



DISCUSSING THE MERITS of a pump which had belonged to the fire department, County Commissioner Stan McEvoy (left) and Jim Wesch were looking over the merchandise Decatur County had for auction on Saturday.

Overstock auction nets cash for county

About 30 people, many of them farmers or county employees, gathered to look over and maybe buy some of Decatur County's used and excess property Saturday.

The sale was supposed to start at 9 a.m. at the old county shop, but it was a little late as the auctioneer, Commissioner Ralph Unger, waited for a few stragglers to show up.

While the sale no bid under \$1 was accepted, it was a pretty casual affair as County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler and Deputy County Clerk Nora Urban wrote down who bought what and for how much.

The terms were cash or a personal check but you could run home to get your checkbook if you forgot it, and while the county wanted everything gone by Saturday afternoon, those who needed to get a pickup could come back for their treasures up to Tuesday afternoon.

Items for sale ranged from a 2001 Jeep from the sheriff's department to metal and wooden election boxes from the clerk's office. In between were about a dozen oak chairs, a projection screen, a stove, tires, a couple of computer systems, ink cartridges and boxes and boxes of miscellaneous binders.

If something wouldn't sell for \$1, Mr. Unger would add more to the pile until someone made a bid. A few things saw some spirited bidding, but most of the small stuff brought only a few dollars. The vehicles—including the Jeep which brought \$4,000, a 2000 Ford Expedition, \$1,600 and a 2002 Activan went for \$100. The dump trucks, said Ms. Geihlsler, brought \$725.

Mr. Unger kept the bidding moving and encouraged the faint hearted. "Ah come-on," he'd say as he



tried to up the bid. "It's just a dollar."

He got a little help as Commissioner Stan McEvoy tried to sell Twin Creeks Extension Agent Byron Hale a small engine from the fire department.

"That just has your name written all over it, Byron," Mr. McEvoy said. Mr. Hale didn't look interested in

buying a used engine but did smile when he saw that it did indeed have his name, HALE, on the side.

Altogether, the county got rid of a lot of stuff it didn't need or know what to do with and added an estimated \$9,000 to the county treasury. Ms. Geihlsler said each department will get the money for its items.



COUNTY AUCTIONEER (and commissioner) Ralph Unger (above) asked for just another dollar from a bidder on Saturday while Deputy County Clerk Nora Urban (left) wrote down the buyers. Before the sale began, Elaine Marcuson (below) examined some old blank ledger books that were on the sale.



— Story and photos by Cynthia Haynes