

MOTORING

ROBERT ESCALANTE'S CUSTOM AUTO SERVICE KEEPS THE PACKARD MARQUE ROLLING ALONG

For decades, the Packard Motor Car Co. marketed some of America's most prestigious cars under the slogan "Ask the man who owns one."

Today, though, if you want to find out about Packards, all you need to do is ask Robert Escalante. Escalante owns Custom Auto Service, a Santa Ana shop that is known throughout the country for Packard restoration and maintenance.

A walk through the establishment - housed in a building that was home to an electric car dealership early in the last century and later a truck dealer - is a step back in time to delight any car buff. Though the last cars to bear the Packard name were built in 1958, the marque is alive and well here. In the showroom, amid much memorabilia, are two impressively restored examples: Escalante's own 1939 Super Eight Convertible Sedan and a 1938 Twelve Convertible Sedan owned by Mark



LEFT: ROBERT ESCALANTE AND HIS 1939 SUPER EIGHT CONVERTIBLE SEDAN. **ABOVE:** MIKE HARRAH'S 1929 MURPHY-BODIED CONVERTIBLE SEDAN GRACES ESCALANTE'S SHOWROOM FLOOR.