

Barrett-Jackson Auction Co., Ramps Up For What May Be The Most Significant Collector Car Auction To Date

Beginning on January 13, 2015, in Scottsdale, AZ, for six consecutive days, Barrett-Jackson will send some of the most iconic, sought after and expensive vehicles and 'automobilia' across the auction block. The 'Pratte' Museum collection will be auctioned in its entirety, all at 'no reserve.' No reserve means whatever the highest bid is on any item, it will sell for the hammer price, plus taxes and fees which can add 8-10% to the sale price.

The collection is owned by Ron Pratte, a media shy, self-made,



A peek at the voluminous Pratte Museum Collection of iconic vehicles and 'automobilia' headed to auction beginning January 13, 2015.

mega-millionaire in the construction business. Over the last decade or so, Mr. Pratte acquired many manufacturer's 'one-off's', such as the 1954 Pontiac Bonneville Special, a two-place roadster similar to early Chevrolet Corvettes. Also, from General Motors, a 1953 Buick Roadmaster sedan that was the last car that billionaire recluse, Howard Hughes drove personally. Because of his fear of 'germs' Hughes had the Buick modified with four, six volt batteries in the trunk along with a 'bacteria box.' The vehicle's air-conditioning would operate even with the motor off. All the windows in the car except the driver's window were rendered 'inoperative' to keep out bacteria. The Roadmaster was in storage along with Mr. Hughes giant, eight-motored, wooden 'Spruce Goose' aircraft in Long Beach, California for decades. Last we heard, the Buick had less than 10k miles on the odometer.

Other vehicles in the collection are a number of Ford and Shelby Mustangs and a vehicle that belonged to his friend and fellow entrepreneur, Carroll Shelby. Shelby's electric blue, AC Cobra 'supersnake' with a 427 c.i. Ford motor with TWO superchargers.

Pratte was also a fan of the legendary automobile designer, the late Boyd Coddington. One of Coddington's cars in the auction is the 'Chezoom', a highly stylized two-door with 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air characteristics. Pratte purchased many of these vehicles at previous Barrett-Jackson auctions and paid millions of dollars, often what amounted to record-breaking prices at the time.

Cars and trucks are not the only items being auctioned, lots of 'automobilia' in the form of gas pumps, gas globes, electric neon and porcelain signs of car brands, oil companies and other automotive related products. There will even be 66 children's pedal cars which are regarded as the best of the best in the world.

Dust off your checkbook, book a reservation as a buyer at the auction, purchase an iconic item or vehicle and bring it back to share with your fellow CR members.--Bill Wurzell, Editor

Advertising, Preparation Well Under Way For Antique Parts Flea Market March 14, 2015

Director At Large, Tom Young has set the wheels in motion, the juggernaut is moving forward as the date of the most important event for the year for Chesapeake Region approaches. Keep the date open and help region officers, board members and appointed chairman make the Antique Auto Parts Flea Market at the Howard County Fairgrounds another success. There's no secret this event is the biggest financial endeavor for the club for the entire year.

VOLUNTEER your time and expertise to help pull this off. We'll need help with parking, food service, car corral and other areas. The more troops we have, the easier it is for everybody. Even if you can only relieve somebody for an hour, that's a big help. We don't expect anybody to perform tasks they cannot. If you can 'fog a mirror', we'll find something you can help with, collecting money, selling raffle tickets, keeping an eye on Nick, somebody has to do it, so please step up, come to the membership meeting on January 12, 2015 at 8 pm, at Divinity Lutheran Church and let us know you are willing to help out with this important event.

Oops! A Thousand Apologies To Dorothy Miller And Bud Sammis

We have egg all over our face! In planning the November 16, 2014 Chesapeake Region luncheon and award presentations, we overlooked two deserving 40-year pin awards.

Dorothy Miller and Bud Sammis should have been recognized for their 40 year membership in the Chesapeake Region Antique Automobile Club of America. We are very sorry for this oversight and we'll make sure they receive their pins. *Congratulations!*

Bus Excursion To 9-11 Memorial In New York City Selling Briskly

If you're considering going along on the DeLuxe Motorcoach Tour to the 9-11 Memorial in New York City better stop thinking and register. There are only 112 total seats available for two different consecutive dates, Friday March 20 and Saturday March 21, 2015.

The tour, hosted by Tom & Anne Kenney will depart at two different Park & Ride locations that require transportation to and from your residence. The cost for a 'senior' is only \$78.00 and includes bus transportation, box lunch prior to arrival and museum tickets, the coaches are *restroom equipped*. With a little luck, neither Tom nor Anne will have to drive the bus. Sign up now! For more information visit: www.chesapeakeaaca.org/