



**Bertoia's May 11-12 auction to be a hybrid event consisting of cataloged gallery session on day 1 and online sale on day 2**



Featured: the Rick Ralston Transportation Art collection, fine cast iron vehicles & taxis; mechanical banks & doorstops; Sturditoy & Kingsbury collections; coin-ops, antique advertising, toy soldiers & more

VINELAND, N.J. – Bertoia's has a springtime treat in store for toy, bank and antique advertising collectors on Thursday and Friday, May 11-12. The Bertoia family will be hosting a 1,000-lot hybrid event that opens with a day-long cataloged gallery auction, followed the next day by a full slate of new discoveries presented in the Bertoia Basics online-only format collectors love. Bertoia's president and principal auctioneer Michael Bertoia will open the first lot to bidding at 10 am Eastern time on both days. Bidders may also participate in the Thursday sale by phone, absentee or live online.

The May 11 session is noteworthy for the consistently high quality seen across its many categories. It includes Part II of a private collection of cast-iron automotive and motorcycle toys Bertoia's introduced in March. "The collection contains one superior example after another, with rarity and impeccable provenance backing the great majority," said Michael Bertoia.







The cast-iron automotive grouping is anchored by a Hubley Packard Straight Eight sedan, \$7,000-\$10,000; an Arcade White Bekins moving van, \$5,000-\$7,500; an Arcade White shovel-nose gasoline truck, \$3,000-\$5,000; and a Dent wrecker truck, \$3,000-\$5,000.

The sale also features the second installment of figural cast-iron doorstops from a lifelong collection. There are around 70 doorstops in total, each a testament to its selective owner, who focused on rarity and condition as the non-negotiables before making each acquisition.

The cast iron section is further enhanced by a small sampling of mechanical banks from the Phil and Joan Steel collection. They include Chief Big Moon, \$1,200-\$1,800; and a Boy Scout bank, \$5,000-\$7,500; plus a Shepard Hardware Picture Gallery bank, \$4,000-\$7,000.



The Thursday gallery session also includes approximately 80 pressed-steel toys, highlighted by the Michael Yolles Kingsbury automotive collection and a small but very choice Sturditoy collection from New England including a wrecker truck, \$3,000-\$5,000; and an ambulance truck, \$2,500-\$4,500. A 29-inch-long Buddy 'L' passenger bus could attract a similar winning bid of \$2,500-\$4,500.







More than 200 lots of antique advertising and country store items add color and fun to the lineup. Signage ranges from gas and automotive themes to soda pop and trade signs. The array of amusements also includes gumball machines, cigar lighters and refill stations; early showcases with leaded glass, advertising tip trays, decorative beverage coasters, and much more.

A 5ft-tall wooden cigar store figure depicting an African-American man on a wooden base advertises "Uncle Joe's Cigars" and accompanies two hand carved carousel figures. A 53-inch-long Dr. Pepper sign, which is new/old stock, is entered with a \$2,000-\$4,000 estimate; while a Pepsi-Cola salesman's sample cooler in excellent condition is on target to sell for \$1,000-\$2,000. On the medicinal side, a Pratt's Veterinary Remedies store display cabinet carries a \$1,000-\$1,500 estimate.

Automobile dealership signs are always in demand. A 42-inch round "Authorized Buick Dealer" sign, described as "excellent" carries a \$2,000-\$3,000 estimate; and a 1951 Firestone sign, new/old stock and measuring 71 inches long, is estimated at \$1,200-\$1,500. For bicycle fans, a French "Cycles Le Globe" poster is assigned a \$1,200-\$1,800 estimate, and for those who have a fascination with the golden era of railway travel, there's a special 40-lot section of framed transportation art from the collection of noted toy train collector Rick Ralston.





