

CITIZENS' QUARTERLY



SUMMER 2023

America's Packard Museum on Tour!



1940 Packard 180 custom bodied by Bohman & Schwartz at Goat Rock Beach.

Packard collectors and historians from East and West joined the fun at the first PAC National Meet in California in 20 years! We met new friends and reconnected with the old ones. APM was honored to be able to sponsor the Judges' Breakfast before the judging. PAC Chief Judge, David Robinson said, "The Packard Club and America's Packard Museum have always had common goals. It's great to have the Museum's support and see our connections strengthened further." We also presented the Best Unrestored Packard Award to Elizabeth Brolly McGlaufflin and her 1938 Super 8 Coupe (pictured right). Once her father's car, she drives it and performs service regularly. Congratulations to all the class and show winners! (cont. p. 5)

America's Packard Museum hit the road this summer and our first stop was the 56th National Meet of The Packard Club, in Rohnert Park, California. This first class national was hosted by Nor-Cal Packards Region of PAC, chaired by Jeff Mihaly. From picturesque coastal driving tours, past giant redwood forests and foggy beaches, to an historic 70th anniversary party for The Packard Club, this was a meet for the record books with over 80 cars and 200 attendees! Judging day was sunny and bright, on the beautiful grounds of the Rohnert Park Community Center, and the annual banquet was a smashing success, with both the Alvan Macauley Pre-War and James Nance Post-War Best in Show awards going to Packard station sedans. Aw heck, it's California, let's call them Woodyds.



2023 J. Nance Best in Show - Jon Fuiks' 1949 8 Station Sedan



PAC President Craig Handley presents award

IN THIS ISSUE

- ☑ Cobb Wins Spring Fling!
- ☑ Hands On 1918 Twin Six
- ☑ AQ Research Collection
- ☑ Welcome, Paul Eppinger!
- ☑ '24 Spring Fling Preview

DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD – Summer 2023



That's right, the name of this section has changed. Our staff is really heating up this summer, with no vapor lock reported. Stu Morris has been promoted to Curator, Paul Eppinger hired as Operations Manager, and we're adding to our Patron Services Staff. We have been busier than ever growing the museum and adding to our offerings. But more than anything, we've been on the road. That's what we do in the Summer, right?

The PAC National Meet was incredible, as well as the Cincinnati Concours at Ault Park, the Studebaker Concours at Copshaholm, and the Keeneland Concours. We've been visiting our friends at other museums too; Dodges, a Packard Limousine and a gorgeous manor house at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, MI, followed by a stunning collection of REOs and Oldsmobiles at the R.E. Olds Museum in Lansing.

We've been staying cool in Dayton, too. Our volunteer corps continues to organize and catalog our extensive Turnquist Library filled with over 2,000 automotive books and several thousand periodicals. Mark Vargas continues our development strategy, applying for 16 grants in July alone! Two new acquisitions have passed through our garage doors, a 1949 Golden Anniversary 8 Touring Sedan, and a 1949 Studebaker Land Cruiser. We're very grateful to our donors for entrusting us with their treasured autos. You might even see our Studebaker on the show floor very soon!

New events are on the horizon! After our most successful Packard Spring Fling ever, we've started planning the next one, with some special announcements later in this issue. Our 1955 V-8 engine display is almost complete, and we're starting work on a Packard marine engine soon. We're now holding Volunteer Social and Service events each month and expanding volunteer opportunities. At every turn, we're moving forward with the right team and our momentum continuing to build. I can hear Glenn Frey singing, "the heat is on, it's on the street." Let's roll our windows down and drive towards tomorrow.

Drive on,
Rob



IN MEMORIAM – Bonnie Franko – 1942-2023

Bonnie Lee Franko, friend, teacher, automotive enthusiast and charismatic trailblazer, passed away on May 7, 2023. She was 80 years old. Her years of devotion and service to the Packard automobile community left an indelible mark on everyone she encountered. After many years on the Board and Executive Committee, she was elected President of Packard Automobile Classics, "The Packard Club," in 2010, becoming the first woman President. She was a founding member of the East Grand Packards region of PAC, representing upstate New York, and served as the Editor of *The Boulevard News*, the regional publication of that chapter, for over 30 years. As Editor, she received numerous Bill Snodgrass Awards, honoring excellence in Packard regional publications, culminating in the Bud Juneau Award, Packard Club publications' highest honor. Bonnie served on the Turnquist Leadership Council of America's Packard Museum for over three years, also becoming the first female Chair. She was an avid collector and ballroom dancer, who had been a mathematics teacher in Rochester, New York for 35 years. Her reassuring presence, matter-of-fact advice and easy smile will be long remembered and sorely missed by us all.



NINE MAIN BEARING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The *Nine Main Bearing Capital Campaign* of America's Packard Museum is a Three-Year Campaign focused on the renovation and infrastructure improvement of the Museum's physical plant. The Main Museum was built in 1917, and the Packard Pavilion in 1932. Both structures are in need of physical repairs and upgrades to maintain the standard of excellence demanded by our mission and vision, other great cultural institutions, and the public. To that end, America's Packard Museum is seeking donors to provide major gifts, with the comprehensive Goal of \$200,000.00, to fulfill these immediate needs. The 9 Main Bearing levels of philanthropic support are listed below:

Head
\$35,000.00

Block
\$15,000.00

Pistons
\$5,000.00

Arms
\$1,000.00

Valves
\$500.00

Plugs
\$250.00



The projects that will be addressed by the *Nine Main Bearing Capital Campaign* are as follows:

- Upgrade HVAC System in Main Museum - Complete Replacement of Roof for Main Museum
- Restoration of North Area of Packard Pavilion - Mural Painting on Façade of Packard Pavilion
- Renovate Administrative Offices & Upgrade Machines - Install New Catering Kitchen in Pavilion
- Wall Refinishing and Floor Polishing of Service Department - Restore Freight Elevator

The names of the *Nine Main Bearing Capital Campaign* Donors will be proudly displayed on the America's Packard Museum Donor Wall of Recognition in their own category. A recognition dinner will be held at America's Packard Museum to celebrate the achievements of our donors and to celebrate the Museum they have helped to preserve.

Why *Nine Main Bearing*? Packard invented the Nine Main Bearing Straight Eight Engine in 1923 and it proved to be the hardest-working, longest-lasting engine ever built by an American automobile manufacturer. Nine Mains took the strain of the pistons and crankshaft and distributed it more evenly to provide greater strength and durability than other engines of the day. Our donors on this campaign provide the same strength and longevity to America's Packard Museum, so that it will endure for the next generation of Auto Enthusiasts. Mail your check today to America's Packard Museum to be part of the Nine Main Campaign!

Name (as listed on plaque) _____ **Amount** _____

Touching on Not Touching – by Stu Morris, Curator

Oftentimes, I forget about a car. This can be for a multitude of reasons, usually because it is tucked away in some corner, gathering dust in one stage of restoration or another. Naturally, there are preconceived notions about what a museum car on exhibit should be. But what if a car could transcend being just another automobile exhibit? What if it could be something so much more?

In storage, it lay in wait, ignored. “It” being a 1918 Twin Six, a car that really heralded the



dominance of the Packard name. This example is a modified Runabout that ran in The Great Race, a timed rally that is more about discipline and endurance than raw speed. It is a peculiar car, with modern electrics and amenities like cupholders and turn signals. This

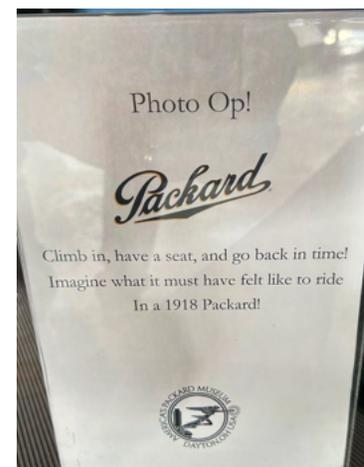
Twin Six was designed to do a long distance run on modern roads, not just tool around in an early twentieth century metropolitan city.

But this car has something special. Something intrinsic, something unequivocally *neat*. It sports the basics a luxury car from the nineteen-teens would have equipped. Large, blonde-colored wooden artillery wheels wrapped in skinny 35-inch white wall tires, tall coachwork, and a top mounted cylindrical fuel tank that was indicative of racecars from the period. The body, an excellent shade of robin’s egg blue, compliments glossy black paint. A clearly distinct aesthetic.

But what do we do with it? For one reason or the other we had written the car off. It is only a few hundred hours from being properly roadworthy, could use a little paint touch-up, but has been modified significantly from original specifications. However, it really could be only a few hours from being presentable and is very much representative of its era. Enter: an idea presented by our Executive Director, Rob Signom. “What if we made the exhibit a Packard people couldn’t just touch, but could *get in?*”

At America’s Packard Museum we have one rule: Please Do Not Touch the Cars. While that rule is followed ninety-nine percent of the time, having unfettered, no-barrier access to automobiles has its risks. The 1918 Twin Six was a solution to several problems. Getting a great photo opportunity for our guests and having younger generations able to interact with these older quirky cars, has been truly exciting for our patrons. Most importantly, it gives everyone a little tactile experience that we all so desperately crave. So far, we have been monitoring the car and everyone has been very respectful. This exhibit has been a huge success.

Personally, this has been a thought experiment for me, not just about this car, but any museum exhibit. Cars do not always need to be perfect to have significance; one of one, unrestored, or a provenance-laden example. A classic car as an exhibit should evoke emotion, to tell a story needing to be told, or to satisfy an individual’s need that they simply cannot get anywhere else. Climb on in.



America's Packard Museum on Tour! (continued from p. 1)

After the cars were strapped in the trailers, and the last handshakes were given, Stu and Rob jumped in the car for a four-hour drive to Eureka, California, to see Carl Schneider. Many of you know how substantive Carl has been to the development of the Museum: showing up the day before we opened in 1992 to donate numerous Packard artifacts, giving of his time, talent, and treasure for over 30 years, and donating several cars, most recently the incomparable 1952 Packard Parisian Coupe by Pininfarina. Carl lives with his wife and family in Eureka, an incredibly beautiful city, complete with pristine beaches and rolling Humboldt County fog. "Visiting Carl today is such a special experience. Seeing his store, Carl's Car World, filled with Packard and other vintage auto memorabilia, makes one understand the enormity of his life's devotion to the car collecting hobby. There is no other collection quite like his anywhere," Rob Signom said. Carl regaled us with stories of "the ones that got away," and we spent time with his family and friends all day, then driving back through the aromatic Northern California redwoods.



Stu drives through Redwoods

On July 8, we went to South Bend, Indiana, for the Concours d'Elegance at Copshaholm hosted by the Studebaker National Museum. There were several beautiful Packards in attendance, including a gorgeous 1939 Station Sedan originally sold new by The Citizens Motorcar Company in Cincinnati!



1939 Packard 8 Station Sedan owned by Andy Wolf

There were engaging sessions including "70 years of Corvette" by Brian Baker, Director of Collections and Education at the National



Corvette Museum. Cords, REOs, Duesenbergs, oh my! The show field was awash with classics of all eras, complete with Best in Show winners Allen and Nancy Strong for their immaculate 1930 Cadillac Madame X Coupe by Fleetwood. The rain held off and the chrome shined bright!

Next, we visited eminent Packard historian and collector, Dr. Charles Blackman, in Lansing, Michigan. Over the course of three days, Rob and Charles participated in APM's first Oral History Project, recording



over ten hours of Packard (and Bantam!) stories from the late 1930s on. Chair of the Turnquist Leadership Council for over 10 years, Dr. Blackman's constant support and guidance, made APM's success possible! When in Lansing, one shouldn't miss the R.E. Olds Museum – an astonishing collection of REOs, Oldsmobiles and other GM delicacies. The 1906 "Mama & Baby" exhibit featured a full size and a 1/2 scale model two-cylinder REO Light Touring Car. Later the cars were purchased and restored by



Richard "Dick" Teague himself, famed Packard designer.

Last, but not least, we stopped in on our friends at Meadow Brook Hall, for a private tour of the buildings and grounds, several smart Dodges and Mrs. Dodge's 1936 Packard Limousine. Of particular interest was Mrs. Dodge's private bath, adorned with a seven-foot square Rookwood Pottery backsplash. If you haven't been recently you need to visit again. This is an immaculate historic house museum that opens a window into the history of the automotive world. Our commitment to collaboration with other museums, concours, and organizations keeps our pistons moving and helps to spread the Packard name far and wide!

A Great Team – by Kristina Heaton, Business Manager

With over 225 attending over two days and raising over \$60,000 – it’s safe to say we’ve made progress. What started out 26 years ago as a Winter Weekend “swap meet,” the Packard Spring Fling has become one of Dayton, Ohio’s premiere fundraising experiences. Our region is known for progress – from the Wright Brothers to Patterson and Kettering, the number of inventions that have



come out of the Miami Valley is impressive. It only makes sense for our region to be home to America’s Packard Museum, an innovator when it comes to automobile preservation and the industry itself.

We kicked off the weekend by unveiling our second new exhibit in as many years, *Pole Position Packards*, a six-week exhibit that

showcased Packard and modern race cars. To see the progression of the racing car from the 1903 Packard Gray Wolf to the 1986 Porsche 962, our guests gained insight into how competition influenced safety standards as well as engineering advances. On Saturday, we featured special educational sessions at APM that included an up-close-and-personal look at some of our iconic pre-war Packards, and a seminar on bringing your automobile up to speed after winter hibernation by our friend Pat Aldrich of Aldrich Restorations. The afternoon highlighted a private tour of Robert McConnell’s impressive collection of race cars and memorabilia.

On Saturday evening, the Gala Banquet included a plated dinner, keynote speaker Price Cobb – winner of the 1990 24 Hours of Le Mans, a silent auction, Dominic Inferrera singing “Sounds of Sinatra” and dancing to the big band sounds of the Kim Kelly Orchestra. Silent Auction items included a Houser Asphalt hot air balloon adventure and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Dayton Art Institute, original automotive artwork, and Pine Club steaks – just to name a few. Over \$12,000 was raised during the Cash Call and \$6,000 during the live and silent auctions, an America’s Packard Museum record!

Events such as ours don’t exist without the generosity of our Sponsors – White Allen Euro Group, Wright & Schulte, Butt Construction, Insurance Works, Euro Classics, Pacesetter Painting, Elite Catering, and The Antique Auto Shop. Max Merritt Auto Parts was on hand with Packard parts for those amongst us restoring these beloved beauties. We were also thrilled to welcome Oregon Printing, Practice



with a Purpose, the British Transportation Museum, Sandy Curtis, Lola Signom, Dale Oakes, and Carol Shaw as table sponsors. We’d also like to give a well-deserved shout out to our Spring Fling committee – members included: Carolyn Beauregard-Shinkle and Dale Oakes, Co-Chairs, John Bastian, Lola Signom, Malcolm MacLeod, Skip Peterson, Destinye Arnold, and Kristina Heaton. We couldn’t have made it happen without your passion for the Museum, the Packard brand, and our community.

As Price Cobb said in April, he may not have been the greatest racecar driver of all time, but he had the greatest team ever assembled. That was his formula for success. Join us as we continue to build the America’s Packard Museum team, one that will be hard to beat for many laps to come.



Points and Plugs



Welcome Paul Eppinger, Operations Manager!

As APM continues to grow its staff and resources, the Board of Trustees approved the addition of a full-time Operations Manager in April. After a thorough search process, we're delighted to introduce you to Paul Eppinger. Paul is a native of Colorado. After graduating high school, he went to Montana State University graduating with a bachelor's in History. He then went into the US Navy serving close to five years. Upon discharge, he worked as a Park Ranger at Dayton Aviation Historical Park in and Pompeys Pillar National Monument in Montana. Recently, he worked as the Executive Director of the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association.

Even though he knew little of Packard, he did own a Studebaker which he worked on with his grandfather. Paul lives with his wife and kids in the Dayton area. Having lived in Colorado and Montana, he enjoys camping, hiking, or any activity in the great outdoors. Paul started in his new role in early July; come meet him at the Museum soon!



Preserving the Automobile Quarterly Collection

In March and April, the staff and volunteers of America's Packard Museum were charged with a significant task; to organize the *Automobile Quarterly Collection*. This collection, graciously donated to APM in 2018 by Kaye Durnell, contains 1,143 cubic feet of material, contained in thirty-four lateral filing cabinets with 170 drawers. Its contents are an estimated 728,000 images and 4,500 research files, plus 2,500 books and about 250 periodical titles.

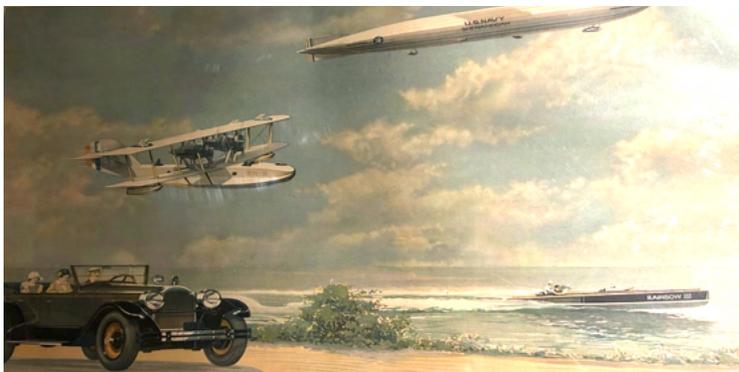
The collection is extraordinarily valuable but not just for the images and text that were printed in *AQ* and its books. Most of the photographs and research files have never been seen before. The magazine only used a few images taken by its photographers, and insignificant amounts of the copious research compiled. The *AQ* files contain the original negatives, not prints, and cover all aspects of automobile history from the late 1890s through 2012. Many of the images are of vintage American and foreign automobiles, although many images exist of famous automotive personalities, historical automotive sites such as factories, offices, racetracks, and automotive events worldwide.

The APM team successfully moved these assets in to the refinished North Collections Room on the second floor of the Main Museum. A major grant application has been made to the National Historic Publications & Records Commission to fund the cataloging and initial digitization of this archival collection. Soon, it will be available to the public – scholars and enthusiasts alike, for research and use. To learn more, please email us at: info@americaspackardmuseum.org. -MAV



SAVE THE DATE

PACKARD POWERS AMERICA



Looking ahead...the 2024 Packard Spring Fling will be held on **April 26-27, 2024**. Mark your calendars now! The theme,

2024 PACKARD SPRING FLING – APRIL 26-27, 2024

Packard Powers America, will feature special guest speaker **John Davis, Host & Creator of *MotorWeek* on PBS**. Stay tuned for details and attend what promises to be a fun and unique weekend for car lovers & the Miami Valley.

CITIZENS' QUARTERLY



The Citizens Motorcar Co.
America's Packard Museum
420 S. Ludlow St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Citizens Quarterly Summer 2023

Museum Summer Hours

Tuesday – Sunday

12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

Museum Fall/Winter Hours

Wednesday – Sunday

12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

(begins on October 9)

Closed Easter, Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,
New Year's Eve, New Year's Day
Group Tours of 8 or more
scheduled by Appointment

Contact Us

(937) 226-1710

info@americaspackardmuseum.org

www.americaspackardmuseum.org

Admission

Adults: **\$10.00**

Seniors (65 and over): **\$5.00**

Children and Students: **Free**

(Students require Valid ID)

AAA Discount no longer accepted

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