

“Don’t Sweat on the Chrome” The Bob Regehr Collection Auction

The Old saying goes, “All it takes is one good idea to make it.” For Bob Regehr, it would be that one big idea that would change his life. Bob Regehr grew up on a farm near Hutchinson, Kansas where lessons of hard work were instilled in him at an early age. Ever since he was a boy, Bob loved cars. Fascinated with the designs and of course, going fast. When he was 14 years old, he got his first car, a 1940 Mercury. Later on, Bob had a wild lacquer 2 tone green paint job and took the car to Mexico and had a custom tuck and roll interior installed. His buddies called the car “The Easter Egg” cause of the wild paint job. He met his wife, Judy, in that car and Jeff, his son, swears he was conceived in that car. Bob never sold that first car and it’s still in the collection.

Bob was always looking to make that fortune and headed to Denver Colorado and tried his hand at selling Fords at a dealership. Bob Regehr thought selling those Ford cars would be easy, but being a salesman wasn’t the job that he was looking for. He heading back to Hutchinson, Kansas and started a full-service Texaco gas station. The gas stations not only supplied a good income, but a steady stream of cars it was a car parade every day. The income from the gas station fueled Bob’s car hobby. Having the gas station, well that was like a rolling car show every day. If a car came in that he liked he would try and buy it from the owner. One of those cars was the 1953 Buick Skylark Convertible that will be sold at the auction. This little old lady would come through quite often and Bob would ask to buy the car and she always said, “No.” Then one day, she came through and told Bob she had sold the car. Bob tracked the car down in Hemmings Motor News and went and bought the car from that owner before they even had a chance to enjoy it. The car is in the collection just as Bob bought it with less than 50,000 miles. Bob Regehr always liked speed and hotrods and started to feature Mag wheels at his gas stations. He was the first one to bring this “hotrod” option to Hutchinson, Kansas.

Bob and Judy’s business and family was growing. 4 kids, Tracy, Kelly, Jeff, and Kristin. Bob was always full of ideas and even had a motel venture in Colorado. The 1955 Cameo Pickup being sold in the auction came from that venture. Bob saw the truck and followed it home and bought it from the owners on the spot. That determination was put into all Bob’s business ventures. This work ethic was installed in the kids. They were his “little workers” and they helped clean rooms in the hotel. But it was watching his son Tracey practice pole vaulting that that one bid idea that would change Bob’s life came to him. Bob had the idea of putting a dome over a trampoline. Bob took his idea and proto-type to the 1968 Chicago World’s Fair and christened it the “Moon Walk”. It was the hit of the show and h charging 25 cents for kids to jump around in it. When he made \$1000 bucks a day, he knew that he had a hit. Bob got an order for 2 of his “Moon-Walks”. Bob went back to Wichita and had a company make the 1st 2 “Moon Walks.” He brought them to the customer and was only hoping for \$600 each, but that big idea fetched \$6000 each. That big idea started his successful venture. He sold and traveled with “The Original Moon-walk” bounce house to Carnivals along with that game we all remember trying to climb that wiggly ladder and ring a bell. The “Moon-Walk” was a huge hit and loved by everyone across the world. This one good idea gave Bob the money to buy more cars and real estate ventures to store them.

1932 Fords were a favorite of Bob Regehr and he would buy any of them he could find along with any car that he liked. Bob was a very private person and would buy cars and put them away and rarely showed them to the public or to be seen till now. He would have the kids wash and wax them, and the kids remember that he would tell them, “Hey, don’t sweat on the chrome.” That hard work ethic was installed in all the kids and Bob wanted to make sure that they knew how to work.

Bob Regehr sold the “Moon-Walk” business to his brother and the money fueled his passion for the old cars. Bob went wild buying cars and a few trips and to swap meets. The 1932 Ford HI-Boy hotrod that will be sold on trips and even went to the top of Pikes Peak. Bob’s Wife passed away and

that seemed to take away part of the joy of the collecting. Kelly, his daughter, came home to take care of her father and his business. In 2009, the collection was featured in Hotrod magazine and the world got the first glimpse of the Bob Regehr Collection. At that time, over 200 vehicles and had been tucked away for over 30 years. Bob's health was failing and he started to privately sell the cars. Kelly, his daughter and a friend sold many, but it was a near sale of a 1932 that he said that was enough and told Kelly to take him home. He told Kelly to have an auction after he passed away, because he couldn't stand to watch anymore of the cars leave. They closed the doors until Bob passed away.

Following their Dad's wishes, the family will sell the entire collection at auction on October 24th, 2020 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson, Kansas. It will be the first time in over 40 years that the public will get to see this very private man's amazing collection. This amazing Kansas Barn Find has approx. 140 American Classics, parts, and more. The collection has everything from Corvettes, Tri-Five Chevrolets including Nomads, Camaros, Cadillacs, and more. The collection, of course, 1932 Fords that were Bob's favorite. The grouping of almost 20- 1932 Fords. There are 1932 Sedans, Coupe, Cabriolet, and even 2, 1 of 884 made, 1932 B400 2dr Sedan Convertibles that were Embassy Cars overseas. There are many 30's and 40's Fords in the collection. The collection is a grouping of restored cars, many original cars, and also projects. Of course, with any large collection there is an assortment of early Ford parts along with Corvette and others.

VanDerBrink Auctions, LLC will be selling the Regehr collection at the fairgrounds in a LIVE ONSITE auction with online bidding. There will be a preview of the rarely seen collection on October 23rd, 2020 from 10 to 6PM. The auction will start at 9Am on October 24th, 2020 with an assortment of Model A's and then going to those fabulous 1932 Fords and through the Era's with more amazing American classics. An assortment of Parts will be after the cars for onsite bidders. For a complete catalog, video, and more information www.vanderbrinkauctions.com or Call VanDerBrink Auctions, LLC at 605-201-7005. Plan now to attend this amazing auction and remember to, "Don't Sweat on the Chrome."

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