

The Benoy and Hy-Way Collections Story

The automobile is a crucial part of American History. It helped move the country into a fast paced industrial age that has changed our social lives as well. Many car companies tried to make their mark with their own style of car. Everyone has favorites, but to Ray Benoy and Larry Brosten, there was nothing like those classy Packards, Studebakers, AMCs and Ramblers. These cars had something different than the Big 3. Everyone has had a favorite Chevrolet or Ford, but to the collectors, Packards, Studebakers and other orphan cars were something different. Not many people owned one and there weren't many left to collect.

It's the American dream to own your own business. The Benoy and Brosten families have certainly made their mark in the business world. Within their automobile businesses, they were able to accumulate unique car collections. Now they will offer their private collections of classic cars at an auction to the public and you will be able to share their treasurers.

Ray Benoy is a World War II veteran and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, among also being a tank mechanic in the 7th Armored division. After WWII, he learned to become an auto mechanic under the GI bill. He worked as a mechanic at Conard Motors, the local Packard dealer. Ray fulfilled this dream by first becoming a junior partner and eventually buying the dealership in 1948. Benoy Motors grew and prospered and are now in their current location on Routes 14 & 47 in Woodstock, Illinois. Benoy Motors is McHenry County's leading 5-star Chrysler dealership. Ray has worked at the dealership with his wife, Marilyn, their children and other family members.

Ray never lost that love for those classy Packards that he first sold. When the dealership converted to Chrysler, Ray's customers came back for the hometown service and traded their Packards for new Chryslers. Ray just couldn't turn those old girls out to pasture, so he tucked them away. He has accumulated thirteen 1955 and 1956 Packard Clippers and Patricians. The collection consists of all nice survivors, original and in good condition. Ray also kept a few parts from the Packard dealership, among them a NOS Packard V-8 in the crate along with several transmissions.

Ray is in his 90's now and will offer his collection with no reserve at an auction by VanDerBrink Auctions on August 8th, 2009 at 10:00am at Hy-Way Sales Inc in Kenosha, Wisconsin along with the Hy-Way Collection.

Many immigrants came to America with big dreams of making it on their own in the Land of Plenty. The Brosten family was no exception. The family business started out of sheer luck. Their grandfather had a fruit wagon where he sold apples, oranges and peaches on the streets of Chicago, Illinois. As he worked his way through the alleys with his cart, he would pick up old tires that were lying around. One day he had a pair of tires hanging from his fruit cart and a man asked "How much for the

tires?” He sold them for a few dollars! Since he made much more money on the tires than the fruit, he decided he was in the tire business! That was how Midwest Tire was started in the Chicago area.

The business grew and soon his son, Hy, came into the business with his own ideas; he made the business more profitable by concentrating on the entire car. They would buy cars and scrap them, which led to selling car parts.

Hy Brosten, now in his 90's, tells stories about buying scrap during WWII. There were many cars that would have been today's classics, if they had not been cut up for the war effort. He thinks a lot of those Packards and Brass Era cars were scrapped and went to make tanks and ships during the war. Once there was a Rolls Royce that was cut up because the owner did not leave the keys.

Hy moved the business out of Chicago to northern Illinois in the 50's. In 1976 he moved the operation to an abandoned drive-in movie theater near the Wisconsin border. Hy-Way Auto Parts Inc. grew into a large recycling yard and another generation of sons, Larry and Jay, came into the business with their ideas. Hy-Way became known for selling foreign car parts in the Chicago area. Larry, also known as Hy-Way Larry, and Jay expanded the family business and brought it into the new age of auto recycling. Soon they were selling late model parts and servicing a larger area through aggressive involvement with national recycling associations.

When HyWay Auto Parts was sold in December of 2000, Larry & Jay turned their attentions to Auto Parts City Inc, their self-serve, auto recycling yard in Gurnee, Illinois. The brothers have helped change the family business from their days at Hy-Way Auto Parts to handling approximately 1,000 cars per month at Auto Parts City. They have also been working for the past two years to create one of the nation's first “green” salvage yards implementing many modern and innovative ideas such as using drain oil from the cars to run the furnaces for the shop and recycling gasoline and other fluids to run the trucks.

The business has come full circle from the fruit cart on the streets of Chicago to one the nation's most innovative and environmentally safe recycling facilities. Larry and Jay Brosten listened to all the stories their father told about the Packards, Studebakers and other Brass Era car makes that are now gone and a part of history.

The Brosten family collected and saved many of those great, old cars and has a classic carlot along Route 41 in Kenosha, Wisconsin known as Hy-Way Sales Inc which will host the auction for all their classics along with the Benoy collection. The Brosten collection consists of approximately 100 collector cars and covers a wide variety including Packard limos, rare Rambler wagons, Jaguars, Studebaker Hawks, 1917 Ford Depot Hack, 1956 Chevrolet sedan delivery, a Buffalo fire truck, and, yes, even Fords, Chevrolets, Lincolns, Cadillacs and some others. The cars include survivors, older restored cars, drivers and a few parts cars. There is something for everyone.

The Brosten family is working on a new adventure with their new yard and part of that progression is selling the cars from their collector lot and their private collections.

VanDerBrink Auctions will offer the Benoy and Brosten collections to the public including dealers at no reserve and as is on August 8th, 2009 at 10:00am on the Hy-Way Sales lot at 3610 - 120th Avenue, in Kenosha, Wisconsin along Highway 94, exit 340, just south of the Mars Cheese Castle. Both families would like to see the cars go to collectors that treasure the classic styling of the orphan cars, conventional classics and the automotive history they possess. Both collections offer fabulous cars with 20+ Packards between the two collections. So mark your calendars and we hope to see you there - you won't want to miss this auction!

For more information on this auction and to see an inventory, please visit the VanDerBrink website at www.vanderbrinkauctions.com. Online bidding is available for this auction; you may also call VanDerBrink Auctions for more details at 605-201-7005 or 507-673-2517.