

Red Wing Crocks Sell For Small Fortunes

Fans of Red Wing pottery recently spent more than \$80,000 at an auction in Red Wing, Minn., home of the famous pottery made between 1877 and 1967. That included \$12,750 for a 30-gal. butterfly crock.

The crocks have a distinctive red wing on them.

"If you find one with a butterfly or bird on them they're really rare," says Todd Houghton, whose business, Houghton's Auction Service, handled the auction. Writing on the crock, such as town or business names, also adds to the value.

Over the years he has seen several crocks sell for more than \$20,000; one sold for \$65,000 because it was the only one of its kind.

Among the most valuable are Red Wing's first crocks which were salt-glazed and tan on the outside, with brown inside. Some had the gallon size and other decorations hand-painted in cobalt blue. Red Wing eventually switched to the grey-colored zinc crocks, with the familiar red wing.

Red Wing also made over 2,000 shapes of art pottery and more than 100 pattern lines of dinnerware. The Red Wing Collector's



This Red Wing 30-gal. butterfly crock sold for \$12,750 at a recent auction.

Society has an archive of information on its website so people can find out the approximate worth of items they own.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Red Wing Collectors Society, P.O. Box 50, Red Wing, Minn. 55066 (ph 651 388-4004; www.redwingcollectors.org).

Abandoned Silo Sprouts Elm

A photo of a Chinese elm tree in a silo caught our attention. James Vargo, a pastor in Nokomis, Ill., took a photo of it for a greeting card he made for one of his ministries and sent it to FARM SHOW (www.sendoutcards.com/ministries).

The 35-ft. tall silo tree catches a lot of people's attention, says Gene Johnson, as it's close to a highway in Nokomis. Johnson, 80, is a retired beef producer who still helps his son and grandson farm. The dirt-floor silo has been empty for about 25 years. Since it doesn't have a roof, he speculates a seed blew into it from a tree 200 ft. away. He didn't know it was growing until a few years ago

when the leaves started peeking over the top of the 30-ft. silo.

"I wanted to cut it down, but my wife said to leave it," Johnson says.

It isn't hurting anything and it has become a sort of local landmark that gives people something to talk about — and take photos of.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Johnson, 24191 N. 23rd Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2798).



This 35-ft. tall tree growing out of a silo has become a local landmark around Nokomis, Ill.



Ertl's 1/16-scale Deere S670 combine comes with realistic moving parts, battery-operated lights, and combine sounds.

Big Fun With New Big JD Combine

Your kids will like this big 1/16-scale S670 Deere combine introduced by Ertl. With realistic moving parts, battery-operated lights, and combine sounds it's sure to be on the wish list of young wannabe farmers as well as kid-at-heart retired farmer/collectors.

"We've been asked by collectors for years to do a 1/16-scale combine," says Bill Walters, vice president of Ertl's toy line. "It gets expensive to tool and make the molds, so at first we were hesitant to go down that road. Our goal was to keep the retail price under \$100, and that's what we did."

The biggest toy in Ertl's Big Farm models, the combine is all plastic and designed to be played with. It's 27 in. long, 14 in. tall and 12 in. wide. Requires 3 AAA batteries to operate the lights and sound.

It's not a rider, but kids get the full

combining experience if they run popcorn or soybeans through the working auger.

"We put a grain head on it so when you push it on the ground, the bars turn around and the auger works. Just pushing it you see how the head works and functions. There's a knob on the back to steer the combine," Walters says.

It's fun for kids, yet detailed enough for collectors. Retail from \$75 to \$95 at Deere dealerships and retail stores.

Ertl also came out with Deere S690 combines in 1/32-scale (about \$50) and 1/64-scale (about \$20). They include diecast parts and the first draper heads on toy combines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ertl, 2021 9th St. S.E., Dyersville, Iowa 52040 (ph 563 875-2000; www.ertl.com).



With 249 combines on hand, the new Guinness World record for the number of combines in a single harvest was set last fall in Dalmeny, Sask.

World Record Combine Harvest

Question: How long does it take 249 combines to harvest 240 acres of oats?

Answer: Just over 12 minutes.

The new Guinness World record for the number of combines in a single harvest was set on October 6, 2012, in Dalmeny, Sask. After more than a year of planning, farmers from as far away as about 100 miles lined up on opposite ends of a field to combine rows that volunteers had swathed.

The event was about more than setting a record. It was a fundraiser for Harvest For Kids Saskatchewan, which raises money for Children's Camps International (CCI).

"Our goal is to get around the \$250,000 mark with marketing the oats and general donations," says Derek Unrau, director for Harvest for Kids.

He explains that the organization previously

held the record with 200 combines in 2010, but a group in Ireland surpassed that with 208 combines.

The land, seed, chemicals, and fertilizer were all donated. Plus, sponsors donated money for the event to support CCI, the nonprofit that has camps in seven developing countries for children to build their self worth and allow them to experience hope and possibilities for their lives. In India, for example, where the caste system continues to exist, children of different castes live and play together at camps to hopefully break down barriers for future generations.

The organization started in 2003, when a person from India visited a Canadian Bible camp and thought it would be a great idea for his country. CCI has also started a micro-financing project to help farmers become

self-sustaining.

Canadian (and some U.S.) farmers regularly donate the sales of some of their acres to support Harvest For Kids.

"When they came together it was a sight to behold," Unrau says of the event. He estimates about 10,000 people attended.

The oats were unloaded into grain carts, then blown in grain bags for storage until they are marketed. It was a wet year so yields were down, just over 90 bushels/acre, instead of the 150 bushels/acre average.

Check out the website for more information about the organization and to purchase a book with photos of the event (\$20).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harvest For Kids, 300-571 Main St., Winkler, Man. R6W 1G3, Canada (ph 204 331-4003, www.harvestforkids.com).