



Trant's 1940 Ford Pickup (photo: Trant collection)



Trant's 1949 Ford Custom (photo: Trant collection)

PETER TRANT

Pioneer - Collector and Restoration

By Alyn Edwards

Peter Trant was one of Vancouver's premiere young customizers of the 1950s. Between the ages of 16 and 17, he turned his first car, a well used 1949 Ford coupe, into a full custom. His father was both a mechanical engineer and a high school principal and the skills he taught Peter and his two brothers were used to craft remarkable customs.

All body seams were filled and smoothed with lead, a grille shell from a 1949 Meteor was installed with a hand-made grille welded together using chrome plated carriage bolt heads surrounded by copper plated bed frame tubing, the headlights were frenched and 1954 Dodge side stainless trim was added along with taillight lenses from a 1953 Mercury. Power windows and

electric door openers were installed. A scalloped maroon and copper paint job completed the custom car.

While Trant drove his fully customized Ford coupe to Magee High in Kerrisdale in 1957, he became a founding member of West Point Customs which grew to become a significant car club with a carriage house fixed up for a clubhouse behind an old West Side mansion.

At the age of 18, he began his second full custom with a 1940 Ford pickup purchased from an auto wrecker on Vancouver's Broadway near Fraser Street for \$15. The truck with candy green paint, white tuck and roll upholstery and power from a 1951 Oldsmobile overhead valve V8 engine was featured on the cover of a 1958

issue of Rod & Custom magazine.

In the half century since, Trant has restored some of the most significant antique and classic cars in British Columbia. In many cases, the shop teacher turned automotive technology instructor at the British Columbia Institute of Technology fabricated missing parts to complete the authentic and correct full restorations. He has been recognized with top honours by the Vintage Car Club of Canada for his work.

Among his cars are a 1933 McLaughlin Buick Victoria which he is still meticulously restoring after 44 years ownership, a 1947 Continental convertible, a 1934 Plymouth coach, a 1911 Overland, a 1912 Kissel Kar and a 1913 Locomobile.



Trant with Locomobile (Alyn Edwards photo)