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\$150

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October 28, 2025

Vol. 48 No.47

ACROSS THE AUCTION BLOCK

Amateur radio gear sparked strong bidding at auction

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

SHEPHERD, Mich. — On Oct. 15, Osborne Auction Service LLC hosted an online-only estate sale in partnership with a local trustee, offering a wide variety of items from a property in western Midland County. The auction featured 278

lots, including a Case 730 Case-O-Matic tractor with a snowblower attachment, a Greenworks CRZ 426 zero-turn mower, ham radio gear, hunting decoys, reloading supplies, tools, small implements, furniture, and more. The event was hosted on HiBid, with limited shipping avail-

able for smaller pieces.

Though the bidding stayed grounded, the event's selection of distinctive and less typical estate items helped attract attention throughout the sale. The highest offer was \$910 for a barn-kept and running Case 730 dual-wheeled tractor. While unclear, it may have been converted from a narrow front to a wide front. Coming in next, at \$660, was a Greenworks Pro Crossover model CRZ-426 zero-turn electric mower. The 60V mower came with six batteries and three chargers. While in running condition, the blade and wheels

were stuck in the high position.

A dozen lots of amateur radio and related gear, that, while untested and sold as-is, drew many of the higher bids. An Ameritron AL-811 amplifier, tested for powering up, brought a respectable \$240. A popular Kenwood R-5000 communications receiver came in right behind at \$230, while an MFJ Differential-T antenna tuner hit \$160.

Among the ham radio accessories, a 67-inch Little Tarheel II multi-band mobile antenna stood out, fetching \$165. Buyers also snapped up some bargains, like a Kenwood MC-50 desk microphone for a cool \$37 and a vintage Vibroplex Morse code key, with its original carrying case for



Above: A surprising \$69 was offered for a set of Christmas-themed Occupied Japan salt and pepper shakers.

\$36.

The auction also featured a range of hunting and fishing gear. Several boats found new owners at reasonable prices, including a 12-foot aluminum fishing boat won for

\$83, and a 10-foot duck hunting layout boat that left for \$41. Outboard motors attracted attention too — a Mercury Force 5hp model, com-

See Ham radio Page 6



Left: The auction's top bid of \$910 went for this 1960s-era Case 730 Case-O-Matic tractor.

FEATURE

Collectors are not scared of Halloween noisemakers

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

Most of today's Halloween traditions began centuries ago as

superstitions. The earliest roots of Halloween can be traced to the Celtic pastoral festival of Samhain, which later became "All Hallow's Eve" or, simply, Halloween.

Samhain, meaning "summer's end" was considered a day "between years." The day before Samhain was the last day of the old year and the day after Samhain was the first day of the New Year. Samhain was considered a very magical

night when the dead walked among the living.

Ancient Druids believed that on the last night of October the veil between this world and the otherworld was diminished enough to allow the spirits of the dead, evil spirits, ghosts and witches to roam abroad over the land. This was the night when souls of the dead revisited their former homes. Villagers lit giant bonfires in an attempt to drive the dead spirits from their

towns. Superstition led people to believe that spirits of the dead could inhabit the bodies of the living unless the person was so grotesque or scary that no spirit would want to assume such an undesirable body. Bands of young people disguised in grotesque masks, carrying lanterns carved from turnips, ran through the villages scaring away the deadly spirits. Other villages used noisemakers such as bells, horns, or rattles to drive the evil spirits away. Today, the masks and noisemakers used at Halloween are directly attributed to the early traditions of Samhain.

Modern Halloween noisemakers originated in Germany in the early 1900s and became popular in America around 1920. The earliest Halloween noisemakers



Rare, 1940s paper pumpkin noisemaker that was "Made in USA." It was offered on eBay for \$350.



Above and right: Halloween Metal Sparkler noisemaker with box. In nearly mint condition, this noisemaker is valued at \$60.

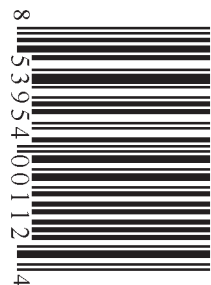


were made of cardboard or reeds and made a ratcheting sound when spun. By the early 1950s, Halloween noisemakers were made of tin and came in all shapes and sizes, featuring colorful

Halloween graphics. While noisemakers were popular for nearly 40 years, by the 1960s, they were considered old fashioned and all but

See Halloween Page 4

SINCE 1978 THE WEEKLY AUCTION & COLLECTORS
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OCTOBER 30TH, 2025 AT 9AM



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AUCTIONEERS AND APPRAISERS

AY000004L

Very Large

PUBLIC AUCTION

SPORTING GOODS - OUTDOORSMAN- SPORTS CARD COLLECTION

THURSDAY – OCTOBER 30 - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: 5075 RUSSCHER ROAD

HOLLAND, MI (Allegan County)

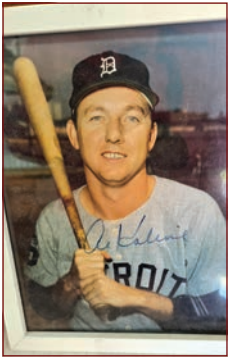
zone 4

SPORTS CARDS (Fleer, Collectors Choice, Halographics, Upper Deck, Donruss,-most from early 1990's—many boxes) – BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, HOCKET, NASCAR; 18 SIGNED BASEBALLS, 2 BASKETBALLS; MANY SIGNED PICTURES AND MEMORABILIA.

GUNS: Winchester model 27 20 ga; Savage Mark II .22; H&R Topper model 158, Stebens Pump .22 ; Thompson .50 cal; Remington .22; Valken infiltrator .177 cal. Double barrel Optima .50 cal black powder;

MISC.: Mad River Canoe; oars; jack knife collection; hunting knives; Woods Chogan hatchet; Marble Collector knife; Maxam knife; Browning hatchet; compound bow; igloo coolers; live traps, life jackets; snow & water skies-O'Brien trainer skis; waiters; snorkel; hunting blind; ice fishing shanty; snowboard; knee board; indoor target range; firing range table; Flight Master skeet thrower; FISH POLES - Okuma Convector C45D; Tekota Shimno 800, 700LC; Daiwa accudepth plus 47LC/700; Penn 750 SS, 209; Daiwa Great Lakes 47C; Penn 330; Penn 49; Heddon 260R; LOTS of tackle boxes full of lures - mostly big lake fishing; 5' mounted (stuffed teddy bear); PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE . . .

AUCTION NOTE: A VERY BRIEF listing. Watch web site for many pictures and listing. VIEWING will be Wednesday – October 29 (3:00-5:00).





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zone 12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

AT 11:00 AM EST

Attend the auction in person, or leave absentee bids directly with the auction house, or bid live during the auction or leave absentee bids on the Internet at www.LiveAuctioneers.com / Stony Ridge Auction.

More of the 40 year hoarder's collection - 5 spool cabinets; vintage signs; quilts; 1930-60s Ohio Art toys, some in o/boxes NOS; scales; firkins and painted butter churn; original owner's postcards from 1900 to 1940s; large collection of Jadeite kitchenware; Hall Pottery; 3 sets of NOS dinnerware includes large Dalton Seville; Holiday lots; marbles; large lot of baseball cards and more; rare early Indianapolis race car felt pennant; rare 1890s Wood County Ohio presentation cane with gold end; 1931 Hoosier child's cupboard and rare half-size Hoosier cupboard; box lots of license plates includes 1955 NOS; much more than listed.



Rare Sellers / Hoosier Half Cabinet – other furniture



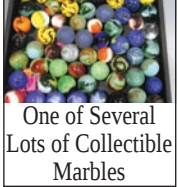
J & P Coats 6-Drawer Spool Cabinet – one of 5



Large "Enjoy Coca-Cola" Metal Sign – 1 of several signs



1900-1920 Helena, OH Resident's Full Postcard Album



One of Several Lots of Collectible Marbles



1930s Hoge Mfg. Co. NY Police Chief Car - others



1932 Craftsman Model Fisher Body Carriage / Coach



1940-50 Ohio Art Children's Pastry & Canister Set NOS – 1 of many



1960-70s Wax Halloween Candles & Postcards – other holidays



Rare 1894 Brass Computing Scale Co. Dayton - ex cond.



19th C Blue & White Coverlet – and several quilts



1931 Child's Kitchen Hoosier Cupboard in O/ Paint - others



1896 Gold Tip Cane Presented to John Bair of Wood County



Unsigned Lamp w/ Iced Glass Shade



Set of 4 Jadeite Fire-King Mixing Bowls – 1 of very large collection



19th C Blue Painted Firkin / Sugar Bucket – others

Greg Wilson, Auctioneer

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COUNTRY AUCTION - ESTATE OF DARRELL BERGOR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH @ 10AM

2249 S. LIMA CENTER RD, CHELSEA, MI

zone 5

Directions: Take I-94 to Baker Rd. (Exit 167) and go south. At the first light, turn right onto Jackson Rd then in 1 mile turn left onto S Parker Rd and then right in approx. 2.6 miles onto Scio Church Rd. In 3 miles turn left onto S Lima Center Rd and the auction will be on your left.

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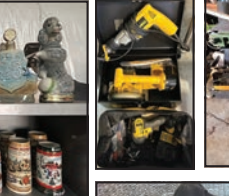
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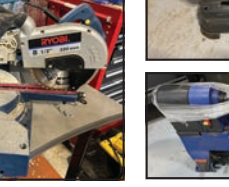
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Halloween

FROM PAGE 1

disappeared from Halloween.

Today Halloween collectors make noise over vintage noisemakers both for their sounds and their visual qualities. While Halloween noisemakers were imported from other countries, the big three American noisemaker

companies were Kirchof, T. Cohn, and U.S. Metal Toy; although, many collections are based on “Made in Japan” noisemakers, which are interesting but of inferior quality. Surprisingly, Japanese made noisemakers, at least vintage ones, are hard to find. German made noisemakers are also almost impossible to find anymore. Although American-made

Halloween noisemakers are the easiest to find, some companies such as Bugle Toy Company are quite scarce (especially since almost nothing is known of this company), so these noisemakers demand more money on the secondary market.

Wood and tin Halloween noisemakers were inexpensive, fun toys. They came in all varieties with many different styles, featuring the usual Halloween symbols of witches, black cats, ghosts, pumpkins, owls, and devils.

Most vintage Halloween noisemakers sell for about \$10 with a few selling for \$75 or more. Exceptional ones sell for hundreds of dollars. Older, wood noisemakers are rarer than the tin ones from the 1950s, and ratchet noisemakers are more sought after than drum type noisemakers. Ornate designs greatly affect cost. German tin ratchet noisemakers have superior designs



Above: Vintage Halloween tambourine noisemaker. Tambourine noisemakers add depth to any Halloween collection. This one is valued at \$25.



This Japanese noisemaker, from the 1950s, is considered rare. It still spins freely, making plenty of noise, and it is valued at \$20.



Above: Oval-shaped tin litho noisemaker with ornate owl design that is valued around \$20.



Above: This common tin litho noisemaker from the 1950s still makes plenty of noise. It is valued at \$20

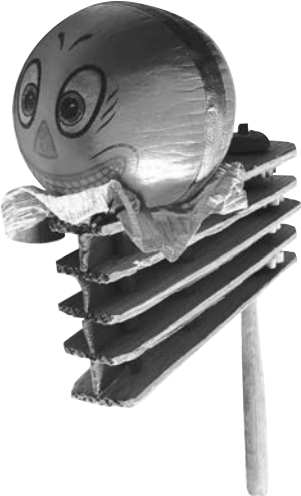
and often cost \$125 or more. Designs can be misleading though. Companies in the 1950s used identical designs taken from noisemakers of the 1920s and ‘30s, but while they appear similar, the earlier noisemakers are worth more than the 1950s ones are worth.

While ratchet and barrel noisemakers are the most common, when adding to your collection don’t overlook Halloween tambourines, metal sparklers, clangers, and rattlers. The earliest Halloween noisemakers have sculptured wooden handles, next came straight wooden handles, and finally plastic handles.

Some old noisemakers were one-of-a-kind since they were handmade, and, today, many families still make Halloween noisemakers, especially as party favors.

Whether you make your own or you scavenge garage sales and flea markets looking for vintage ones, Halloween noisemakers add both a cultural and an ascetic ambiance to any Halloween collection. And they are an excellent way to start collecting vintage Halloween items since the majority of noisemakers are still inexpensive.

Noisemakers also add noisy musical-color to the simple phrase “Trick or Treat!”



Above: Most likely made in Germany, this Halloween ratchet-type noisemaker could easily be the highlight of any collection. It is valued at \$365.



Vintage tin noisemaker that is 6 ½ inches long. Made by US Metal Toy Co. in the 1950s, this noisemaker is valued at \$18.



Two tin litho ratchet-style noisemakers made by Kirchhoff of Newark, N.J. The one on the left is from the 1920s and valued at \$100. The noisemaker on the right is from the 1950s and sells for about \$15.



This Chein Halloween noisemaker is fun to swing and is valued at \$30.

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NOV. 4	TUES., OCT. 28
NOV. 11	TUES., NOV. 4
NOV. 18	TUES., NOV. 11
NOV. 25	TUES., NOV. 18
DEC. 2	MON., NOV. 24
DEC. 9	TUES., DEC. 2
DEC. 16	TUES., DEC. 9
DEC. 23	TUES., DEC. 16
NO ISSUE DEC. 30, 2025	



THE AUCTION EXCHANGE
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ZONE MAP

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

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

This symbol will correspond to the zone map shown here.



JANUARY

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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 2

Sat., Nov. 1, Currie Auction Service, Miscellaneous, Big Rapids, MI

ZONE 5

Wed., Oct. 29, Spieth & Satow, Tool, HH, Misc., Clark Lake, MI

Sat., Nov. 1, Holler & Hammer LLC, Christmas, Jackson, MI

Thu., Nov. 6, Braun & Helmer Auction Service, Estate, Chelsea, MI

ZONE 6

Thu., Oct. 30, Braun & Helmer Auction Service, Real Estate, Dexter, MI

ZONE 8

Fri., Nov. 7, Hahn Auction Service, Machinery, Tractor, Nappanee, IN

ZONE 12

Sat., Nov. 1, Whalen Realty & Auction, Equip., Auto, Toledo, OH

Fri., Nov. 7, Whalen Realty & Auction, Miscellaneous, Neapolis, OH

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Day	Date	Auction Company	Type of Auction	Town	State

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Ham radio

FROM PAGE 1

plete with extra props and a wood stand, struck \$83, while a Tanaka 300 outboard with a wood stand sold for \$21.

A dozen lots of duck, goose, and other bird decoys also caught eyes. Prices spanned from \$2 for a mixed group with Northwind, Flambeau, and other versions, to \$43 for a set of Greentree Canadian Geese decoys with flocked necks, six bodies, bases, and two storage bags.

Hunters and sport shooters found plenty to chase among the many lots of ammunition and reloading supplies. Some changed hands for just a few dollars - like a gun cleaning supply bundle grabbed for just \$2. At the higher end, two partial jugs of Promo smokeless shotshell powder, each more than half full, went for \$110. Mid-range action landed items like four boxes of Hornady .44-caliber bullets, which

Above: Reflecting the resurgence of popularity of shortwave listening, this Kenwood R-5000 general coverage receiver hit \$230.

Above: The auction was very eclectic, offering everything from yard equipment to vintage items like this Columbia tandem bike (\$54).

struck \$65, a collection of four bullet molds, including Lee and Lyman models with their original boxes, won for \$43, and a box of 1,000 Cheddite 209 shotshell primers, scored for \$27.

Outdoor gear extended to other sporting goods, like a Coleman camp oven, in its original box, that sold for \$26. That bid was matched on a 76-by-40-inch Otter sled. Later, a Jeff Foiles sport utility blind closed for \$22.

For those more focused on maintaining property than pursuing outdoor recreation, there was plenty available. Among the gear was a King Kutter 5-foot brush hog

designed for towing behind a tractor, landed for \$155. Bargaining hit \$92 for an 8-foot-wide cultivator, while a rough but functional 13 by 6-foot dump trailer designed to run off tractor hydraulics was picked up for \$54.

For participants with a workshop or garage to outfit, the sale included a solid mix of tools. An oxygen-propane torch set went for \$57, while a 14 3/4 by 60 by 17 1/2-inch heavy-duty log lifter was taken home for \$51. A sturdy Parker 5-inch vise mounted on a 38-inch-tall steel tripod stand hammered at \$43.

After the stretch of utility and outdoor gear, things shifted noticeably toward decor and collectibles. At the forefront was a 10K gold size 7 class ring, which closed at \$150. A pair of vintage Occupied Japan Christmas salt and pepper shakers brought a surprising \$69, while a signed Steuben eagle flew off for \$29. Outside, a restorable Columbia Twosome tandem bike got a new home for \$54 — reflecting the unusual mix

Above: Lawn care equipment included this Greenworks Pro CRZ-426 zero-turn electric mower (\$660).

in this sale that rewarded decisive bidders with worthwhile opportunities.

For information on Osborne Auction Service's upcoming sales, visit: osborneauctionservice.com

Right: Duck, goose, owl, and even heron decoys were offered. This set of six Canadian Goose Decoys reached \$41.

Above: Most of the ham radio equipment commanded top spots, like this Ameritron AL-811 amplifier that got the auction's third-highest bid at \$240.

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DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.	
ZONE 4 MICHIGAN					
Thu., Oct. 30	4pm	Dales Auctioneering	Holland, MI	Sporting, Outdoor	3
ZONE 5 MICHIGAN					
Thu., Oct. 30	10am	Stantons Auctioneers	Mulliken, MI	Miscellaneous	8
Thu., Nov. 6	10am	Braun & Helmer Auct.	Chelsea, MI	Estate	3
ZONE 12 OHIO					
Sun., Nov. 2	11am	Stony Ridge Auction	Lemoyne, OH	Antq., Coll., Misc.	3
Nov. 7 & 8	10am	Whalen Realty & Auct.	Neapolis, OH	Miscellaneous	10

CATEGORIES					
• Antique	• Computer	• Firearm	• Industrial	• Office Equip.	• Sports
• Business/Commercial	• Consignment	• Food	• Jewelry	• Personal Prop.	• Tag Sale
• Clock	• Doll	• Furniture	• Lamp	• Pottery	• Tool
• Coin	• Equipment	• Glass	• Livestock	• Primitive	• Toy
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DATE	TIME	AUCTIONEER/SRV. CITY	TYPE	PAGE/SEC.	
ZONE WEB					
•	•	John Peck	Online	Vintage Motorcycle	9
•	•	Maxbid.com	Online	Equipment	8
•	•	Orbitbid	Online	Farm	9
•	•	Repocast	Online	Heavy Equipment	9
•	•	Stantons	Online	Antique Cars	8
•	•	Stantons	Online	Equipment	8
Nov. 15 & 16	•	JM Hobby	Online	Hobby, Railroad	7
ZONE CALENDAR					
Every Wed.	9am	Shipshewana	Shipshewana, IN	Antique., Misc.	6
•	•	Yutzy's	Charlotte, MI	Hay & Straw	10

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Turkish “gag” maestro helped remake Halloween and April Fools’ Day

BY RICHARD JUNGER

Samuel Oumano was a 16-year-old Turkish immigrant who operated a New York City pushcart in the early 1900s to help support his family. Daily, he sold fruits and vegetables, but he also made money on the side selling “naughty” French postcards, especially to sailors lounging around the US Naval docks in Manhattan harbor.

Another of his sideline “delicacies”, as he called them, were “French ticklers”, decorated condoms long popular in Europe. Within a few years, his side business had grown so prosperous that he opened a retail store at the southeast corner of 29th and Broadway in Manhattan.

Oumano is hardly a household name today,

but his family’s company, Franco-American Novelty, was one of the largest 20th-century American manufacturers and distributors of gag gifts. Along the way, Oumano helped reshape Halloween and April Fools’ Day into the holidays we know today. The countless novelties produced by his company make for an interesting and fun collection as well as offer a commentary on 20th-century American social and cultural life.

A novelty or “gag gift” is usually defined as a gadget or object used or given to perpetrate a trick or practical joke on another. While regular or normal jokes are verbal or written, practical jokes are situational, requiring some kind of action and often a prop or two. Franco-American provided

the props.

The young Oumano was multi-lingual, teaching night school French and German, and that knowledge gave him an advantage in retailing risqué French merchandise. Unfortunately, his postcards and condoms were obscene and so classified as illegal to mail in the US under the 1873 Comstock Act.

His solution was to find more socially acceptable merchandise. An amateur magician, Oumano came up with a parlor magic trick he called “The Brass Nickel to Dime Trick”. In those days, doubling a nickel was a big deal. The trick turned four nickels into four dimes and with Oumano’s instructions it became an instant success.

Such Oumano gags helped remake April Fools’

Day. While the holiday had been around for hundreds of years, the tricks tended to be elaborate and expensive. Take the faked newspaper account of a failed 1588 invasion of England that was smuggled into the Cambridge University archives by four undergraduate students in the early 19th century. The newspaper was quoted repeatedly subsequently until an inquiring scholar noticed its April 1 date.

When a competitor introduced a cloth spring snake that jumped out of an opened peanut brittle can, Franco-American responded with a snake that came out of a raspberry jam jar or a mixed nut can. Then there was the dribble beer glass, with small holes below the rim, and a cigar with a real exploding pellet

Right: Incorrectly called “Groucho Glasses”, the “Beagle Puss” disguise kit was a leading Franco-American seller. Regardless, the costume evoked Marx’s irreverent sense of humor, created instant laughter and became a gag gift classic.

mixed in with the tobacco. With squirting flowers, a gag originally introduced in 1881 but copied and improved upon by Oumano, April Fools’ Day in the 20th century became associated with smaller, quicker, cheaper practical jokes. The new gags also attracted attention for their cleverness or inventiveness, such as the Nickel to Dime trick or chopping a worthless item like horsehair into tiny pieces and selling it as itching powder.



One of the most popular early 20th century gag gifts was the joy buzzer. Originally invented in Germany in the late 19th century, a buzzer differed because it had to be offered to a target in the form of a handshake rather than given as a gift. Oumano and others improved on the German version until another American patented

See Halloween Gag Gifts Page 10

ERIC SEDORE AUCTION

THURS. MORNING, OCT. 30, 2025, AT 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 8177 E. EATON HWY. MULLIKEN, MI

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ONLINE AUCTION OF ANTIQUE CARS WOLEVER ESTATE

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zone web



The two cars to be sold include a 1949 Dodge Meadowbrook (restored) and a 1940 Cadillac Series 60 Fleetwood (unrestored), both with titles. Inspection on Wednesday, October 29th from 4:00-5:30 PM at 170 N. Main St., Vermontville, MI. or by appointment. See our website for bidding details. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged on all items sold.

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ONLINE ONLY AUCTION OF IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT VANKRUIJNINGEN ESTATE

BIDDING STARTS NOVEMBER 1ST BIDDING CLOSES NOVEMBER 21ST @ 6 PM

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LOCATION: 7808 E (EAST) U AVE., VICKSBURG, MICHIGAN.

Selling all irrigation equipment at the VanKruiningen Estate at this **Online Only Auction**. The sale includes an assembled Valley 3-tower system, Valley 8000 3-180 ft. span unit, as well as travers, pipe, tires, and some smalls. There will be a 10% buyer's premium charged on all items sold. Go to our website for the posting of lots at www.stantons-auctions.com

Inspection is on Friday November 7th from 9 a.m. - 12:00 noon.



However, the majority of the items can be viewed anytime. Call Steven E Stanton, 517-331-8150 or Email stevenestanton@gmail.com

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LOTS BEGIN ENDING: NOVEMBER 4TH @ 10:00 AM

MAXBID.COM QUALITY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

LOCATION: 695 AMELIA ST.

PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

zone web

INSPECTION: NOVEMBER 3RD, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM



- 2003 CASE 221D WHEEL LOADER
- BOBCAT 763 SKID STEER LOADER W/BUCKET & FORKS
- INGERSOLL RAND MODEL 709 BACKHOE ATTACHMENT
- 2012 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD V8 EXTENDED CAB SLE 4WD PICK-UP TRUCK, 46,771 MILES, W/ WESTERN 8' ULTRA FINISH PLOW & TOMMY GATE HYDRUALIC LIFT GATE
- 2009 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD V8 REGULAR CAB SLE 4WD PICK-UP TRUCK, 49,652 MILES, TOMMY GATE HYDRAULIC LIFT GATE
- 2008 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD 3/4 TON V8 REGULAR CAB SLE 4WD STAKE TRUCK, 72,929 MILES
- AMERICAN LINCOLN 2160 RIDE ON SWEEPER, MODEL: 578-601
- SMOG HOG PORTA CLEAN MACHINE
- GAGEMASTER OPTICAL COMPARATOR, MODEL: 29/GM5
- DELTA 14" DRILL PRESS, MODEL: 14-070
- MILLER DELTAWELD 450 PORTABLE MIG WELDER
- AIRCO 450 PORTABLE MIG WELDER W/ MILLER S-52E WIREFEED & MILLER WATERMATE 1 COOLING SYSTEM, MODEL: CV-450
- AMERICAN RANGE 6 BURNER RANGE W/DOUBLE OVEN, SKILLET AND BROILER
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BIDDING ENDS: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

VICKSBURG, MI

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- John Deere 4555 tractor
- John Deere 4850 tractor
- John Deere 4640 tractor
- Oliver 1755 tractor
- Oliver Super 88 tractor

Combine and Heads

- John Deere 9500 Combine
- John Deere 693, 6-row corn head with poly snouts
- John Deere 920F grain head

Tillage

- Landoll 6231-21 disc
- Krause 1588, 16' disc

Unverferth, model 120 Zone-Builder, 5-shank sub soiler

- Oliver 3PT chisel plow, 7 shank
- John Deere 714 Chisel Plow, 9 shank

Planting Equipment

- John Deere 7240, 6-row corn planter with liquid fertilizer
- International 510 drill, 21-hole soybean special

Support Equipment

- Unverferth GC475 grain cart
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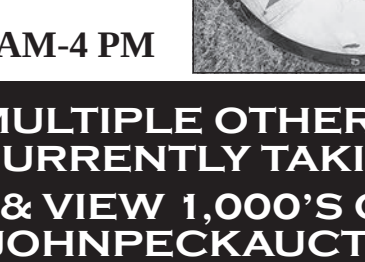
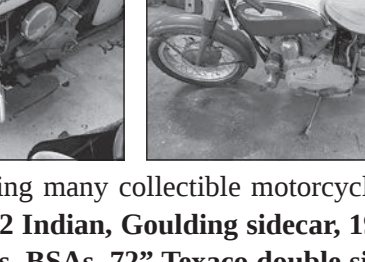
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2012 Manitou MLT 845-120 LSU S4E3 M Telehandler

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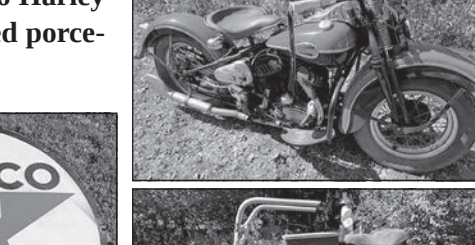
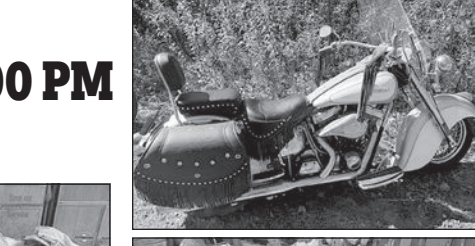
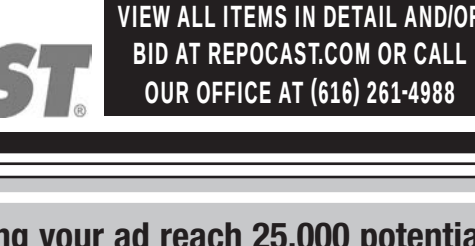
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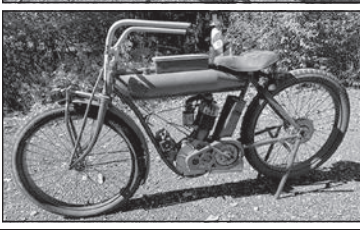
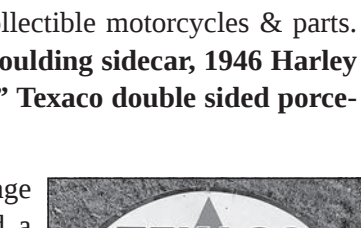
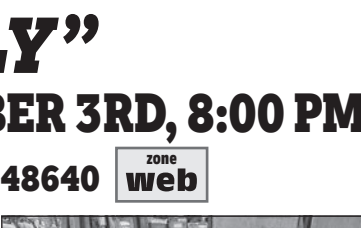
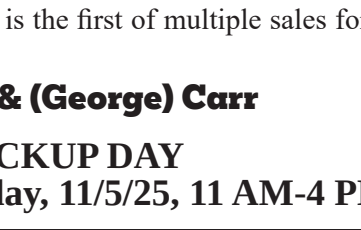
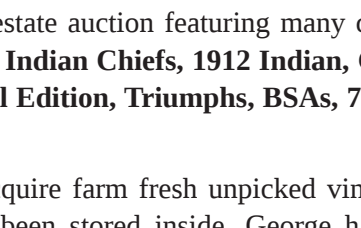
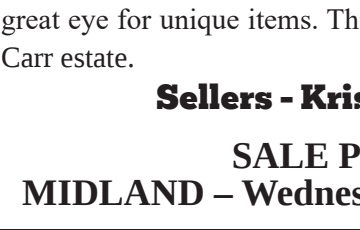
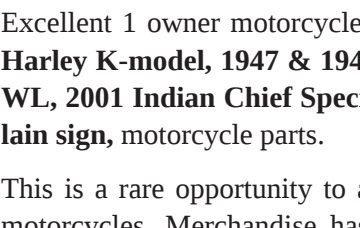
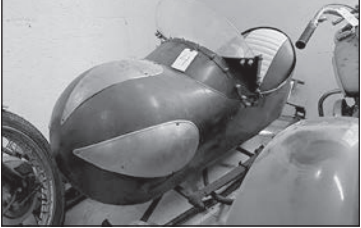
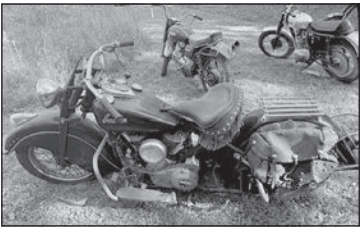
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Halloween Gag Gifts

FROM PAGE 8

a very effective buzzer in 1932. In all cases, the buzz was always the unwinding of an internal metal spring, never a true electric shock.

The 19th-century French originally named what came to be called the whoopie cushion. He re-named his American version the “poo-poo cushion”, a moniker that has stood the test of time. It became one of Franco-American’s most popular sellers until the 1970s.

Beyond April Fools’ Day, Franco-American accelerated the social acceptability of Halloween trick or treating. Originally early 20th-century tricksters dressed in plain dark clothing so they could surreptitiously start bonfires, tip outhouses, lead horses inside buildings, throw flour in a homeowner’s face when they came calling (a trick called “ghosting”), soap windows, and perform various other pranks.

Franco-American began supplying masks, costumes, and party novelties in the 1920s, especially in five-and-dime stores and through mail order, for all kinds of occasions. Just as Charles Dickens’ 1843 “Christmas Carol” story helped turn Christmas into a major commercial holiday, Oumano’s supplies helped make Halloween into the multi-billion dollar

industry it is today. Even though interest in gag gifts has waned over the years, his family’s company remained in business in the early 21st century primarily selling costumes and Halloween-type accessories like wigs and latex masks.

One particular Franco-American costume-related item became especially popular beginning in the 1940s. Incorrectly called “Groucho Glasses”, a set of faux celluloid and eventually black plastic glasses, nose, moustache, eyebrows and maybe cigar were mistakenly labeled after the film and TV comedian. Such fake noses and black plastic glasses came to personify the entire mid-century gag gift culture and were an instant laugh almost anywhere.

Renewed interest in Egyptology in the 1950s inspired Franco-American to introduce the King Tut magic trick. When a performer attempted to place a small plastic mummy figure into his casket, it resisted. Only by following the instructions could the performer coax the figure back into its casket. The trick was especially effective in bars and other locales where “friendly” wagering and plenty of suckers were available.

Beyond naughty postcards, only a few other Franco-American gags have gotten the company

into trouble. The government stopped Oumano from making rubber dollar bills in the mid 1930s, and stink bombs were discontinued when gangsters began using them.

Franco-American “Goofy Flying String”, liquid plastic in a can intended as a toy for use by children, became highly popular in the 1980s. Each aerosol can expelled a string-like substance that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission determined was flammable and therefore a banned substance under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) in 1990. Franco-American had to pay a \$40,000 civil penalty for that gag. Surviving examples of all such banned gags are very rare.

By the time of his death in 1975, Oumano had designed more than 50 novelties, from fake doggy poo to exploding golf balls.



Above: The King Tut plastic mummy was a popular mid-20th century gag gift. [Courtesy of eBay]

2-DAY AUCTION

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2025

@ 10:00 AM

Friday-200+ Pcs. Cast Iron- Many Griswold, Bells, Rocks, Tobacco Items
Saturday-Lifetime Collection of Antique Tools-Mostly Stanley

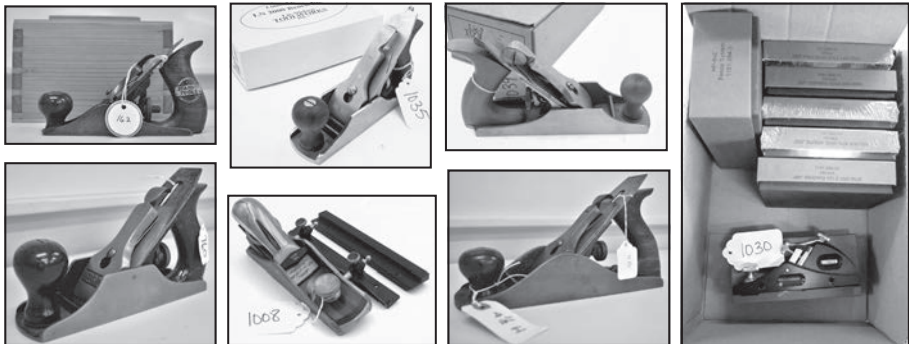
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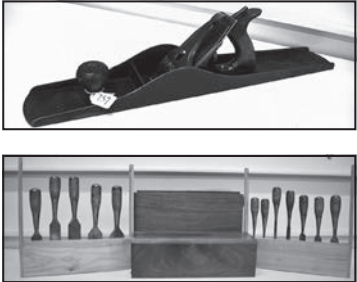


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