

THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

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HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!



FARM MACHINERY, TOOLS, OLD CARS...

Eagerly Awaited Auction At Herb Wessel's Farm Did Not Disappoint Collectors

By Bill Wurzell, Editor

Many Chesapeake Region Members had been looking forward to June 6 and 7 for Herb Wessel's Farm Auction in Hampstead, Carroll County. Most bidders weren't local and few CR members participated, nevertheless they were very interested to learn what some of the rare old cars and memorabilia would sell for...me included.

Mr. Wessel, although not a member of CRAACA, is a member of Gettysburg Region and of course A.A.C.A. and a very good friend of our organization.

Last year, Tom and Anne Kenney organized a 'Down on The Farm' tour that visited the properties of both Mr. Wessel and Sterling Walsh. As a result, many members were familiar with the vast array of farm equipment, implements, tools, and other

'rolling stock,' mechanized or not that was going over the auction block.

Mr. Wessel isn't an official dealer of 'Case' equipment; although he probably could be. I'm a city boy, born and raised, I prefer the neon and broadloom. What I know about farming is that it requires vast amounts of dirt and hard labor. I wouldn't know a 'manure spreader' from a 'potato digger.' Don't laugh, I have lots of company. I was totally unfamiliar with 'Case,' equipment, heck, I didn't even know they manufactured automobiles until I attended the 'farm tour' last year. Well, it turns out that Case products are very highly thought of by a lot of people that aren't afraid of dirt and hard labor. Case no longer man-

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I Ride 'Shotgun' On The 'Harford Rural Ramble' Orphan Car Tour

What an experience! After all these years I finally go on a car tour complete with clues to find along the way and compete for a prize to the one that finds the most clues, a very interesting challenge.

It started when Tom Kenney's 'numero uno' choice for 'navigator,' Tom's wife Anne, decided she would rather go on a bus trip to see Irish singers and dancers. Anne's decision opened a spot for me!

Tom had already booked the tour and needed a warm body. We left Saturday, June 7, around 9:30 am, from Tom's house



Tour Winners, Bob and Kathy Baer



Auctioneers from Aumann Auctions of Illinois, kept things moving from their comfortable perch atop a late model Chevrolet Silverado crew cab pickup truck. They would move the truck around from building to building and start the bidding on each item that was already tagged with a 'lot' number. The action was easy to hear even from a distance. People came from all over the United States in hopes of finding a treasure. Many bidders arrived in 'eighteen wheel lowboy tractor trailers.'

in Hampstead and drove in his smooth, quiet 1960 DeSoto Adventurer; Tom affectionally calls; 'The Shrimp Boat', as the exterior color is that of steamed shrimp!

The tour began at the Maryland Line Volunteer Fire Company and would end in Havre de Grace, Maryland for a ham and beef barbecue style dinner on the banks at the top of the Chesapeake Bay, where the Susquehanna River flows into the bay.

The tour is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Packard Club and other clubs including: Hudson-Essex-Terraplane, a couple local Studebaker Clubs and an AMC Club (American Motors Corporation). There were approximately 55 participants driving

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Herb Wessel's Farm Auction...

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ufactures automobiles but they still make farm and heavy construction equipment and lots of related items. Case is now part of International Harvester Corporation.

The car that I was interested in was a 1948 Chrysler Windsor 'Highlander' Club Coupe. The 'highlander' refers to the distinctive 'plaid' interior throughout the interior of the car; front and rear seats and door panels. It really is very attractive, even if you're not Scottish. I'm a sucker for the late 1940s and 1950s Chrysler Products. The dashboard on this '48 'reeks' of Art Deco. In addition to the Chrysler, which sold for \$7,000 and I thought a real bargain; there were many other vehicles including a 1950 Ford F1 pickup, sold for \$17,000, a 1956 'Divco Meat Delivery Truck' which was a converted milk truck sold for \$21,000; a Case 1912 'model M' touring car sold for \$55,000 and a 1913 'model N' sold for \$50,000. Even a forlorn '48 Studebaker Commander sedan, hammer price: \$3,800.

Everybody should own a 1918 Galloway Bear Cat Tractor, which sold for \$80,000! Well, everybody can't own one, there are only two in the world.

A Case double sided exterior neon sign in excellent condition sold for: \$9,750. In addition to the 'big stuff' there were thousands of hand tools, power tools and

related equipment. Lots of obsolete items like butter churn handles, glass milk bottles of every size. Wrenches galore, I counted 22 'monkey' wrenches of various sizes, on one table. Made me feel very inadequate because I don't even own one monkey wrench. If I ever get one, I'll make sure it's right handed. I was seriously searching for a 'sky hook' and a 'pickle stretcher.' These items are hard to find. When I was seven, my older brother Jim, was fourteen and would direct me to the local hardware stores to find these items for my mother and

father. Jim once tried to sell me a monkey wrench but I said 'nothing doing.' 'That's a left handed monkey wrench and I'm buying a right handed one! He was impressed.

The Wessel auction was a very interesting event and it will probably be sometime before this area sees another auction of this magnitude. Chesapeake Region extends a hearty 'congratulations' to our friend on what appears to be a hugely successful and fun auction.

NOTE to Mr. Wessel: now that your barns are empty, you need to refill them!



Case 1913 30 horsepower Steam Traction Engine, \$72,500



1918 Galloway Bear Cat Tractor, \$80,000



1948 Chrysler Windsor Coupe, \$7,000



Case 1918 Model 20-40 Tractor, \$37,500