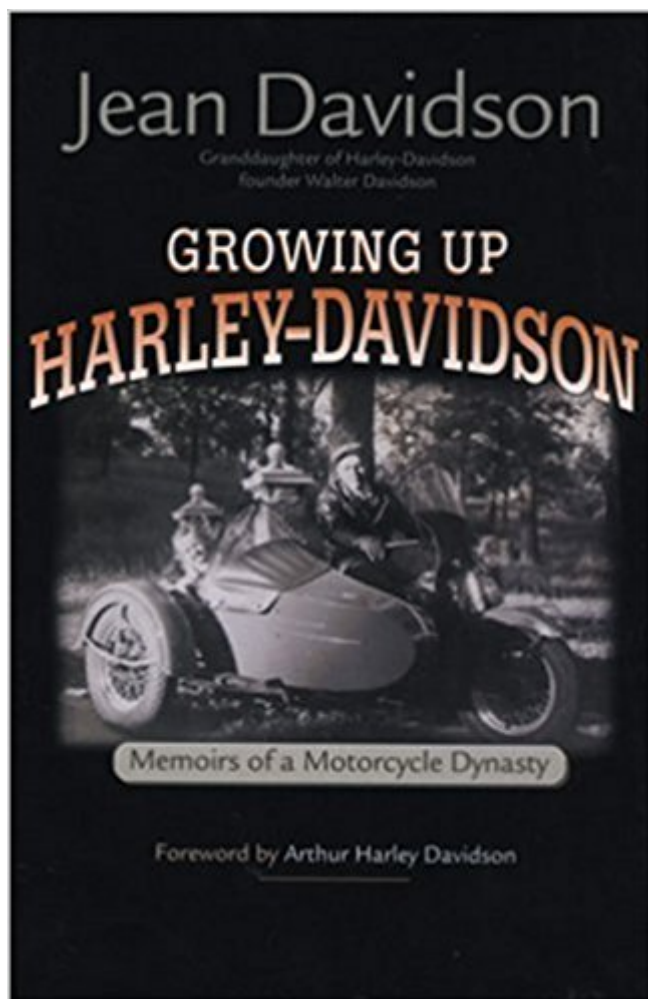


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# Growing Up Harley-Davidson: Memoirs Of A Motorcycle Dynasty



## Synopsis

Motorcycles have been a way of life for Jean Davidson. Her grandfather was Walter Davidson, one of the four founders and the first president of Harley-Davidson. Her father was company vice president Gordon Davidson. And Jean herself was a Harley-Davidson dealer, rubbing elbows with all the Harleys and Davidsons as well as the Hell's Angels and Outlaws, famous racers, and Evel Knievel. This is the history of Harley-Davidson motorcycles no one else knew-until now! Here is the fairy-tale story of how four boys built their first motorcycle in a shed; how a slippery-handed maid stole all the company's earnings from the coffee can that served as their "bank"; and how a hermit uncle donated his life's savings to resurrect the company and set it on the path to becoming the world's most famous motorcycle maker. Here is the inside scoop on behind-the-boardroom-door politics and corporate battles, the unknown history of the first Knucklehead and Sportster, the secret friendship with arch-rival Indian motorcycles, and more. Here are family stories and rare photos from the family album that no one else has seen before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Partly a personal memoir but primarily a history of the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company, this is a pleasant departure from the many other company histories. Written by a granddaughter of one of the company's founders, it focuses mainly on the company's formation and growth during the early to mid-1900s and has the added perspective of details and commentary on the personal, social, and

working lives of Harley's founding families. Much of this is anecdotal, derived from memories, family stories, and diaries, and will surely contribute to the lore that surrounds the Harley-Davidson motorcycle for example, that it was developed as a quicker, more fun way to get to the fishing hole than by bicycle. The observations, perspectives, and style of the book make it interesting and useful, although some of the material is sketchy or doesn't tie in well. Vintage photographs add interest but often have little link with adjoining text. A good addition for public library motorcycling collections and perhaps for academic libraries seeking historical material on Harley-Davidson. David Van de Streek, Pennsylvania State Univ. Libs., York Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Jean Davidson is the granddaughter of Walter Davidson, one of the founders of Harley-Davidson, Inc., and the firm's first president. Jean began riding a Harley at age 12, and was a Harley dealer for many years. She has rubbed shoulders with all the Harleys and Davidsons, famous racers, Hell's Angels, and Evel Knievel.

I thoroughly enjoyed this account of the founding and growth of the Harley-Davidson MC Company, written by an insider, the granddaughter of one of the founders. It appears to be an honest, forthright account of the H-D "family" from an insider's perspective, and the sections dealing with the author (autobiographical) appear to convey the good and the not-so-good. The pictures really add, and several apparently have never appeared in print before. More than just a history of H-D, Jean conveys the basic history of motorcycling in the U.S., discussing H-D's friendly competition with Indian, Indian's financial problems, and H-D's effort to assist, recognizing the advantage to having a viable competitor. Family issues, children's deaths are also discussed, so one sees the ups and downs of famous dynasty. I recommend it as a great read and suitable for the whole family.

Very informative and interesting book. Lots of history!

.....I bought this book on the recommendation of a fellow Harley lover, and I was not disappointed.....For anyone who loves Harleys, and wants to know some history of the company, how it got started, the era of "the bad reputation, the AMF era, and some of the other troubles along the path of their 111 year history, this is one of the best books I know of.....It's an enjoyable and easy read, with lots of pictures. You won't be sorry you added it to your Harley library.....

Exactly as described very good condition, great price. Recommend!

We are very please with the book

good book with lots of pictures

Very well written and accurate, A point of view from a different source. Very glad I bought it.Thanks to you

Great book

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