

TWICE THE FUN AND WORTH THE TRIP

-Glenn Quagmire

Fun things for “car guys” (and girls) to do on a weekend or longer excursion...

FAVORITE CARS OF AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM

- 1917 Crane Simplex Model 5. Owned By J.D Rockefeller. The car is only one of two Crane Simplex cars owned by Rockefeller known to still exist. The chassis itself cost \$7,000 compared to the “commoner car” price of \$400 for the Model T of the time.
- 1930 Duesenberg Model J
- The Flintstone mobile
- 1981 DeLorean DMC12, which is always a hit with Back to the Future fans.

These and others can be seen at www.americascarmuseum.org/explore/collection/



America's Car Museum

Let's face it. We've all heard about how beautiful the Pacific Northwest is, with towering mountains, lakes and streams with fish that almost want to jump into your net, gorgeous coastline, plus other tourist attractions like the Seattle Space Needle. There are also major league sports teams where attendance can make for a pleasant afternoon or evening. And rumors of too many restaurants to choose from and fresh and interesting seafood dishes make the area all the more appealing.

So you've probably had the thought in the back of your head that this is an area you'd like to visit. It may even be high on your bucket list, with you just waiting for the right excuse to pop up to spur you into planning a trip to the northwest.

WELL HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.

Thanks to the enthusiasm, forethought, and generosity of a benefactor in the Tacoma, Washington area, there are two spectacular collections of antique, classic, and other interesting vehicles and memorabilia within a couple of miles of each other, either of which is worth the trip. Together, they're evidence of collections you're unlikely to find so close together anywhere in the country.

The late Harold LeMay started out modestly, founding a bus transit company in the early 1940s, part of which he bartered for a trash collection company before spending two years serving in the Navy's



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1930 Duesenberg
The 1930 Duesenberg is a masterpiece of automotive engineering and design. It features a powerful 26.9-liter V-12 engine, a top speed of 110 mph, and a 0-60 time of 12.5 seconds. The car is known for its distinctive Art Deco styling, including the iconic chrome grille and dual headlights.

THIS CAR MATTERS

America's Car Museum

Seabees in World War II. Eventually he met his future wife Nancy, whom he married in 1963, learning that they shared a passion, not only for classic cars, but also for models, sales materials, and other memorabilia related to older cars, primarily U.S.-built models.

Harold and Nancy were shrewd business people, and their waste collection business prospered, allowing them to begin collecting interesting cars in earnest in the mid 1960's. What started out as a sideline blossomed into a passion, with the collection growing at a dizzying pace. And by 1998, the LeMay family collection was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "Largest Antique & Vintage Vehicle Collection" with more than 1,900 vehicles, and at one point they owned more than 3,000 individual vehicles of all types.

With a need for space large enough to store his collection and a desire to share his treasures with other enthusiasts, in the late 1980's LeMay purchased an estate that had served as both a military academy and a retirement and convalescent community for the Sisters of Saint Dominic. Many of his vehicles were moved there, even as his collection grew, and he also used it as a display arena for period memorabilia that so fascinated his wife Nancy.

Sadly Harold LeMay passed away in 2000, leaving a mandate that his massive collection not be broken up and sold off, like so many others, but preserved and made available to the public to memorialize the legacy and ingenuity of the American automobile. He had already formed

the Harold E. LeMay Museum organization in anticipation of the construction of a suitable facility in which many of his cars would be displayed, and where automotive enthusiasts from near and far could celebrate the evolution of the automobile in the U.S.

Thanks to a generous donation of some nine acres of prime real estate from the city of Tacoma, the die was cast for development and construction of a new and exciting facility. Nancy LeMay committed some fifteen million dollars as seed money, and promised that nearly a thousand cars from



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“MUST SEE” VEHICLES AT THE LEMAY FAMILY COLLECTION AT MARYMOUNT

- **1948 TUCKER, #7 OF 50 BUILT.** Purchased after Harold's death by Nancy in memory of Harold. Rear engine, rear wheel drive, three headlights with center one moving to follow direction of car.
- **1932 FORD ROADSTER HOT ROD.** Only one in world powered by gas turbine engine. Built by Boeing engineer Len Williams in 1961-62.
- **1969 DODGE CHARGER “GENERAL LEE”.** One of 17 documented survivors from the TV show Dukes of Hazzard
- **1907 LOCOMOBILE MODEL E 5** passenger touring car. Once part of the Bill Hara collection.
- **1940 CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE SEDAN** series 90 V16. 1 of 2. Only 60 V16's produced in 1940, all body styles.
- **1923 AMERICAN LAFRANCE LADDER TRUCK.** Has original wooden ladders, original 855cid 6 cyl engine. Not restored – original condition.
- **1942 INTERNATIONAL KB-8 SEMI TRACTOR.** Restored by LeMay restoration shop.
- **1958 BUICK CENTURY CABALLERO STATION WAGON.** Four door hardtop station wagon built in response to the popularity of the 2 door hard top Chevrolet Nomad and the Pontiac Safari. Only made in 1957 and 58.
- **1936'37 CORD WESTCHESTER 4 DOOR SEDAN 812.** Originally built as a 36 but was not sold. Returned to factory, modified into a 37, retitled and sold as a 37. Lycoming v8, 125 hp, front wheel drive.
- **1929 KISSEL WHITE EAGLE SPEEDSTER.** Thought to be 1 of 2 speedsters surviving, and 1 of about 150 Kassel's of all years and body styles to exist.
- **DRAKKO THE DRAGON.** Built in Eugene Oregon to be used to entertain crowds at drag strips. Shoots smoke from nostrils and flame from mouth.
- **RED STILETTO SHOE CAR.** 3 wheeled, powered by motor cycle engine. Not street legal.

Click the **BOLD TITLES** to view image.

the collection would be provided to form the initial collection.

The effort received substantial support from the collector car community, with corporate sponsorships and partnerships with General Motors, AAA, International Speedway Corporation, NAPA Auto Parts, State Farm Insurance, and Hagerty Collector Car Insurance, among others.

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO...

Construction of the new museum began with a groundbreaking ceremony in 2010, with a Grand Opening gala celebrated in June, 2012. More than a thousand guests partied while savoring the humor and automotive stories from noted car collector Jay Leno. Nearly ten thousand people toured the museum that first weekend, and more than 100,000 had passed through the gates by summer's end.

But, you may ask, “Why two facilities?” The wise-crack answer would be because three was too many and one wasn't enough. But the fact of the matter is, the two facilities, just a couple miles apart, complement each other enough to make you want to saddle up and “Go West Young Man -- and Woman...”

The Museum, officially known as America's Car Museum is a four-story structure encompassing some 165,000 square feet of exhibit space, and housing more than 300 cars, trucks, and motorcycles spanning the 20th century. There are 15

display areas -- 3 main galleries 6 ramps that can accommodate a dozen cars each, and three end galleries. The museum displays, of course, the cars from the LeMay collection, as well as rotating exhibits of individuals' collections, or vehicles with a common theme. Some recent themed exhibits include British Invasion, Custom Coachworks, Legends of Motorsports -- The NASCAR Story, vintage station wagons, and a separate display dedicated to the F-series pickup trucks that grew up with America.

In addition, the facility houses a theater, banquet hall, meeting rooms, car storage, café, and administrative offices, along with a 3.5 acre show field that regularly accommodates more than 300 vehicles. The Museum also offers a massive educational program, including scholarships and grants for students, as well as a dedicated education center that offers curricula for K through 12-graders. More than 100,000 children attend the museum and its education center each year.

The Museum hosts groups such as car clubs, special events such as marquee-





specific car shows, banquets, parties, and other celebrations. Recent events include their Wheels & Heels gala in honor of the Kentucky Derby, Cars & Cigars for those who enjoy a stogie and a cognac with their classic cars, a vintage motorcycle festival, and their annual and highly-regarded Pacific Northwest Concours d'Elegance which draws more than 150 of the finest original and restored vehicles you can imagine. Other special events include tributes to American muscle cars, vintage station wagons, and even drive-in movies on its 3.5 acre show field.



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE COLLECTION?

Not to worry. In keeping with LeMay's wishes and his wife's efforts, the remainder of the collection remains essentially intact, with some 500 vehicles on continuous display at the above-mentioned estate and another thousand vehicles in storage and available for rotation within the permanent display. Roughly 600 of the cars in the collection had been donated to the Museum.



It is officially known as The LeMay Family Collection at Marymount, showcases vehicles that are still owned by the LeMay family, and represents more than just cars – it represents all the other related collections that have

been accumulated by the LeMay family over many decades, including Americana, signage, gas pumps, dolls and toys, library materials, etc. The web site for the Family Collection, www.lemaymarymount.org, even includes a clever search tool with which you can search for any make, model, or year of vehicle in the collection.

In addition to the vehicles and memorabilia on display, the facility features indoor and outdoor event space for small or large car shows, private events, corporate events, or weddings. There are three exhibit buildings on the grounds. One is presented for self-guided tours, the other two are conducted by tour guides who are intimately familiar with the collection and can answer most questions folks can think of.

The collection includes examples from nearly every vehicle manufacturer imaginable, from Rolls-Royce and Auburn to Acme trucks. The collection is roughly 85 percent domestic and 15 percent foreign vehicles, and also includes buses, motorcycles, and tractors and other farm implements. In addition, it offers an extraordinary collection of all types of items from early twentieth century America, including gas pumps, dolls and toys, signage and other objects too numerous to mention.

The two facilities, America's Car Museum and The LeMay Family Collection Foundation, are geographically close, mutually supportive, and automotively complementary, so it's possible to visit both in a single day if you

choose. Both are wheelchair-accessible, and both charge a modest admission fee. Parking on the grounds of both is free, and visitors are encouraged to take photos. Café food service is available and there are souvenirs sure to please every age and taste.

About the only thing you can't do there is buy one of their cars... ■

MORE INFORMATION:

www.americascarmuseum.org

www.lemaymarymount.org



LeMay Family Collection



LeMay Family Collection