

Retired auctioneer holds auction

by Kinneret Halmes

"After 21 years, you learn a lot about the ways and means of handling a situation."

So says Ken Eckford, retired farmer and auctioneer who spent 21 years in the latter capacity collecting a plethora of items from household effects to farm machinery and antique farm machinery and antique furniture, many of which were auctioned off at a sale Saturday. Mr. Eckford, who retired from auctioneering in 1973 following a heart attack, recently sold his farm of 200 acres to a neighbour, and auctioned off his cattle last fall, keeping the brick farm house. Saturday's sale was his way of spring cleaning.

Mr. Eckford was a self-taught auctioneer. He purchased his farm on the Queen's Line following the war and began auctioneering as a sideline. It was a lucrative business, he found, with the bigger sales in livestock. Mr. Eckford travelled across Ontario, visiting places like Cornwall, Oakville and New Liskeard. As a self-taught professional, he had to familiarize himself with the values of everything from farm machinery, to antiques and household effects.

It's not every auction that can boast two auctioneers but Mr. Eckford asked locals Revel Stewart and Gerald Walsh to officiate at his sale on the weekend. Both men were one-time proteges of the retired auctioneer, who offered them tips and advice when they first started out in the business. But advice wasn't the only reason for the two men's success.

"I can show you how but you've got to have it," Mr. Eckford told a Sun reporter. And it's obvious that both men, like their mentor, indeed have what it takes.

Many of the area's local residents turned out to the sale which began at 12 noon and lasted all day. They mingled with buyers from Kingston, Ottawa and Hull—many of Mr. Eckford's former business associates.

Some had come to look over the antiques like the two fruitwood cabinets, the ornate one from England, circa 1790, and the smaller Scottish one, circa 1856. Buyers came to bid on

furniture such as an upholstered set of chairs, once owned by the founder of Quebec, Phillamon Wright. Local farmers came to purchase farm equipment and some came just to

browse while Mr. Walsh and Mr. Stewart shouted out prices in rapid-fire succession. The Queen's Line Women's Institute provide food for the hungry and thirsty buyers.



Antiques weren't the only things auctioned at Ken Eckford's sale last weekend. Farm

machinery, furniture and household collectables were also auctioned off to an antique-hungry crowd.

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Burnstown ladies speak to Queen's Line WI

by Evelyn Moore Price

North met South when Burnstown Women's Institute were guests of Queen's Line Women's Institute for their meeting at the home of Mrs James Wallace.

Mrs Jean Denniston, Burnstown, gave an excellent demonstration on floral arrangement. With her running commentary, she showed examples of her skill with attractive ways of displaying flowers. She utilized ways of arranging not only natural but silk flowers, the latter being used at all seasons.

The roll call was answered by all naming their favorite flowers. In keeping with this theme the secretary, Mrs Robert Beach mentioned the part Women's Institutes have made in the selection of floral emblems in three provinces - Alberta adopting the Prickly Rose in 1930, New Brunswick the Purple Violet in 1936, and British Columbia the Pacific Dogwood in 1956.

Mrs Ilene Brydges, president of Burnstown WI brought greetings and read her prize winning poem "The Drip" a humorous pioneer

incident. This poem was a prize winner at the Area Convention of WI's in Ottawa in 1980. Both talented ladies were presented with lovely plants from Queen's Line WI.

Mrs J Wallace introduced the other visitors from Burnstown, Mrs Mona Hill and Mrs Lucretia Brisbois.

Past president, Mrs Gordon Oattes, conducted the brief business meeting, dealing with school awards, the annual dinner meeting and work pertaining to the WI hall and its recent renovations.