



Then and...then, a late 1930's Packard shares floor space with a '53 Packard Caribbean convertible amid many other beautiful cars and a well-stocked shop replete with wall decor everywhere.

And that's about when it hits you. The showroom is such that you think you've not only been teleported to another time, but are actually outside even though you distinctly recall walking through a door to the inside.

The black epoxy flooring features sprinkles of grey and white strewn about, emulating road asphalt. Sidewalks line the showroom, and are home to display cases showing off items from years gone by, including newspapers, jewelry, televisions, political memorabilia, and of course, automobilia. Robert has even taken the liberty of placing a few original styled streetlamps to add to the outdoor on the inside feel. A barber's pole clings to the wall outside of Robert's very vintage office, and an actual curb and wooden phone booth further the 1930's cityscape feel within the vintage building. And it is a vintage building, although it hasn't always been quite so well decorated. There was a time when simulated wood paneling acted as walls and room dividers, and strange carpets lay on the floors. Thankfully, Robert has a taste

for the eclectic.

Situated in Santa Ana, California, the building CAS calls home is from the early part of the last century and is certainly one of the historical gems the city has to offer, with a conservative art deco approach to its design. It also complements the business of Packard resurrected perfectly. In its early days, the building served as a Baker Electric dealer and a GMC Truck outlet. In 1953, Packard enthusiast Bill Lauer, along with some friends and a master mechanic Cal Soest, started CAS in the building, continuing its automotive history. Cal still works at CAS. The idea was a gem; specialize in Packard automobiles. Only eight years after the company discontinued business, the parts, knowledge, and a larger client base were readily available, for the most part. And, as the years spanned on, and the parts and knowledge concerning Packards dwindled, Bill offered devotees a unique place to trust their prized vehicles.

Specializing in Packards takes a lot of expert