

[View this email in your browser](#)

PACKARD MOTOR CAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE

MAR 2025

PACKARD PULSE

HONORING HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS



Girl Eats Sleeps And Dreams Custom Cars

by P.H. Connell, volunteer historian

Ethel Morton Of Highland Park, Michigan loved her 1940 Packard Darrin Convertible. She loved this car as much as any hot rodder.

This Car Is a Chassis 1806, Body Type 700 Darrin Convertible Victoria. Only 40 were built, 20 on the 120 chassis and 20 on the 180 chassis. The first one was tabbed for American actress Heddy Lamar. Many were labeled for export. This particular car is a 180 with the 160 horsepower 356 CID engine.

Ms. Morton was a part of the 1953 Classic Car Club caravan to Detroit that terminated at the Packard Proving Grounds. It was the club's first such visit. Fifty classic cars participated. This photo is dated August 5, 1953. She was one of 30 women out of 120 CCC members who were involved in this event which was climaxed with a styling trophy and luncheon provided by Packard.

It took Ethel Morton four years of advertising in classic car magazines to find this Darrin. She bought it from an attorney in Los Angeles. She worked at a local car dealership. She also claimed to have driven the convertible as fast a 98 MPH at one time. Claimed that the engine still had more in it!

Every picture tells a story. History is wonderful. This photo is on file at the Packard Proving Grounds in the vault collection.

2025 PPG Upcoming Events

Sun, Mar 9th	Historic Speaker Series - Electric Cars
Sun, Mar 16th	Historic Speaker Series - Albert Kahn
Thu, Mar 20th	Dance Workshop
Sat & Sun, Mar 22 & 23rd	Metro Carvers Show
Sun, Mar 30th	PPG Annual Wedding Show
Sat, Apr 5th	Great Gatsby Gala Fundraiser
Sun, Apr 6th	Historic Speaker Series - History of Base Ball
Mon, Apr 21st	Blood Drive
Sun, Apr 27th	Historic Speaker Series - History of Packard Proving Grounds

**Do your dance moves
need some work?
We've got you!**

**Dance Workshop with
Terry Hasty of Dancing
Under the Stars**

Here's a great chance to brush up
your dance moves ahead of your
upcoming wedding or special event.

Learn some traditional dance
moves that you can show off
at the Great Gatsby Gala!

Share a fun date night activity!

**Thursday
March 20, 2025
7-9pm**

Cost \$10 per person donation



Limited space, register online at
PackardProvingGrounds.org/dance-moves



**Packard
PROVING GROUNDS**



49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317
Call or text (586) 739-4800

**THE
GREAT
GATSBY**

at the Packard
Proving Grounds

GALA FUNDRAISER



**Saturday
April 5, 2025
6-11 PM**

**Tickets
\$100** Per Person

Includes Dinner + Drinks
21+ Only
Black Tie or 1920's Apparel Required



**Packard
PROVING GROUNDS**



More info @ PackardProvingGrounds.org/GreatGatsby
49965 Van Dyke Ave., Shelby Twp, MI 48317 | Call or Text (586) 739-4800



“When Packard Proving Grounds was Tank Arsenal Proving Grounds, Utica”

Our own **Joe Simmer** (PPG volunteer, IT Master, and tank historian) will be speaking at the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society Museum on **Sunday, March 9th @ 2pm.**

The Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society Museum

16600 Stephens
Eastpointe, MI 48021

586-872-2581

Shelby Farmers Market

Opening day of the market takes place on Saturday, May 17th. The market is held on the front lawn of the Packard



Proving Grounds from 9am-2pm each week.

Vendors can park their vehicle right next to their tent which is quite handy.

Returning and new vendors need to register for the 2025 season.

[Click here to register for the 2025 farmers market season](#)

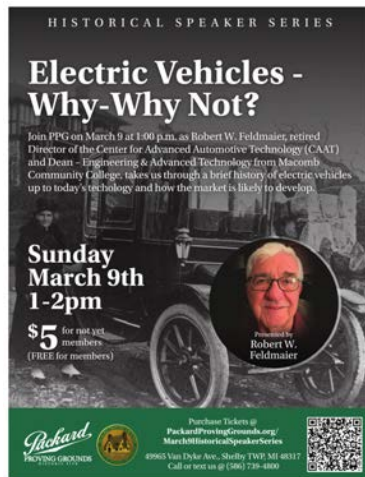
For V-12 Packards, a Special Homecoming to the Packard Proving Grounds

In 1932, readers of such publications as *The Saturday Evening Post* were treated to a full-page, full-color advertisement featuring the new Packard Twin Six. As was the custom in the Classic Era, the ad was heavy on copy and beautifully illustrated: A red Twin Six charges down the Packard Proving Grounds' test track, high on the banked turn, leading a caravan of cars beneath the stars on an all-night testing stint.



[Click here](#) to read the latest blog post by Graham Kozak

Historic Speaker Series



Flyers for Upcoming Events at the PPG



Click on the flyer images to save a .jpg file to share with your friends & family!

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Deborah Remer

We are excited to have this month's volunteer spotlight shine the light on Deborah Remer. Her work in historical research and archaeology has made a significant impact. She is a retired teacher from Walled Lake Middle School where she taught science for 30 years.

Deborah began volunteering at PPG in January 2023 after being invited to join the PPG Board. Her passion for history led her to initiate and lead several key projects, including the Historic Lecture Series and the Archaeology Team. Through these initiatives, she has helped uncover and share PPG's rich past, engaging both volunteers and the broader community.

She sees PPG as a truly unique historic site, "It's a very unique place because there are not many proving grounds in the nation or world," she says. She believes this coupled with its ties to World War II tank and military equipment testing, and its Albert Kahn-designed buildings, PPG stands apart from other historical sites. Her work, particularly through the Lecture Series, helps draw in new visitors who may not have otherwise engaged with PPG, while also providing enriching educational experiences.

One of Deborah's most rewarding experiences has been leading the Archaeology Team. She and her team have uncovered fascinating artifacts, including Civil War-era Minié bullets and remnants of Quonset huts, which were military shelters made of corrugated galvanized steel. These discoveries could possibly help piece together PPG's evolving history and provide a tangible connection to the past.

Her volunteer efforts extend beyond archaeology. She played a key role in organizing the D-Day Program, Santa's Visit, and is actively working on the WWII Legacy Trail signage. Her leadership in the Education Committee and the Historic Speaker Series has brought in expert speakers and audiences eager to learn about Packard, automobiles, and local history.

Deborah encourages others to get involved at PPG, highlighting the variety of opportunities available. She believes that each volunteer brings something unique to the organization and that expanding the volunteer pool will strengthen PPG's mission.

Beyond her work at PPG, Deborah has a deep passion for history, nature, reading, and education. She has contributed to the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas and has been an active participant in the Cornell Great Backyard Bird Count for over 25 years. Her dedication to historical preservation is evident in her roles as membership coordinator for the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and President of the Macomb County Heritage Alliance.



Since 1988, she has also volunteered with the Rochester Hills Museum. A lifelong advocate for nature conservation, Deborah has been involved with the Michigan Nature Association since childhood, first volunteering in the 1950s as a child.

Her ties to PPG run deep. Her great-grandfather purchased a 125-acre farm in 1894 across from what would become the proving grounds. During WWII her grandmother often found her freshly washed laundry that she hung outside covered in dust from the tanks driving nearby at the PPG! Her uncle even drove cars on the Packard test track while working at GM. Her family's roots in historical preservation stretch back to New York, where her mother's family farm dates to a 1661 land grant from Charles II and is the oldest in New York.

Deborah hopes to see PPG continue to grow its volunteer base and encourages all volunteers to become members. Thank you, Deborah, for your contributions to the Packard Proving Grounds.

Friends of the PPG Membership

From the Collection



Note that the center covers were adjustable with removable pieces to allow some airflow. Once winter passed, summer bug screens became a popular choice to protect vehicles from bugs and debris. The screens, which could be attached to the grill with clips, covered each part of the grill. Today, winter and bug screens continue to be used by some car owners for similar protective purposes.

By Kim Parr, Curator

Thanks to Donald Hanson, we now have a set of circa 1940 winter and summer radiator covers.

Winter radiator covers were designed to help your car's engine warm up faster, which, in turn, heated the interior more quickly. They also contributed to improved fuel economy.

Packard dealerships offered a wide range of accessories for their vehicles, as highlighted in the advertisements below. These ads were part of a 1940 Packard Service Letter sent to dealerships, providing valuable information on parts, accessories, and effective sales techniques.

PACKARD RADIATOR COVERS

Sell your Packard owners Packard Radiator Covers this month. Campaign this item with 1937-1938-1939 and 1940 owners, as well as with the 1941 new car buyers. Remember that the old covers you sold two or three years ago are now lost, bent, or torn.



Sell these covers because they assure a quick warm-up, which, in turn, provides a more efficient motor performance, saving of gasoline, and a warmer car.

Suggested List Price

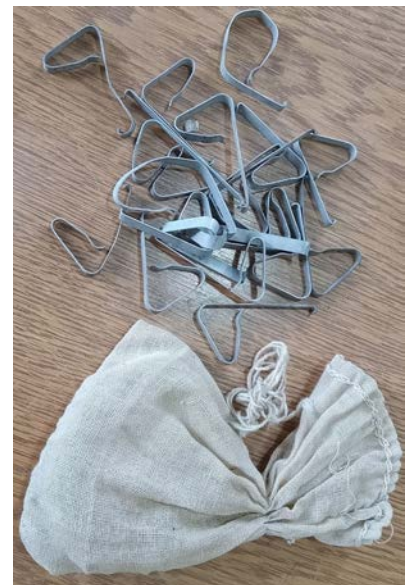
PA-362101—Rad. & Grille Cover—1900-1	\$2.95
PA-351294—Radiator Cover—1800-1-2	1.95
PA-354468—Grille Cover—1800-1-2-3-4-5	1.00
PA-5340 —Radiator Cover—120-120B	1.85
PA-5346 —Radiator Cover—115C-120C	1.85

STOCK AND DISPLAY RADIATOR COVERS!

RADIATOR INSECT SCREENS



PA-356911 — Radiator Insect Screens — provide full protection for the 1940 radiators. These screens cover the fender air grilles and radiator grille. They are attractive in appearance and easy to install. Now is the time to sell screens!



CHEERS TO SPRING!

THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP



THE PACKARD PROVING GROUNDS GIFT SHOP

CHEERS TO SPRING!

Gift Shop purchases directly support the Packard Motor Car Foundation.

Shop at our online Gift Shop

PMCF & Scouting



Cub Scout Pack #92

The PMCF is proud to sponsor the Cub Scout Pack #92 and host many other scouting events as our event schedule allows. It's awesome to share the PPG history with these young people and their families, and we hope that it will plant some seeds for their future interest in history and the PPG site.

SUPPORT THE PMCF MISSION.

Preserve the past.
Fuel the future.



[Click here to make a donation to the Packard Motor Car Foundation](#)

Have a question?

You can call or text us at the PPG main phone
586-739-4800



Copyright (C) 2025 Packard Motor Car Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site
49965 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Twp, MI 48317

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)