

# Everything is Bigger in Texas. Cadillac Style

## The Rick Smith Collection Auction

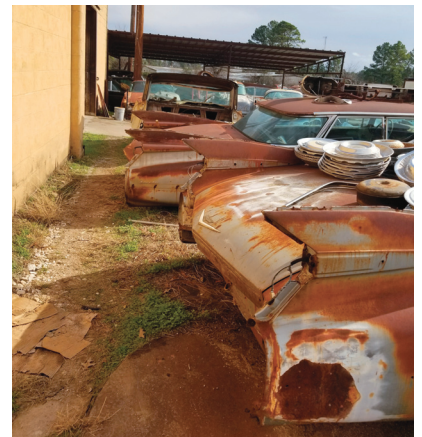
They say everything is bigger in Texas, and this was true for Rick Smith and his love of Cadillacs. Ever since he was 14 years old he always remembered loving old cars. A 1935 Ford coupe was his first car and he felt on top of the world. That 5-window coupe lead him on many adventures. He sold the car in 1968 and bought a ticket to Australia. Rick was still chasing the cars and heard there were lots of them over there. After a time, down under, he made his way back to Texas and started an auto parts store, Rick's Auto Parts. He built up to several Auto parts stores and that kept him on the road and missing out on his hobby old cars. Being married with children, didn't slow him down and the wild life was getting hard on him and the marriage. He can tell you stories about the good old days, but in the middle of the stories are always cars.

### Rick went through many phases of collecting. F100 Pickups, Street Rods, and others.

But the allure of the big Finned Cars and Cadillacs and the Rock n Roll life style was something Rick enjoyed. Rick was an Elvis fan and Elvis had those fabulous Cadillacs. They were rolling juke boxes with those huge fins, rolling large in Texas. Rick sold the Auto parts stores and ventured into real estate and a chrome shop. Soon the lure of the Cadillacs was calling and he bought a building and land and started buying 1950's to 1960's Cadillacs. He bought his first 1959 Cadillac and realized that they didn't make reproduction parts for the cars, especially the convertibles. He also was starting to make furniture out of the rear clips and finding that the tail fin allure wasn't just to car collectors, but commercial use, many to Hard Rock Cafes. He spent many years building wall hanging, desks, couches, and other pieces out of the great 1950's Cadillacs. Rick sold few parts to collectors at this time, but occasionally would sell some parts here and then to pay for his hobby and buy more Cadillacs. He would use a lot of his parts for his furniture and art, and didn't really sell many privately. Rick went to lots of swap meets and private purchases to fill the yard with over 300 Cadillacs and buildings full of hard to find parts. There are NOS, 1950's Cadillac parts and lots of convertible parts. He found out that with the lack of reproduction parts, there was money in selling good used parts and project Cadillacs along with other BIG finned cars. Chrysler, Desoto, Buick, and other finned cars. Rick always says, "When you're driving a Big Finned Cadillac, there's nothing better. Living Large in Texas. When you meet one of the Finned cars on the road it's like nothing you'll ever see.

### There is no computer at Rick's shop. Word of mouth is the only way that you'll find out about his stash of Cadillacs, Finned Cars, and Cadillac parts.

In 1982, he met the love of his life and he'll tell you that he's the most married man in Texas, after a wild past. Rick was busy selling parts and cars all over the world, when his family history of heart disease caught up with him about 3-4 years ago. It was that wake-up call, that made him realize that it was time to think of selling his collection. His sons were not interested in the collection and time to start selling and letting more people know about his collection. He sold many parts and cars over the years, but now is time to sell them all. There are approximately 295 Collector cars with More than half of them Cadillacs including 50 1959 Caddies, and other 1950's models. The Cadillacs go up in to the 1960's. There are more



of those great Finned cars from Pontiac, Buick, Lincoln, DeSoto, from the 1950's to be found. The cars are for projects and parts and there are some rare cars in the collection along with many rare parts. A Rare 1958 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham, just like Elvis, is #18 of 304 built. 365 CU Tri-Power and great survivor cars. There is a 1948 Cadillac Convertible that is a rolling project, along with a Rare 1953 Buick Skylark Convertible 1 of 1690 produced ready for Restoration.

VanDerBrink Auctions will auction the collection on the approx. 295 cars along with many parts on the weekend before the big Pate Swap Meet on Weekend of April 21st, 2018 starting at 9AM. The cars will be offered Live at the yard in Longview, Texas and also online. Bidders can take their cars, parts, and even strip their purchases. An assortment of Rare Cadillac parts will also be online but the majority of them will be for only bidders at the auction. The cars will sell first and then parts all day and carry over to Sunday if need be. Plan to attend this auction of Rick's Cadillacs and stock up, then head on over to Pate for the Big Swap Meet. Preview will be Friday April 20th, 2018. 10 to 7pm. For more information on this auction [www.vanderbrinkauctions.com](http://www.vanderbrinkauctions.com) or 605-201-7005. See you at the Auction!

**VanDerBrink Auctions, LLC**

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