

#24 Cowboy Boots

Cowboy Boots #24

\$20.00
Paid

From: Garage sale



Laramie Handmade Leather Boots Mens 10.5 Patchwork

Description:

These boots are vintage and so neat. Brown, black, beige, ivory and buff. I would guess 1970s and the man I bought them from told me that they are a 10½. I did not see a size marked. Style 839 25445. In good used condition. Some wear on the heel.

Winning Bid:

\$76.00

Ended: 10/3/06

History: 8 bids

Starting Bid: \$9.99

Winner: Texas
(no kidding!)

Viewed

000079 X

The Story

When Peter and I were in Sonoma a few months prior, he decided he wanted to buy some cowboy boots. He picked up a black pair on that trip.

So when I was out garage saling and saw these (in his size), I thought it was worth \$20 to see if the style appealed to Peter. When I got them home and emailed him a photo, we both agreed they were a little wild for him! He is more conservative than that. On to eBay they went.

Cowboy boots sell well on eBay. The history of cowboy boots is quite interesting. According to legend, they originated from a shoemaker in either Kansas or Texas. After the Civil War ended in 1865, the men who drove cattle across the country realized that they needed different boots than those they had worn during the war, since the war boots did not protect them on their long rides.

Around 1870, a very smart cowboy took his war boots to a shoemaker and asked for a pointy toe (to get his foot into the stirrup easily), a taller legging (to protect his legs), and a bigger, thicker, heel. The knee-high design would protect the cowboy from tree thorns, barbed wire, snakes, and other perils.

The higher, underslung heel of the boot also helped the cowboy when he needed to dig into the ground when pulling a stubborn mule or leading a horse down a steep trail. The heel also kept the cowboy's foot from pushing through the stirrup so that if he were thrown from his horse he wouldn't get stuck in the stirrup and drug to death.

Speaking of being drug to death reminded me of a terrible thing that happened to my grandma in the late 1980s. She was in her van at the Alberston's grocery store and started to

put her vehicle in park with the door open and the motor running. Instead of going into park, it got stuck in drive, and she fell partially out of the passenger door and was dragged clear across a major shopping center until her van hit a mail box. Luckily, she wasn't killed, but she did break both her arms.

The incident in question was written up in the Bellingham Herald and my grandmother proudly displayed the article on her bulletin board. My grandmother called herself a fighter and was proud of being an overcomer (much like the cowboys in the late 1800s).

The first pairs of cowboy boots had very little style and were intended strictly to provide protection from the many hazards cowboys faced—including being dragged, as my grandma was! These early cowboy boots quickly became a big part of all cowboy's lives. Today, the more elaborate the design the better, as cowboy boots have become quite the fashion statement.

Who would have thought that this pair of stylish 1970s boots would sell for \$76 and go back to Texas, where cowboy boots may have originated?

78-Year-Old Woman Dragged by Van

JOHN ADAMS
Herald Staff Reporter

A local woman was dragged by her 1978 Chevrolet van at the Albertsons Shopping Center on Northwest Ave. in Bellingham on Tuesday morning. She was exiting the vehicle when her purse strap caught on the gear shift and sent the van from park into drive.

The van plowed over several medians before hitting a mailbox and coming to a stop. The woman is expected to make a complete recovery and only suffered two broken arms.