

FORNEY

MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

Newsletter November 2023

"Moving Forward"



"Like A Rock"

Come to the Forney Museum and "See The USA In Your Chevrolet!" Starting November 2nd, we will be showing over two dozen Chevys spanning more than four decades of design innovation. From the elegance of a 1947 Fleetmaster Coupe through the sporty 1994 Impala SS; the classic lines of a 1955 Bel Air through the flashy grace of a 1978 Corvette Pace Car; the American muscle of a 1964 Chevelle Convertible through the exuberant fun of a 1987 Monte Carlo

SS; this exhibit truly has it all. Come see why Chevrolet has been one of America's most iconic brands since 1911. This exhibit will run until January 29th, so make your plans now to come see them while they're on display!



Free Night at the Museum!

The Forney Museum is once again taking part in Denver Art Week's "Free Night at the Museums." On November 4th from 5 pm until 10 pm the Forney Museum will be opening its doors to the public to come experience what the museum has to offer, for free!

This Month in Transportation History

November 28, 1520 - Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan passed through the strait (of Magellan) located at the southern tip of South America, thus crossing from the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific.

November 21, 1783 - The first free-flight balloon trip took place in Paris as Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier and Marquis Francois Laurent d'Arlandes ascended in a Montgolfier hot air balloon. Their flight lasted about 25 minutes and carried them nearly six miles at a height of about 300 feet over Paris.

November 26, 1832 - The first horse-drawn streetcar carried passengers in New York City along Fourth Avenue between Prince Street and 14th Street.

November 17, 1869 - The Suez Canal, in Egypt, was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

November 7, 1885 - Canada's first transcontinental railway, the Canadian Pacific, was completed in British Columbia.

November 14, 1889 - Newspaper reporter Nellie Bly set out from New York to beat the record of Jules Verne's imaginary hero Phileas Fogg, who traveled around the world in 80 days. Bly (pen name for Elizabeth Cochrane) returned 72 days later to a tumultuous welcome in New York.

November 4, 1890 - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

Nov 3, 1911 - Louis Chevrolet, Arthur Chevrolet and William C Durant, the ousted founder of General Motors, started the Chevrolet Motor Car Company. The company was incorporated on November 8th.

November 13, 1927 - The Holland Tunnel was opened to traffic. The tunnel runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City and was the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. It is comprised of two tubes, each large enough for two lanes of traffic.

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 14, 1994 - The first paying passengers traveled on the new rail service through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.

Forney Speaker Series Presents:

Saturday, November 18th at 1 pm, we are happy to host Kevin Snow, owner of Treasure Box Tours in Denver, Colorado. Just in time for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, Kevin will be speaking about “the Denverites We Are Thankful For.” This is a presentation covering some of the important figures from our city’s history, whose actions we still benefit from today.

These presentations are free with admission, and offer a great way to learn about some of the lesser known sides of history. So come join us November 18th as we give thanks for the people who made Denver what it is today!

Holiday Tea at the Museum!



Holiday Afternoon Tea
at the Forney Museum of Transportation
December 17th
at 1 pm

Celebrate the holidays with a proper
British Afternoon Tea
in a unique setting among a plethora of
vintage transportation
& holiday decor!

Limited Seating available.
Book today!

303.297.1113 *forneymuseum.org*

Forney Vehicle Spotlight

1968 Avanti II Coupe

When Studebaker ceased car production in South Bend, Indiana, in December 1963, the end seemed in sight for the Avanti. With no plans to move production of the Avanti to Canada, where the rest of regular car



production was being consolidated, Nathaniel Altman and Leo Newman, two long-time South Bend Studebaker dealers, bought part of the vacated factory along with all dies, parts and rights to the Avanti name to continue production themselves. Making few changes to the Studebaker

model, the fiberglass bodies were supplied by Molded Fiber-Glass in Ohio – who also made bodies for the Corvette. Newman and Altman selected the bigger Corvette engine to power their new model, which required the front of the car to be angled up slightly to accommodate the larger size.



Highly modified mechanically from stock, the engine on this 1968 Avanti II is a 383 cu.in., 450 hp, GM Corvette V8 with an Edelbrock 750CFM Carburetor. A 6-speed Tremec T-56 Manual transmission, Moser one-piece axles and Auburn Gear Posi-Traction differential transfer that power to the road. With an estimated top speed

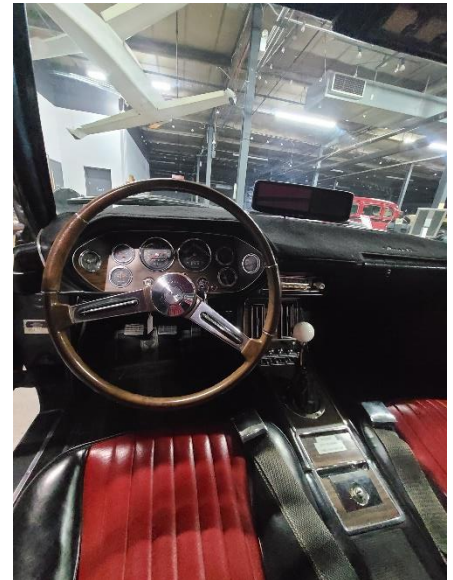


around 120 MPH on stock models, this car was optimized for speed and can get even faster than that!

Four-wheel Turner Engineering disc brakes, with a Wilwood aluminum tandem chamber brake master cylinder and a C3 Corvette power booster, keep all that speed under control. Centerline

17" aluminum wheels and Pirelli "P Zero" high-performance tires complete the package.

A choice of 700 interior upholsteries, colors and styles were offered to the prospective buyer. This model has all-leather seating in a red and black color scheme. Full instrumentation in the wood grain dash. Electronic ignition, power steering, a heavy-duty suspension and glovebox-mounted CD



player are some of the modern amenities hiding under the stock-looking exterior of this vehicle.



Avanti was produced, largely unchanged, from 1965-1982 utilizing GM Corvette powertrains. Avanti production then continued under several other owners and at

factories in other locations including Ohio, Georgia and Cancún, Mexico. Following redesigns and modernizations begun in 1983, including at times the production of convertible and 4-door versions, production ceased entirely in 2006.

Numbers of Avanti IIs were always limited as each one was hand built, with the highest production of 289 cars built in 1983. This vehicle is one of 100 built in



1968, although all 1968 models were registered as 1967s to avoid Federal safety mandates such as 3-point seatbelts, side-marker lights and head rests!

Generously donated as a bequest from Ralph Merrill Jr. of Aurora, CO in 2017, this Avanti II is part of the Forney Museum Collection and can be viewed on regular display at the Museum.



Volunteer of the Month

Our Volunteer of the Month is Bill Fleming. Bill is our Automotive Archivist, in charge of the Museum's extensive automotive library that he helped to establish and continues to maintain. He is also in charge of our gallery, cataloging and curating die-cast models, and rotating the artifacts and information on display.

Bill was born and raised here in Denver, Colorado, attending Colorado University. After graduating from CU Law School, Bill began practicing law – a practice that saw him serving as an attorney for over 40 years. Familiar with the Forney from its old location downtown, he told me he decided to try volunteering with us around 2010 when he “saw a guy cleaning his car outside and thought, *that could be fun, why don't I give that a try?*”

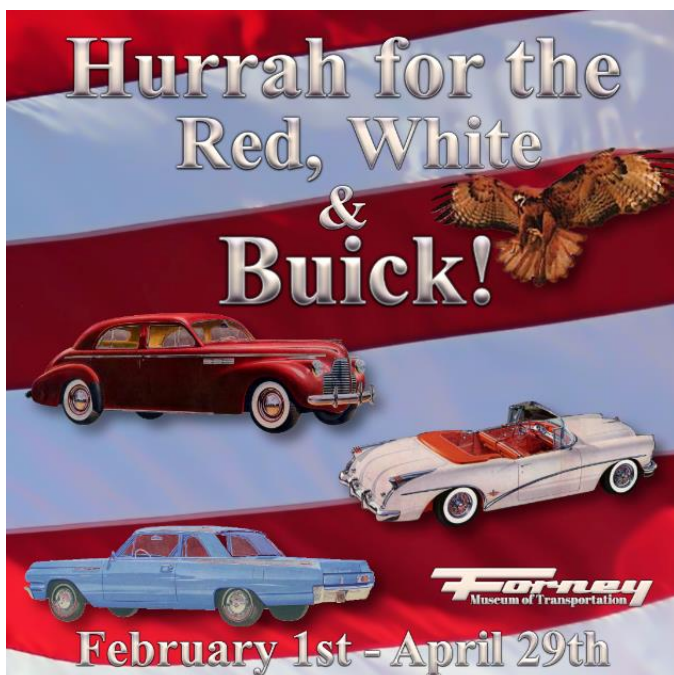
A lifelong lover of cars, his first car was a 1950 Plymouth 2-door sedan on which he painted the whitewalls himself. But Bill's first love was with model cars, and he began collecting models and printed ephemera related to cars from a young age. The owner of a private collection of over 1,000 models, Bill's passion was put to good use shortly after he started

volunteering with the donation of the Bob & Meg Rich Matchbox Collection now featured in our gallery. Bill was involved with the effort to clean, catalog and find any available information on the collection, which led to his current role in charge of curating all of the Museum's models. With his efforts in our gallery, and throughout the exhibit hall, this work has continued through today.

Bill likes to travel with his wife of 54 years, Nancy, and has visited car museums around the world. He has collected some of the records of these visits in volumes in our Automotive Archive, which are available for viewing by appointment. When asked why he keeps volunteering after all these years he told me, "My wife probably thinks I spend too much time here, but I just love doing it." Thank you, Bill, for everything that you do. We couldn't do it without you!

The Museum needs YOU!

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating please reach out to us at the museum or email volunteer@forneymuseum.org



Wouldn't you really rather have a Buick?

"Hurrah for the Red, White & Buick!" will be starting February 1st 2024, and running until April 29th. One of the oldest automobile brands in the world, and the oldest in the United States to still be active today, come see what has made Buick such an enduring standard of quality and refinement.

Calling for Convertibles

We are seeking convertibles for our second “Top Down Fun II” display next May 2nd through July 29th. If you would like to participate, email director@forneymuseum.org to submit your convertible for consideration.

Thank you!