

## Introduction to Greg McMaster Collection by Fred Holabird

We are pleased to offer this diverse collection of Western Americana. Many of us know Greg from his wonderful Gold Hill Hotel Lecture Series held on Tuesday nights for many years. It has been and continues to be a great meeting place for those interested in the Comstock and western history. Robin and I always stay overnight in the hotel because of the relaxed atmosphere.

The collection has been divided into sections of similar material. Of primary importance are **fantastic western primitive antiquities representative of the early western mining camps**. Equally important are the **gaming devices, trade stimulators and coin operated machines**. This collection offers a great diverse cross section through each of these very historic collecting areas. Rarely is such a collection on the market.

McMaster acquired these items over the last fifty years, primarily from about 1950 to 1980. His profession was as the ultimate handy-man and the collection reflects his passion for special oddities. The McMaster collection did not center on the traditional. He has always been interested in gadgetry and the oddities of artifact and machine manufacture. *The collection offers some of the most primitive, unique, rare, sometimes bizarre, and artistic devices, gadgets, gizmos, whatchamacallits and thingamajigs that a collector or museum could ever hope to find.*

Among the earliest gaming machines here are early British machines, dating perhaps to about 1900. These represent an early development in the gambling industry, and indeed at least one American manufacturer, Watling, may have copied an English model when they made the *Brownie* about 1930. There are four of the early British machines in the collection, and one in particular is a standout to us because it had a payout in *stock*, something never done in the states. The **Stock Exchange machine** represented an entirely new concept in gambling by offering shares in a commodity as a prize.

A number of the trade stimulators are of note for their sometimes spectacular art deco designs. Several of the same machines are found in Marsh Fey's book *Slot Machines*, 1983, still in print today. Speaking of which, if you haven't made a trip to the Liberty Belle restaurant in Reno to see some of the original slots in Marsh's collection, you're missing the boat. He also has the original Liberty Belle machine on display.

Some of the money or **coin counting machines** are also of note. Only rarely are these early coin machines ever available. The early pieces here are truly remarkable.

Greg's gift of finding unique gadgetry is nowhere more prevalent than in the regular housewares. From an early cherry pitter to oddball nutcrackers, coffee machines, homemade butter making devices, and home medical devices such as shock treatments. There are also a number of **museum quality** display items, such as the **c1870 coffee grinder, loads of mining implements, and early frontier furniture**.

**Descriptions** - Many of the descriptions are purposefully short. This is designed to make those interested ask specific questions by phone or come to the preview. All of the items are sold as is, where is (FOB Reno). We make no representations about working condition of any of the pieces simply because there is insufficient time to test each piece. **NO RETURNS**. We expect you to look at each piece. **The material here is genuine, unless otherwise noted**. If you change your mind on an item after purchase, you can consign it to us for a future sale.

**Shipping** - Since most of the items are three dimensional, we encourage you to pick the items up here in Reno. If you require shipping, we are happy to provide this, but will **charge \$25 per hour to carefully package your items**. This cannot be estimated in advance, and must be paid for separately from the auction items. We are only interested in reimbursement for our labor, so you will only be billed for exact time and materials for your packages. As a worst case example, we just built a 4 foot cube custom wood box to ship a large expensive item to a client that required six man hours to ensure the safety of the item.

# COIN OPERATED MACHINES

**2353. Coin-Op. Craps Table Money Box.** Lot of 2 pcs. Oak Craps Table Money Box & Chip Tray with approximately 12 slots for chips. Tray is about 6" x 4" and box is 5 x 3". Fine to very fine. Est. \$75-150



**2354. Coin-Op. Your-Deal-Poker Arcade Game,** a Carnival Poker Machine. Never took money, but you would give the bartender something, and if the reels lined up, then you may receive a prize from the bartender, unlike a trade machine. 1950's. Red front with 4 aces embossed on front. 26"x15"x12". Extremely fine. Est. \$300-750

**2355. Coin-Op. Lucky Strike Pinball Machine.** Mosley Lucky Strike countertop Pinball machine. Nickel for 10 balls. End plate missing. Circa 1920. 3.5' x 1.5' x 1'. Fine. Est. \$300-600



**2356. Coin-Op. United MF's Mexico Pinball Machine, c. 1930's-40's. Mexican Dancer** in vertical plate. Very colorful. Wood frame and sideboards. Wood rails nickel denomination. Mfg. by the United Mfg. Co, Chicago, IL. Free standing floor model with four legs. 64"x40"x25". The game's name is "Mexico." Similar to the Mills 1937 model in Fey, p173. Very fine. Est. \$750-1500



**2357. Coin-Op. Fare Box,** c. 1910. Fare Box from either a cable car or bus. Black colored with 5 cent counter. 8"x6"x6". Fine. Est. \$50-150

Lot 2356 and 2357, respectively

**2358. Coin-Op. Fare Counter, c 1930-40.** Fare counter, or ticket counter for a street car. Gold colored with three reel counter. 5"x6"x7". Extremely fine. Est. \$50-150



**2359. Coin-Op. National Cash Register, c 1910.** metal & brown paint deigned to resemble a wood frame. White glass countertop. 24-key. 18"x17"x16". Extremely fine. Est. \$250-500



**2360. Coin-Op. Coin Dispenser, 1890.** Coin changer made of nickel and cast iron that was probably used in a bank. Very fancy. Called the *Saats Tray*. Held anything from a penny to a silver dollar. 5"x14"x8". Extremely fine. Est. \$250-500



Lot 2361 and 2362, respectively

**2361. Coin-Op. Table Top Tube Coin Dispensers, c.1920-40.** Lot of 2 pcs. These were used anywhere people needed change, gambling establishments in particular. 12"x12"x5". Fine. Est. \$200-400

balls (we recommend not for consumption). Kiwanis sign on top of machine. Manufactured by the Ford Co. 15"x5"x7". Extremely fine. Est. \$50-150

**2362. Coin-Op. Ford Gumball Machine, c. 1950.** Round globe gum ball machine. The lever operates in a horizontal motion from left to right. The globe is half full of older gum



**2363. Coin-Op. Magic Clock Trade Stimulator c. 1930.** American art deco cabinet design with brown on brown. There is a single nickel plate front which is entitled "Magic Clock Jackpot" with black and red hand. 12"x13"x5". Crack on front wood piece. Fine condition. Est. \$300-700



**2364. Coin-Op. Aluminum Cast Gumball Machine, c1910-20..** Early style glass globe gum ball machine, oak base, made out of aluminum casting/pot metal, tapered globe in shape of early light bulbs. "Look, Six Balls 3 cents" printed on machine. Lever missing, crack in glass near base. 16"x7"x7". Fine. Est. \$100-300

**2365. Coin-Op. Cadillac Jr. Gumball Machine, c. 1940.** One cent operation. Brown shell with metal top. Tin tray attached on bottom is original. Multi-color candy still present (we recommend no for consumption). 24"x5"x5". Extremely fine. Est. \$100-300



Lot 2366

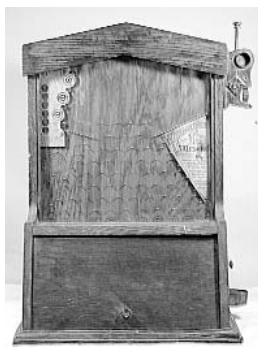
Lot 2365.

**2366. Coin-Op. Uncle Sam Cash Register Bank, c1930-40.** Designed to look like a miniature black cash register. Manufactured by the Durable Toy and Novelty Co. Has amount deposited in window. Fine to very fine. Est. \$50-100



**2367. Coin-Op. Dentist Cast Iron Toy Bank.** Appears to have been repainted and the ability to operate was not tested. There is a figure of a dentist and patient. 6"x9"x4". Very fine. Est. \$75-150

**2368. Coin-Op. Sparks Gumball One-Cent Trade Stimulator.** The machine is a three wheel slot style. Red, blue and gray colored. The reels have sports objects such as footballs, bowling pins etc. 12"x12"x10". c. 1935. Extremely fine. Est. \$500-1000



Lot 2369 and 2370, respectively

**2369. Coin-Op. Mercury Cigarette Trade Stimulator, One cent.** Brown metal shell with three reels, no back. 12"x10"x12". The reels show packs of cigarettes. Fine to very fine. Est. \$200-400

**2370. Coin-Op. Kitzmiller Penny Pinch Machine, c1900.** Operated by giving a prize depending on which hole the penny came out of. Early trade stimulator. Oak case and is in appearance similar to a pinball machine. One of the oldest trade stimulators in the collection. 16"x12"x12". Extremely fine. Est. \$1000-3000

**2371. Coin-Op. Control-O-Graph Coin Dispenser, c. 1930.** This is a commercial coin changer with 33 keys in a keyboard style. Glass front and back. It was probably used by a bank or a casino. 14"x12"x8" Extremely fine. Est. \$100-200



Lot 2372 and 2371, respectively

**2372. Coin-Op. Tokette Gum Trade Stimulator.** Three reel, one cent trade stimulator. Green with a lever on the right side. Back missing without the original handle. 10"x10"x8". Fine. Est. \$300-600



Lot 2373 and 2374, respectively.

**2373. Coin-Op. Jennings Export Chief 25 cent Slot Machine.** Three reel style machine with right hand side lever. Original, working, wood base. 28"x15"x15". Extremely fine. Est. \$1000-2500

**2374. Coin-Op. Tally Gum Trade Stimulator, c. 1935.** Classic art deco style, 5 cent machine with three reels. The reels have numbers as characters. Right hand side lever. Green color that is chipped. Fine condition. Est. \$400-800

**2375. Coin-Op. Silver Queen Gum Dispenser, c. 1945.** One cent dispenser. Silver and red coloring with mirror panel. Has miniature gum packages displayed beneath a mirror at top. Very attractive item. 22"x8"x7". Extremely fine. Est. \$100-300



Lot 2376 and 2375, respectively



**2376. Coin-Op. Universal Vendors Gumball Machine, 5 cent.** Square with glass panes mounted on an aluminum tray. Very attractive and unique style. 14"x5"x5". Very fine condition. Est. \$100-200

**2377. Coin-Op. Nut Dispensers that look like gumball machines, c.1960.** Lot of 2 pcs. One is one cent red and black, square, 16 x 6 x 6, and the other is a 10 cent almond, yellow. 18 x 7 x 7. Fine to very fine. Est. \$100-150