

Forney Museum of Transportation

Newsletter September 2023

"Moving Forward"

Cars of the Disco Era are here!

Running from August 3rd through October 30th, this exhibit is a celebration of the 70s, and all the glitz, glamour and muscle that defined the era. Don't miss this exhibition of a pivotal decade of design.





1977 Chevy G-10 Van

“The Heartbreaker”

On loan courtesy of Monte Kuntz, of Colorado Springs, Colorado

1975 Mercury Bobcat Runabout

On loan courtesy of Wendy Jackson, of Aurora, Colorado



1978 Pontiac TransAm SE Firebird

On loan courtesy of Lisa Fentress, in loving memory of her late brother, Ronald Lechmaier





1971 Pontiac GTO Hardtop
On loan courtesy of Norman
Warling, of Golden, Colorado

1976 Cadillac Seventy-Five
Fleetwood Limousine
Ordered by the Philadelphia
Bicentennial Commission to
take part in the US Bicentennial
Celebrations, this vehicle was
donated to the Forney Museum
by Harvey McIntyre



1972 Chevrolet Chevelle Sport
Coupe
On loan courtesy of Sharon
Caulkins, of Lakewood,
Colorado





1973 Ford Mustang on loan from Brian English of Denver, Colorado





We've got our dancing shoes on and we're ready to boogie. All dressed up with somewhere to go: The Forney Museum! We'll see you at the Disco.

Speaking of Disco

The Funky Disco Ball will be on October 7th, don't miss out! Featuring music from the Atomic Fusion Initiative, dancing, vendors and 70s memorabilia, it will be a night of fun for all. Check our website, forneymuseum.org, for more information, and to get your tickets now!

This Month in Transportation History

September 28, 1542 - California was discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay

September 16, 1620 - The *Mayflower* ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew. The ship weathered dangerous Atlantic storms and reached Provincetown, Massachusetts on November 21st. The Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth on December 26th.

September 3, 1838 - Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network

September 8, 1883 - The Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed.

September 16, 1908 - General Motors was founded by entrepreneur William Crapo "Billy" Durant in Flint, Michigan.

September 2, 1930 - French aviators Dieudonne Coste and Maurice Bellonte made the first non-stop flight from Europe to the USA.

September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.

Forney Vehicle Spotlight

1981 HMV Free-Way

21 cu.in, 345cc "Tecumseh 340" Single-cylinder engine; 12 horsepower





Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) essentially an automatic that can change through a continuous range of gear ratios. No reverse!

The design places the driver over the center of the vehicle to maintain balance through turns.

Cargo in the back with a hinged rear window



The body is a two-piece fiberglass shell attached to a steel frame. A second steel frame surrounds the passenger compartment, located at bumper height of conventional automobiles. Also featuring a 3-point seatbelt, high-visibility colors, and a steel reinforced door, safety was a design emphasis.

The Free-Way had three engine options, the larger gasoline engine promising a range of between 200 and 300 miles at a top speed of 65 MPH! An air-cooled diesel engine was available as well as a 4-horsepower permanent magnet electric motor that had a range of 40 miles.



HighMileage Vehicles Company built about 700 Free-Ways between 1979 and 1982, before filing for bankruptcy. Rights to the design were purchased by D&A Vehicles who reintroduced the car as a two-seat roadster called the Minikin, selling only a handful before going out of business themselves in 1983,

closing the book on this unique and interesting design.

The Museum needs YOU!

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



Coming up next is “See the USA in Your Chevrolet”

This exhibit, featuring 40 years of post-war Chevrolets, will run from November 2nd through January 29th. Mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss this!

“Hurrah for the Red, White and Buick”

After the Chevrolets we will have the “Hurrah for the Red, White and Buick” exhibit from February 1st through April 29th, 2024. Stay tuned for more information.

Calling for Convertibles

We are seeking convertibles for our second “Top Down Fun” 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!

