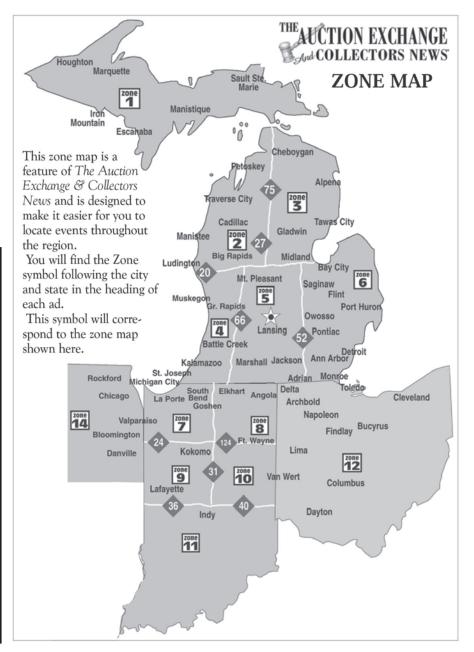
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APRIL 1	TUES., MARCH 25
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APRIL 15	TUES., APRIL 8
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February 25, 2025



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Thu., Feb. 27	10am	Braun & Helmer Auct.	Tipton, MI	Estate	7	Tue., Mar. 11	•	Sheridan	Online	Shop Equipment	14
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NEAPOLIS, OH 12

100'S OF TOOLS SUCH AS: 40+ plow planes; 20+ metal planes; 35+ various makes & styles of saws; 75+ drawknives; 500+ hammers - many varieties; machinery markers; chisels; mallets; 30+ levels; long handle primitive tools; 100+ wooden planes; small anvils; spoke shaves; advertising items; many tape measures; lots of rulers; small advertising items; watch fobs; pins; braces; many box lots; plus more!



TERMS: Cash or check w/ID, credit/debit cards accepted with 3% processing fee. Lunch by Sandy's

PREVIEW: Week of auction from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. OWNER: Jeffers Living Trust

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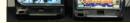
FUN ESTATE AUCTION THURS., FEB. 27th @ 10AM

LOCATION: 5121 E. MICHIGAN AVE. **DIRECTIONS:** Take Michigan Ave (US-12) to Auction. The Auction is West of Clinton, MI and East of Brooklyn and Onsted, MI. The auction is on the South side of US 12 - look for signs. Tipton is located in the Irish Hills area.

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Bookends make solid stand-up collectibles

By William Flood

Over the years, bookends have quietly gained popularity as collectibles. Though they may be simple and functional, these often-overlooked objects offer much more than just book support. Bookends can be small-scale works of art, showcasing the design, craftsmanship, and history of previous generations.

Interest in vintage and antique bookends has surged among collectors, designers, and history lovers who value these objects as artistic accents that enrich any space. Whether simple wooden pairs from the 18th century, carved marble ones from the Edwardian age, or streamlined Art Deco brass sets, each offers a glimpse into the design trends of their era. A closer look at their history reveals why these objects continue to captivate collectors today.

The story of bookends begins with ancient civilizations that used objects to hold scrolls and manuscripts in place. The earliest libraries in places like Egypt and Rome used shelves with simple ledges or built-in supports to hold their collections. The modern bookend, however, emerged in the 18th century, when books became more accessible to the growing middle class. As printing presses became more common and literacy spread, books began to play an important role in many households. As people accumulated books, they needed a way to organize and display them, leading to the creation of specifically objects designed to keep books upright. These early bookends were typically simple in design, often just rectangular or cylindrical blocks crafted from heavy materials like wood or stone.

In the late 18th century,

like these brown panthers (\$145).

Above: Motifs like these globes were popular during the 1950s-1970s. This mixed material set was priced at \$30.

bookends began evolving into decorative objects, influenced by the Baroque and Rococo styles that were popular in Europe. Bookends from that period were often ornate, intricately carved, or adorned with decorative accents. Crafted from fine materials by skilled artisans, they were intended for wealthy households that could afford such luxuries.

By the 19th century, bookends had transformed into the decorative pieces we recognize today. The Victorians, known for their love of elaborate décor, adopted ornate bookends as a popular accessory in their libraries and parlors. These bookends often took the form of animals, historical figures, floral patterns, and mythological creatures. Over time, materials shifted from wood to ceramics, quarried stones like marble and quartz, and metals such as bronze, brass, and cast iron.

As the Industrial Revolution gained momentum, mass production allowed bookends to be made more affordably, making them accessible to a wider segment of society. Notable manufacturers like the American Foundry Company, known for its popular iron bookends, metalworker Frankart, and The Below: Rookwood is known more for vases than Bradley & Hubbard Manufacturing Company, celebrated for their finely crafted bronze and brass pieces, helped fuel this shift. Today, these manufacturers' works are highly collectible, with their pieces often fetching impressive prices at auctions.

During the Arts and Crafts movement, which spanned the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there was a renewed focus on natural materials, craftsmanship, and simplicity. Some of the most sought-after bookends from this period were crafted by prominent designers like Charles Limbert and Gustav Stickley, who favored minimalist forms made from sturdy materials like oak and wrought iron.

As industrialization progressed in the 20th century, bookend design evolved, with glass and ceramic options gaining popularity. Early 20th-century Art Nouveau bookends featured organic, nature-inspired motifs like flowers and curving lines. Eventually, the bold, modern designs of Art Deco



Above: This unusual pair of mid-century tiki bookends was made from cast plaster and weighs about 5 pounds per side.

and Streamline Moderne took over, which introduced materials like aluminum, molded glass, and plastics. Bookends from the period often showcased sleek, geometric shapes and motifs such as streamthe era. lined cars and skyscrapers, reflecting the era's fas-

cination with progress.

Notable manufacturers like Donald Deskey and Rookwood Pottery, whose pieces often appeared in upscale department stores, are still some of the most sought-after bookends of

> See Collectible Bookends page 9

Dan Fisher Toy, Antique & Collectible **AUCTION** Wednesday, March 5 @ 4:30 PM 15848 Nauvoo Rd. Middlefield, OH 44062

(Heritage Marketplace) Toys: New Idea Hay Loader, Precision; JD Hay Loader, Precision; Team W/ Forecart; Team W/JD Harrow; Horse Drawn Cultipacker; JD Harrow; JD hrasher 28th Scale; Case Thrasher 16th Scale (In Showcase); JD Thrasher 16th Scale; JD Precision Planter; JD Precision Plow; JD Waterloo Boy Precision Tractor; JD '70' Precision; JD 720 Precision; JD 110 Precision; Millennium Froelich Tractor; JD Prestige Combine; JD Graders; JD Petal ar; JD Petal Tractor; 16th Scale Petal Tractors; Assorted First Gear Trucks JD 80 Tractor; JD Collector Sets; McCormick Hay Baler; John Deere 4230 Tractor; John Deere 5020 Tractor; John Deere 5020l Tractor; Maytag Washer; Bobcat 576 Skid Steer; JD D Tractor; JD 720 Tractor; John Deere 630 Tractor and much, much more

Note: Most of these toys come with the box

alesman Samples and Miniatures: SS Keen Kutter Cant Hook; SS Harpoon; SS Craftsman Axe; SS Plow; SS Steam Whistle; Mini Crescent Wrenches; Mini Crosscut Saw; Mini Vises; Mini Jones Reaper Seat; Mini Flour Sifter; Mini Skillets; Assorted Mini Anvils- John Deere, Hay Budden, Indiar

Motorcycles; Winchester; and More Advertising: Johnson Rubber Zippo Lighter; Pepsi Metal Sign DS, 16"x17"; itchie Waterers Metal Sign SS 24"x12; Texaco Porcelain Sign DS 30"x30"; Volverine Shoes Metal Sign SS, 25"x18; Bell Telephone Porcelain Sign DS, 3"x18"; Pennzoil Porcelain Sign DS, 24" Round; Coca Cole Thermometers Winston Thermometer; Morton Salt Thermometer; Orange Crush

Thermometers (2); Pepsi Thermometer; Royal Crown Thermometer; Monroe Muffler Thermometer; Mail Pouch Porcelain Thermometer; Dr.

Barker's Thermometer and more lain Sign SS 36"x12": John





bookends but they made also beautiful bookends

Below: A pair of Brutalist-style sailing ship bookends from the 1960s (\$45) would appeal to fans of Witco decor.



Deere Sideboard; Framed Pictures; Rain Gauge; Thermometers; Case John Deere Knife; Oilers; Books; Train Set; Airplane Banks; Clocks; Truck Banks and More

<u>Winchester:</u> Showcase; Assorted Knives; Minnow Lure w/Box; Glass Oil Can; Pliers; Hand Plane; Chisel; Base ball Bat; Golf Club; Hatchets; Locks and Keys; and more

Assorted Antiques and Collectibles: Elgin 15J Pocket Watch; Waltham Pocket Watch; Elgin Sun Dial Safety Pocket Watch; 3-Tine forks; Ox Yoke; Potato Planter; Wagner Double Waffle Iron; Griswold #65 Casserole Bowl;

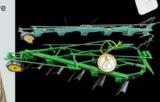
Griswold #3 Skillet; and more

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Collectible Bookends From Page 8

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World War II temporarily halted the production of decorative bookends as materials were redirected to support the war effort. After World War II, the production of decorative bookends revived as the growing suburban middle class, bolstered by the GI Bill, sought to furnish new homes. This period saw a revival of early American style, with bookends featuring traditional materials like wood and brass, evoking a sense of heritage. At the same time, modernism emerged, with designers such as Eames, Herman Miller, and Nelson experimenting with new materials like fiberglass and exotic woods like teak. Their minimalist, sleek bookends reflected the optimism of the atomic age, appealing to a new generation of consumers.

The 1970s and 1980s brought a major shift in bookend design, moving away from the sleek, modern styles of the previous decades toward more experimental forms influenced by the cultural and technological changes of the time. Bookends from this era often featured



Above: A handful of designers are known for their bookends. Among them is metalworker Jennings Brothers Manufacturing. This brass set sold for \$195.

bold geometric shapes, industrial materials, and designs inspired by the space race and the rise of computers. The materials used also changed, with plastics, acrylics, and molded resins becoming more popular. These materials were lighter, more affordable, and easier to produce, making bookends affordable for virtually any consumer. They could be found at neighborhood stores like Kmart and in catalogs from major retailers like JCPenney and Sears.

By the late 1980s, the

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emphasis on artistic design in bookends had waned. Most bookends from this period were imported and mass-produced from inexpensive materials. While more affordable and widely available, they lacked the craftsmanship and character of earlier examples. Nonetheless, these pieces still hold a special place for those collectors who cherish the culture of the late 20th century.

The trend of collecting bookends goes back to the 1950s, starting with a resurgence of interest in

colonial and early American antiques. By the 1980s, the focal point shifted to Victorian decor, while today, modernist bookends are the most sought-after pieces. A key reason for bookends' popularity is that they provide an affordable way to own a piece of history. Unlike large, costly furniture or fine art, bookends are small and relatively inexpensive, making them accessible to collectors on a budget. Furthermore. they offer both functionality and style, serving as practical objects that also



Above: This pair of Arts & Crafts-style bookends (\$35) reflects the era's appreciation of wood and restrained carving.

enhance the aesthetic of a space.

While bookends can sometimes be found for \$5 or less at yard sales or thrift stores, expect to pay at least \$20 for a pair from an antique dealer or online. Several factors help them retain their value. Many antique and vintage bookends were crafted from high-quality materials such as brass, marble, or carved wood, which contribute to their enduring appeal. Even mass-produced pieces from the 1920s to the 1950s can start around \$50 due to their craftsmanship and reflection of their era. Finer vintage examples, especially those crafted by well-known makers like Stickley or Rookwood, can see auction prices ranging from \$100 to \$500 due to strong demand. It's even relatively common for collectors to purchase a single bookend remaining from a broken, yet otherwise desirable, set. The condition also plays a critical role;

well-preserved bookends in good original condition are worth significantly more than those that are badly worn, damaged, or repaired.

Whether you're an experienced collector or just starting out, collecting antique bookends is a captivating journey into both design and history. This timeless hobby allows you to preserve beautiful, well-crafted pieces while adding flair to your home. Whether you're drawn to the intricate designs of the 19th century, the sleek lines of modernism, or pop-culture pieces from the late 20th century, collecting bookends is a rewarding pursuit that will keep your books standing tall and your spaces filled with character.

If you'd like to dive into the world of bookend collecting, The Collector's Encyclopedia of Bookends by Kuritzky and De Costa (2005) provides an excellent overview.

Below: Brass bookends are a common find at thrift shops and yard sales. These can easily retail for \$30 or more at antique stores.









February 25, 2025



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Above: A set of hand-carved French bookends from the early 1800s was available for \$425.

Below: While design had largely given way to mass production by the 1980s, bookends like these by Maggie Miller (\$10) still have their fans.







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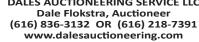


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Hubley FROM PAGE 1

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to use toys to provide positive affects on children's mental health.

Logging is one of the deepest-rooted industries in America, going back to the early 1600s. And every child has heard of the great lumberjack Paul Bunyan and Babe, his blue ox. Bunyan represents the hard work of all loggers, keeping the industry part of American folklore.

Hubley certainly picked the right decade to release its logging series of toy trucks. By 1950, the United States produced 38 billion board feet of lumber, which was, perhaps, its best lumber year ever. As our logging industry moved forward through the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, the national number of board feet produced by logging remained around 34 bil-

lion board feet each year. Hubley strived to capture the logging world's attention with its line of toy logging trucks in the 1950s, producing intricate designs and detailed toys for logging enthusiasts and collectors both. Today, logging truck collectors still seek out Hubley's line of logging trucks as not just vintage, but nostalgic reminders of the glory days of the logging industry.

Many of Hubley's log-

ging toys were generically crafted but still based on real-life logging vehicles. By keeping its logging trucks attractive, easy to play with, and simple to manufacture, Hubley sought to corner an increasing market where working men purchased toys for their children based on the type of work the men performed.

> Hubley produced both a short and long logging truck. The short bed logging truck was 6 1/2 inch-



Above: Vintage, #1490 blue Hubley logging truck with logs. This metal truck is valued at \$28.



Above: Hubley, circa 1950, flatbed, tractor/trailer logging stake truck, missing stakes, which was offered on eBay for \$50.

es long and held short logs directly on the truck's bed, while the long logging truck, which was 16 inches long, was a Ford logging truck and trailer where longer logs were carried on a logging trailer attached to the truck.

As vintage logging trucks go, Hubley trucks are still very affordable on secondary markets, making them fun purchases for collectors and children alike.

Hubley has a long legacy of collectible toys that are still actively

sought by collectors today, and Hubley's line of toy logging trucks with their historical significance and innovative craftsmanship have helped Hubley earn its place in the history of American toy truck manufacturing.

Jason Clark new MAA president

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Jason Clark has been elected president of the Michigan Auctioneers Association (MAA). A seasoned auctioneer from Alma, Mich., Clark brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new role.

Clark's journey in the auction industry began more than 15 years ago. In 2010, he acquired Pioneer Auction Service from his uncle, Dick Clark, after several years of apprenticeship. Under his leadership, Pioneer Auction Service has flourished, earning a reputation for professionalism and excellence in handling various auctions, including estates, personal property, agricultural equipment, business liquidations, real estate, and benefit events.

Throughout his career, Clark has achieved significant milestones. He was crowned the Michigan Auctioneer Champion in 2020, a testament to his exceptional skills and commitment to the profession. In 2021, he further distinguished himself by winning the GoToAuction.com Midwest Auctioneer Championship. In 2023, Clark was awarded the Certified Michigan Auctioneer Designation, which entails an extensive application process with rigorous certification requirements.

Reflecting on his journey, Clark said, "I have always wanted to be a father, farmer, and auctioneer. I'm proud to say that I have worked hard to become all of these things thanks to the help and encouragement from others. I strongly encourage any auctioneer to join the Michigan Auctioneers Association and compete in the available competitions. You will better yourself and your auction business all around."

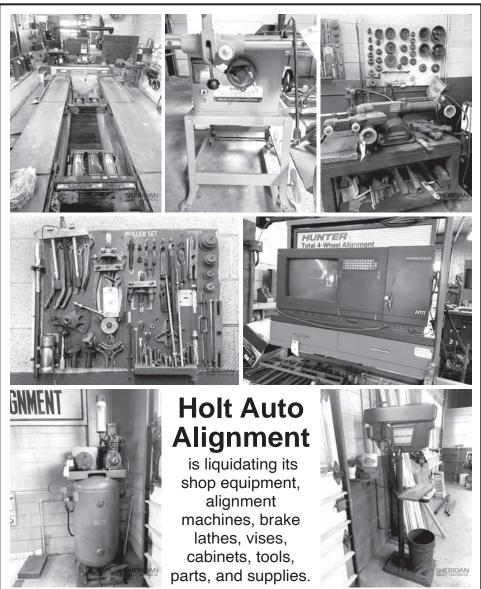
As the 2025 MAA President, Clark aims to advance the association's mission of enhancing Michigan's auction indus-



Above: Mathias Donat (Left, 2024 MAA President) presents the gavel to new MAA president Jason Clark.

try through education, promotion, advocacy, and networking. His leadership is expected to bring innovative perspectives and foster continued growth within the organization.

For more information about the Michigan Auctioneers Association and upcoming events, please visit www. FindMichiganAuctions. com





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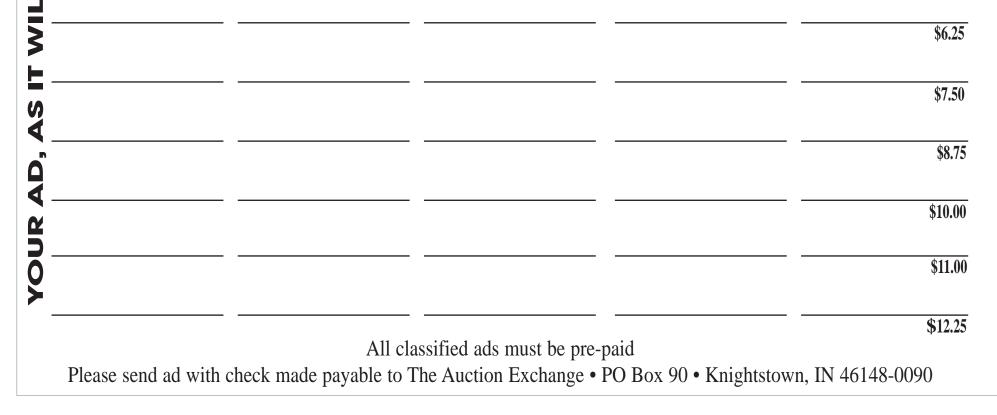
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