



Big Stars



AND THEIR

Big Cars

By Howland Blackiston

I was born in 1951 - that makes me a baby boomer. But I've always felt I should have been born decades earlier. Specifically, I love everything about the 30's and 40's. I love the fashion, the architecture, the music and I adore those "old" movies. To me, these classic films were more elegant, more polished, and more romantic than any of today's offerings. Even the actors and actresses of the day were more glamorous than today's stars. I would have enjoyed being a movie star in the 30's and 40's. This was the Golden Age of Hollywood, when MGM boasted having "more stars than there are in heaven". Garbo, Gable, Barrymore, Dietrich -- they weren't just celebrities -- they were America's revered royalty. And so it was with automobiles of the era. Cars weren't just a means of transportation -- they were stunning works of art. Cadillac was as elegant a car as anyone could ask for. So it's no wonder that Hollywood's well heeled movie stars wanted Cadillacs in their garages.

Nearly everyone who was anyone in Hollywood had a Cadillac. But where are those cars now? What became of the "cars of the stars"? Surely there are some survivors out there. In this article we'll have a look at a few Caddies I've tracked down with interesting celebrity pedigrees. Most come from the Golden Age of Hollywood, one hails from the early days of rock and roll. All were linked to notables, and all of them endure today as stars in their own right.

Fate had it that I never personally experienced what it was like to live like a movie star in the thirties and forties. So I am relegated to reminisce about those glamorous years by watching wonderful old movies and admiring the stunning automobiles that these privileged few could afford. The golden age of Hollywood might be a thing of the past, but the great classic Cadillacs clearly live on and on. So let's take a step back in time to the golden era of big stars and big cars.

Validating Celebrity Status

Owning any old Cadillac is a thrill in itself, but having one with a "celebrity" pedigree adds a lot of panache. It might even add some serious value to the automobile. The cars I included in this article came with reasonable assurance that they were what they claimed to be. Some came with unshakable documentation (original ownership papers). Others with reasonable evidence (such as photos of the celebrities with their cars). Clearly everyone I spoke with loved their cars and believed in their claim to fame.

Do You Own A Celebrity Cadillac?

If you own a car that once belonged to a celebrity, we'd love to hear from you. Your car will be considered for a follow-up article on celebrities and their Cadillacs. Email blackiston@sprynet.com, or write Howland Blackiston, 11 Lilac Lane, Weston, CT 06883.