Heritage Museums & Gardens founder Josiah K. Lilly, III began collecting cars in 1964, after deciding that to open a museum in honor of his father, Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. Today, Heritage’s automobile collection features 40 American-made cars, dating from 1899 through 1962.

The Cars

1899 Winton Motor Carriage
1903 Stevens-Duryea Runabout
1904 Oldsmobile Runabout
1908 Waltham-Orient Buckboard
1909 REO Model D Touring

1909 White Steam Car Model M
1910 Sears Model P Surrey
1910 Peerless
1910 Knox Model R Touring
1910 Cadillac Model 30 Roadster

1911 Stanley Steamer Model 62 Runabout
1912 Mercer Raceabout
1912 Oldsmobile Autocrat
1912 Packard 1-48 Victoria
1913 Ford Model T Touring

1913 Pope-Hartford Model 33 Roadster
1915 Milburn Light Electric
1915 Ford Model T Coupelet
1915 Ford Model T Roadster Pickup
1915 Stutz Bearcat

1916 Brewster Town Landaulet
1916 Simplex, Crane Model 5 Touring
1919 Pierce-Arrow Model 48 Touring
1920 Auto Red Bug
1922 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost

For more information, please contact Judith Goetz at jgoetz@heritagemuseums.org or Ryan Drumm at rdrumm@heritagemuseums.org.
In the winter of 1964 Heritage's founder, Josiah K. Lilly III visited Smoke Tree Ranch near Palm Springs, CA. He could not believe his eyes when he saw a group of people driving restored antique cars and dressed in the fashions of the time. Before leaving California he visited the offices of the Horseless Carriage Club and joined as a member. In the latest publication from that organization he noted a 1916 Simplex, Crane for sale in West Newton. When he returned to Massachusetts he purchased it as the first in his collection. He quickly followed this with the purchase of the 1908 Waltham Orient Buckboard and the 1915 Stutz Bearcat. Mr. Lilly found friendship and pleasure in the community of those who shared his interest in collecting vintage automobiles.

Considering that the museum opened in 1969, he built his collection of cars rather rapidly. There are now 40 automobiles in Heritage's permanent collection. All are of American manufacturers.

Twenty of the autos in the collection do not run. Some of these we hope to get running someday, and some we will never run because it will be too expensive, too dangerous, or too impractical to do so. These vehicles receive static maintenance once per year. Twenty of the autos in the collection have been “activated” and run. These cars are exercised at least once per year, which means they are started and driven through the grounds.

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