

COWBOY CULTURE

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hundred dollars to more than \$14,000.

But the larger public auction was the weekend's highlight. Lebel spent most of the past year rounding up rare items. More than a thousand bidders and guests were in attendance.

The most coveted Western antiques are always spurs, which continually fetch the serious collectors. Topping the spur trading was an exceedingly rare pair of target pattern spurs made by the famous San Francisco firm of Main and Winchester in the 1880s. They sold for \$17,600.

A buckskin tobacco bag taken from Sitting Bull's body after he was killed by Indian police in 1890 sold for \$9,350. Other Indian items included a Cree

beaded pad saddle, circa 1890, which sold for \$6,600 and a beaded pipe bag that sold for \$2,990. A rare Indian Wars era Colt Single-Action revolver thought to have been used during the Custer massacre of 1876 sold for a serious \$28,600. Auction prices are always a surprise. You

never know how close an item's price will conform to the estimate. An early saddle in wonderful condition made by Stratton & Cassetty of Victoria, Texas, in 1874 sold for a bargain \$3,850—half the pre-auction estimate. Another exceptionally fine quality saddle made by Burkhard & Butler of Socorro, New Mexico Territory, and dating from the mid-1880s surprised

Left: These spurs by G.S. Garcia of Elko, Nev., circa 1903, were known as the "Dandy Patter" and brought \$4,950.

Center: This action cowboy poster from the John Ruskin Cigar Company sold for \$7,700. Below: A Buffalo Bill Wild West Show poster, circa 1905, sold for \$7,700.

