

Chief Jennings Slot Machine Was Right On The Money

Article & photos submitted by Maureen Little

Plano, IL has a diverse history, and is a community on the verge of expansion, as are most of the small communities in Illinois. New housing projects are sprouting up every where, but Plano still has that small town atmosphere that most of us still want. The History of Plano stretches back to 1833 when the first small log cabin was built within the city limits. The early settlers built mills and produced a variety of products, one such product was the Plano Harvester. Cyrus Hall McCormick invented and manufactured the Reaper. Soon after, the production of the Reaper was set up across the country. On May 21, 2005, one of Plano's long time residents, Mrs. Elsie Henry French, had her estate put up for auction. Elsie French has lived in Plano most of her life. She and her husband who, was the local butcher, worked and raised a family here. Elsie had to move into a retirement home because of her health when she was 90 years young. She had collected all of her life, which became apparent to Brian DeBolt when he stepped into her home that had been locked up and undisturbed for eight years. Elsie thought it was time to sell everything, her family did not want anything except the photos. Brian stated that, "when you entered the home, you had to walk sideways, because it was so packed, there was only pathways to get to each room. Boxes in the basement reached the ceiling, and a barn out back, that some say she used as a shop, was packed to the rafters." Elsie collected just about everything from old tools, to a floor model slot machine, to German Bisque dolls. She had a wide range of antiques. Some of the items still had their original price tags on them. I myself have never seen so much stuff, this definitely makes me want to weed out my own barn, maybe I should have an auction.

The items in the auction were spread out on twelve hayracks and numerous tables. The antique furniture was spread all over the property. People came from all over Wisconsin, southern IL, and I heard someone say they were from Iowa. Three hundred bid numbers were given out the day of the sale. Friends and family were on sight to help and to watch. Because there was so much merchandise, they had

to run three rings most of the day. Highlights of the auction included a fantastic Chief Jennings floor model 5 cent slot machine Model #131557 which brought \$3,700, the high bidder was buying the slot machine for her husband, wow what a gift!! Also unusual was a German Commemorative stamp collection that included stamps of the 1934 Nazi Congress, 1935 Hitler Youth Movement, and the 1936 Olympic Games, realized a price of \$200, and a 1949 letter to the holders of National Tucker Stock brought \$25. Another highlight of the auction was a 1/2 pint Lisbon Dairy milk bottle, we were told by Sheila Debolt that she only new of three other bottles, this was the fourth. Fierce bidding took it for \$750, truly a rare item. Another hot item was a Currier & Ives print of "California Scenery," it brought \$370. I have never seen a Currier & Ives go for so much, so I asked the high bidder what was so special about California Scenery. She stated that it shows San Francisco and Cliff House. She has a fondness for San Francisco. So, not only did I witness a time capsule of wonderful items, but I learned something new.

Other prices included:

- Wedgwood 8 piece dinner set, and serving pieces \$130.00
- Pier Mirror with marble shelf \$525.00
- Oriental Runner \$250.00
- Victorian Hat Pins \$50.00
- Child's leather Hi-Top shoes \$35.00
- Yellow Ware Batter Bowl \$35.00
- Pr. of Fostoria Candle Sticks \$95.00

Well, I think I'm going home, what a day. I'd like to thank Brian and Sheila DeBolt for such a good auction, and for being such good sports and helping me out. DeBolt Auction service specializes in antique, real estate, commercial, industrial, farm and machinery auctions. DeBolt's can be reached at 630-552-4247. Or Email shechants@aol.com. Be sure to watch for their next auction.



Oak Roll Top File Cabinet sold for \$180.



Oak Drop Front Desk \$280.



Currier & Ives, California Scenery sold for \$370.



A Majolica plate sold for \$80.



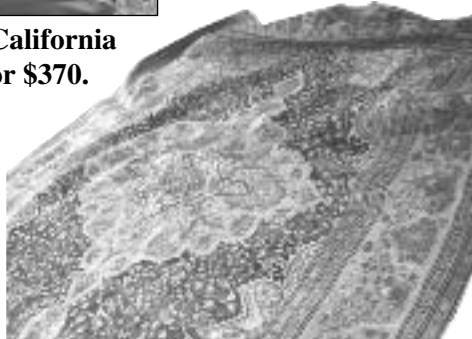
Pier Mirror with Marble Shelf \$525.



An Indian Chief Jennings 5 cent Slot Machine brought \$3,700.

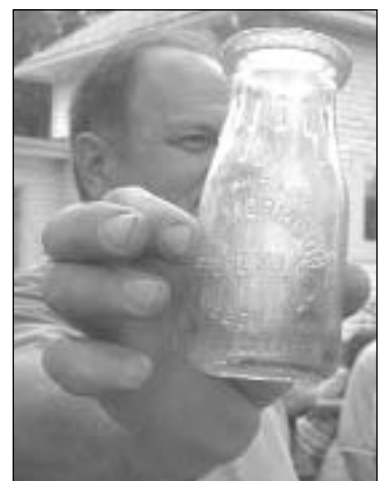


Child's Roll Top Desk & Chair \$75.



This Oriental rug brought \$450.

Pair of Porcelain Dolls \$120.



Lisbon Dairy 1/2 pint Milk Bottle \$750.



American Fostoria Set of Dishes \$90.



8 Place Setting Wedgwood China \$130.



Maple Dining Room Set with Hutch, Table & 4 Chairs \$25.



Large Oak Roll Top Desk \$350.

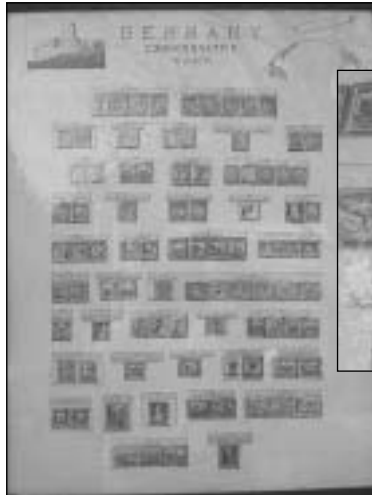


This German Bisque Doll sold for \$190.



Armand Marseille #370, German Bisque Doll \$210.

Wall Telephone sold for \$160.



German Commemorative Stamp Collection \$200.



Box of French Porcelain Dolls \$250.



Oriental Rug Hall Runner \$250.



Pair of Sconces \$45.



Charlie McCarthy Dummy \$5.



Silver Half Dollar Book Quantity if 40 Coins \$200.



Arcade Crystal #3 Coffee Grinder \$80.



Gumball Machine sold for \$410.



3 Slot Peanut Machine \$95.



Armand Marseille German Doll sold for \$130.



This Roseville Basket brought \$130.



This mechanical Indian sold for \$50.



1949 Letter to Stock Holders of Tucker Stock \$25.



Flag Hood Ornament sold for \$50.

Fiesta Ware Orange Pitcher \$65.

