



SCOTT MEACHAM
OKLAHOMA STATE TREASURER

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Unclaimed Property Auction Brings More Than \$110,000
Krugerrands, \$1,000 bill and Billy Beer bring strong bids

OKLAHOMA CITY – A \$1,000 bill sold for \$4,000, 10 one-ounce gold Krugerrands for \$9,125 and an empty six-pack of Billy Beer cans for \$50. All together, Thursday's auction of the contents of more than 300 abandoned safe deposit boxes raised \$111,834, State Treasurer Scott Meacham announced today.

The total raised is more than double the amount raised at any previous unclaimed property auction. More than 300 bidders attended. The contents of the abandoned safe deposit boxes had been in the custody of the treasurer's office for several years. The money raised at the auction will be held for the owners by the treasurer's unclaimed property program.

"Jewelry and coin collecting experts at the auction say we were able to get very strong bids on the thousands of coins and hundreds of gems we sold. Louis Dakil and his staff at Dakil Auctioneers did great work for us," Meacham said. "We will keep the money we raised to give to the owners, but now we have more room in our vault to store more abandoned property."

In the week before Thursday's auction, claims were made on more than a dozen of the safe deposit boxes that had been scheduled for auction.

"Thanks to word getting out about the auction, we saw a big jump in the number of claims being filed," Meacham said. "That's great news because we simply want to return lost or forgotten money and property to its owners."

A searchable database of all unclaimed property owners is available on the treasurer's web site at www.treasurer.ok.gov. Meacham's unclaimed property program is holding \$260 million for more than 350,000 Oklahomans.

When businesses lose track of people for whom they have money or property, such as safe deposit box contents, the law requires they bring it to the treasurer's office along with the name and last known address of the owners. The names are then published in state newspapers and posted to the treasurer's web site.

Meacham said making a claim costs nothing. "Our service is always free," he said.

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