

Packard Motor Car Company Firsts

1900 – the H-pattern gear shift arrangement

1900 – automatic ignition spark advance to give smoother and more efficient engine operation

1901 – the use of a steering wheel instead of a tiller for steering, on the 1901 Packard model C

1913 – spiral bevel differential gears, for a quieter car

1915 – a mass-produced V-12 powered automobile

1919 – a special Packard race car with a 905 cubic inch Packard Liberty aircraft engine, driven by Ralph DePalma, set a land speed record of 149.72 mph

Henry Ford rode to his grave in Packard hearse

1923 – first volume producer of automobiles to introduce 4-wheel brakes

1923 – hypoid differential gears, which allowed a lower floor and lower vehicle height

1923 – First Neon signs in America – two “Packard” signs put up by a dealer in Los Angeles. The signs topped traffic!!!

1940 – air conditioning as an option, price \$275.00

1955 – 4-wheel torsion bar suspension, with automatic leveling

1950 – the only independent automobile manufacturer to engineer and manufacture their own automatic transmission.