

FORNEY

MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

Newsletter October 2023

"Moving Forward"



Get Funky!

We are happy to be hosting the Funky Disco Ball on October 7th at the Forney Museum. A night of music and dancing, featuring a disco fashion show, food trucks and many vendors offering 70s themed apparel and memorabilia. Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code, or by going to the website: funkydiscoball.com.



General Admission tickets are \$30, or \$50 for a reserved table seat, if you buy them now. They will be \$40 General and \$60 table seating if you purchase them at the door, so get your tickets now!

Also enjoy the chance to take a tour of the museum's 1930's-era private rail coach. Don't miss this glimpse of luxury travel on the rails; tour spots are limited, don't wait.

Check out the new arrival!

1918 American LaFrance Speedster, as seen in the 2023 Hemmings Motorsports Great Race. Making the run from St. Augustine, Florida to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This vehicle is on loan courtesy of Jay Reinan.



Forney Speaker Series Presents:

Saturday, October 14th at 1 PM, we are happy to host Kevin Snow, owner of Treasure Box Tours in Denver, Colorado, speaking about the “Haunted Heart of Denver.” Just in time for Halloween and the spooky season, learn the local ghost stories and see the haunted buildings that share our city. Come take a tour of Denver history with us!

This is just the first presentation Kevin will be sharing with us, and he will be returning November 18th for “The Denverites We Are Thankful For.” We are thankful for Mr. Snow and his willingness to share his knowledge and insight of our city with us, and can’t wait to share it with all of you.

Also a big “Thank You” to David Forsyth, local Colorado historian, for his wonderful series on the amusement parks of Denver. From Manhattan Beach in the 19th century through the Lakeside of today, we explored well over a century of Denver fun.

These presentations are free with admission, and offer a great way to learn about some of the lesser known sides of history. You don’t want to miss out, so come join us October 14th.

This Month in Transportation History

October 12, 1492 - After a 33-day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas. He named the first land sighted as El Salvador, claiming it in the name of the Spanish Crown.

October 13, 1775 - The United States Navy was established after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.

October 26, 1825 - The Erie Canal opened as the first major man-made waterway in America, linking Lake Erie with the Hudson River, bypassing the British-controlled lower St. Lawrence. The canal took eight years to complete, and cost over \$7 million. That's over \$217 million today!

October 28, 1846 - The Donner Party departed Illinois heading for California. The group totaled 90 persons, including immigrants, families and businessmen, led by George and Jacob Donner. Tragedy later struck as they became stranded in snow in the Sierras where famine and cannibalism took its toll. There were 48 survivors by the end of their journey in April of 1847.

October 27, 1904 - The New York City subway began operating, running from City Hall to West 145th Street, the first underground and underwater rail system in the world.

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 14, 1947 - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier (over 700 MPH!), flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.

October 30, 1990 - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.

Forney Vehicle Spotlight

1903 "Curved Dash" Oldsmobile Model R Runabout

Introduced in 1901, this Oldsmobile was the first mass produced automobile, built on an assembly line. Between 1902 and 1905, this was the best-selling car in the country, inspiring the 1905 song "In My Merry Oldsmobile."





A one-cylinder, 95 cu.in., four-stroke engine provided about 4½ horsepower. The crankshaft held the flywheel, planetary transmission and high-speed clutch assembly. The transmission contained a reverse, brake and low-speed drum, the shift lever can be seen to the right of the driver's seat.



All Curved Dash Oldsmobiles are right-hand drive with a steering tiller. A crank handle was permanently fixed to the engine and extended out the side of the body to allow the driver to start the car while seated.



The Model R was a two-passenger car that could be fitted with an optional dos-a-dos (or back-to-back) seat to carry an additional passenger. The wood



body was distinctive for its sleigh-like front. The car only came in black.



Representing the confluence of early mass-production, the coach-builder's classic craft and the birth of America's love affair with the automobile; this merry Oldsmobile can be seen as part of the Forney Museum Collection.

Coming up next is "See the USA in Your Chevrolet"

On November 2nd, the "Cars of the Disco Era" will make way for post-war Chevrolets. They will run through January 29th, 2024, so mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this chance to "Find New Roads" and see why Chevy was "The Heartbeat of America."



Volunteer of the Month

Our Volunteer of the Month is Jay Hokanson. Jay was born in North Dakota in 1950, growing up with a brother and a sister. He worked several jobs including a stint with

Burlington Northern before beginning work for the Federal Communications Commission in 1973. This work took him first to Nebraska in the early 1970s, and then eventually to Colorado in 1996.

He met his wife Deb and they were married in 2001. After Deb started working for the Forney Museum, Jay started volunteering with us around 2014 and has been a consistent volunteer ever since. He told me he is a fan of the collection of electric cars at the museum, such as the 1916 Detroit Electric and the 1907 Staver Auto Buggy.

Since 2005 Jay has owned 8 different Mercedes and been a member, and sometimes officer or board member, of the local Mercedes club. Currently the owner of a diesel E-class sedan, a diesel M-class SUV and an all-electric B-class from 2014 which Mercedes built in cooperation with Tesla.

“The first vehicle I purchased myself after saving up from summer jobs was a used 1966 Rambler Classic, 6 cylinder and 3 speed on the column with very low mileage.” He told me, “Drove that car for several years from coast to coast with a side trip into Canada. The car made it through about 20-25 states and a dozen national parks. Traded that Rambler in for a new Datsun in 1974 which was problematic. Traded that for an International Scout and then an El Camino. Followed by long list of vehicles after that. Built my own house from scratch in 1978 hauling much of the materials in the El Camino.”

When asked why he keeps contributing after so many years, Jay told me the Forney Museum is just “a great place to volunteer.” Thanks again, Jay, for everything 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 to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

“Hurrah for the Red, White and Buick”

Starting February 1st, 2024, we will be having the “Hurrah for the Red, White and Buick!” exhibit. The exhibit will end April 29th, so don’t miss this opportunity to see the spirit of American style, and find out why Buick has stood as a symbol of quality since 1903.



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!