



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT: BILL Ahmanson's Cord 37



Rick Zeiger's 37 Cord.

California CORDS

WHAT HAVE WE HERE? IDENTICAL TWINS? SEPARATED AT BIRTH? 1,624? (FOR THE MATHEMATICALLY INCLINED, THAT'S 812 TIMES 2).

Presented here are two 1937 Cord 812 S/C Cabriolets, both originally supercharged examples, of which 63 or 64 were built. Some call them Convertible Coupes, while others like the nickname "Sportsman", derived from a period advertisement that employed the term in the ad copy.

By serial numbers, these two black Cabriolets are 32363F and 31945F and while they were both "born" in Connorsville,

Indiana, they have a long association with Southern California. Bill Ahmanson's Cord has been in his family since the early 1960s and was shown at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in 1974. His knowledge and familiarity with Cords became the basis of a friendship with fellow Cord owner Rick Zeiger, who's Cabriolet was shown at Pebble Beach in 2013. That car was originally owned by Colonel Wilson of Pasadena who kept it until at least



1971 when he was still showing it at the LeCercle Concours at the Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Blvd. It made its way to the east coast during ownership by Bill DiCiurcio, then returned to the west under ownership by Frank Pritt and Jack Hylton before Rick acquired the car in 2007.

Another similarity is found in their current California license plates: "Cord 37" and "37 Cord." Rick reports that he obtained "37 Cord" in a rather unusual manner. Back in the day, automobile classified ads in the *Los Angeles Times* required inclusion of the license plate number. Rick stumbled on a Glen Pray 8/10th-scale Cord for sale in west Los Angeles. The owner would not sell or relinquish the plate and the only way to obtain it was to buy the car, which he did. Car folks will understand this; it's just what car-crazed folks do.