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Dates announced for auction of 700 vehicles

BY NORWALK REFLECTOR STAFF • UPDATED FEB 3, 2017 AT 1:15 AM

Dates have been announced for the auction of Ronald Hackenberger's massive vehicle collection.

An open house, viewing and meet-and-greet with Ron and Eunice Hackenberger is scheduled from noon until 7 p.m. Friday, July 14 in Norwalk. The auction will take place Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16, with with doors opening at 9 a.m. each day. Those interested can request an auction list to see the car lineup.

The auction is open to anyone who loves old cars and trucks, and — according to advertising literature — “wants to give the Hackenbergers’ treasures a good home.”



Ronald Hackenberger



In late June, the *Reflector* published a [story about Hackenberger's plans](#) after a fence went up around the previously empty lot and cars began to be lined up, raising the curiosity of passing motorists on busy U.S. 250.

In the [January/February issue of Discover Norwalk Magazine](#), Don Hohler wrote a feature story about the upcoming auction.

About 700 vehicles, including many cars, trucks and tractors, will be part of the auction. Some are rare, others vintage and a few one-of-a-kind. Horse-drawn wagons, buggies and bumper cars will be auctioned as well. Everything will be sold at no reserve.

The vehicles are being stored at a number of area venues. Some of the cars and trucks are on display in the parking lot for a Milan Avenue building that housed several businesses — department stores Cook's and Rink's, as well as Norwalk Bargain Center and Old Towne Windows — before sitting empty for years.

Hackenberger has contracted with Minnesota-based [VanDerBrink Auctions](#), which is owned by vintage car sales specialist, Yvette VanDerBrink. She is working closely with a Cleveland-based firm, JF Marketing/Auction & Real Estate Services, owned by John Fraelich, in the cataloging of roughly 800 items.

It hasn't been a simple process. Most of the cars Hackenberger picked up over the years have out-of-state titles, so they're being retitled in the State of Ohio. According to the state website, each vehicle has to be individually inspected and have a fee paid. Although the inspectors are able to do a hundred or so cars at a time, the process took several months.

The collection includes more than 250 made by Studebaker. There are other American classics such as Hudsons, Kaisers and Packards. There are foreign-made vehicles, including British and Italian roadsters and French cars such as Citroen DSs and 2CVs. And there are tiny cars, such as Crosleys, a Goggomobil, Honda N600s and Z600s and an Isetta. Hackenberger also is auctioning a DeLorean and a Bricklin SV-1. [Hackenberger has a website](#) with pictures of the vehicles and a link to request a catalog.

Hackenberger didn't originally plan to auction off his collection of classic cars. For the 40 years he spent collecting them, what he really wanted to do was build a car museum.

However, as he told [Discover Norwalk Magazine](#), Hackenberger purchased the former Outlet Mall in Avery just before the recession started, resulting in a big financial hit. That is part of the reason for the auction.

"I am now in my 80s — still in good health, but nevertheless in my 80s, Hackenberger told [Discover Norwalk](#). "I just want to see what the Dodge Big Horns, the DeLorean and the Bricklin will fetch. And, don't forget about the Studebakers. I must have 250 of them in my collection and that includes a restored Studebaker Conestoga Wagon that hauled flour between Baltimore and York, Pa., a Stude Buggy, a Stude sleigh and a Stude wicker cart — all in mint condition when I bought the collection as a package deal in New Jersey for \$5,000.

"It is going to be gratifying to see pieces like those go to owners who will have as much fun bidding in June as I did in buying them over the last 40 years."



http://www.vanderbrinkauctions.com/auctions_details.php?detail=205&allimages=NO

The Ron Hackenberger Collection consists of over 700 Rare, Unique, Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Tractors & Buggies and More. This collection has Micro Cars, Limos, Foreign Cars, Approx. 250 Studebaker Cars and Trucks along with Rare Studebaker Wagons and Buggies. 1947 Indian, 1949 Harley, and so much more. There are also collector Tractor from IH to John Deere. Everything from Project to restored and original vehicles. It's Amazing and you won't want to miss this Auction!

Directions: Norwalk, Ohio

Open House Details: Preview Friday July 14th with evening Social with Owner!

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[Click here to print 2017_CAMPING_LIST_FOR_HACKENBERGER_AUCTION.pdf](#)

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Description:

The Ron Hackenberger Collection Auction

“A Candy Store of Rare, Unique, Micro, Orphan, & Amazing Cars & Trucks”

The Ron Hackenberger Collection Auction A Candy Store of Rare, Unique, Micro, Orphan, & Amazing Cars & Trucks

For many guys, who just want one classic car in their garage to work with, one is enough. But for Ron Hackenberger, cars to him were like being a kid in a candy store and he just couldn't settle for one. For Ron, it all started with a 1948 Studebaker when he was 15 years old. He had the chance to buy his first car, a Studebaker that represented a beautiful automotive masterpiece. Ron went and borrowed the money to buy the car from his Grampa and bought that 1948 Studebaker that fueled his sweet tooth for collector cars and started his collection. That Studebaker opened the door to trading up through the years, even up to a 1956 Studebaker Golden Hawk.

Ron married Eunice and they started their life together, and their love of collecting cars, in 1962. The family grew quickly to include six daughters. Ron was a truck driver and started his own trucking company, building it up to 100 Trucks and Trailers. Ron hauled everything and while he was on his adventures hauling, he would spot cars to bring back home to his collection. Quite often he would take a car hauler and go to the west coast and come back with a load of cars. The miles were packing on and he sold the trucking company to go on another adventure. Ron, Eunice and the girls all moved to Texas and bought a ranch and raised cattle, all the while still collecting cars. Soon he was ready for another change and sold the ranch, lock, stock and cattle, and moved back to Norwalk, Ohio. He bought some properties and well, like everyone in 2008, some of his investments took a hit with the recession.

Ron worked with the banks and kept his car collection together as it had grown significantly in the past years. Ron started another adventure, this time a campground and a catering service that their daughter continues to run with them.

With the success of his real estate and businesses, he was able to buy cars as he would come across them. Ron would buy cars that were unique, unusual, rare, and "something that you won't see every day". His collection has now grown to Approx. 700 vehicles. The Studebakers are still in the collection - almost 250 of them! Trucks, Pickups, Champions, Commanders, Avanti's, and even A Darrin Roadster Project. The collection also hosted 8 & 6 door Checker limos, Divco Milk Trucks, Ramblers, AMC, many Chrysler and Packard cars, and so many more.

The collection isn't limited to Studebakers, though, and a collection of Micro cars from BMW Izetta's, Citroens, Crossley's, King Midgets, a Rare Tatra, Borward, Fiats, showcase Ron's love of the unusual. There are early Hondas, Jaguars, Porsche and so much more. There is even a space-age looking car that looks like Evil Knievel would take it over the Snake River Canyon, and knowing Ron, maybe it was! There are many cars and trucks that will be sought after by Rat Rodders, customizers, and more. There is an assortment of Henry J's, Desoto, Plymouth, and even COE Trucks. For the muscle guys and gals in the crowd, Ron boasts of a '65 Mustang, a '66 Dodge Charger, a '67 Plymouth Barracuda and a '57 Chevy thrown in for good measure.

The collection isn't limited to Cars and Trucks. There are John Deere and International tractors and a host of rare Studebaker buggies and wooden wagons. Ron liked everything with wheels and even has a 1947 Indian Chief "Roadmaster" motorcycle complete with sidecar, and a 1949 Harley Davidson motorcycle. Keeping true to the roots that helped build his great collection, he even has a '75 Dodge Big Horn diesel rig for sale!

Ron was going to restore many of them and then realized he didn't have enough time to get them all done. Then there was the idea of a museum and he came to the realization that wouldn't fly. He decided to turn them back into the wild and let other collectors, rodders, customizers, and hobbyists enjoy his vast collection.

The Hackenbergers are going to have one big weekend with a celebration of his collection and everything will be sold NO RESERVE over the weekend of July 14th-16th, 2017. The auction is open to anyone that loves old cars and trucks and wants to give the Hackenbergers Treasures a good home. There is defiantly something for everyone!

Ron and Eunice have contracted with JF Marketing/Auction & Real Estate Services in Ohio and VanDerBrink Auctions, LLC, of Minnesota, who specializes in collector cars and parts, to sell their vast collection. When John called Yvette to come out to Ohio, they walked into just the first of the three major buildings housing the best of the collection, and you could hardly walk through the cars. They are packed door to door and end to end. The cars are originals, restored, projects, and some for parts. It is absolutely amazing. A catalog will be coming with complete details, pictures, and more. The Hackenbergers have been working to title the vehicles and get ready for the sale. It's going to be wild and you won't want to miss this auction.

The auction will be held onsite and online and bidders across the world will have a chance to bid and buy a part of the "virtual car Candy Store". "It just takes your breath away. There are so many, and all bought by one guy! It's amazing!", says Yvette VanDerBrink. "If you are a car and truck lover, you won't want to miss this auction. You will want to be here in Ohio in July. "It is amazing, I've never seen so many different cars." says, John Froelich of JF Marketing/Auction & Real Estate Services.

So, mark your schedule and plan to be in Ohio the weekend of July 14, 15, & 16th, 2017. Gates open at 7am each day and the auction action will begin at 9am in Norwalk, Ohio for the Hackenberger Collection, one of the biggest private owned collections of rare, unique, original, and well, just amazing car collections around. You will be a kid in a candy store yourself! You won't want to miss this collection! For more info: www.ronhackenberger.com or www.vanderbrinkauctions.com You can also call John Froelich at 440-454-1121 or Yvette VanDerBrink at 605-201-7005 for more auction information or if you have a collection yourself that you would like to sell in the near future. Plan Now to Attend this Amazing Auction! See you There!