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Lambrecht auto auction brings in \$2.8 million

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KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

Before the start of bidding, the crowd flocks around the highest-profile vehicle at the Lambrecht Chevrolet auto auction, a turquoise 1958 Chevrolet Cameo pickup truck with 1.3 miles on the odometer. The pickup was one of nearly 500 vintage vehicles, many never owned before, that longtime Chevy dealer Ray Lambrecht had collected in a field near his home.

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Last weekend's Nebraska auction of vintage autos, parts and accessories hauled in almost \$3 million in sales, said Omaha-based Proxibid, which handled the online part of the auction.

Dana Kaufman, communications director for Proxibid, said that Saturday's total sales were about \$1.9 million, online and on-site in Pierce, Neb.

Sunday's sales, online and on-site, brought the two-day total to about \$2.8 million, she said.

Exact numbers were not released, Kaufman said, at the request of the Lambrecht family, who are "very private."

Ray Lambrecht, 95, and his wife, Mildred, 92, still live in Pierce in a house across the street from their Lambrecht Chevrolet dealership, which was shuttered in 1996.

The live auction in Pierce attracted an estimated 15,000 people to the town of 1,600 after the Lambrechts decided to sell about 500 mostly vintage vehicles and their trappings. The vehicles were largely from the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

VanDerBrink Auctions of Hardwick, Minn., handled the live auction part of the sale. Auctioneer Yvette VanDerBrink did not release any sales totals.

Other numbers, according to Proxibid:

- 30 percent of the total dollar amount spent came via online sales.
- 50 percent of all bids, online and live on-site combined, came via the Internet through Proxibid.com.
- 37 percent of the inventory that was sold went to online buyers.
- 216 of 585 total items that were auctioned were sold online, and 199 of the 216 items were cars.

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