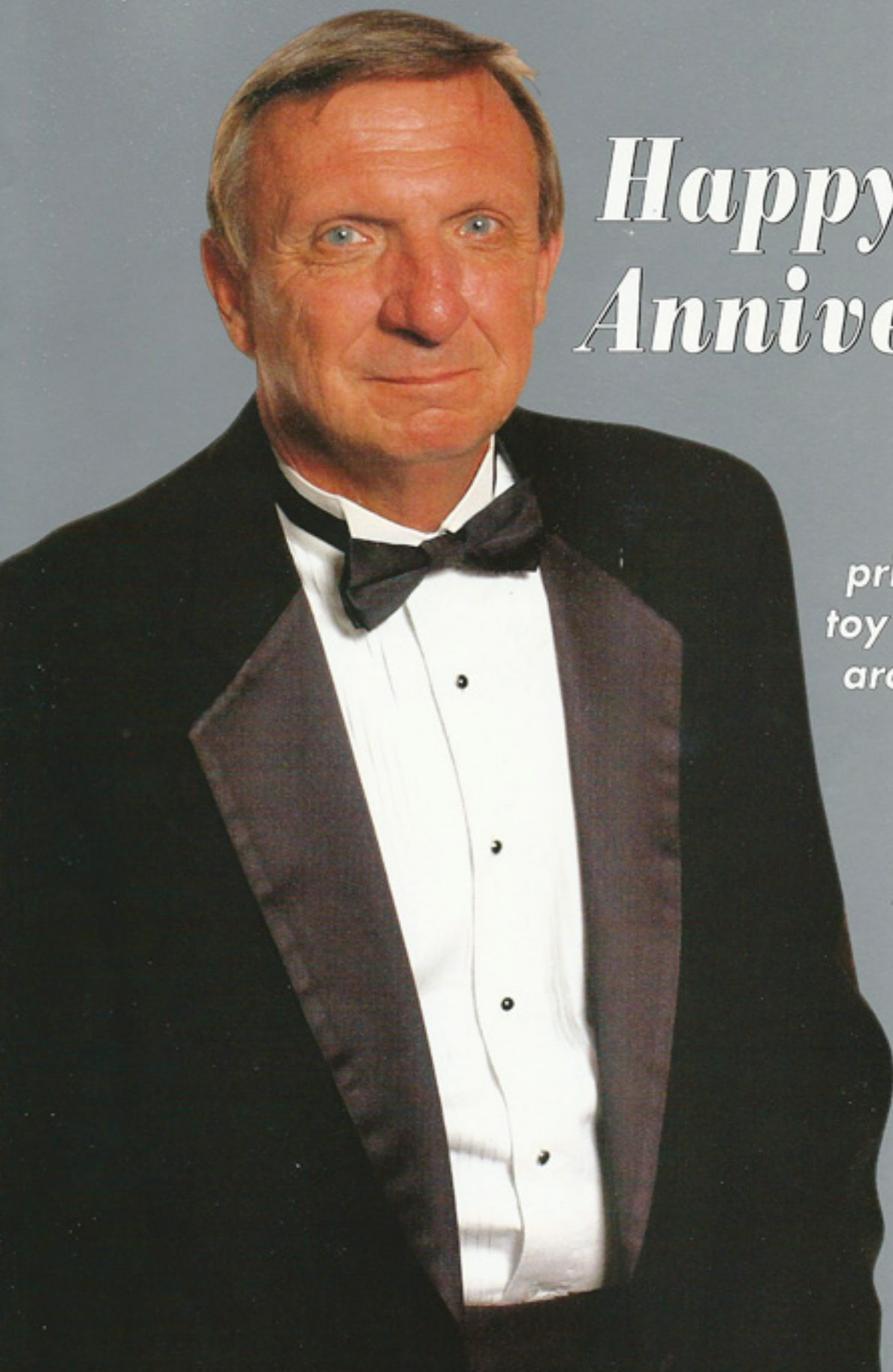


ANTIQUE TOY WORLD

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Happy 40th Anniversary

*It has been
an honor and
privilege to serve
toy collectors from
around the world
for the last
40 years.*

*Thank you for
your continued
support as we
look forward
to bringing
you the best
of ATW for
many years
to come!*

*—Dale Kelley,
Publisher*

—ALL IN THE FAMILY— The Chicago Toy Show Story

By Diana Tabin



Herb Regan, new owner of the Chicago Toy Show.

THE MOST TALKED ABOUT purchase at the October 2010 Antique-Collectible Toy & Doll Show was the sale of the actual show. Collectors have always known that the best of the best is available at this event, a fact proven once again by the sale of the show itself. Talk about finding a rare gem, mint in the box, in perfect working order!

"Who would have thought?"

"I wish I had known..."

"What?"

"You know, that's Jack and Diana's son."

"He's that nice young man that checks us in at the gate."

Herb Regan, one of the show's five partners, has bought the Antique World Shows, Inc. shares held by three of the others, and will take charge of future events, beginning with the May 15, 2011 Antique-Collectible Toy & Doll Show. Herb has owned a part of the show for 22 years, and

helped at the show long before that. He has been one of the working owners in the show family, sharing the decisions, the plans, and providing his share of the manpower to run the show. Diana Tabin will retain her shares, and will give continuity by remaining during the transition to assist her son. Dale, Valerie, and Nancy are retiring from the Toy Show business. Dale will enjoy returning to his love for collecting and selling toys at future shows. He will travel and continue to develop his Antique Toy World Magazine. "Dale Kelley, Toy Collector" is back!

Herb has changes planned that will please everyone. To begin, the www.chicagotoyshow.com website will post dealer lists along with building and pavilion layouts before each show for reference. This will allow exhibitors to email favorite customers their exact location. Building and pavilion floor plans will be posted online to be printed and brought to the show to make

shopping and notations easier.

For quick reference, an alphabetical list of show exhibitors will also be posted so everyone can find and print the location of their favorites. This will be available for both pre-registered exhibitors at the show, along with the Room Trading list of exhibitors at the Holiday Inn. Those with a Smartphone, I-pad, or portable computer will not need to print because the information can be read from these electronics as folks walk through the show.

Looking back, history was made 38 years ago when four toy collectors expanded their toy hobby into managing what was to become the "world's greatest toy and doll show." Dale and Valerie Kelley along with Jack and Diana Regan created an atmosphere for toy collectors unequalled anywhere in the country. Each owned a part of the business and handled a part of the work as the show family of friends began to build the Antique-Collectible Toy & Doll Show. The event they developed has been the largest and the best of its kind since opening day. Most toys in most collections have been bought, traded, and sold at several points in their history at this Chicago Toy Show.

Since four collectors with collectors in mind planned the Chicago Toy Show, it has always been exceptionally friendly to those looking for the rare and unusual. When other toy shows controlled exhibitors by corraling the inventory into the exhibit hall the night before set-up to prevent pre-sales, the Chicago Show proudly sponsored its own pre-show at its main hotel, an event that has continued before every show as the appetizer for the weekend and the beginning of all the fun for serious collectors.

While other toy shows expected a quick set up in the early hours before the public show, the Chicago Toy Show continues to feature a full Swap Meet on Saturday for exhibitors and early buyers during the set up of the show, followed by additional time before the public entry on Sunday—any collector's dream format.

The very first show filled the Robinson Hall at the Kane County Fairgrounds and was crowded because exhibitors

Valerie Kelley and Diana Tabin with Herb.



would not leave that hall to spread into the exhibit area by the kitchen. During the second show, "bad boys" were kicked out of the Robinson Hall and relegated to the empty kitchen spot where they proceeded to have such a whooping good time that the punishment became a Hoot and others requested the kitchen hall as well. The kitchen exhibit area became a favorite location, marking the beginning of the show's growth into all of the old fairground buildings.

The Doll exhibitors moved into their own Trade Hall, and toy dealers spilled over into Building I and Building II. The pavilions filled with exhibits in Swine, Dairy, Beef I and Beef II, and eventually Sheep as well. But, after years of sprawling over the grounds, the show still needed more room. The construction of our new East and West halls finally created a spacious showplace for toys, the Robinson Hall has been remodeled for the dolls, and the pavilions are still popular spots to round off the show. Our remodeled fairground with its new

Nancy Regan.



exhibit halls has great ambiance and splendid facilities.

The stories that can be retold from 38 years of toy dealings are endless. Like the time someone was bargaining an exhibitor down below a hundred dollars on a Penny toy, and the exhibitor yelled that anything under \$100 was junk and he didn't sell any junk, at which point he threw the car to the floor and smashed it with his foot, leaving the customer aghast at watching the toy he wanted destroyed. We figured collectors did not ask for lower prices from that vendor again.

An exhibitor came over from England, telling everyone he had to sell enough to support himself for a year. Collectors were excited at getting a chance to dip into his choice collection, but he arrived with only one rather small box. And no one was allowed to look into the box. When the toy was finally unveiled, it was a German Tipp tin litho automobile with a Santa Claus that no one had ever seen except in antique catalogues. We figured he did live comfortably for the year when he sold this one of a kind treasure.

And another colorful collector grabbed a toy from a booth that the vendor said was not for sale. He clutched it to his chest and yelled, "But I want it" and flew a hundred dollar bill into the air, followed by a chorus of more "I want it" with more bills fluttering down. The entire hall was hushed as everyone watched the money float. He finally walked away in triumph with his toy while the vendor scooped up the bills. It was awhile before the noise level returned to normal in the hall.

One collector laughs about how he learned of the show's weekend activities. He walked through the Sunday show for years, asking, "Do you have tigers?"

Dale and Valerie Kelley.

"We want to thank all our toy show exhibitors and patrons for helping to make the Chicago Toy & Doll Show the best in the country for the last 37 years. Out best wishes and full support to Herb as he assumes ownership in 2011."



and finally one exhibitor said he did, but it was sold Saturday. "Saturday?" So the collector purchased Saturday Floor Rights for years after that, asking, "Do you have tigers?" And an exhibitor said, "Yes, but I sold it at the hotel." "Hotel?" So now he comes to the room trading at the show hotel and has probably cornered the tiger market as he searches through the show's three shopping opportunities year after year.

With the passing of time, the partners became a family connected by the show, working together to keep it running smoothly with contented exhibitors and happy customers. As the years went by, Diana and Jack Regan divorced, each retaining their ownership in the corporation. When Jack passed on, Nancy Regan assumed his responsibilities and took his place in the show family.

Throughout all these 38 years, another member of the family was also helping, working, and enjoying the shows. Herb Regan has attended every single show since he was a two-year old sitting under the tables in his Dad's booth. He worked on the admission lines when he was in Elementary School, and checked exhibitors into the show during High School and College. Herb is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology with a Bachelors of Architecture, a MSA in Education and post-graduate work in Administration. He teaches Architecture, Engineering, Robotics, Computerized Drafting, and Woodworking at Deerfield High School. Herb is married with four children, ages 4, 6, 8 and 10. His interest in vintage toys grew as he watched his stepfather, Shawn Tabin, build his collection with Marklin boats, the Fidelitas, French Automats, penny toys, mechanical banks, and German tin litho automobiles. Herb has been a collector of James Bond since he found his first Corgi Aston Martin at the show, adding to it as time passed to build a varied collection of Bond memorabilia.

Herb will add a fresh and youthful touch to the show operation, even though he is older than the original partners were when they began all this 38 years ago. The future shows will continue in exciting new ways based on the solid foundation that has been established. The customer contact list is enormous and accurate, the exhibitors are fabulous and bring incredible items, and Kane County fairground is a refurbished and comfortable home. It will be business as usual with a few new tweaks in the best tradition of this extended show family. Herb's new version of the website will be live in January 2011.

Please check www.chicagotoyshow.com for information.

www.chicagotoyshow.com

ANTIQUE - COLLECTIBLE TOY & DOLL SHOW



38th Year!

SUNDAY

MAY 15, 2011

Kane County Fairgrounds

525 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles IL 60174

- **FREE PARKING**
- **Adults \$8.00**
12 & under free
- **500 Exhibitors**
- **8:00am-3:00pm**

Featuring all categories of fine antique &
collectible toys, dolls, playthings,
& holiday heirlooms.

For hotel reservations at our group rate, please call Diana Tabin, 847-772-6760

SHOW SCHEDULE:

2011 MAY 15 & OCT. 23 **2012** APRIL 22 & OCT. 28 **2013** APRIL 28 & OCT. 27

ANTIQUE WORLD SHOWS, INC., P.O. Box 1078, Deerfield, IL 60015-6001

Herb Regan

847-800-3009

email: chicagotoyshow@aol.com