## Las Vegas Israelite

Interest Runs High Among Motorcycle Collectors As Date Nears For Auction Of Steve McQueen Estate



Imperial Palace owner Ralph Engelstad displays a 74 cu. in. 1940 Indian Chief motorcycle, which is just one of the hundreds of items to be offered for bid during the Steve McQueen Estate Auction. The auction will be held Nov. 24-25 at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, and will feature more than 100 motorcycles, 22 automobiles, antique furniture, automotive and airplane memorabilia, an antique toy collection, and many of McQueen's personal effects.

It has been nearly four years since Steve McQueen's death (November 7, 1980) and his estate has been prepared for a giant estate auction in Las Vegas. The auction will take place at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino under the direction of the McQueen Children's Trust, set up by Steve for his daughter Terri and son Chad.

Dates of the auction are November 24 and 25. Preview of the enormous collection of property will be November 19-23.

McQueen was a collector with eclectic taste, a sportsman and hobbyist who appreciated a very diverse selection of objects. He loved fast driving as much as he loved acting, and over the years of his highly successful and lucrative career he purchased many cars and motorcycles. In his estate are 22 vintage automobiles and some 125 motorcycles. In addition to those cycles (many of them antiques), he filled a warehouse with motorcycle parts. The catalogue of the auction lists such lots as "motorcycle front ends, handlebars and crash bars," "wheels and tires for drop center rims," and "motorcycle primary covers, timing chain covers for Indians and Harley-Davidsons.

There are also boxes of parts for specific motorcycles. For the biker rebuilding, say, a 1928 Harley-Davidson Flathead or a 1932 Indian 4-cylinder, the estate auction is a golden opportunity to garner rare and valuable parts.

In fact, the auction is seen as a golden opportunity by motorcycle collectors all over the world. Rarely does such a large and valuable inventory of antique and classic cycles come before the public. There are 48 Indians, a cycle no longer built and much sought after by cyclists. There is a rare 1909 Pierce 4-cylinder, a 1914 Pope and a 1915 Thor. The rarest of the cycles is a true museum piece; an

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1899 Quadricycle which McQueen had on loan to Harrah's Automobile Collection in Reno.

The estate includes, as well, dozens of antique toys (predominantly cast iron and tin), antique furniture, and many fixtures such as lamps, cash registers and antique washing machines. He also collected aircraft items such as wooden propellers. Many of the items which will be auctioned are valuable because they are direct reminders of his great movie career. There are hundreds of photos, some posters, and his leather racing apparel and other clothes. Some lucky bidder will take home the fire helmet Steve wore in THE TOWERING INFERNO and someone will buy Steve's copy of the script for TOM HORN.

Admission to the auction is for bidders only (plus one guest each). Bidders' identification is received when the bidder registers for the auction at the hotel; there is a bidder's fee of \$30. There will be a fee to attend the auction preview unless the individual has registered as a bidder, in which case admission to the preview is free

Catalogues of the auction will be available September 15 from Kris Engelstad at the Imperial Palace. Cost of each catalogue is \$20

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