



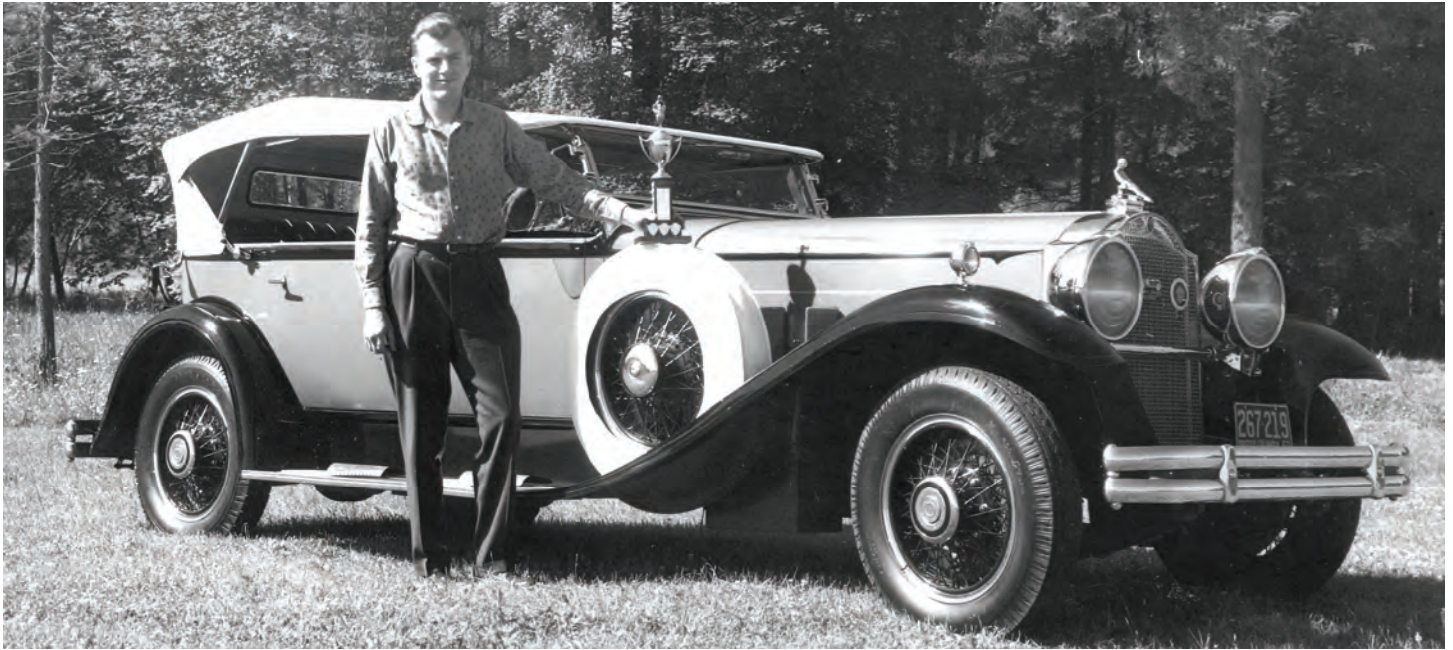
Harvey and Betty with the 1929 Packard (*Harvey McEwen collection*)



Harvey with the 1953 Buick Roadmaster (*Harvey McEwen collection*)

HARVEY McEWEN

Pioneer Collector and Restoration



1962, Harvey with his 1932 Packard Phaeton (*Harvey McEwen collection*)

Edited by Nigel Matthews 2011

Harvey McEwen's first car at age 16 months was a bright red 1935 Ford Fire Chief pedal car.

After World War II, the family moved to Vancouver and Harvey's dad became the truck and fleet manager of Empire Motors at Dunsmuir and Burrard, hence Harvey hung out around the dealership as much as possible getting tuned in on anything to do with cars, especially flashy new models.

After a successful 1950 driver's exam, Harvey immediately started selling ice cream, from a musical quarter ton British Thames refrigerated truck, on weekends and during summer holidays. He still has his worn 1950 City of Vancouver street map outlining his routes. Soon, he bought a 1932 Ford V8 Deuce five window hot rod coupe. One year later, he bought a 1936 Packard V12 Sport Phaeton with a custom built Dietrich Inc. body (open touring model with dual cowl and second windshield) for \$750, selling it one year later for \$850. The same car (same VIN) sold at Pebble Beach in 2010 for \$594,000.

Soon, a local 1940 Ford ragtop was purchased carrying Harvey and his cousin Gary on a long drive to Los Angeles. They took in the Sunday Pomona drag races with over 100 cars

in attendance (just like Christmas for two 17 year old teens, only it was October). The Forty was taken to Eastern Automotive to be hopped and dropped, then to an upholstery shop down the block for a rolled and pleated two tone red and white interior completed in one day. The two boys saw a 1932 Duesenberg J Convertible Victoria for sale at the Mayfield Car Company...asking price \$1,850.

During 1955, another trip was in order to LA this time with big brother Marvin. On board the United flight from Seattle was the Norman Granz (Jazz at the Philharmonic) group, featuring Ella Fitzgerald, Gene Krupa, Dizzy Gillespie and Oscar Peterson.

While in LA, the brothers had a great visit with George Barris at the now legendary Barris Kustoms on Atlantic Blvd.

In September 1957, Harvey ordered an Edsel convertible but picked up a sedan at the Oakville factory as the ragtop could not be delivered on schedule, later he sold it at a huge loss

Harvey was one of the founding members (member number 22, 1958) of the Vintage Car Club of Canada, certified in the warehouse of George Raven Wood's Carson Truck Lines on Burnaby's Myrtle Street, thus being

honoured with a Golden Anniversary plaque in 2008.

Harvey opened his first automotive dealership in 1959 with a Fiat, Singer Gazelle, and Berkeley agency

Next, in 1961, was a full restoration on a 1930 Packard 745 phaeton. Several cars followed, including a 1953 Mercedes 300 S roadster (one of 141), a 1947 Ford woody convertible, Ferrari 330 GT 2+2, 1961 Jaguar E type roadster, 1969 Plymouth GTX 426 Hemi convertible, 1970 Plymouth Superbird, 1929 Packard Larkins Convertible Sedan and a 1953 Buick Roadmaster Estate Wagon. All of this took place while building a log home on Burke Mountain (whispers of Westwood races blew over when the wind was just right) and operating a retail and wholesale car operation with his son Brett.

Since 1978, Harvey has been appraising collector vehicles with much appreciated assistance from his wife Betty. They quietly reside near White Rock with their rides being a stick shift 1949 Buick Super Convertible (Buttercup), 1998 black Lincoln Mark VIII LSC Coupe and a restored post war Austin A-40 pedal car.