

Forney

MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

Newsletter May 2024

"Moving Forward"

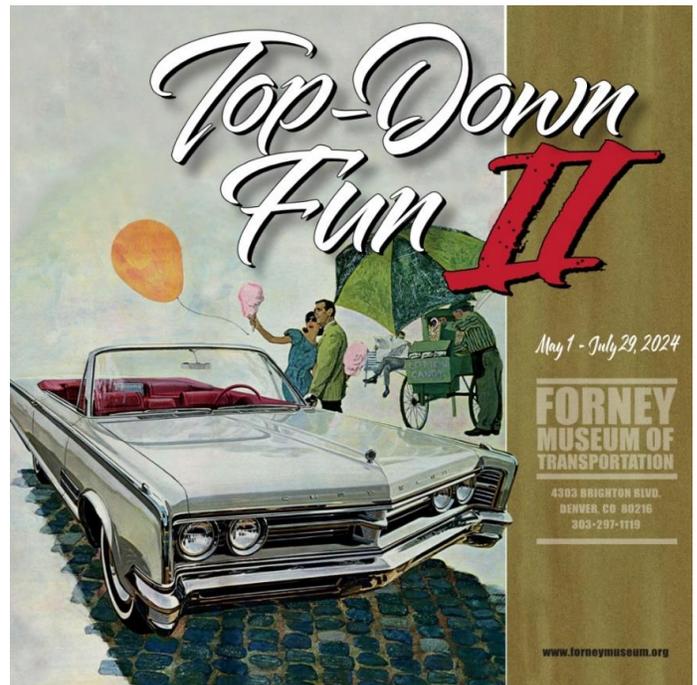
The Cars of Summer!

Join us at the Forney Museum as we say hello to the "Top Down Fun II" exhibit, a celebration of convertibles, and all things breezy, summery and fun. Our first "Top Down Fun" exhibit was a big hit last year, and we can't wait to share the sequel with everybody!

Cadillac, Daimler, Studebaker and Datsun are just some of the storied marques on display. See a rare 1931 Studebaker President, with the top down ready for fun.

Imagine yourself behind the wheel of a 1968 Pontiac GTO with the wind in your hair.

With all this and much more, you won't want to miss this exhibit. Running from May 1st through July 29th, come see all the convertibles before they're gone, and join us for some Top-Down Fun!



Saying Goodbye to Buick

With the changing of exhibits, it has come time to say goodbye to Buick. With so much history on display this exhibit was an amazing experience for everybody. Like this elegant 1937 Buick Century convertible coupe, in "Bengal Brown." With an eight-cylinder, 130 horsepower engine, the Century got its name from the model's top speed of 101 mph, almost unheard of speed for a production car of the time. The distinctive Art Deco inspired design of the vehicle, coupled with such a powerful engine, ensured the popularity of the model. This vehicle was on display courtesy of Jon and Kim Kanas of Longmont, Colorado.



The 1930 Buick Series 60 7-passenger Phaeton, seen on the left, with a 6-cylinder, 99 horsepower engine, was the largest and most elegant Buick offered in 1930, with an extended 132" wheelbase. Finished in "Regalis Maroon," this Series 60 was one of only 807 built in 1930. This vehicle is on display thanks to the generosity of Art and Vicki Bushell of Lakewood, Colorado.

The Roadmaster, such as the 1948 Roadmaster Convertible seen below, was Buick's biggest and fastest car at the time, with the large 150 horsepower straight-eight engine requiring a five-inch-longer wheelbase. 1948 was also the first year of the Dynaflo semi-automatic transmission, where the driver still had to shift between gears, but did not require a clutch pedal. Painted "Cairo Cream" this vehicle is on display courtesy of George Dameron of Littleton, Colorado.





1971 Buick Riviera "Boat-Tail" Coupe. Forney Museum Collection



1955 Buick Century Riviera. On display courtesy of John Pringle of Denver, CO

This Month in Transportation History

May 4, 1494 - During his second journey of exploration in the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

May 14, 1804 - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.

May 10, 1869 - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah. A golden spike was driven by Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, to celebrate the linkage.

May 19, 1903 - David Dunbar Buick incorporated the Buick Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan. With a first vehicle made in 1899, and eventually becoming the company that established General Motors, Buick is the oldest automobile brand in the United States to still be active.

May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the *Spirit of St. Louis* attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours.

May 6, 1937 - The German airship Hindenburg burst into flames at 7:20 p.m. as it neared the mooring mast at Lakehurst, New Jersey, following a trans-Atlantic voyage. Thirty six of the 97 passengers and crew were killed. The inferno was caught on film and also witnessed by a radio commentator who broke down amid the emotional impact and exclaimed, "Oh, the humanity!" The accident effectively ended commercial hydrogen airship traffic.

May 27, 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

May 26, 1940 - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by June 2nd.

May 12, 1949 - Soviet Russia lifted its blockade of Berlin. The blockade began on June 24, 1948 and resulted in the Berlin airlift. For 462 days - from June 26, 1948, until September 30, 1949, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies to two million isolated civilians. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from 11 Allied staging areas in West Germany.

May 5, 1961 - Alan Shepard became the first American in space. He piloted the spacecraft *Freedom 7* during a 15-minute 28-second suborbital flight that reached an altitude of 116 miles (186 kilometers) above the earth. Shepard's success occurred 23 days after the Russians had launched the first-ever human in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

Cinco De Mayo

The Forney Museum will be having a Free Day at the Museum on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in celebration of the Cinco de Mayo. With music, dancing, food, face painting, crafts and more come join us as we celebrate the holiday at the Forney Museum. A special thank you to our community partners and sponsors for helping put together a grand fiesta for everyone to enjoy!



Forney Speaker Series

Saturday, May 25 at 2 PM we will be hosting Claudia Moran-Pichardo from Museo de las Americas to talk about her journey and the immigrant experience in Colorado. Find out about how she moved from Guadalajara, Mexico to Denver, Colorado, eventually practicing her vocation at the Museo de las Americas. Covering the history of the Museo, this will be a fascinating presentation demonstrating how the immigrant story is the American story.



These presentations are a great opportunity to discover some of the lesser known sides of history, so come join us May 25 at 2 PM for Claudia's story.

4th Annual Forney Bike Giveaway



We are happy to announce the Forney Museum's 4th Annual Globeville-Elyria-Swansea Neighborhood Bike Giveaway! On June 8th, 12 pm at Swansea Elementary School, 4650 Columbine St. In collaboration with our RiNo and neighborhood partners, these bikes are given away to area families in need. The bikes are distributed on a first come, first serve basis unless you register early.

Last year's event was a huge success for everyone involved, with over 65 bikes finding new homes. Taking place in the park behind the school, we had vendors, volunteers and partners on hand to ensure everything went smoothly. Most importantly, everyone went home happy with their new wheels!

We are putting out the call for any bicycles in good condition, especially children's bikes, tricycles or scooters you might like to donate to the museum. We will fix and clean them up to give out as part of the Bike Giveaway. If you have an old bike that you have been thinking of getting rid of, help us give it a second life. Any inquiries can be sent to our Education Coordinator, Jennifer at education@forneymuseum.org.



Forney Vehicle Spotlight

1909 International Harvester Company (IHC)
Model A Auto Wagon

Founded in 1834 to market a horse-drawn reaper, McCormick Harvesting Machine Company of Illinois merged in 1902 with Deering Harvester Company along with the three smaller agricultural companies Milwaukee Harvesting Machine, Plano Manufacturing and Warder, Bushnell &

Glessner Companies. With financing provided by J.P. Morgan, the company was valued at over \$150 million, headquartered in Illinois. Although tractors and agricultural equipment have always provided the backbone of International, the company entered the automobile market in 1907 with the introduction of the Auto



Buggy Highwheeler.

The company stated that the new Auto Buggy “is built as nearly as possible like a buggy. This type of vehicle has been serving county-town and rural people for years, and there is no reason why a simple motor vehicle of this type cannot serve them in the future.” The first production IHC Highwheeler was completed in February 1907 at the McCormick Works in Chicago. In

October, after 100 units had been completed, production was moved to a factory in Akron, Ohio.

The high wheels and wide stance provided plenty of ground clearance and stability for navigating poor roads, at a time when there were very few paved roads in rural America. The Auto Buggy proved tough, reliable – and popular. The many widespread International Harvester dealers made service easy to find, and buyers responded, with an estimated 4,500 Auto Buggys being built.

In response to the demand, in 1908 International introduced the Auto Wagon with a single bench seat in place of the Buggy’s automobile-style



body. IHC's first true truck, the Auto Wagon was designated the Model A from 1908 until 1911, and Auto Wagon sales in 1909 led the emerging light truck market. Despite the designation, the Auto Wagon was built on the same chassis as the Buggy, and the Wagon bench seat and tray could be put straight onto an Auto Buggy chassis.



Until 1910 all International vehicles used the same 195 cubic inch, air-cooled, horizontally-opposed, two-cylinder engine, producing about 16 horsepower. A friction-transmission with two forward speeds and one reverse transferred power to the chain-drive system to the wagon-style, solid-rubber shod wheels on either side in the back. The tank on the front



of the vehicle was the gas tank, not a radiator, as the air-cooled engine didn't require a water reserve. With an estimated top speed around 15 miles per hour, the Model A was built for rugged dependability more than speed.

In 1910 the line was expanded to include the water-cooled 4-cylinder model F which was built as the replacement to the Model A. However, by 1911 the automobile

department was shut down so that International's automotive division could focus on trucks. Of all the high-wheeler manufacturers, International is widely acknowledged as sticking to the business the longest, continuing to produce Model A trucks until 1916. An estimated 20,000 IHC Auto Buggies and Model A Auto Wagons were produced from 1907 until 1916.

With a legacy of building rural communities in the United States, demonstrated by their emphasis on building simple, dependable farm-ready vehicles, has led the brand to have a large number of fans and enthusiasts. With such a unique offering as the Model A, it is easy to see that the company's reputation for reliable trucks is well founded. Following financial struggle in the 1970s and '80s, International reorganized, selling off many of the corporate assets they were best known for. By





1986, only the semi- and large-truck division remained, renamed as Navistar International, and continues to manufacture medium- and heavy-duty trucks, school buses and engines under the International name.

This 1909 International Harvester Model A Auto Wagon can be seen on display at the Forney Museum of Transportation.

Volunteer Birthdays

5/1 - Charles Mahrt

5/25 - Ben Greene

5/2 - Don Schloesser

5/26 - Brian English

5/22 - James Beck

5/28 - Paul Breeding

The Museum needs YOU!

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

Forney Museum Calendar



The Forney Museum is proud to announce the release of a 2025-26 Pinup Calendar. Only \$20, calendars can be purchased in the Museum Gift Shop or online at forneymuseum.org, and all proceeds go to benefit the Museum. Fun, flirty and for a great cause, get your calendar today and help out the Forney Museum! Special thanks to all the wonderful models who helped make the calendar possible. Can't wait until next year!

Memberships

Become a Forney Museum Member TODAY! With many options available for as little as \$50, the right membership for you can be purchased in the museum gift shop or

online at forneymuseum.org. Memberships are good for one year and also make great gifts!

General Museum Needs

We are putting out the call for several items that are needed here at the museum. If you see anything in this section that you think you would be able to donate to the museum to help us with our operations please reach out to our Assistant Director, Dan at asstdirector@forneymuseum.org, or call the museum at (303) 297-1113.

- 1) A floor-scrubber for the museum's concrete exhibit floor.
- 2) Enclosed trailer (20-foot or longer) to transport Forney Museum vehicles safely & securely
- 3) Modern tire changing machine
- 4) Modern wheel balancing machine

Thank you to everyone who has already donated!