

Harley Earl

If anyone can be regarded as the true "father" of the Corvette, it's Harley Earl. "This one goes without saying," Dave McLellan told us. As GM's chief designer, Earl was influenced after World War II by watching Jaguars, MGs, Allards and Cunninghams snake around the road course at Watkins Glen. He was also influenced by his friend, General Curtis LeMay (profiled later), who thought that America ought to have a sports car of its own. The idea of GM doing a low-priced, two-seat sports car quickly became one of Earl's pet projects. He wanted the car to cost less than \$2,000 - about the same price as a family sedan - and assigned a small group of stylists to secretly begin design on such a car. You know the rest of the story.