

IW ROAD STOP

Trev Deeley Motorcycle Collection

Rain or shine, it's worth a visit



Trev Deeley enjoyed developing new features on existing Harley models, including Sportsters. This tank belongs to Trevster II.

photos by Albert Lu

Motorcyclists taking a run north of the border quickly discover nature's magnetic force. In and around Vancouver, British Columbia, the call of the wild draws us onto the area's alluring roads that allow riders to glide from one turn to another with ease.



This Trevster prototype is one of four Harley-Davidsons that were custom made for Trev Deeley.



This 1935 Sidecar Taxi is the only surviving model of the two that were built in Bellingham, Washington.

After a few miles, you'll be convinced—as I was—that Vancouver's curve-happy, undulating roads were made to mimic the dramatic mountain views that they embrace. But with the lushness of forested coastlines and the finicky winds over Pacific waters comes wet weather. So, if you wake up to overcast skies during your visit to the Pacific Northwest—you should definitely count on rain—and don't feel like braving ubiquitous run-offs, stop in at the Trev Deeley Motorcycle Collection near downtown Vancouver.

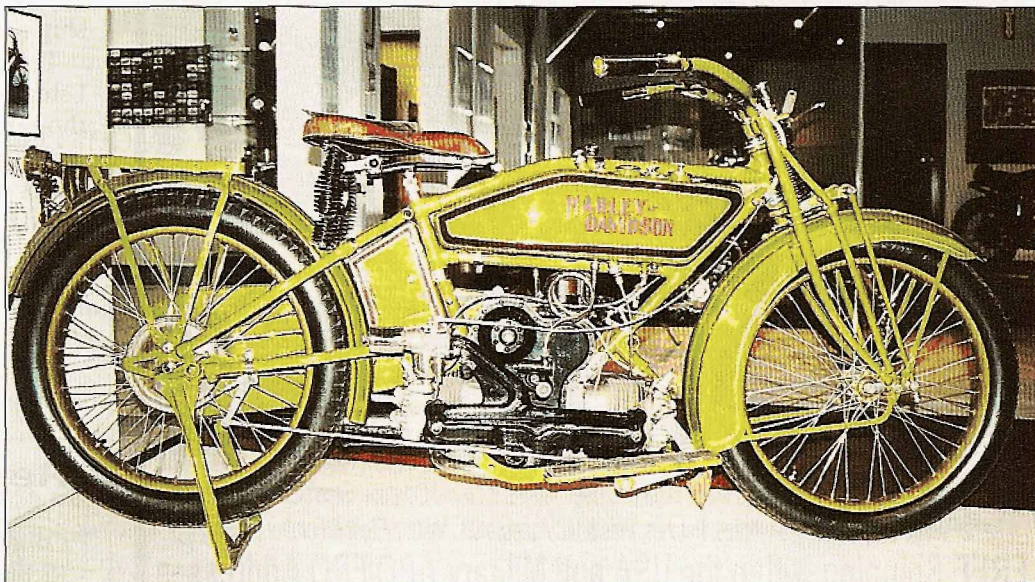
The world-class collection, established in 1993, showcases nearly 300 motorcycles from every era of motorcycling history. The museum's namesake, Trev Deeley, a 1998 Motorcycle Hall of Fame inductee, was the first non-American to serve on Harley-Davidson's board of directors and the first Canadian to receive the Dud Perkins Award. Known as Canada's Mr. Motorcycle, Deeley collected, sold and raced motorcycles throughout his life.

Deeley began collecting motorcycles in 1936, when he was 16 years old. Over

the decades, bikes arrived from darkened basements and dusty barns, straight from the factory or as donations. Today, over 50 different makes (Harley-Davidsons enjoy a large presence) encompass the collection, a result of the friendship between Deeley and the late Fred Pazaski, a co-owner of the Harley-Davidson dealership Northwest Cycle Company, in Bellingham, Washington. Deeley created the vision and provided the financial resources, while Pazaski uncovered, researched and restored the bikes.

The collection contains many rare Harley-Davidson motorcycles, including The Motor Company's first pedal-powered bike; Steve McQueen's 1929 DL; and the 1982 Nova V-4, a prototype of H-D's first water-cooled bike and the only one that exists outside the factory. Other notable models are a 1922 WJ Sport Twin, a horizontally opposed twin-cylinder model produced from 1919 until 1923 when the American market showed its preference for the V-twin; a 1935 Sidecar Taxi mounted on an H-D commercial chassis, the

continued



The collection includes quite a few vintage and classic Harley-Davidsons, including this 1922 WJ Sport Twin.

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only surviving model of the two that were built; and a 1936 EL Knucklehead, Deeley's all-time favorite bike and the first overhead valve V-twin on the market.

Harley-Davidson also custom-built four Trevster prototype motorcycles based on Deeley's specifications, among them a 1997 Sportster—Trevster I—considered to be the first Sportster with rubber engine mounts. Many insiders consider these bikes to be the working prototypes for the current XL models.

There are also bikes on loan from private collectors. Look for the 1963 Desert Triumph once owned by Steve McQueen, and a 1985 FLT Tour Glide formerly owned by Malcolm Forbes of *Forbes* magazine fame. Don't forget to check out other makes besides Harley-Davidson—Indian, Moto Guzzi, Honda and Royal Enfield, to name a few.

Plans are underway to relocate the collection later this year to the same Vancouver site as the Trev Deeley Harley-Davidson and Buell dealership—the world's second-oldest motorcycle dealership. The collection will be displayed according to three or four themed exhibits that will be rotated throughout the year; no surprise, the first theme will focus on Harley-Davidsons. Viewing hours for the collection will also expand to coincide with the dealership's hours.

The last time I visited Vancouver, I stopped by the collection even though it wasn't raining. I couldn't resist, so the blue skies outside waited for me while I journeyed one more time through Trev Deeley's sea of motorcycles.—Joanne Liu

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