



Over 225 people joined us for the visit to the Brothers Collection.

Keep Adding Zeroes My First Visit to the Brother's Car Collection

BY DEBORA OWEN PHOTOS BY MONTE ALLEN AND MARC FRANCK

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Being a member of a Porsche Club, it's a given that we enjoy and appreciate exciting, fast, and beautiful cars. So, when our local region presented us with the opportunity to gain exclusive access to one of the largest, most impressive, and valuable private car collections in the world, well, it was a no-brainer that we would jump at the chance to visit this fabulous museum.

Living in Oregon, the mysterious Brothers Collection was one we had heard about but had yet to see. How does one get invited to see such a cool collection? Who do you have to know to experience this private oasis of carefully collected and curated automotive gems? Turns out, being a member of ORPCA was the golden ticket we needed to gain exclusive access to this amazing hidden world... lucky us!

We were not given the physical



address until just a few days before our allowed entry, adding to the aura of mystery. We were told to arrive on Sunday, February 25, exactly at one pm, no earlier. From Portland, we drove for about an hour and ended up at a large, anonymous warehouse that from the façade could have been any type of basic factory. There was no signage or other clue as to what the walls of this nondescript building held inside...that is, until we drove around the back. There we spotted a tiny clue as to what we were about to see inside. The loading dock had full-color photos of a variety of different vehicles as if they were about to drive out of the building. A

beautifully restored green and white VW bus, a yellow Camaro, and many more cool cars were on display giving us a preview of things to come. Oh, if these loading docks could talk! We parked and passed through the only door that happened to be sporting a beautiful Chevrolet neon sign, another clue as to the treats within.

As you walk into the building, the first room you enter is a gift shop. This made me smile because doesn't every great museum have an equally awesome gift shop? After we greeted our fellow ORPCA members, we moved into an adjoining large room which was the first section of this amazing museum. With no tour guide or groups to follow, we were allowed to wander freely throughout the entire place. What to look at first? It was hard not to be overwhelmed, as there were so many beautiful cars as far as the eye could see in this very large and neatly kept area. And let's not forget all the brightly colored vintage neon signs that adorn the room. Not only are there so many rare and valuable cars everywhere you look, but this space could easily do double duty as a neon sign museum.

It took us both a minute to just stare in awe, mouths agape at what lay before us! Vintage motorcycles lined the walls like priceless Picassos. Model airplanes hung from the ceiling as if



GT2 RS Clubsport – One of only six sold in the US.



1956 Jaguar XK140 Roadster.

Porsche 356s on display





Stephanie Morrison with the 2017 Heritage Edition Ford GT. Notice Stephanie's matching shoes!

In this main room we found Porsche heaven.

W12 Bugatti Veyron.



we had just walked below a miniature airport during a holiday rush. The walls were decorated with large, colorful nostalgic posters ranging from car adverts from decades ago, to Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms paintings inspired by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union address. Equally spaced everywhere along the walls and hanging from the ceilings were gorgeous, brightly colored vintage neon signs beckoning us to explore...and so we did!

Right off the bat, I noticed a unique pink Jeep with old-school Schwinn bicycles on either side. This was a 1962 Jeep DJ-3A Surrey Gala complete in Tropical Pink Mist with coordinating white and pink striped awning with white fringe. It already felt like we had entered the Fantasy Island of car museums, why not have the perfect vehicle ready at the beginning to whisk us away to la-la land as we began our self-guided tour? And fun fact, this Jeep was the vehicle that inspired the creation of one of the most iconic toys of all time, the Tonka metal jeeps. Over 2 million of these now highly-collectible metal toy jeeps were sold. Did you ever own or play with one of these toys? I know I did as a kid! Included in this corner of childhood nostalgia were also a couple of sweet Schwinn Sting-Ray bikes complete with chrome trim, chopper-style hand-bars, and a classic banana seat that allowed you to bring a friend along for a ride. I fondly remember all

the great times we had racing along on our beloved Sting-Rays as kids. And considering these little Schwinns were precursors to our love of driving cool cars, it's appropriate that they were well represented here.

In this main room we found Porsche heaven. Every car in this collection is a rare, sometimes one-of-a-kind beauty, so here are some of the Porsche highlights. There was a 1987 Porsche 959 Coupe. The 959 redefined what it meant to be a Porsche; it had two turbochargers. It made 450 horsepower from just a 2.85-liter engine and it did 0-60 in 3.6 seconds...impressive even by today's standards. Total estimated production: 294. Value today – well over a million dollars.

There was a whole row of gorgeous



Cabriolets including a 1956 Porsche 356A 1600 Super, a 1959 Porsche 356A (T2), and several more. I do miss how cars in the past used to sport all these beautiful chrome accents.

In this room was also a stable of lovely Ferraris, plus cool accessories like Enzo's own personal attaché case, leather owner's manuals, custom suitcases, and even two iconic Ferrari horse sculptures. A 1972 Ferrari 365 GTB/4 Daytona Spider, a 1963 Ferrari 250 GTE Series 3, a 2003 Ferrari Enzo with only 212 original miles (just 399 were produced), a 1964 Ferrari 250 GT Lusso Coupe, and many others including a 1956 Bimbo Racer V-12, one of the best surviving examples known to exist. Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Lamborghini, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Bugatti, and even a beautiful 1967 Volkswagen Type II 21-window Samba Bus were well represented in this room alone!

The next area was a literal showroom of Corvettes ranging from the earliest 1950 C1's to 1970's Stingrays and more. Shelby Cobra was well represented with a highlight being CSX 3049.

The largest portion of the collection was dominated by muscle cars.

Chevrolet (So. Many. Camaros!), Buick, Oldsmobile, Ford (Mustangs!!!), Dodge (do you like Challenger Hemis and Chargers? Well, this is your jam!), Studebaker, Pontiac, AMC, and more!

The bottom line is this place is over-the-top amazing! We were so excited to enjoy visiting the mind-blowing Brother's Collection. And the best part? The money they raise from our admission fees all goes to charity. If you get to visit, you'd better jump on it! And if I get the chance to see this collection again, you better believe I'll be there in a heartbeat! ■

Seven or eight million dollars' worth of Shelby Mustang GT 350s.

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Cobra room with the 1966 Ford GT 40 Mk1 in the middle.





Three of the first series of Corvettes from 1953, All had red interiors with a Polo White exterior.



Author Deb Owens in front of the display of AAR 'Cudas and a late model Demon in the background!



A 1970 Plymouth Road Runner Superbird. Banned by NASCAR. Many dealers removed the wings and aerodynamic noses.

There are so many photos on SmugMug – please check them out here: <https://orpca-pix.smugmug.com/2024-ORPCS-EVENTS/Brothers-Car-Collection-Tour-2252024>
Enjoy the few we picked out.



Muscle car collection.