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Time Capsule Of Cars

September 24, 2013, 10:04 PM by Don Jorgensen (mailto:djorgensen@keloland.com)



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PIERCE, NE - What's old is new again. At least it is at a car dealership in Pierce, Nebraska.

It's been closed for years, but this weekend thousands of car collectors will descend upon this small midwestern town, looking for rusty gold in an auction like no other.

"We don't know what they're going to go for because there is no comparison," Yvette VanDerBrink of VanDerBrink Auctions said.

VanDerBrink says the collection of cars and pickups to be auctioned off consists of about 500 vehicles from the 1930s to the 1970s, some of them still considered brand new because they have zero to ten miles on them.

"How do you value a 1963 Chevy Impala, two-door hard-top that's never been sold before in 2013? The auction is the only way to tell," VanDerBrink said.

Although 50 to 60 years old, some still have plastic on the seats. They even smell new. And some still display the sticker price in the window.

"For a collector, it's their dream to go into a place and find an undiscovered car or old tractor and it's called a barn find or survivor and here we have a whole building and field full of survivor cars," VanDerBrink said.

The man behind this time capsule of cars is Ray Lambrecht, owner of Lambrecht Chevrolet. While Lambrecht loved to sell cars, his unique business plan was not to sell them all.

"He saved them, so like at the end of 1963 if the '64 models came out in September and you wanted to buy the 1963s that were left over, no can't do it, you had to buy a '64," VanDerBrink said.

A 1978 Corvette Indy Pace car is also a survivor car, it still has plastic on the seats and it's expected to go for a lot of money. While the auction isn't until this weekend, VanDerBrink has

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already started taking bids online.

"This one has \$35,000 on it already, that's a starting bid and we go from there," VanDerBrink said.

Some of the cars are in better shape than others. A lot of them sat unprotected outside in the elements.

Don Jorgensen: I have to ask you, why didn't he take better care of some of these?

VanDerBrink: That's a good question, but for him it was about inventory and it was also a nest egg that he thought maybe another day it would be worth more money, it was his rainy day fund, his 401k.

To a collector looking for a survivor, it doesn't really matter what kind of shape they are in.

"I know one gentleman from Ohio, who's very interested in our Cameo pickup, which is very rare in the back, it has one mile and he's told me if he gets it, it'll go in his museum dirty with a picture of how he found it," VanDerBrink said.

The anticipated auction is getting worldwide attention, even looky lews stopping by to get a sneak peak at the hidden gems that are expected to bring in not only a lot of collectors, but also a lot more money than they were once worth.

"Back like in 1964, you could have bought this car for \$3,200 bucks and wouldn't that be nice today, but I think it's going to be multiple times that," VanDerBrink said.

You can preview the cars Friday and the auction starts Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and runs through Sunday. To learn more go to the [VanDerBrink Auctions website](http://www.vanderbrinkauctions.com/) (<http://www.vanderbrinkauctions.com/>).

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