

Holabird Western Americana Collections' wild, eclectic five-day auction, December 5th-9th, featured 3,500 diverse lots

Items ranged from a Chinese One Tael silver coin to a 150-year-old Idaho soda bottle to an old wood ore car from a mine in Utah to Marilyn Monroe's autograph.

RENO, NV, UNITED STATES, December 14, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- RENO, Nev. – An eclectic five-day auction that featured items ranging from a [Chinese Hunan One Tael](#) silver coin to a 150-year-old Idaho soda bottle to an antique wood ore car from a mine in Utah to Marilyn Monroe's signed autograph was held December 5th-9th by Holabird Western Americana Collections, LLC, online and in the gallery at 3555 Airway Drive (Ste. 308) in Reno.

The auction was nicknamed "to die for" because it featured a massive offering of token dies from the Northwest Territorial Mint Liquidation, but there were many other items in a wide array of collecting categories, a staggering 3,500 lots in all. Nearly 3,700 people registered to bid online via the platforms iCollector.com and Invaluable.com. The auction grossed a total of \$355,825.

"This was the second sale in what promises to be an exciting fall and winter season for us," said Fred Holabird of Holabird Western Americana Collections. Offered was more of the Ken Prag American stock certificate collection; a Texas token collection; the Joe Elcano Nevada History Collection; and the Ben-Tchahvtchavadze Collection (Native Americana, rugs, weavings, art).

Day 1, on Wednesday, December 5th, was packed with minerals, vintage and antique bottles, tokens from Alabama to Oregon, and a wide selection of numismatics, to include banks, books, catalogs, coins, counterfeit directories, currency, medals, scales and "so-called" dollars – a total of 582 lots for the day. Also in the mix were 67 lots of tantalizing bargains and dealer specials.

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(Idaho was not yet a state then).



Star lots from Day 1 included the Chinese Hunan One Tael silver piece, weighing 35.6 grams (\$6,875); and the circa 1866-1869 Idaho City, Idaho soda bottle, from Pioneer Brown & Co. (\$2,625). The blob top bottle, just over seven inches tall, had a very rare light green color. It is one of only a few known specimens of a Territorial soda bottle

Day 2, Thursday, December 6th, contained 663 lots of tokens (from Texas on) and dies. Sold was a token from the White Elephant Saloon in Mobeetie, Tex. (\$1,813). The obverse said, "Good for A Drink, Berry & Co., White Elephant Saloon." The reverse said, "Chas. Peck & Co. / Chicago."

Day 3, on Friday, December 7th, was a collector's field day, bursting with 654 lots of general Americana, militaria, political items, postal history items, Wells Fargo & Express memorabilia, cowboy collectibles, firearms, weaponry, saloon, gaming and lots pertaining to Alaska mining.

The general Americana was a virtual entire category unto itself, with autographs, badges, checks, circus memorabilia, firemen collectibles, music items, navigation material, automobilia, outlaw and lawman memorabilia, silverware and flatware, World's Fair & Expos collectibles and more.

Day 3 highlights included an unissued capital stock certificate #495 for the Alaska Commercial Company, Alaska's largest rural retailer, with a vignette of Russian church and miners (\$4,000); and a group of eleven 1950s-era 25-cent red gaming chips from Dopey Norman's, one of the first gambling casinos in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, operated by entrepreneur Norman Reinburg (\$2,000).

Day 4, on Saturday, December 8th, was jam-packed with 746 lots of mining material, to include artifacts, books, explosives, spoons and geographic sort from Arizona on. A top lot was a stock certificate #380 for Mass Mining Company of Pittsburgh, datelined Pittsburgh 1881 for a copper mine that is believed to have operated in Michigan. The certificate was for 120 shares (\$3,375).

Also sold on Day 4 was the choice old wood ore car from a mine in Utah (\$2,750). The 1870s-era car was three feet long, about two feet wide and had a payload area of about 11 inches deep. It held about one ton of high grade. Collectors are drawn to ore cars like this because of their tremendous character and "eye appeal". Plus, they're 50 times rarer than their iron counterparts.

Day 5, December 9th, featured textiles, Native Americana, jewelry and watches, entertainment industry items, furnishings, sculptures, art, railroadiana, imprinted revenue stamps and more.

Marilyn Monroe's bold ink signature was presented along with a beautiful black and white photo of the actress, as well as her 1953 payroll card from 20th Century Fox, nicely framed and matted



Chinese Hunan One Tael silver coin weighing 35.6 grams (\$6,875).



Unissued capital stock certificate #495 for the Alaska Commercial Company, with a vignette of Russian church and miners (\$4,000).

(\$1,250). Also, a 1984 watercolor painting of Dayton, Nevada, done by artist [Jeff Nicholson](#), known for his renderings of the high desert of the West, particularly of Nevada, brought \$1,000.

A stock certificate for The Silverton Railroad (Colorado), issued in 1904 to Charles Graham in the amount of 996 shares, signed by company president Otto Mears and featuring a train exiting a tunnel vignette, realized \$1,125. Also, a fine collection of Indian arrowheads from the Great Basin area of the United States, 67 pieces in all, nicely housed in an octagon case, made \$938.

All prices quoted include the buyer's premium.

Holabird Western Americana Collections' next big auction is planned for Jan. 25-28, 2019, also online and in the Reno gallery. Anyone owning a collection that might fit into an upcoming Holabird auction is encouraged to get in touch. The firm travels throughout the U.S., to see and pick up collections. Last year it visited Boston, Florida, Seattle, New York and other locations.

Holabird Western Americana is always seeking quality bottle, advertising, Americana and coin consignments for future auctions. To consign a single piece or a collection, you may call Fred Holabird at 775-851-1859 or 844-492-2766; or, you can e-mail him at fredholabird@gmail.com. To learn more about Holabird Western Americana Collections, LLC, log on to www.fhwac.com.

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Fred Holabird
Holabird Western Americana, LLC
+17708420212
[email us here](#)



Choice old wood ore car from a mine in Utah, circa 1870s, with great character and "eye appeal" (\$2,750).



Watercolor painting of Dayton, Nevada, done in 1984 by artist Jeff Nicholson (\$1,000).

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