

We are privileged to be working for Mrs. Glen Albrecht, selling the items from the collection of her late husband, Glen Albrecht, Norborne, MO. This is the first of 2.

**Lots of Pictures on AuctionZip.com [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com). Our ID is 7237.**

The following is an article about the collection and the Hammer Man. Pictures of the collection as it was in his building as well as the boxed lots for this first auction are posted.

This article was written about 12 years ago, but it will give you a feel for what we are going to sell, and why it is a special auction for us and for many tool collectors who knew him. There were over 13, 000 items in his collections, (6000 hammers, 3000 wrenches, and much, much more. )

### **It's NEVER Too Late!!!**

**When is it too late to start a collection** of something that interests you; something that gives you enjoyment; something that enhances your life? **Why, never, of course!** THCKK member, Glenn Albrecht purchased his first '*collectible*' hammer in 1978, at the age of 61. I'm sure Glenn had bought lots of hammers and tools before, since he'd been farming all his life and had just retired. He now has accumulated over 3000 different, unusual hammers----as well as 22 years of fun "On the Collectible Trail"! Recently, Bob and I were fortunate enough to be able to visit with Glenn at his museum in Norborne. All I can say is "**AWESOME**". Now the dictionary uses some mighty strong words to define awesome: an overwhelming feeling of wonder, admiration, respect for something that is astonishing, breathtaking, amazing, or inspiring. This private collection is 'all that AND a bag of chips' as the NOW generation would describe it.

While he's known as "**The Hammer Man**" around these parts, that's really a misnomer. In fact, it's hard to imagine a more most interesting and unique collection of **handled tools of all types, functions and forms** not only hammers, but also wrenches, pliers, hatchets, axes, adzes, planes, drawshaves, braces and other tools, kitchen gadgets, sad irons, cast iron cookware and more!! Numbering over 12,000 different items, his collection has become a "mini-museum", housed in a special building designed just to showcase his tools and artifacts.

In his early eighties, Glenn is vigorous, enthusiastic, and still going strong! You'd think with all those thousands of hammers in his collection he'd about have all he wanted, yet as Bob and I were leaving he leaned in the window and said to Bob, " If you come across a double claw hammer, get it for me, I think I could use another one." ( Now, I **know** I saw at least 10 different double claw hammers—each different—hanging on his walls.)

Bob asked Glenn what he thought his 'best tool' was. Well, he showed us, even had it labeled. It is reads ' Morris Wrench Cuts Threads'. It was made by the Drop Forge in Independence, Missouri. When asked if there was a hammer he didn't have and especially wanted, he went right to a page in Ron Baird's book, "**The Hammer: A Collector's Handbook**". There was it was--a stubby blocky head, with a ball pein end and a short claw on top. "That 's the one I'm looking for next", he said.

He showed us a wide range of hammers and tools. These included examples of early Maydole hammers and H.D. Smith and Co., Plantsville, Connecticut tools. Glenn explained that David Maydole, Norwich, New York was the first to perfect a hammer head that didn't get 'sloppy' after years of use. The quality and form of the handles on the Smith "**Perfect Handle**" pieces left us in no doubt as to why the company marketed as that and why they were respected by the consumer. Glenn mentioned that this company

was sort of like Simmons Hardware in finding a feature about their tools and successfully marketing it for all it was worth.

Glenn took several different items down from their displays for me to photograph. After I'd finished, Bob suggested that we take a minute or two right then to put them back before we'd forget where they went. Glenn said not to bother as he'd put them up later. Bob asked, "Won't that be hard since they came from all over the building?" Glenn replied that he knew where each of his items went. "Just ask my wife". He told us that whenever he sees a hammer he knows right away whether he's got it or not. After visiting with him, I truly believe he does. The collection is very well organized and evidently, so is Glenn!! The tools are numbered, categorized and cataloged.

Now how that can be possible, simply boggles my mind. This building must be 30 feet by 30 feet and has at least 14 feet sidewalls rising to a very tall center peak. The walls are completely lined with pegboard, full of hammers. There are probably a dozen or more cleverly engineered 4 feet x 8 feet pegboard racks that swing out --all holding hammers and tools; more hammers and tools, and even more hammers and tools. There are several free-standing walls with tools and all the rafters hold tools. Chock full is the term that comes to mind. I had to lie down on the floor and angle my camera upward to photograph some of these displays. **And ladies and gentleman, there was nary a speck of dust, nor a cobweb to be seen ANYWHERE!** It put my housewifely self to pure shame. It was a real pleasure to handle these tools, as they were so clean and well kept.

Glenn had me photograph two special pieces that he hoped to get more information on from other tool collectors. One was an unusual, early Stanley spoke shave and the other a wide plane by J. G. Steiger, Cleveland, Ohio, 1863.

I had a very difficult time in choosing what to include in my photographs. Each time I thought, "This is definitely THE ONE!"—then lo and behold, I'd see two more unusual or different pieces and change my mind, again and again. If you ever get the chance to see Glenn's collection, I'm sure you'll appreciate my dilemma. I know that Bob and I are looking forward to going again, because there's so much to see and remember that once is definitely not enough. There's something there to interest every tool collector. Thanks, Glenn for sharing your collection with us and for preserving all these magnificent old tools for other generations to appreciate. Rjs