

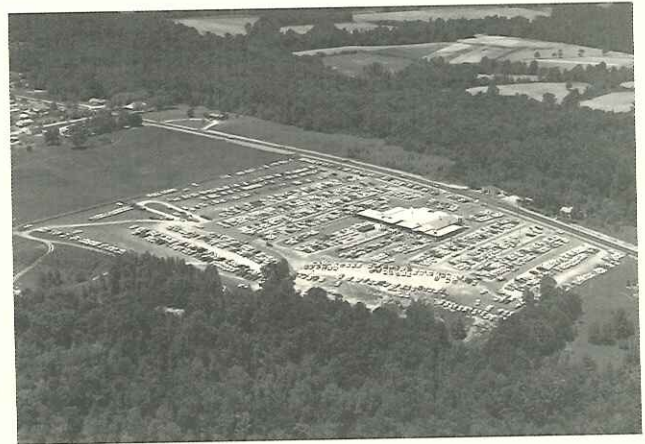
Clanton's Auto Auction Inc., Darlington, South Carolina

a Manheim auction

Clanton's Auto Auction began as Dealers Motor Auction in Darlington, South Carolina, and held its first sale in January 1943. The owners were J. C. Clanton, Sr. and J. P. Kilgo. When Kilgo died in 1947, Clanton became sole owner and the name was changed to Clanton's Auto Auction.

In those early days, Clanton's was a one-lane operation with sales on Friday. As the auction grew, sales were conducted on Thursday and Friday, but eventually sales volume dictated multi-lane selling and sales were held only on Thursday. The auction was moved in 1948 to its present location on Harry Byrd Highway (Hwy. 34W) in Darlington.

In June 1950, Clanton's pioneered the practice of guaranteeing checks and titles, which is believed to be the origin of this now universal practice.

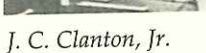


Ray Clanton, Sr.

J. C. Clanton, Sr. died in 1961 leaving the auction to his children Bernice Clanton Thomas, J. C. Clanton, Jr., Ray M. Clanton and Laurie Clanton. In 1985, J.C. Clanton, Jr. and Ray M. Clanton bought out the other family members. Both graduates of Clemson University, the Clanton brothers spent much of their younger years working at various jobs at their father's auction. Under their leadership, Clanton's Auto Auction grew into one of the largest auto auctions in the world, with six lanes selling up to 2,100 vehicles per week by 1988 with 100 full-time employees (and up to 250 employees on sale day).

The Clanton brothers also took an active role in the NAAA with J. C. Clanton, Jr. serving as president in 1966. In 1988, J. C. Clanton, Jr. was inducted into the NAAA Hall of Fame.

In 1987, the Clantons sold the auction to General Electric Capital. In 1991, General Electric sold to Manheim and Clanton's Auto Auction became a Manheim Auction. Today Ray Clanton remains general manager of the auction, which now has 175 full-time employees and up to 300 full- and part-timers on peak sale days.



J. C. Clanton, Jr.

The consignment sale is still on Thursdays with Ford, GM, and Chrysler sales on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Currently averaging 2,100 to 2,200 vehicles a week, Clanton's has already begun a major expansion that will include the addition of four more lanes and a new detail facility, cafeteria, and more storage on the auction's 115-acre property.

"Clanton's has grown in multiples since it started in the early 1940s, but it has never grown too big to listen to its customers," says Ray Clanton. "Dealers seem to appreciate that because some of them have been coming back to Clanton's for more than five decades."