

The JAB Collection Auction- "For the Love of Engineering"

When you ask a car guy, why they collect the cars they have, they generally have a dedication to a Brand or a memory that the car triggers. For Jeff Begg, it was the Love of engineering. Growing up in Michigan with all those car manufactures, there was always a car event or race in the area. Growing up Jeff had many memories of fixing cars to race them later that night or just cruising for girls. It was all this automotive activity that triggered his love of engineering. He went to college for Engineering and graduated then started working for Parker Hannifin as an engineer in their hydraulics division . In 1976, he left and started his own business in the basement of his Dad's veterinary clinic. His first product was a basic wooden battery box for Clark Forklifts. Jeff loved British motorcycles. He would say, "Anyone can have an Indian, but a British bike is special. "He saw them as an engineering marvel and in-turn honored his love of British & Unique bikes by naming the companies he started after them. Marshall Excelsior Company, was the name of his first company, after Excelsior Henderson motorcycles. The company grew forcing him to moved out of the basement into a Quonset building next to the river that he rented from the city of Marshall, Michigan. He started producing propane fittings and valves about the same time. The Quonset building was a good starting point but wasn't the best or prettiest location. Now Jeff wasn't one to back down from a fight and he was always at odds with the city of Marshall. They saw the building as an eyesore and wanted it gone, but Jeff wasn't going anywhere. Eventually, the only option the city had was to evict him and condemn the building. In exchange they sold him a lot in the Industrial Park for \$1.00. In 1999, he built a new building for his business on that same lot. Now Jeff wasn't one to draw attention, and liked to fly under the radar, through some unusual twists he became known as John Begg in the Propane World, which happened to be his younger brother's name. He would be at Trade shows and his girlfriend would call him Jeff and nobody would know who that was. Not only did he get a kick out that, he was able to keep some anonymity. It wasn't till he sold the business in 2017, that he told his brother about the charade.

As the business grew, he acquired more product lines and businesses to better serve his customers. If you ever used a propane tank, one of his fittings, valves or regulators was probably on it. He acquired part of Lincoln Brass Works and named this company after another British Motorcycle- Matchless Valve Company. Jeff, was extremely competitive, and wanted always to be on the cutting edge. He found out a competing business in town had developed a machine to make similar fittings cheaper. Not backing down or settling for second place, he grabbed one of his engineers and marched into their plant, started taking notes till they were thrown out by security. If you met Jeff on the street, you'd never know he was a hugely successful business man. Most of the time, he was in tattered or stained clothes driving an old Cadillac. He constantly surrounded himself with books and learning. His mind was going 50 different directions all the time. He had 1 daughter, Megan, and to be better at "girl time", he would read gossip mags and learn what she liked. If she liked a particular film, he would learn about it then take her to see it. She was the love of his life and enjoyed spending time with her. It was crazy, this rough around the edges guy would bring her the perfect dress and know everything about it. He was so excited to learn that he was going to be a Grandpa, but sadly passed 1 month before the birth.

Jeff lost his wife, Barbara in 2003. She was a big eBay buyer so he had to close out her affairs. Little did he know this would be the start of a new love, the thrill of being the "winning bidder". Not even his family knew the extent of this affair while he was filling up buildings with all of his favorite things- Engineering and Speed. It was just too easy.

He Typed in something he wanted and there it was. Soon Crates, Trucks, and boxes would come to the office. Penny, his secretary, was the only one that knew the breadth of his secret bidding obsession for a very long time. eBay was more than a hobby for Jeff. It was exciting and he met people with similar interests. His nephew and business partner, Franco Domingo soon learned just how extensive the great collection had become after Jeff's passing.

Franco, started going through Jeff's affairs and found out, there was more to his love of engineering. They went into one of his properties and it was filled with Vintage Race Cars, British motorcycles, Collector Cars, and an array of Rare Speed parts. It was truly amazing. Nearly every property was packed with his collections. Franco with his wife Corinne, Jeff's son-in-law Dustin Moon and a team of helpers, took on the task of moving it all to one location all the while finding more treasures daily. Yvette VanDerBrink, VanDerBrink Auctions was conducting an auction in Vicksburg, Michigan when they called for her to come over while in town. Yvette was amazed so they developed a plan to auction the entire collection. June 15th, 2019 in Springfield, Michigan, the entire world will be able to bid and buy a piece of the JAB Collection. So far, 63 British Motorcycles including a Rare 1952 Vincent Series C Rapide motorcycle. There is almost every make and model including the namesakes of his businesses- Matchless and Excelsior Henderson. Panther, Rudge Ulster, Triumph, Moto Guzzi, and more with many rare bikes. The collection hosts some note-worthy midget race cars. 38 in total including a 1947 Kurtis Kraft, the Lockard Badger II, and other race cars with notable drivers and builders. His love for racing has an enormous array of rare and unique racing parts for vintage cars. Including many Ford FH 4 cylinder and V8 motor parts including for 60hp FH V8's. Rare Riley Carbs and OHV Conversions for Ford 4 cylinders are everywhere. Offenhauser, Edelbrock, Rook, Eddie Meyer and more wonderful motors and parts.

The collection also has 70 collector vehicles from a 1957 Chevrolet Belair Convertible to a 1936 Ford 3 window Coupe, which he would take to car shows. Then there is a plethora of unique import cars including 2 Marcos, TRV's, Maserati, and more. Several 1936 Pierce Arrows also grace this eclectic collection. Everything will be sold in 1 big day, June 15th, 2019 in Springfield, Michigan. The bidding will be No Reserve and On-Site with Online bidding. The JAB collection truly is an amazing collection of engineering marvels. You won't want to miss this auction. Pictures, Video, and Inventory at www.vanderbrinkauctions.com or call 605-201-7005.