

CLASSIC DRIVER



1941 Packard Super Eight - Custom Super Eight One Eighty Convertible Victoria

Custom Super Eight One Eighty Convertible Victoria

Lot sold	USD 0	Lenkung	Rechts
Baujahr	1941	Zustand	Gebraucht
Losnummer	272	Standort	
		Außenfarbe	Sonstige
		Automobiltyp	Sonstige

Beschreibung

- “Banacek’s Darrin,” used in the popular 1970s NBC television series
- Formerly of the Thomas F. Derro Collection
- Beautiful restoration as completed by marque expert Don Shears
- Pebble Beach Concours, CCCA, and AACA award winner
- Perhaps the most famous extant 1941-1942 “Darrin”

THE BANACEK DARRIN

It is considered one of the most beautiful Packards of all time, so much so that when the producers of the popular 1970s NBC television series Banacek required a classic automobile for the suave main character, a “Darrin” was what they chose.

Two Darrins were utilized for the filming of Banacek. That offered here was the main filming car, used for most photography out of Boston, and appeared with George Peppard in most scenes of the series, in which it is accurately described by Banacek as a 1941—one of 35 made that year. A second 1942 model (with its side grilles “disguised” in most scenes) was used for occasional shots in Los Angeles. That car survives as part of a prominent Midwestern collection.

According to former owner Tom St. Martin, the Banacek ‘41 Packard was originally delivered in March 1941 in Florida and has a history known back to 1951, when it was owned by Earl Perry Fletcher of Gary, Indiana. It was subsequently owned by George Taylor of Gary, then Robert Friggens of New

Mexico, who sold it in 1971 to Jim Carlson of Massachusetts. James O’Dea of Westport, Connecticut, purchased the Packard in 1972 and was the owner who supplied it for the filming of the television series.

Following its use in California, the Banacek Packard made its way to Wisconsin, where it was eventually acquired in 1980 by the late Bob Adams. In 1981 the car was acquired from Tom Crook by Tom St. Martin, who drove it for several years before beginning its ground-up restoration with Lakeland Restorations of Minnesota. In a recent conversation, Mr. St. Martin recalled that the car showed evidence of an early rear-end collision, which was properly repaired with new sheet metal, and that numerous “N.O.S.” and original parts were utilized in the restoration.

In 1990 the car was sold to Packard guru Don Sears, who oversaw the completion of the high-quality, authentic restoration, including installation of a correct 1941 engine, replacing the cracked original block. The result gathered numerous awards, including at the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, in an Antique Automobile Club of America judging in 1992, and a 100-point score with the Classic Car Club of America, with which the car holds Senior Premier badge number 1679. Sears sold the Packard in 1992, after it had won virtually all that it could win. The following year it joined Thomas F. Derro’s collection. In October 2017, the car was offered from the Derro estate when it was acquired by the current owner.

Outside of the Darrin used by Clark Gable, there is no more well-known example of this most legendary of Packards than the authentic Banacek 1941 model. It is a car for the suave, debonair, adventuresome man of distinction; it was true in 1941, it was true in the early 1970s, and it is still true today. To view this car and others currently consigned to this auction, please visit the RM website at rmsothebys.com/en/auctions/mo19.

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