

# Forney

## MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION

### Newsletter December 2023

*"Moving Forward"*



### The Chevys Are Here!

At the beginning of November we bid farewell to the Disco Era, and said hello to Chevrolets. Twenty-five Chevys, spanning 40 years of design, will be on display through the end of January in our new exhibit, "See the USA in Your Chevrolet!"



Our dedicated crew of volunteers were on hand to assist with the exhibit change. Thank you to everyone who helped!





We are so excited to see all the new cars out on the floor.



Corvette, Impala, Chevelle, Nova, Corvair, Fleetmaster, Camaro, Monte Carlo, Styleline, Bel Air, Vega, Caprice



These are some of the models that put Chevrolet on the map, and we have them all on display!



All this and more will be on display until January 29<sup>th</sup>, so come visit us at the Forney Museum, and "See the USA in Your Chevrolet!"



## Chevy Spotlight!



This 1963 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray is a highlight in our new display. With its classic lines and distinctive split rear window, you always know when one of these rolls by. On display thanks to Ken Cook of Littleton,

Colorado, come see this car, and the rest of the Chevrolets on exhibit, before they are gone!



# This Month in Transportation History

**December 13, 1577** - Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the *Golden Hind* on his voyage around the world.

**December 20, 1606** - The Virginia Company expedition to America began as three small ships – the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery* – departed London under the command of Captain Christopher Newport. In May of 1607, the royally chartered company established the first permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown (Virginia).

**December 13, 1642** - New Zealand was discovered by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman of the Dutch East India Company.

**December 27, 1831** - Charles Darwin set out from Plymouth, England, aboard the ship *HMS Beagle* on his five-year global scientific expedition. Darwin collected fossils and studied plants and animals, gradually beginning to doubt that many diverse species of living things had sprung into existence at one moment (creationism). In 1859, he published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*.

**December 17, 1903** - After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

**December 14, 1911** - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole.

**December 6, 1917** - Two ships collided at Halifax, Nova Scotia, resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1,500 persons and injured 8,000. The Norwegian ship *Imo* collided with the French munitions ship *Mont Blanc* which was loaded with supplies for the war in Europe, including 5,000 tons of TNT. A tidal wave caused by the explosion destroyed much of the city.

**December 1, 1955** - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

**December 23, 1987** - Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager set a new world record of 216 hours of continuous flight around the world without refueling. Their aircraft *Voyager* traveled 24,986 miles at a speed of about 115 miles per hour.

**December 21, 1988** - Pan American Flight 103 exploded in midair as the result of a terrorist bomb and crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew members along with 11 persons on the ground were killed.

**December 1, 1990** - England was connected to mainland Europe for the first time since the Ice Age as engineers digging a railway tunnel under the English Channel broke through the last rock layer.

## Tea Time

The Museum will be hosting our third annual Holiday Afternoon Tea on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM. The tea will be served inside the Christmas display on our exhibit floor. This provides a unique setting and atmosphere for a proper British tea. Tickets are sold out, but it's never too early to make plans for next year. Mark your calendars for December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and plan to buy your tickets early! Watch our website and Facebook pages for announcements.



*Holiday Afternoon Tea*  
at the Forney Museum of Transportation  
*December 17<sup>th</sup>*  
*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](http://forneymuseum.org)

## Forney Speaker Series

As we conclude our speaker series for 2023, it's a time to look back on everything we learned this year from all of our fantastic presenters! Military historian Flint Whitlock's impeccably detailed dives into military history and early aviation pioneers kicked us off with a series of presentations at the beginning of the year. I particularly enjoyed the story of how Colorado Territory Volunteers helped secure the West for the Union during the Civil War, in the Battle for Glorieta Pass.

Flint was followed by a special presentation from Paul Hammond, the executive director of the Colorado Railroad Museum. He talked about the history and mission of the CRRM, and told the stories of some of the artifacts they have in their collection. Also coinciding with Rail Heritage Week and Father's Day, this presentation was a great time for rail fans of all ages.

Colorado historian David Forsyth then came for a three part series about the history of amusement parks in the Denver area. These presentations in particular seemed to get guests reminiscing about the fun times they could remember in the bygone amusement parks of yesterday. Or as in the case of Manhattan Beach – which opened on the shore of Sloan’s Lake in 1881 and closed in 1914 – even older than any of us could remember!

We welcomed Denver guided tour entrepreneur Kevin Snow for a pair of holiday-themed talks about local history. “The Haunted Heart of Denver” just in time for Halloween, and “The Denverites We Are Thankful For” before Thanksgiving, provided an excellent opportunity to embrace the holiday season this year with an extended virtual tour of Denver’s past.

All of our Speaker Series presentations make for fantastic opportunities to learn about lesser known local history, and we want to thank all of our wonderful speakers for coming and sharing with us this year. We have big plans in store for even more in 2024, and look forward to seeing you there!



## Forney Vehicle Spotlight

1957 Fornaire AirCoupe Model F-1 ‘Deluxe’

In 1936 aeronautical engineer Fred Weick joined Engineering and Research Corporation (ERCO) as chief designer, with the goal of building a reasonably priced aircraft that would not stall or spin. The ERCO 310 with its tricycle landing gear for maneuvering on the ground, and limited stall-spin features, was a low-wing light monoplane design. The first aircraft certified by the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) as “characteristically incapable of spinning,” the Ercoupe lacked rudder pedals, being flown by only a control wheel. A two-control system linked rudder and aileron systems with the steerable nosewheel. The control wheel managed pitch and steering of the aircraft, whether on the ground or in the air, simplifying control and turning and thus dispensing with the need for rudder pedals.

The two-seat ERCO Ercoupe 415 went on sale in 1940, being marketed as “nearly foolproof” and emphasizing its safety, before World War II brought a halt to civilian

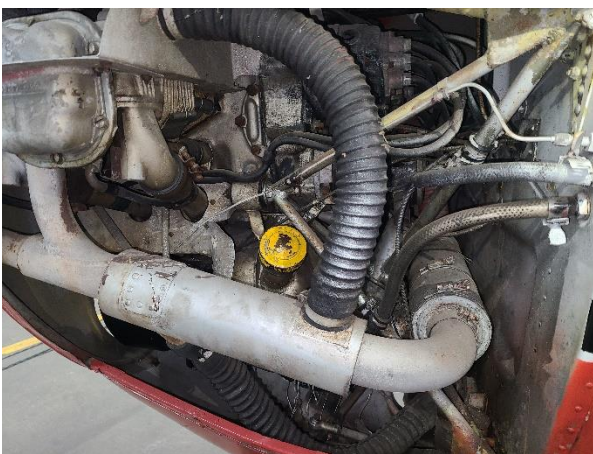




aircraft production. With so many men and women being trained as pilots by the government it was hoped that they would want to continue flying in civilian life, and so production resumed in 1945, turning out 34 Ercoupes a day at their peak, and being aggressively marketed through unconventional channels, such as the men's department at Macy's department stores. Instead, sales slumped after the war and the civil aircraft

market crashed in 1946. ERCO sold all its remaining inventory to Sanders Aviation in 1947, which continued production of the Ercoupe in the same factory. In 1950 ERCO sold the rights to the design of the Ercoupe to Univair Corporation of Aurora, Colorado who provided parts and support for existing aircraft.

In 1955 Univair sold the design to Forney Aircraft Company of Fort Collins, Colorado, which rebranded as Fornaire Aircraft Company. Fornaire differed from the existing 415-G design by introducing a larger engine, aluminum wing panels and a revised engine cowling. In total 138 aircraft were produced between 1955 and 1960, including 56 of the Model F-1 'Deluxe.'



The Fornaire F-1 featured the Continental C-90-12F: a four-cylinder, horizontally opposed, air-cooled direct-drive engine of 201 cubic inches displacement. Used in many light aircraft built in the United States at the time, these popular engines produced between 90-100 horsepower. This four-stroke reciprocating engine is equipped with a fuel injection system and a redundant ignition

system requiring no external power.

Two Plexiglass panels slide apart and down to access a cockpit that features the side-by-side cloth bench seat. This canopy was a safety design innovation at the time of its design, offering nearly as much visibility as a bubble canopy.





The instrument panel included rate of climb, turn & bank, artificial horizon, air speed, engine temperature, manifold pressure gauge, clock, compass and fuel gauge. With the control wheel and throttle both mounted on the same panel as the instruments, the aircraft gives a very car-like impression from inside the cockpit, hinting at some of the simplicity and ease-of-use features that had been incorporated into the design. An Ercoupe ad from 1946 had advertised “when you fly your Ercoupe, your hand on the wheel is enough.

There’s no footwork in the spin-proof Ercoupe, the world’s safest plane.”

With a 30 foot wingspan and a length of 20 feet, 4 inches, the F-1 had a gross weight of 1,400 lbs. Averaging 22 miles per gallon with a 24 gallon tank, they had an operational range of about 500 miles. With a cruising speed rated



at 125 MPH, with a stall speed below 50 MPH, this aircraft made good time for its economy. The service ceiling was 16,000 ft, with an absolute ceiling of 18,000.

A reliable and economical small plane, Fornaire would eventually sell the rights to the design to Air Products Company of Carlsbad, New Mexico in 1960. Production continued under several different manufacturers before the last model, a Mooney M-10 ended production in 1970. Designed for safety and economy, the aircraft never brought flight to the masses the way Fred Weick imagined, but remains a popular and reliable type for discerning pilots worldwide. This 1957 Fornaire F-1 can be viewed as part of



the Forney Museum collection.

## ‘Tis the Season

Winter has come to the Forney Museum. Check out our wonderful winter displays and holiday decorations throughout our exhibit floor.





Museums are always a wonderful idea for a family get-together and holiday sightseeing, along with plenty of shopping for gifts! So come join us this holiday season, it may be cold outside, but it's always warm at the Forney Museum.

## Holiday Special

From now until December 31<sup>st</sup> the Forney Museum is running a special sale on memberships. We have memberships in many different sizes to fit your particular needs. Our memberships also make great stocking stuffers and gift ideas, and all memberships purchased by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be 20% off regular price. So help support the Forney this holiday season by buying a membership, and save money while doing it!

Individual	Free admission for one with unlimited visits per year	Regular Price \$50	Sale Price \$40
Dual	Free admission for two with unlimited visits per year	Regular Price \$75	Sale Price \$60
Family	Free admission for 4 with unlimited visits per year	Regular Price \$95	Sale Price \$76
Group	Free admission for 12 with unlimited visits per year	Regular Price \$200	Sale Price \$160

All annual memberships also provide:  
 \$2 off admission for additional guests  
 A %10 discount in the museum gift shop

## Museum Birthdays - Celebrating Our Volunteers!

Ed Danser...	12/3	Gordon Johnson...	12/15
Lori Melamedas...	12/3	James Schultz...	12/23
Michael Murphy...	12/3	Joel Klassen...	12/26
Rick Nelson...	12/8	Rex Osborn...	12/28
Carl Enger...	12/13		



## The Museum needs YOU!

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating please reach out to us at the museum or email [volunteer@forneymuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@forneymuseum.org)



### Wouldn't you really rather have a Buick?

"Hurrah for the Red, White & Buick!" will be starting February 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, and running until April 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## The Cars of Summer

As the Colorado winter settles in to stay, it is the perfect time to start thinking about next summer! The Forney Museum will be hosting our "Top Down Fun II" exhibit May 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and we are still looking for convertibles to display. If you would like to participate, email [director@forneymuseum.org](mailto:director@forneymuseum.org) to submit your convertible for consideration. Thank you!