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# ***EAST Vs WEST Concours d'Elegance***

*A Face-Off Greenwich Vs Pebble Beach and you decide a winner.*

**The 51<sup>st</sup> Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance was held August 19<sup>th</sup>,**

After 50 years, it draws from a huge crowd of a hundred thousand spectators. They come to the Monterey Peninsula to attend The Monterey Vintage Race at Laguna Seca Raceway, PB's own Vintage Car Road Rally and the Concorso Italiano at the Quail Lodge. Bonhams & Brooks, Christie's, R & M and The Russo Steele auctions also help draw these crowds. Vehicles & their owners who participated were from Argentina, Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong and throughout the US of A. There were over 200 Classics and concept vehicles.



Bentley, Ferrari, Dusenbergl, Mercedes-Benz, Packard, Pininfarina Design Vehicles and Rolls Royce had their own classes. Others makes and models were classified as Antique thru 1915, Vintage 1916-1924, American-Classic closed & open 1925-1932 & 1933-1942 respectively, -- V 16, plus various Sports Car and those with Custom Coachwork plus Open Wheel Racers. For the first time Historic Hot Rods and pre war un-restored vehicles were judged.



Several hundred of the Worlds finest cars gathered on the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway of the Pebble Beach Golf Course. The one common thread among them was their quality, but their types and years varied from 1901 to 2002.

Lucky for me, this scene caught my eye. The young lad appeared to be trying to drive. The Specialty Equipment Market Association's promotion to "take a kid to a car show" influenced my photo. As Luck will have it, the Gentleman is Arturo Keller with his Best In Show car. For more on take a kid to a car show go to

## *And the Winners Is:*

The "Best of Show" went to Arturo and Deborah Keller with their custom-bodied 1930 Mercedes-Benz SS Erdmann & Rossi Roadster.

For a list of other winners you can go to

<http://pebblebeachconcours.net>



This year's Concours marked the second time that Hot Rods were displayed on the show field and the first time they included vintage period Hot Rod Coupes in the classes.

As an automotive historian, I was given a poll in 1999. One of the questions asked was, "which cars will you see on the Pebble Beach Show Field 100 years from now"? My answer was "Muscle Cars, Hot Rod and Custom Cars". I was emailed this response. "Only Classic cars that were built for Royalty or the very Wealthy would be there!" My answer to them is. NOT! The hot rods were there last year and this year they were judged.



Shown above are three of the Vintage Hot Rods entered. Ford's Deuce (1932) is one of those cars that come to mind when you think of the history of Hot Rods. The Little Deuce Coupe was made famous when an East Coast entrepreneur convinced a record company executive to use it on the Beach Boys Album cover. Andy Kassa's Jersey Gem showed throughout the US car show circuit for 14 years. Its Cyclops grille was the handy work of George Barris. Its chromed out full house flat head mill was state of the art during its hay-day. Don Tognotti Avenger was well known. But Don made history himself as the owner of Tognotti's Speed Shop, Promoter of the Oakland Roadster Show and Tognotti's King T, show car. He was also elected to the Hot Rod Hall of Fame.

**The 1911 Franklin Limo pictured below right, was the oldest in the preservation class and the winner**

Eight cars made up the Preservation Class. It included a 1911 Franklin, a 1919 Locomobile, a 1928 Mercedes Benz, a 1929 Dusenberg, a 1930, a 1932 Alfa-Romeo, a 1936 Packard and a 1937 Rolls-Royce.

One feels special just to see a Dusenberg, but to see probably one of the very few still in an un-restored condition amazes me. To keep it that way is a very unselfish thing to do. Because temptation must be great based on monetary gain alone.

Preservation classes are not a new idea. When it comes to appreciation of original cars, organizations have been recognizing them for years. The Corvette crowd classifies theirs' as survivors. The criteria for survivors require them to have a high percentage of un-restored and un-taunted parts and paint. These examples are extremely useful to those seeking accurate restorations.



**The Ferrari Race Team brought a rolling display to Pebble Beach, It was a sight to behold**



The display of flags by the Ferrari Team drew much attention. The 1957 Fiat Tipo 682R Transporter was a Ferrari Race team truck. It carried 2 1958 & 1 1959 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa Scaglietti Spyders. The site and the cars were priceless. The vehicles that made up this display were not judged and are privately owned!

Other displays included Mercedes Centennial, Mercedes Race Car Centennial, Ford Centennial of Race Cars and Concept Cars from Aston-Martin, Bentley, General Motors, Daimler-Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, Italdesign, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Pininfarina and Spker Automobielin.

**Pictured is the Class Host Stand. Hosts are there to answer questions about the cars of their class. This is unique to the Pebble Beach Show.**

**The Pebble Beach Vs Greenwich will be continued in the next:**

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