



1934 Cadillac Series 40 Style 5725 V-12 Town Cabriolet

Photos courtesy of Larry Wolfe

Mae West's Sexy V-12 Town Cabriolet



Mary Jane West (Mae West) was seductive, endearing, buxom, risqué and had a purring voice that I'll bet nearly everyone reading this story has attempted to imitate. She began working at age five, first in Vaudeville and then on Broadway. Mae was the first to do the "shimmy" on stage and at age 14 was billed as "The Baby Vamp". This iconic blonde actress and sex symbol was a genius for comedy. In 1926 she wrote, produced, and directed her first play ("Sex") on Broadway. It was so scandalous she was imprisoned for over a week on obscenity charges. Mae had a legitimate success on Broadway with "Diamond Lil" in 1928, and was ultimately invited to Hollywood. She managed to sneak all kinds of sexuality into her films through innuendo and double entendre. By 1935 she was the highest-paid woman in the United States. Her career spanned seven decades. Mae liked big strong men,

and big strong cars. She purchased this seven passenger Town Cabriolet for \$6,495. VIN# 4100295. The car has black leather in the chauffeur's open compartment and a dusty rose velour in the rear passenger compartment. There are a radio controls and a clock in the rear compartment, dual vanity/smoking kits and a "motor-phone" to speak to her driver. The car is technically "unrestored", having only been subjected to ongoing maintenance (never a ground-up restoration). In fact, some blemishes still on the rear passenger door can be seen in one of the old photos of the actress and her car. The car is authenticated with the original build sheet which includes Mae West's name. As you can imagine, the car makes quite a hit when it shows up at local car shows. The story goes that Mae donated the car to a convent in Northern California. True or not, that certainly would be typical of her sense of humor. This seductive Cadillac is currently in the care of CLC member Larry Wolfe of Santa Rosa, California. Mae West died in 1980 at the age of 87.



In the top image from 1935, Mae West is helped into her Cadillac V-12 by chauffeur Chalkey White. The bottom image shows a close up of the gauges that would have been under Chalkey's watchful eye as he escorted America's highest paid woman around the Hollywood.Hills.